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IMPORTANT DATES

Find district event information at mehlvilleschooldistrict.com.

Nov. 16	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School Library
Nov. 22-24	No school - Thanksgiving break
Dec. 13	Early release for students
Dec. 14	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School Library
Dec. 21-Jan. 2	Winter break
Jan. 3	No school for students
Jan. 12	End of second quarter/first semester
Jan. 15	No school - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan. 16	No school for students
Jan. 18	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School Library
Jan. 24	Early release for students
Feb. 8	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School Library
Feb. 19	No school - Presidents Day
Feb. 22	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School Library
Feb. 28	Early release for students
Mar. 11-15	Parent/teacher conferences
Mar. 14	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High School Library
Mar. 15	End of third quarter
Mar. 18-22	No school - Spring break

Mehlvile Messenger



Strong readers and strong relationships

Reading buddies at Point Elementary School work together to build reading and literacy skills. Learn more on page 1.

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Mehlville Messenger

November 2023

A Mehlville School District Publication

Reading buddy program supports literacy and friendship

Cynthia Biggs, the reading specialist at Point Elementary School, started the reading buddies program 15 years ago to provide students with extra support in reading. The program has continued to grow, proving beneficial for younger and older students, as well as their teachers.

During the first 10-15 minutes of each school day, fourth- and fifth-grade students meet one-on-one with their buddies who are in kindergarten, first or second grade. On Mondays and Wednesdays, students read a book together. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, students do activities that are related to literacy instruction provided in class. On Fridays, the students play a game to review what they've learned that week.

Students work on reading strategies and skills like letter identification, sounds, word families and snap words, Biggs explained. Snap words are words like “and,” “the,” “go,” and “you,” that students often see when reading and need to know in a “snap.” Teachers and students build a bank of these words throughout the year to build reading fluency.

“I get to read a lot to know words better,” said Sabastian Music, a second-grader. “My buddy helps me to sound out words, and when I see them again, I know how to say it.”

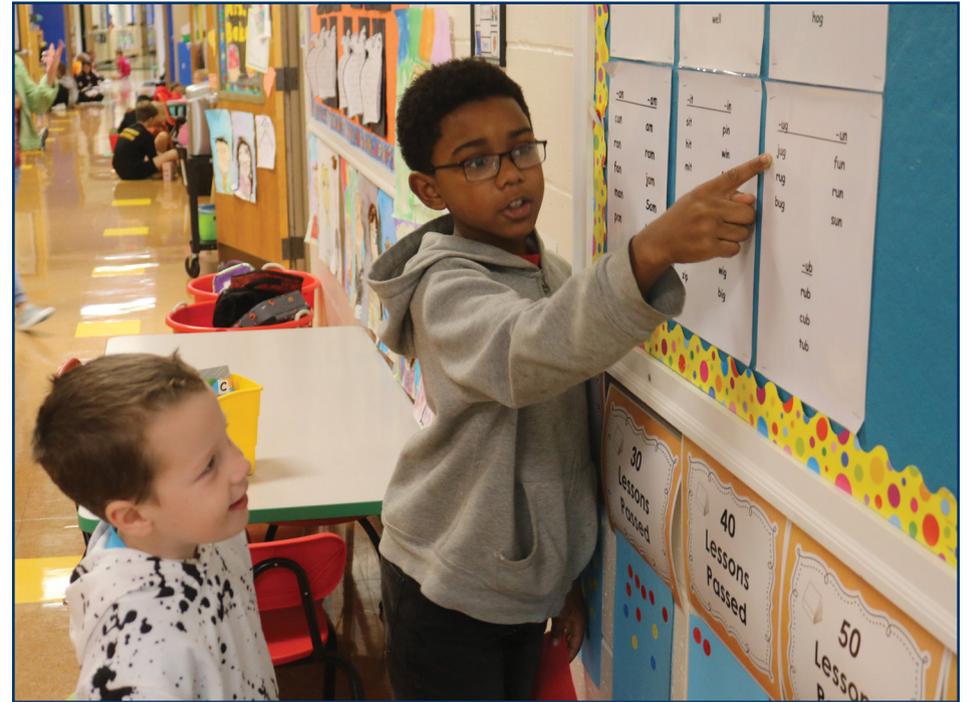
Biggs works closely with kindergarten, first- and second-grade teachers to determine the areas where students could use additional support. She meets with older buddies monthly to review strategies to teach those skills and share new educational games they can play.

