

PUMA Team,



Happy New Year to all our PUMA students and families!

Things are off to a fast start in 2015. We had three students representing Helfrich Park at the Indiana State Chess Championship in Indianapolis on January 24. Congratulations, Kyle Hartmann, Jack Weinzapfel, and Dylan Brown, for your efforts. Congratulations goes out to Bailey Wissel, who will be representing Helfrich Park at the Scripps Howard Regional Spelling Bee. Good luck, Bailey!

The students were treated to a fun, musical assembly on January 20. Japanese drummers performed for the students, in addition to sharing some of their Japanese language and culture.

A big thank you goes to the students for their exceptional work with our new Enrichment period. I am extremely proud of their efforts, leadership, and maturity with the schedule change. Also, all grade levels have achieved at least a 99% attendance rate so far this year. What a tremendous feat! Thank you, students and parents, for your hard work in this area.

Have a great weekend and Happy Valentine's Day in two weeks!

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CITIZENS OF THE WEEK

6TH GRADE: Ashlyn Wright, Logan Combs, Isaac Gibson, Mallory Hobbs, Rebekah Hamilton, Shenghui Lin, Carly Moody, Max Welch, Madeline Brown, Kelsey Cassin, Zachary Plumlee

7TH GRADE: Dylan Guffey, Emma Guth, Nathan Young, Jasmine Robbins, Destiny Whitaker, Teelin Atteberry, Jaden Brown, Claire Mattes, Scott Allinder, Cara Crosser, Ayanna Dulin, Kennedy Motz

8TH GRADE: Randa Fare, Max Ashby, Shelby Ritzert, Cole Kneer, Warren Hall, Aaron Watson, Laura Haywood, Jessica Hall, Caitlyn Jeffers-Owen, Austin King, Gavin Thomas.

MAKE-UP DAY

Parents, remember **school IS IN SESSION February 16**, Presidents' Day. This day is being used as a make-up day for the snow day back in November.

FROM THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE

Parents, when requesting homework for an ill child, please call the attendance office or email Ann.Schapker@evsc.k12.in.us by 9:00 a.m. This will give teachers enough time to gather the student's work. Also, PLEASE write your child's name on his/her valuable items. Thank you.

6TH GRADE STARS



In English, Mr. Kahle's students have been working with phrases and clauses. They have also written a short comparison paper over Greece. In literature, students have been working with poetry. They began by examining the elements of poetry. They have read a variety of poems such as "Oranges" and "Ode to Family Photography." Students wrote a poem about their own families, as well. They have also read poems by Maya Angelou. In Mrs. Burkhart's ELA class, students have been learning about poetry, also. They have learned different types of poetry, sound devices used in poetry, and common elements of poetry. Students used their skills to write Valentine's Day cards to local Evansville VA patients. These cards included an original poem written by the students. The grammar focus has been clauses and strategies for combining sentences. Mrs. Brown's students have written a summary of an Achieve article and a comparison of a Greek and a celebrity. They are beginning to write some poetry. Students have read several poems with an emphasis on figurative

language. Mrs. Alford's literature classes have been studying poetry including sound devices and figurative language. The students composed four poems: People; Bio; Diamond; and I Am. Each student will soon be selecting their favorite poem to enter into a publication contest. They are now reading the class novel, *When Zachary Beaver Came to Town*, by Kimberly Willis Holt.

In social studies classes, Mr. Kahle's students have been working with Greece. They will be completing several projects about Greece, as well. Mrs. Burkhart's classes have been learning about Ancient Greece, also. The kids enjoyed learning the history of Greek city-states, culture and Greek mythology. Mrs. Brown's and Mrs. Alford's students have finished ancient Greece and have begun a study of ancient Rome. As part of their Greece study, they have made "trading cards" of Greek gods and goddesses.

Math students have been doing problem solving stations once a week to practice critical thinking and problem solving skills. They have also been doing multistep problems on a daily basis to prepare for the first round of ISTEP in March. Students have been practicing writing and solving equations. Mrs. Hall's Honors class has been working with slope and rates. Mrs. Humm's Advanced Honors class has been working on linear and nonlinear functions. Please check that your child is doing his or her homework each night.

