

PUMA Team,



I hope all our PUMA students and their families have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. There are many, many things I count as blessings and I begin with my family, health, and a work place environment full of energy and excitement. This work environment begins with our fantastic students, outstanding staff, and our superb community of parents, neighbors, and friends. Thank you, and the very best to all for a relaxing and fun-filled Thanksgiving.

A heart-felt thank you on behalf of the entire HPSA staff goes to the parents who treated us to a “soup and dessert” luncheon on November 14. Wow, what a delicious lunch it was! Thank you for all the hearty soups and wonderful desserts, as well as your time spent preparing these dishes.

I cannot say thanks enough to our many LBL volunteers for trekking to Brandon Springs, TN for our annual 6th grade Land Between the Lakes outdoor pilgrimage. Volunteers include parents, 8th grade HPSA students, Reitz students, HPSA staff, and dedicated adults who have been involved with this incredible learning experience. This program has been in gear for over 33 years and is such an impactful trip for the kids. There are so many to thank, but special kudos to Nate Scherry, Megan Wright, Chad Hartmann, and Susan Hall for organizing this event. A special thank you, also, to Brad Basham, Jeremy Hoesli, Nick Adams, Art Ayde, John Botta, Jaclyn Cantner, Larry Cline, Phillip Craig, Phillip Cree, Victoria Givens, Glen Givens, Amanda Givens, Debbie Givens, Kyle Hicks, Jessie Marx, Blake Palmer, Jennifer Palmer, Kellan Scherry, Mike Tanner, and Eric White, long-time supporters of LBL.

Parents, you know I am very proud of your children; the effort they give day in and day out is very endearing. Congratulations and praise to the HPSA students and staff for earning an “A” mark from the Indiana Department of Education. The students celebrated with a school-wide pizza party. It is certainly a great accolade and I am very proud of the students

and staff as they put forth great efforts on a daily basis. This is what the staff and I ask of your children and ourselves – do the best we can each and every day!

Helfrich Park held our annual Veterans’ Day Assembly on November 10. Major Gregory Motz addressed the students, assembled veterans, and their families with a wonderful message. Student singers, Abby Shane and Matthew Ruckman, did a fine job and were accompanied by music teacher, Mr. DeKemper, on the guitar. Student essays were read by Ellora Daily, Kye Fehrenbacher, Reece Damm, and Elyse Talley. Following the readings and song, there was a special slide show tribute to veterans. The veterans’ pictures were shown while the song, “American Soldier” filled the gymnasium. For the conclusion of the assembly, the veterans lined either side of the gym as the students filed out, shaking their hands and thanking them for their service. The adage, “Home of the Free, because of the Brave” is evident at Helfrich Park where boys and girls are being freely educated, an opportunity not available to some children in other parts of the world.

Students were also treated to an ex-NFL player, Ken Johnson, who shared his motivational message about facing obstacles and overcoming them through hard work, determination, and faith. Mr. Johnson is a former Cincinnati Bengal football player and I.U. basketball player.

Congratulations and good luck to our 8th Grade Honors Social Studies classes. They are off to We the People State Finals competition in Indianapolis. Awesome! This will be the third straight year Helfrich Park has competed in the State Finals. They are led by Mrs. Amanda Antey. Again, good luck on December 16.

As you can see, it has been an exciting November for our students. Again, thank you parents for your wonderful support and enjoy the Thanksgiving break!

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CITIZENS OF THE WEEK

6TH GRADE: Jackson Lawhon, Samantha Marcum, Kameryn McGehee, Brent Parish, Lillian Beyers, Braydon Litteken, John Snyder, Abigail Steinhart, Krisabell Peralta, Marissa Oatess, Reece Harper, Cruz Quiroz, Claire Graham, Derrick Jenkins, Heather Kaelin, Dalton Thomas.

7TH GRADE: Jayla Collier, Trey Fox, Lydia Sander, Deklin Sterling, Hayden Gauer, Eli Burkhart, Rachel Hertel, Bethanie Lynch, Lucas John, Keegan Williams, Maliyah Strother, Justin Hicks, Breanna Bailey, Emily Jarvis, Cooper Schneider, and Jack Weinzapfel.

8TH GRADE: Klyie Dixon, Carlie Hobbs, Bryon Adams, Kyle Meyer, Zoe DeVries, Aaron Watson, Hannah Wright, Selina Hurley, Grant Scheller, Carmen Alford, Emily Ashby, Ben Malchioni, and Malin Seaton.

6TH GRADE STARS



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. 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 6th graders for years and years to come. Happy Holidays from the 6th grade team!

Mrs. Humm's honors class has been solving equations and inequalities and working with slope. Mrs. Hall's advanced math class has been working on simplifying expressions and solving equations. Sixth grade math students finished working on integers and plotting points on coordinate grids. Some of the students used math skills at LBL by doing the GPS course, compass course, and baking. Everyone had a lot of fun at LBL!

