

PUMA Team,



The first grading period ends today and I can hardly believe how the time has flown by. As I have gotten older, I notice the years seem to go by a bit quicker. With that being said, what a wonderful year it has been. The kids are really doing a fine job with their school work and behavior. I know the teachers are conferencing with students and calling home in an effort to keep the lines of communication open. The students are working hard and that is the key to their success; they are doing their very best each and every day. I have shared with the students and our entire staff that giving their best effort to their fullest ability is a minimal expectation at Helfrich Park. Along with this expectation is everyone treat others with respect, greet them with a smile, and assist when and where needed.

Congratulations to our fall sports teams. Cross Country has had a fine season. Kudos go out to all the boys and girls who are putting forth such tremendous effort. At the recent Thompkins meet, Max Ashby finished first and Bryce Weatherford finished second. Last week at the Perry Heights meet, Bryce finished first and Max finished second. Awesome! Volleyball has been playing well, as has Cub football and soccer. Parents, family, and friends, thank you so much for your support with our chocolate fundraiser. I know family gets “hit up” by many groups, but please know your support is greatly appreciated. On October 2, we will have a fantastic assembly featuring Chinese acrobats who tour America for four to six months each year. Their show is excellent and I am sure the students will be very entertained!

Have a super weekend and enjoy the great foods and rides at the upcoming Nut Club Fall Festival!

Mac

CITIZENS OF THE WEEK

6TH GRADE: J. T. Andrews, Emilee Cheshire, Amelia Harl, Carolyn Roach, Matthew Schmidt, Konnor Dillman, Anna Gollaher, Kaytlynn Hurm, Adalia Turpen, Robbie Cain, Levi Duncan, Amanda Kessler, Bailey Martin, Aaryn Palermo, Madison Eagan, Camron Short, Andrew Stinchfield, Savannah Barnes, Carter Loveless, Reece Meyer, and Jaydon Taylor.

7TH GRADE: Olivia Frayer, Dylan Brown, Hunter Hinderliter, Naiasha Hutchinson, Elias Courter, Amariah Greenwell, Dayman Parkman, Allison Herron, Zion Greenwell, Mackenzie Groben, Jesse Melton, Cecelia Jacobson, Zelfea Barchett, Shannon Lindsey, Owen O'Reilly, and Suhaib Mohammed.

8TH GRADE: Sierra Wollet, Kile Wilke, Josh Craddock, Melanie Wytovak, Caden Love, Tanner Myers, Madelyn Turpin, Sabrina May, Kylie Helming, Reece Damm, Nathan Crowe, Angelina DeCurtis, Kye Fehrenbacher, Amanda Miles, Alexis Guffey, Andrew Harris Corde Outlaw, Abby Kornberger, Alyssa Whitaker, and Kameron Kingsbery.

ASST. PRINCIPAL

Agenda, Agenda, Agenda! One of the best ways parents can assist their children to be successful is to encourage and monitor daily use of the “Agenda.” Organizational skills don’t just happen, but need to be taught and reinforced. All teachers at Helfrich Park post the day’s homework on their classroom board. Students should record assignments in their agenda book to take home as a reminder of work to be done each evening. Parent monitoring of this process will help to engrain this habit.





6TH GRADE STARS

In science, the 6th grade has blasted off and is busy learning about the planets, stars, space, and beyond. The students are really eager to learn how and why the world goes round. Students also had the privilege of viewing a traveling planetarium right here at Helfrich Park. The planetarium, owned by Jim Havens, is equipped with NASA technology. This experience really enhanced the students learning of the solar system. In health class, students learned there are three parts to staying healthy: physical, mental, and social. Students also learned the importance of keeping a balanced health triangle.

Just a reminder that Land between the Lakes permission slips need to be turned in as soon as possible. The \$85.00 for the LBL trip can be turned in at any time, but it is due in November. If you have any questions about the trip please contact your child's science teacher.

