

PUMA Team,



There sure has been a lot of excitement in PUMAland – and for good reasons! To begin with, our two 8th grade Honors Social Studies classes traveled to Indianapolis for the third straight year to compete in the State Final We The People Constitution Academic Competition, and Units 2 and 5 from the “A” Team came back with first place trophies! Wow, what a feat! Congratulations to all twelve groups that competed and Mrs. Antey for a tremendous job. Also, many thanks go to the large number of sponsors, individuals, and businesses for their support. We are humbled by their generosity.

Kudos to our choir, band, and orchestra for their superb performances at the Winter Concerts. An outstanding job was done by all the performers. Thank you, Mr. DeKemper, Mr. Clark, Mr. Goodwin, and students for the wonderful entertainment. A special thank you goes to Chloe Wood, Austin Wiseman, Logan Combs, Cara Crosser, and Sarah Smith for their very nice concert at Barnes and Noble Bookstore last Saturday. The students and Mr. DeKemper represented Helfrich Park very well.

Finally, as you know, our daily schedule will be slightly adjusted beginning January 5. I certainly expect this to go smoothly and benefit the students. Thank you, parents, for your support with this new initiative.

I hope everyone enjoys the winter break and Holiday Season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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CITIZENS OF THE WEEK

6TH GRADE: Julia Cheski, Savannah Peckenpaugh, Foluke Schakleford, Jimmy Schlachter, Erin Dietsch, Khyla Kurtz, Emily Sylvester, Justin Tucker, Aaron Tucker, Jordan Jarvis, Morgan Hobbs, and Emma Francis.

7TH GRADE: Madelynn Wood, Kody Wilke, Alivia Schroeder, Kieran Paddock, Connor Brown, Kennedy Dannheiser, Isaac Simms, Blake Michel, Bailey Adams, Hannah Bryan, and Kylan France.

8TH GRADE: McKenzie Hargrove, Caitlyn Boyd, Seth Reynolds, Devin Hill, Heather Harvey, Nathan Paddock, Jayden Stafford, Brendon Cassin, Ellora Daily, Olivia Linderman, Stephen Hazlett, and Matt Ruckman.

6TH GRADE STARS



In science, students are finishing their study about the atmosphere. They learned about the five layers of the atmosphere, air pressure, the water cycle, the ozone, ultraviolet rays, CFC's, and how the atmosphere is critical to our existence on Earth. The students have participated in several hands-on labs in the classroom demonstrating air pressure. The students have also enjoyed some songs that help them remember the parts of the water cycle.

In Mrs. Burkhart's ELA class, students have been working on central ideas and supporting details. Students are learning to use facts from an article to support their answers. Students spent some time learning about different types of figurative language, such as, similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, and personification. Some of our reading focus was on fantasy and folk tales. Students enjoyed rewriting one of their favorite fantasy stories from the antagonist's perspective. Mrs. Brown's English students have written several essays. Two of these were based on readings on Achieve3000. One was about a holiday product and the other was about improving a game or toy. After reading *The Homecoming* and viewing a video of Rip van Winkle, students wrote an essay comparing and contrasting the two stories. Six students had their essays submitted to the Courier-Press for New Voices. Mrs. Alford's language arts classes continue to focus on improving writing skills. At the start of the new semester,

students will practice responding to a variety of writing prompts with emphasis on prewriting, planning, and organization. The students are also “Pumping Up” sentences with details such as vivid verbs, exact nouns, descriptive adjectives, and prepositional phrases. Literature classes have learned about authors’ use of foreshadowing and flashback. The students compared and contrasted how these two plot techniques were used in two stories: *Lob’s Girl* and *Jeremiah’s Song*. In Mr. Kahle’s English classes, students finished working with conjunctions and prepositions. In literature, they have been reading *Freak the Mighty* while looking at folk literature. Along with *Freak the Mighty*, they have looked at several stories that complement the ideas in the novel.

In social studies, Mrs. Burkhart’s students have been learning about the geography, history, government, culture, regions, and the economy of the United States. Mrs. Alford’s, Mr. Kahle’s and Mrs. Brown’s students finished the Maya, Aztecs, and Incas and have begun a study of Mexico.

