

PUMA Team,



Greetings to you and your family! I hope, with the weather we have had, the 2013-14 winter thaw has officially begun! I want to take this opportunity to thank our anonymous donor who sent roses on Valentine's Day. A beautiful bouquet of over **70 red roses**, one for each employee, brightened not only the office, but each staff member's day!

As we all know, work attendance for adults and school attendance for children is vital to success, as well as building and maintaining a sense of responsibility and pride. Currently, our HPSA attendance is an outstanding 98.8%! However, our goal is 99% for the 2013-14 school year. By grade level, attendance follows: 6th grade-99.1%, 7th grade-98.9%, and 8th grade-98.4%. We are right at the door of 99%. I am hopeful we can keep encouraging the students to be in school where they can learn, as well as enjoy making friends.

Congratulations to (names deleted) for earning an opportunity to compete at the state level ISSMA competition to be held on March 1! Other Helfrich Park students performing very well at the ISSMA local level were (names deleted). EVSC Solo and Ensemble, held on February 17, medal winners follow: (names deleted). Great job students!

As I have commented on throughout the year, the students' work ethic has been excellent. I am excited to see how they will perform on the March 11-14 ISTEP testing. It is vitally important students be here those days, as well as any other school day, as the test will be administered to our entire school.

Good luck students; do your best!

Mac

CITIZENS OF THE WEEK

6TH GRADE: (names deleted)

7TH GRADE: (names deleted)

8TH GRADE: (names deleted)

PEABODY ENERGY LEADERS IN EDUCATION



Peabody Energy has created the Leaders in Education program to honor education professionals – administrators, teachers, secretaries, librarians, coaches – any educational staff member who helps students achieve their true potential. Award recipients are selected throughout the year by a committee of education and business leaders. Each winner is awarded \$1,000 and is recognized at an annual dinner.

To nominate a special educator or support staff member, see the rules and regulations at www.peabodyenergyleadersineducation.org.

6TH GRADE STARS



In science, students have been studying air pollution and how to protect our natural resources.

Also, they have been studying water. The students have learned the three states of water, properties of water, and they have participated in several labs demonstrating density and cohesion of water. Soon, they will be studying the ocean. The students will learn why oceans are critical to our existence and what we can do to help keep the oceans clean.

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. There were also a few students who had the opportunity to go to the Alcoa power plant where they met engineers and took a tour of the plant.

Don't forget the Helfrich Park Science Fair will be March 6 from 5:00 pm-6:30 pm and March 7 from 8:00 am-2:00 pm in the Helfrich Park gymnasium. **Projects for all 6th graders are due March 3.**

Mrs. Brown's English class is currently writing a short story about finding a suitcase containing \$200. In literature, students are finishing the novel, *Freak the Mighty*. Mr. Kahle's students have been solving sentence fragments and run-ons with activities to both recognize and correct these problems. Students have also been working with haiku and concrete poetry. In literature, students have been discussing the different types of poetry and the elements used in poetry. They have read a variety of poetry by Maya Angelou and Robert Frost. Students have also been writing their own poetry. Mrs. Alford's language arts classes continue using strategies to help us perform our best on ISTEP testing. Students are ready to attack that test without fear! In literature, they have been working on imagery, symbolism, and figurative language. To improve their writing skills, students have worked on comma usage, combining sentences, and prepositional phrases.

Mrs. Brown's social studies classes are presently studying ancient Greece. They have made a sketch of an acropolis and constructed a brief timeline. Right now, students are working on short reports related to ancient Greece. Mrs. Alford's social studies students are exploring ancient Greece and Roman cultures. Mr. Kahle's students have recently finished a unit on Canada in which they discussed the culture and history of the country.

In math, students have been working on multi-step study problems in preparation for the ISTEP. Students have been learning about many types of angles, triangles, and quadrilaterals. They look forward to learning even more geometry skills in the upcoming weeks. Please make sure your child is completing his/her homework each evening.

