

PUMA Team,

Greetings to all our families during this cold stretch of winter weather! Our attendance rate this year is hovering around 98.9%. This is tremendous! Our goal for the school year is to attain 99% attendance. The students, with your help, have strived to be in school and I certainly appreciate the efforts made by all.



A special, heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers, parents, sponsors, and teachers for making the annual LBL trip another success. This program has been in place since 1978! Incredible! This experience has provided many lifelong memories for the students and is fondly recalled as they come back to visit school, in some cases, as parents.

Congratulations to the students in our 8th grade *We The People* social studies block. The two classes, taught by Mrs. Antey, will be competing in the State Finals in December. What a feat by these students. Their hard work and preparation has paid off very well. Good luck to both teams.

Thank you Choir, Band, and Orchestra for the wonderful Winter Concert held last week under the guidance of Mr. DeKemper, Mr. Farny, and Mr. Clark. The performance was exceptional and enjoyed by all.

The PUMA students have had some interesting entertainment the past few weeks. They have enjoyed Russian musicians, a former NFL player discussing character education and making the correct choices, and a magician. All were very entertaining.

The students are currently beginning their second round of Acuity testing. This test is a tool used by teachers to measure student knowledge. The students have worked hard this year and I am very proud of their efforts. Together, we can encourage and push the students to do their best each day and provide them with a wonderful year of learning.

I would like to wish all PUMA families a very Happy Thanksgiving! I count my blessings each and every day especially my wonderful family and rewarding job.

Mac

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. Also, if you need to have a message delivered to your child, please inform the office before 11:00 a.m. Messages will then be delivered during lunch periods so classrooms will not be interrupted. Thanks for your cooperation!

YEARBOOKS

Order forms for the yearbook went home with students on October 28. Yearbooks are \$12 and orders are due by December 20. Be sure to get your order in early so your child will have a great keepsake for this school year!

6TH GRADE STARS

Mrs. Brown’s language arts classes enjoyed preparing reports on animals they may see at LBL. They are currently studying adjectives and adverbs. In reading, students are studying nonfiction by reading informal essays. Mr. Kahle’s English students have been working on the different types of sentences. They have also recently finished a narrative writing and will soon begin working on a research paper about an animal from Land Between the Lakes. In literature, students are continuing to read *The Phantom Tollbooth*. While reading this novel, they have been looking for figurative language within the text. They have also been examining the text to find the meaning behind the author’s writing. Along with the novel, classes have been working on a project to prepare for the trip to



Land Between the Lakes. In Mrs. Burkhart's language arts class, students have been working on learning prepositions, identifying subjects and verbs, and figurative language. They are enjoying the novel *Freak the Mighty*. Throughout the novel, students have been able to identify various forms of figurative language. Spelling and vocabulary tests will begin again the week after Thanksgiving. Mrs. Jarrell's reading students are working on figurative language and context clues. Mrs. Alford's literature classes recently presented "Cereal Box" book reports. A variety of fiction books were selected by the students who constructed very creative designs. Students are now reading a class novel titled *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*. The students will be participating in literature circles and a variety of other engaging literature activities. Students continue learning strategies to improve their reading and writing skills. They have been focusing specifically on vocabulary skills. Have you heard of the school-wide "LPR2" classroom mascots? "LPR2" helps students figure out the meaning of unfamiliar and new words: (1) "L"ook – before, at, and after the new word, (2) "P"redict – quickly predict the word's meaning, (3) "R"eason – think more carefully about the word's meaning, (4) "R"edo – go through the steps again if necessary. This strategy along with many others will help all students improve reading comprehension

In social studies, Mrs. Burkhart's, Mrs. Brown's and Mrs. Alford's students are finishing a unit on the Maya, Aztecs, and Incas. They have worked with a Mayan calendar, used Maya numbers, and diagrammed chinampas. Next, they will be learning about the geography, history, culture, and current economy of Mexico. In Mr. Kahle's social studies classes, students have been studying Mexico and the various cultures and practices.

Math students have been working with integers and equations. They know how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide integers. They are working with order of operations and solving equations. The students had a lot of fun using their math skills to do the GPS course, compass course, and baking at Land Between the Lakes. Please check that your child is doing his/her homework each

evening, and be sure to check his/her grades online. Thank you!

