

PUMA Team,



I am not a person who is easily impressed, but your sons and daughters have made big impressions in many areas this year. To begin with, our attendance rate is currently 98.9%! Our goal for the year is 99% and we are almost there! The sixth and seventh grades are over 99% and our eighth grade is at 98.5%. Thank you for being committed to having your child at school and eager to learn! The second area of excellence displayed by our students was the first round of the ISTEP test. The students were focused and utilized the allotted time very wisely. Kudos go to the students for their keen ability to concentrate to such a high degree. Our final round of testing will begin April 29. Finally, the students were treated to a performance by the U.S. Air Force Woodwind Quintet. The show was fantastic and student behavior was admirable. On March 31, an acrobatic group from China will be performing for the students. The acrobats do an exceptional job and the students will be thrilled with their performance.

Helfrich Park's Science Fair was held March 6 and 7. As usual, there were excellent projects displayed. Congratulations to the following student winners: (names deleted) (Names deleted) for their 2nd place awards at the USI Science Fair! Awesome! I would also like to congratulate several students for their winning efforts at the Mead Johnson Art Exhibit, held March 6. First place winners are (names deleted).

An informational item for all students -- Netbooks and Netbook chargers will be collected for ISTEP on Monday, April 14. Please make sure your child has these items ready to turn in on that day. A couple weeks are needed to prepare the Netbooks for testing.

I am very, very proud of the students and the leadership many of them have exhibited this year. Thank you, parents, for doing such a fine job with your children and for supporting Helfrich Park in so many ways. Spring Break is upon us now, and I wish all a relaxing time with your families.

Mac

CITIZENS OF THE WEEK

6TH GRADE: (names deleted)

7TH GRADE: (names deleted)

8TH GRADE: (names deleted)

MARCH 3 MAKE-UP DAY INFORMATION



The EVSC will again be using the flexibility the Indiana Department of Education has given schools to make up the most recent snow day taken on March 3. To make up the day, the EVSC will once again **extend the school day by one hour for six consecutive days, from March 31-April 7.** School will begin at the normal time, but dismiss at 3:40 p.m. Any after-school clubs/activities will end at 5:00 p.m.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Spring pictures will be taken on April 22 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Spring pictures are on a pre-paid basis. Information and payment envelopes will be sent home with students early in April.

6TH GRADE STARS

Mrs. Alford's language arts students showed off their writing skills during the first round of ISTEP. The teachers and students worked very hard preparing for testing! I am so proud of the students for doing their best and using all of the time given to fully complete each testing session. In



addition to sharpening writing skills, students are focusing on figurative language, author's purpose, and theme. Our new class novel, *Freak the Mighty*, begins soon. Mrs. Burkhart's English class worked very hard, also, preparing for the ISTEP writing prompts. They practiced how to read a prompt, pre-write, and tie introductions and conclusions together. Students have also been working on "Yes, Ma'am" strategies. The class has compared the long write to the short write and viewed examples of previous passing essays from the IDOE website. In literature, students have read many nonfiction short stories to practice main idea and author's purpose. Mrs. Brown's students have been caught up in a whirl of STEP. Currently Mrs. Brown's English classes are writing a short essay for the Courier about their favorite books. They recently finished a story about a character that discovers a suitcase containing \$200. In reading, after finishing *Freak the Mighty*, students began a unit on drama. They are reading a play *Damon and Pythius*, which they will present in class. This play ties in with social studies since students just finished ancient Greece and are studying ancient Rome. Mr. Kahle's English students have been working with sentences to correct fragments and run-ons as well as fine tuning the use of commas. They have utilized several opportunities to write in response to a prompt as well as respond to questions from an article. In literature, students recently finished drama. They took several well-known stories and turned them into plays. They wrote their own script based off the actual story and then had the opportunity to act these plays out during class.

