



Often in the busyness of the moment and day, we fail to take the time to stop and reflect on the blessings that each of us possess. We are consumed by the stress of obligations at home, school, and work. We worry about how we will meet the deadlines placed on us by ourselves and others. I, much like many of you, forget to remind myself and others how fortunate we are to have each other in our lives. So during this November, when we place dates on the calendar to remind us to thank the Veterans who served us, and Thanksgiving to remind us to be thankful for all of our blessings, I remind you and myself to be thankful. I challenge each of us to pause each day and thank someone for being important to us and making our lives more complete and blessed.

Therefore, I start my days of thanks by thanking you, the Helfrich Park parents. You have provided the staff here at HPSA an opportunity to work with some of the most amazing young people. We are better because of them. Thank you for sharing them with us.

Blessings,

Dr. Herrin

**NO SCHOOL:**

November 11 for Veteran's Day

November 23-25 for Thanksgiving Break

## Happy Thanksgiving

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.  
Melody Beattie

### Spirit Days

November 4, 10, 18, 22

Spirit days are days that 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.*

## 6TH GRADE STARS



**Science:** We have started the LBL unit learning all about vertebrates, predator/prey relationships, producers, consumers, decomposers, herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, and much more.

**Health:** Students were taught the importance of good hygiene and how to avoid unnecessary germs. We also had several character education lessons reminding students how important it is to be nice and treat everyone with respect.

**Math:** Students have finished working on decimal operations. We will soon be converting decimals, fractions, and percentages. Mrs. Hall's Honors math students will also be working on fraction operations. Mrs. Humm's Advanced Honors math students just finished up a unit over real numbers and will jump right into expressions. Everyone also had a special lesson in preparation for LBL. Students learned about the Global Positioning System (GPS) and practiced using receivers to navigate a course on the playground. This knowledge will be applied in the woods at LBL for those students who signed up for the GPS activity. Please continue to work with your child and us to make sure homework is coming home and being completed every night. We want to help every student achieve and have success this year at Helfrich Park!

**ELA:** In English we are finishing up adverbs and adjectives and we will soon begin working on prepositions. We are also finishing up how-to essays and transitioning into our LBL project to help us get ready for our trip. In literature we will be reading *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*. While reading we are working on textual evidence, point of view, and characters.

**Social Studies:** In social studies the students have been studying three remarkable and complex early civilizations: the Olmec, Maya, and the Aztec. We have also been preparing for our LBL trip as we learn about the history and geography of the area. The students have also explored information about Fort Campbell and Fort Donelson. Achieve Articles continue, and it is important that the students bring charged ThinkPads to class daily. We will soon be starting a unit on Ancient Greece and Rome. Keep up the great work 6<sup>th</sup> grade! Thank you parents for your continued support!

**Pumas of the Week:** Kenzie Wheeler, Kyle Goldstein, Ian Dunlap, Emma Paul, Jason Reeves, Arianna Rountree, Kaitlin Hensley, Kyler Fahey, Kaitlin Crook, Alexandra Garland, Caleb Muensterman, and Lexi Yates.

### LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES

The excitement for LBL is growing by the day! In preparation for the Land Between the Lakes trip, the 6th grade was taught how to use a compass and GPS. Each student had the opportunity to practice navigating courses through and around school. Friendly reminders: LBL is November 18-20. Land Between the Lakes money is due by Tuesday, November 15. Don't forget there is an LBL parent meeting on Tuesday, November 15 at 6:00 pm in the Helfrich Park Cafeteria. If your child has not turned in their Land Between the Lakes medical paper, that needs to be returned to school as soon as possible. Payment for this trip can be turned in at any time to your child's science teacher. Payment is due on Tuesday, November 15. If you have any questions regarding this trip, please contact your child's science teacher, Becky Humm or Megan Wright, or you can speak with Nate Scherry.



**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 that they will be absent. If you would like for 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.

## 7TH GRADE M&M'S



**Science:** Students are focusing on life standards and cells. Knowledge of cells will enable 7th grade students to learn how cells differentiate and organize the body. As part of this unit of study, students will get to experience their first dissection. Students will dissect a sheep heart and learn how the circulatory and respiratory systems interact to get oxygen to body cells. We hope students enjoy their first dissection!

**Math:** Mrs. Todd, Mrs. McDurmon, and Mr. Hartmann's math classes have been simplifying expressions and combining like terms. We will begin solving one-step and two-step equations as we head into inequalities in the coming days. Parents, please encourage your son/daughter to complete units in ALEKS each week. These help reinforce the many standards for mastery of seventh grade mathematics.

