



Spring 2015

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A Move Toward Empowerment

Welcome to the first edition of CCSET Connections, the quarterly newsletter for the Cabell County Student Empowerment Team. This winter has offered a season of immense growth for the team and many changes in our organization. We are emerging from this transition with fresh new ideas for empowering students, exciting new developments and a commitment to stay the course.

CCSET's motto is simple. **Connect. Achieve. Believe.** We know that we live in a community full of people who want to see the same change we are seeking in our neighborhoods and schools. We know that we are a communi-

ty that believes all students deserve their best chance to achieve. Let's take that resource and work together. Let's get connected!

We hope this newsletter will be a valuable guide to demonstrating the work that is happening in your community. We hope that it will uplift you as you read about our efforts alongside our community partners. Most of all, we hope it encourages you to get plugged in to the power of motivating students and changing lives.

Together, we can make the difference!



Peyton Elem. students participate in S.H.A.R.K Patrol anti-bullying program.

Caring Adults Enhance Learning

Having a relationship with a caring adult makes a difference. Twenty-two students at Peyton Elementary have and Jamie Davis' entire fifth grade class benefit from fifteen adult tutors who come to their school each week. One of our goals was to introduce the Classroom Champion initiative to staff at Geneva Kent Elementary and recruit community members to begin working with a few students at that school this spring.

"I honestly believe it is the bond we are forming with each student and the expectations that we have for them that could eventually be the difference that keeps them on the road to success."

Diane Shattls

Students at Geneva Kent and Peyton will begin the 2015-16 school year on the Geneva Kent campus. The introductory process began in December when current Classroom Champions were invited to discuss the initiative with school staff. CCSET Board member, Diane Shattls invited four community members to be involved at Geneva Kent. Three of them began tutoring eight students the week of March 9.

Huntington Mall Awards Anti-Bullying Materials

Students in kindergarten through third grades at Peyton and Cox Landing Elementary are learning how to be a friend instead of a bully. The Marketing Department at the Huntington Mall in collaboration with the Cafaro Foundation worked with Cabell County Student Empowerment Team to identify and present S.H.A.R.K. Patrol kits to the two elementary schools in September and November.

Captain McFinn met the children at both schools and Marketing Director Margi MacDuff discussed

the importance of Students Helping Achieve Respect and Kindness (S.H.A.R.K.). Afterwards, the students placed their painted handprints on an ocean mural. A local artist turned the hand prints into fish, octopus, sea horses and other sea creatures. The large mural was presented to Peyton Elementary. A mural was also presented to Cox Landing featuring their students' handprints.

The kits include lessons focusing on kindness and respect for others. Captain McFinn and several of his sea creature friends are

included in the kit in the form of puppets to enhance the lessons. The students are also invited to sign a Bully FREE pledge.



Two Schools Receive Awards from Huntington Music and Arts Festival

Students at Cox Landing, Davis Creek Elementary, and Huntington High School have had enriched learning experiences in music and art as a result of two \$250 awards from the Huntington Music and Arts Festival (HMAF) on September 27, 2015. Our organization assisted HMAF by preparing the RFP process and collaborating with Cabell County Schools' Director of Communications, Jedd Flowers, in publicizing the award opportunity to teachers.

Founder of HMAF, Ian Thornton and the sponsors of the awards, Latta's School Supplies and Route 60 Music selected the music proposal from Jenine Westfall, Music Teacher at Cox Landing and Davis Creek entitled "Appalachian Roots." The proposal requested funds to purchase a dulcimer and folk music selections to enable the elementary students to explore the connection of Irish and Scottish folk music brought to the Appalachian region by early settlers and

become familiar with its translation to American culture.

In a follow-up with Ms. Westfall, she reported that she was able to purchase 2 dulcimers (using additional funding sources) and music. Her students are learning a Jeanie Richie folk song "Pretty Betty Martin." They were planning to host the Tri-State Dulcimer Society on Feb. 20 and the Montclair String Quartet from the WV Symphony Orchestra on Feb. 17.



LET'S GET CONNECTED! FIND US HERE:



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opportunities connect community service personal excellence
student recognition mentors students supportive community
partnerships believe collaboration tutoring volunteers career readiness
success connecting resources hope healthy start achieve inviting schools

Our Mission:
Connecting resources to empower students to achieve personal excellence.

WEBSITE: www.cabellempower.org

What a great shared vision! #empowered

"Our task is to
HELP children
communicate
with the **WORLD**
using all their
potential, **STRENGTHS**
and **languages,**
and to **overcome**
any **OBSTACLE**
presented
by our **culture**"

FACEBOOK: Cabell County Student Empowerment Team