Mrs. Alford's social studies classes are studying early history of Europe, including the Golden Age of Greece, Roman achievements in architecture and law, and life in the Middle Ages. In Mrs. Burkhart's social studies class, students finished the unit on Russia. They chose this unit due to the winter Olympics. The class had fun learning about the region and being able to see it portrayed on TV during the Olympics. They are now studying ancient Greece and Rome. In Mr.

Kahle's classes, students have been covering Greece and Rome. They completed a variety of activities which allowed them to examine the lifestyle of these past cultures.

The sixth graders worked really hard to prepare for the Applied Skills portion of the ISTEP. In math, they practiced multi-step problems and showing all of their work. The classes also celebrated National Pi Day. Pi Day is on 3/14 because the number used for pi is 3.14. Students also did a fun activity measuring the circumference and diameter of various circles to find that pi is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. They continue to work on geometry by studying similar and congruent figures. Please encourage your child to work hard for round two of the ISTEP and to complete his or her homework each night.

Round one of ISTEP has ended and we feel confident the students really worked hard on their science! Students will continue their learning with understanding cells and different ocean organisms. They will also begin exploring rocks and minerals soon. In health class, students learned about their social health and thought about the different people and things that influence it. Some students also attended a USI field trip where they participated in hands-on activities led by USI professors! Please encourage your children to do their very best and get their homework completed. There are several year-end field trips coming up and students with insufficient grades, behavior, or unpaid 6th grade fees will not be permitted to attend the trips.



7TH GRADE M&MS

Math students have had a busy March. Students with Mrs. McDurmon, Ms. Knust, and Mr.

Hartmann worked very hard to be prepared for the open ended assessment. We are proud of their accomplishments and look forward to the next challenge - the April multiple choice ISTEP assessment. Students finished March with a look at transformations (reflections,

rotations, and translations) as well as an introduction to statistics and misleading graphs.

We say hello to Ms. Joseph, a mathematics student teacher who will be working with Mrs. Todd and Mr. Hartmann through May. Working on her education degree from the University of Evansville, she is eager to help our students achieve their very best. The students have already given her a Helfrich Park welcome!

The seventh grade science teachers are so proud of their students' Science Fair projects! They worked hard on their projects and it showed! Good Job! Mr. Harmon's classes finished up cell processes and will be moving on to interactions among species with a focus on ecology. Hopefully, the spring weather will allow for excursions outside for some hands-on studying! Mrs. McDurmon's students finished up the study of minerals and rocks and will be moving on to the Water Cycle and Climate unit. Mrs. Deal's class finished up earthquakes and volcanoes and will be moving on to minerals and rocks.

Mrs. Antey's maternity leave will start the beginning of April! She has enjoyed every second of teaching the wonderful students at Helfrich Park this year and will miss everyone. While on leave, Mrs. Greenwood will be Mrs. Antey's long-term substitute. Mrs. Greenwood is a retired teacher who subs often at Helfrich Park. Seventh graders will continue to prep for ISTEP, take practice ISTEP-like multiple choice tests, and learn Asian and African countries and capitals in the month of April.

In English and language arts, students are reviewing figurative language, setting, and subject-verb agreement while reading a novel. In addition, students are working on letters for Grandparents' Day. **Grandparents' Day is April 8 for girls and April 9 for boys.**

8TH GRADE G8TORS



All math classes have been working on the seven categories being tested this year. These include number sense, computation, algebra and functions, geometry, measurement, data analysis and probability, and problem solving. Be looking at progress being made by checking daily homework, weekly quizzes, chapter tests, and Acuity scores. There are only about five more weeks before the last round of ISTEP testing.

Mrs. Kluesner's language arts and literature classes are working on a unit of poetry. Students are looking at figurative speech, rhyme schemes, and rhythm of poems. April is poetry month. Various forms and examples of poetry will be discussed, and students will try being poets themselves in the coming weeks.

Frau Kluesner's German students turned in their book reports on a World War II era novel and have been presenting them to class. They are also finishing the chapter on clothing. They are making posters, described in German, of various pieces of clothing – how they look, fit, the color, and if they like the items. After the break, they will see a German video of a fashion show to go with this chapter.

