

Pontiac Jr. High School Newsletter

April 2009

Message from the Principal



It is hard to believe we have started our fourth quarter of this school year! March was a very busy month. We completed ISAT testing, report cards were issued, Parent Teacher Conferences were held and we had a week of Spring Break.

Our LOCK IN will be held on Saturday, April 4 from 1:00 PM – 9:00 PM. It is not too late to register. Forms are available in the office and on line. The cost is \$10.00 per student. Registration will be accepted until the start of the Lock In. We do need a parent permission signature for students to attend.

Although the hours are different this year, The LOCK IN will have the same activities as in previous years including: 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament, Volleyball Tournament, a DJ and dance, Celebrity Bingo, Knitting, and team building activities. Video games will be available on big screen TV's during the entire time in the Library. The computer lab will be open for student use. Pizza will be served around 5:00. This event could not occur without many volunteers to organize and supervise. Thank you so much to the PTO, teachers and parents who make this special event possible for our students.

Graduation is just around the corner. There will be a meeting for parents of all 8th grade students on Wednesday, April 8 at 7:00 PM to discuss decorating for graduation. Parents may also decide if they wish to sponsor a party for the students after graduation. Since we will have school the day after graduation a party would need to be held at another location than the school.

Orientation for 5th grade students who will enter 6th grade in 2009-2010 will be held at PJHS on Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 PM. Current 5th grade students and parents are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Bernardi's II has graciously offered a free lunch to all PJHS students and staff on Monday April 6. We all are looking forward to a delicious lunch from Bernardi's II! We thank them for their generosity!

The Spring Music Concert will be held at PTHS on Monday, April 27 at 7:00 PM. We look forward to our Band and Chorus program and hope you can all join us

for an evening of beautiful music.

Scholastic Bowl will have meets at home on April 9, 16, 21, 23 and 24th. Scholastic Bowl Regionals will be held on April 29. Mr. Blair and the Scholastic Bowl Teams have done an awesome job this season. Congratulations to the PJHS team for being Champions at the Livingston County Scholastic Bowl Tournament held in Flanagan on March 14.

Track practice is in full swing and meets begin on April 7 at Morris. Our team will compete at home on April 24, May 1 and May 5. We will also host the Livingston County Track Meet on Monday, May 11 beginning at 1:00 PM.

7th grade students will participate in a program sponsored by the Livingston County Health Department "It's Your Future". This will be held at school on April 15.

There will be no school on April 10 and 13. We will return to school on April 14. Enjoy the long weekend with your family.

Due to the use of emergency days, our last day of student attendance for 6th and 7th grades will be on Thursday, May 28. The 8th grade student's attendance days will end after graduation on May 21. Teachers Institute will be held on Friday, May 29 and Report Card day will be on Monday, June 1.

Registration packets will be sent home with students for 2009-2010 on May 1. The fee increase will not take effect until June 1 so if you return your completed packet with registration fees by June 1 you will pay the same fee amount as this year.

Mrs. Judy Donze

Upcoming Dates

- April 4th-Lock In 1 p.m. –9 p.m.
- April 8th-Sports Booster Meeting 6pm in the Commons
- April 10th& 13th-No School
- April 27th-Spring Concert at PTHS
- April 29th-Progress Reports Go Home

6th Grade News

ISAT's have been completed and students deserve a pat on the back for putting forth their best efforts and adjusting patiently to a modified schedule. The 6th grade teachers extend a thank you to parents during ISAT week for your support.

We have also completed the third quarter. It seems to have gone by so quickly. We do have one more quarter (nine weeks) remaining of the school year. Students need to continue to focus and work hard. (These nine weeks don't usually go by fast enough for our students.) Please help your student to do his/her best, so that he/she can finish the year on a positive note.

Literature – For our poetry unit we studied some humorous and clever poems by Shel Silverstein and Dr. Seuss. Although we've discovered

Dr. Seuss puts lessons in many of his poems and stories! Ask your student what he/she learned from those unusual Sneetches. The elements of poetry studied included end rhyme, internal rhyme, alliteration, metaphor, simile, and

personification. Our next unit will be about biographies and autobiographies.

Social Studies – Let's explore Ancient Greece! The sixth grade students will be starting a new unit on Ancient Greece. They will have the opportunity to learn about the significant contributions of the early civilization. This culture brought art, architecture, technology, athletics, agriculture, and urban planning to the

world. Enjoy the journey!