The 6th grade teachers would like to say thank you to everyone who made LBL possible for the 6th grade this year. Students were well prepared and used the skills they had learned for GPS and Compass. They also showed off their knowledge of vertebrates at the Nature Center as well as their history lessons at Fort Campbell and Fort Donelson. Sixth graders also gained new skills as they learned about firefighting, animal casting, archery, baking, and fishing. There was even a little time allotted for some dancing and silly campfire songs. The trip was a total success and will leave lasting memories for the sixth graders for years and years to come. Happy Holidays from the 6th grade team!

7TH GRADE M&MS



Social Studies will be moving onto Ancient China in December. Students will study the Chinese dynasties, the Great Wall of China, Chinese innovations, the Chinese writing system, Confucius and his philosophies, culture and traditions, and the impact that Ancient China ultimately had on the world today.

Math students recently finished a unit on proportions. Now they have been working on expressions and equations. Mr. Hartmann's math students completed an extensive unit on ratios, rates, and proportional reasoning. From problems in context to graphs to tables of information, students completed patterns and found missing elements. Algebra students have been working with inequalities and have moved on to compound inequalities in two and three dimensions. Mrs. Todd, Mrs. McDurmon, and Mr. Hartmann are very happy with the progress of seventh grade math students this month!

Literature classes just finished reading short and extended nonfiction texts. The students analyzed the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas. They will begin reading dramas and poetry comparing each to its multimedia version. English classes are wrapping up persuasive letters and technical manuals. They will continue responding to literature using evidence from the text.

Science classes are finishing up Cells and Cell Reproduction and will be moving on to Earth Sciences. Even though it is only November, students should be thinking about the Science Fair and what topic they would like to investigate. It will be here before we know it! Mrs. Jarrell's science students have been studying living organisms. They are comparing/contrasting the animal and plant cells and multicellular organisms.

8TH GRADE GATORS



After placing 1st and 3rd at the District competition, both *We the People* classes qualified for the State competition on December 17 in Indianapolis. **The We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Program** promotes civic competence and responsibility among the nation's middle and secondary students. Students prepare speeches and research current events, Supreme Court cases, Constitutional Law, and American history in order to answer thought-provoking questions in a Simulated Congressional Hearing. Students are selling candy, 31 products, and obtaining sponsors to help pay for the trip. **BEST OF LUCK PUMAS AT STATE!**

Science students are currently finishing a unit on the states of matter. Students were provided an excellent opportunity to see how matter changes through energy and pressure, first hand through a demonstration by Dr. Seyler, the head of the Chemistry Department at USI. Following the states of matter and changes of state, the science students will learn what makes up matter including atoms, elements, and the periodic table. As the year 2013 comes closer to an end, students are being encouraged to think of topics for the Science Fair in March. Mrs. Jarrell's science students have been working on atoms, elements, molecules, and compounds.

Math students just completed an exponent rules unit and are currently working on scientific notation before beginning a surface area and volume unit. Students are writing and solving linear equations and inequalities. Graphing is a big part of that skill, too. Many students are also working on the exponent rules. Please work with your child on their homework to make sure

it is being completed and turned in. Check their progress on Parent Access.

DIGI-COM

Speak Up - We have had about 260 students participate in "Speak Up," a National Research Project that annually polls K-12 students, parents, and educators about the role of technology for learning in and out of school and represents the largest collection of authentic, unfiltered stakeholder voice on digital learning. This survey is available to take until 12-20-13. <http://www.speakup4schools.org/speakup2013/>

An Hour of Code - Computer Science Education Week is Dec 9-15 and the Digital Communication classes will be participating in the Hour of Code. This is an online program that will introduce coding or programming to students. They will be introduced to programming languages such as Java Script, Ruby, and Python. The goal is to have 10 million students worldwide take part in this event.

Netbook Reminders - With the cold weather approaching, please do not leave netbooks in cars overnight. The extreme cold temperatures can damage components.

CHOIR

Helfrich Park Choir did a great job performing at the Winter Concert on November 21 2013.



The Choir has two upcoming events.