In language arts, Mrs. Brown's students are studying nonfiction with an emphasis on biography and autobiography. In literature, students read autobiographical texts. They have written brief autobiographical essays in English. Students have also worked on spelling and Latin roots. Mr. Kahle's students have recently finished writing a paper in appreciation of our veterans. They will be transitioning into a research paper soon. Students have also completed work with nouns and pronouns and began working with verbs. In literature, his students have been reading *A Strong Right Arm* which is a story about Mamie Johnson. While reading the book, they have been looking at the structure of nonfiction texts. In Mrs. Burkhart's ELA class students have been writing, writing, writing. They finished their narratives and shared them with the class. They have been comparing and contrasting literature with similar topics and fiction/nonfiction pieces. Students have used their Venn diagrams to practice informative writing skills. Students are excited and have begun their first research project which they will present to the class when completed. Mrs. Alford would like to

remind you the sixth grade is participating in a "Patriot's Pen" essay writing contest sponsored by the VFW. This year's theme is "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans." This is a national competition offered to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Teachers will be providing more information during class time, but students can also access information online at www.vfw.org/patriotspen/.

In social studies, Mrs. Brown's students are studying climate, environment, and resources. Mr. Kahle's students recently completed a climate project and are now examining culture. Mrs. Burkhart's students have focused on weather and climates, also. They are using their netbooks to work collaboratively on a climate project. The projects will be presented when completed.

Math students finished working with ratios, rates, and unit rates. They have worked, also, with measurement conversions. Students will be working on conversions between fractions, decimals, and percents. Students have just finished the first grading period. Please check that your child is doing his or her math homework each night. EdEase is a great website to use to check your child's progress in all of his or her classes.

7TH GRADE M&MS



Mrs. McDurmon, Mrs. Todd, and Mr. Hartmann have had an exciting September. Seventh graders have been working on exponents, factors, and prime factorization. Students continue to compare rational and irrational numbers. With the end of the first grading period, we look to build on our success as we head to decimal and fraction operations.

Science students are busy learning about the cell. Students have learned about the history of the cell, the cell theory, and the instrument used to look at the cell, the microscope. Students were able to get a first-hand look at the parts and how microscopes work through a hands-on lab. Currently, they are learning

about the different parts of a plant and animal cell, as well as the functions of each of the different parts. As they complete studying the parts of a cell, students will learn about cell division through discussion and engaging hands-on labs and activities.

Social studies will finish up their studies of Ancient Mesopotamia and begin the unit on ancient Egypt. The big end-of-unit project will be the "Make a Mummy" project in which knowledge of unit material will be directly applied in creating a life-size mummy!

ELA students are continuing work on figurative language, context clues, point of view, citing textual evidence, and climax while reading a variety of novels and short texts. They are beginning a research paper. The students are learning how to find reliable sources, cite text (MLA), and use thesis statements as an essay outline.



8TH GRADE G8TORS

The G.8.T.O.R.S. are currently working on solving linear equations and trying to establish good study and work habits. The key to success is self-discipline. The classes will start to prepare for the BIG Fall Festival unit by having lessons on probability and trying to determine games of chance or skill. Some classes may also make astrolabes to help use trigonometry to measure the height of the rides at the Fall Festival.

The 8th grade Social Studies Honors, *We the People*, will begin working on their Units 1-6 speeches and follow-up questions in preparation for the November District competition.

In science, Mrs. Deal's students are finishing up learning about the states of matter. They will move into studying concepts of physics, such as Newton's three laws of motion and speed equations. This is in preparation for the Fall Festival 8th grade field trip coming up in October. Students will need to understand and apply concepts of physics when observing the motions of the rides at the Fall Festival. After

physics, they will start learning more about chemistry! Students are excited, also, to start their field trips to USI in October!

Mrs. White's literature and English students are finishing up *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton. This is the first full novel they have read. They will be working on short stories next. Students are also focusing on non-fiction texts in preparation for the ISTEP.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education students are just finishing up their fitness testing. They will begin the football unit and learn the correct way to throw and catch a football. Students will learn the rules and begin playing flag football after they have the fundamentals down. This unit will last three weeks. Students will incorporate conditioning days (Tuesday and Thursday) and choice or reward days (Friday) with this unit. Mrs. Redd and Mr. Mahan are very proud of all the students for their cooperation, great attitudes, and hard work put forth during class. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

DIGI COM



Students have had a very busy month. They are making great strides in learning the correct finger position and key techniques used on a QWERTY keyboard.

The 6th graders have finished their business letters to companies outside the Evansville area and will be sending them soon. All contact will be made through Mr. Combs's school email and the school's physical address for this project.

All grades are currently working PowerPoint presentations. This project will focus on gathering/researching information and putting it into an organized format for an oral presentation.

