



Puma Team,

I would like to wish all of our PUMA students, families and our staff a very Happy Thanksgiving. Besides all of the food that is normally prepared to celebrate this holiday week, the most important part is to be thankful for our family, friends and health.

Kudos to the PUMA band and orchestra for a very entertaining evening on November 19th. The performance was superb and the work put forth by the students, Mr. Goodwin, and Mr. Farny was evident in the wonderful music.

Congratulations to the PUMA Spell Bowl Team, coached by Mrs. Bateman, for winning first place in the region for the Spell Bowl tournament. Students participating were: Tensei Nakamura, Olivia Frayer, Ella Talley, Madison Mossberger, Amanda Kessler, Lela Curtis, Emily Jarvis, Mikehl Adamson, and Braydon Litteken. They won first place at the Class 2 Area Competition at Mt. Vernon Jr. High. Awesome work students!

Congratulations to our 8th grade *We The People* Social Studies class for their excellent performance. They have earned a trip to the state finals in December! Awesome!

Finally, thanks once again to our Land Between The Lakes volunteers and sponsors. What an incredible experience this trip is for our sixth grade students. Thanks to our volunteer students, parents, Helfrich Park friends, and staff members for such a magnificent job of taking care of the kids, and for the many hours they spent preparing the various group activities for the kids. Thank you!

Again, thank you to all who make Helfrich Park a very special school. I know that I am blessed to work with the best faculty, and excellent kids and families, in a wonderful community. Thank you all for all you do to help your children be successful and prepare for their futures.

Mac

6TH GRADE STARS



LBL: The sixth grade teachers would like to say thank you to everyone who made LBL possible for the students this year. Students were well prepared and used the skills they had learned for GPS and the compass. They also showed off their knowledge of vertebrates at the Nature Center as well as their history lessons at Fort Campbell. Sixth graders also gained new skills as they learned about Fire Fighting, Animal Casting, Archery, Baking, and Fishing. There was even a little time allotted for some dancing and silly campfire songs. The trip was a total success and will leave lasting memories for the sixth graders for many years. Happy Holidays from the sixth grade team!

Math: Mrs. Humm's math class has been solving equations and inequalities and working with slope. Mrs. Hall's math class has been working on simplifying expressions. Sixth grade math students finished working on integers and plotting points on coordinate grids. Some of the students used math skills at LBL by doing the GPS course, compass course, and baking. Everyone had a lot of fun at LBL!

ELA: We worked on a project to prepare us for our trip to Land Between The Lakes. The students researched animals from the area and completed presentations. They worked hard on preparation and put together some very interesting and exciting projects. We recently finished the novel, When Zachary Beaver Came to Town. The students completed an in depth study of the book, as well as a variety of projects to help examine the content. We will be moving into poetry and will work with several different styles while examining the many elements of poetry along the way.

*Congratulations to the following **Citizens of the Week:** Grace Wellmeier, Lanaya Mayes, Garrett Wirth, Loden Greenwell, Jason Alspaugh, Hunter Mossberger, Madison Schenk, Kyliana Williams, Skylar Cronin, Austin Diedrich, Olivia Rodenberg, and Bailey Wright.*

MUSIC PROGRAMS



BAND & ORCHESTRA

Congratulations on an amazing Winter Concert! We are looking forward to Solo and Ensemble competition in early February. Learning a solo is the best way for a student to improve as a musician. Students should bring home a form, very soon, with the option to sign up to play a solo or participate in a small ensemble. Please encourage your child to participate.

CHOIR

The Winter Choir Concert will be on December 3rd in the Helfrich Park Gym at 6:30 P.M. Choir students should arrive at 5:45 P.M. and wear black pants, black shoes and a white dress shirt. Please join us for an entertaining evening.