Saturday December 7, 2013, the Choir will be singing at Barnes and Noble at 3:30 p.m. for the Philharmonic Guild Christmas Music Day. On Monday, December 16, 2013, they will be singing Christmas carols at Pine Haven Nursing Home.

General Music - The 6th grade students are learning about musical genres and how to compose rhythms. The 7th and 8th grade students are learning about music theory and playing *Three Little Birds* on guitar.

PE

Students in Physical Education are currently working on the basketball unit. They are learning ball handling skills, dribbling and passing, along with shooting fundamentals (jump shots and lay-ups). Their tournament will begin shortly. The upcoming unit will be in-door bowling. Students will be working with the Greater Evansville USBC Association to borrow equipment for student use. Students will learn the history of bowling along with fundamentals and scoring, which will improve math skills.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Sixth grade students are beginning the new grading period with a unit on Electronics and City Planning. Both 7th and 8th grade classes are programming the Lego Robots to navigate a maze, follow a line, and sumo wrestle.

ROBOTICS

Sixth Grade Robotics will begin on Tuesday, December 3. The club will meet on Tuesdays until January 20. See Mrs. King for details.

ART

This grading period is already off to a great start! Students in all art classes made rule puzzles. These are to remind students of the rules in art class. Students worked really hard on t-shirt logo designs, too. They learned a lot about what graphic designers do. Now they are working on an ink design. Students are to reflect on what they are thankful for. I am definitely thankful to be at Helfrich Park! Thank you from Mrs. Lamb.



BOYS' BASKETBALL

Tryouts for 8th grade boys' basketball are planned for December 12 after school until 5:00 p.m.

FROM THE NURSE

A big THANK YOU too all of the 6th grade families for sending in/obtaining your child's immunization records!!

Is it a cold or the flu?

We are quickly approaching flu season but how can you tell if it is the flu or just the common cold? The symptoms are a lot alike with a few differences. Symptoms of the common cold include fever, body aches, fatigue, cough, and stuffy or running nose. The symptoms of the flu include fever 100 or higher, cough, sore throat, runny nose, headaches or body aches, chills, fatigue and can include nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea.

Regardless if it is a cold or the flu, you need to observe your child and call a doctor if any of the following symptoms occur: difficulty breathing, purple or blue lips, pain or pressure in chest, confusion, severe or persistent vomiting, and seizures or if the flu-like symptoms improve and then return. If someone in your household does get sick with the flu, try to keep them isolated from the rest of the family. If you have not gotten a flu-shot for yourself and your family, it is not too late. You can contact your physician, the health department, or local pharmacies for the flu vaccine.

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 holiday 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. To insure delivery by Dec. 20, school's last day before holiday break, framed prints must be ordered by Dec. 9. If interested, please see Mrs. Goebel in the office. Cash or checks accepted. Please make checks payable to Helfrich Park.

BAND & ORCHESTRA

What a tremendous performance by the band, orchestra, and choir at our Winter Concert! It was wonderful to hear how each group has improved since the beginning of the year. We are very excited for what the rest of the year will bring! Thank you to all who attended to support all of the musicians. Please make sure you have paid for your child's polo shirt. Many are still not yet paid for and the bill is due soon. The fee for the polo shirt is \$15.00. Please make checks payable to Helfrich Park STEM Academy. Please know that no student will ever be penalized for inability to purchase or provide fees for concert uniforms. Requests for assistance should be made in writing or email. Thanks and have a great holiday season!

