

**PUMA Team,**



Do you remember earlier when I stated how proud I am of the students in regard to their effort and manners? Well, you can add student attendance to those compliments. We know how important it is to be at school, at work, etc. Thus far, our overall school attendance rate as of 9/18/13 is 99%. This is tremendous and, of course, expected. We want, and need, the children here daily so they can be taught and experience many wonderful opportunities.

We have received our spring 2013 ISTEP scores from the Indiana Department of Education. The results were fantastic! The work, effort, and time given by the students, families, and teachers produced wonderful results. We will continue to work hard and do the very best we can, every day. The ISTEP test is a measurement tool. There are, however, many, many other aspects that contribute to our children's educational growth and achievement. Even though there are some in the media and political circles who think this singular test is the end-all of everything, in reality, it is not. That said, I am extremely proud of the results and I congratulate the students, staff, and our families on this year's ISTEP achievements. **A special congratulations to the following students who received a perfect score on ISTEP: (names deleted).**

The students completed a reading level (Lexile) test given by teachers the last week and a half. This initiative led by Dr. Smith, Superintendent, is aimed at assisting teachers and students with instruction. The goal is to provide teachers with the resources and knowledge to help students improve in reading and comprehension.

A note regarding our annual World's Finest chocolate bar fundraiser -- thank you to students, parents, family members, and friends for assisting in this once-a-year project. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Finally, mark your calendar for Monday, October 7, the beginning of the Westside Nut Club Fall Festival. The Nut Club gives out tens of thousands of dollars each year to charities, private schools, public schools, and other organizations. I know of no other philanthropic organization so dedicated to their community. If you get hungry or want to have some fun, visit the Fall Festival and support the Nut Club. **Congratulations go out to (name deleted) the Nut Club Youth of the Day award winner. We are proud of you!**

Thank you for all your support!

Mac

*CITIZENS OF THE WEEK*

6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: (names deleted)

7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: (names deleted)

8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE: (names deleted)

*PTSA Citizen of the Month:  
(name deleted)*



6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STARS



Math students have been working hard on converting fractions, mixed numbers, decimals, and percents. It is interesting to think about how often we use these outside of the math classroom! Some classes made a foldable to practice memorizing fractions, decimals, and percent conversions that are used often. We will continue to work on ratios, rates, and unit rates, as well as multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers. Please check that your child is doing his or her math homework each evening. If you have not yet set up an online account on EdEase to check your child's grades, please contact the counselor, Mr. Ryan Connors. This is a great tool to help you monitor your child's progress. For extra help in

math, please have your child see his or her math teacher in the mornings.

English students are working on indefinite pronouns and writing. Mrs. Brown's English students have also written an autobiographical narrative and a short story. In reading, students are studying fiction and nonfiction. Mrs. Brown's classes have read a biography of Ray Kroc called, *Ray Kroc: McDonald's Restaurants Building*. They have also read the short stories, *Greyling* and *Stray*." Non-fiction books read are, *The Drive-In Movies*" and *Drive-Ins Make a Comeback*." Mrs. Alford's students have been using the "traits of good writing" while working on the Patriot's Pen essay contest. This year's theme is "What Patriotism Means to Me." The students have focused on pre-writing, organization, and paragraph structure, as well as subject-verb agreement with compound subjects. Mrs. Alford's students continue the theme of effective writing in literature by identifying examples of "pumped up" words and phrases while reading, *Double Identify*, *Stray*, and *The Homecoming*. Mr. Kahle's literature students have been working on summarizing, literary concepts, and forming inferences while reading, *Heart of a Champion*. His students have also been working on a variety of short texts over baseball to integrate several literary styles. In English, his students have been working with nouns, pronouns, and verbs. They have also been working on persuasion essays about patriotism.

Social studies classes are studying culture. Mrs. Brown's students completed projects on physical and human features of Evansville. They are now working on ecosystems. Mrs. Alford's social studies classes are finishing a chapter about what affects weather and climate, and the five major climate zones. Next grading period, students will begin discussing culture, population, economic development, and global communications. Mr. Kahle's students have been studying culture. They have been discussing population, government, and economics. They will be starting a research project to further examine these concepts.

In science, students have blasted off and are busy learning about the planets, stars, space, and beyond. They are really eager to learn how and why the world goes round. In health class, the students learned there are three parts to staying healthy -- physical, mental, and social. They learned the importance of keeping a balanced health triangle.

Just a reminder, Land Between the Lakes permission slips need to be turned in as soon as possible. The \$85.00 for the LBL trip can be turned in at any time but due in November. If you have any questions about the trip, please contact your child's science teacher.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE M&M'S



Social studies students are finishing up the Ancient Mesopotamia unit and beginning their studies of Ancient Egypt. They will explore the land of the Nile, hieroglyphics, how mummies are made, the building of the pyramids, the Egyptian dynasties, and Egyptian architecture and art. Near Halloween, students will create life-size mummies and write a research paper on an Egyptian pharaoh or queen.

