



Pemberton News
We are Pemberton Elementary
School
One School-One Community



March
2015

Issue 7

Principal and Vice-Principal's Message

The cold winter months are quickly slipping away; warmer days and a later sunset are both signs that soon summer will be here. Until that time, Pemberton students will be working hard to finish their studies as they prepare for next year. The spring is a busy time of year for families but I hope you can take the time to join us for the numerous events that are being planned for our Pemberton community; I look forward to seeing you.

Students in grades three through five will take the first round of the PARRC Test during the month of March. Grade Three will test March 2nd - 4th, Grade 4, March 5th, 6th & 9th and Grade Five on March 10th - 12th. Wicomico County has selected the electronic format for all grades rather than the traditional paper & pencil version of the PARRC so all will be tested either in the computer lab or on full size laptops with a standard keyboard in their classroom. The next round of PARRC testing will occur over the Month of May.

Parents with a child that will be 4 as of September 1, 2015 can apply/register for Prekindergarten and if your child will be 5 as of September 1st they can be registered for Kindergarten. If you child is currently enrolled in our Prekindergarten program you do not have to contact school, your child's file will be moved to Kindergarten at the end of the school year. Pre Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration dates or location has not been announced as of this printing.

In closing I would like to recognize the teachers that were nominated for the Wicomico Teacher of the Year program; Mrs. Katie Ayd, Mrs. Colleen Bauman, Mrs. Jenny Duhe, Mrs. Jenny Zawacki, Mrs. Megan Franco, Ms. Andrea Marshall, Mrs., Alice Moore, Mrs. Staci Owens, Mrs. Tara Parsons, Mrs. Brenda Rhoads, Mrs. Terri Seward, Mrs. April Shawyer, Mrs. Pam Smith, Mrs. Joy Venere, & Ms. Danielle Vogt. Our semi-finalist this year is Mrs. Jenny Zawacki. Mrs. Zawacki will attend the Teacher of the Year dinner on March 19th where the finalist will be named. Congratulations to Mrs. Zawacki and all the nominees!

Curtis Twilley & Carla Hicks



Tuesday, March 31: This day will be an early dismissal for students, with schools dismissing two hours early. This had been scheduled to be a full school day, but early dismissal will provide teachers with time needed to work on requirements for meeting their Student Learning Objectives (SLO's); this task would have been part of the professional day on April 7.

Tuesday, April 7: This day will now be a regular school day for Wicomico students and staff. April 7 had been scheduled as a professional day, with part of the day for SLO's. Now, teachers will have time on March 31 to work on their SLO's.

Respect
Responsible
Ready-to-Learn
Rethink

Upcoming Dates:

- February 28th—Sweet Frog Fundraiser for Pemberton Elementary 1 pm-8 pm
- March 2nd-4th—PARRC Test for Grade 3
- March 5th, 6th,9th—PARRC Grade 4
- March 5th—Summer Engagement Expo at JMB School 5:30 pm-7:30 pm
- March 6th—Movie Night at Pemberton Elementary at 6 pm
- March 10th-12th—PARRC Grade 5
- March 31st—Early Dismissal for students 1:15 pm
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Guidance Corner:

Making a "Thank You Bank"

A lesson that pays off many dividends that are unmeasurable. It happens all too often. Children forget to be thankful. You can help them remember and give them some writing practice with a "thank you bank."

Step 1. Have each child make the bank by decorating a small box. (like a shoebox) Explain that it will be a wonderful gift for special people in their lives.

Step 2. Make a list of names and write what they appreciated about the names they choose.

Step 3. Have children write short thank you notes on slips of paper (be creative) and deposit them in the bank. For example, "Thanks for the wonderful sleepover party!"

Step 4. Have each child disperse their special notes.

Spread the joy and have fun.

JoAnne James, School Counselor

Pemberton receives funds through the Title I program and is considered a school wide program based on the number of students served free or reduced meals. Funding supports our school through additional staffing, materials for instruction and additional professional development. Parents are encouraged to review the home/school compact found on the Tuesday folder on a regular basis.

Grade Level News:

PreK:

Hello Pre-Kindergarten Families! It seems that March has blown in like a Lion (type weather and hopefully will leave with "Lamb" like weather). This month your pre-kindergarten child will be exploring Construction Zone and Transportation Themes. We will be investigating all types of vehicles including heavy machinery used in construction work. Our studies will begin with the story Alphabet Under Construction. This is a story about a very industrious mouse, who builds the alphabet using all types of materials such as buttons for the B. Through the story, your child will learn about tools used for building including hammers, tape measures, nails, paint brushes, bricks and much more. Other stories will include **The Elves and the Shoemaker**, **Bumbling Building Bugs**(who learn how to build a bridge - Hey we will do that too!!!) and **The Three Little Pigs**. This month your child will have many stories about all the hands on activities they are working on. Please look around the community and identify with your child the different types of vehicles you see and point out any housing or building construction. Save food boxes and build a building with your child at home. Take a picture of your building, a special vehicle or building construction with your phone and text it to your child's teacher so we can share with the whole class.

Second Grade:

As spring approaches, 2nd grade will continue to work on 3 digit addition and subtraction, with a focus on word problems and place value. Please practice basic math facts with your child at home. In reading, we will continue our theme "**Around Town: Neighborhoods and Communities**" and focus on author's purpose and opinion writing. As always, please make sure to check your child's agenda and Tuesday folder and make sure that they are doing their homework each evening. We thank you for your continued support of our second graders!

