

PUMA Team,



Greetings from a green, spring-filled Helfrich Park. Finally, there are beautiful flowers and blooms all around us. Congratulations to our band, orchestra, and choral students for their outstanding performances at ISSMA competition this month. Our band (7-8th) and orchestra (6-8th) each received Gold ratings for their very impressive performances. Our Concert Choir received a Skilled rating for their outstanding performance. WOW! Awesome job, students!

A big thank you to Walmart and St. Mary's Hospital for their donations for student rewards. Also, many thanks to our Talent Show sponsors! Unfortunately, there were too few performers signed up to have the show. Due to the generosity of our sponsors, we will give the donated prizes to students and staff at our end-of-the-year Recognition Assembly. Thank you so much to these businesses; please thank them for supporting Helfrich Park! Donors were Ace Hardware, Custom Recreation, Dairy Queen-North, Dairy Queen-West, Donut Bank-West, El Charro, Fire House Subs, Franklin Lanes, G.D. Ritzy, Gerst Haus/Sportsman's/Smitty's, Hetts, Rebecca Humm, Los Bravos-West, Pacetre, Papa John's, Paul's Menswear, Pet Food Center, Pie Pan, Pizza King, Redd Family, Salad World-West, Snickerdoodles, Spankey's, Thomas Shoes, Weber Equipment, West Side Chiropractic, Megan Wright, Imagination Screen Printing, and Walmart.

Well, ISTEP testing is right around the corner. I am so proud of the work the students and teachers have put in preparing for testing. Thank you, parents, for your support and for encouraging your sons and daughters to do their best. We will be testing April 28-30 and May 5-13. I am excited to get the test underway.

All the best to our families as we prepare to end another wonderful school year. Please check the calendar for the many events highlighting our students over the next month!

Mac

CITIZENS OF THE WEEK

6TH GRADE: Mohammed Alhayani, Kyla Fralick, Heidi Jeffries, Reece Wines, Dylan Mapp, Kendra Sheetz, Caleb Williamson, Grace Phelps, Claire Schaffer, Callie Payne, Travis Cox

7TH GRADE: Sierra Fosnight, Faith Bastain, Ava Hill, Danielle Peckenpaugh, Gage Wade, Gabriele Thompson, Kailey Scales, Sophia Rexing, Josiah Williams, Thor Taylor, Rahmel Muntzer, Grace Paul

8TH GRADE: Kenya Brown, Madyson Harper, Lucas Jewell, Spencer Skaggs, Haleigh Boerner, Haylee Killian, Audrey Gibson, Ethan Dant, Blake Utley, Madalynn Wargel, Brooklyn Smith

IMPORTANT ROAD CLOSURE NEAR SCHOOL



Parents: There is road work scheduled on Golfmoor Road that will take approximately one month. At some point, Wessel Lane will be closed completely except for buses. That closure may take two days. We will send out a Connect-Ed phone message as soon as we are aware of the exact days Wessel Lane will be closed.

FROM THE COUNSELOR

21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS PROGRAM
The 21st Century Scholars program provides participants with four years of college tuition to an eligible Indiana college or university. Eighth graders must enroll by June 30. Please see Mr. Connors for information regarding this program.



6TH GRADE STARS

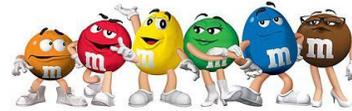
In science, the students have been working hard preparing for round two of ISTEP. Students have really worked hard to prepare for the test! Students have also been learning about physical and chemical properties, energy, and natural resources. In health class, students will soon go through basic CPR training in the classroom. 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. We will have field trips on May 20, May 21, and May 22. Look for a permission slip to come home soon. Please return permission slips and payment in a timely manner in order for your child to participate in end-of-year activities.

In math, students worked very hard to review for the ISTEP. They reviewed decimals, fractions, percents, order of operations, ratios, proportions, and integers. They also practiced the different tools on the ISTEP and how to put their answers on the ThinkPads for ISTEP. Some of the math classes will be ending the school year with a Field Trip WebQuest on their netbooks and with a baseball math unit.

All 6th grade literature students are currently reading *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner. Students have been engaged in a variety of activities and assignments focusing on vocabulary, making connections, plot, author's purpose, and character development. The book is very exciting and difficult to put down! Students have also been working hard preparing for the next round of ISTEP that begins April 28. This portion of the test will be completed online using the classroom provided ThinkPad computers. In English, the grammar focus has been on pronouns, sentence structure, and a review of parts of speech. Students have also been working on recognizing clear and concise sentences.

In social studies, the students are learning about the history of early modern Europe including topics such as the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Scientific Revolution, and exploration. Mrs. Alford, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Burkhart, and Mr. Kahle would like to remind the students to finish strong! It's been a great year, and we want all students to continue giving their very best. We have three fun end-of-the-year field trips planned for those students who maintain good grades and positive behavior.

