

Pontiac Jr. High School Newsletter

Message from the Principal

As we look forward to February, I know we are all anxious for spring to arrive and to see the sunshine again!

January has been a very busy month at PJHS! There have been many 5th and 6th grade basketball games, 7th and 8th grade boys' basketball games and volleyball games. Scholastic Bowl, Art Club, Builder's Club and Student Council have been busy with practices, meetings and activities.

PBIS continues to make a positive impact at PJHS. Preparations are being made for the 3rd quarter Celebration. We want to thank Johnson Press for the very generous donation of over 100 color PBIS posters. These have been distributed to all of our district schools. The poster was designed by Grace Spires in her Computer class. Be sure to check the posters out when you are in the schools.

The **Geography Bee** was held during January. Congratulations to the following winners:
1st place: Alex Brown;
2nd place: Brett Dunlap;

3rd place: Jessica Ping. Congratulations to all the students who qualified and participated in the finals.

The **ISAT tests** are coming! On March 1-12 all of our students will be taking the ISAT tests in Reading and Math. Our 7th grade students will also take the ISAT test in Science and 6th and 8th grade students will also take the ISAT writing test.

These test results are used to determine if our school is making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). We must test every student. Please be sure to keep these dates in mind as you schedule any appointments for your students. They always perform better on tests when they take them with the whole class.

We are taking **Yearbook** orders through February. The cost is \$12.50 and checks should be made out to Interstate Studios.

Progress Reports will be given to stu-

dents Wednesday, February 10. Please contact the school office if you do not receive a progress report. EVERY student is given a Progress Report.

Thank you for your continued support for your student's education. Together we can help your student have a successful experience during their junior high years!

Mrs. Judy Donze



The Pontiac Police Department has reported several cars using East Prairie St to travel east towards the Jr. High School. As a reminder this street is posted as one way traveling west during the hours of 7:30 am to 8:30 am and from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm. This is to allow traffic to flow smoothly and for the safety of students.

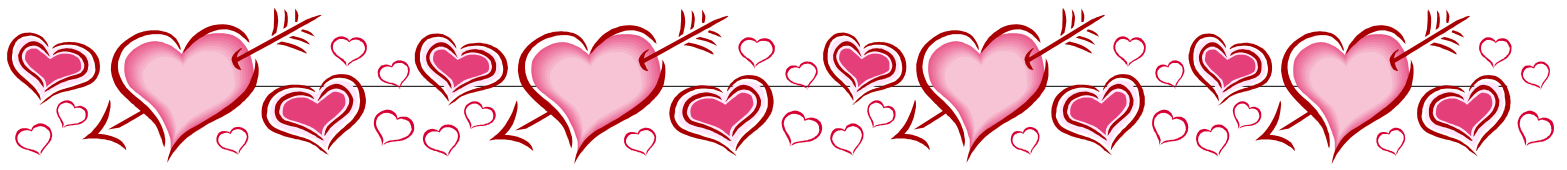
February 2010



Upcoming Dates

- **Feb.1st-** Girls Volleyball at Olympia 6:00 pm
- **Feb.2nd-**Scholastic Bowl at Fieldcrest 4:00 pm
- **Feb.3rd-**Sports Booster Mtg. 6:00pm in the Jr. High Commons
- **Feb.4th-**Girls Volleyball vs Kingsley 6:00pm
- **Feb.5th-**End Of Progress Report
- **Feb.5th-** School Dance 7-9 pm
- **Feb.9th-** Scholastic Bowl Vs. Northlawn 4:00 pm
- **Feb.10th-** Progress Reports Go Home
- **Feb.11th-** Scholastic Bowl at Flanagan 4:00 pm
- **Feb.11th-** Beginning Band Mini Concert 4:00 pm
- **Feb.15th-** No School Presidents Day





6th Grade Science

The sixth grade scientists have completed their invertebrate projects and are ready to study vertebrates. In this unit, they will study: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, monotremes, and marsupials. The students will learn about the physical characteristics and behaviors of vertebrates. They



might be surprised with some facts that they will learn. For instance, did you know that amphibians were the first vertebrates to be successfully cloned? Be sure to ask them about other interesting information about vertebrates.

Mrs. VanHoveln

Science Humor

Question: Why does a turtle live in a shell?

Answer:
because it can't afford an apartment!

PTO

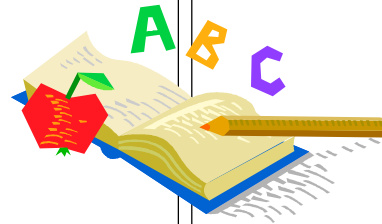
District PTO Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16 at 6:00 PM at Central School. All parents are invited to attend.

