



March 2016

PUMA Team,

Greetings from a far different recess weather pattern at HPSA than we had mentioned in our last newsletter. I believe I read somewhere that the groundhog did indeed see his shadow!! We are ready for warm weather!

Excitement is building for our annual Science Fair to be conducted on March 3 and 4 in the new gym. The kids are working hard on their projects. Some of their ideas are very interesting, very fun, or both! The kids' creativeness is so wonderful, and what a blessing it is to work at a job where I see that creativeness every day. There is no doubt about the superb talents and gifts many of our students possess and share on a daily basis.

Well, the ISTEP test begins on Tuesday. The students will test twice, at the beginning of March and again in late April. Our mantra remains the same: prepare the very best you can and then do your best on the test, check answers, and be relaxed. Our main goal each day is for the kids to do the best they can as an individual in the classroom, be polite to others, and smile. Those three traits will lead them to a very productive and happy adult life.

Thank you, parents, for all your support throughout the year!

Mac



School WILL be in session on the following dates to make up for missed days due to snow:

April 15 (for January 19), and April 18 (for January 22).

The next virtual school day will be:

March 28 (for February 15).

For instructions, please see our webpage at www.edlinesites.net/pages/Helfrich_Park_STEM_Academy

6TH GRADE STARS



Science: In science the students have recently finished studying the three states of matter and properties. Currently we are applying their states of matter knowledge into our energy unit. Students are learning about energy transformations, types of energy, and kinetic and potential energy. During this unit we are going to construct balloon cars, mouse trap cars, and roller coasters demonstrating energy transformations. Some of the sixth grade students recently took a field trip to USI where they were instructed by a college professor and had the opportunity to experience science with a hands-on lab. There were also a few students who had the opportunity to go to the Alcoa power plant where they met some engineers and took a tour of the power plant. Don't forget the Helfrich Park Science Fair will be held on March 3 from 5-6:30 PM and March 4 from 8:00 AM-2:00 PM in the Helfrich Park gym.

Math: The sixth graders have been completing a 30-day challenge in math class by doing problem solving each day to prepare for the first round of ISTEP. They have been working on finding the area of two dimensional complex figures and have been finding the surface area and volume of rectangular prisms. The students have found that this is pretty easy when they use the formulas on their reference sheet and plug in the numbers given to them. The students have been doing a good job showing all of the steps in working out problems, as this will be very important to carry over to the first round of ISTEP. Thank you to those who have signed up for reminder texts or emails in Mrs. Humm and Mrs. Hall's math classes. If you have questions on how to join the group to get texts and emails, please email your son or daughter's teacher. Please check that your child is doing his or her math homework each night, and please check RDS to keep track of the progress in all of his or her classes. Thank you for your support!

ELA: Language Arts classes continue to focus on improving reading and writing skills as we prepare for ISTEP testing. We have read a variety of nonfiction articles as the students utilize the "Yes Ma'am" (Me, Author, Author, Me) strategy for producing text-based answers. The students are also practicing responding to a variety of writing prompts with emphasis on prewriting, planning, and organization. We are "pumping up" sentences with details such as vivid verbs, exact nouns, descriptive adjectives, and prepositional phrases. Literature classes recently finished a folklore unit and are now studying nonfiction. Mr. McIntosh has challenged the students with an Achieve 3000 contest. Prizes will be awarded to the top Achievers! Good luck sixth graders!

Social Studies: We have studied early Greek and Roman cultures, as well as the Middle Ages. The Renaissance and Reformation in Europe are next. Parents, please help your child restock school supplies! We are in need of paper and pencils. Thank you for your support. Students, please shut down and charge your Thinkpads daily.