Mrs. Deal, Mr. Scherry, and Mrs. McDurmon's science classes have started the year off by studying the Scientific Method. Some students visited USI, where they analyzed water for calcium content. Students will move on to Life Science with the study of animal and plant cells. They will continue to use the science tools they have learned throughout the year!

Math classes have had a busy month! Mrs. McDurmon, Mrs. Todd, and Mr. Hartmann have discussed integers and rational numbers for the past few weeks. These topics include adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing positive numbers, negative numbers, decimals, and fractions. Seventh grade algebra students have been solving multistep equations with an emphasis on solutions, mixtures, and work problems. Excellent work students!

The students in Mrs. Bateman, Mrs. Greenwell, and Mr. Loehrlein's classes are reading, *Divergent*. While reading the novel, students have been discussing theme, plot, and character analysis. In addition, students began writing a narrative essay in connection with the novel. Students will be able to analyze stories throughout the year with these reading tools!

Miss Rostad's English students finished reviewing the parts of speech and will begin studying sentence parts. They will also begin writing their next essay for the Patriot's Pen contest! In Honors, students are reading *Flowers for Algernon* and will also begin working on the Patriot's Pen essays. Literature classes are finishing the unit on author's purpose, tone, and point of view. They will begin more short stories while focusing on irony and figurative language.



## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE G8TORS

Social studies students have been learning about the explorers who discovered the Americas. They are going to begin learning about the 13 colonies and the factors that led to the Revolutionary War. Soon, the students will be completing a project where they put themselves in the shoes of the angry colonists and decide what they would have done during that time.

Mrs. Kluesner's English classes have been studying verbs and adjectives. Students will be writing a narrative essay and telling a story about the Fall Festival! In literature, students have been making group posters analyzing the plots of famous children's stories. They are also reading, *Flowers for Algernon*, from their literature books.

In math, the G.8.T.O.R.S. are currently working on solving linear equations and trying to establish good study and work habits. The key to success is self-discipline. Algebra students are solving linear equations, absolute value equations and literal equations. The classes will start to prepare for the Fall Festival unit by having lessons on probability and trying to determine games of chance or skill. Eighth grade geometry students just completed a chapter on angle measures created by a transversal.

Eighth grade German students are now working on a research project about the many ways German-Americans have influenced American culture. This is in connection with our Fall Festival unit about the history of Evansville's Westside. Students will report on topics such as German foods, inventions, immigration, holiday customs, or individual German-Americans. Projects are due on October 1 and will be presented in class. The German students took their annual field trip to Germania Maennerchor on September 26. They toured the building, learned about the history of the club, sang a few folksongs with the German band, and learned a couple folk dances while they were there. They were also treated to a lunch including Germania's famous bratwurst and krautballs. German-American Day is celebrated on October 6.

In preparation for the Fall Festival, Mrs. Deal's and Miss Greene's science students are finishing a unit on measurement and the metric system. Students have learned and practiced how to measure and how to convert their measurements. Science students are looking forward to studying forces and Newton's three laws of motion. They will apply this content to the different rides and games presented at the Fall Festival. Nutrition and Fall Festival food information will also be discussed and presented in health class. Mrs. Jarrell's science students have just finished a unit on measurement and will begin a unit on matter.



## ART

It has been a great year in art class; students have been working hard and focusing on the elements of art. Sixth grade students have been working on the Keep Evansville Safe poster contest, About Me collage, and self-portraits. Seventh grade students have been working on that same poster, as well as Mola paper design, and Wayne Thiebaud food art. Eighth graders are working on their positive posters, underwater mosaics, and monochromatic color scheme landscapes.

Two of the art classes are decorating pumpkins that were kindly donated to our school. We appreciate this generous support!

## ROBOTICS

Seventh and eighth grade Robotics will begin Thursday, October 17. Students will meet on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons until 4:00 p.m. Sixth grade students will begin Robotics on December 3. If interested, see Mrs. King.

Mrs. King's 6<sup>th</sup> grade Engineering Technology classes just completed a unit on energy and electricity. They also designed cities using the SIM City program. Seventh grade students are working on creating floor plans and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are making their robot projects.

## DIGICOMM

Students have had a very busy month. They are making great strides in learning the correct finger position and key techniques used on a QWERTY keyboard.

The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades have sent business letters to companies outside of Indiana and they have already started receiving some responses. In a few weeks they will take the data from this project and use Excel to graph the results.

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders have received their netbooks and have spent a few days learning about the

software that is currently installed on them. They have already looked at the Paint program and will be looking at several other programs during the second term.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade has started working with a web app called Duolingo. This is a free program where the students have started to learn simple phrases in Spanish. As the term progresses, they will have the opportunity to try the following four other languages: German (which is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade class here at HPSA), French, Italian, and Portuguese.