From the desk of Miss. Rapp:

In February we will continue working in our spelling books with a new unit each week. The students have been writing sentences in the place of definitions and those are due every Tuesday. In English we will be working on writing a persuasive paper. After that we will continue in English with the capitalization and punctuation unit. If any of the stu-

dents need any extra help they may see me during study hall or after school from 3:00-3:30 on Monday through Friday. I hope everyone has a great February!

Miss Rapp
7th Grade Language
Arts



Student Council News

Thank you to everyone who has supported our three 50/50 Raffle Drawings this year. Our latest winner was Mrs. Fraher, and she donated her winnings back to the Student Council. Thanks Mrs. Fraher!!

We will be selling Valentine suckers during lunch. Please stay tuned for more information in the morning announcements.

We are going to have a school-wide collection for the victims of the Haiti earthquake. Everyone who donates money can write their name on a star and add it to our "Wall of Stars" in the commons area. Thank you in advance for your support.

After Spring Break, we will be having a Door Decorating Contest. Start thinking about some creative ideas now!

Stay tuned for more exciting Student Council news! Also, feel free to listen to the announcements and come to our next meeting!

7th Grade Boys Basketball

The 7th grade boys' basketball team finished up their season Saturday after falling to Fieldcrest in Regional play at Wenona. We ended the season with a record of 7 wins and 14 losses. We had some good wins this year, including overtime wins against Channahon and Olympia. We also defeated Lexington, Woodland, Ridgeview, Streator Northlawn, and Prairie Central. Members of the 7th grade team are Andrew Beckman, Ben Bier, John Levertson, Kevin Lewis, Jared Lynn, Garrett Lyons, Mac Reynolds, Adam Shelton, Darin Trout, Nick Wotton, Guna Yerrabolu, Cam Brown, Kye Comincioli, and Seth Cunningham.

News from the School Counselor



ISAT Test Taking Tips



WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD BE AT HIS/HER BEST FOR TEST TAKING:

- Insure that your child arrives to school on time.
- Be sure your child wears comfortable clothes to school- possibly layering clothes to adjust for different temperatures in the building.
- Be sure your child has a good breakfast before going to school.
- Avoid disagreements and arguments the night before testing and the morning of the test.
- Be sure you remind your child to do his/her best. Learn to take testing seriously.
- Avoid medical and dental appointments on testing days.
- Listen to your child's anxieties and concerns. Reassure him/her and limit your own anxiety about your child's upcoming tests.
- Be sure your child gets a good night's sleep.
- Insure your child has all necessary supplies for testing such as pencils and erasers.
- Offer praise and encouragement. Tell your child that you believe he/she can do well and succeed.....boost his confidence.

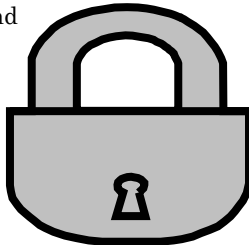
ISAT testing is quickly approaching. It is extremely important that your child is present at school in the weeks before and during the ISAT testing period. The teachers and students are working very hard to prepare for these essential tests. Let's all help them do their BEST!

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

Lock In

The PJHS 6th Annual LOCK IN will be held on Saturday, April 10 beginning at 1:00 PM and ending at 9:00 PM. All PJHS students are welcome to attend. Only students currently enrolled at PJHS may attend. Cost per student is \$10.00. A letter with information will be sent home and a parent permission form must be signed and turned in for students to attend.

Students should have lunch before they arrive. Pizza will be served around 5:00 PM. Students will be asked by grade level to bring bottled water, cookies or chips. There will also be sub sandwiches for sale for students who do not wish to eat pizza.



Volunteers will be needed to supervise students during shifts throughout the event. All volunteers must have completed a background check with the district in order to supervise at the Lock In.

Please call 815-842-4343, or email donzejud@p429.k12.il.us if you are interested in helping supervise at the LOCK IN any time between 1:00



Character Counts

Pillars to live by:

**CARING
RESPECT
FAIRNESS
CITIZENSHIP
RESPONSIBILITY
TRUSTWORTHINESS**





Sixth Grade Social Studies News!

No study of American history is complete without a study of the contributions and achievements of Black Americans. From the earliest existence of this country to the present time, Blacks have played a major role in its development and progress. Despite barriers set before them, they have managed to develop their talents to make contributions in all areas of American life. However, many of their contributions and achievements have not been given proper credit and recognition. Since 1926, there has traditionally been an observance during the month of February about the part Black Americans have played in our history. When Carter G. Woodson established the first observance, it was only for a week! Since 1976, the observance has lasted a month!



During February, our sixth grade students will take time to learn about various Black Americans and the contributions that they have made to our society. They will be asked to individually research a specific Black American and find out about their accomplishments. Once their research is complete, they will design a poster displaying a picture of their designated person, background information, and an 8 line poem describing his or her achievements. I hope the students enjoy this Black History project!!

