

**PUMA Team,**

Welcome, PUMA families, to another fantastic year at Helfrich Park STEM Academy! The students have been terrific! They have been extremely well-mannered and focused on their classes. They certainly are a joy to work with each day.



Thank you, parents, for making our annual PTSA Back-to-School Picnic such a wonderful success. This is a perfect time for our staff to meet new families and welcome back returning families. What a fun evening it was!

We have many activities and assemblies scheduled for the school year which will enhance your child's points of reference, as well as give them opportunities to experience education and entertainment from other parts of the world. We will start with the Chinese Acrobats in October.

I have had a few questions regarding what exactly "STEM" means. Well, STEM is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, and math. Helfrich Park addresses each of these curriculum areas in the following manner:

Science – One instructional hour per day in addition to our partnership with USI. This partnership includes college professor led laboratory experiences at USI, utilization of the USI STEM truck to conduct labs on the Helfrich Park campus, and guest lectures/labs by USI faculty members.

Technology and Engineering – Helfrich Park students will have 24 weeks of technology per school year. Twelve weeks will consist of Project Lead the Way curriculum. This is a pre-engineering curriculum which covers CAD design, robotics, energy systems, Rube Goldberg projects, bridge building, simple machines, electricity, home and town design, CO<sub>2</sub> car design, manufacturing, floor plans, air space technology, and alternative energy. Students will also have twelve weeks of Digital Communications where they will learn the following: Excel, Word, Publisher, Power Point, typing techniques, and extended interdisciplinary projects. Other topics of study include digital citizenship and proper use of technology.

Math – Students receive one hour of math instruction each day. Math classes offered at five

instructional levels. Over the past twelve years, the Algebra students have consistently passed the Algebra end-of-course assessment at an average rate of 95%.

In closing, thank you parents for choosing Helfrich Park STEM Academy to educate your child at the middle school level. Working together, along with your child doing his/her best, will make great things happen this year.

Mac

### *CITIZENS OF THE WEEK*

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

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

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

*PTSA Citizen of the Month: (name deleted)*

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

In science, students are off to a great start! They are learning the three major divisions of science: life, earth, and physical. Each division has many sub-categories. They are also learning the Scientific Method, the step-by-step process of conducting a science experiment. Soon they will soar out to space and study the solar system in depth. Recently, some of the sixth grade 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. All 6<sup>th</sup> graders will have an opportunity to visit USI for a science lab at some point during the school year.



Language arts classes have been focusing on the traits of good writing, including paragraph structure and conventions. In literature class, students are reviewing the elements of fiction, plot diagrams, and identifying points of view. Mrs. Campbell's classes have been working on determining the theme of stories. One interesting story was *The Lady or the Tiger*, a

student favorite. English classes have been working hard on reviewing the rules of capitalization.

Geography has been our focus in social studies. Students have been learning how geographers look at the world.

Math students are off and running! They have already learned about adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with decimal numbers and have taken their first test. During the next unit, students will be working on changing fractions to decimals and percents. They will also be learning all the ways these numbers are related and used in real life. Advanced and Honors classes have learned about GCF, LCM, adding/subtracting/multiplying/dividing fractions and about ratios, rates, and unit rates. Your child should bring math work home every night. Please make sure your child is successful this year by often checking grades on EdEase.

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



Social studies started the year with reviewing some geography and history basics. Students have been practicing latitude and longitude coordinates, using maps and globes, identifying oceans and continents, and learning about world climates. In a lesson about deforestation and nonrenewable resources, students read the Dr. Seuss book, *The Lorax*, as a class and had great discussions on the environment and how we can prevent a further loss of earth's resources. Next, students will learn about the different types of governments, economies, and cultures around the world. Students will have the opportunity to "create their own country" using this information!

In language arts, students are reviewing parts of speech and will soon begin writing narratives. In addition, students are learning different reading skills while reading a variety of short stories. Soon, students will begin reading their first novel of the year! Mrs. Campbell's classes have been working on determining the theme of stories. One interesting story was *The Lady or the*

*Tiger*, a student favorite. English classes have been working hard on reviewing the rules of capitalization.

Science classes will be reviewing the Scientific Method and talking about Life Science.

Mrs. McDurmon, Mrs. Todd, and Mr. Hartmann want to thank the Helfrich Park families for a great start to seventh grade math. They met many wonderful students and parents at the annual Back-to-School night. An initial placement test has been given to determine strengths and weaknesses. Students are currently working on exponents, factors, and scientific notation. Integers are just on the horizon. As always, we continue to encourage daily homework and practice to develop mathematical skills.

