



Dear Puma Families,

Season Greetings from all of us at Helfrich Park! 'Tis the season for lots of goings on. We run from holiday event to holiday event, school activity to school activity, and family commitment to family commitment. The rush brings a lot of excitement and energy to this time of the year. This school year, we will be in school through December 21<sup>st</sup>. It is later than some years in the past. I encourage you to enjoy the activities of the season, but be mindful that our students do not always spring back from late nights or busy weekends as well as adults. Make time each night to help your students re-center themselves and make sure that they have everything pulled together to be successful the next day at school. This a great technique for all year, but especially during this time of the year. No one wants to get a visit from the Grinch.

Enjoy your holiday season! Enjoy your time with friends and family! Enjoy every moment that you are given!

Season's blessings,

Dr. Herrin

### FUN NIGHT — WINTER DANCE



December 16th will be our last Fun Night for the semester, as well as our Winter Dance. In addition to our normal activities, we will focus on our dance floor and allow for more dancing. Students are invited to bring nice clothes to change into for the Winter Dance. The Fun Night goes until 4:25 PM and tickets will be available for \$3.00 either at lunch or at the door.

### WINTER BREAK

EVSC Winter Break is Thursday, December 22, 2016 through January 2, 2017. Enjoy the holiday break with family and friends. We will see all students back at school on Tuesday, January 3 to start the new year!

### Morning Drop-Off Before 7:00 AM

There is no assigned supervision for students prior to 7:00 AM. Students who must be dropped off prior to 7:00 AM are asked to enter the building immediately and sit in the main foyer until given further direction by a Helfrich Park staff member. Students who cannot follow this procedure will not be allowed to be dropped off early and will need to ride their assigned bus. Thanks for your cooperation.

### Spirit Days

**December 2, 9, 16 & 21**

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

## 6TH GRADE STARS



**Science:** The 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers would like to say thank you to everyone who made LBL possible for the 6th grade this year. Students were well prepared and used the skills they had learned for GPS and Compass. They also showed off their knowledge of vertebrates at the Nature Center as well as their history lessons at Fort Campbell. Sixth graders also gained new skills as they learned about fire fighting, animal casting, archery, baking, and fishing. There was even a little time allotted for some dancing and silly campfire songs. The trip was a total success and will leave lasting memories for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders for years and years to come. Happy Holidays from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade team!

**Math:** Sixth grade math students have been working on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions and mixed numbers. Mrs. Hall's honors math students have been working on finding a percent of a number. Mrs. Humm's advanced honors math class has been writing and solving equations. Some of the students used math skills at LBL by doing the GPS course, compass course, and baking. Everyone had a lot of fun at LBL!

**ELA:** In language arts, we have been working on our LBL project. We created a presentation about an animal we would see at LBL. We will continue working on short research projects. In literature we have just finished up *Zachary Beaver* and transitioning into a nonfiction text.

**Social Studies:** Sixth grade social studies classes have been learning about Ancient Greece and Rome. We have also prepared for our LBL trip by exploring Fort Donelson and events of the Civil War, a big leap in our history timeline but important for the awesome and unique opportunity of hands-on learning at LBL. Soon we will be studying the Middle Ages and the factors that led to the development and advancement of early modern civilization. Please remember to keep Thinkpads charged and pencil supplies well-stocked. I hope everyone enjoyed a nice Thanksgiving. I'm thankful for the privilege of teaching at Helfrich Park and for all of your support! Go PUMAS!

**Pumas of the Week:** Nathan Nenneker, Mallory Sibbitt, Alex Smith, Anthony Acuff, Jonas Burnett, Shalynn Rhoades, Trachelle Dennis, Quintin Turpin, Tyler Weinzapfel, Wesley Mills, Garrett Motz, Kathryn Payne

### ROBOTICS

Congratulations to Hunter Mossberger who won the Amazing Race at the Robo Rally on November 3. Angelika Elderbrook, Madison Crook, and Haylie Burns placed second; Jackson Wood placed third. In the Ping Pong Frenzy competition, Jace Lemp, Jackson Lawhon, and Jimmy Schlachter placed second; Gus DeVries and Cameron Williams took third. Great job representing the Pumas!



### HELFRICH PARK WINTER CHOIR CONCERT

The Winter Choir Concert will be Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 7 PM in the school gym. Please come out and support the Helfrich Park Choir as you enjoy the music of the winter season.

**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 are 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.

## 7TH GRADE M&M'S



**Science:** Seventh grade science students finished their first dissection. Students dissected a sheep heart to learn how cells can differentiate into tissues that work together in an organ. They also learned how organs, such as the heart and lungs, work together in the respiratory and circulatory systems. They learned the importance of overall heart health. Hopefully, they shared some of their experiences!

Students will be starting earth science after Thanksgiving. They will learn how minerals and rocks form. They will also identify rocks using characteristics for classification. Earth science will continue until Christmas.