All grades are starting to receive ePal letters, from our electronic pen-pal program. We have received responses from Colorado, South Dakota, and Argentina. Our ePals from Romania have just returned to school from their summer break and we should be contacting them in a few weeks.

Netbooks

Welcome, Miss Amber Wade, our new tech; she will be located in Mr. Gray's office. When students bring in their netbooks for repairs, please remind them to completely fill out the repair slips. Students are putting their names on the slip but are not filling out the problem or their schedule. Without this information, it takes longer to solve the problems and get the netbooks returned. Please have the students take their netbooks to Miss Wade first and if she is not in her office, then to Mr. Combs's room.

All students should have received their netbooks, chargers, and bags by now. Our replacement bags are on backorder; we are expecting a shipment at the end of the month. If the bags are damaged due to regular wear and tear, they can be replaced under warranty.

BrightBytes is a survey students will take at the end of September. Data from this survey will guide the EVSC on what equipment and programs need to be repaired, replaced, or updated over the next year.



ARCHERY

Currently there are roughly 40 students participating in the after-school club.

Archery Club will meet on Mondays and Tuesdays until mid-Oct and then start up again in the spring.

SPEECH

The Helfrich Park speech team is off to a strong start. Every team member received a ribbon in the first meet against Plaza Park. Their next meet was September 23 against Washington and Thompkins. The team is coached by Mrs. Brown and Mrs. White.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Robotics will begin for 7th and 8th graders on October 13; see Mrs. King for a schedule. Sixth grade Robotics will not begin until December 1.



Sixth graders are getting ready to build amusement park rides using motors and Legos. This is a part of their automation unit. Seventh graders are currently completing a unit on flight and space and will be starting a unit on computer-aided drafting. Eighth grade Engineering Tech students are beginning to build Rube Goldberg machines.

BAND/ORCHESTRA

The bands are hard at work developing skills, working on scales, and reading through literature for their first concerts. Please remember, all band forms and fees are past due. If you have not turned these in, please contact Mr. Goodwin as soon as possible. We would like to wish good luck to our band students auditioning for the EVSC Honor Band this week. Auditions are held at Plaza Park Middle School. Our students will be competing for spots against 6-8th grade students from all of the middle schools across Evansville.

CHOIR

The Helfrich Park Choir sang the "National Anthem" at the Reitz Homecoming football game September 19. The students did a great job representing our school along with the other west side Reitz Nation schools.

ART

The first six weeks of Mrs. Lamb's art classes have been great! Students have been learning about many artists, art terms, and techniques. All grades studied aboriginal art and made a bark coloring/painting. There are some great examples hanging in the hallway! Sixth graders worked on a "Keep Evansville Safe" calendar contest design sponsored by the prosecutor's office. All the entries look great! Seventh graders worked hard on a shape project that involved pattern designs -- super work! Lastly, eighth graders constructed collages that display who they are and their interests. I'm impressed with the talent here at HPSA! Parents, please remind students to continue doing their best and to turn assignments in as soon as they are finished.

Eighth grade art club has been tons of fun! Students have the opportunity to work on exciting projects. One example is the stained glass artwork. This project involved coloring on aluminum foil. There are awesome examples hanging in the hallway! We have lots of plans for future projects, including window painting! Thanks for the fun time and hard work kids!

TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION™

Reward your school.™



TARGET® REDCARD™

Target makes school fundraising easy by using the Target REDcard. Here is how the program works: When school supporters enroll and use their REDcard, Target donates up to 1% of every purchase made with their REDcard to a school of their choice. The funds can really add up—there is no limit to the amount a school can receive. All you need is a REDcard and a designated school. To sign-up and designate your school, go online to Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142. (You can apply for a REDcard credit account in stores or online at Target.com/apply.) What an easy way to help Helfrich Park STEM Academy!!!

FROM THE NURSE



Headaches

Headaches are the number one complaint of students who come to the nurse's office. There are many causes of headaches. The major cause of headaches in middle school students is the lack of eating a good breakfast in the morning. Students of this age need to start the day off with a breakfast consisting of something from the five food groups such as fruit, cereal, milk, yogurt or cottage cheese. It helps if you pair a sugary breakfast item, like a PopTart, with a protein, such as milk. Seasonal allergies are another reason for headaches and are accompanied with runny nose and watery eyes. Stress can also cause headaches. A big test, a fuss with another student, or homework can all be factors for your student's headaches. Migraines are chronic headaches, often accompanied by an "aura" and sometimes vomiting. Poor eyesight is another cause. If your child needs to wear glasses for either close-up or far-away work and they do not have glasses or refuse to wear their glasses, their eyes can become strained which in turn can cause headaches. Dehydration, the lack of the needed amount of water or fluids in the body, can cause headaches. This is really important to remember with the hot weather we have been having. Make sure your child is drinking enough to replace fluids that are lost. Eight to ten glasses a day is the recommended amount of daily fluid.