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



Math students have gotten off to a great start! They have been tackling integers, decimals, and fractions! Over the next few weeks, topics range from rational and irrational numbers to expressions and equations. Please continue to ask your child about completing homework and getting extra help if needed.

In Mrs. Kluesner's English/literature block, students have been writing a letter to their future selves, including pictures and small items to create a "time capsule" to be opened at the end of their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. It should prove interesting how they might change over the course of the school year. The students have also read and discussed a couple short stories, worked on standards of reading skills, and reviewed English grammar and word usage. Mrs. Campbell's classes have been working on determining the theme of stories. One interesting story was *The Lady or the Tiger*, a student favorite. English classes have been working hard on reviewing the rules of capitalization.

Guten Tag from German students! The eighth graders are finishing the two-year course in German by first reviewing what they learned last

year. They have already practiced and tested the vocabulary, grammar, and conversations in Chapters 1 and 2. They have been practicing simple dialogs and talking about family. Students should be studying 10 minutes a night to make sure they know the basics for a good foundation for new material.

Currently in science, students are learning and practicing the Scientific Method. They are experimenting with concepts of diffusion and osmosis to help apply the method in real life. Their goal, at the end of the unit, is to understand the method is used every day to solve problems. Students will be learning more about how scientists do their work and understanding the metric system.



### **P.E.**

Sixth and seventh grades are currently starting a Newcomb Ball unit that focuses on hand eye coordination and learning fundamentals leading up to volleyball next year. Eighth grade is starting volleyball and working on bumping, passing, and serving. They will be starting their tournament next week. Students will end the six weeks with physical fitness testing. They will be graded on standing broad jump, shuttle run, mile run, sit ups, and push-ups. The students have been very well mannered and respectful. Mrs. Redd and Mr. Mahan are very pleased with all the classes and are looking forward to a wonderful school year!

### **BAND/ORCHESTRA**

The band and orchestra classes are off to a great start! The band and orchestra handbook for the 2013-14 school year will be posted soon on the Helfrich Park website under the band/orchestra section. This document describes the band/orchestra classes in great detail. Please be on the lookout for this document and take time to read it, sign it, and return the “Acknowledgement of Policies and Information” form. If you are unable to read it online, a paper copy will be sent home at your request. Also, students who rent an

EVSC instrument will be bringing home rental contracts for the 2013-14 school year. The rental fee for all school instruments is \$30.00 for the school year. Please make check payable to Helfrich Park STEM Academy.



Helfrich Park has several new faces around school this year. Here is a little information on each new staff member. Be sure to give them a warm PUMA welcome!

**Ryan Connors, Counselor** – I graduated from U.E. in 2000 and moved to St. Louis where I attended graduate school at St. Louis University. I just returned to Evansville after 13 years in St. Louis as a high school and middle school counselor. I have also been a high school baseball and football coach for the past 11 years. My wife, Laura, and I have a 22 month old son named Reece.

**Hank Burton** – I am teaching 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies and coaching boys’ track this year at Helfrich Park. I graduated from USI and taught last year at Lodge. My greatest passions are to teach students using new and innovative technologies, fighting for justice for oppressed people around the world, and music. I am so excited for this school year and the opportunity to watch my students grow academically.

**Adam Clark** – I am the new orchestra teacher. I am originally from northern Michigan, but moved to Evansville about 20 years ago. I graduated from Ball State, where I worked with the local youth symphony and helped teach beginning strings to Music Education majors. Outside of teaching, I enjoy sports and watching movies.

**Jared Kahle** – I am the new sixth grade language arts and social studies teacher. I am from Huntingburg, Indiana, which is about an hour from Evansville. I recently graduated from UE with a B.S. in Elementary Education and a Minor

in Reading. I am looking forward to having a great year and I am excited to be beginning my teaching career at Helfrich Park.

**Jennifer Lamb** – I was born and raised on the eastside of Evansville. I graduated from Harrison High School and Indiana University, as well as USI for my Masters. I have taught at Caze and Stockwell Elementary Schools, and Harrison High School. My husband, Lee, and I have a little girl, Bella, and two dogs. I love to make and look at all types of art.