The experience is also beneficial for older students. The mentorship helps them to grow more confident in their own reading abilities.

“If you can teach somebody a skill, you know you've mastered it,” said Alisha Oetting, a fifth-grade teacher. “When these fourth- or fifth-graders are able to teach kids context clues or how to retell a story, you know as a teacher that they can do those skills proficiently themselves.”



Buddies review letter sounds.



Buddies practice saying words with similar endings like “jug,” “rug” and “bug.”

The reading buddies program has built a culture of friendship throughout Point Elementary, as well as a love of reading.

“It helps the younger students see that other kids are excited about reading, too,” said April Kedro, a kindergarten teacher. “It reinforces the skills we're working on and gives them some extra practice.”

Flexible positions available

Work as a substitute or activity driver around your schedule. Learn more:

bit.ly/msdr9flexiblejobs





We are grateful for a supportive, engaged community

November is a month that encourages us to pause, reflect and express gratitude. As we navigate the opportunities and challenges within our school district, we find that these themes are particularly meaningful. It is with heartfelt appreciation that we extend our sincere thanks for your unwavering support, active engagement and trust in our mission to provide the finest education for our students.

The Mehlville School District remains steadfast in its commitment to its core values of educational excellence and student well-being. Our dedicated educators and staff have consistently gone above and beyond, delivering high-quality instruction and support to our students.

The strength of the Mehlville community lies in our unity and our shared vision for the future. Thanks to the community's support of Prop R, A, S and E, we are in a strong position to develop long-term plans for our students' academic growth, for the well-being of our employees, and for the enhancement of our facilities. Your endorsement at the ballot box has allowed our students and staff to reap the benefits, and we trust that you have noticed the improvements in many of our buildings due to this support. Furthermore, we are investing in our employees, academic programs and extracurricular activities for the betterment of our students.

Prop E has made our employee compensation more competitive, enabling us to fill numerous positions that were left vacant last year. Thanks to your support of Prop E and the increased assessed values of homes in our area, we are expediting critically needed HVAC replacements without the need for additional bond initiatives and borrowing. This is due to the increase in assessed property values set by the St. Louis County Assessor's Office, allowing us to receive more funding than originally anticipated. By accepting this funding now, we can avoid the need for tax-increase bond issues in the next few years, which saves over \$12 million dollars in interest. The Board is committed to using taxpayers funds wisely on urgently needed HVAC upgrades that will bring immediate improvements. This decision aligns with state statutes passed by the Missouri Legislature, emphasizing sound fiscal management in the best interests of our students, district and community.

For more comprehensive updates, we encourage you to attend our monthly Board of Education meetings. These meetings are open to the public, and your presence is always welcome. Additionally, you can view these presentations at youtube.com/mehlvilleschools and bit.ly/msdr9boemeetings.

We urge you to continue your involvement with our district. Your input, ideas and feedback are invaluable as we work to shape the future of Mehlville's educational landscape. You can reach us by email, attend and speak at our meetings, participate in various surveys, and attend committee meetings throughout the year. We welcome your questions, concerns and ideas, as it is through our collective efforts that we can ensure that every student in our community receives a top-notch education and the support they need to thrive.

The Board of Education extends our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for a joyful and peaceful holiday season, filled with moments of gratitude and togetherness.

Student advisors to the Board

The Board of Education introduced two new student advisors. Amar Nuhanovic, will represent students from Oakville High School, and Arnela Avdic will represent students from Mehlville High School. Each will serve the board through September 2024.