**Math:** Mrs. McDurmon, Mrs. Todd, and Mr. Hartmann have had an outstanding November. We completed equations, one and two step inequalities, and examined the many ways to look at proportional relationships: equations, tables, graphs, and word problems. As we start the second round of NWEA testing, we look for continued growth and success! Mrs. McDurmon's Math 7H class has been working on linear and nonlinear functions. They have been writing, solving, and graphing real world linear functions. After Thanksgiving break, students will be diving into proportions and function notation.

**ELA:** The 7th grade ELA classes are moving to a unit using poetry, mythology, folk tales, and legends. The focus will be on analyzing figurative language and interpreting the denotation and connotation of words and phrases used within the texts.

**Social Studies:** Seventh grade Social Studies is finishing with ancient India and will be traveling to ancient China at the end of the year. We will focus on the inventions, geography, and dynasties of ancient China.

**Pumas of the Week:** Brandt Dunkel, Jasa Franklin, Alexandria Donahay, Autumn Pelkey, Sarah Reisz, Markell Tapp, Alex Hartmann, Brianna Hoffman, Sydney Hart, Olivia Roenberg, Travis Brown, Nolan Eickhoff

### FROM THE NURSE

We are in need of khaki pants and shorts in boys, teen, and adult sizes. If you have any of these items you would like to donate to school, please drop them off at the office. Also, if your child has borrowed a pair of pants or shorts, a belt, or a polo from the nurse, please make sure they are washed and returned so another student will be able to use them when needed. Thanks for your help!

### 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's name on your baggie or envelope so your homeroom gets credit for a party. Let's see which homeroom can be the winner! Good luck!***



### TRI-STATE FOOD BANK

The Tri-State Food Bank is having their annual food drive to help families in need of assistance during the holiday season. Please be generous by donating non-perishable food items to this worthy cause. There is a blue collection barrel in the school foyer waiting to be

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



**Science:** In 8th grade science, students have been learning about chemistry. Students know how to read a periodic table, know element symbols and understand the organization of the table. They just finished calculating the density of four elements in order to use the information to determine the density of two unknown elements. They also enjoyed a field trip to USI and were able to complete several chemical reactions. We are looking forward to beginning our unit on chemical reactions and balancing equations.

**Math:** Eighth grade math students have been working on problems including the Pythagorean Theorem on a graph and in the real world, functions, and slope-intercept form. Students will be coming home with a catchy song to help them remember the slope-intercept form equation. Ask them to sing it for you!

**ELA:** In literature, we have been working on reading non-fiction stories. We will continue to work on citing evidence and analyzing central idea. In Language Arts, we are working on our research writing skills. You can ask your child what they have chosen to research.

**U.S. History:** We are on the downside of wrapping up our unit on the Revolutionary War and hope to be moving on to the Constitution in December. Have your 8th grader show you the **Too Late to Apologize** video on YouTube. Also, ask him/her what **No Taxation w/o Representation** means, and what the Declaration of Independence really was between the colonies and England. Hint: you went through about a hundred of them during your middle school years.

**We The People:** Congratulations to the teams that competed in the We The People Competition Tuesday, November 15th! Special recognition goes to Helfrich Park Team 1 Unit 5, which consisted of Matthew Robey, Rebekah Hamilton, Erin Dietsch, Cameron Short and Savannah Barnes. Students will now turn their attention specifically on researching and analyzing primary and secondary sources in their studies of the Constitution and U.S. politics. Information will be sent home after Winter Recess about the National History Day projects taking place second semester.

**Pumas of the Week:** Corbin James, Raelyn Kelle, Max Welch, Jackson Wood, Brea Helming, Jolea Welch, Krissy Peralta, Anna Gollaher, Logan Combs, Jacob Carroll, Elise Umbach, Jeffrey Peckenpaugh

### FRESHMAN ENROLLMENT

Reitz counselors will be meeting with individual 8th grade students to discuss freshman enrollment on December 5 and 7. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions and select courses. Students will have a parent copy to take home for a signature following their meeting with the Reitz counselor.

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

The varsity girls' basketball team has a 14-1 record since the beginning of basketball season. They begin tournament play on December 8 at home. The semi-finals are December 12, also at home. The finals are December 14 at Central High School. The girls have had a great season so far and are determined to finish strong! The varsity roster follows: #10 Hope McGuire, #14 Reece Meyer, #15 Abbie Steinhart, #20 Lily Beyers, #22 Gloria Rudolph, #23 Malorie Hobbs, #25 Morgan Hobbs, #30 Cynthia Griest, #31 Erin Dietsch, #33 Kaytlynne Hurm, #35 Xavieria Cole, #42 Ariana Smith, #45 Alazah Goodloe.

The JV team has worked hard this season and plans on finishing strong in tournament play. Seventh grade roster: #13 Skyla Helm, #15 Alyssa Haynes, #20 Alexandria Donahay, 30 Katy Miller, #33 Cleo Hampton, #35 Sydney Hart. Sixth grade roster: #5 Emily Taylor, #11 Shalynn Rhoades, #12 Samantha Redd, #21 Juliana Miller, #24 Jaydan Clayton, #, #40 Cori Payne and Manager Mallory Sibbitt. Try to come out to support our teams when they play. Good Luck PUMAS!!