Science students did a wonderful job on their Science Fair projects. Through presentations and board displays, they were able to show how much they learned and gained from this experience. Students are currently finishing learning about genetics, DNA, and ecology. They are looking forward to completing this unit by dissecting frogs. Following these concepts, the 8th graders will learn about Earth and space where students will discuss the environment in which the organisms and populations live.

The 2015 Washington D.C./New York City 8th grade trip will be starting up soon. Information will be going out next month to each 7th grade student. Early sign-ups will get an early bird

“special” rate. Don’t let your child miss an opportunity of a lifetime. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Loveless.



Many 8th grade students will be traveling to St. Louis to see the St. Louis Cardinals play at Busch Stadium on April 25. The kids will see the Cardinals play the Pittsburgh Pirates.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

P. E. classes are currently starting line soccer with hopes of going outside eventually for soccer on the field. Students are working on foot drills (dribbling, trapping, and passing) to help with eye-foot coordination. Our Soccer unit will end our six-week grading period. When students return from spring break, they will begin the Football unit. Students will work on throwing spirals and catching before they start the Touch Football unit. Mr. Mahan and Mrs. Redd wish everyone a wonderful spring break!

TECH

Sixth grade Engineering Technology students will begin a unit on Energy and Electricity. Students will build circuits, make a simple motor, and make solar cars as they experiment with various types of alternative energy. Seventh grade students will be designing, building and racing compressed air dragsters. The 8th graders will begin their Rube Goldberg projects. Congratulations to (names deleted) for winning the Robotics Putt-Putt Competition held at Helfrich Park on March 18. Also competing and finishing second was the team of (names deleted) in the Bottle Battle Competition. Great job to all the teams!

VOCAL MUSIC

In vocal music, seventh and eighth grade students are learning how to play “Free Fallin” by Tom Petty on guitar and how to play the melody of “Happy Birthday to You.” Sixth grade students are learning how to play “Stand By Me” on guitar and also learning proper singing techniques.

Helfrich Park Choir is rehearsing weekly to prepare for the Spring Concert on May 8 in the Helfrich Park Gym.

BAND/ORCHESTRA



The 7th and 8th grade Band and Orchestra are sounding amazing as they prepare for contest to be held at Central High School’s auditorium the evening of Friday, April 4. The Orchestra will perform at 7:00 p.m. Parents attending the performance should arrive no later than 6:50 p.m. The Helfrich Park combined 7th and 8th Grade Band will perform at 8:40 p.m. (This location was changed from North High School to Central High School.) It would be wonderful to have a full audience to cheer them on as they perform! Please plan on attending! The 6th grade band is sounding great and I can’t wait for everyone to hear them at the Spring Concert on Thursday, April 24 at 7 p.m. in the Helfrich Park gym. This concert will involve all Helfrich Park Band and Orchestra students. (This was changed from the original start time of 6:30 p.m. to work with students participating in track.) I look forward to seeing you soon!

ART

Thank you to all of our participants and viewers of the “Fine Arts Explosion” art show. It took place March 6 at Mead Johnson and was a great experience. The following are the students who placed for Helfrich Park. (names deleted).

Students in art class are working on a variety of fun and creative art projects. Currently 6th grade is painting on recycled pizza cartons the cafeteria donated. Seventh graders recently started a project to prepare us for spring. They are learning about Georgia O’Keeffe, a famous female painter, who painted large pictures of flowers. They will be drawing flowers like O’Keeffe and using chalk pastels to add color. Eighth graders are also painting. They planned and drew a variety of designs, and are working to add color with acrylic paint.