GENERAL MUSC

Sixth grade students have been learning about different genres of music and how to clap and play percussion instruments on beat and with rhythms. They are doing a great job!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION



In Physical Education we are starting a new grading period. We will begin with *Basketball*. Students will work on fundamentals the first couple of weeks. After Thanksgiving break we will begin playing 3 on 3. Physical Education will then begin our *Weight Lifting* unit and *Floor Hockey* unit. Mr. Mahan and Mrs. Redd wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Redd and Mr. Mahan

7TH GRADE M&M'S



Social Studies students will be taking a trip to ancient China in December. We will study the geography, culture, writing system and language, and dynasties of ancient China. We will take a virtual trip to the Great Wall of China and the Terra-Cotta Army. In Mr. Whipkey's World Geography class we are studying Ancient India and the origins of Hinduism and Buddhism.

Math: Mrs. McDurmon's class just finished solving and writing two-step equations and inequalities. Next, we will move on to slope, linear equations, and functions. As always, we are working on ISTEP practice throughout the year. Mrs. Todd and Mr. Hartmann have had a tremendous November. From slope and rate of change, we completed calculations using graphs and tables. Students then moved to percentage questions involving tax, tip, markup, discount, commission, and interest. Calculating percent of change is another important Indiana standard.

ELA students are continuing a nonfiction unit. They are working on text structure, central idea, and citing textual evidence while reading Ben Carson: Gifted Hands. Students are writing short, informative essays to go along with the different text structures (cause and effect, compare and contrast, chronological, and problem and solution). Achieve is also a large part of the nonfiction unit. The students are not only comparing the articles with the book, but also reviewing text structure within the lesson.

Science is full of exciting new experiences for students this grading period. Students will continue learning about how cells specialize to make different tissues and organs, and how these work together in systems in their bodies. As part of this unit, students will dissect a sheep heart. This organ has all four tissues and teaches students the path of blood through their bodies. This unique experience will teach students the importance of a healthy heart. Mrs. Antey's social studies classes just completed the regional *We The People* competition! The fourth period class made it to the state competition, which is December 15. The third period class will continue their studies of U.S. History and complete research projects over various presidents of the United States.

*Congratulations to the following **Citizens of the Week**:* Savannah Barnes, Isaac Brown, James Schlachter, Ella Talley, Ashlyn Wright, Olivia Lothamer, Jackson Wood, Logan Combs, Shenghui Lin, De'Andre Jones, Alyssa Beliles, and Emilee Cheshire.

WE THE PEOPLE

Congratulations to Mrs. Antey's *We The People* Social Studies class! They have earned a trip to the state finals in December for the fourth year in a row—what an honor for Helfrich Park! They will be competing against students from across the state for this intense academic competition. Good luck!

Members include: Zelfea Barchett, Hannah Bryan, Eli Burkhart, Lela Curtis, Kennedy Dannheiser, Eric Dietsch, Olivia Frayer, Victoria Garland, Zion Greenwell, Mackenzie Groben, Kyle Hartmann, Allison Herr, Emily Jarvis, Sydney Krietemeyer, Shannon Lindsey, Claire Mattes, Amanda Meuth, Kaitlynn Mitchell-Grisham, Madison Mossberger, Tensei Nakamura, Owen O'Reilly, Brooklynn Pace, Grace Paul, Whitney Reiter, Jasmine Robbins, Wade Schneider, Alivia Schroeder, Luke Sergesketter, Isaac Simms, Arshdeep Singh, Sydney Smith, Carson Tipton, Jack Weinzapfel, and Natalie Yeh.

ART

There are a lot of great projects going on in the art room.

6th grade is a very creative group with painted cornucopias. Each student had to dot the entire picture and we discussed the technique of pointillism.

7th grade has been displaying their talents by creating wire sculptures. Don't be scared when you come into the art room because there are spiders! Some students have painted their spiders to look realistic, and other students have created their own designs.

8th grade just finished up a pen and ink project and have started African clay boxes. These take time and talent and this group has both. I can't wait for everyone to see the finished projects.