Animoto is a web-based video program that 8<sup>th</sup> graders used to create 30 second "trailers." Each student created an original trailer for a chapter of *Freak the Mighty*, a book the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be reading. They have shared the videos with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teachers as an extra source of introduction and review when they read this book.

All grades are currently working on EPAL letters, an electronic pen-pal program. Mr. Combs has been in contact with teachers in Colorado and Connecticut; classes are hoping to have their first letters sent and replies received by Fall Festival. Students have also made attempts to make connections in several other states and countries, and are awaiting responses to their invitations.

## Netbooks

Helfrich Park has a new Repair Tech, Mr. Robbie Gray. He will be working on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. If your student is having netbook issues, please have them complete a Tech Repair Request tag and bring the tag and the netbook to Mr. Gray.



Following are a couple reminders for the students:

It is your responsibility to make sure your netbooks are charged for each school day.

Widgets/gadgets running on your desktop or having your wallpaper rotate images, takes away from your overall battery performance.

## BAND AND ORCHESTRA

The band and orchestra are doing a great job! The students are working hard and improving daily!

Please be advised of a few items. If your child rents a school instrument, please return the completed instrument rental contract and \$30.00 fee as soon as possible. Also, please be on the lookout for the Helfrich Park Band and Orchestra handbook that will be posted soon on the Helfrich Park website. Please read the handbook and sign and return the "Acknowledgement of Policies and Information" form and complete the "Contact Information" form at your earliest convenience. Thanks!



## MUSIC

Mr. DeKemper's music classes are off to a great start! Sixth grade students have been learning guitar chords and working on songs with two and three chords. Seventh and eighth grade students have been playing guitar and learning proper breath support while singing.

Helfrich Park Choir will be meeting every Monday after school until 4 p.m. Students are preparing for their concert November 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Helfrich Park Gym.

## P.E.

Currently in Physical Education, students are finishing their fitness testing. Students are being tested in the following five areas: standing broad jump, mile run, shuttle run, sit-ups, and push-ups. They will be tested again in the spring to see how they have improved. Next, softball will be starting. If your child is taking P.E. and would like to bring in his/her baseball or softball glove,



it would be appreciated due to the fact we do not have enough for 70 students. Classes are off to a very good start. Keep up the good work students!

## CAFÉ

Help! Help! Please make payments on your accounts in the morning or between classes. Fill out a deposit slip and drop it in the deposit box, located in the kitchen. Do not pay while in the lunch line. Thanks from the Café ladies!

## FROM THE NURSE

A reminder to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade student parents and guardians: If you have yet to turn in your immunization records, please do so. The cutoff date is October 7. If you do not have your child's immunization record in by that date, **YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND SCHOOL** until proof of immunization is brought into school. This is **NOT** an excused absence. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the nurse, Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 am to 1:30 pm.

If you have any medication, either prescriptive or over-the-counter, for your child, please pick up a medication permission form. These are also located in the nurse office.

Health Tip for Asthmatic Students: We are beginning to see more students with asthma and asthma-like symptoms. If your child is having ANY difficulty breathing before exercise, take them to a physician and have them checked for asthma. Exercise-induced asthma is one of the major causes of asthma for middle school students.

Finally, child flu vaccines are available for children aged 6 through 18 years at the Vanderburgh County Health Department, located at 420 Mulberry St. The vaccine is available by appointment on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Call 812-435-5997 for more information on hours of operation.

According to Health Officer Dr. Ray Nicholson, flu vaccines are safe and effective, and receiving an annual flu vaccine is the single most effective method to prevent the spread of flu. Please note: Children under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and bring all vaccine records and health insurance and Medicaid cards. If your child has private insurance, please call your doctor first for flu vaccine. If your doctor does not give flu vaccine, call 812-435-5997 to verify your insurance is accepted at the health department and receive billing information. Children should wear short sleeve shirts, eat before coming, and be prepared to stay at least one hour.

**Tuesday: Vintage Vinyl** – oldies from the 50’s, 60’s and 70’s  
**Wednesday: Hot Mix** – hits from the 70’s, 80’s, 90’s and today  
**Thursday: Kickin’ Country** – hits from the country artists of yesterday and today  
**Friday: Retro weekend**  
**Saturday: Retro weekend**  
**Sunday: Retro weekend**  
**In addition, on Friday’s, WPSR broadcasts EVSC football games live, on air, beginning at 6:45 p.m.**

### PTSA NEWS

Be sure to turn in your “Box Tops” in a baggie with your homeroom teacher’s name. The top homerooms in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades will win a pizza party. Be sure to check out the complete list of Box Tops at <http://www.btfe.com/>. A huge thanks to Miss Wright and Student Council for helping count all our box tops. Also, please join Helfrich Park PTSA. It is only \$6 per adult or student; please make your check payable to Helfrich Park PTSA or send cash to the attention of Lori Koonce. Next PTSA meeting is Monday, October 14 at 4:00 pm.