Mrs. Mehlberg



7th Grade Science:

This past month we were studying **fossils, the geologic time scale, and the levels of classification**. Students really seemed to enjoy learning about fossils as well as the many different time periods of Earth's history. They were filled with great questions when it came to topics such as dinosaurs, woolly mammoths, extinction and more. I have been really impressed with the level of interest and enthusiasm I've seen from students this year!

We are now moving into a more difficult topic: **CELLS!** Encourage your student to try to maintain their level of enthusiasm despite the fact the content is becoming more advanced. Also this subject requires a lot of focus and memorization, so **studying outside of school** will be more necessary than before.

Also, during the month of February, we are celebrating **Black History Month**. Students can earn extra credit by doing research and doing a brief oral report on any African American who has played an **influential role in the world of science**. Read on to learn about one such person:

George Washington Carver (1731-1806)

Agricultural chemist, Carver discovered three hundred uses for peanuts and hundreds more uses for soybeans, pecans and sweet potatoes. Carver also developed his crop rotation method, which revolutionized southern agriculture.

Some of Carver's famous quotes:

"It is not the style of clothes one wears, neither the kind of automobile one drives, nor the amount of money one has in the bank, that counts. These mean nothing. It is simply service that measures success."

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these."

"Patience, persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success."

Health News

Medication Administration

Many of our local doctors are now asking for 24 hour notice in signing our med administration papers. So, if your child is seen in the doctor's office and you feel the med will need to be given at school, please have the paper signed at that time or be willing to come in and administer the medication at school if needed. Unfortunately, we are not able to give medication without a parent and doctor signature.

Patriots Pen Essay Contest

Congratulations to Alex Brown on winning 3rd place in the Patriot Pen Essay Contest that was sponsored by the VFW. Students from the Pontiac Jr. High were among three schools in our area that wrote a 300 word essay. This year's topic was "When Is The Right Time To Honor Our Military Heroes?"

Pictured is Alex receiving her award from Connie Triplett from the Pontiac VFW.



Computer/Technology Education News

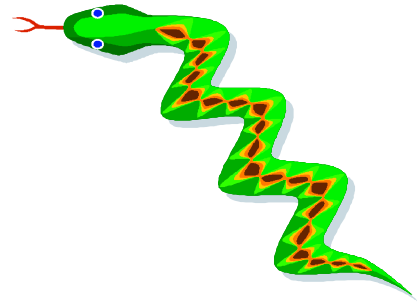
Congratulations to 2 more 8th grade students who completed the typing program AND met the 30 words per minute goal with 1 error or less. **WAY TO GO TO: Brianna Mueller and Ashley Spafford.**

I look forward to all the students who will make it onto the "All-Star" wall this quarter. 3rd quarter students get ready for Excel, it will be excellent this year!

Mrs. Chiodo



6th Grade Literature



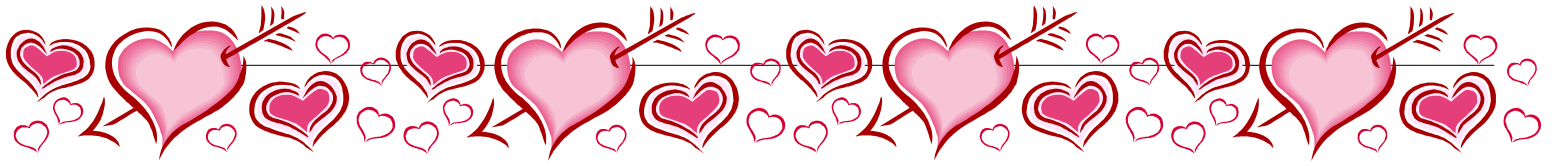
We are in the middle of Collection 3 where we are learning about different forms of fiction. Our next story will be "Medusa's Head" and then we will move on to "Perseus and the Gorgon's Head." Both of these stories are Greek myths and students will focus on the features of myths and mythical heroes. Myths are stories involving gods and other superhuman beings. Our last story in this collection will be a folk tale, "How the Snake Got Poison." The term folklore is used for the traditional songs, stories, proverbs, and riddles passed down from generation to generation. "How the Snake Got Poison" is an African American folk tale retold by Zora Neale Hurston explaining how rattlesnakes came to have a poisonous bite and a rattle on its tail.

