

PUMA Team,



Greetings to all our PUMA families! Well, one never knows how the weather will swing, but we've sure had our fair share of subfreezing days. Hopefully, by the February newsletter, we will at least be back to normal temperatures.

It has been an exciting month at Helfrich Park. Our students have been working hard in the classroom making final preparations for the first round of ISTEP, which begins the first week of March. Although we had a bit of a bump in our attendance, our overall attendance rate of 98.5% is excellent. At this time, our 6th grade attendance rate is 99%, 7th grade is 98%, and 8th grade is 98%. Our goal is to finish the school year with an overall attendance rate of 99%. Your support in this area, in addition to your monitoring your child's school work, is very much appreciated. Together, we can achieve great accomplishments!

Students continue to excel in a variety of areas. Congratulations to (name deleted) who will represent Helfrich Park STEM Academy at the Courier & Press Tri-State Spelling Bee hosted by IVY Tech in February and to (name deleted), who was runner-up. Excellent work! (names deleted) placed in the Daughters of the American Revolution essay contest. Several students earned a place on the EVSC Honors Choir. These students are (names deleted). Finally, the HPSA Chess Team competed at the Mt. Vernon state-qualifying tournament. Students who earned an opportunity to advance to the state level are (names deleted).

Congratulations to all these students for a job well done. I am very proud to be associated with such a wonderful community and school. I count my blessings daily! Keep warm and Happy Valentine's Day!

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CITIZENS OF THE WEEK

6TH GRADE: names deleted

7TH GRADE: names deleted

8TH GRADE: names deleted

6TH GRADE STARS

Mrs. Burkhardt's English class is finishing a poetry unit. Each student has a poetry anthology project to complete; it is due on February 7. Students also are working hard to prepare for the first round of ISTEP testing. They are learning how to pre-write and write essays from practice ISTEP prompts. Students are reading the novel *Max the Mighty*, which is a sequel to the last novel they read, called *Freak the Mighty*. Mr. Kahle's English students have been working with the basic parts of a sentence. They have been working on separating each part of a sentence in order to gain a better understanding of the structure. Along with sentence parts, students have been working with persuasive writing. They have recently finished an essay over a topic of their choice in which they picked a side to persuade others to join. In literature, classes have been reading nonfiction while learning the different types and aspects that are presented in the text. Students have worked with a variety of forms of nonfiction writing, including a story about Jackie Robinson. Mrs. Brown's English class just finished writing a persuasive essay. In literature, students are ending their study of poetry. They will begin *Freak the Mighty* next. Mrs. Alford's language arts classes continue to focus on improving writing skills as they prepare for ISTEP testing. The students are practicing responding to a variety of writing prompts with emphasis on prewriting, planning, and organization. They have learned two new strategies, "RUPR" and "Yes, Ma'am." Our current writing topic is a persuasive letter. Literature classes finished literature circles with class novel, *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*. Next, they



will be focusing on symbolism as they read stories from their textbook.

In social studies, Mr. Kahle's class has been working with Central America and the Caribbean Islands. They will soon be finishing the chapter and beginning a project to complete the unit. Mrs. Brown's social studies classes are ending their unit on Central America. In social studies, Mrs. Burkhart's students recently finished studying the United States and have moved on to Canada.

Math students have been busy! They have learned about solving equations and using function tables. They also have been practicing lots of problem solving in preparation for ISTEP. Mrs. Hall's Advanced Math students have started Geometry and have been using formulas to solve area problems. Volume and surface area are just around the corner. Mrs. Humm's Honors Math students have been working with systems of equations and functions. They will begin Geometry very soon! Please keep encouraging students to complete their homework every night and, as ISTEP approaches, make sure they are getting plenty of rest!

In science, students have been working really hard learning about the weather. They have been discussing the different types of precipitation, learning about the different types of adverse weather conditions, and what a meteorologist does.

The sixth grade has started Science Fair projects. Every sixth grade student is required to complete a project for the Helfrich Park Science Fair which is on March 6 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. and on March 7 from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Your child should have brought home a Science Fair packet which details the requirements for the project. If there are questions or concerns, please contact your child's science teacher. Don't forget to re-stock your child's supply of pens, pencils, and paper!

7TH GRADE M&MS



Seventh grade science students are finishing their unit on cells and are moving on to forces that are shaping the Earth. Their teachers have introduced the Science Fair project to them and they should be choosing their question to investigate.

Students in English and language arts have finished discussing and writing poetry. While analyzing poetry, students have been identifying figurative language. In addition, students are preparing for ISTEP by working on reading and writing skills. Students will work on long-writes and two-part questions in the coming weeks.