Congratulations to the following Citizens of the Week: Wyatt Beliles, Skyla Helm, Ayden Johnston, Isabella Uhde, Jacqueline Cain, Jessica Seaman, Tim Stevens, Justin Young, Kyhlee Young, Alizabeth Friday, Parker Pearson, Brian Durham, Kylie DeVries, Cleo Hampton, Lance McCarty, and Johnathan Alspaugh.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



In Physical Education we are finishing up the 4th semester. If your student has not paid their \$5.00 equipment and locker rental fees, please send those in ASAP. We will begin our March classes with football. Student's will be working on fundamentals such as: passing, catching, and learning the responsibilities of each position. This will last for 3 weeks.

On a different note, Track will be starting up this month. We will have a meeting for any student who is interested in participating this season. During the first meeting we will go over schedules, uniforms, practice dates, and meet dates.

Mrs. Redd and Mr. Mahan

7TH GRADE M&M'S



Science: The Science Fair is quickly approaching! Students will turn in projects on February 29th. Parents may view science projects on March 3rd from 4-5:30 PM; the Science Fair is on March 4th. We are excited to see all of the final results of the students' investigations. Students and teachers have been working together in classes to prepare for this event. Teachers have provided students with many resources to help guide them through this process. In classes, students will be finishing up earth science by studying geological forces and features along with geological time. As part of this unit, students will be investigating topography and the fossil record. Students will begin to learn about energy, work, and power as part of physical science. The rest of the school year will be focused on physical science.

Math: We have been working hard on finding the area, volume, and surface area of figures. All students have been preparing for the first round of ISTEP. Mrs. McDurmon's honors classes just completed three dimensional shape, surface, area, and volume. Ask them about the Playdoh lab! The next few weeks will be filled with transformations. These include translations, rotations, reflections, and dilations. This is a really great unit for students that like visual learning. We will also be reviewing for the first round of testing which starts on March 1.

ELA: In English, we continue to review core standards and work on constructed response questions. While in Literature, we will be reading nonfiction text and poetry.

Social Studies: We are finishing up our last Unit of Ancient Civilizations with other African Civilizations such as Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Aksum, and Great Zimbabwe. Core standards review is also happening this month: World Religions, Ancient Civilizations, Governments and Economies. Students are also learning about the world religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

Congratulations to the following Citizens of the Week: Gus DeVries, Madeline Brown, Amelia Harl, Kyla Fralick, Carolyn Roach, Garrett Pritchett, Breea Helming, Brady Johnson, Jarvis McKinney, Isaac Gibson, and Marita Barnett.

SPRIT WEAR!
T-shirts, polos
and hats for sale
in the office for a limited time.



Helfrich Park Science Fair open for viewing:

March 3 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

March 4 7:45 AM-2:00 PM

GENERAL MUSIC

6th grade and 8th grade students are learning and reviewing music theory as well as learning how to sing and play instruments with proper technique.

CHOIR

The Helfrich Park Choir will be singing at the EVSC Contest March 17th at the North Auditorium. The time will be announced soon. The Spring Choir Concert for all grades will be April 19th at 6:30pm in the Helfrich Park Gym.

8TH GRADE G.8.T.O.R.S.



Science: Students are continuing to study genetics. They will be learning about Punnett squares, GMO's, hybrids, and genetically engineered organisms. We have an upcoming virtual field trip planned before Spring Break that will interactively teach students about genetically modified soybean development in Indiana. The Science Fair will be on March 3rd. Students need to remember to take their boards and any other science fair materials home on March 4th.

Math: The G.8.T.O.R.S. are completing the math unit on how to use, interpret, and display data. They have taken the data and used it to create scatterplots and determine the line of best fit. From there they used it to write a linear equation in slope-intercept form. Ask your 8th grader to sing the $y = mx + b$ song for you.

We have also covered Geometry and Measurement standards over transformations.

Students will continue to prepare for the Applied Skills test next week. Please be sure your child has a calculator for this test. This will be the only part of the math ISTEP test that students will be allowed to use their own calculators. If your child cannot get one, please have them talk to their teacher so one can be made available for them to use.

ELA: We just finished a unit over *The Diary of Anne Frank* in Literature. We will soon be doing a review over choosing and citing good textual evidence. In English, the students recently completed a research unit over a career of their choice. English classes will be working on writing skills.