Math students have mastered adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers. Students took tests in math class until they received 100% correct. They have also become very good at Order of Operations. When they come back to school, they will be working on reading, writing, and evaluating expressions using different properties. The break is a great time to make sure your child is stocked up on pencils. Please help make sure your child is prepared for class by having his or her math homework done each day. Thank you for your help, and have a wonderful winter break!

Over holiday break please restock your child with paper, pencils, and pens so they get off to a great start in January. Happy Holidays from the 6th grade team!



7TH GRADE M&MS

Science students are currently studying chemistry. They are becoming more and more familiar with the elements and the

Periodic Table. Following chemistry, students will study geology. They will learn about the Earth, along with the rocks and minerals found within our world. Students should continue brainstorming ideas for the Science Fair starting in January. The science teachers are looking forward to seeing the wide range of topics the students will bring forward following winter break.

Mr. Hartmann, Mrs. Todd, and Mrs. McDurmon have had a great finish to 2014. Their students completed scale model projects, as well as a final test before winter break. They believe the kids have a great knowledge of proportions and ratios after our work in November and December. Seventh Grade Algebra students finished with a midterm exam spanning the first six chapters. Congratulations to all students who improved on Acuity B, as well.

8TH GRADE GSTORS

Mrs. Deal’s students just finished a mini unit covering the concepts of density and buoyancy. Students also participated in an annual 8th grade lab where they dissected an owl pellet and reconstructed the skeleton of the consumed animal. They compared the skeleton of the animal to the human skeleton which they learned about in health. After winter break, 8th graders will start a genetics unit. This is always an exciting unit where they get to learn what exactly makes them unique from everybody else.



Mr. Whipkey’s U.S. History classes are studying the Constitution and Bill of Rights. After Christmas break, classes will be studying the Westward movement.

Math students finished working on Standards 8.GM.3-6, Transformations. Students practiced translations, rotations, reflections and dilations. Many of the math students took finals the last week of school. Please ask your child how they are doing with their weekly assessments. After Christmas break, students will be working with linear functions and

applying them to real world applications. If you would like to surprise your child with stuffing their stockings with graph paper, pencils, paper, and a new calculator, that would be wonderful. The 8th grade math teachers wish you a wonderful Christmas Season and a Happy New Year!

Literature classes have wrapped up the novel, *The Giver* and are completing cubing projects. Not sure what cubing is? It is a way to look at something in six different ways. In English, students are reviewing various parts of punctuation to affect writing.

DIGI-COM



Hour of Code

Computer Science Education Week was Dec. 8-12. The Digital Communications classes took part in the *Hour of Code*. This is a program that gave the students roughly 20 different tutorials introducing them to coding or programming in languages like Blockly, Java, Html, Python, and Ruby. To date, 70M students have tried the *Hour of Code*. This week, across 180 countries, millions of people are learning new skills that can change the rest of their lives. The *Hour of Code 2014* is already **twice as big as last year!**

ePals

Students are receiving and responding to their ePals. They are currently working with 16 teachers in the following two states and nine other countries: South Dakota, Colorado, Denmark, Romania, Turkey, Italy, Indonesia, Argentina, Peru, Uganda, and now France. This is a great way for the students to practice their typing skills and learn about other cultures.

ENGINEERING TECH

To begin the New Year, seventh grade students will be designing projects using Autodesk Inventor. Eighth graders will be putting their thinking caps on to create Rube Goldberg Machines, and sixth graders will be exploring how to plan, design and build houses.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Mr. Mahan and Mrs. Redd hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas break! In January, students will be hitting two units. The boys will begin a unit on floor hockey where they will learn how to maneuver up and down the court, as well as pass and shoot the puck. The girls will begin their Weight Room unit. Students will be taught how to use each piece of equipment safely. Each unit will last three weeks and at that point, the boys and girls will switch units. Happy New Year!



AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING

Effective January 5, 2015, our Tuesday/Thursday after-school tutoring will be cancelled. Our new daily schedule, with an enrichment period, will allow students needing academic help to seek assistance from a teacher. Many teachers are available, also, in the morning before school. If you have any questions or feel your child needs extra assistance, please contact the teacher or Mr. Connors, Counselor.

CLOTHING BANK

The "Hangers" clothing bank is in dire need of winter coats and gently-used shoes. Any donations you would like to contribute may be dropped off in the school office. Thank you for helping this worthwhile organization.





