



March 2017

## 6TH GRADE STARS



**Science:** The students have recently finished studying the three states of matter and properties. Currently, we are applying their states of matter knowledge into our energy unit. Students are learning about energy transformations, types of energy, and kinetic and potential energy. During this unit students are going to construct balloon cars, mouse trap cars, and roller coasters demonstrating energy transformations. Some of the sixth grade recently took a trip to USI where they were instructed by a college professor and had the opportunity to experience science with a hands-on lab. There were also a few students who had the opportunity to go to the Alcoa power plant where they met some engineers and took a tour. Don't forget the Helfrich Park science fair will be held on March 2 from 5:00 PM-6:30 PM and March 3 from 8:00 AM-1:45 PM in the Helfrich Park gym. All science fair projects were due February 27.

**Math:** Students have been working hard to prepare for the first round of ISTEP. They have been doing a good job showing all of the steps in working out problems, as this will be very important to carry over to the first round of ISTEP. We know our students will do their very best on ISTEP on March 2. Please check that your child is doing his or her math homework each night, and please check RDS to keep track of your child's progress in all of his or her classes. Thank you for your support!

**ELA:** In English we have been working on writing argumentative essays. We looked into building an argument as well as tracing an argument in a text. In literature we have been looking at nonfiction texts. While reading, we have been examining the text for the central idea and supporting evidence.

**Social Studies:** Students continue learning about what factors led to the development and advancement of early modern civilizations as we explore the Scientific Revolution. Discoveries and inventions during this time expanded knowledge and changed life in Europe. Several inventions and technical advances helped people explore the world and study the sky. As Europeans discovered new lands, they created new colonies and new empires. Next we will be learning about political changes in Europe as we explore the Enlightenment and the English Bill of Rights. We will also look at how these ideas spread to the British colonies in North America.

**Pumas of the Week:** Odin Fortune, Cameron Miller, Gavin Muensterman, Emma Ewers, Alek Greene, Kody Hausmann, Cori Payne, Holli Guffy, Meia Walker, Collin Eblen, Gabbie Jolley, and Ella Nelson.

### Spirit Days

March 3, 10, 17, 24

Spirit days are days students are allowed to wear a Helfrich Park or Reitz t-shirt or sweatshirt to school. They are still required to wear khaki or navy uniform pants. *No hoodies or front pocket sweatshirts.*

### Dates to Remember:

ISTEP: Feb. 28-March 10

Science Fair: March 2-3

Track Tryouts: March 6-7

Talent Show: March 23

Spring Break: March 27-31

## 7TH GRADE M&M'S



**Science:** It was great to see all of the awesome science fair projects completed by the seventh graders. Thanks to all of the parents who assisted their students. It was a great success! Mrs. Dillow's and Mrs. McDurmon's science students will be studying physical science and Newton's Laws in March. This will include engineering processes. Keep up the great work!

**Math:** Seventh grade students with Mrs. Todd, Mrs. McDurmon, and Mr. Hartmann have had a busy month as we head into ISTEP testing. Students have been working with volume and surface area of three dimensional shapes as well as area and circumference with circles. As testing begins, we are sure that their scores will reflect the hard work and effort that the students have put in all year.

**Mrs. McDurmon's 7th grade Honors Math:** Our class has been working hard to prepare for ISTEP. In March, we will be learning about transformations. This includes translations, reflections, and rotations. Keep working hard, your work will pay off!

**ELA:** The 7th grade ELA students are completing a nonfiction unit focusing on text structure, central idea, and textual evidence while reading Phineas Gage. They are also perfecting their paragraph structure and responses using details to questions referring to texts.

**Social Studies:** Students will be learning about modern Africa and begin researching their Culture Fair project

**Pumas of the Week:** Max Bryant, Natalie Downs, Hadilyn Eblin, Evan Briody, Katelyn Huffman, Damian Dillon, Ava Roblero, Cooper Ashby, Parker Pearson, Elizabeth Freels, Madison Stillwell, and Riley Hodgson.