In Mr. Kahle's English classes, students have been working with prepositions and will soon begin conjunctions. They have been reading *Freak the Mighty* in literature. While reading, students have been examining different parts of the text. They have been looking deeper into the problems the main characters face in the novel as well as the relationships they have. Mrs. Alford's literature classes recently presented "Cereal Box" book reports. A variety of fiction books were selected by the students and presented through very creative designs. Students will soon begin 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. In Mrs. Burkhart's ELA class, students have been focusing on main idea and supporting details. Students are using evidence from their reading to support their answers. These are very important skills that need to be mastered before ISTEP. Classes have had fun learning and practicing figurative language, such as, similes, metaphors, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, personification, etc. Students wrote a Thanksgiving narrative and haiku. Mrs. Brown's ELA students finished LBL animal presentations and are finishing an essay on respect for Young Voices. Students finished a short story called *Eleven* in literature and will begin a focus on folktales and myths.

Mrs. Alford's social studies classes recently finished a unit on the early history of the Americas, learning about the Maya, Aztec, and Inca empires. Also, in preparation for LBL, the students created and presented animal research projects. They learned how to create and share presentations using Google Drive. This provided the students with opportunity to collaborate with group members even while not together in the classroom. Next, they will be learning about the geography, history, culture, and current economy of Mexico. In Mr. Kahle's social studies classes, students have recently finished examining the Mayan civilization, and will soon begin looking at the Aztec. They have also been working on presentations to prepare for the LBL trip. Students have been researching animals that

are found near the lakes. In Mrs. Burkhart's social studies classes, Mexico has been the focus. The past civilizations, colonial Mexico, independence, present government, culture and economy have been discussed. To tie everything together, students wrote what they are thankful for in Spanish! In Mrs. Brown's class, students are finishing early American civilizations and will begin studying Mexico next. Students have learned about the Mayan calendar and ballgame. They have learned about the culture of the Aztecs.

7TH GRADE M&MS

English students are beginning to write informative essays and create technical manuals. In Mrs. Greenwell's classroom, students are reading *Phineas Gage*. While in Mrs. Bateman's and Mr. Loehrlein's classes, students are reading myths, legends, and folktales.

Math students recently finished a unit on proportions. Now they have been working on percent of change and simple interest. Mrs. Todd's, Mrs. McDurmon's, and Mr. Hartmann's classes completed an extensive unit on ratios, rates, and proportional reasoning. 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!

Science classes are now experts on cells! Ask them about it! They are finishing this topic by briefly discussing DNA, traits, and genes. Students will finish up the semester by studying the chemistry of life and properties of water. The Science Fair is quickly approaching! Encourage your seventh grader to start researching projects now. It will be here before you know it.

Social studies students will continue their exploration of ancient civilizations. Students will examine the ancient empires of India and China. They will continue to make

comparisons between the civilizations as well as understand how civilizations grow.

8TH GRADE G8TORS



Through Christmas break, Mr. Whipkey's U.S. History classes are discovering how after the Revolutionary War was over, the newly formed United States became a nation. Students will also learn how our government was formed by creating the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, as well as our rights and responsibilities as a citizen.

In math, students are writing and solving linear equations and inequalities. Graphing is a big part of that skill, too. Many students are working, also, on the exponent rules. Please work with your child on their homework to make sure they are completing and turning in assignments. Check their progress on Parent Access.

ELA has started reading *The Giver* in literature class. The students have also been discussing utopian and dystopian societies and might even have new ideas for books to read from our discussions. The English classes have been working on independent and dependent clauses in sentences. Students are also working on comma placement.

Science students are finishing their chemistry unit. They have learned concepts such as balancing chemical equations and depicting the electrons surrounding an atom's nucleus in Bohr Diagrams and Lewis Dot Structures. Also, they now have an understanding of the chemical and physical properties of elements on the Periodic Table. The 8th graders look forward to dissecting owl pellets in the coming week and then starting a new Genetics unit when they return from Winter Break.

DIGI-COM

Computer Science Education Week is December 8-14. The Digital Communications classes will take part in the *Hour of Code*. This program gives the students roughly 20 different tutorials introducing them to coding or programming in languages like Java, Html, Python, and Ruby. Last year, 15 million students around the world took place in this event. With the way technology is engrained into our everyday lives, some people are saying coding should be taught as a second language.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Winter came early this year. Students are beginning the unit on Line Soccer. They will be working on the fundamentals of draping, dribbling, and passing the ball up and down the court. When everyone has mastered these fundamentals, students will begin playing soccer games. After Line Soccer, classes will start with the Weight Room and Floor Hockey. Mr. Mahan will take the boys to the Weight Room first for a three-week unit, while the girls are with Mrs. Redd for Floor Hockey.

ART



We're off to a great start this 12 weeks in art class! Students have learned the rules and are working on their first project which involves using symbols. In this project, students are focusing on line, an element of art. So far, they have done an excellent job! Parents, there is a \$3.00 art fee for all students enrolled in art. Fee money covers the cost of supplies. Please send fee money as soon as possible. Thank you!

Seventh grade art club has begun! Any 7th grade student interested in attending, please see Mrs. Lamb for details. Art club will meet on most Wednesdays after school until 4.