Pictured left to right: Superintendent Dr. Jeff Haug, Board Secretary Patrick McKelvey, Board Director Jean Pretto, Board President Peggy Hassler, Student Advisor Amar Nuhanovic, Student Advisor Arnela Avdic, Board Vice President Tori Behlke, Board Director Jeff Wolman, Board Director Scott Huegerich

Board of Education

Peggy Hassler, President
Tori Behlke, Vice President
Patrick McKelvey, Secretary
Scott Huegerich, Director
Jean Pretto, Director
Jeff Wolman, Director
Grace Wright, Director

Executive Staff

Dr. Jeff Haug
Superintendent
Dr. Jeff Bresler
Assistant Superintendent, Secondary
Dr. Brian Smith
Assistant Superintendent,
Teaching and Learning
Dr. Shannon Pike
Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources
Adam Smith
Assistant Superintendent, Student Services
Dr. Chad Dickemper
Assistant Superintendent, Elementary
Marshall Crutcher, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

The *Mehlville Messenger* is published for Mehlville School District residents and businesses to share district news. For questions or comments, call 314-467-5000 or email messenger@msdr9.org.



The Mehlville School District mission is to build a high performing school system rooted in the community's desire to build a culture of improvement for staff and students.

Mehlville School District believes that all of our graduates should be creative and critical thinkers, self-aware, persistent, communicators, and ethical and global. We call this our Portrait of a Graduate.



Mehlville School District is proud to be a National District of Character.



Mehlville School District is a member of Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools, a national coalition of forward-thinking schools across the country who are providing students with unique learning opportunities.

Mehlville School District is nationally recognized as a Lighthouse School System for serving as models of positive change in education.

What I saw this quarter: Amazing students and staff

Our teachers and students are off to a terrific start this school year, and I couldn't be happier to be part of Mehlville School District. This year, I've started a new habit of sending a note to all of our staff highlighting the terrific things I see each week. It's aptly called "What I Saw This Week."



60plus members luncheon at Oakville Elementary

Candidate filing for Board of Education opens Dec. 5

Any person wishing to file for the Mehlville School District Board of Education may do so in the Mehlville School District Administration Building, 3120 Lemay Ferry Road, St. Louis, MO 63125. Filing will be held Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, through Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023.

From Tuesday, Dec. 5, through Wednesday, Dec. 20, filing hours will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The district office will be closed and no filings will be accepted Dec. 21-25, for winter break. The final day for filing will be Tuesday, Dec. 26, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Except for the first and last day of filing, filings will be taken by appointment only by calling 314-467-5002. No filings will be accepted when the office is closed due to inclement weather.

An election for four seats on the board will be held Tuesday, April 2, 2024. Two seats carry a three-year term. Two seats carry a two-year term. Candidates must specify which term they are running for.

Under the provisions of Missouri Statute Section 115.124, if the number of candidates who file is equal to the number of positions to be filled by the election (four), no election will be held. However, if the number of candidates filing exceeds the number of positions, the annual school board election will be held on April 2, 2024. Per Mehlville School District Policy BBB-1, the names of qualified candidates shall be placed on the ballot in order of filing.

For more information, visit bit.ly/boecandidatefiling, or call 314-467-5002.

The learning I see each day is tremendous, and I wanted to share some of the things I've seen this quarter with you as well. Here are some highlights!

I saw the district welcome our 60plus community at Oakville Elementary. About 150 of our community members enjoyed company and companionship and learned more about our amazing students. The Mehlville High ProStart Class prepared and served a delicious spaghetti lunch. The MHS chefs looked so professional in their white restaurant attire. After the meal, the Oakville Elementary choir provided the entertainment. All the songs about cookies were amazing!

I saw an amazing 9/11 remembrance ceremony at Blades Elementary. It was inspiring to see our students standing with their loved one, who was either a first responder or in the military. My favorite part was when the entire school sang a song about heroes. The song had a purpose, and the students understood the connection between the music and those being honored.