### EASY \$\$\$



This year, **Target** will give money to schools all over the country for one simple act – a vote. Our school needs just 25 votes to earn a \$25 donation from Target. But that is only the beginning. For each additional vote, our school will get \$1 more. So please remember that this small gesture can be potentially huge! Go to GiveWith.Target.com at <http://givewith.target.com/school/41602> to vote for Helfrich Park STEM Academy once a week through September 21 or until Target has given away all \$5 million. Please forward this information to your friends and family. Vote and see the rules at GiveWith.Target.com. Thanks a million!!!!

Also, **Schnucks Markets** has launched the Schnucks eScrip Card. Every time the eScrip card is presented at the checkout, Schnucks will give a percentage of the total grocery bill to the consumer's designated organization. All you need to do is present the card every time you shop and you automatically earn money that will be transferred monthly to the organization(s) of your choice. Customers earn one percent for the first \$300 in sales, two percent on \$301-\$600, and three percent on sales between \$601-\$999. To get a card, just go to any of your local Schnucks stores and ask for a card. It is easy to activate by using the 1-800 number on the back of the card or an email address. Let them know you would like to put Helfrich Park STEM Academy on your card. Please help Helfrich Park earn some extra, free money!

### NUTRITIOUS BREAKFASTS



Research has shown that starting the day with a nutritious breakfast helps students stay alert and perform better in school. A nutritious breakfast is available each day in the school cafeteria. The regular price for breakfast is \$1.25. Reduced price breakfast is \$.30. The breakfast menu can be found on the EVSC web site.

### HEALTH SERVICE & WELLNESS

From the EVSC Office of Health Services and Wellness: Indiana Code requires information regarding Meningococcal Disease and Vaccine be made available to all Indiana students/parents at the beginning of each school year. This information can be found online at [www.evscschools.com/family-services/find-health-and-wellness-initiatives-evsc/](http://www.evscschools.com/family-services/find-health-and-wellness-initiatives-evsc/). Click on the "Meningococcal Disease Information" link at the bottom of the webpage. If you do not have internet access, and you wish to read this information, you may contact your school's nurse for a flyer containing the information.



### PTSA NEWS



Welcome Back to Helfrich Park!

PTSA will be once again collecting Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels from now until the end of the year. Please be sure to send in your Box Tops in a baggie with your child's homeroom teacher listed. To find a complete list of products, go to [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com). Helfrich Park is so close to our goal, please help us get there! Our first contest will start now and go through October 25. The homeroom that brings in the most Box Tops in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades will win a pizza party.

Also, a huge "thank you" goes out to all the parents who helped with the breakfast for Teacher Appreciation week last spring. It could

not have been done without all your help.  
Thank you again.

Remember, our PTSA meetings take place on the second Monday of every month at 4:00 p.m. in the school Media Center. Please join us for our first meeting on September 9. You can meet our officers and learn about everything going on at Helfrich Park. We look forward to meeting you. There will be refreshments – please join us!

Lori Koonce

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Labor Day, No School	Sept. 2
Fall Break, No School	Oct. 11
Fall Pictures	Oct. 28
Veterans' Day, No School	Nov. 11
8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Enroll.Night@Reitz, 6 pm	Nov. 13