Math classes are solving two-step equations and learning how to use the Pythagorean Theorem. They will be moving on to solving two-step inequalities as they prepare for the first upcoming ISTEP test. Honors Math just finished Pythagorean Theorem applications and scale. They will be moving on to transformations as they also prepare for the first upcoming ISTEP test. Seventh grade Algebra students are currently working on exponential equations and seventh grade Geometry students are studying triangle similarity.

Great job students, as you work hard to prepare for the ISTEP test in March. Keep up the good work!



8TH GRADE GSTORS

As part of our 8th grade math curriculum, teachers have been working on increasing students' ability to read, write, listen, ask questions, think, and communicate about math to develop and deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts. Students should read text, data, table, and graphs with comprehension and understanding. Students have been taking that information and writing equations in $y = mx + b$ form to help

strengthen understanding. Students have also been graphing linear equations by t-tables and using slope-intercept form.

Eighth grade Algebra classes have been working on the rules of exponents. Students will begin the unit on polynomials where factoring will be required. They are required to take the Algebra Acuity test, which will be given next week, to help predict how they will do on the E.C.A. test in May.

Eighth grade science students are still on their chemistry unit. They have learned about atoms, different elements, and trends on the Periodic Table. In the near future, they will be moving into chemical reactions and chemical formulas.

Eighth grade science students are thinking about ideas and topics for the upcoming Science Fair. Students are looking forward to creating their own project and topics, which will be shown off to their family members and other students in early March. While their creative gears are in motion for Science Fair, they have been hard at work studying chemistry and the Periodic Table of Elements. Students have learned about the elements, how the table is organized, and bonds formed within the elements. Through the dissection of owl pellets, students will transition from chemistry to biology and ecology. Students will learn about the environment around them by studying the animals and adaptations of different animals. As always, science allows the 8th graders to study the world around them through experiences and hands-on activities, which engages their learning inside and outside the classroom.

Mr. Hawkins' social studies students will begin studying the Civil War. They will be looking at the Union and Confederate sides and studying why each side believed they were right.

Mrs. Kluesner's English classes have been reviewing using setting to create mood, using quotations in dialogues, and discussing

elements of plot to use in their current writing assignment. Students are doing a creative writing piece about a lost button. It will be interesting to read about the various characters and situations the students imagine. In literature class, students are reading the novel, *The Giver*, discussing various reading skills such as foreshadowing, irony, symbolism, and predicting. Students are finding the book's community very interesting.

GERMAN

German students have completed Chapter 6 about foods and meals. They have learned vocabulary and have read dialogs about eating at a restaurant, snack bar, or café. As an ending activity, groups wrote their own scripts and acted out their skits pretending to be at a café. They were required to order foods, have a conversation at the table, and pay the bill. All skills are practiced – grammar, word order, vocabulary, pronunciation, and real-life culture knowledge. Students enjoyed performing their skits and watching their classmates' skits.



ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

To finish off the second rotation in Engineering Technology, sixth grade students will be building amusement park rides as part of their Simple Machine unit. Eighth graders will also be using simple machines to build Rube Goldberg machines. Seventh graders are beginning a unit on Air and Space Transportation.

ROBOTICS

The spring round of Robotics will begin on Tuesday, February 18 and will meet on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons until 4:00 p.m. Students need to sign up with Mrs. King

in teams of 3 or 4. Teams will be competing to have robots play putt-putt golf and race to knock cans off a platform.

DIGI-COM



Computer Science Education Week was December 9-15. The Digital Communications classes took part in the *Hour of Code*. This is a program that gave the students roughly 12 different tutorials introducing them to coding or programming in languages like Java, Html, Python, and Ruby. They were hoping to get 3 million students involved with this “program.” When all was said and done, 15 million students around the world took place in this event.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Currently in Physical Education, the ladies are finishing up their unit in the Weight Room and the boys are finishing up Floor Hockey. Students will switch after this week and the girls will begin their unit on Floor Hockey and the boys will finish the six weeks in the Weight Room. Mid-February, students will have their last switch of the year. Sixth and seventh grades will begin Newcombball and the 8th grade will play volleyball.



Band and Orchestra is off to a quick start for the 2nd Semester!! Just a reminder, EVSC Solo and Ensemble will be Thursday, February 6, at North Jr. High. ISSMA Solo and Ensemble will be the following Saturday, February 8, at North Jr. High.

Helfrich Park will be holding a pre-contest concert on March 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Also, ISSMA contest will be held on April 4 and 5. The pre-contest concert and ISSMA contest are required for all 7th and 8th grade band students and 6th, 7th, and 8th grade

orchestra students. Official times for ISSMA Contest will be set at a later date. If students have not yet turned in the \$15 for their HPSA polo shirt to Mr. Farny or Mr. Clark, please have them do so as soon as possible.

CHOIR

All classes are learning how to use a capo on the guitar. Seventh and eighth grade students have been working on projects and playing guitar. Sixth grade classes are learning the importance of dynamics in music. Mr. DeKemper is proud of all their hard work!