7TH GRADE M&MS



In math, Mrs. McDurmon, Mrs. Todd, and Mr. Hartmann have had some busy classes during the month of April. With preparation for ISTEP, as well as a completion of the new Indiana standards, we feel our students are well prepared for the big test. Our end-of-the-year field trips will take place the last week of school. These activities include a tour of Toyota, games of bowling, and a seventh grade kick ball tournament. Permission slips and money are due to Mr. Hartmann by Thursday, May 7.

Mrs. Antey and Mrs. Greenwell's social studies classes are working on preparing for their **Eastern World Culture Fair** on May 12. Students have been researching their assigned countries, working in groups to plan interactive activities, and designing their tri-fold boards. They are so excited to present their awesome displays to everyone on May 12! There will be music, food, costumes, pictures, and more from over 20 countries in the Eastern World!

Science students are currently learning about the exciting world of energy and motion. In addition to online assignments and practice, students are getting first-hand experience studying forces and motion through hands-on labs, and real world examples. Ending the year with energy will allow 7th grade students to begin a fresh start as 8th graders studying motion and forces in preparation for the Fall Festival trip.

The students are continuing Acuity and ISTEP review in English. They are focusing on central idea, summarizing, verb usage, pronoun/antecedent agreement, and theme. The literature classes are working on elements of fiction while reading a novel. Most of the students are reading *Legend*, while one class is reading *City of Bones*. We recommend the students read the remaining books in the series during the summer.



8TH GRADE G8TORS

In social studies, Mr. Whipkey's U.S. History classes are studying the causes of the Civil War. Next week begins the Civil War. Mrs. Antey's students will spend the remainder of the semester studying the Civil War. So far, students have learned about the Industrial Revolution, the economic differences of the North and South, slavery, abolitionists, and some of the laws and compromises that caused our country to further divide. In the Civil War unit, students will also read the novel, *How I Found the Strong*, by local author and UE Professor Margaret McMullen.

ELA has been working hard on practicing for the ISTEP and has begun their final novel, *Legend*.

Science is wrapping up the year with a series of mini units about our world. Students studied the water cycle, the ocean currents, and weather. Upcoming is a quick look at air and water pollutions and then alternative energy sources. The year will culminate with an amazing race that will incorporate many of the ideas and concepts encountered throughout the year.

8TH GRADE END-OF-YEAR

The eighth grade end-of-year activities are soon approaching. What an exciting time of year for the eighth graders. They will soon be going on to Reitz and will be missed here at Helfrich Park. We want to make the most with what is left of this school year and send them off with more Helfrich Park memories they will remember for a lifetime.

The eighth grade team of teachers have prepared the following events for the eighth grade students:

Wednesday, May 20-8th grade trip to Holiday World-departure from Helfrich Park is approximately 8:30 a.m. - return to Helfrich Park at 6:15 p.m. If parents do not pick up their child by 6:15 p.m. they will be sent home on the after-school bus

Thursday, May 21-8th Grade Recognition practice in the gymnasium – students are strongly encouraged to be in attendance so they know what to do for Recognition. Awards will be during 8th period.

Friday, May 22-8th Grade Recognition – **10:30 a.m.**-students should be dressed in nice clothing.

Many 8th grade students wonder if they'll ever really need to know how to use the quadratic equation or find the volume of a cone. Not realizing how useful math can be, some choose to only fulfill the minimum requirements their high schools require. This can be a mistake, and here are several reasons why: According to the professionals at College Board (www.collegeboard.com), students who take geometry in high school have about an 80 percent chance of attending college regardless of race, religion, and family income. Taking math is important if you're considering attending a college, university or technical school. Many of these institutions require students to take at least two to three years of math; however, four years of math is strongly recommended.

Those at College Board also emphasize how math can help you prepare for a career. The skills you learn in math courses may be applicable down the line, even if you are not studying to become an engineer or an accountant. Many entry-level jobs require employees to have some math knowledge. Even understanding the basic math functions can be advantageous. From the professionals at College Board, here is a list of important skills obtained from math courses:

- The ability to identify and analyze patterns
- Logic and critical thinking skills
- Ability to see relationships
- Problem solving skills.

Please keep working on your math skills over the summer and see the positive rewards of your hard work!



Seventh grade students have started signing up for the 2016 field trip of a lifetime to Washington D.C. and New York City. There have already been five students to sign up and we can take the first 50 that register. Sign up early for only \$49 and also receive a \$100 discount. There will be an informational meeting for 7th grade parents interested in sending their child to DC/NY. It will be on April 29, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Media Center. Come check out what the trip has to offer to our students and get your questions answered. Contact Mr. Loveless for more information.

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.

GO RED BIRDS!



DIGI-COM

It has been a busy month. The 7th and 8th graders have finished lessons in Digital Citizenship and the 6th graders are starting the same. All grades have turned in PowerPoint presentations and will be giving oral presentations in late April. The 7th and 8th grades have had some exposure to Excel.

ARCHERY



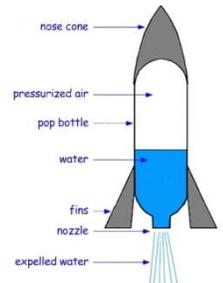
Archery has started back up and will run through mid-May. Practice will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays, based on the weather. Please see Mr. Combs if you need a permission slip.

