

PUMA Team,

Brrr...how about the weather?! I guess winter came in like a big, old lion but I am hopeful spring will come six weeks early☺



Well, the holiday season is upon us and I would like to wish all our Helfrich Park families a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Wonderful 2014. This is a perfect time for family games, dinners, and just hanging out together. I hope everyone enjoys the upcoming break.

I could not be any prouder of the students, and parents, for their school attendance commitment. Our attendance rate goal for this school year is 99%. We are very close to that goal at this time with an overall rate of 98.7%. Keep working at it! Thank you!

Today, we had a school-wide pizza celebration for the kids to congratulate them on an outstanding year thus far. Their attendance and their superb work on last year's ISTEP+, as well as this school year's work, have been excellent! The students are given little treats throughout the year to reward them for their outstanding manners and work ethic. This pizza party is just a little reward for their continued excellence. Job well done, students!

Mrs. Antey's two eighth grade social studies classes competed in Indianapolis on Tuesday in the "We the People" state government competition. **This year, our Unit 6 from Team A was the State Champion. The entire Team B placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the state!** What an honor for Helfrich Park STEM Academy, the EVSC, and the Evansville community to be represented by these outstanding young men and women. All students participating are listed within this newsletter.

Finally, the entire Helfrich Park staff extends their very best wishes to Mrs. Jo Adams, our Assistant Principal, who is retiring at the end of this semester. Mrs. Adams has been with EVSC for 41 years, here at Helfrich Park 34 of

those years! Mrs. Adams is so deserving of all the pleasures retirement brings. She is one of the most professional, caring, hard-working, and intelligent co-workers anyone could ask for. All the very, very best to you!

Again, I sincerely wish all the PUMA students, staff, and families a relaxing and refreshing break!

Mac

### *CITIZENS OF THE WEEK*

**6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** Caleb Jones, Baylee Crase, Gabby Thompson, Tyler Temme, Lela Curtis, Kennedy Dannheiser, Kylan France, Dylan Guffey.

**7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** Abby Shane, Mandy Miles, Brandon Coomes, Easton Dix, Emily Herron, Bryce Hill, Ryan Whitehouse, Devin Hill.

**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE:** Lili Peckenpaugh, Ashlynn Shane, Koltyn Housman, Harrison Holder, Rebecca Williams, Yukala Shackelford, Aaron Wytovak, Cameron Crosser.

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



Math students have been busy learning about exponents and order of operations. They are also being introduced to some Algebra terms, like using expressions and variables, and identifying different properties. Soon they will be solving equations! In advanced math with Mrs. Hall, students have worked with inequalities and simplifying polynomials. Soon they will start geometry! In Mrs. Humm's honors class, students have learned about equations with two variables and slope. They also have been reviewing this semester's work in preparation for the midterm. As always, please encourage your child to do his/her homework each night and come to class prepared with book, notebook, and a pencil. Sixth grade teachers wish you a wonderful holiday season!

Mrs. Alford's language arts classes continue to focus on improving writing skills. There has been a recent focus on writing good leads. At the start of the new semester, students will practice responding to a variety of writing prompts with emphasis on prewriting, planning, and organization. The students are also "Pumping Up" sentences with details such as vivid verbs, exact nouns, descriptive adjectives, and prepositional phrases. Literature classes have been divided up into "literature circles" as the students read *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*. Circle jobs include language mechanic, discussion director, inquirer, illustrator, passage picker, and vocabulary explorer. The students are looking forward to watching the movie version of this novel. Mr. Kahle's English students have just finished sentence types and will soon be completing their research papers. They are beginning work on phrases and clauses. In literature, his students will be finishing *The Phantom Tollbooth*, as well as reading the play for the story. They are continuing to work on a variety of strategies while reading the novel. Mrs. Brown's reading classes are reading and analyzing poetry. In English, students will be starting persuasive writing.

Mrs. Alford's social studies classes continue to study Mexico. Mr. Kahle's social studies students will be finishing Mexico by completing a project. The students will be making a commercial trying to convince classmates to travel to Mexico. Mrs. Brown's social studies classes are studying Mexico and the students have just completed their travelogues.