I saw active math in an activity called Solving the Savanna. Second-graders at Hagemann Elementary School worked their way around the room to find the missing number that when combined with the given number equaled the sum. Each math problem had an animal from the African Savanna pictured with it. The students were engaging with math while moving, taking ownership, collaborating and thinking critically.

I saw a third-grade class completely engaged in a writing assignment. Some students were writing their thoughts while others were typing. Still others were drawing comic strips. Students were planning, writing or illustrating their personal narratives, and they were eager to share with me what they were doing and why it's important.

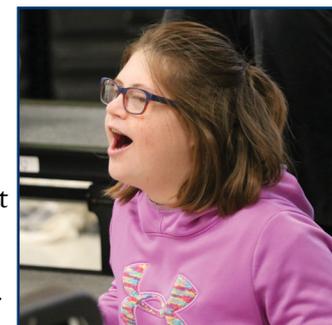
What I should have seen and unfortunately missed was an amazing concert by our Beginning Choir at OHS. The concert contained guitars, singing, an interactive game and even a dance off! Everyone who was there was in awe.

I saw our support staff work through unbearable conditions during a historic heat wave at the start of the school year. I saw our drivers return to the garage absolutely dripping in sweat each day, knowing that all the students on their bus were safely transported home. I saw the work that grounds crew, maintenance and facilities did, and it was far beyond any reasonable job description. The heat and humidity they fought to ensure our buildings were as cool as possible – despite aging equipment – was superhuman.

Thank you to everyone for making first quarter awesome.



Blades Elementary 9/11 remembrance ceremony



Oakville High School's beginning choir performance

Alumni Hall of Fame inductees

Six graduates of Mehlville and Oakville high schools were inducted into the Mehlville School District Alumni Hall of Fame on Friday, Sept. 1. These graduates have made a lasting impact in the community or in the nation. Inductees serve as role models for current and future generations of students who aspire to be productive citizens and demonstrate traits that align to the Mehlville School District Portrait of a Graduate Traits: creative and critical thinker; self-aware; persistent; communicator; and ethical and global.

Mehlville School District has inducted 35 alumni to date into the Hall of Fame. This group of graduates represent the best of our best and include physicians, attorneys, athletes, teachers and coaches, entertainers, artists, advocates, public servants and so many others. They frequently volunteer their time, mentor students and visit classrooms. Thank you for serving our community proudly!



Pictured left to right: Jim Tietjens, Dr. Howard E. Jarvis III, Dr. Melissa Mavers, Reserve Command Master Chief Josip P. Pehar, Dug Felch (representing Bob Kramer), Shawn Krause

Nominations are open

Nominations are being accepted for the next class of the Mehlville School District Alumni Hall of Fame.

To be considered, nominees must have graduated more than 10 years in the past from either Mehlville High School or Oakville High School.

To be considered for inclusion in the Hall of Fame, an application must be submitted along with:

- A letter from the nominator explaining the nominee's professional, cultural, military or athletic accomplishments, and community impact.
- The names and contact information for 3-5 references who can speak to the nominee's accomplishments, character and community impact.
- Supporting documentation about nominee. This may include nominee's detailed resume or vita, news clippings, military records, letters of recommendation, etc.

Application materials and instructions are available on the district website at bit.ly/msdr9hof. Questions can be directed to Dr. John DeWalle at 314-467-7834.

Dr. Howard E. Jarvis III, OHS '87

Dr. Howard E. Jarvis III is a courageous frontline emergency physician and healthcare leader. He has improved the quality of emergency services offered in Springfield, Missouri, and been a calm and innovative leader in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastating Joplin tornado.



Bob Kramer, MHS '63

Bob Kramer hand-crafted more than 1,000 one-of-a-kind marionettes and puppets throughout his more than 60-year career as a master puppeteer. Bob Kramer's Marionettes mesmerized audiences at home in St. Louis, across the country and internationally. Additionally, he mentored countless puppeteers throughout his legendary career.