Character Counts 6th Grade

Grace Lyons
Michaela Schlesner
Sidney Dunning
Samantha Gibson
Zach Warren
Clair Bammann
Jared Lynn

Language Arts – Writing limericks have been so much fun! Students have finished this area of study and will be working on a unit to review capitalization after Spring Break.

Science – Students have animal books for the fourth quarter. Students will learn about the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates. They will also study the characteristics,

habitats, and body parts of these animals.

Math – Students are working on their home design project. This includes drawing blueprints and scale measurement. Homes must meet certain area and cost limitations. Therefore, students are constantly calculating these math concepts to meet guidelines for their homes.

B.U.G.S. Awards (Bringing Up Grades)

Mitch Antolik
Amanda Kain
Sydney Goswick
Breanna Fletcher
Keegan Fisher
Ethan Putnam
Grace Lyons
Natia Harvey
Andrew Beckman

BUILDERS CLUB NEWS

During our March meeting, we had two guests speak to our group. Mr. Giordano and Mr. Patterson from the Kiwanis Club told us about how our Builders Club, the Key Club at the high school, and the adult Kiwanis Club are all related.

On March 30th, we will begin our annual March of Pennies campaign. This will be a school-wide collection of coins to help in the fight against birth defects. The March of Pennies will take place from March 30th

through April 9th. Take a moment and gather up all those pennies you found over break while helping with the spring house cleaning and deposit them in your 5-6-7 period collection jug to help with this very worthy cause.

Next meeting will be Thursday, April 9th.

Next Asta Care BINGO will be Wednesday, April 15th.

Mrs. Dunlap and Mrs. Vitzthum, sponsors

Health Class with Mrs. Hanson

We are starting a new nine weeks. Your child should have brought home a parent letter explaining what we will be covering in Health class. Please read over the letter and if you have any comments, concerns, or questions please contact me.

Our first topic for all grades is drugs. Sixth grade will be learning about tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana.

Seventh grade will review tobacco and alcohol. We then go over over-the-counter drugs. Eighth grade also reviews tobacco and laws regarding alcohol. We finish with a poster project on Illegal drugs.

We are educating our students so hopefully they will choose to stay "Drug Free".



7th Grade Greetings



7th Grade Language Arts:

We just finished doing work out of our vocabulary books during ISATs. The students worked on the different vocabulary words, definitions, synonyms and antonyms. We also worked on grammar skills that included different uses for commas and abbreviations. During the week before Spring Break all of my classes worked on writing letters to someone they know, such as a relative or friend. The students did a great job working on their letter's format along with writing the letter. They really got into writing to someone whom some of the students hadn't heard from in a while.

I would like to give a special congratulations to Rachael True. She competed in the Grand Spelling Bee in Bloomington on March 7th. She finished in 6th place. GREAT JOB RACHAEL!!!

Best of luck to all of the students during the last 9 weeks of the school year!!

Miss. Rapp
7th Grade Language Arts Teacher
PJHS

Social Studies: The 7th graders just finished a unit of study on Northwestern Europe. During this unit we covered World War II and the Holocaust in depth. Our next unit will be on Southern Europe. We will be studying the countries of Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece. During this unit we will create a Place Poem based on the countries studied. We will also have the Chapter 12 test on Tuesday, April 21st!

Jennifer Krueger
Pontiac Jr. High School
7th Grade Social Studies



8th grade Basketball News

THE SEARCH (for #2) IS OVER...

THE JOURNEY HAS ENDED...

THE MISSION IS COMPLETE!!!

PJHS 81

Vs.

PLEASANT HILL 37

This could not have happened to a more deserving group. We fought and worked all year to get this 2nd win, and we finally did.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Special thanks to Mary Kindred for donating the money for our bus.



News from the Social Worker

Spring is in the air; however, we want to keep our students focused on academics and school success.

How Can Parents Promote Student Success

- Ask your child about homework. Even review your child's homework
- Try to do something enjoyable with your child at least once a week
- Encourage your child to be friends with positive role models
- Get acquainted with your child's teachers
- Communicate with school staff when there is a concern about school
- Attend school functions- such as conferences, programs, and athletic events
- Encourage students to participate in school-related after-school activities
- Provide a quiet place where your child can study
- Encourage your child to talk about school, social activities, and their interests

Marci Hunt
 School Social Worker/Counselor
 QMHP, MA, LCPC

Source: http://mis.spps.org/counselors/parent_student_success.html

On Saturday, March 14 the PJHS Scholastic Bowl team took part in the Livingston County tournament at Flanagan Junior High School. The team played matches against Dwight, Flanagan, Tri-Point, and Prairie Central, and our Scholastic Bowl team won all four matches to advance to the championship match. In the championship match, PJHS defeated Flanagan with a score of 247 – 108 to win the Livingston County tournament championship! The students worked extremely hard and are very deserving of their champion title. Special congratulations to Satya Yerrabolu, who was the team MVP for the tournament! Mr. Blair and the Scholastic Bowl team look forward to having a strong second half of their season.