Third Grade:

Third grade continues to March into learning! The weather is starting to warm, but please remind your child to dress appropriately as we will try to go out for recess as often as possible. In Reading and Science, students are still learning about animal behaviors and habitats. Did you know March is National Women's History Month? In Social Studies we will be reading to be informed about famous historical women. Mathematics has us finding area, using graphs to interpret data, rounding numbers and solving two step problems. Our students will also begin taking the PARCC assessment. The testing dates include at least two days each week. Please make sure your child is getting a good night's rest throughout the entire month and is present and on time daily. Encourage your child to do his/her best and ask questions if needed. Please take the time to replenish your child's supplies such as paper, glue sticks, pencils, erasers and folders that may be worn. As always, we appreciate your support and collaboration in your child's education and success!!

Fourth Grade:

Let's hope the March winds blow in the sunshine and warmth. Now that the year is half over, please check your child's supplies. Many students are running low on paper, pencils, and erasers. We would appreciate donations of tissues, as allergy season approaches. Both reading and math PARCC assessments will be given this month. Please encourage your child to do his or her best. In reading, we will continue Theme 3: That's Amazing, involving both amazing contributions of people and the amazing events of nature. We will continue to increase our vocabulary and improve our writing skills in language arts. We have finished our unit on weather, but please continue to monitor the weather via Pemberton Elementary weather station (<https://rainwise.net/weather/PES21801>). We will begin a unit on matter this month. We will continue our study of Maryland. Maryland day is March 25th. In math we will be working on Unit 6: Understanding and Comparing Decimals and Unit 7: Measurement Conversions and Problem Solving. Please continue to work with your child on fact fluency. Practice spelling words for optimum use in writing throughout all subject areas. The 3rd marking term is currently scheduled to end March 27th.



Fifth Grade:

Remember that **Biography projects** are due no later than **Friday March 6th**. Students will finish solving problems with fractional quantities and begin a unit on classifying 2-dimensional figures. In reading, students will begin a theme with stories about the American Revolution. In social studies, students will continue to examine colonial times and the social, political, and economic differences among the colonies. During science, students will continue to apply their knowledge of physics as they learn about Newton's laws and forces such as gravity, electricity, and magnetism. Students will soon begin to construct their "egg drop challenge" contraptions as well. Fifth grade students will begin to take PARCC math and assessments in March. These will be followed by MSA science assessments in **April**. PARCC reading assessments will begin **March 10th - March 12th**. PARCC math assessments will begin **March 19th -March 20th**. During our fast-paced and rigorous instruction using interactive notebooks, students are zipping through their supply of glue sticks and pencils, and may need a resupply of these items as well as crayons or colored pencils so that they are prepared for class each day. Be sure to check your child's supplies and replenish any missing items. Also, as the cold and flu season begins to come upon us, it would be a big help if parents could continue to donate such items as tissues and hand sanitizer to our classrooms. Finally, be sure to check the weather regularly so that your child may dress appropriately in case we venture out to recess in the coming days. Layering clothing is always a good idea. Be sure students have an appropriate sweater or sweatshirt (following Consistent Attire guidelines). Classroom temperature can vary and students may find that an extra layer makes them more comfortable. Thanks for all your help and support! Please contact us at school if you have questions or concerns.

Need Programs For Summer Daycare?

Do you need information about summer programs for you elementary children? Parents, do you need information about AP/Honors and CTE for your secondary students? If yes, come to the **Summer Expo & More** being held on Thursday March 5th, at James M. Bennett High School, 5:30-7:00 pm. Browse the tables of more than 20 community organizations. Attend a mini-seminar on Naviance, the new SAT, preparing for college, and STEM classes. The event is free and open to all parents. For more information, call (410) 677-4529.

Happy March! Spring is on its way!

Thank you for all of our parents/guardians and students who were in attendance for our Title I Intermediate (Grades 3-5) Family Night at Food Lion on Thursday, February 5th. It was a great success with over 76 people attending and fun was had by all! A big shout out goes to Cynthia and Josh from Food Lion for hosting this wonderful event. In addition, a special thanks goes out to all of those staff members who gave unwillingly of their time to attend and to Steve and the rest of the staff at the Pecan Square Deli for providing a phenomenal dinner! We appreciate all of you!

On the evening of Thursday, March 5th, a Summer Engagement Expo will be held to provide parents and guardians with information on summer camps and activities around the area. This Expo will be held from 5:30- 7:30 PM at James M. Bennett High School. There will also be breakout sessions for middle and high school students. Information will be sent home in Tuesday folders for this event. You will not want to miss the Summer Engagement Expo!

Pemberton's Parent Advisory Council Meeting will be held in April 2015. Be on the lookout for forthcoming information regarding this important meeting. We will be reviewing our Partners in Learning Compact and Brochure as well as Parent Involvement Budget for the upcoming 2015-2016 school year. Once you receive your invitation this month, please fill out the bottom portion and send it back to school with your child. Please remember to review our Parent Involvement brochure that was sent home at the beginning of the year. If you are in need of another copy, you may pick up one in our Parent Information Center located in the front lobby. In addition, please take a moment each week to review the Pemberton Partners in Learning Compact found on the blue sticker that covers the back of your child's Tuesday folder.

As the school year progresses, we all need to make sure we are doing our part as a school, as a family and as an individual student. As a school, we are continuing to provide regular communication with our families through our monthly newsletters, phone calls, School Messenger calls, agenda, progress reports, report cards, notes, parent-teacher conferences and Tuesday folders. As a family, please make sure to continue to read and respond to all information, including the student agenda, Tuesday folder, progress reports and notes. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call and set up a time to meet with your child's teacher or teachers. As a student, make sure to share your folder and agenda each night with your family, along with any other notes that may be sent home. Remember TEAM stands for Together Everyone Achieves More. Here at Pemberton, we are truly a TEAM so remember to encourage all members to do their part to help our TEAM succeed!