**ELA:** Students are reading nonfiction text. While reading, students are identifying and explaining the structure of a text. The students are completing short writings and research to prepare for discussions using the material to back a position without using opinions.

**Social Studies:** Social studies will finish up their studies of Ancient Egypt and move into Ancient India and China. In these units, the history, important people, geography, government, culture, and religions of these societies will be studied.

**Pumas of the Week:** Chloe Barrett, Austin Diedrich, Angelica Elderbrook, Jaycie Fenwick, Cameron Decker, Bailey Wright, Ayden Johnston, Zoey Gates, Connor McClarney, Alex Cooper, Madison Schenk, and Kennedy Gauer.



On **November 10<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 PM, we would like to invite all veterans who are family members to our students to join us for a reception and recognition in honor of Veteran's Day. The reception will be held in the Media Center at 1:00 with an assembly in the Gym at 1:30. The assembly will consist of patriotic selections from the HPSA Band, Orchestra, and Choir along with a Veteran's Day address by

Gary Wagoner, past commander of the VFW Post 1114. Veterans will be recognized by their students as a part of the assembly.

## PTSA—Boxtops

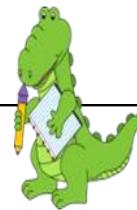
*Be sure to bring in your Box Tops. We will be collecting them all year long. Be sure to put your homeroom teacher on your baggie or paper so that your homeroom gets credit for a party. Let's see which homeroom can be the winner!*



## No More Waiting for Report Cards

Report cards are a good way to know how your child is doing in school. But with our RDS Parent Access system, you don't have to wait until report card time to get the scoop on your child. RDS Parent Access allows you to see your child's grades, assignments and test scores anytime you want! All you need to set up your account is your smart phone, internet access, and an activation code. Don't have a code? Contact your school. We can activate (or reactivate) an account for you.

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



**Science:** We have been learning about chemistry! Students tested some Fall Festival food to find out which macromolecules were in corn dogs and corn fritters. The students now know 42 of the most common elements and their symbols. They have completed several labs and activities related to the atomic theory, covalent and ionic bonding. We are looking forward to some Halloween chemistry fun on the 31st!

**Math:** Students have had a busy month! They traveled to the Fall Festival to go through an interdisciplinary unit. Students learned about the history of the Westside and worked on math problems pertaining to the Fall Festival like calculating the probability of winning the mouse games. In the classroom, students have been working on exponent rules and scientific notation. In the near future, they will work on volume and square roots.

**ELA:** We are starting a career research project in Language Arts. We are also looking at various non-fiction stories in Literature and building our citation skills. Be sure to ask your student what career they are working on.

**U.S. History:** Mr. Carnahan's 8th grade Social Studies classes are wrapping up Pre-Revolutionary War and getting ready to move into the Revolutionary War. Students should be able to summarize the Boston Massacre, Boston Tea Party, and tell what "no taxation without representation" means, to name a few.

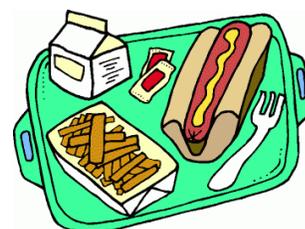
**We The People:** classes are preparing and practicing for our upcoming competition at the Old National Events Plaza. Students are working cooperatively in groups on research papers, practicing speeches and preparing for follow up questions for a simulated congressional hearing that will take place Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Election day is Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>! Remember to fulfill your civic duty and vote for offices in our local, state and national governments.

**Pumas of the Week:** Kyle Fralick, Brent Parish, Amelia Harl, Gloria Rudolph, Garrett Pritchett, Jace Lemp, Amanda Kessler, Paul Donahue, and Emilee Smith.

**LOST AND FOUND  
STUDENTS SHOULD  
CHECK THE LOST AND  
FOUND LOCATED IN  
THE GYM AND THE  
OFFICE.**

### *FROM THE CAFETERIA*

Ask your child if they need lunch money or if they owe money in their account. Payment reminders are given to students once a week. Lunch charges are to be paid the day after charging breakfast or lunch. Checks must have a phone number on them and written in blue or black ink please. Call us anytime at 812-435-8612.



### **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/>

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

Twitter: HPSA@HelfrichPark

To give you the most updated information, our school calendar can now be found on our website.