U.S. History: In Mr. Whipkey's classes, we welcome Mr. Aaron Copeland as our student teacher. Mr. Copeland is a History major and will graduate from U.S.I. this spring. He is anxious to begin his career as a teacher. He will be practice teaching through the end of April. Students are learning about the War of 1812, sometimes known as the second war for Independence as the U.S. is again engaged in a war with Great Britain.

8th grade Honors Social Studies: We are continuing to work on our PAW-some National History Day projects. The regional competition is at USI on April 2nd. About 60 8th grade students from Helfrich Park will be showcasing their projects on this day!

Congratulations to the following Citizens of the Week: Audra Johnson, Na'Brisha Howard, Suhaib Mohammed, Thor Taylor, Aric Wiseman, Bella Arnold, Kylan France, Tessa Offutt, Hunter Klein, Luke Sergesketter, Holly Schaefer, Miriam McDonald, Candace Sachs, and Olivia Frayer.

FROM THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE

- Please call in sick for your student by 9 AM. At that time, please request any homework for your student that needs to be picked up after 3 PM that day. Homework requested *after* 9 AM will be ready the following day. Also, please remember to put your student's name in their jackets and on their lunchboxes.

Helfrich Park would like to welcome long-term sub, Mrs. Wright, starting the middle of March through the end of the school year. She will be subbing for Mrs. Todd who will be taking a maternity leave.

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 ISTEP testing Math Team, Science ASB, guitar 2:30-4 Hockey Game at 4:30 (Swonder)	2 ISTEP testing Robotics, 3 on 3 2:30-4	3 ISTEP testing Science ASB 2:30-4 PM Science Fair 5-6:30 (Gym)	4 ISTEP testing Science Fair (gym) 7:45-2 Chess, Social Studies Team, English Team 2:30-4	5
6	7 ISTEP testing computer club, choir 2:30-4 PTSA meeting 3-4 Cadet Band Clinic, Girls and Boys track tryouts (8 th) 2:30-5	8 ISTEP testing (make up) Hockey Game @ 4:30 (Swonder) Round Robin #1 @ 4 PM @ Cedar Hall 3 on 3, Science ASB, guitar 2:30-4 Girls & Boys track tryouts (7 th) 2:30-5	9 ISTEP testing (make up) Robotics, student council 2:30-4 Advanced Band Clinic, Advanced Orchestra Clinic, Girls & Boys track tryouts (6 th) 2:30-5	10 ISTEP testing (make up) 3 on 3, boys track, Science ASB, girls track 2:30-4 USI Science Fair field trip	11 Boys track, girls track, Chess, Social Studies Team, English Team 2:30-4	12
13	14 College Direction field trip (TBA) Student Council 6:50-7:20 AM boys track practice, computer club, girls track, choir 2:30-4	15 EVSC Concert Festival / Band @ North (TBA) Student Council 6:50-7:20 AM Grade 6 Planetarium @ TBA (gym) boys track practice, 3 on 3, Science ASB, girls track, band, math team, guitar 2:30-4	16 EVSC Concert Festival / Orchestra @ North (TBA) Magic Show 7:45-8:45 (gym) Student Council 6:50-7:20 AM Robotics, boys track practice, girls track, orchestra 2:30-4	17 <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day!!</i> EVSC Concert Festival / Choir @ North (TBA) Student Council 6:50-7:20 AM 3 on 3, boys track practice, Science ASB, girls track 2:30-4	18 USI Field Trip (grade 6) 9:10-1:45 Student Council 6:50-7:20 AM girls track 2:30-4	19
20	21 SPRING RECESS	22 SPRING RECESS	23 SPRING RECESS	24 SPRING RECESS	25 SPRING RECESS	26
27	28 Boys track practice, choir 2:30-4	29 3 on 3, Science ASB, Boys track practice, math team, guitar 2:30-4	30 Advanced Band Rehearsal, boys track practice 2:30-4	31 3 on 3, Science ASB, boys track practice 2:30-4	Notes:	