PJHS Scholastic Bowl

wins County tournament



Illinois Department of Public Health Increased Eye Infections among Students

Increased numbers of a rare but serious eye infection, Acanthamoeba keratitis, have been reported in Illinois among individuals who wear soft contact lenses. Because so many children and young adults wear soft contact lenses, the Illinois Department of Public Health is providing the following information to school personnel and students in health classes, school newsletters and in libraries/resource centers to help reduce risks of this infection.

Acanthamoeba keratitis is caused by a parasite commonly found in nature. It can cause a permanent loss of vision that can require corneal transplants. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified more than 500 cases of the disease nationwide from 2005 to 2008. The CDC has investigated a sample of these cases and found an association between this infection and use of Advanced Medical Optics (AMO) Complete® MoisturePlus Multi Purpose Solution. AMO voluntarily recalled Complete® MoisturePlus Multi Purpose Solution in May 2007 and recommended that consumers stop using the product immediately. However, this product may still be in some homes where the solution was stored after purchase and prior to the recall, or it may be in stores where the product was purchased in mass quantities prior to the recall.

In addition to discontinuing the use of this product, there are simple but important steps persons who wear contact lenses can take to protect against this infection. Please read and follow the prevention advice in the CDC information sheet that can be accessed at this link http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dpd/parasites/acanthamoeba/factsheet_acanthamoebakeratitis.htm.



Character Counts

Pillars to live by:

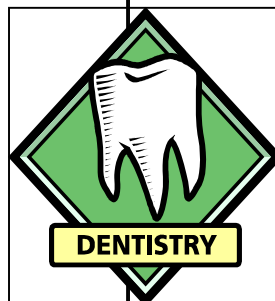
**CARING
RESPECT
FAIRNESS
CITIZENSHIP
RESPONSIBILITY
TRUSTWORTHINESS**

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SMILE ILLINOIS MOBILE DENTISTRY

Coming in May, "Smile Illinois" will be at Pontiac Junior High School. They are a mobile dental unit, consisting of a dentist and two dental hygienists. They will provide preventative services including exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants, and free toothbrushes for the students, Pre-K through 8th grade.

In 2005, a dental law became effective that requires all children in kindergarten, second and sixth grades to have an oral health examination. Proof of the examination by a dentist needs to be presented to the school before May 15th, 2009. An examination by dentists at "Smile Mobile Dentistry" meets the requirements for this new law.



"Smile Illinois" accepts Medicaid, Kidcare, and most Illinois insurances as payment. If you do not have any insurance, your child may still be seen. You may pay their fee (\$67) or apply for grant money as payment. No child is turned away because they are not able to pay.

You can learn more about Mobile Dentists/Smile Program by going to its website:

www.mobiledentists.com and watch the short video about the preventative dental care program.

Applications may be picked up in the office. Once completed, please return to school. For questions, please see the school nurse, Rachel Lee.

Solo and Ensemble Contest

Pontiac Junior High School hosted Solo and Ensemble Contest on Tuesday, March 17th with PJHS students participating in 91 solo and ensemble events. The judges for the evening were Jerry Keck, Diana Eggenberger, Tim Karth, Dan Marcotte and Martin Kohn. The 7/8 chorus began the evening with a clinic led by Mr. Keck, followed by vocal and instrumental solo and ensemble contest. Here are the results of the contest:

Division 1 Ratings for solos: (in Score order)

