



# Panda Press

We are Pemberton Elementary School  
One School-One Community



Issue 2

October  
2014

## Message from the Principal

As the cold and flu season approaches, absences are common for elementary age students. While absences are understandable if a child is ill, regular attendance is a key factor for success. Please use the following guidelines as you evaluate if your child is able to attend school. Your child should be without vomiting, diarrhea, and fever free for 24 hours prior to returning to school (A fever is defined as temperature of 100.0 or greater). Our nursing staff would like to also add that children should be able to meet the above criteria without the use of fever reducing medication for 24 hours and that over the counter medications cannot be administered to students without a doctor's note. In the event of an absence, make up work can be requested by 11:30 a.m. if you wish to pick the packet up after 3:30 p.m. that day. Students are allowed the same number of days of their absence to complete and turn in make-up work assigned. I hope that this will be a healthy school year for all of our Pemberton families!

School Messenger is a communication tool the school uses often. Typically it will contact families through the caller ID phone number 410.677.5999 if the message was created at Pemberton. For the message to begin, the person picking up the call must say hello for the computer to begin the playing of the message. This technology is a rapid contact system that can be utilized to inform parents about attendance, field trips, PTA meetings or emergency closings due to weather occurring after school begins. It is very important to maintain current phone numbers and email addresses in the main office. Please notify Mrs. Lewis in the main office of any changes.

With the cooler months ahead, students are arriving to school with jackets and sweatshirts. Please ensure that your child has an approved pullover for school. The article can be; crewneck, cardigan, v-neck sweaters, vest or a fleece pullover in CAP colors. (With an appropriate shirt underneath). This can include hooded attire but should be free of logos. Students wearing unapproved pullovers will be asked to remove them. If you need assistance with accessing an appropriate pullover please contact Mrs. Rowe in the main office.

*Mr. Curtis Twilley*



On or about **October 6<sup>th</sup>**, the City of Salisbury will begin a major roads project at the stoplight of Parsons Rd. and Pemberton Dr. From what the city planner shared, this will be very disruptive to the traffic flow and will have a major impact on travel times in this area. To assist with the expected congestion, Culver Rd., which is in front of the school will be paved and Ellegood to Marine Rd. will be marked as an alternative route for ALL community traffic. Families should anticipate longer times for arrival to and from school and significant congestion in the car pool area with the higher community use of Ellegood. The project should last three to four weeks depending on the weather.



**Respect**  
**Responsible**  
**Ready-to-Learn**  
**Rethink**

Upcoming Dates:

- October 3rd—PTA Skate Night 6:30 PM  
1st Grade Visits Wrights Market
- October 6th—PTA Meeting 6:30 PM
- October 6th-10th—PTA Book Fair & Fire Prevention Week
- October 7th—PTA Advisory Committee Meeting at 5:30 PM
- October 7th—3rd Grade Field Trip
- October 10th—Fall Picture Day
- October 16th—SU Leadership & Kindergarten to MD Science Center
- October 23rd—Family Strategy Workshop- 5:30 pm
- October 25th—Judy Center Science/Math Night
- October 28th—4th Grade to Zoo 12:30 pm-2:45 pm

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## **A Message From the Assistant Principal**

Tis the season for pumpkins! But what can we do with them besides making a jack-o-lantern or sitting them outside on the porch? We can explore the world of math, science, writing, and art! There are many hands-on activities that you can do with your child that will incorporate most subjects and help with understanding the world of Common Core. Math and science activities include: counting and sorting seeds, measuring (weight and circumference), will the pumpkin sink or float; rotting science (what happens when a pumpkin begins to rot?), and graphing. Have your student write about their "pumpkin experience" and draw pictures. Other fun activities are baking, pumpkin bowling, growing a pumpkin within a pumpkin, or even pumpkin painting! What will you do with them this season?

Help your child earn Panda Bucks from Ms. Hicks by having him or her share through pictures or writing the fun had with pumpkins!

*Carla Hicks*

### **Grade Level News:**

#### **PreK:**

The Pre-K students are excited to be called "Pemberton Pandas"! We are off to a great start. Mrs. Venere and Mrs. Moore's students have been enjoying getting to know each other and learning their new friends' names. For the month of September, in each class, we have been talking about watermelons, Nursery Rhymes, and reviewing what letter our names begin with. The classes traveled to East Salisbury School to experience "One World, One Sky" on September 30th. Please remind your child to be a good listener and to follow Pemberton's 4 R's which are be respectful, responsible, ready-to-learn, and rethink choices, when necessary. We look forward to a great 2014-2015 school year!

