



February 2017

6TH GRADE STARS



Science: We have been working really hard learning about the states of matter. We have been discussing the different types of matter and their properties. We have conducted several labs investigating the properties of water. The sixth grade has started science fair projects. Every sixth grade student is required to complete a project for the Helfrich Park science fair. All student projects are due on February 27. On March 2, the science fair will be open for viewing from 5:00-6:30 in the gym. The science fair will reopen for viewing on March 3 from 7:45-1:45. Your student should have brought home a science fair packet which details the requirements for the project. If there are questions or concerns, please contact your child's science teacher. Don't forget to restock your child's supply of pens, pencils, and paper!

Math: Math students have been doing multistep problems on a daily basis to prepare for the first round of ISTEP in March. Students have just completed a geometry unit and are beginning a unit on integers. Mrs. Hall's honors class has been working with integer operations. Mrs. Humm's advanced honors class has been working on linear and nonlinear functions. We appreciate your help in making sure that math homework is completed each evening.

ELA: In English we are working on argumentative writing. We have been looking at how to form and trace an argument through a text. In literature we have been working through a novel. While reading we have been looking at how the character develops and how the theme is shown through this character. We also continue to work with summaries as we read.

Social Studies: Classes are beginning to explore the factors that lead to the development and advancement of early modern civilization. We are currently focusing on the Renaissance, 1350-1500s. The students are studying the trade routes, art, literature, and science of this time period. During this unit, we will also be learning about the impact of the Protestant Reformation in Europe. Looking ahead, we will be studying the Scientific Revolution including inventions and sea voyages.

Pumas of the Week: Leland Head, Emma Oatess, Conner Olewinski, Samantha Redd, LaShay Jones, Dylan Roman, Caleb Hampton, Katelynn Vazquez-Harris, Zon'Yell Walling, Christina Boyd, Ava Elpers, and Haley Scheu.

NO SCHOOL FEBRUARY 20TH!!



HELFRICH PARK SCIENCE FAIR

Projects due on February 27

Open viewing on March 2, 5-6:30 PM in the gym

Open viewing on March 3, 7:45 AM-1:45 PM in the gym

*Please report to the school office for a visitor's pass
on March 3 before going to the gym. Thank you.*

Spirit Days

February 3, 10, 17, 24

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.*

7TH GRADE M&M'S



Science: Students should be discussing their science projects. Permission slips have been sent home and students should be gathering materials. Teachers are devoting time to helping students prepare to do their experiments at home. Information has been shared on web sites and with students. Students should start their experiments at the beginning of February. Final display boards are due February the 27th. Please contact teachers if you have any questions!

In classes, students will start *physical science*. They will be focusing on the engineering process during this unit of study.

Math: Mrs. Todd, Mrs. McDurmon, and Mr. Hartmann's math classes have had a busy January. With the completion of percentages and percent of change, students have moved on to slope, speed, rate of change, and constant of proportionality. All of these are examined in the context of tables, graphs, and equations. Please encourage your child to continue working in ALEKS each week.

Mrs. McDurmon's Math 7 Honors class started the year studying geometry including circles and solid shapes. They even got to use Play-doh! They will be moving on to studying the Pythagorean Theorem and angles.

ELA: We are working on constructed and extended responses. Also, we continue to analyze poems by comparing them to our novel, *Legend*. While reading *Legend*, we are focusing on themes, character analysis, and setting.

Social Studies: Students will be wrapping up the Ancient China Unit and beginning their studies of the world's three religions that started in Southwest Asia: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Next, classes will learn about Western African civilizations in medieval times, and the impact of the gold and salt trade in Islam on these societies.

Pumas of the Week: Ben Gollaher, Kaleigh Meritt, Kyliana Williams, Hunter Mattess, Loden Greenwell, Abigail Harrison, Faith Gill, Faith Jochim, Garrett Wirth, Aaliyah Mattingly, Grace Wellmeier, and Francis Miller.

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.



CHOIR

There will be full year 7th and 8th Grade Choir classes next school year. If interested in joining Choir, please contact Mr. DeKemper.

Dates to Remember:

- EVSC Solo Ensemble: Feb. 1
- End of 4th Grading Period: Feb. 10
- NO SCHOOL/Presidents' Day on Feb. 20
- Science Fair: March 2 and 3



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!



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



Science: We have started learning about genetics this semester. Students are learning about how some traits are inherited and some are acquired. They have also been learning about reproduction methods of organisms and meiosis. In addition to genetics, students have been working on their science fair projects. We have spent several class periods working on selecting a project, research, hypothesis, variables, materials, procedures, and a data table. Your child has until Feb. 13 to complete their experiment or engineering project at home. We will work on graphs, results, analysis, conclusions, and abstracts in class once the work at home is completed. All science fair boards are due on February 27. The USI science fair will be held on **March 10** for those participating.

Math: Eighth grade math students are finishing up with algebra and functions unit. Students are graphing linear systems and interpreting graphs. Students are also starting to prepare and focus on standards for the upcoming ISTEP test. Please be sure to look at your child's grades and be sure they are keeping up with homework. Practice makes students better.

ELA: We are currently working on making claims for a literary analysis essay. In English, Mr. McGee & Mrs. White are reading The Giver while Mrs. Thompson is reading Rot and Ruin. Both books focus on utopic and dystopic communities. Soon, we will be moving back to non-fiction and looking again at argumentative essays. If you have not replenished your student's school supplies (pencils, paper, folders), please check to see if they need more. We appreciate your support in continuing to teach your student.

U.S. History: 8th grade social studies is entering the stage in American history where we came out of the Revolutionary War and the crafting of the Constitution, to a time of launching our nation. Students will be learning about George Washington's influence on our country, as well as Alexander Hamilton and his differences with Thomas Jefferson, and how it shaped our political parties, to name just a few topics.

We The People: Students in 8th grade honors Social Studies have begun research for their projects in National History Day. National History Day is a program designed for students that involves researching primary and secondary sources, writing a title paper, writing an annotated bibliography, creating a poster exhibit, and presenting the exhibit to a group of judges. Students have already chosen topics that connect to this year's theme "Taking a Stand." Even though we are in our early stages, students are off to a great start researching and analyzing primary and secondary sources in relation to their topics.

Pumas of the Week: Ella Talley, Reece Meyer, DeAndre Jones, Dylan Berry, Jaylee Gray, Jacob Crowell, Raelyn Kelle, Madeline Brown, Matt Roby, Malorie Hobbs, Savanna Peckenpaugh, and Jarvis McKinney.

ATTENTION

PARENTS

If you have more than one child, you know the amount of "papers" that come home from school. Even if you don't have time to go through them, you can still stay up to date on your child's progress. Just set up your RDS Parent Access account. At RDS Parent Access, you can see what all of your children are learning with just a few clicks. You can also check their grades and attendance and email teachers. For more information on RDS Parent Access, contact the school, or visit <http://www.evscschools.com/>. You can also access it by getting the new EVSC app!

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

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

Instagram: @helfrichparkstemacademy

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