LBL VOLUNTEERS

Again, a huge thank you goes out to all the volunteers who helped with LBL this year. This wonderful experience could not be possible without your help and dedication. **Student volunteers** are as follows: Craig Goebel, Jordan Fehr, Logan Ledbetter, Lesley Schapker, Kaitlyn White, Forrest Barchett, Jessica Bilskie, Sarah Bryan, Nicole Chandler, Devin Elder, Mary Ennis, Emily Keil, John Koehler, Jessica Marcum, Katie Pareker, Matt Parker, and Howard Yeh. **Adult volunteers** as follows: Melissa Young, Lynn Barchett, Shannon Barchett, Cindy Brush, Erick Couter, Angie Cree, Jodie Gomez, Roy Hart, Kristy Hartmann, Julie Jarvis, Katherine Jones, Sam Lynn, Melissa Melton, Greg Motz, Nicole Motz, Judith Peckenpaugh, Sam Shrode, Jackie Smith, Lynn Alford, Ashlee Deal, Jennifer Greene, Angie Greenwell, Susan Hall, Becky Humm, Jared Kahle, Ginny King, Tim McIntosh, Erin Rostad, Nathan Wertman, Megan Wright, Nick Adams, Art Adye, Brad Basham, John Botta, Art Brunetti, Jaclyn Cantner, Larry Cline, Phillip Craig, Phillip Cree, Victoria Givens, Glen

Givens, Amanda Givens, Debbie Givens, Stephanye Givens-Smith, Chad Hartmann, Kyle Hicks, Leandra Adye, Jeremy Hoesli, Blake Palmer, Jennifer Palmer, Kellan Scherry, Nate Scherry, and Eric White. **Donations** were received from the following: David Enterprises, Bailey Adams family, El Charro Restaurant, Friends of LBL, Hay Now Graphics, McDonalds-St. Joseph Avenue, Prairie Farms Dairy, Pro Rehab, Scott Reed family, Hilltop Inn, Logan Martin family, McIntosh family, Zane Higdon, Deaconess Hospital, and Mike Feagley.



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – DECEMBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2 BBB 6/7 Open Gym 3-4 Cheer 3-4 GBB 3-4 3 on 3 3-4	3 BBB 6/7 Open Gym 3-4 Choir 3-4 Dance 3-4 GBB @ Perry Heights 3-6 Hockey to Swonder 3 pm Orchestra 3-4 Robotics 6 th 3-4 SS Team 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 3-4	4 STAFF MEETING GBB 3-5 6 th Gr. –UE Aces game 9-1:30 pm	5 BBB 6/7 Open Gym 3-4 Dance 3-4 GBB Trny – TBA Math Academy 3-4 McDurmon Tutoring 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4	6 BBB 6/7 Open Gym 3-4 Chess 3-4 GBB 3-4 3 on 3 3-4	7
8	9 BBB 6/7 Open Gym 3-4 Cheer 3-4 (or at GBB Trny.) Choir 3-4 GBB Trny.-TBA PTSA Meeting – Media Ctr. - 4 pm	10 BBB 6/7 Open Gym 3-4 Dance 3-4 GBB 3-4 Hockey to Swonder 3 pm Orchestra 3-4 Robotics 6 th 3-4 SS Team 3-4 Student Council 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 3-4	11 Art Club 3-4 BBB 6/7 Open Gym 3-4 Cheer (or at GBB Trny) 3-4 GBB Trny – TBA Orchestra 3-4 Student Council 3-4	12 BBB 6/7 Open Gym 3-4 BBB 8 Try Outs 3-5 Dance 3-4 GBB Trny Final-TBA Math Academy 3-4 McDurmon Tutoring 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 3-4	13 FUN NIGHT 3-5	14
15	16 BBB 6/7 Open Gym 3-4 Cheer 3-4 Choir 3-4 3 on 3 3-4 Choir to Pine Haven 3-5 pm	17 BBB 6/7 Open Gym 3-4 BBB 8 3-5 Dance 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Robotics 6 th 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 3-4	18 Art Club 3-4 BBB 6/7 Open Gym 3-4 BBB 8 5-6:30 Cheer 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 3 on 3 3-4	19 BBB 6/7 Open Gym 3-4 BBB 8 3-5 Dance 3-4 Math Academy 3-4 McDurmon Tutoring 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 3-4	20 BBB 8 3-5 3 on 3 3-4	21
22	23 HOLIDAY BREAK	24 HOLIDAY BREAK	25 	26 BBB 8 9-10:30 am HOLIDAY BREAK	27 BBB 8 9-10:30 am HOLIDAY BREAK	28
29	30 BBB 8 9-10:30 am HOLIDAY BREAK	31 BBB 8 9-10:30 am HOLIDAY BREAK	Jan. 1 HOLIDAY BREAK	2  SCHOOL RESUMES	3	4

