

PUMA Team,



Spring has finally, finally sprung! Boy, am I glad to see the students enjoy getting outside to play and relax before school, during recess, and after school.

On April 11, Helfrich Park PTSA hosted our annual Talent Show. As usual, the acts were impressive and the entire evening was very enjoyable. The winning acts follow. Elementary-Grade 6 Level: (names deleted) Congratulations, students and thank you PTSA, donators, and staff who made this event another Helfrich Park success!

Our band and orchestra recently competed in the ISSMA State Competition. I am extremely proud to inform you the 7/8 Band received a Gold with Distinction rating and the 7/8 Orchestra received a Gold rating. What a wonderful accomplishment for the kids, the instructors, and the families. All the practice, commitment, and home support resulted in a wonderful performance.

The second round of our annual ISTEP testing will take place April 29 through May 6. The students are ready to go and I know they will do their best, just like any other day. When the students give their best efforts and focus, they perform extraordinarily well. Good Luck Students!

Our school will be on a new time schedule next year, as determined by the EVSC. Middle schools will begin class at 7:30 a.m. and will dismiss at 2:30 p.m. We would like to build outside-the-regular-classroom activities, remediation, focus study time, and whole school assembly periods into our daily schedules to enhance learning. The staff will be working on this new curriculum over the next few months.

Again, as I began this piece, spring has arrived! I hope all our students and families enjoy this nice weather spending time together.

Mac

### *CITIZENS OF THE WEEK*

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: (deleted)**

**7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: (deleted)**

**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: (deleted)**

### **FROM THE COUNSELOR**

Eighth graders interested in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars college program, please see Mr. Connors, Counselor, for the on-line application worksheet. Applications are due by June 30, 2014.

### **6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STARS**

Some math classes have worked on different types of graphs. Other math classes have been working on congruent and similar figures. All sixth graders have been preparing for the second round of ISTEP. On this portion of the ISTEP, the students will answer multiple choice and gridded response problems using their netbooks. They have been doing practice problems on their netbooks to prepare for the ISTEP. The students have been reviewing several topics such as decimals, fractions, percents, integers, ratios, order of operations, and probability. We are ready for the ISTEP! After the ISTEP, students plan to do a Field Trip WebQuest on their netbooks and a fun math baseball unit. Please make sure your child is keeping up on his or her homework as we finish the school year. Thank you for your support!



In science, students have been working hard preparing for round two of ISTEP. We feel confident the students have really worked hard to prepare for the test! Students have also been

learning about physical and chemical properties, energy, and natural resources. In health class, students will soon go through basic CPR training in the classroom.

Please encourage your children to do their very best and get their homework completed. There are several year-end field trips coming up, May 21, 22, and 23 and students with insufficient grades, behavior, or unpaid 6<sup>th</sup> grade fees will not be permitted to attend the trips. Look for a permission slip to come home soon. Please return permission slip and payment in a timely manner in order for your child to participate in end-of-year activities.

In Mrs. Burkhart's ELA class, students have been reading the novel *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*. They have been focusing on the literary techniques used by the author, such as, figurative language and foreshadowing. Students have also been working tirelessly to prepare for the upcoming ISTEP test. In language arts, Mrs. Brown's classes have completed how-to essays. Many of the students also did demonstrations to go with their how-to essays. Five students from Mrs. Brown's classes had their favorite book essays printed in the Courier New Voices column. Students are currently reading the novel, *The Devil's Arithmetic*, which is about the Holocaust. In English, students are continuing to work with quotation marks as both direct quotations and within dialogue. Students will also be starting letters soon. They will be writing letters to the author of the novel they are currently reading. In literature, Mr. Kahle's students are reading the *Maze Runner*. While reading the novel, they are completing a variety of activities and projects to help them gain a better understanding of the experiences of the characters. Students in Mrs. Alford's and Mrs. Arnold's language arts classes each entered a poem in the "Creative Communications" regional poetry contest. Congratulations to the following students whose poems were selected for publication in the book titled, *A Celebration of Young Poets*: (names deleted) Mrs. Alford's literature students are currently reading *Freak the Mighty*. They have been working on summarizing, characterization,

theme, and vocabulary.