BAND/ORCHESTRA



Jazz Band

Jazz Band exploratory sessions will begin after school starting Tuesday November 25, from 2:45-4:00 p.m. Any student may come to these meetings regardless of instrument. Mr. Goodwin would like to encourage any student interested to show up and explore this great jazz style.

Solo and Ensemble Contest

The EVSC and ISSMA Solo and Ensemble contests are coming up soon. The entry deadline for these events is Monday, November 24. Entries submitted after this date will not be accepted.

TECH

Engineering Technology Class

As we begin the new grading period in the Engineering Technology classes, 6th grade students are learning about electricity and have prepared birdhouses to build at LBL. Seventh graders are beginning the unit on air and space travel, and 8th graders are experimenting with different types of bridge designs and designing structures.

Robotics

Sixth Grade Robotics will begin on Monday, December 8. Sixth grade will meet on Monday and Thursday for four weeks – December 8, 11, 15, 18 and January 5, 8, 12 and 15. See Mrs. King for a permission slip and information or email at Virginia.king@evsc.k12.in.us



BOYS' BASKETBALL

Tryouts for 8th grade boys' basketball are planned for December 4 after school until 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 10 will be an additional tryout day or practice day until 5:00 p.m.

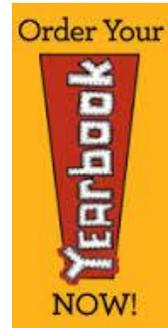
Boys' reserve tryouts will be as follows:

6th grade-Monday, December 8 from 2:40-5:00 p.m.

7th grade-Tuesday, December 9 from 2:40-5:00 p.m.

6th and 7th grade call backs-Wednesday, December 10 from 2:40-5:00 p.m.

After-school bus transportation will be available. All players must wear shorts, t-shirt, and gym shoes for tryouts. If you have any questions, see Coach Whipkey or Coach Loveless.



School yearbook order forms have gone home with students. Yearbooks for the 2014-2015 school year will be \$13.00; checks should be made payable to Helfrich Park STEM Academy. **Orders are due by December 19.** Additional order envelopes are available in the school lobby.

FROM THE CAFÉ

Mrs. Gries and all the Cafeteria staff would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS –DECEMBER 2014



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1 GBB 3-5 Robotics Competition @HP 4:30-6 PTSA – 4 pm – Media Center Neigh.Assoc. Meet – 6 p.m.-Media	2 GBB home game vs. P.H. 5-7 Cheer/Dance @ game Hockey to Swonder 4 pm Jazz Band 3-4 Tutoring (White) 3-4 Fall Picture Retakes – 10-10:30 a.m.	3 Art Club, 7 th Gr. 3-4 Band 3-4 and 3-5 Choir 3-5 GBB 3-5	4 BBB 8 th Gr. Tryouts 3-4 Band 3-5 Dance 3-4 GBB Trny – TBA Tutoring 3-4	5 Chess Club 3-4 GBB 3-4	6
7	8 BBB, 6 th Tryouts 3-5 Band 3-5 Choir Rehearsal/Set Up 3-5 Computer Club 3-4 Dance 3-4 GBB Trny-TBD (if no GBB game, Cheer 3-4) Robotics, 6 th 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4	9 BBB, 7 th Tryouts 3-5 GBB – TBD 3-5 Hockey to Swonder 4 pm Jazz Band 3-4 Band/Orchestra 3-5 (extra bus) Tutoring (Campbell) 3-4 6 th Gr. Aces Field Trip 9:15-1:15 pm Choir Concert Set Up 3-6 Choir Winter Concert-6:30 p.m.-Gym	10 Art Club, 7 th Gr. 3-4 BBB, 6/7 th Call Backs 3-5 BBB 8 th 3-5 Band 3-5 GBB Trny-TBD (if no GBB game, Cheer 3-4) Orchestra 3-5	11 GBB Trny. Final-TBD Student Council 3-4 Tutoring (Brown) 3-4 Band/Orchestra Concert-6:00 pm-Gym	12 FUN NIGHT (extra bus)	
14	15 BBB 3-5 Band Set-Up/Rehearsal 3-5 Cheer 3-5 Computer Club 3-4 Robotics, 6 th Gr. 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4 We the People, Indy-Lv. noon	16 BBB 3-5 Jazz Band 3-4 Tutoring (Deal) 3-4 We the People, Return 8:20 pm	17 Art Club, 7 th 3-4 BBB 3-5 Band 3-5 Eng. Acad. Team 3-4	18 BBB 3-5 Band 3-5 Chess Club 3-4 Dance 3-4 Tutoring (Deal) 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4	19 Henderson Bulldog Classic	20 Henderson Bulldog Classic
21	22 BBB 9-10:30 am WINTER RECESS	23 BBB 9-10:30 am WINTER RECESS	24 WINTER RECESS	25  WINTER RECESS	26 WINTER RECESS	27 BBB 9-10:30 am
28	29 BBB 9-10:30 am WINTER RECESS	30 BBB 9-10:30 am WINTER RECESS	31 WINTER RECESS	Jan. 1  WINTER RECESS	2 WINTER RECESS	

