

PUMA Team,



Happy Halloween to all our students and families! I hope everyone has a fun and safe experience Trick-or-Treating this holiday. It will be nice to get a bit more daylight in the mornings since we “fall back” an hour on November 2. Please remember to set your clocks back!

We will finish our second grading period on November 7, and most of the students have been putting forth excellent effort. The entire Helfrich Park staff appreciates your support in challenging your child to do his/her best, treat others respectfully, and follow school rules. Our students are a fantastic bunch of kids, but as you can imagine, there are necessary procedures to work toward the common goal of improving each day. As we remind the students, there are different rules and procedures for different places, and we must adhere and respect all these rules for the common good of the entire school.

Congratulations go out to Katelyn McHaley and Eli Wiethop for being selected as the 2014 Nut Club Fall Festival Queen and King. Thank you to all the kids, volunteers, and the Westside Nut Club for another wonderful Fall Festival. This event is such a tremendous boost to so many organizations in the Evansville community. Thank you, again, Nut Club members.

Congratulations to the girls' varsity volleyball team for finishing their season as the undefeated City Champs. Congratulations, also, to Snow Mathews who placed first in the City Speech Meet, and to Melanie Wytovak and Grace Gill, who took a third and fifth respectively. Super work!

CITIZENS OF THE WEEK

6TH GRADE: Caleb Casey, Addison Fritts, Cole Hopkins, Ella Talley, Austin Barnes, Victoria Deig, Ariana Smith, Nathan Snyder, Stephen Bradfield, Patricia Blumer, Shelby Burns, Jacob Carroll, Mason Paul, Jolea Welch.

7TH GRADE: Lela Curtis, Madeline Carter, Josh Shrode, Bryce Weatherford, Blaise Rodenberg, Wade Schneider, Natalie Yeh, Ashlyn Miller, Jacob Cree, Carson Tipton, Sydney Smith, Kiley Gomez, Emalee Jones, Baylee Lynn, Logan Martin, Matthew Schwartz.

8TH GRADE: Audrey Schapker, Olivia Miller, Tanner Bell, Bridden Dunkel, Jacob Freels, Nathan Sachs, Madeline Schneider, Amaura Ware, Alaina Buroker, Hannah Nelson, Grace Gill, Kelly Teague.

6TH GRADE STARS



Science students just wrapped up “It’s Out of this World,” a solar system unit where they learned cool facts about all the planets. They learned how the planets interact with each other in space to make up our solar system. The students also had the opportunity to learn about ways to stay drug free in health class.

The excitement for LBL is growing by the day! In preparation for the Land Between the Lakes trip, the 6th grade was taught how to use a compass and GPS. Each student had the opportunity to practice navigating courses through and around school. Also, students are busy learning about vertebrate animals and much more to get ready for Land Between the Lakes. Remember LBL is November 21-23. Land Between the Lakes money is due by Monday, November 17. Don’t forget, the LBL parent meeting is November 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the Helfrich Park Cafeteria.

In English, Mrs. Brown’s class wrote essays for Patriot’s Pen. Their next writing assignments will be for **Courier & Press New Voices** and for LBL. In reading, students have focused on nonfiction for the past six weeks. They will now return to literary texts. Students have also been enjoying Achieve 3000. Mrs. Alford’s language arts classes have been working diligently on writing skills. The focus continues to be on the traits of good writing: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions, and presentation. The students used these skills recently while completing narrative and descriptive writing pieces. They read aloud “Spooky House” descriptive writings recently while the audience actively listened, writing down examples of elaboration (PUMP). Before the students travel to LBL, they will complete animal research projects.

Literature classes have been working with author's purpose and point of view. Parents, if possible, please save cereal boxes for an upcoming literature project for Mrs. Alford. Mr. Kahle's English students have been working with parts of speech while also working on a research paper. In literature, they have been working with nonfiction texts, looking at point of view and recognizing main ideas and details. In Mrs. Burkhart's ELA class, students recently finished reading their first nonfiction novel, *My Life in Dog Years*. Students have been working hard to complete their Achieve articles in an effort to improve their reading abilities. They have continued to work on grammar and learn all of the fifty prepositions.

Math students have been working with fractions! Multiplying and dividing have gone well and they look forward to adding and subtracting fractions and mixed numbers very soon. Honors math students finished a unit over real numbers and will jump right into expressions. Advanced math students finished working with integers. Everyone had a special lesson in preparation for LBL. Students learned about the Global Positioning System, GPS, and practiced using receivers to navigate a course on the playground. This knowledge will be applied in the woods at LBL for those students who signed up for the GPS activity. Please continue to work with your child and us to make sure homework is coming home and being completed every night. We want to help every student achieve and have success this year at Helfrich Park!