In social studies, Mrs. Burkhart's and Mrs. Brown's students are learning about early modern day Europe. This includes the Renaissance and Reformation periods and the Industrial Revolution. Mr. Kahle's students have also finished discussing the Renaissance and Reformation and have begun the Scientific Revolution. Mrs. Alford's students conducted research on European explorers such as John Cabot, Christopher Columbus, and Ponce de Leon. Each student created a slide show answering three essential questions for each explorer: What was the reason for exploration? What obstacles were faced? What was accomplished?

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE M&MS

Science students are finishing up their study of Earth Science with rocks and minerals. They will be moving on to study climate and weather at a perfect time of the year when weather is exciting! The kids are very excited to study something they experience every day!



Mathematics has had a busy month. Completing units on statistics and probability, students are finishing the year with reviews for ISTEP testing. All of the hard work is appreciated and will no doubt be reflected on this important standardized test. As we near the end of the year, please remember that we will continue to challenge the students even with the completion of ISTEP. As always, the math teachers want to thank you for your support in homework and test preparation.

In social studies, students are continuing their studies of the Middle East and mapping. In addition, they will be working on modern Africa. Students will also engage in multiple mapping activities.

Language arts students will be working on novel projects. In addition, they will begin working on the final research project of the year. Students will use the writing process to strengthen their research essays.



## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE GSTORS

End-of-year activities are soon approaching. What an exciting time of year for the eighth graders. They will soon be going on to Reitz and will be missed here at Helfrich Park. We want to make the most of the rest of this school year and send them off with Helfrich Park memories they will remember for a lifetime. The eighth grade team of teachers has prepared the following events for the eighth grade students:

Wednesday, May 21-8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Holiday World - departure from Helfrich Park is approximately 8:30 a.m. - return to Helfrich Park at 6:15 p.m. If parents do not pick up their child by 6:15 p.m., they will be sent home on the after-school bus.

Thursday, May 22-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition practice in the gymnasium - students are strongly encouraged to be in attendance so they know what to do for Recognition.

Friday, May 23-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition - **10:30 a.m.** - students should be dressed in nice clothing.

Science students just finished dissecting frogs. They had a blast during this experience and learned a lot about the similarities and differences of frog versus human anatomy. They are now learning about Earth sciences. They will cover topics such as the water cycle, ocean currents, renewable and nonrenewable resources, and the layers of the atmosphere.

Many 8<sup>th</sup> grade students wonder if they'll ever really need to know how to use the quadratic equation or find the volume of a cone. Not realizing how useful math can be, some choose to only fulfill the minimum requirements that their high schools requires. This can be a mistake, and here are several reasons why:

According to the professionals at College Board ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)), students who take geometry in high school have about an 80 percent chance of attending college regardless

of race, religion and family income. Taking math is important if you are considering attending a college, university or technical school. Many of these institutions require students to take at least two to three years of math; however, four years of math is strongly recommended.

Those at College Board also emphasize how math can help you prepare for a career. The skills you learn in math courses may be applicable down the line, even if you are not studying to become an engineer or an accountant. Many entry-level jobs require employees to have some math knowledge. Even understanding the basic math functions can be advantageous.

From the professionals at College Board, here is a list of important skills obtained from math courses:

- The ability to identify and analyze patterns
- Logic and critical thinking skills
- Ability to see relationships
- Problem solving skills.

Please keep working on your math skills over the summer and see the positive rewards of your hard work!

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Well, the end of the year is upon us. Mr. Mahan and Mrs. Redd would like to tell every student what an honor it has been teaching you this year. For our last units, students will be performing the fitness test. This test is divided into five categories. The tests include standing broad jump, mile run, sit-ups, push-ups, and shuttle run. Each test will be worth 10 points for a total of 50 points. During the time of testing, students will play whiffle ball inside. When classes are outside, they will play softball.