7TH GRADE M&MS



Math students have had a busy month! Students have been working on the Pythagorean Theorem, inequalities, graphing, and slope. In the coming days, they will continue to explore area and perimeter in two-dimensions as well as surface area and volume in three-dimensions. Ms. Knust, Mrs. McDurmon, and Mr. Hartmann are VERY proud of their students' Acuity C scores, and are looking forward to ISTEP in March. Great job, 7th grade!

The month of March for social studies will be spent preparing for ISTEP! Mrs. Antey's students will be reviewing the ancient civilizations of the Eastern World; different types of governments, economies, and organizations throughout the world; and focusing on modern day Asian, African, and Pacific Countries. Mr. Hawkins' social studies classes are studying the Civil War.

Science classes have transitioned from cells to Earth topics. They have just completed studying plate tectonics and are moving on to minerals and rocks. Students have been very busy preparing for the Science Fair, which is quickly approaching, March 6! We are looking forward to some innovative projects!

Mrs. Bateman, Mrs. Greenwell, and Mr. Loehrlein have been reading the novel, *Trash*, with their students. While reading the novel, students have been focusing on context clues, themes, and character analysis. In addition, students have been working on long writes for ISTEP.

8TH GRADE G8TORS

Science students are currently studying genetics, DNA, and chromosomes. Extracting DNA from a strawberry, constructing a DNA paper chain, and projects have helped



students apply their knowledge. Students will work on genetics, DNA, and chromosomes up until spring break. Following the biology unit, students will study Earth and space. Students are also busy working on their Science Fair projects. We look forward to seeing their experiments and results in early March. Projects for students are due in class on March 3.

Mrs. Antey's Honors Social Studies will be finishing the chapter on Westward Expansion and moving on to a unit concerning the differences in the North and South in the US from the 1820s-1850s that would eventually lead to the Civil War.

The G8TORS are completing the math unit on how to use, interpret, and display data – from line, bar, and circle graphs to scatterplots, stem, and leaf plots and box and whisker plots. The students have graphed several examples, including making pie charts, bar graphs, and pictographs from a bag of M&M's. Students will continue to prepare for the Applied Skills ISTEP test in a couple of weeks. Please be sure your child has a calculator for this test. This will be the only part of the math ISTEP test where students will be allowed to use their calculators. If your child cannot get one, please have them talk to their teacher so one can be made available for them to use. Congratulations to the 8th grade boys' basketball team for a great 10 win season! They worked hard all year and showed Puma Pride every time they walked out on the court. Team members follow: #10 Nathan Elder, #14 Nick Paladini, #15 Noah Jones, #20 Kaleb Kemper, #22 Caleb Tichenor, #23 Tyler Ruckman, #25 Dylan Roach, #30 Isaac Goudreau, #31 Josiah Goudreau, #33 Spencer Rogers, #35 Matthew Yurks, and #42 Gage Gossman.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The year has sure flown by for Mr. Mahan and Mrs. Redd. There is a lot planned for P.E. students these last two grading periods. Classroom expectations and grading scale have been gone over. Students will begin

their first unit on volleyball if they are in 8th grade and Newcomb Ball if they are in 6th or 7th grade. The weather is still pretty cold out, so classes will have to play it by ear on the next unit. Students will have soccer outside or if weather does not permit, line soccer inside. We miss the students leaving us this grading period, but welcome the new classes! Mrs. Redd and Mr. Mahan wish everyone a very happy spring!

TECH

Beginning the final rotation of students into Engineering Tech class, 6th graders are exploring using simple machines to make amusement park rides out of Legos. The 7th graders are creating floor plans for houses and completing a unit on city planning. Eighth graders are designing and building bridges that will be tested for strength.

VOCAL MUSIC



All music classes are reviewing music note reading and preparing to learn chords and proper technique on acoustic guitar.