**Remember, there are Helfrich
Park magnets and stickers
available in the school 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

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The EVSC offers a number of high-quality childhood programs serving students ages 3-5 years old. These programs operate on the EVSC calendar, August through May. Full-day tuition-based, as well as partial-day Title 1 programs are being offered at various school locations. For more information, contact Culver Family Learning Center at 812-435-8219 or earlychildhood@evsc.k12.in.us.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Spring Break, No School	Mar. 24-28
7 th Gr. G’parents’ Day-girls, 12:30 pm	April 8
7 th Gr. G’parents’ Day-boys, 12:30 pm	April 9
Talent Show, 6 pm	Apr. 11
Using Make-Up Days, School in Session Apr. 18 & 21	
Band/Orchestra Concert, 7 pm, gym	Apr. 24
Vocal Concert, 6:30 pm, gym	May 8
6/7 th Honors Program, 6 pm	May 12
8 th Honors Banquet-Reitz, 6 pm	May 15
8 th Gr. Dance, 7-9 pm	May 16
8 th Gr. Holiday World	May 21
8 th Gr. Recognition, 10:30 am	May 23

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – APRIL 2014



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	Mar. 31 Band Rehear.(all 7/8 th) 4-5 Choir 4-5 Math Team 4-5 Track 4-5 3 on 3 (Mahan) 4-5 <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Dismissal 3:40 pm</p>	1 Choir 4-5 Orchestra 4-5 Robotics 4-5 Science Team 4-5 Track 4-5 Tutoring 4-5 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 4-5 <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Dismissal 3:40 pm</p>	2 Art Club 4-5 Orchestra 4-5 Track 4-5 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 4-5 <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Dismissal 3:40 pm</p>	3 Math/SS/Sci. Teams 4-5 Orchestra 4-5 Track @ Barker 4-5 Tutoring 4-5 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 4-5 <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Dismissal 3:40 pm</p>	4 Track 4-5 3 on 3 (Mahan) 3-4 ISSMA @ Central: Orchestra-7 pm; Band-8:40 pm <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Dismissal 3:40 pm</p>	5
6	7 Choir 4-5 Math & Sci. Teams 4-5 Track 4-5 <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">Dismissal 3:40 pm</p>	8 Academic Bowl @ Thompkins 3 pm Orchestra 3-4 Robotics 3-4 Student Council 3-4 Track 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4 Gr.7 Girls Grandparents' Day, 12:30 pm	9 <p style="text-align: center;">STAFF MEETING</p> Gr.7 Boys Grandparents' Day, 12:30 pm	10 Math & SS Teams 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Track 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart/Mahan) 3-4	11 Track 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4 TALENT SHOW, 6 pm, Gym	12
13	14 Choir 3-4 Math Team 3-4 Track 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4 PTSA Meeting, 4 pm, Media Ctr.	15 Orchestra 3-4 Robotics 3-4 Science Team 3-4 Track Meet @ Central 3-5:30 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle/Mahan) 3-4	16 Art Club 3-4 English & SS Teams 3-4 German Club 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Track 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4	17 Math & Science Teams 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Track 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle/Mahan) 3-4	18 <p style="text-align: center;">FUN NIGHT 3-5</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">School in Session</p>	19
20	 21 Choir 3-4 Math Team 3-4 Track 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4 <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">School in Session</p>	22 Orchestra 3-4 Student Council 3-4 SS & Science Teams 3-4 Track 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart/Mahan) 3-4 <p style="text-align: center;">Spring Pictures</p>	23 Art Club 3-4 English Team 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Track Meet @ Central 3-5:30 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4	24 Orchestra 3-4 Science Team 3-4 Track Meet @ Central 3-5:30 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Mahan) 3-4 Band/Orchestra Concert, 7 pm, HP Gym	25 English Team 3-4 Track 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4	26
27	28 Choir 3-4 Math Team 3-4 Track 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4	29 Orchestra 3-4 Science Team 3-4 Track Meet @ Barker 3-5:30 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Mahan) 3-4	30 Art Club 3-4 English Team 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Track 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4	May 1 Math/SS/Science Teams 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Mahan) 3-4	2 Track 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4	3 Academic Bowl @ North Jr. High