Under the leadership of Mr. Combs, Helfrich Park was awarded a grant through the Indiana National Archery in Schools Program (NASP) and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Division to help purchase equipment for the



P.E. classes to teach archery. Starting in the 2014-15 school year, HPSA will teach archery for 10 days throughout year for the next five years. As interest develops, Helfrich Park would like to start an extra-curricular program where students can practice throughout the year and participate in local and state tournaments. Currently, HPSA is the only middle school in the EVSC that will be offering this program.

Engineering Technology Classes: In Engineering Technology classes, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, are finishing the year with a unit on robotics and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are exploring the world of alternative energy.



### WASHINGTON D.C./NEW YORK

Seventh grade students have started signing up for the field trip of a lifetime to Washington D.C. and New York City. There have already been five students sign up; we can take the first 50 that register. Sign up early for only \$49 and also receive a \$100 discount. There will be an informational meeting for 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents interested in sending their child to DC/NY. It will be on May 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Media Center. Come check out what the trip has to offer our students and get your questions answered. Contact Mr. Loveless for more information.

### VOCAL MUSIC

Music Classes have been working on playing “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” and “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” on the guitar. The Choir Concert will be May 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Helfrich Park Gym. Please come and support our Helfrich Park Choir.

### BAND/ORCHESTRA

Band and Orchestra is wrapping up a very successful year! The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands and orchestras collaborated for a wonderful Spring Concert on the evening of April 24. The students played amazingly! The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band and orchestra students received gold ratings at the ISSMA Band and Orchestra Contest held at Central High School on April 4. The students showed mastery of their music and class and dignity, as always. Please make sure all rental fees for school instruments are paid by the end of the year. Thanks for the great amount of parent support for music throughout the year; you make it known the music program is valued at Helfrich Park!



### ART

Art classes are finishing up the year well. Sixth graders created plans for a dream house, studied about an Indian art tradition, and painted a spring scene with water colors. Seventh graders have been painting with acrylics. They learned about a well-known artist named Wayne Thiebaud and are using food/sweets as their subject matter. Eighth graders are currently working hard on a black and white fish design. They also made some beautiful spring flowers with chalk pastels. Check out all the artwork in the hallway!



### FROM THE CAFÉ

Lunch accounts: Please pay lunch account i.o.u. charges as soon as possible. Eighth graders, no refunds will be given from your account at the end of school; money will transfer to your high school. Negative balance charges will also transfer to your next school.

### TECH

Robotics: Congratulations to the following students who competed in the 2014 USI Robotics Competition. Seventh place finishers were (names deleted).

## EVANSVILLE COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

ECTA Junior Introductory Program tennis sessions are being offered at various locations from June 2 through August 1. Informational flyers detailing the locations, dates, times, and cost are in the school lobby. If you have questions, contact Brian Poynter at (812) 401-6060 or [bpoynter@evansvilletennis.com](mailto:bpoynter@evansvilletennis.com).

## DATES TO REMEMBER



Vocal Concert, 6:30 pm, gym	May 8
6/7 <sup>th</sup> Honors Program, 6 pm	May 12
8 <sup>th</sup> Honors Banquet-Reitz, 6 pm	May 15
8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Dance, 7-9 pm	May 16
8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Holiday World	May 21
8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Recognition, 10:30 am	May 23
Last Day of School	May 23
First Day of 2014-15 School Year	Aug. 11

## REITZ SPORTS INFO

Spring and summer activities will be upon us before you know it! Reitz has forwarded the below dates for their spring and summer sports-related camps and related activities. You may want to mark your calendar or plan ahead for some of these events.



