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Hon Honored by School Administrators Association

APRIL 14TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Hon Honored by School Administrators Association

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Chris Hon, a lifelong educator, was among eight Missouri superintendents nominated this year for the prestigious Robert L. Pearce Award, which is presented annually by the Missouri Association of School Administrators.

Hon was selected for the honor by his colleagues in the Southeast MASA District. He was recognized as a nominee during the awards banquet at the MASA spring conference on Wednesday, March 30, at Lake Ozark. The Pearce award program is a long-standing tradition of the association honoring excellence in education and community leadership among Missouri superintendents.

“Chris Hon is a true public education professional who has positively impacted many students and staff during his career,” said Kennett Superintendent Chris Wilson, district president. “It was an honor for the Southeast MASA District to nominate Mr. Hon for the Pearce Award and is a small token of appreciation for all he has done for public education in Southeast Missouri.”

The annual award was instituted in 1987 by Richard and David Pearce, then principals of the Pearce Corporation, a Missouri architectural firm specializing in educational facility planning. The awards purpose is to recognize the hard work and dedication of superintendents and their contributions to the children of Missouri.

Hon was additionally presented honorary life membership in recognition of his service to education and participation in his professional organization. Hon, who is retiring in June, has worked nearly three decades in public education, serving as the superintendent of Poplar Bluff Schools for six years.

Shown in the photo: Chris Hon (right) is presented a plaque by Warsaw Superintendent Scott Downing, MASA president.

Article and Photo by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Coordinator, Poplar Bluff R-I School District.

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Eugene Field Becomes the Talk of the Town

APRIL 13TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Eugene Field Becomes the Talk of the Town

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Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Eugene Field left attendees in tears of joy following Leadership Day on Friday, April 8, demonstrating why the elementary school is on track to become lighthouse certified, a prestigious designation currently held by only six schools in Missouri.

“Let your greatness shine” was the theme of the third annual event during which students put on skits involving public speaking, song, flag etiquette and science experiments all choreographed to showcase how the good habits they practice daily

reflect in everything they do, both in and outside of the classroom.

“I feel as their coach they have a remarkable staff, everyone is absolutely committed and they genuinely love these kids,” Leader in Me senior consultant Dr. Paul Pitchford said regarding the certification process. “They’re really, really, really close. They just have a couple more things they want to perfect.”

An independent review team will visit Eugene Field in the fall to evaluate how deeply the school has embedded the program principles into its culture, and whether students are taking ownership of their learning and behavior, according to Pitchford.

Eugene Field received a grant from FranklinCovey’s I Am A Leader Foundation valued at tens of thousands of dollars during the 2013/14 school year to implement the school-wide program, based on Dr. Stephen Covey’s best seller, “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People.” The school informally piloted the program prior.

Chris Hastings, a semi-retired auctioneer, has volunteered in Eugene Field classrooms for five years and has witnessed the character growth of the students since the program was launched. “I’d say they have a better outlook on life in general,” Hastings commented.

Not only does the faculty instill the habits during every class, students live them out at home and through community service projects.

Stetson Pullun, 9, said her favorite habit is No. 7—to sharpen the saw—which is to maintain a balanced program for self-renewal in the following aspects of life: physical, social/emotional, mental and spiritual. The third grader explained how her mother has set up a lighted reading nook for her in a closet that she enjoys using after she puts her younger brother to bed.

“After doing a hard day of work, I want to,” said Stetson, referring to rewarding herself with some relaxation time. “Especially with a 4-year-old,” she continued to exclaim. “He follows me everywhere!”

Through the program, students track their own attendance, behavior and academics in data notebooks, and even lead parent/teacher conferences to discuss their progress and goals.

Incoming superintendent Scott Dill witnessed Leadership Day for the first time last week. He is a practitioner of the seven habits, but was impressed to see them applied at such a young age, he noted.

“It really permeates at this level,” Dill observed. “Producing assessment capable learners is not just setting the students up for success at school, but they are going to go on to become better citizens – better adults. It’s fantastic.”

Science leaders Jasmeka Harley (left) and Madison Ballew perform a foaming volcano experiment with PTO President Lori Amoss and R-I Chief Technology Officer Aaron Badgley.

Article and photo submitted by Tim Krakowiak, Communications/Marketing Coordinator, Poplar Bluff R-I School District

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Gary Simmons Honored for His Service

APRIL 13TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Gary Simmons Honored for His Service

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Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Veteran Poplar Bluff School Board member Dr. Cynthia Brown, who has begun her fifth term, and newcomer Roger Hanner were sworn in during a reorganizational meeting held Thursday, April 7, in the Administrative Building.

Outgoing board member Gary Simmons was awarded a plaque and thanked for his 9 years of dedicated service to the district.

“Gary has been such a good member of the board and supporter of the district much longer,” board president John Scott said. “I’m sure you’ll stay involved. There’s so much you do for the students that people may not even know.”

During an election of officers, Scott was nominated to continue as president and Ken Davis will take over for Brown as vice president. Alana Robertson will succeed Simmons in serving as a delegate to the Missouri School Boards’ Association. Member Heather Tuggle will remain the board liaison to the Foundation.

Superintendent Chris Hon honors Gary Simmons for his three terms of voluntary service to the school system.

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PTO Book Fair Raises Money for T.S. Hill MS Library

APRIL 11TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

PTO Book Fair Raises Money for T.S. Hill MS Library

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Dexter, Missouri - Each year the annual PTO Book Fair is held in late January to early February and students get an opportunity to shop for books from the Scholastic Book Company.

This year was the biggest yet with a record amount of proceeds going back into Southwest Elementary, Central Elementary and T.S. Hill Middle School Libraries.

PTO parents help at the Book Fairs and assist the students, run the cash registers, and try to make it an educational and enjoyable shopping experience.

Each school library will receive almost \$1,900 to purchase books and supplies for their respective library.

Shown in the photo is Suzanne Collier (President of Middle School Parent Teachers Organization) presenting a check to Kay Stevenson (Middle School Librarian).

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PTO Book Fair Raises Money for Central Elementary Library

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PTO Book Fair Raises Money for Central Elementary Library

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Dexter, Missouri - Each year the annual PTO Book Fair is held in late January to early February and students get an opportunity to shop for books from the Scholastic Book Company.

This year was the biggest yet with a record amount of proceeds going back into Southwest Elementary, Central Elementary and T.S. Hill Middle School Libraries.

PTO parents help at the Book Fairs and assist the students, run the cash registers, and try to make it an educational and enjoyable shopping experience.

Each school library will receive almost \$1,900 to purchase books and supplies for their respective library.

Shown in the photo are Rachelle Bennett, President of Central Elementary PTO presenting a check to Camie Richard, Central Elementary Librarian.

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