Helfrich Park Choir meets every Monday until 4 p.m. We are preparing for our May 8 Concert at the Helfrich Park Gym.

BAND/ORCHESTRA

The Helfrich Park band and orchestra students are eagerly preparing for their spring musical activities! The 6th grade band is sounding very mature and getting so much better each day! The 7th and 8th grade bands continue to uphold the tradition of excellence for which the Helfrich Park Band Department is known! The Orchestra students are improving every day and looking forward to performing at their upcoming concerts.

Please be advised of the following upcoming events that are required of all 7th and 8th grade band/orchestra students:

March 11-Helfrich Park Band Clinic, 2:45pm-4:45pm, Helfrich Park Band & Orchestra Rooms.

March 17-After School Rehearsal #1, 2:45pm-4:45pm, Helfrich Park Band & Orchestra Rooms.

March 20-Pre-Contest Concert, 6:30 pm Helfrich Park Gym

March 31-After School Rehearsal #2, 2:45pm-4:45pm, Helfrich Park Band & Orchestra Rooms.

April 2-After School Rehearsal #3, 2:45pm-4:45pm, Helfrich Park Band & Orchestra Rooms.

April 4 (pm) or **April 5th** (am)-ISSMA Contest at North JR High School (Time TBA)

Now is a great time to locate that Helfrich Park Band/Orchestra polo, black pants, black belt, and black shoes to make sure they all fit. You are going to be so proud of how well the kids are playing!

On another note, congratulations go to all student participants in the EVSC and ISSMA Solo and Ensemble contests. Mr. Farny could not be more proud of these students!

ART

Art is off to a great start the last 12 weeks of class! Students reviewed the rules in art class. Doing what is right, being respectful, and trying their best are essential for this class. Following this, students learned about the Elements of Art: line, shape, color, value, form, space, and texture. As students talk about art, look at art, and make art, they will understand the importance of these elements. Currently, 6th graders are working on a shape composition, 7th graders are creating unique creatures, and 8th graders are drawing a still life. If parents have any questions, please feel free to email me at Jennifer.lamb@evsc.k12.in.us.

FROM THE NURSE



Sore throat? You'd be surprised how many students come to the office with sore throat. How can you tell if it is just a cold or strep? Strep usually presents with some or all of the following symptoms: sore throat, swollen glands in the neck, fever over 100 and chills, skin rash, difficulty swallowing, headache, muscle pain at the joints (especially legs) and white patches on throat.

The only way to tell for sure if your child has strep is to go to a physician and have a strep test done. No one, not even your child's doctor, can tell just by looking if a person has strep or not. When in doubt, go to the doctor. Your child can return to school if they have strep when they are fever free and have been on antibiotics for 24 hours.

Also, students are to remain in school if they have cold symptoms without fever and do not have excessive coughing.

BREAKFAST



Frequently, students come to the nurse's office before 10 a.m. complaining of nausea, headache, trouble concentrating and just not feeling well. The first question I ask them is, "Did you eat breakfast?" The answer I receive about 90% of the time is, "No." Breakfast is an important meal of the day. Middle school students are going through rapid growth and change. Their bodies require energy to learn, pay attention, and complete assignments. They cannot learn properly if they do not have the fuel for their bodies to use. Please get your child up early enough in order to provide him/her with a good breakfast, send them to school a few minutes early, or talk to your child about eating once they get to school. There is no rule of what makes a good breakfast. Some good and easy choices are bananas, apples, grapes or any other fruit, grilled cheese, cheese

and crackers, peanut butter on anything, left over cold pizza, or a glass of milk with Carnation Breakfast Essentials mixed in.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MJ Fine Arts Explosion, 6 pm 2400 W.Lloyd Exp.	Mar. 6
HP Science Fair, 5-6:30 pm	Mar. 6
HP Science Fair, 8 am-2 pm	Mar. 7
ISTEP TESTING	Mar. 11-14
(ISTEP Make-Ups)	Mar. 17-21
Spring Break, No School	Mar. 24-28
Talent Show, 6 pm	Apr. 11
Using Make-Up Days, School in Session	Apr. 18 & 21
Band/Orchestra Concert, 6:30 pm, gym	Apr. 24
Vocal Concert, 6:30 pm, gym	May 8



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



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.