WE THE PEOPLE

Congratulations to Helfrich Park's We The People teams that traveled to Indianapolis to compete, for the third straight year, in the state competition. Units 2 and 5 from the "A" Team returned with first place trophies! The team members are as follows. **Team A:** Carmen Alford, Presleigh Baggett, Tristin Barr, Tanner Bell, Danielle Canary, Amanda Coleman, Brianna Cook, Brandon Coomes, Andrew Craney, Ellora Daily, Zoe DeVries, Kye Fehrenbacher, Alaina Fritts, Grace Gill, Madyson Harper, Haley Haynes, Stephen Hazlett, Carlie Hobbs, Abigail Kornberger, Katelyn McHaley, Dalton Morris Madison Motz, Hannah Nelson, Calyssa Peralta, Madeline Schneider, Malin Seaton, Spencer Skaggs, Elyse Talley, Garrett Thomas, Matthew Vaught, Evan Williams, and Melanie Wytovak. **(Unit 2 members: Carlie Hobbs, Madeline Schneider, Tristin Barr, Stephen Hazlett, and Brianna Cook. Unit 5 members: Madison Motz, Danielle Canary, Matthew Vaught, Elyse Talley, and Tanner Bell.) Team B:** Emily Ashby, Nathan Crowe, Reece Damm, Angelina DeCurtis, Andrew Harris, Heather Harvey, Laura Haywood, Kylie Helming, Devin Hill, Austin King, Benjamin Malchioni, Christian Matthews, Olivia Miller, Maddix Mitchell, Tanner Myers, Matthew Ruckman, Audrey Schapker, Grant Scheller, Emily Scott, Abigayle Shane, Brendon Shoptaugh, Claire Strueh, Kelly Teague, Gavin Thomas, and Kile Wilke. **Way to go, students – you represented HPSA very well!!**





CALENDAR OF EVENTS –JANUARY 2015



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1 Winter Break – No School	2 BBB 9-10:30 am Winter Break – No School	3
4	5 Varsity BBB 3-4 JV BBB 3-5 Cheer 3-5 6 th Gr. BBB @ Mt. Vernon 5:30 PTSA Meeting-4 pm-Media Ctr. Neighbor. Assoc. Meet.-6 pm-Media	6 BBB 3-5 Math Team 3-4 Robotics, 6 th Gr. 3-4 Spelling Bee – 8 th /9 th Per iods 6 th Gr. BBB vs.Resurrection-@HP6-:30	7 PUMA Classic BBB Trny.	8 Dance 3-4 Robotics, 6 th Gr. 3-4 PUMA Classic BBB Trny	9 JV BBB 3-5 Chess Team 3-4 English Team 3-4 Soc. Studies Team 3-4 Plaza Trny	10 Plaza Trny
11	12 BBB 3-5 Cheer 3-5 Choir 3-4	13 BBB vs. McGary 5 pm Cheer & Dance @ game Hockey to Swonder 4 pm Math Team 3-4 Robotics, 6 th Gr. 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4	14 BBB 3-5 Cheer 3-5 Student Council 3-4	15 BBB @ Perry Heights 5 pm Computer Club 3-4 Dance 3-4 Robotics 6 th Gr. 3-4	16 Varsity BBB 3-4 JV BBB 3-5 Chess Club 3-4 English Team 3-4 Soc. Studies Team 3-4	17
18	19 ML King Jr. Day No School Varsity BBB 9-10:30 am JV BBB 4-6 pm	20 BBB vs. Wash. 5 pm Cheer & Dance @ game Hockey to Swonder 4 pm Math Team 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4	21 BBB 3-5 Choir 3-4	22 BBB vs. North J.H. 5 pm Cheer & Dance @ game 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4	23 Varsity BBB 3-4 JV BBB 3-5 Chess Club 3-4 English Team 3-4	24
25	26 BBB 3-5 Choir 3-4 Computer Club 3-4 Cheer/Dance Exhib.@ Reitz-6-8 pm	27 Hockey to Swonder 4 pm Math Team 3-4 BBB vs ECS @ HP 4 & 5:15 pm	28 BBB 3-5	29 BBB @ Lodge 5 pm Dance 3-4	30 Varsity BBB 3-4 JV BBB 3-5 Chess Club 3-4 English Team 3-4 Soc. Studies Team 3-4	31