The treatment of headaches is simple: Hydration, Nutrition, Medication. Please consider bringing into school acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) or Aleve. This can be given to the student at school with the beginning of the headache. You will find the necessary form (Medication Administration) on the school website listed under Nurse Office. If your child has been diagnosed with migraines or allergies, please bring in a small amount of the migraine or allergy medication in the original bottle for use here at school. You can use the same Medication Administration form. After 30 minutes if the student is still having a headache, I will give you a call.

Any question, please do not hesitate to call me between the hours of 7:15 am and 1:15 pm.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS – OCTOBER 2014



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 Art Club 3-4 Band/Orchestra 3-4 GBB Open Gym 3-4 VB @ PH 5-7 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4	2 Band/Orchestra 3-4 Cub FB @ Memorial 5:30 Dance 3-4 GBB Open Gym 3-4 Speech 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB 3-5	3 Spell Bowl 3-4 VB 3-4 Cheer Camp 2:30-7 pm	4 Cheer Camp 9 am-3 pm
5	6 St. Cncl.-8 th gr. 6:50-8 a.m. Archery 3-4 Cheer 3-4 Choir 3-4 GBB Try Out 3-4 Speech 3-4 VB Trny- TBA 5 pm FALL FESTIVAL PTSA-4 pm-Media Center	7 Archery 3-4 GBB Try Out 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 Speech 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 VB 3-5 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4 FALL FESTIVAL	8 GBB Try Out 3-4 Orchestra 3-4 VB Trny-TBA 5 pm 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4 FALL FESTIVAL	9 Cub FB @ North 6:00 Tutoring 3-4 VB Trny-TBA 5 pm 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4 NO SPEECH FALL FESTIVAL	10 NO SCHOOL FALL FESTIVAL	11 FALL FESTIVAL
12	13 Archery 3-4 Band 3-4 Choir 3-4 GBB Open Gym 3-4 Robotics 3-4 Speech 3-4 VB Championship 5 pm Neigh.Assoc.Meeting 6 pm Media	14 Archery 3-4 GBB 3-5 Orchestra 3-4 Speech Meet @ HP 5-7 Tutoring 3-4	15 Art Club 3-4 Band/Orchestra 3-4 GBB 3-5 Spell Bowl 3-4 St. Council 3-4	16 Band 3-4 Cub FB vs Bosse 5:30 Dance 3-4 GBB 3-5 Orchestra 3-4 Speech 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4	17 Chess Club 3-4 GBB 3-4 Spell Bowl 3-4	18
19	20 Band 3-4 Cheer 3-4 Choir 3-4 GBB 3-5 Robotics 3-4 Speech 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4	21 Computer 3-4 GBB 3-5 Hockey to Swonder 4 pm Orchestra 3-4 Speech 3-4 Tutoring 3-4	22 Art Club 3-4 Band/Orchestra 3-4 Cheer 3-4 GBB 3-5 Spell Bowl 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4	23 Band/Orchestra 3-4 Cub FB vs MD @ Reitz 5:30 Dance 3-4 GBB 3-5 Speech 3-4 St. Council 3-4 Tutoring 3-4	24 FUN NIGHT (extra bus)	25
26	27 Band 3-4 Choir 3-4 GBB 3-5 Robotics 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4 Speech Trny, @ Washington 5 pm	28 Computer 3-4 GBB vs McGary home game 5-7 Hockey to Swonder 4 pm Orchestra 3-4 Tutoring 3-4	29 Art 3-4 Band/Orchestra 3-4 GBB 3-5 Spell Bowl 3-4 3 on 3 (Kahle) 3-4	30 Band/Orchestra 3-4 Dance 3-4 GBB @ Perry Heights 5-7 Speech Trny. @ Washington 5 pm St. Council 3-4 Tutoring 3-4 3 on 3 (Burkhart) 3-4	31 Chess Club 3-4 GBB 3-4 Spell Bowl 3-4	