Shawn Krause, MHS '87

As an acclaimed animator on numerous blockbuster movies, Shawn Krause led the animation teams on three Pixar Animation Studios films. Two of them, "Up" and "Inside Out," won Academy Awards for Best Animated Feature. Krause also won a Visual Effects Society Award for his work on Joy in "Inside Out."



Dr. Melissa Mavers, MHS '99

As a pediatric cancer physician and researcher, Dr. Melissa Mavers is committed to improving treatment and outcomes for kids with bone cancers. She's focused her research on making life-saving bone marrow transplants safer and more effective by reducing graft-versus-host disease.



Josip P. Pehar, OHS '01

U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Command Master Chief Josip P. Pehar has exceptionally managed units to ensure the safety of our waterways. He is known for ensuring the readiness of his crews to both respond to disasters and maintain safety at events and during popular times on our lakes and rivers. Pehar is also a Knights of Columbus Assistant General Agent.



Jim Tietjens, OHS '78

As a professional championship-winning goalkeeper, Jim Tietjens has made his mark in soccer. This soccer standout has also shown determination and persistence in the face of serious health challenges and has excelled in sports marketing and sales.



John Cary Early Childhood Center has new areas to play and grow

Children attending the John Cary Early Childhood Center have more room to learn and play, thanks to a partnership between Kiwanis Club of South County and the Mehlville School District.

The Kiwanis Club donated almost \$5,000 in materials and labor to support the construction of an outdoor trail and an outdoor classroom. The trails have compacting gravel to allow for wagon and wheelchair access, and the spaces include play structures, tables, storage and even a fairy garden. Gerry Spitznagel, Missouri Master Naturalist and Mehlville School District head groundskeeper, volunteered his time to work on this project with the Kiwanis Club.

Members of the Kiwanis Club joined students for a first hike on the trail in September.

Thank you, Kiwanis!



Above: John Cary students, Mehlville Early Childhood Director Tiffany Schwaegel and Kiwanis Club members hike the nature trail.
Left: John Cary students play in the outdoor classroom.

Mehlville Board of Education approves 2023 tax rate

During its annual Tax Rate Hearing on Sept. 21, 2023, the Mehlville Board of Education unanimously approved the 2023 blended tax rate of \$3.9680 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

The proposed levy reflects voters' passage of Prop E, which authorized the district to increase its levy by \$0.31. The blended rate for 2023 is \$0.29 higher than the prior blended rate of \$3.6784 and complies with all state laws.

The proposed levy generates enough revenue to provide competitive compensation for all employees as promised by Prop E. Due to an increase in the assessed valuation of residential, commercial and personal property, the district will also receive an additional \$5.3 million in revenue to begin addressing critical infrastructure needs not funded through Prop S (a zero tax rate increase passed by voters in 2021).

"While we've made progress in addressing some of our facility needs, we continue to operate our schools with outdated HVAC equipment," said Dr. Jeff Haug, superintendent. "The consequences of delayed maintenance were apparent during a heat wave in August. Several of our HVAC components went down, and at some schools, we had to move students to other classrooms and locations."

By levying the tax rate allowed by voters and approved by the state auditor's office, the district will be able to invest \$33 million over the next three years to replace outdated HVAC equipment.

"Mehlville School District is committed to being good financial stewards and spending tax dollars wisely to meet the needs of our 10,000 students,"

Haug said. "The Mehlville Board of Education considered voluntarily rolling back the tax rate, but that would have led to another ballot issue in the next year to ask voters for a tax increase bond issue to address HVAC replacements. A bond issue for this HVAC work would have cost taxpayers an additional \$12.1 million in interest and fees."

HVAC replacements are scheduled to begin in the summer of 2024 at Bernard Middle School, Oakville Elementary School, Wohlwend Elementary School, Point Elementary School and the district pool. Over the course of three years, 14 schools will receive replacements in their HVAC systems.

The tax rate hearing was live-streamed and can be viewed at bit.ly/msdr9taxratehearing2023



Additional revenue will allow Mehlville School District to replace outdated HVAC units without paying interest or fees.