7th grade Art Club will start in December. I am looking forward to working with this group.

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



Math: Your awesome 8th graders are currently working on Standards 8.AF.3 – 8, Algebra and Functions. They have been practicing how to find the rate of change, writing linear equations, and graphing linear functions. You can ask your child what makes something linear and I am sure they will be able to tell you. With Christmas right around the corner, you can surprise your child by stuffing their stockings with graph paper, pencils, paper, and a new calculator! After Christmas break we will be working on Geometry and measurement. Math teachers wish you a wonderful Christmas season and wish you a Happy New Year!

In Mr. Whipkey's **U.S. History** class, we just finished fighting the Revolutionary War. Currently, we are studying our first Constitution; the Articles of Confederation; and after Thanksgiving, we examine the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

In **Science** the students have continued their States of Matter/Chemistry unit. The students now know all about solids, liquids, gases, and plasma. The students enjoyed the *Density Bottle Inquiry* lab in which they determined which liquids were inside their bottle. The students were able to create a crystalline solid out of mini marshmallows and toothpicks. A couple of classes experienced a college science lesson and experiment on their field trip to U.S.I. To celebrate Halloween, the students were able to learn and view sublimation during the various dry ice activities. The students are currently learning about the atomic model and how it evolved over time. They have experienced the difficulty of studying an object that cannot be seen.

ELA: The 8th grade team is writing short narratives in class and will be finishing these right after Thanksgiving. In Literature, we are reading a fascinating non-fiction piece called Chasing Lincoln's Killer. The students are absolutely loving this novel and we are enjoying the cross-curricular teaching between Social Studies and Literature. We will begin poetry after we are done with our novel.

*Congratulations to the following **Citizens of the Week**:* Bailey Adams, Scott Allinder, Emalee Jones, Sebastian Miller, Anna Markotay, Ashlyn Miller, Tensei Nakamura, Nate Jourdan, Zelfea Barchett, Holly Weaver, Christian Wheeler, and James Sterling.

Engineering Technology students are starting new classes with the third grading period. Sixth graders are building simple machines and will be designing and building their own amusement park rides. Seventh grade is taking to the skies with the air and space unit. They are beginning building and launching water bottle rockets and applying Newton's Laws of Motion. The eighth grade is investigating structures and bridge design. Students are designing and building bridges that they will test for strength of their design.

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. Thank you.



◀ November		December 2015					January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 -SWIP party -dance, 3 on 3, guitar until 4 PM -Girls basketball game @ 4:30 vs. Perry Heights	2 -art club (gr.7), girls basketball until 4 PM -choir practice until 5 PM	3 -dance, girls basketball until 4 PM -Winter Choir Concert @ 6:30 PM	4 -STEM (gr.7) field trip -chess, girls basketball until 4 PM	5	
6	7 -computer club, choir, cheer until 4 PM -PTSA meeting at 3 PM -girls basketball practice until 5 PM	8 -Dance team, 3 on 3 until 4 PM	9 -art club (gr.7), student council until 4 PM -boys basketball tryouts (gr.7&8) until 5 PM	10 -dance team until 4 PM	11 -Boys basketball tryouts (gr.7&8) until 5 PM	12	
13	14 -We The People State Competition -computer club, cheer until 4 PM	15 -We The People State Competition -dance team, 3 on 3 until 4 PM	16	17 -dance team until 4 PM -Grade 5 band/orchestra concert @ 6:30 PM	18 -FUN NIGHT until 4:30 PM	19	
20	21	22 END OF FIRST SEMESTER -7 TH grade field trip/SWONDER	23 WINTER BREAK	24 WINTER BREAK	25 WINTER BREAK	26	
27	28 WINTER BREAK	29 WINTER BREAK	30 WINTER BREAK	31 WINTER BREAK	Notes: <i>School resumes on January 4, 2016.</i>		