In science, students have been working really hard learning about the weather. They have been discussing the different types of precipitation, learning about the different types of adverse weather conditions, and what a meteorologist does. The students have started science fair projects. Every sixth grade student is required to complete a project for the Helfrich Park Science Fair. All student projects are due on February 23. On February 26, the science fair will be open for viewing from 5:00-6:30 pm in the gym. The science fair will re-open for viewing on February 27 from 7:45 am-2:00 pm. Your child should have brought home a science fair packet which details the requirements for the project. If

there are questions or concerns please contact your child's science teacher.

Helfrich Park Science Fair open viewing:

February 26 5:00pm-6:30pm

February 27 7:45am-2:00pm

Don't forget to re-stock your child's supply of pens, pencils, and paper!

7TH GRADE M&MS



Students have started to read *City of Ember* and *Ender's Game* in Mr. Loehrlein's classes. They will continue reading these stories and discussing plot, subplot, character interactions, and setting. In preparation for ISTEP, students are working on essay prompts by synthesizing multiple articles and answering a prompt.

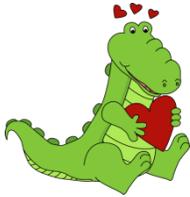
Math classes have been simplifying expressions and are currently solving one-step and two-step equations. They will be moving on to solving inequalities as they prepare for the upcoming ISTEP test. Algebra students are currently working on exponential equations and Geometry students are studying triangle similarity.

Science students are studying rocks and minerals following the layers of soil. Students are learning the three different types of rock along with the rock cycle, and the properties of the types of rocks and minerals. Following rocks and minerals, students will learn about the layers of the Earth and plates of the Earth. Students have begun their science fair projects, coming up with topics and being reminded of the scientific method. Projects are due February 23; students are encouraged to purchase their poster boards and materials as soon as possible. We are looking forward to seeing the project ideas come together and the results of the experiments at the Helfrich Park science fair on February 26!

Social studies classes are finishing their studies of Ancient China and will move into the remainder of the "World Religions" unit.

Last semester, students learned about the origins of Hinduism and Buddhism; this semester they will learn about the origins of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students will also begin reviewing the Core Standards that will most likely appear on the Applied Skills (writing) ISTEP – ISTEP is just around the corner!

8TH GRADE G8TORS



Math students started out the new year with a linear unit. Students graphed functions and completed tables. Students are also starting to focus on the new tech enhance items for the upcoming ISTEP test.

In science, students have been learning about how we get our physical characteristics. They have been investigating how information is passed from our parents to us and how our genes make us unique. Coming up, classes are going to investigate probability of breeding outcomes and how organisms have adapted over time. They are also working on science fair projects and looking forward to the upcoming science fair on February 26.

In social studies, Mr. Whipkey's U.S. History class is currently studying the presidencies of George Washington, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. Students will soon move on to the War of 1812. Mrs. Antey's Honors Social Studies just finished Chapter 8, Jefferson's Presidency and the War of 1812. They will begin the unit on Westward Expansion (with a combination of chapters 9, 10, and 11) and complete two really neat interactive projects – an Oregon Trail simulation and creating a board game based on westward expansion and America's great pioneers!

ELA is in the thick of reading the play version of *The Diary of Anne Frank* and working on a research essay pertaining to the WWII years. Students are learning what it was like to be a young teenager from the eyes of Anne Frank and how difficult it was to live in hiding. Since students are working with literature from over 70 years ago, it is a nice way for us to also cross over into the history curriculum, as well.

With respect to the essay, students have been able to research individual topics from WWII, including concentration camps, deportation process, and East Germany after WWII. After the research is complete, students will begin an outline, formulate correct citations for their resources, and eventually move into the writing process.

DIGI-COM

Students have had a busy January. They completed PowerPoint projects: 6th grade-Partner Guess Who?, 7th grade-Animals vs. Sports, and 8th grade-Landmarks Around the World. Students will be giving oral presentations on these projects before the end of the term. All classes have been discussing the topic of Digital Citizenship with our on-line presence. The 7th and 8th grades will be working with Microsoft Excel before the term is over.

Thank you to Jeffrey Peckenpaugh who took time out of his day to help set up a Wordle display after school. Wordle is a “word cloud” program where students input adjectives about themselves. Word then rearranges the adjectives in a random order.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In physical education, students will be finishing their units on floor hockey and weight room. Beginning in February, 6th grade students will be starting a unit over Newcomb Ball, teaching fundamentals of volleyball. Seventh and eighth graders will begin their volleyball unit. They will work with passing, bumping, and serving during this time. Sixth grade will be working on passing, catching, and throwing. This unit will take approximately three weeks.

