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# Moser's Message

A Weekly (or at least frequent) Newsletter to the devoted staff of  
Pittsburg Community Middle School.



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THE PURPOSE OF  
PITTSBURG  
COMMUNITY MIDDLE  
SCHOOL IS TO  
SUCCESSFULLY  
EMPOWER ALL  
STUDENTS TO GROW  
ACADEMICALLY,  
CREATIVELY, AND  
SOCIALLY, THROUGH A  
PARTNERSHIP AMONG  
HOME, SCHOOL AND  
COMMUNITY SO THAT  
THEY CONTRIBUTE  
POSITIVELY TO  
SOCIETY.

2011-2012  
*Failure is not an option.*

## FRIDAY FOCUS

### Big Event a Big Success

By now, I have shared with you the tremendous success that was the "Big Event". We had roughly 700 people attend. Initial feedback was very positive. It was a busy and exciting evening. Whenever you take a risk by changing something, it's tough to forecast the results with any level of certainty. I guess this is obvious and likely why it's called a risk. Changing the format of our parent night this year presented such a risk. Initially, I heard a few (but just a few) critical remarks from parents. This is typical in the change process. I tried to explain, provide information and rationale, but it fell on deaf ears. Those folks refused to listen and, in turn, refused to attend.

As we were setting up Monday after school, some doubt even crept into my mind—*Did I advertise the event well enough? Did we plan well enough? Will the community agencies really show up? Will enough parents and students attend? How many dozens of cookies will we be left with? Was this a good idea?* Even with suitable communication and preparation the success of this event hinged on the decisions of families, which is ultimately beyond our control.

When you think about it, this scenario parallels most educational change. We can plan effectively. We can execute. In the end, however, success hinges on students. If we take the right steps, however, we can more reasonably ensure success. If we:

- *Recognize a need or an area for improvement*
- *Analyze root causes*
- *Plan collaboratively and with purpose*
- *Communicate the plans*
- *Evaluate the results*

.... we can always make things better. Have a great weekend!



### TEACHER OF THE MONTH:

Dan Moss

### STUDENT OF THE WEEK:

Laisie Andrews

## Laura's Line

## King's Komments

***Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire. ~William Butler Yeats***

When I first began teaching I remember thinking I have to fill their bucket with every piece of knowledge I can. A few years later, I decided to wisely pick what I put in their bucket each day. At that time in my career I truly believed that was the key to being a good teacher.

As I have grown professionally, I have modified my views on what makes a great teacher. I believe you must first make the personal connection, engage the student, and "light the fire". Intrinsic motivation is something our students will need the rest of their lives. Secondly, it is our responsibility to give them problem-solving skills. We can't cram every piece of knowledge into their brains before they leave here and hope they don't forget it. We must teach them how and where to access important information. They also need to know how solve problems with peers and work collaboratively together.

I urge you to focus on building positive relationships with our students and try to light the fire for learning during this first month of school. Design your activities with student engagement and problem solving in mind. Just remember if your fire is lit, it is much easier to light someone else's. Have a great weekend.

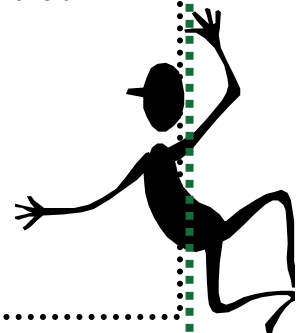
One thing is certain, time is not going to slow down for us. Week two is done. When contemplating what to write about for this weeks' article, I have really been drawing a blank. The admin team has still been on a roll for the positive return from The Big Event. One of the best things about that was the excitement that I heard from our teachers. Excitement is a key element to loving what you do. It is also a key element to daily sanity. I love hiring new coaches, especially coaches that are getting the opportunity to coach for the first time. The excitement is evident and fun to watch. I saw some of that same excitement this week among all of the staff. I encourage you all to keep the excitement. You will feel better and everyone around you will feel better around you. In the inspirational words of the great philosopher Joe Dirt, "Life is a garden, Dig it!" Have a great weekend and a great Labor Day! CK

*Excellence can be attained if you:  
...Care more than others think is wise;  
...risk more than others think is safe;  
...dream more than others think is practical;  
...expect more than others think is possible.*

## Shout Outs

*Thank you to Teresa Spangler, Shay Sievert, Mary Beth Dunlavy and Deb Polen for their help in planning for The Big Event. -PCMS Admin.*

*Thanks to all of you for working hard with kids concerning expectations. Also, it's been great to hear of the steps many of you are taking in working with kids when there is an expectation breakdown. Keep it up and we are here to help. -PCMS Admin.*




# Bulletin Board

**MTSS & INTERVENTION MOMENT-** The first day for SAFE is September 13<sup>th</sup>. Please refer to your staff handbook for procedural questions.

*Our thoughts and prayers go out to Linda Baldwin and her family on the loss of Linda's mother, Lucille Loffswold.*

## Upcoming Dates

-  **September 5<sup>th</sup> - Labor Day (no school)**
-  **September 6<sup>th</sup> -BLT Meeting**
-  **September 6<sup>th</sup> VB @ Independence**
-  **September 8<sup>th</sup> - VB 3:30 and FB 5:00 [here](#)**