ROBOTICS

Congratulations to the Robotics teams that competed at USI this past weekend. Gavin Thomas won best design. Kile Wilke, Devin Hill, and Grant Scheller placed fourth; Caden Love and Nathan Paddock finished fifth.

TECH

Sixth graders will finish the year learning to use tools and making wooden games. Seventh graders will be testing Newton's Third Law of Motion by building and testing water rockets. Eighth graders will be building and programming Lego robots.



P.E.

In Physical Education, students are trying to get outside, but the rain is working against us. We are substituting in-door whiffle ball for softball due to the weather. Students are learning about the differences between slow pitch softball, fast pitch softball, and baseball. They are working on fielding, throwing, and catching while playing whiffle ball. Students will move outside when the ground dries up a little more.



ART

Students just finished up the art history time line with "Modern Pop Art." Eighth grade created clay tiles in the style of pop artist Burton Morris. They turned out great and, hopefully, students will take them home for all to see. They are now moving onto the elements and principles of art. Eighth grade is looking at animal eyes and creating visual texture. Seventh grade is creating visual texture with abstract patterns. Sixth grade is creating visual texture with a style of art called "zentangle." Some of these pieces are framed two dimension and others have been shaped into cubes. These make for very interesting projects. Be looking for them in the hallways. Students will also be taking many things home with the end of the year coming soon. Continue checking out our website and the excellent work Helfrich students are creating.

FROM THE CAFE

As the end of the school year approaches we are asking parents to please pay lunch charges (IOU'S). Money left in student accounts will carry over to next year, even to high school. Thank you.

Mrs. Gries



DON'T FORGET ...

Academic Super Bowl @ Reitz	5/2, 9:00 am
Beg. Band Instr. Fitting, Gym	5/5, 5:30-8:30 pm
Dist. Track Meet @ Harrison	5/6, 4:00 pm
Spring Band/Orch. Concert, Gym	5/7, 6:00-8:00 pm
Fun Night @ HP	5/8, 2:30-4:30 pm
6/7 th Honors @ HP, Gym	5/11, 6-7:30 pm
Culture Fair @ HP, Gym	5/12, 2:30-4:00 pm
City Track Meet @ Central	5/12, 4:00 pm
8 th Honors Banq. @ Reitz	5/14, 7:30 pm
8 th Gr. Dance @ HP	5/15, 7-9 pm
Holiday World, 8 th Gr.	5/20, 8:30am-6:15 pm

ORCHESTRA

Congratulations to the Orchestra program for their recent results at the ISSMA organizational contest. The Varsity and Cadet Orchestras both received a Gold Rating at the event. Both groups earned the highest medal status available and represented our school well.



BAND

Congratulations to our Concert Bands for their recent results at the ISSMA and EVSC concert assessments. The Varsity Band received a Gold Rating at the ISSMA event. Our Cadet Band received a Master Rating (Gold Equivalent) at the EVSC concert assessment. We are very proud of how the kids represented Helfrich Park.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS – MAY 2015



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 English Team 2:30-4	2 Academic Super Bowl @ Reitz 9:00 am
3	4 Archery 2:30-4 Track 2:30-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 2:30-4 PTSA Meeting, 4 pm, Media Neighbor. Assoc., 6 pm, Media	5 Archery 2:30-4 Science Team Party 2:30-4 Track 2:30-4 Begin. Band Instr. Fitting-5:30-8:30 pm	6 Art Club 2:30-4 Dist. Track Meet @ Harrison 4 pm	7 Track 2:30-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 2:30-4 Spring Concert, Gym 6:00-8 pm	8 FUN NIGHT 2:30-4:30 pm (extra bus)	9 Cheerleaders @ Energy for Life Walk, Burdette, 9:45-11:30 am
10	11 Archery 2:30-4 Track 2:30-4 6 th /7 th Gr. Honors @ HP, 6-7:30 pm	12 Archery 2:30-4 City Track Meet @ Central 4 pm Culture Fair 2:30-4 pm, gym	13 Art Club 2:30-4 German Club 2:30-4	14 SWIP Ice Cream Celebration 8 th Gr. Honors Banq. @ Reitz, 6-7:30 pm	15 8 th Gr. Dance @ HP, 7-9 pm	16
17	18 7 th Gr. Toyota, 8:30-11:30 am	19 7 th Gr. Diamond Lanes, 8:30-11:30 am	20 Holiday World (return bus) 6:15 6 th Gr. Barker Complex 8:30-noon 8 th Gr. Holiday World, 8:30 am-6:30 pm	21 6 th Gr. SkateWorld, 8:45-noon 7 th Gr. Toyota, 8:30-11:30 am 8 th Gr. Recogn. Prac. 9-11 am	22 Last Day of School 6 th Gr. Lloyd Pool, 8:30 am-1 pm 7 th Gr. Golfmoor Field Day 8 th Gr. Recognition, 10:30-noon	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

have an awesome summer!