In social studies, Mrs. Brown's students are finishing a unit on population, government, and economy. Students looked at population density, world governments, and world economic systems. All social studies students are learning about three remarkable and complex civilizations: the Maya, the Aztec, and the Inca. They are also studying the text features on nonfiction while exploring social studies chapters. Persuasive writing has been a focus of this grading period. Students chose one of the civilizations being studied and wrote a persuasive essay to convince others that their civilization is the best and why others should want to join.

7TH GRADE M&MS



Science students have been studying cells and cell reproduction. Ask them how cells reproduce! Students will continue their life science studies by investigating DNA and systems of the body. Start planning now for the Spring Science Fair.

Social Studies will finish their studies of Ancient Kush and move on to Ancient India. In this unit, students will learn about the beginnings of Hinduism and Buddhism, Indian culture, achievements and innovations, and geography.

Math students are working on an extensive unit involving ratios, rates, and proportional reasoning. From problems in context to graphs to tables of information, students complete patterns and find missing elements. Algebra students have been working on equations in standard form, slope-intercept form, and point-slope form. Mrs. Todd, Mrs. McDurmon, and Mr. Hartmann are very happy with the progress of seventh grade math students this month!

English language arts classes are continuing to work on the citation of relevant sources and research. Students will continue to work on nonfiction to understand the author's point of view and purpose. They are also increasing writing skills through the use of various sentence structures.

8TH GRADE G8TORS



Social Studies' 8th Grade Honors "We the People" classes will be competing in the annual District Competition on November 18 at the Old National Events Plaza (formerly The Centre). Students have been working diligently on preparing for the competition since mid-October.

Science students just finished an exciting unit on physics. They learned about the laws of motion that govern the universe. The students went on a field trip to the Fall Festival to see these laws in action. They answered questions about these laws and how they apply to

everyday life. The students are now embarking on a journey into the submicroscopic world of atoms, the basic building block of everything in the universe.

Mr. Whipkey's U.S. History classes are at war -- the Revolutionary War that is! After studying the Declaration of Independence, students are now learning about the major battles of the war as well as the victories and defeats that happened along the road to independence and the founding of the United States of America.

Math students have been working on how they can apply the Pythagorean Theorem to determine unknown side lengths in right triangles in real-world and other mathematical problems in two dimensions (8.GM.8) and using inductive reasoning to explain the Pythagorean Theorem (8.GM.7). They have practiced these standards in their homework and classroom activities like having a "Cake Walk" and playing "The Matching Game."

ELA students have been busy writing about being an immigrant to Ellis Island in the early 20th century. Students will submit essays to the local DAR Chapter and winners will be selected to read their essays at a future luncheon. Students have also been reading a collection of short stories and discussing how to cite textual evidence.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It is starting to get a little cooler outside, so P.E. classes will be doing some inside units. Students will participate in a basketball unit focusing on shooting, dribbling, and passing fundamentals. They will also be starting the unit on floor hockey and the Weight Room. Students in the Weight Room will learn safety procedures for each piece of equipment along with how to use the equipment. They will then start circuits for three weeks. Don't forget to dress warm!

DIGI COM



In Digi Com, students are wrapping up the PowerPoint Public Speaking section. During the first term, students created PowerPoints on world landmarks, animals, sports, or another student in class. This term, they are taking those projects and presenting them to the class. The students are being critiqued on body language, eye contact, and verbal presentation. Students will also take the time to discuss overall design of the actual PowerPoint, including layout of text and images, color choices, grammar, and proper punctuation.

The ePal program is going strong. It had a slow start due to the fact that other states and countries have different schedules than we do. Students have been getting letters from South Dakota, Colorado, and Argentina; they have now received letters from Romania and Indonesia, as well.

Students are "painting" in computer class? Yes, that is true. The 6th and 7th graders are working on mouse skill for better control and details on projects.

A huge thank you goes out to Ms. Wade! She has worked diligently to get our lab desktops upgraded from Widows Vista to Windows 7. Why is this such a great benefit? By doing this, she was able to upgrade our Microsoft Office Suites from version 2007 to 2013. This is currently the latest version of Office and matches what the high schools in the EVSC are using. We believe we are the first middle school to have this upgrade in our computer classes.

Computer Club

Computer Club is starting up and will be on Mondays until early March. Our focus will be on programming, gaming, video editing, and other topics of interest for the students. Students should make plans to be picked up at 4:00 or take the after-school bus. Please contact Mr. Combs if you have other questions.



BAND/ORCHESTRA

The band and orchestra is off to a wonderful start this year! They are working hard to put the finishing touches on all of their pieces for the upcoming concert on Tuesday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. Sixth grade students should have brought home an order form for their concert polo within the last few weeks. Please make sure this order gets to Mr. Goodwin or Mr. Clark ASAP. The cost for the polo is \$15.00; please make checks payable to Helfrich Park STEM Academy. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Goodwin or Mr. Clark at Douglas.Goodwin@evsc.k12.in.us or Adam.Clark@evsc.k12.in.us. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at the Concert on December 16 in the Helfrich Park gym!

