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Marshall County Schools continues to seek ways in

which open communication can be provided for parents and community members. Email us at: [marshallcountyschools@gmail.com](mailto:marshallcountyschools@gmail.com)

Board of Education policies may be viewed at <http://boe.mars.k12.wv.us/>

## MCS Connects with Cockayne Farmstead

The 1850 Farmstead was willed to the City of Glen Dale upon the death of the final family member to have lived there, Samuel Cockayne. It is fitting that John Marshall High School, sitting on former Cockayne pasture for a lucrative Merino wool farm, is using the entire history of the house and its adjacent properties as a teaching tool for students.



Cockayne Farmstead from Route 2



Raised Bed Gardens on South Lawn

Mrs. Nicole Shipman, Agricultural Education teacher, used grant monies to establish raised bed gardens for food products. The harvested vegetables are used in the JMHS ProStart program under the guidance of Mrs. Susie Cubick. Food not utilized in ProStart is donated to local food banks.

Mrs. Susan Jones has been utilizing the Cockayne Farmstead as an important component for her West Virginia and American History students. The house provides a rich research component for her classes.

Social Studies teacher Mark Swiger is working with others to produce a comprehensive hands-on, web-based curriculum project. The project involves how to address sustainability and the “greening” of an 1850s Farmstead. Swiger explains, “using Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) principles in designing the curriculum provides a framework for understanding and adapting learning through the lens of sustainability. Everything from environmental footprint, indoor environmental quality, materials and resources, energy and atmosphere, water efficiency, and innovation and design can be addressed within this curriculum through the eyes of the house over time. Tied to preservation science, we believe that this project is truly a one-of-a-kind venture and will be a concept that can be replicated in other historical sites.”



The Cockayne Farmstead partnership spreads wider than John Marshall High School. Cameron High School students in Rhonda Williams' digital imaging classes are helping to create a new way of telling the Farmstead's story to a wider audience. Rosetta Epifano's art students at Sherrard Middle School plan to use their talents to interpret the Farmstead as it appeared in the 19th Century. Tom Tarowsky, the Education Director for the Cockayne Farmstead Project believes the Cockayne Farmstead is a wonderful partnership and resource for teachers and students. “We’ve just scratched the surface of what can be done with curriculum, as well as hands-on student learning.” For more information on how you can get involved in school programming, contact Tom Tarowsky at [tjarowsky@gmail.com](mailto:tjarowsky@gmail.com).

## Keeping it “Green”



As West Virginia’s most sustainable school, the students, staff, and community of Hilltop Elementary continually look for ways to be as eco-friendly as possible. They have a progressive Parent-Teacher Organization-led recycling program. Principal Cindy McCutcheon says the students are enthusiastic participants. “They recycle everything from paper to plastic within the classrooms. The students are responsible for making sure it gets in the appropriate bins and we have student helpers to make sure it gets outside to our main recycling hub outside. The community is well-informed that we are a recycling school, that we do have an outside area to have drop-offs for plastic and paper. The PTO recycles each month and takes it to a local

recycling plant where they receive a check. All of the money from that goes back into activities for the students and for the school.”

Hilltop also takes an innovative approach to sustainable food practices. Susan Kirchner, a first grade teacher explained, “Our lunch program takes a lot of the leftover vegetables and fruits and saves them. We have a pig farmer that comes over and takes that to feed his animals.” Hilltop Elementary has caught the attention of the West Virginia Department of Education, and has become a learning laboratory for teachers and students on how to incorporate sustainable practices into their classrooms.

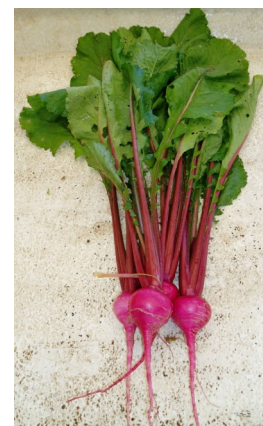


## Free Lunch



Last school year, in an effort to eliminate any barrier that may hinder a child from eating a nutritious breakfast, Marshall County Schools implemented a free breakfast program for all students. This school year, with the assistance of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, students at Central Elementary, Center McMechen Elementary, and McNinch Primary schools are also receiving a free lunch. These schools were selected based on the percentage of households in the

community who are already participating in a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The students in these schools receive the same menu served in all elementary schools. Additionally, these three schools also participate in the fresh fruit and vegetable program. Each week two types of fruits or vegetables are served to the students throughout the school day and a nutritional lesson about the produce is given. Products sampled the last few weeks have been sweet anise, turnips, and seckle pears. All students in Marshall County continue to receive free breakfast.



## Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act



Improving child nutrition is the focal point of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act signed in to Legislation by President Obama. The goal of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act is to help transform school food environments in order to promote better nutrition and reduce obesity. These standards, based upon recommendations from the Institute of Medicine (IOM), focus on more whole grains, fruits and vegetables; low-fat or non-fat milk; and less sodium and fat. Both fruits and vegetables must be offered daily as part of the new meal pattern; vegetable subgroup requirements must be met weekly. Calories are limited based on the age of children being served to ensure proper portion size. Amounts of saturated fat, trans fat, added sugars and sodium served in school meals are also more closely scrutinized.

## Playground is a School, Family and Community Partnership



An ongoing effort involving many groups and individuals has resulted in the installation of two new playgrounds at Center McMechen Elementary. “It was a long process but it’s great to see the work and planning come to fruition” says Mr. Woody Yoder, school principal. As four year old pre-k students entered the facility several years ago the need for an age appropriate playground became evident. Playgrounds are expensive and require certified installers.