- May 27-30** – Girls Basketball
- May 30** – One day combine for youth football, grades 4-7
- June 2-6** – Baseball
- June 2-5** – Girls Soccer
- June 9-20** – Boys Basketball
- June 16-18** – Softball
- June 23-26** – Drums on the Ohio
- June 21-August 1** – Band Camp
- June 30-July 6** – IHSAA Moratorium
- July 8-10** – Volleyball
- July 8-10** – Wrestling (Grades 6-12 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon-2:00 pm)
- July 11** – One day combine for youth football, grades 4-7
- July 15-17** – Wrestling (Elementary from 5:30-7:30 pm)
- July 26-August 2** – Conditioning only for Fall athletes.
- August 1** – Girls Golf - First day of practice
- August 4** – First day of practice for: Boys and Girls Cross Country, Football (non-contact), Boys and Girls Soccer

## ST. MARY'S SAFE SITTER CLASS

The Best Babysitter is a SAFE SITTER! SAFE SITTER is a medically accurate, hands-on class that teaches boys and girls ages 11 to 13 how to handle emergencies when caring for children.

SAFE SITTERS learn:

- What to do when a child chokes
- CPR
- Safety for the sitter
- How to call for emergency help
- Babysitting business skills
- Basic childcare skills, diapering, feeding, etc.
- How to entertain children and keep them safe

Young children cannot always communicate their needs or protect themselves. The babysitter must be able to handle whatever situation arises. Safe Sitter classes are available through St. Mary's Community Health. A fee of \$60 covers the one-day program, student manual, messenger bag and supplies. The program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., with a short ceremony for students and parents starting at 3:35 p.m. Students need to bring a sack lunch. Classes are available on:

Monday, June 2, 2014

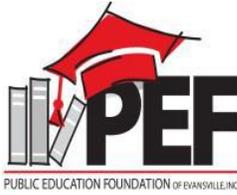
Friday, June 13, 2014

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Friday, June 20, 2014

Wednesday, July 9, 2014

To register your son or daughter **OR** your  
babysitter, call  
St. Mary's Outreach Services  
(812) 485-5607



# THANK-A-TEACHER

*“The great teachers fill you up with hope...” -- Pat Conroy, novelist*

**QUESTION:** Our lives are touched by great teachers. This school year, did you or your child find hope in help from a teacher or other school staff? Why not tell the teacher or staffer thanks?

Act now to **Thank a Teacher** or **Salute a Staffer** with help from the Public Education Foundation.

Each day, scores of school staff members offer not only education, but also guidance, support and hope to countless families. Teachers, transportation and therapists, custodians and cooks – it seems to take a village to run a school. Education must include an exceptional staff.

**IT’S ALWAYS TIME FOR A “THANK YOU”:** When you use the form below, you are not only expressing gratitude, you are also investing in providing innovative grant opportunities to teachers and schools for the next academic year. It’s true! "Thank-A-Teacher" and “Salute a Staffer” contributions are returned to schools in the form of direct grants to teacher, school and administrator applicants. Since 1986, PEF has awarded nearly \$7 million to our schools – that is more than 16,200 projects and programs.

Please take a moment to thank that special teacher or staffer now. As soon as the form is received, PEF will send the appropriate card to the honored person in

your name. (Donation amounts are confidential.) Your honored teacher or staff member will also be recognized by the EVSC Board of School Trustees in June and on the PEF Annual Honor Roll in August. **For all and help and hope you received this year, it’s always time for a “thank you.”**

Please send your contribution with the form below to: Public Education Foundation

P O Box 1163

(PEF is a 501 c 3 non-profit; donations may be tax deductible.) Evansville IN 47706

DONATE ONLINE AT: [www.pefevansville.org](http://www.pefevansville.org)

Click on Make a Donation/Thank a Teacher  
Select: **Thank a Teacher** or **Salute a Staffer**

Name of Teacher/Staff to Thank:

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ \$10  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$  
other amount \_\_\_\_\_

Your gift today will make a difference in the education of our students!