### LOST AND FOUND

STUDENTS SHOULD CHECK THE LOST AND FOUND LOCATED NEAR THE GYM. PARENT SHOULD CHECK FACEBOOK FOR OCCASIONAL PICTURES OF OUR LOST AND FOUND ITEMS.  
THE MORE VALUABLE LOST ITEMS ARE KEPT IN THE OFFICE.

**Sick Child?** If your child is ill, please call Helfrich Park Attendance at 812-435-8246 extension 1 before 9 A.M. Please leave your child's full name and the reason they will be absent. If you would like homework to be collected, please ask. This request should be sent before 9 A.M. and will be available in the front office between 3 and 3:30 P.M.

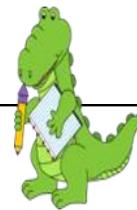
**ISTEP Testing** time is this month and that might have you wondering how your child did last year. Well, you can check results using RDS Parent Access. All you need to log onto the system is a smart phone, internet access, and an activation code from the school. At RDS Parent Access, you will also find information on your child's grades, attendance, behavior, and you can email teachers. To get your activation code, contact the school office.

### **PTSA—Boxtops**

*Be sure to bring in your Box Tops. We will be collecting them all year long. Be sure to put your homeroom teacher on your baggie or paper so your homeroom gets credit for a party. Let's see which homeroom can be the winner! Good luck!*



## 8TH GRADE G.8.T.O.R.S.



**Science:** In 8th grade Science, students are wrapping up science fair projects. Display boards and science fair folders are due on Monday, February 27th. We just finished and tested over DNA, RNA, and protein synthesis. We started our mini unit on bacteria and viruses. Later in the month, we will move into our second genetics unit covering topics such as Punnett squares, gene therapy, cloning, and hybridization.

**Math:** 8th grade students have recently covered geometry and measurement standards over transformations. Students will continue to prepare for the Applied Skills ISTEP test. Please be sure your child has a calculator for this test. This will be the only part of the math ISTEP test that students will be allowed to use their own calculators. If your child cannot get one, please have them talk to their teacher so one can be made available for them to use.

**ELA:** We have been working on ISTEP Prep, reading The Diary of Anne Frank, and also working on a refugee presentation. Since the students are asked to pick one side of an argument, they are having to research their information before laying it out in a slide show and presenting it to the class. We look forward to the warm days ahead and ask if anyone has a box of tissues they can donate to any classroom, we would appreciate it! Our supplies from the beginning of the year are gone and any donations would be a great blessing.

**U.S. History:** Social Studies has revolved around the first few elections of President, the XYZ affair, the Alien & Sedition Acts, and westward expansion. We are working to get through the Civil War between now and the end of the year.

**Honors Social Studies:** Throughout the month of March, students will be creating National History Day exhibits to be displayed at USI on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Students are currently working in groups on topics that relate to this year's theme, "Taking a Stand." Entry fee for the competition is \$5 and students should begin bringing that money in as soon as possible.

**Pumas of the Week:** Abigayle Snyder, John Snyder, Nathan Snyder, Connor Alford, Zyrrah Martinez, Javante Madison, Stephen Bradfield, Madisyn Esparza, Landon Cardwell, Claire Schaffer, Emma Francis, and Carter Loveless.

### Science Fair

Parents are invited to view our science fair in the gym on March 2 from 5-6 PM and on March 3 from 7:45 AM-1:45 PM.



### HPSA on Social Media

Helfrich Park is diving deeper into the realm of Social Media: we have a new website, continuing with Facebook, and added Twitter and Instagram. We want this to be a positive place to showcase things that are going on at school. If you have questions about school policy and procedures, please contact the school directly.

Website: <http://helfrichpark.evscschools.com/> (includes our events calendar)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Helfrich-Park-STEM-Academy-537578926331112/>

Twitter: HPSA@HelfrichPark

Instagram: @helfrichparkstemacademy