MUSIC

General Music

Eighth grade students have been learning how to write G and C major scales and play them on guitar. Seventh grade students have learned how to play a G major scale on guitar and have been writing songs. Sixth grade students have been learning about different styles of music and have learned how to play the melody of “Jingle Bells” and how to play the chords for “Stand by Me.”

Choir

The Helfrich Park choirs are preparing for their Winter Concert on December 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Helfrich Park Gym.

ART



Art students are doing a great job this grading period. Students have created a variety of projects, including pumpkin still life drawings, letter and fall/Halloween collages, and Styrofoam prints. Currently, students are working on portraiture. They are drawing Mr. Mac and Mr. Scherry! So far, they are looking great!

Art Club students are doing super work on gourd paintings. It’s neat to see the variety of ideas the students have developed. What a fun fall project!

SPEECH

A huge thank you goes out to all the parents of our Speech students. Without your help and support, our season would not have been as successful. Congratulations to all the students and their successes! Special congratulations to Snow Mathews who placed first in Impromptu at the City Meet, as well as Melanie Wytovak-3rd in Prose and Grace Gill-5th in Humorous Interpretation. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. White appreciate all the hard work!

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

The first 12 weeks is coming to a close and students are busy getting their manufacturing projects finished. All students have designed projects on the Autodesk Inventor CAD program and are now making the projects they designed. Sixth graders are making wooden games and bag tags for their netbooks, 7th grade will race the dragsters they built, and 8th graders have a choice of making birdhouses or cam toys with their name on them.

BOYS’ 6/7TH GRADE OPEN GYM

Boys 6th and 7th grade open gym dates are listed below. Open gym is primarily for those boys who plan to try out for Helfrich Park’s reserve basketball team in December. However, any student may attend.

Thursday, Nov.13, 3-4 p.m. for 6th grade boys

Thursday, Nov. 20, 3-4 p.m. for 7th grade boys



ARCHERY – HPSA ARROWS

Archery is over until spring. A great group of 40 students came each week. Over the next couple months, students will be looking into getting additional equipment so they can have more students taking part during each “flight.” Archery will begin meeting again in March.

FALL PICTURE RETAKES

Picture retakes will be December 2 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Students having retakes should return their original picture package to the photographer. Students absent when pictures were taken in October may have pictures taken at this time. Picture envelopes, available in the office, with payment must be presented to the photographer on December 2.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – NOVEMBER 2014



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Band Lessons 3-5 Choir 3-4 Computer Club 3-4 GBB home game vs. Wash. 5-7 Cheer & Dance @ game Robotics 7/8 th Gr. 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4 PTSA 4 pm Media Center Neigh.Assoc. Meet.-6 pm-Media Ctr.	GBB 3-5 Orchestra Lessons 3-5 Spell Bowl Comp. @ Mt. Vernon 6-8 Student Council 3-4 Tutoring (McDurmon) 3-4	Art Club 3-4 Band/Orchestra Lessons 3-5 GBB 3-5 Robotics Comp. @ Perry H. 4:30-5:30	Band/Orchestra Lessons 3-5 GBB home game vs. North Jr. H 5-7 Cheer & Dance @ game Student Council 3-4 Tutoring (Bateman) 3-4	Chess Club 3-4 GBB 3-4	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Band Lessons 3-5 Choir 3-4 Computer Club 3-4 GBB 3-5 Robotics 7/8 th Gr. 3-4 Student Council 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4	NO SCHOOL Veterans' Day 	Art Club 3-4 Band/Orchestra Lessons 3-5 Cheer 3-4 GBB 3-5 Student Council 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4	BBB 6 th Gr. Open Gym 3-4 Band/Orchestra Lessons 3-5 Dance 3-4 GBB @ Lodge 5-7 Tutoring (Terri/McIntosh) 3-4	Chess Club 3-4 GBB 3-4	State Spell Bowl @ Indy
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Band Lessons 3-5 Choir 3-4 Computer Club 3-4 GBB 3-5 Student Council 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4 LBL Parent Meet.-6-7:30 pm-Cafe	GBB home game vs. Glenwood 5-7 Cheer & Dance @ game Orchestra Lessons 3-5 Tutoring (White) 3-4 We the People @ Old National Events Plaza	Art Club 3-4 Band/Orchestra Lessons 3-5 GBB 3-5 8 th Gr. Enrollment Night @ Reitz 6-7:30	BBB 7 th Gr. Open Gym 3-4 GBB @ Thompkins 5-7 Tutoring (McIntosh) 3-4	GBB 3-4 LBL – Gr. 6 lv. 8:30 am	LBL
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
LBL ret. 1:30 pm	Band Lessons 3-5 Choir 3-4 Computer Club 3-4 GBB home game vs. Plaza 5-7 Cheer & Dance @ game	GBB @ North Jr. High 5-7 Orchestra Lessons 3-5 Tutoring (Lamb) 3-4	Band/Orchestra Lessons 3-5 GBB 3-4	 NO SCHOOL	 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break	
30						