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



Math students had a strong finish for 2013. Students in Mrs. Todd's, Mrs. McDurmon's, and Mr. Hartmann's math classes have a solid grasp of expressions and equations. Combining together all mathematical properties (commutative, associative, identify, zero, and distributive), students will continue to simplify expressions and solve one-step and two-step equations. Look for additional practice in 2014. Mrs.

Todd, Mrs. McDurmon, and Mr. Hartmann are very proud of the Acuity B results. Excellent job Pumas!!

Science students are practically experts on cells and cell processes! Mr. Scherry's, Mrs. Deal's, and Mrs. McDurmon's science classes will be moving on to Earth topics such as forces inside the Earth, and rocks and minerals. Also, students will be gearing up for the school-wide science fair in March. Happy researching and experimenting!

In language arts classes, students will be analyzing characters and how they help develop a story through dialogue and their actions. In addition, students will review figurative language and poetry skills. Seventh graders continue to work on developing writing and research skills while focusing on organization.

Social studies students will be finishing up a unit on China. Upon completion, students will begin their study of the major world religions.

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

In Mrs. Kluesner's literature classes, students have been working on and presenting their projects, such as board games, brochures, scrapbooks, arena drawings, and research power points based on information from the book *Catching Fire*. It is interesting to see their creativity. In English, they wrote a short essay on their hometown for the newspaper's New Voices.



Mrs. Kluesner's German students have been studying Chapter 6 about restaurants and snack bars in Germany. They have discussed the cultural differences and the foods one might buy. German classes have also participated in some cultural holiday season activities and German Christmas customs. Some students in German Club held this week, participated in additional Christmas activities. Fröhliche Weihnachten!

For many 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who struggle, math shows up as a collection of rules, formulas, and properties that they learn temporarily, forget quickly, and never use again. Students find mathematics meaningless if they don't see the connection. We teach for understanding by incorporating an interwoven strand of thinking and reasoning into problem solving. This connects math that students learn, from the first lesson to the last. By focusing on thinking, reasoning, and problem solving, students will become more prepared for success in school and in life.



### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Currently in P.E., students have finished the basketball unit and are moving on to bowling. They will learn the history of bowling and how different cultures play the game. In January, the girls will begin a three-week weightlifting unit while the boys learn about floor hockey. After three weeks, the groups will switch these subjects.

### BAND & ORCHESTRA

EVSC Solo and Ensemble will be coming up on February 6, 2014. We encourage your child to participate in this wonderful opportunity. Students must be registered by January 6, cost is \$2.00 per entry. If you or your child have any questions, please contact Mr. Farny or Mr. Clark. Polo money is also due for all band and orchestra students. The cost is \$15.00, checks can be made payable to Helfrich Park STEM Academy. If funds are unavailable, please contact Mr. Farny or Mr. Clark and arrangements will be made.

### CHOIR

Helfrich Park Choir will be preparing for their Spring Concert May 8. In January, the choir will meet January 6, 13, 22, and 27.

General Music: The 6th grade students have been playing *Jingle Bells* and *Three Little Birds* on guitar and learning about holiday and Christmas songs. The 7th and 8th grade students have been playing the melody of *Jingle Bells*.

### ART



This grading period, students have been doing a great job in art. They reflected on what they are thankful for and made creative maker designs. Students also learned about a Japanese form of art called Notan. They are busy putting these black and white designs together. Parents, please watch RDS to see how your child is doing. Students, make sure to get all projects in on time. Students lose a point every day their projects are late. Extra credit opportunities are possible. Thank you for your time and keep up the good work! Art Club is getting crafty this month. Students are making terracotta pot snowmen. Brrr...It's cold!!

### HOMEWORK REQUESTS

Reminder – Parents, if your child is absent and you would like to request missing assignments, please do so by 8:00 a.m. when you call the absence into the Attendance Office. Homework “green sheets” are routed first thing in the morning to allow time for each teacher to fill in his/her class work. Thank you for your support!