**Remember, there are Helfrich Park decals  
and magnets for sale in the school office☺**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – SEPTEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day No School  	3 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 CC 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm Speech 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB vs. PH 3-5:30  Cheer Parent Meeting 6 PM Cafe	4 CC Invitational @ Golfmoor 4-5 Choir 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm McDurmon Tutor. 3-4 VB at Wash. 3-5:30 Girls' Cub Soccer A-5:30 @ North Girls' Cub Soccer C-6@D.Wertz.	5 CC 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm Speech 3-4 Student Council 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB 3-5 Boys' Cub Soccer-5:30@D.Wertz	6 Cub FB 3 pm VB 3-4 Girls' Cub Soccer B-6@Central	7
8	9 STAFF MEETING Cub FB 3 pm Boys' Cub Soccer-5:30@D.Wertz Girls' Cub Soccer C-6@Day Sch. Girls' Cub Soccer-B-6@McCutch.  PTSA Meeting-Media Ctr. 4 pm	10 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 CC 3-4 Choir 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm Dance 3-4 Speech 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB 3-5	11 CC 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm McDurmon Tutor. 3-4 Speech Meet @ HP 3-6 VB vs. Lodge 3-5:30 Boys' Cub Soccer-5:30 @ D.Wertz Girls' Cub Soccer A-6@ Central Girls' Cub Soccer C-6@ North	12 CC 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm Dance 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB 3-5	13 Cheer Camp 3-8 Cub FB 3pm VB 3-4	14 Cheer Camp 9-3  Girls' Cub Soc.A-1:00 @D.Wertz
15	16 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 Cheer 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm Flag FB 3-4 Speech 3-4 VB @ Plaza 3-5:30 Girls' Cub Soccer B-6@Price Park Girls' Cub Soccer A-:30@D.Wertz Boys' Cub Soccer-5:30@Amax	17 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 CCMeet @Angel Mds. 3-6:30 Cub FB 3 pm Dance 3-4 Speech 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB 3-5	18 Cc 3-4 Choir 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm McDurmon Tutor. 3-4 Student Council 3-4 VB vs. North 3-5:30 Girls' Cub Soccer A-7@Amax Girls' Cub Soccer C-6@D.Wertz	19 CC 3-4 Cheer 3-4 Cub FB vs. Central-5:30 @ Bowl Speech 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB 3-5	20  Cub FB 3 pm  FUN NIGHT	21
22	23 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 CC Meet @ Thompk. 3-4:30 Choir 3-4 Cheer 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm Flag FB 3-4 Speech 3-4 VB @ Lincoln 3-5:30 Girls' Cub Soccer B-6 @D.Wertz Boys' Cub Soccer-5:30 @ Cent.	24 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 CC Meet @ P.H. 3-5 Cub FB 3 pm Dance 3-4 Speech 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB 3-5	25 Cheer 3-4 CC 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm McDurmon Tutor. 3-4 Speech Meet @ HP 3-6 VB 3-5 Girls' Cub soccer B-6 @ D.Wertz Boys' Cub Soccer-5:30 TBA	26 CC 3-4 Cub FB vs. Harrison-5:30 @ Bowl Dance 3-4 Student Council 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB 3-5 Girls' Cub Soccer A-7 @ D.Wertz	27 Cub FB 3 pm VB 3-4	28
29	30 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 Choir 3-4 CC Dist. Meet @ Angel Mds. 3-5:30 Cub FB 3 pm Flag FB 3-4 Speech 3-4 VB vs. Thompk. 3-5:30 Girls' Cub Soccer B-6@ D.Wertz Boys' Cub Soccer-5:30@ D. Wertz					

## Cafeteria Meal Charging Guidelines

The EVSC strongly discourages meal charges but understands there are instances when a student may need assistance with meal funds; therefore, the following guidelines for meal charges and collections will apply.

1. Parents have the responsibility to provide a meal from home, provide money for the student to obtain a meal or to apply for federal meal assistance through the Free and Reduced Meal program.
  - a. Free and Reduced Meal applications are available in each school office or by contacting the Food & Nutrition Office at 435-8262.
  - b. Students are expected to pay for lunch or bring lunch from home until the household receives written notification of free or reduced status. Any negative balance accumulated before a student receives written approval must be paid in order to bring the negative account to zero.
2. At the **high school** level, a student must obtain an IOU slip from the school office if he/she does not have money in hand or in the meal account. Meals cannot be charged without this slip, and the student is expected to pay the IOU back the following day.
3. **Elementary** and **middle school** students will be allowed to charge a meal when the need arises, but parents are expected to take steps to bring the negative balance to zero or a positive amount in a timely manner.
4. Students are informed at the cash register when their meal account is in need of funds. Payment reminders are sent home on a weekly basis with elementary students who have a negative balance, bi-weekly Connect Ed courtesy calls are made to all households with a negative balance of \$10.00 or more, and twice a year notification letters are sent by US mail to households with a balance of \$20.00 or more to inform them of the negative balance and outline payment options.
5. A la Carte food may not be charged, and students with a negative account balance may not purchase a la carte food.
6. Parents are encouraged to use EZSchoolPay.com for tracking their student's balance and to set up automatic low balance reminders. Payments into student accounts may also be made by using EZSchoolPay.com.
7. Student accounts with a negative balance of \$50.00 or more are sent letters by US mail advising the household that if there is no attempt to make a payment (partial payments are accepted) within a two week period of time, the negative meal account balance will be turned over to an outside collection agency which will incur additional court costs.
8. EVSC adult staff will be limited to one meal charge.

Should you have questions, please call the Office of Food and Nutrition at 435-8262 or email [food@evsc.k12.in.us](mailto:food@evsc.k12.in.us)