Instrumental – Lauren Hunt– flute, Haley Kosik – flute, Guna Yerrabolu – flute, Lauren Mehrkens – flute, Hannah Dunlap – flute, Mitch Miller- oboe, Ashley Fitzsimmons – clarinet, Jessica Finkenbinder – clarinet, Grace Spires – clarinet, Tara Isenberg – clarinet, Alyssa Nestor – clarinet, Sydney Goswick – clarinet, Courtney Amm – clarinet, Kayla Kohlmeier – clarinet, Grace Lyons – clarinet, Jasmyn Bravo-Byrd- alto sax, Haley Fairfield – alto sax, Lexi Feddern – alto sax, Brett Dunlap – alto sax, Kendall Gordon – alto sax, Garrett Lyons- alto sax, Rachael True – tenor sax, Eric DeMattia – bari sax, Chloe Mayback – trumpet, Justin Long – trumpet, Kassi Adkins – trumpet, C.J. Hardy – french horn, Kennedy Vilt – french horn, Alex Voorheis– french horn, Athena Anderson – trombone, Cassidy Murphy – trombone, Sheyann Williams – trombone, Molly Kipfer – trombone, Jessica Ping – trombone, Taylor Lind – euphonium, Katie Rasmussen – euphonium, Joe Jones – snare drum, Kayla Kohlmeier – piano, Molly Kipfer – piano, Lauren Mehrkens – piano, John Leverton – piano, Matthew Schrock - violin

Vocal – Jessica Ping, Baylee Ritter, Athena Anderson, Austin Bristow II, Kayce McWethy, Morgan Verdun, Sheyann Williams, Darin Trout

Division 1 Ratings for ensembles: (in Score order)

Instrumental – Justin Long and Austin Kilgore –trumpet duet, Taylor Araujo and Sheyann Williams – mixed duet, Brittny Petri and Rebecca Merlino – clarinet duet, Grace Spires and Ashley Fitzsimmons – clarinet duet, 6th Grade Percussion Ensemble including Samantha Quinn, Mac Reynolds, Ethan Putnam, Zachary Warren, Josh Holman, Austin Baker , 7th/8th Grade Percussion Ensemble including Jason Priest, Nikki Baxter, Matt Tribley, Logan Rowley, Austin Bristow, Josh McCoy, Joe Jones, Alex Kohlmeier, Shelby Vaughn
8th Grade Percussion Ensemble including Jason Priest, Nikki Baxter, Matt Tribley, Logan Rowley,
Flute duet – Haley Kosik and Lauren Mehrkens

Vocal – 7th Grade Choir including Kassi Adkins, Courtney Amm, Athena Anderson, Austin Bristow, Roberto Calero, Julia Cashmer, Casey Cunningham, Sabrina France, Kiah Graveson, Sunni Kistler, Quincy Melvin, Rebecca Merlino, Ashley Sechrest, Mashaya Tharp, Joshua Williams, Madalyn Orvis, Stephanie Richardson, and Rachel Schoon
6th Grade Choir (A) including Olivia Bammann, Megan Bennett, Taylor Bounds, Amanda Brown, Erica Davies, Hannah Dunlap, Nicole Fitzpatrick, Abbie Freer, Natia Harvey, Kayleigh Heidenreich, Molly Kipfer, Tiffany Layhew, Jessica Ping, Baylee Ritter, Jodi Rutledge, and Celeste Stone

Division 2 Ratings for solos: (in Score order)

Instrumental – Breanna Bagley – flute, Taylor Harty – flute, Prerita Patel – flute, Krysta Burgess – clarinet, Raquela Jaso – clarinet, Taylor Bounds – alto sax, Abbie Freer – alto sax, Charles Spencer – tenor sax
Vocal – Grace Lyons, Celeste Stone, John Leverton, Courtney Amm, Rebecca Merlino, Taylor Araujo, Casey Cunningham

Division 2 Ratings for ensembles (in Score order)

Instrumental – Flute trio – Kayce McWethy, Ruth Swartz, Shelby Pflager,
Haley Fairfield and Rachael True – mixed duet, Robert Raber, Morgan Verdun, Matthew Freer - trumpet trio
Vocal – 8th Grade Choir including Taylor Araujo, Katie Causer, Kylie Clardy, Jamie Gadberry, Kayce McWethy, Katelynn Propes, Fallon Rodgers, Natasha Swanberg, Ruth Swartz, Morgan Verdun, Melisa Trout, Sheyann Williams, Alexis Lambert, and Jenalyn Thompson
6th Grade Choir (B) including Kyle Garland, Zachary Warren, Mac Reynolds, John Leverton, Darin Trout, Jamie Carter, Grace Lyons, Clair Bammann, Alexis Feddern, Chloe Mayback, Kim Frailey, Briana Salinas, and Kira Smith
Duet – Taylor Arajo and Sheyann Williams
Trio – Sabrina France, Kiah Graveson, Ashley Sechrest