The **JOY** of learning

When students are active and engaged in their learning, they develop a deeper understanding of the curriculum. This is why our teachers strive to make their lessons collaborative, hands-on, experiential and fun. Here's a look at how some of our students are actively learning by doing across Mehlville School District.



Angela Zelenovich's science students at Oakville High School identified the minutiae patterns that are used in fingerprint analysis.



Carrie Griffith's students at Washington Middle School learned about cells. They visited a series of stations containing samples of items like hair, dragonfly wings, salamander liver, salt and sand. Students viewed each example through a microscope, drew an image of what they saw and determined if the sample contained cells.



Creative writing students at Oakville Middle School built structures using Legos and wrote step-by-step instructions for how someone else could recreate the structure. A student in another class followed their directions and provided feedback on the quality of their writing.



Christen Otto's fourth-graders at Beasley Elementary School learned about body systems. They conducted a lab to match the smell in their vial with the smell of vials around the classroom.



Mark McNamara's Spanish students at Mehlville High School completed a scavenger hunt to learn about significant people for National Hispanic Heritage Month.



Fourth- and fifth-graders at MOSAIC Elementary School ran, crawled, jumped and climbed through a railyard system obstacle course.



Second-graders at Oakville Elementary School performed cookie-themed songs for our 60plus members.



Stephanie Bailey, a fourth-grade teacher at Hagemann Elementary School, assists a student with an activity to determine the place values of numbers.

How to enroll a student in the Mehlville School District



Kindergarten students practice writing the alphabet with teacher Tammie Werkmeister at Rogers Elementary School.

Mehlville School District provides a top-quality education by highly effective and caring teachers to students in preschool to grade 12.

Current school year enrollment is always open for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Parents or guardians should contact the school where their child will attend to enroll a student in the current school year. If you need help determining your child's school, you can use our interactive map at bit.ly/MSDR9boundaries or call Mehlville School District at 314-467-5000.

Enrolling a new student in the 2024-2025 school year

Mehlville School District is moving to a new student information system in the 2024-2025 school year. Due to this transition, enrollment for the upcoming school year will open in April 2024.

Families of new students are encouraged to fill out a "Save My Spot" form, which will be available on Jan. 4, 2024. Families who complete this form will be invited to enroll when the online forms open in April. By completing this form early, families also help school and district leaders plan for staffing in kindergarten and other grades.

To enroll in kindergarten, students must turn 5 before Aug. 1, 2024.

More information will be posted on the enrollment section of our website, bit.ly/msdr9enroll, on Jan. 4.

MOSAIC Information Night

Prospective families can learn more about MOSAIC Elementary School during an Information Night at 6 p.m. on Jan. 11 at MOSAIC, 3701 Will Ave., St. Louis, MO 63125.

MOSAIC Elementary School lottery

MOSAIC Elementary School provides personalized learning to empower students for life beyond the classroom. Instruction and authentic learning opportunities are based on each student's academic and social needs. Teachers use a variety of tools and strategies, including learning menus, technology and blended learning opportunities to explore the curriculum. Students are encouraged to learn the curriculum at their own pace and within the context of their unique interests.

To enroll in MOSAIC, parents must apply for the lottery. The lottery opens Feb. 5 and closes at 5 p.m. on Feb. 23. The MOSAIC lottery application will be available on the MOSAIC Elementary website at mosaic.mehlilleschooldistrict.com beginning Feb. 5. **Only online applications will be accepted.**

Parents of selected students will be notified on March 8. Parents must accept by March 15. Mehlville School District registration for the 2024-2025 school year opens April 4. Even if parents are accepted through the MOSAIC Elementary lottery, they must complete district enrollment for their child at their home elementary school by the end of April to maintain their placement at MOSAIC.

Mehlville Early Childhood Programs

Mehlville School District's Early Childhood Program provides a variety of services to families with children from birth to age 5.