The playground funding initiative began 5 years ago with fundraising by our PTK. This group provided \$2,000 per year for five years. Thankfully that fundraising effort was matched by Marshall County Schools. In addition, Senator Jeff Kessler matched PTK funding with money from state allocations. The Evan G. Roberts Trust also provided matching funds. With almost \$40,000

in hand the school was able to proceed with the ordering and subsequent installation of both playgrounds. The work and collaborative effort did not end there.

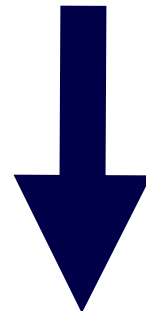
After the order was placed and installation dates set, volunteers readily signed up to help the certified playground installation supervisor install the equipment. The Maintenance workers and custodians prepared the site, then moms, dads, grandparents, teachers, staff spouses, teachers’ parents, custodians, and the principal volunteered for the Friday and Saturday work. “I was excited about the work and didn’t mind giving up a Saturday. I think I was as excited as the students, well almost,” said Shannon Ferris, grade 1 teacher.

Mr. Yoder was most pleased with the partnerships formed throughout this process: “One thing that resonated throughout was the desire and motivation to do what is best for kids. I personally along with students and their families would like to thank all those who made this possible. From Senator Kessler, Marlene Midget from Head Start, MCS superintendent, Mr. Renzella and Mr. Simms, assistant superintendent, to all those on our maintenance staff and especially our volunteers, I would like to voice a collective THANK YOU from everyone at Center McMechen.



## Dropout Rate Decrease

Over the past year, the dropout rate in Marshall County Schools has decreased by 45%. The local school administration has been working diligently with “at risk” students to ensure they see the value of obtaining their high school diploma. Over the past two years a new withdrawal procedure has been instituted to help students realize their educational options and opportunities. Placement in programs such as the Middle College at West Virginia Northern Community College or the Gateway Achievement Center has given students the opportunity to complete their education in a non-traditional setting. The goal of Marshall County Schools is to see that every student succeeds and is able to pursue the career path that they desire.



## Day to Serve



Governor Ray Tomblin named Saturday, September 29 as the Governor’s Day to Serve. West Virginia joined their neighbors in Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C. to participate in a regional day of doing good deeds. In observation of this day, students at Cameron High School wrote thank you letters to local volunteer firefighters, EMT squad members, and school volunteers.

Pictured from left to right are David Klug, Audrey Bryan, Emily Johnson, and Neely Beline

## National Bullying Prevention Month

During the month of October, Marshall County Schools will be celebrating National Bullying Prevention Month. All schools will have educational programs for students focused on creating a bully-free safe environment. Students will be asked to speak up, reach out, and be a friend when they see bullying. Bullying prevention and intervention is a team effort of our schools, students, parents, and the community.

SAT/SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1 / 2 WEEK 1: Tips for when you see bullying (bystanders)	3 If you see something, say something.	4 Don't join in on bullying, and don't watch.	5 Be a friend to the person who is being bullied.	6 Role play speaking up when you see bullying.	7 Follow this week's tips to <b>lead by example.</b>
8 / 9 WEEK 2: Tips for when you are being bullied	10 Remember that it's not your fault.	11 If possible, stick together with friends who make you feel better.	12 Do not bully back or bully anyone else.	13 Keep doing what you love to do.	14 Follow this week's tips to <b>make your school friendly and safe.</b>
15 / 16 WEEK 3: Tips for when you are bullying others	17 Anyone can be a bully - ask an adult for help stopping.	18 Don't join in when friends or others are bullying.	19 Decide to stop bullying and tell people you care.	20 Remember that words hurt too.	21 Follow this week's tips to <b>help instead of hurt.</b>
22 / 23 WEEK 4: Tips for preventing and addressing cyber bullying	24 Be respectful. Cyberspace has no privacy or take-backs.	25 If you see cyber bullying, save the evidence.	26 Try not to respond to cyber bullying. If you do, be careful.	27 Don't join in, don't forward harmful messages.	28 Follow this week's tips to <b>keep safe &amp; friendly, online and on phones.</b>
22 / 23 WEEK 4 (alt.): Tips to show others respect and appreciation	24 Always be kind and make everyone feel welcome.	25 Remember that sometimes, laughter hurts others.	26 Don't use nicknames that hurt feelings.	27 Don't say someone can't do things because he or she is a boy or girl.	28 Follow this week's tips to <b>treat your classmates well.</b>

Together we can **STOP BULLYING NOW!**



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### Nancy Moore Honored

Nancy Moore has been named the School Service Personnel Employee of the Year for Marshall County Schools. The program honor individuals who have demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication in the performance of their jobs. Nancy has worked as a special education aide for the past 15 years. During this time, her actions of compassion and caring have earned her the respect of students, peers, administration, and parents. Nancy is a tireless worker, reaching far beyond the work day to make certain her students have the resources and assistance needed to live life to its fullest potential. As a co-worker wrote, "Her personality can be described as sparkles and glitter." Congratulations Nancy, on a well deserved award.



### Early Retirement Incentive

Classroom teachers are eligible for a \$500 bonus as long as they have submitted written notification of their intent to retire to their county boards by January 15, 2012 and they do not work on or after the first day of the instructional term for the 2013-14 school year.

Marshall County Schools also offers the \$500.00 early notification incentive stipend to those professionals not covered by the State stipend and all service employees. You must submit **a letter** to Robyn Fitzsimmons, Personnel Director for Marshall County Schools, on or before January 15, 2013 to be eligible for the \$500.00 stipend.