CHESS TEAM



Chess Team members, Dylan Brown, Jacob Cree, Isaac Simms, Jack Weinzapfel, Eli Burkhart, Kyle Hartmann, Dalton Morris, Emerson Courter, and Austin Nickens participated in the Mt. Vernon Chess Tournament earlier this year. This was a state-qualifying tournament. The following students advanced to the state competition: Dylan Brown, Isaac Simms, Jack Weinzapfel, Eli Burkhart, Kyle Hartmann, and Emerson Courter. Congratulations to all!

EVSC/PEF SUMMER MUSICAL

Information on the EVSC/PEF Summer Musical, FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, is available in the school lobby or on the PEF and EVSC websites. Auditions for current 6th and 7th graders will be March 17 and auditions for 8th through 12th graders will be March 18-20 at Harrison High School.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Cub Baseball Tryouts, Reitz Bowl	Feb. 8, 10 am
Presidents' Day, School in Session	Feb. 17
Spring Break, No School	Mar. 24-28
Using Make-Up Days, School in Session	Apr. 18 & 21



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 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 – FEBRUARY 2014

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
<p>2</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>BBB 3-4 (Varsity-4:30-No Bus) Bowling @ Franklin 3:00 pm Choir 3-4 3 on 3-Burkhart 3-4</p>	<p>4</p> <p>BBB home game 3-5:30 Bowling @ Franklin 3:00 pm Cheer/Dance @ game 3-5:30 Hockey to Swonder 3:00 pm Orchestra 3-4 SS Team 3-4 Tutoring 3-4</p>	<p>5</p> <p align="center">STAFF MEETING</p>	<p>6</p> <p>St. Cncl. 7-7:45 am</p> <p>BBB @ Lincoln 3-5:30 Dance 3-4 Math/SS/Sci. Teams 3-4 McDurmon Tutor. 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3-Kahle 3-4</p> <p>Solo&Ensemble @ North High pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>St. Cncl. 7-7:45 am</p> <p>BBB 3-4 Chess Club 3-4 Eng. Team 3-4 3 on 3-Alford 3-4</p>	<p>8</p> <p>ISMMA Solo & Ensemble @ North Hi. a.m.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>St. Cncl. 7-7:45 am</p> <p>BBB 3-5 Bowling @ Franklin 3:00 Choir 3-4 Math Team 3-4 3 on 3-Burkhart 3-4</p> <p>PTSA Meeting – 4 pm – Media</p>	<p>11</p> <p>St. Cncl. 7-7:45 am</p> <p>BBB 3-5 Bowling @ Franklin 3-4 Dance 3-4 Hockey @ Swonder 3:00 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3-Kahle 3-4</p>	<p>12</p> <p>St. Cncl. 7-7:45 am</p> <p>Art Club* 3-4 BBB 3-5 Eng./SS Teams 3-4 German Club 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 3 on 3-Burkhart 3-4</p>	<p>13</p> <p>St. Cncl. 7-7:45 am</p> <p>BBB home game 3-5:30 Cheer/Dance @ game 3-5:30 McDurmon Tutor. 3-4 Math/Sci. Teams 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 St. Council 3-4 Tutoring 3-4</p>	<p>14</p> <p>St. Cncl. 7-7:45 am Eng. Team 3-4 (No Bus)</p> <p align="center">FUN NIGHT 3-5</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>Tri-State Spelling Bee</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>BBB 3-5 Bowling @ Franklin 3:00 Choir 3-4 Math Team 3-4 3 on 3-Burkhart 3-4</p> <p align="center">Presidents' Day – School in Session</p>	<p>18</p> <p>BBB @ PH 3-5:30 Bowling @ Franklin 3:00 Hockey @ Swonder 3:00 Orchestra 3-4 Robotics 3-4 SS Team 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3-Kahle 3-4</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Art Club* 3-4 BBB 3-5 Eng. Team 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 3 on 3-Burkhart 3-4</p>	<p>20</p> <p>BBB Trny – tba Math/SS/Sci. Teams 3-4 McDurmon Tutor. 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4</p>	<p>21</p> <p>BBB 3-4 Chess Club 3-4 Eng. Team 3-4 3 on 3-Alford 3-4</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>BBB Trny-tba Choir 3-4 Math/SS Teams 3-4 St. Council 3-4</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Academic Team @ McGary 3:00 BBB (if needed) 3-5 Hockey @ Swonder 3:00 Orchestra 3-4 Robotics 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3-Burkhart 3-4</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Art Club* 3-4 BBB Trny – tba English Team 3-4 Orchestra 3-4</p>	<p>27</p> <p>BBB Trny Final – tba Math/Science Teams 3-4 McDurmon Tutor. 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Chess Club 3-4 English Team 3-4 3 on 3-Alford 3-4</p>	