- **Parents as Teachers** offers parents support and access to special events families love. A certified parent educator visits with parents and children to play together while sharing age-appropriate child development and parenting information. Parents as Teachers is free to Mehlville School District residents. For more information, call 314-467-5304 or visit bit.ly/parentsasteachersmsdr9.
- **Early childhood education** is offered to children ages 3-5 at the John Cary Early Childhood Center and at several elementary schools in Mehlville School District. Registration for returning tuition-based students opens at 8 a.m. on Feb. 2 and closes on Feb. 16 at 3 p.m. Registration for new tuition-based families begins on March 1 at 8 a.m. Learn more on the Mehlville Early Childhood website, bit.ly/mehlvilleec.
- Additionally, the Mehlville Early Childhood Program provides **special education, and therapies and evaluations** for children with developmental and other disabilities that reside within Mehlville School District. To access special education services and therapies, families can be referred by Missouri First Steps, be referred following a development screening or parents can request a diagnostic evaluation. For more information, please call 314-467-5300.



Projects completed at Hagemann, Mehlville High

Prop S, a \$35 million zero tax rate bond issue, was approved by voters in April 2021. Since its passage, Mehlville School District has been working to construct secure entrances at each school and complete other safety-related projects and critical infrastructure upgrades.

Work on security entrances has started at Point Elementary School, John Cary Early Childhood Center and Mehlville High School. Hagemann Elementary School's security entrance was completed this fall. Improvements and safety updates for the Mehlville High School ballfields were also completed in the fall.

Work on Prop S projects will continue through 2025.



Completed Prop S improvements at Hagemann Elementary School include a security entrance and better access to the school's playground.



The Mehlville High School ballfields received new dugouts, netting, fencing and sprinklers and were relocated due to a storm drain that created a safety hazard in the outfield.

Prop S Progress

Here is a quick look at the status of our major Prop S projects. You can view a complete list of projects and anticipated completion dates at bit.ly/mehlvilleprops.



John Cary Early Childhood Center

- Security entrance: Construction in progress

Beasley Elementary

- Security entrance: Work to begin this winter

Bierbaum Elementary

- Security entrance, ADA accessibility, restroom renovations and expanded front parking lot: COMPLETE
- Additional classrooms, expanded library and storm shelter: Construction in progress

Blades Elementary

- Security entrance: COMPLETE

Forder Elementary

- Security entrance: Work to begin this winter
- HVAC replacement: COMPLETE

Hagemann Elementary

- Security entrance and ADA access to playground: COMPLETE

MOSAIC Elementary

- Security entrance and elevators: Work to begin in summer 2024

Oakville Elementary

- Security entrance and expanded parking lot: COMPLETE

Point Elementary

- Security entrance and ADA accessibility for back exit: Construction in progress

Rogers Elementary

- Security entrance and parking lot/playground safety improvements: COMPLETE

Trautwein Elementary

- Security entrance: Work to begin in summer 2024

Wohlwend Elementary

- Security entrance, ADA parking and ADA accessible classrooms: Work to begin in spring 2024

Bernard Middle

- Security entrance: COMPLETE

Buerkle Middle

- Security entrance and track ADA accessibility: Work to begin this winter

Oakville Middle

- Security entrance: Work to begin in spring 2024

Washington Middle

- Security entrance: Work to begin in summer 2024

Mehlville High

- Security entrance: Construction in progress
- Baseball/softball field safety improvements and renovations: In progress and to be completed in November 2023

Oakville High

- Security entrance, gym ADA accessibility, restroom renovations: COMPLETE
- Baseball/softball field safety improvements and renovations: COMPLETE



Community Education
Proud Member of the Mehlville School District

GIVE THE GIFT OF DISCOVERY



Registration opens November 27
for 2024 Winter/Spring courses

bit.ly/msdr9comm
or call 314-467-5280

Jewelry Creations
Skyhawks Sports
Chess Club
Swim Lessons
Recreation Academy
MAD Science
Strings Lessons
Abra-Kid-Abra
Little Medical School

Art Classes
Yoga Instruction
Bricks 4 Kidz
Sports Camps
Music Classes
Adult Water Exercise
Hapkido Lessons
Bosnian Classes
Tennis Lessons

DISTINCTIONS

Officer of the Year

Sam Lang, school resource officer at Point Elementary School, Rogers Elementary School, Wohlwend Elementary School and Oakville Middle School, was named Officer of the Year for St. Louis County Police Department's Fourth Precinct.