## BOYS' BASKETBALL TRY-OUTS

Boys' basketball try-outs are right around the corner. Reserve (6th and 7th grades) and Varsity (8th grade) try-out date is Monday, December 12 after school until 4:00 p.m. Final cuts for BOTH teams will be Thursday, December 15 after school until 5:00 p.m. Be sure to bring appropriate clothing and shoes for try-outs. There will be an after-school bus available on try-out days.

## YEARBOOKS

Looking ahead....yearbook order forms will go home with students after the Holiday Break. Yearbooks will be \$18 and orders will be taken through January 20, 2017. Keep your eyes open for order forms after January 3.

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

## DONATE YOUR OLD EYEGLASSES ...



EVSC would like to join the campaign "Eye Make a Difference". Through Eye Make a Difference, a VSP Global Eyes of Hope program, your gently used glasses can give someone in need a new outlook on life. Students can bring used glasses to the drop off box in the school office through December 21. Thank you. for your contribution.

## 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.



## HCAMPS 2017 June 12-16, 2017

HCAMPS (Health Care Academy for Middle School Pupils' Success) is a weeklong program for students entering eighth grade in the Fall of 2017, current 7th graders.

Students will experience:

- The variety of careers possible in the health care industry
- Personal interaction with health care providers in various fields
- Educational requirements for a career in health care
- Hands-on experience in the Emergency Department, Newborn Nursery, and Trauma Services
- Touring Health Sciences facilities at Ivy Tech, USI, and UE

### Agenda

Students will meet for five days from 8:30 am to 4 pm. Students will meet at St. Mary's Medical Center and depart to the day's activities. Lunch and snacks will be provided each day by St. Mary's.

### Selection Criteria

- Students must be a current 7th grader and will be entering the 8th grade in August 2017 in Indiana counties of Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh, or Warrick.
- Students must be a high-achieving student and have a teacher's online evaluation (to be sent directly to the teacher after application deadline. Submit teacher's name and email address in the application.)
- Student must have a minimum 3.5 grade point on a 4.0 scale or equivalent.
- Student must prepare a 150 word essay explaining why he/she is interested in this program. Submit as directed below.

To apply, please use the following link: <https://goo.gl/7hvS2Q>

**The application and essay are due and need to be received by 4:00 pm, Tuesday, January 10, 2017.**  
Cost for the program is \$100.00 and is payable after being accepted into the program. Financial aid is available.

Any questions about the program  
can be addressed by contacting:

Ms. Margaret L. Moutseous, HCAMPS Director  
St. Mary's  
3700 Washington Ave  
Evansville, IN 47750  
[mimoutseous@stmarv.org](mailto:mimoutseous@stmarv.org)  
812.485.4221

Any questions about the application  
can be addressed by contacting:

Dr. Vic Chamness, Director of Science, Health & PE  
Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation  
951 Walnut Street  
Evansville, IN 47713  
[vic.chamness@evsc.k12.in.us](mailto:vic.chamness@evsc.k12.in.us)  
812.435.0904



## RDS Parent Access Newsletter Copy

Below you will find a collection of short blurbs you can use in your school newsletters or on your school website to help increase the awareness of the RDS Parent Access system and increase the number of users in your school. You can run one a month, or choose just one or two...it's up to you.

### **August/September**

#### **All the info you need in one spot!**

Now's the perfect time to get yourself signed up to use RDS Parent Access. RDS is a one-stop on-line shop where you can check your student's grades, track attendance and view homework. You can even use the system to email your child's teacher. All you need is a computer or smart phone, internet access and an activation code from your school secretary. Once you get logged on, you create your own easy to remember user name and password...and you're ready to go. For more information on RDS Parent Access, contact your school or visit EVSC website at <http://www.evscschools.com/> for tips on how to set up and use the system.

### **October**

#### **Eliminate the Middle Man**

Is your child a little so/so at bringing home assignments and information? Did you know you can eliminate the middle man? With our RDS Parent Access system, you can see for yourself what your child is learning. RDS Parent Access allows you to view homework assignments, grades, test scores and more! All you need is your smart phone and internet access. For help getting started setting up your RDS Parent Access account, contact your school or visit the EVSC website at <http://www.evscschools.com/>

### **November**

#### **No more Waiting**

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, or email ????

### **December**

#### **Give you self the gift of Information**

With the holidays just around the corner, now is the perfect time to sign up for RDS Parent Access. With RDS Parent Access, you can use your smart phone to check your child's attendance or homework grades while you wait in line at the store, or travel to see relatives. You can even email teachers! RDS Parent Access is simple and easy to use. For information on how to get your account set up, contact the school, or visit the EVSC website at <http://www.evscschools.com/>

### **January**

#### **Resolve to Stay in Touch**

The start of a new year and new semester is the perfect time to sign up for RDS Parent Access! It's easy...you can use your smart phone to check your child's grades, track attendance and email teachers. For information on setting up your RDS Parent Access account, contact the school, or visit the EVSC website at <http://www.evscschools.com/>