School Store

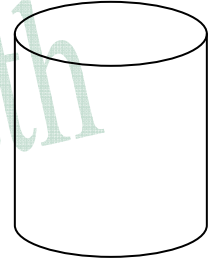
School Store is now open! Every Tuesday, the school store stops at your student's classroom. Items for sale include:

- **Pencils \$0.25**
- **Lead \$1.00**
- **Mechanical Pencils \$1.00**
- **Folders \$0.50**
- **Notebooks \$1.25**
- **Erasable Pens \$1.00**
- **Pens \$0.25**



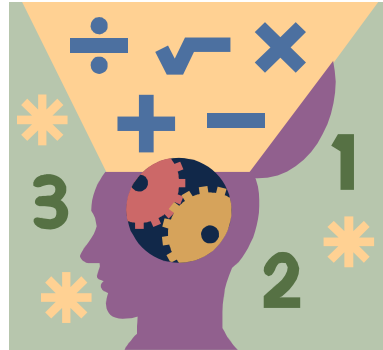


Math Math Math



7th Grade Math

ISAT ISAT ISAT ISAT ISAT ISAT ISAT ISAT
This month in math we have been working with graphing equations and inequalities, percent of change and simple and compound interest. You can help your child review math concepts for ISAT by going to this great website: www.aamath.com The net project is due on February 12th. Happy cutting and taping:)

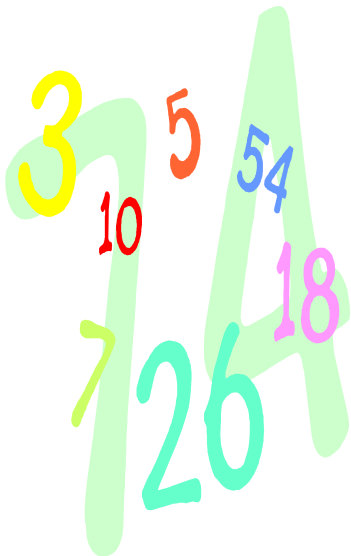


Mrs. Wasson

ATTENTION 8TH GRADE ALGEBRA STUDENTS AND PARENTS!!!!

The Algebra I competency exam will be coming up soon. This test is used to see if students are ready to move on to Geometry. It takes place on a Saturday up at Pontiac Township High School. They offer it on two different Saturdays. Students must take the test in order to move on to Geometry as a freshman.

I will email and send home information as soon as I get it! We are finishing up Chapter 5 right now. It involves graphing and solving inequalities. This is a time consuming chapter. We will be done this Friday January 29th. We will then move on to Chapter 6. Please take the time to check in on your son/daughter to see how things are going



8TH GRADE MATH!!

We just finished Chapter 8 which involved graphing inequalities. This was a time consuming chapter. We spent some extra time on the chapter to make sure we understood the information. The students worked very hard and had success. We moved to Chapter 14 which involves percentages. This is not as time consuming. Please check in on your son/daughter to see how things are going



ISAT TESTING is at the beginning of March, any extra help or review that you can do with your son/daughter would be great!! We appreciate your help.

8th Grade News

In Literature, we are reading short stories and practicing for ISAT in March. We continue to go to the library on Thursdays so please remind your child to bring his/her library books on Thursdays and to pay any overdue fines.

Language Arts is perfecting the art of persuasive writing. Be sure to read your student's essay. See if they can persuade you!

Science has finished the human body and is going into our chemistry and physics studies. Be sure to ask your student about our experiments over the next few months.

GREAT AMERICA

Is your child ready?

Have they paid yet?
 Are their grades passing?
 Have they received any demerits yet?
 Are you planning to join us for the trip?
 Just a reminder.....The cost is \$75.

This includes:
 Lunch
 Admission ticket
 t-shirt And LOTS of fun.

History has turned into the Civics. We are studying the US constitution. Please make sure your student studies for the final exam on Wednesday, February, 3rd!

**Activities yet to come.....
 Sewer Project
 Graduation!!!**

Mr. Fenton is doing so much in his classes that this small space wasn't enough room to show all his information. Please see the previous page for Mr. Fenton's Math and Algebra classes.



**2010 KINDERGARTEN/PRE-SCHOOL SCREENING
FOR AGES 0-6**

**Dates: February 23-26, 2010
(Tuesday through Friday)**

Location: Presbyterian Church, Pontiac

**Please call 815-844-5448 for an appointment
(Beginning Monday, February 8)**

Birth - 2 ½ year old children:

OSF staff will conduct screenings Wednesday, Feb. 24 - Friday, Feb. 26.
Special Needs Office will take appointments.

2 ½ - 4 year old children

(not age-ready for Kindergarten):

District #429 staff will conduct developmental screenings and will screen
vision and hearing for children older than 3 years.
Special Needs Office will take appointments.

*If your child successfully completed play-based screening last year, there
is no need to have your child screened again unless there is a new concern.*

4-5 year old children (age-ready for Kindergarten):

We would like to screen your child even if they have been seen by our Dis-
trict's screening team in the past. Your child must turn 5 by September
1st, 2010 to enroll in Kindergarten for Fall 2010. Please bring a copy of
your child's birth certificate to screening. Students currently enrolled in
our Pre-Kindergarten program and ECSE program do not need to have a
screening appointment.

They are screened in their classrooms.