Officer Sam Lang

Paraprofessional of the Month

Susan Penrose, paraprofessional at Trautwein Elementary School, was named the Special School District of St. Louis County Paraprofessional of the Month for September. It's an honor given to just one of 1,900 paraprofessionals in St. Louis County each month.



Susan Penrose

Excellent teacher helps students be healthy and active

Kevin Green, physical education teacher at Blades Elementary School, is Mehlville School District's Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award recipient for the 2023-2024 school year.

Green is among almost 100 teachers from the St. Louis metropolitan area who are being recognized by Emerson this year for outstanding educational excellence.

"He puts in 100 percent effort every day and wants his students to succeed," said Dr. Jeremy Booker, Blades Elementary principal. "He creates a classroom environment that is friendly and engaging."

Green pushes his students to take chances, show a growth mindset and challenge themselves, Booker said.

Green has worked in the Mehlville School District for the past 14 years, including 13 at Blades Elementary. Green is also a graduate of Mehlville School District.

"It was a dream of mine when I decided to be a PE teacher that I would work in the district because all the way from the top, they care about the kids, which is the most important thing," said Green. "I was shocked when I received this award, and I'm incredibly honored."



Kevin Green talks with a student.

DISTINCTIONS

All-world twirlers

The St. Louis Performance Academy received a silver medal at the World Twirling Competition in Liverpool, England. 28 of the 33 team members are Mehlville School District students, including those on the **Mehlville High School Majorettes** and **Oakville High School Tiger Twirlers**. **Miles King**, 2023 MHS graduate, and **Kyleigh McCourt**, senior at MHS, made it to the finals in Nations Cup Senior Duet, finishing in the top ten in the world.



Mehlville High School Majorettes and Oakville High School Tiger Twirlers

National Merit Scholar

Jing Zhou, Oakville High School senior, was named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. This honor was received by only 16,000 high school seniors from across the country and qualifies Jing for the next round of the competition.



Jing Zhou



Lacey Braun

Student of the month

Lacey Braun, Mehlville High School senior, was named Student of the Month by the Southwest Area Chamber of Commerce.

Tennis star

Stefanie Wong, Mehlville High School senior, earned third place at the Class 2 Singles State Championship.



Stefanie Wong



Eva Brown

State golfer

Eva Brown, Mehlville High School sophomore, competed at the Class 3 state championships and shot 3-under-par to finish as the runner-up. Eva has finished in second at state as a freshman and sophomore.

VIEW MORE DISTINCTIONS: We're now sharing all student and staff distinctions on our website at bit.ly/msdr9distinctions.

Student leaders

Anela Abdijanovic, Mehlville High School senior, and **Mason Bader**, Oakville High School senior, were recognized as Outstanding Student Leaders by the St. Louis County Department of Human Services. Students were chosen based off of their volunteer/fundraising efforts, demonstration of leadership abilities, good citizenship and involvement at school.



Anela Abdijanovic



Mason Bader

Middle school musicians

Band students from Bernard Middle School, Buerkle Middle School, Oakville Middle School and Washington Middle School were named to the St. Louis All-Suburban Honor Band. Honorees are pictured below.

Bernard Middle School



Lizzy Eardley



Rhian Gray



Holden Matlock



Sophia Nelsen

Buerkle Middle School



Sam Guntli



Ajdin Halilovic



Gideon Krieg



Ayla Wells

Oakville Middle School



Judah Brandt



Noah Cates



Reese Dillon



Ian Havard

Washington Middle School



Laina Melvin



Sophia Kammerman



Emma Slaven



Gwen Willcut