#### **Kindergarten:**

In October, our reading/language arts instruction will continue to focus on letters, letter sounds, and high frequency words. In mathematics we are focusing on number recognition, writing numbers, counting objects, ordering numbers, making sets and 2D shapes. It is important that your child has a solid grasp of what a number looks like, how

### **Grade Level News continued:**

#### **Kindergarten continued:**

its represented and how to write it. We realize that our students are in different places so our instruction is presented in small groups that are tiered to meet the needs of your child. Our learning opportunities are provided in a format that is fun and exciting for your child. Please don't forget to send in your child's permission slip and \$9 fee for the Baltimore Science Center. Science night will be Oct. 28th. You will receive an invitation closer to the event.

#### **First Grade:**

First grade is excited about the start of a wonderful school year. We started the year off by learning a variety of new routines and procedures. We will continue to practice and implement these routines as the year progresses. In reading, we have been practicing our fluency and comprehension. We've reviewed our phonics skills and will continue to practice these skills. Please make sure your child is reading at home daily. He/she should also be reading the word lists that are in the agenda every night. In math, we have been practicing identifying numbers and number words up to 20. We will continue working on this as well as practicing part-part whole, addition, and subtraction. Please encourage your child to practice identifying their number words and numbers at home. Please check the weather for the October 3 trip to Wright's Market and dress your child accordingly. Pemberton Elementary School has started its Panda buck system where our students earn bucks for following the 4R's (Respect, Responsibility, Ready to Learn, Rethink). The first grade teachers love to give out Panda bucks so please talk with your child at home about how to follow the 4R's. We know our students will be successful at this and we look forward to learning in October.

## **Grade Level News continued:**

### **Second Grade:**

The 2014-2015 school year is off to a great start in second grade! We are currently working on reviewing basic facts and place value in math. Specific math skills include word problems, expanded and standard form, renaming numbers, and comparing numbers. In reading, we have started **Unit 2: Nature Walk** and we are reading books and articles about nature and animal habitats. We will also be learning about multiple meaning words, compound words, antonyms and synonyms. As always, please make sure that your child is completing his or her homework each evening and returning it the following day.

### **Third Grade:**

Our school year has gotten off to a great start. In Math, we are learning strategies for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and will also learn about fractions. In Reading, our first theme is Relationships. In this unit, we will focus on making inferences, identifying the main idea of a paragraph and the importance of all types of relationships. In Social Studies, we have been learning about direction, the continents, and how to read a map. In Science, we are learning about forces and how they interact. Please remember to check your child's agenda nightly and continue to encourage him/her to always do his/her best. We are looking forward to an outstanding year!!