### WE THE PEOPLE

Congratulations again, to our We the People classes who participated in the state championship competition this past week in Indy. **Team A, Unit 6 State Champions are Sydney Tipton, Sydney Emig, Delaney Hirsch, Olivia Weinzapfel, and Taylor Schapker.** Participating students follow: **Team B members placing 3<sup>rd</sup> Overall at State: Jasmine Ahmed, Austin Albin, Jonathan Blackwell, Emily Chamness, Jason Chamness, Emerson Courter, Keegan Dannheiser, Evelyn DeLong, Jackson Elaman, Bryce Flake, Gage Gossman, Alex Hardin, Hannah Harrison, Brandon Herr, Hayley Kaelin, Andrew Koonce, Jason Loesch, Shane Martin, Jeremy Norman, Claire O'Reilly, Juliana Peckenpaugh,**

**Kinsey Peralta, Spencer Rogers, Sophia Symon, Sam Valadares, Ansley Volkman, and Matt Yurks.**

Team A: Veronica Barber, Amy Bernhard, Jasmine Boger, Morgan Bryant, Nathan Elder, Sydney Emig, Wes Fuller, Isaac Goudreau, Josiah Goudreau, Bailey Hallam, Delaney Hirsch, Harrison Holder, Kaleb Kemper, Isaac Laugel, Alysia Magnuson, Aspen Mossberger, Breanna Phillips, Avery Reiter, Haley Robertson, Taylor Schapker, Ashlynn Shane, Will Strueh, Caleb Tichenor, Sydney Tipton, Olivia Weinzapfel, and Trenton Young. The teams were under the direction of Mrs. Amanda Antey. **A special thank you goes out to the following sponsors who contributed to funding this educational experience:** the EVSC Foundation, Evansville Bolt and Nut, Inc., Joanne Simpkins, Phyllis Emig; Chapman Construction; Sue Albin; Laura Bernhard; Mary Jane Smith; Sohn and Associates, Ltd.; Gregory and Deborah Kempf; Julie and Clem Frank; Mike and Martha Miller; Glenn A. Deig; Connie Littlepage; All Breed Pet Care, LLC; Walter and Ann Hatfield; Sarah Guinn; Leroy's Tavern; Albert and Susan Umbach; Stan Ludwig; Kevin Elpers; Johnson, Carroll, Norton, Kent, and Goedde; imi; Betty Johnson; PostNet; Fulton Interior Systems; Magnum Construction, Inc.; Randall Brown, DDS, MSD, P.C.; Chris Schafer; Joan Woodall; Lisa Forzley; Berry's Shoe Shop; Opus 1 Music; Jason and Crystal Thomas; Veronica Steinkuhl; Piranha Mobile Shredding; Jerry Wright, II; Kenneth Harmon; Shannon Guido; Russ DeLong; Donna Sholtis; Ben and Katie Strueh; David and Patricia Shaw; Mayer Masonry; Hasgoe Cleaning Sytems, Inc.; P.A.C.E. Field Svc., Inc.; and Lang Brothers Construction, Inc.

**FROM THE CAFÉ**

The entire Cafeteria staff wishes you a Happy and Healthy Merry Christmas and New Year!

**FROM THE NURSE**

Holiday Greetings!! Fun, family, and food come with this time of the year, but with all the good, comes unhealthy foods. This is just a friendly reminder to watch what you eat. Desserts, nuts, and candies are all part of the holiday season, but should be eaten in moderation. Sample all the wonderful goodies, but remember to include fruits, veggies, and lean meats in your meals.

**REITZ BOWL PRINTS/FRAMED PICTURE**



**FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS**

Franklin Framing and Floral is offering a great aerial view print of Reitz Bowl during the Reitz vs. MD football game. Prints are \$25 and the framed picture costs \$75. These would make great gifts for current or past Reitz students, as well as any Reitz fan! There is a sample picture on display in the school office. Prints are available from the office; framed pictures must be ordered. If interested, please see Mrs. Goebel in the office. Cash or checks accepted. Please make checks payable to Helfrich Park.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Winter Break, No School	Dec. 23-Jan. 1
MLKing, Jr Day, No School	Jan. 20
Presidents' Day, <b>School in Session</b>	<b>Feb. 17</b>
Spring Break, No School	Mar. 24-28
Using Make-Up Days, <b>School in Session</b>	<b>Apr. 18 &amp; 21</b>



**Remember, there are Helfrich Park decals and magnets available in the office.**



## THANK-A-TEACHER

During this holiday season, you can show your appreciation to your child/children's teacher, day care provider, principal, or other school staff member by contributing to the Public Education Foundation of Evansville, Inc. (PEF) in his/her honor.