CHOIR

Choir classes have been singing songs in 2 and 3 part harmony and are working on learning how to sight read by using solfege. General music classes are learning music theory and apply that knowledge by playing the acoustic guitar.

ENGINEERING TECH



Sixth graders will be finishing up their tech classes with a unit on energy and electricity. Seventh and eighth grade students will be learning to build and program NXT and EV3 Lego Robots.

BAND AND ORCHESTRA

Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Clark want to wish our band and orchestra students good luck at Solo and Ensemble festival. Individual students and small groups will perform for judges, with a chance to earn ratings and medals. The ISSMA festival is Saturday January 31 at North High School. The EVSC festival is on Thursday February 5, and is also held at North High School. Symphonic Orchestra will begin on Thursday February 12 from 3-4 pm in the Orchestra Room. All students are welcome to come.

ART



All grades are making their way through the art timeline. Each class is working on mastering different art techniques from famous artists. They started with Leonardo Da Vinci and his charcoal sketches. Students then moved on to Impressionism with Claude Monet and Post Impressionism with Vincent Van Gogh. Students are currently looking at Edvard Munch and his painting, "The Scream." Please check out more art from our talented students on Mrs. Bryant's art web site at www.arthelfrichpumas.weebly.com.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS –FEBRUARY 2015



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1	2 GROUNDHOG'S DAY BBB 3-5 Band 3-4 Choir 3-4 Computer Club 3-4 Student Council 3-4 BBB vs. Lutheran @ HP 5:30-8:30 PTSA 4 pm-Media Center Neighborhood Assoc. 6 pm-Media	3 Student Council 6:50-7:23 am BBB vs. Glenwood @ HP 5 pm Cheer/Dance @ game Hockey to Swonder 4 pm Math & Science Team 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4	4 Student Council 6:50-7:23 am Art Club 3-4 BBB 3-5 Band 3-4	5 Student Council 6:50-7:23 am BBB @ Thompkins 5 pm Choir 3-4 Dance 3-4 Science Team 3-4 EVSC Solo&Ensemble-North Jr. High	6 Student Council 6:50-7:23 am Chess Club 3-4 English and S.S. Teams 3-4 JV BB 3-5	7
8	9 BBB 3-5 Band 3-4 Choir 3-4 Computer Club 3-4	10 Student Council 6:50-7:23 am BBB vs. Plaza @ HP 5 pm Cheer/Dance @ game Hockey to Swonder 4 pm Math & Science Teams 3-4	11 Student Council 6:50-7:23 am Art Club 3-4 BBB 3-5 Band 3-4 English & SS Teams 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4	12 Student Council 6:50-7:23 am BBB @ North Jr. High 5 pm Band 3-4 Choir 3-4 Dance 3-4 Science Team 3-4 Student Council 3-4	13 Student Council 6:50-7:23 am FUN NIGHT 3-4:30	14 
15	16 President's Day-Make-Up Day **SCHOOL IN SESSION** BBB 3-5 Band 3-4 Choir 3-4 Computer Club 3-4	17 BBB vs. P.H. @ HP 5 pm Cheer/Dance @ game Hockey to Swonder 4 pm Math & Science Teams 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4	18 BBB 3-5 Band 3-4 Student Council 3-4	19 Band 3-4 Choir 3-4 Science Team 3-4 BBB City Tournament - TBA	20 BBB 3-5 Chess Club 3-4 English & SS Teams 3-4	21
22	23 Band 3-4 Choir 3-4 Computer Club 3-4 BBB City Tournament - TBA	24 BBB 3-5 Hockey to Swonder 4 pm Math & Science Teams 3-4	25 Band 3-4 BBB City Tournament - TBA	26 Band 3-4 Choir 3-4 Science Team 3-4 Sci. Fair Viewing-5-6:30 pm BBB City Tournament - TBA	27 Chess Club 3-4 English & SS Teams 3-4 JV BB Party 3-4 Sci. Fair Viewing-7:45 am-1:15 pm	28 ISSMA State Solo & Ensemble, Indianapolis