### EVSC’s Radio Station WPSR 90.7 Now Streaming Live

Did you hear the news? WPSR 90.7 FM, EVSC’s very own radio station, is now streaming live on [www.wpsrhd.com!](http://www.wpsrhd.com/) Thanks to this new option, individuals can now listen on their PC, laptops, tablets, MAC, iPhone and other mobile devices. WPSR HD is an educational radio station that broadcasts 24 hours a day, seven days a week. WPSR allows students at the Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center enrolled in the radio and television program the opportunity to work in a real-life setting, during class hours. The programming schedule for WPSR is different depending on the day and includes the following line up:

**Monday: Hot Mix** – hits from the 70’s, 80’s, 90’s and today

### DATES TO REMEMBER



Fall Break, No School	Oct. 11
Fall Pictures	Oct. 18
Veterans’ Day, No School	Nov. 11
8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Enroll.Night@Reitz, 6 pm	Nov. 13



**Remember, there are Helfrich Park decals and magnets for sale in the school office☺**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS – OCTOBER 2013

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> Bowling 3-4 CC 3-4 Cheer 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm Dance 3-4 Speech 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB 3-5	<b>2</b> Art Club 3-4 CC 3-4 Cheer 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm McDurmon Tutoring 3-4 VB @ Perry Heights 3-5:30	<b>3</b> CC 3-4 Cub FB-A vs.Memorial @ Reitz 6 Cub FB-B vs. Memorial @ Reitz 7 Dance 3-4 Speech 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB 3-5	<b>4</b> Cub FB 3 pm VB 3-4	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Student Council 7 am CC City@ Angel Mounds 3-5:30 Cheer 3-4 Choir 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm Speech 3-4 VB Trny TBA (3-5 most likely) MS Honors Band/Orches. @ Reitz-6-8 pm	<b>8</b> Cub FB 3 pm Dance 3-4 Hockey to Swonder 3 pm Speech 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB (3-5 most likely)	<b>9</b> Student Council 7 am Art Club 3-4 Cheer 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm VB Trny TBA	<b>10</b> Cub FB vs North @ Reitz 6 Dance 3-4 Speech 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB Trny TBA	<b>11</b>  NO SCHOOL (Fall Break)	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Choir 3-4 Cheer 3-5 Cub FB 3pm Speech Trny @ Wash. 3-6 3 on 3 3-4 VB Trny-Final TBA  PTSA 4 pm Media	<b>15</b> Cub FB 3 pm Dance 3-4 GBB tryouts 3-5 Speech 3-4 Student Council 3-4 Tutoring 3-4  MS Honors Band/Orches @ Reitz-6-8 pm	<b>16</b> Cub FB 3 pm  STAFF MEETING	<b>17</b> Cub FB @ Bosse 5:30 pm Dance 3-4 GBB tryouts 3-5 Robotics(7/8 <sup>th</sup> ) 3-4 Speech Trny @ Wash. 3-6 Tutoring 3-4	<b>18</b> Chess 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm GBB 3-4  School Picture Day 6 <sup>th</sup> Gr. to Angel Mounds	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Cheer 3-4 Choir 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm GBB 3-5 3 on 3 3-4 MS Honors Band/Orches. @ Reitz 6-8 pm	<b>22</b> Cub FB 3-4 Dance 3-4 GBB 3-5 Hockey to Swonder 3 pm Robotics (7/8 <sup>th</sup> ) 3-4 Tutoring 3-4	<b>23</b> Art Club 3-4 Cheer 3-4 Cub FB 3 pm GBB 3-5 McDurmon Tutoring 3-4	<b>24</b> Cub FB vs MD @ Reitz 5:30 Dance 3-4 GBB 3-5 Robotics (7/8 <sup>th</sup> ) 3-4 Tutoring 3-4	<b>25</b> Cub FB to Reitz 3 pm  FUN NIGHT 3-5	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Cheer 3-4 Choir 3-4 GBB 3-5 3 on 3 3-4 MS Honors Band/Orches. @ Reitz 6-8 pm	<b>29</b> Dance 3-4 GBB @ McGary 3-5:30 Hockey to Swonder 3 pm Robotics (7/8 <sup>th</sup> ) 3-4 Tutoring 3-4	<b>30</b> GBB vs Perry Hgts. @ HP 3-6 Art Club 3-4 Cheer/Dance @ game McDurmon Tutoring 3-4 Student Council 3-4	<b>31</b> Student Council 7:30 am Dance 3-4 Tutoring 3-4  Halloween – Booooooo!	Nov. 1 Chess 3-4 GBB 3-4	