"Thank-A-Teacher" contributions are returned to the schools in the form of grants. Individual teachers, schools, and administrators are invited to apply. In the past 28 years, PEF has awarded nearly \$7 million, funding more than 16,200 projects and educational programs.

Please consider honoring a teacher or school staff member by contributing to this program. Upon receipt of your contribution, PEF will send a special card to the honored person. Donation amounts are confidential.


Send your tax-deductible contribution with the form below to:

Thank-A-Teacher Program  
Public Education Foundation  
P.O. Box 1163  
Evansville, IN 47706

Name of Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contribution Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – JANUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b> No School	<b>2</b> School Resumes  BBB 3-4 Cheer/Dance 3-4 Math Team 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4	<b>3</b> BBB 3-4 Chess Club 3-4 English Team 3-4	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> BBB 3-5 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 Cardio Club 3-4 Cheer 3-5 Choir 3-4 St. Cncl. 3-4 3 on 3-Burkhart 3-4	<b>7</b> BBB 3-4 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 Dance 3-4 Math Team 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Robotics, 6 <sup>th</sup> 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3-Kahle 3-4	<b>8</b>  STAFF MEETING   PUMA Classic 3-9 pm	<b>9</b> Dance 3-4 Math & SS Teams 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3-Burkhart 3-4  PUMA Classic 3-9 pm	<b>10</b> BBB 3-4 Chess Club 3-4 English Team 3-4 3 on 3-Alford 3-4	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> BBB 3-4 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 Cardio Club 3-4 Cheer 3-5 Choir 3-4 3 on 3-Kahle 3-4  PTSA Meeting-Media-4 pm	<b>14</b> BBB @ McGary 3-5:30 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 Dance 3-4 Hockey to Swonder 3 pm Math Team 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Robotics, 6 <sup>th</sup> 3-4 Tutoring 3-4	<b>15</b> Art Club 3-4 BBB 3-4 Cheer 3-5 English & SS Teams 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 3 on 3-Kahle 3-4	<b>16</b> BBB (home) vs. PH 3-5:30 Cheer & Dance @ game 3-5:30 Math & SS Teams 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3-Alford 3-4	<b>17</b> BBB 3-4 Chess Club 3-4 English Team 3-4 3 on 3-Alford 3-4	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  M L King Jr. Day No School  BBB 9-10:30 am	<b>21</b> BBB @ Wash. 3-5:30 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 Cardio Club 3-4 Cheer 3-5 Dance 3-4 Hockey to Swonder 3 pm Math Team 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Robotics, 6 <sup>th</sup> 3-4 Tutoring 3-4	<b>22</b> Art Club 3-4 BBB 3-4 Cheer 3-4 Choir 3-4 English & SS Team 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 3 on 3-Burkhart 3-4	<b>23</b> BBB 3-5 Cheer & Dance 3-4 Math & SS Teams 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3-Kahle 3-4	<b>24</b> BBB 3-4 Chess Club 3-4 English Team 3-4 3 on 3-Burkhart 3-4	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 Cardio Club 3-4 Choir 3-4 3 on 3-Burkhart 3-4  Cheer&Dance Exhibition @ Bosse 5:30 pm	<b>28</b> BBB (home) vs. Lodge 3-5:30 Cheer & Dance @ game 3-5:30 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 Hockey to Swonder 3 pm Math Team 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3-Kahle 3-4	<b>29</b> Art Club 3-4 BBB 3-5 English & SS Teams 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 St. Cncl. 3-4 3 on 3-Burkhart 3-4	<b>30</b> BBB @ Plaza Park 3-5:30 Dance 3-4 Math & SS Teams 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4	<b>31</b> BBB 3-4 Chess Club 3-4 English Team 3-4 3 on 3-Burkhart 3-4	