April 26 – IHSAA Physicals at Tri-State Orthopedics, 225 Crosslake Dr., for any athlete – 8 am-noon. Incoming freshmen (current 8th graders) can get their physical that day, however, it will not count for the physical they need prior to entering high school. **It will only count toward their physical to play sports at the high school level.** (Last year's physical cost \$10.)

April 21-24 – Youth Football Camp –3:30-5:15 pm

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS – MARCH 2014



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2	3 Choir 4-5 (extended sch. day) Math Team 4-5 (extended sch. day) 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 4-5 School Dismissal-3:40 p.m.	4 Hockey to Swonder 3 pm Orchestra 3-4 Robotics 3-4 Sci. & SS Teams 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4	5 STAFF MEETING 4.0 Luncheon	6 Orchestra 3-4 Robotics 3-4 Science Team 3-5 Math Team 3-4 Track (field/sprint.) 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 3-4 Science Fair, 5-6:30 pm, Gym	7 Chess 3-4 English Team 3-4 Track (all) 3-4 3 on 3 (Alford) Science Fair, 8 am-2 pm, Gym	8
9	10 Choir 3-4 Math Team 3-4 Track (relay & distance) 3-4 Track to Barker 4-4:45 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4 PTSA Meeting-4 pm-Media	11 *Band Clinic (all 7th/8 th) 2:45-4:45 Hockey to Swonder 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Robotics 3-4 Sci. & SS Teams 3-4 St. Council 3-4 Track (field/sprint.) 3-4 Track to Barker 4-4:45 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4 ISTEP TESTING	12 English Team 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Track (relay/distance) 3-4 3 on 3 (Alford) 3-4 ISTEP TESTING	13 Orchestra 3-4 Robotics 3-4 Science Team 3-5 SS & Math Teams 3-4 Track (field/sprint.) 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4 Sci. Fair Set-Up @USI 3-5 ISTEP TESTING	14 Chess 3-4 English Team 3-4 Track (all) 3-4 3 on 3 (Alford) 3-4 ISTEP TESTING	15
16	17 St. Council 7am *Band Rehearsal(all 7th/8 th)2:45-4:45 Choir 3-4 Math Team 3-4 Track (relay/distance) 3-4 Track to Barker 4-4:45 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4 ISTEP MAKE-UPS 	18 St. Council 7 am Hockey to Swonder 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Robotics Competition (gym) 4-6 Sci./SS Teams 3-4 Track (field/sprint.) 3-4 Track to Barker 4-4:45 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4 ISTEP MAKE-UPS	19 St. Council 7 am English Team 3-4 German Club 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Track (relay/dist.) 3-4 ISTEP MAKE-UPS	20 St. Council 7 am Math Team 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Science Team 3-5 Track (field/sprint.) 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4 *Band Pre-Contest Concert, Gym 6:30 pm (all 7 th /8 th) ISTEP MAKE-UPS	21 St. Council 7 am 3 on 3 (Alford) 3-4 Cheer & Dance Lock-In 8:30 pm to 6:30 am Sat. ISTEP MAKE-UPS	22 Cheer & Dance Lock-In to 6:30 am
23	24 SPRING BREAK	25 SPRING BREAK	26 SPRING BREAK	27 SPRING BREAK	28 SPRING BREAK	29
30	31 *Band Rehearsal(all 7 th /8 th) 2:45-4:45 Choir 3-4 Math Team 3-4 Track (relay/distance) 3-4 Track to Barker 4-4:45		2	3	4	

*Required for ALL 7th and 8th grade Band members.