### **Fourth Grade:**

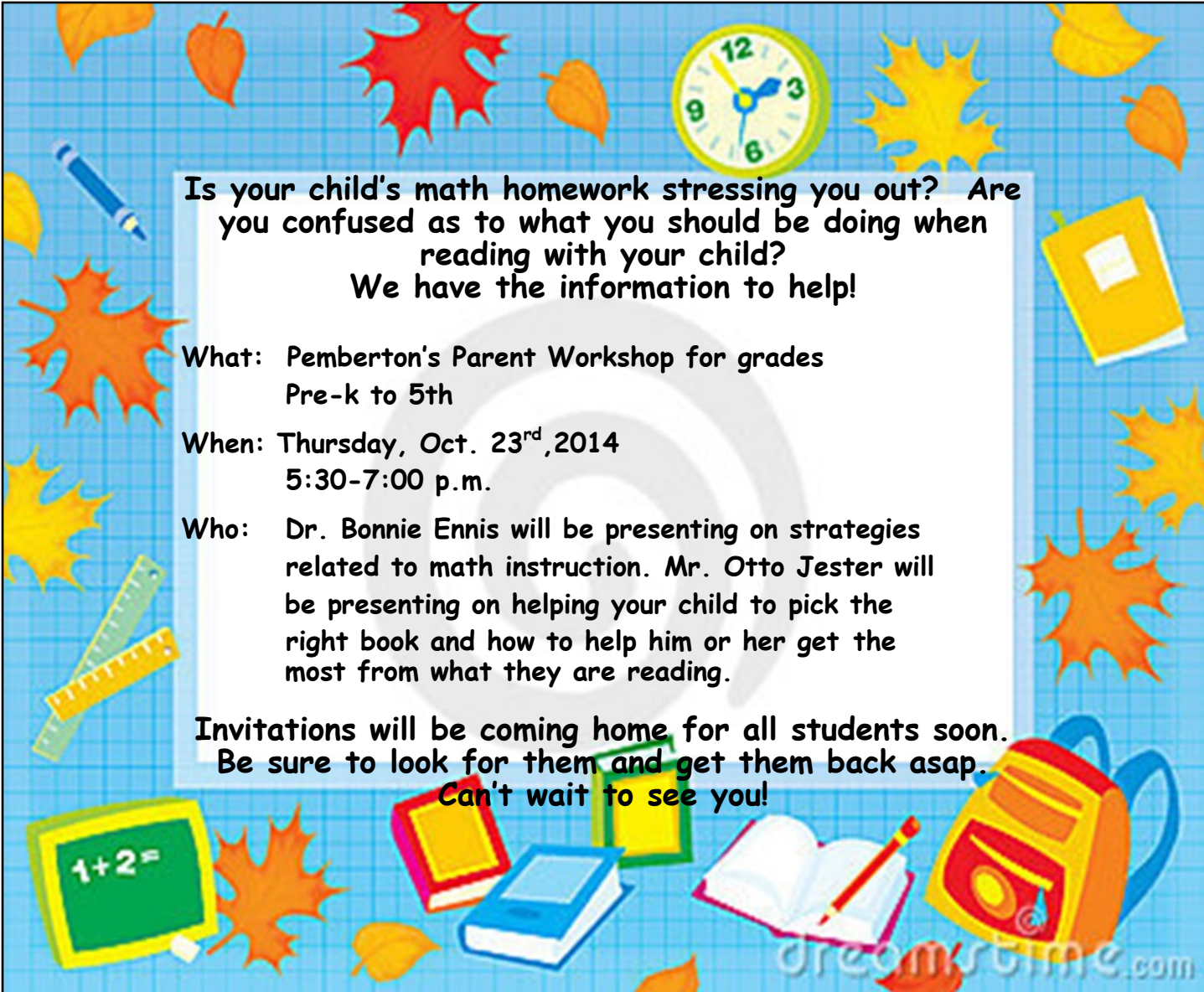
Like the subtle changes of late summer leaves to the brilliant display of fall colors, our fourth graders are adjusting to the fast paced schedule of fourth grade and the responsibilities that go with our curriculum goals. In language all classes are using Daily Oral Language practice writing and comprehension skills. We are working with the four types of sentences and sentence structure. In reading, students are using a variety of genre' from nursery rhymes, political cartoons, plays, tool kit articles, and a novel to practice strategies to improve comprehension. We are learning the importance of reading with a pencil in hand

## **Fourth Grade continued:**

as we respond to a variety of questions or writing prompts. In science, we are refining our skill with practical applications of the scientific method. In social studies, we are working with map skills which will be a part of our studies throughout the year. In math, we are building on our work with place value and working on basic operations with three digit numbers using a variety of creative practice strategies. In spelling, we are working daily to practice our list and use the words in writing across the content areas. Parents please encourage your students to complete all assignments and come prepared to class daily so that they can always be responsible and ready to learn! Stay tuned for up-coming details on an outside learning activity in late October. We are looking forward to a great year!

### **Fifth Grade:**

Fifth graders are eager to start the new school year! After a review of the scientific method, we've jumped right in to Earth science, studying rocks and minerals first. Our science investigations and studies are correlated to our reading theme which is Nature's Fury. As a part of this theme study, students are reading Earthquake Terror and other stories about the power and force of nature. During ELA students are practicing recognizing the four kinds of sentences. We're investigating and learning to calculate the volume of regular and irregular rectangular prisms in math class. Students are expected to utilize their multiplication and division skills to assist them in determining volume. In social studies we have been analyzing and interpreting information found on maps and the globe. Soon students will begin to identify each of the 50 states and place them on a map in the appropriate place.



**Is your child's math homework stressing you out? Are you confused as to what you should be doing when reading with your child? We have the information to help!**

**What:** Pemberton's Parent Workshop for grades Pre-k to 5th

**When:** Thursday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014  
5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Who:** Dr. Bonnie Ennis will be presenting on strategies related to math instruction. Mr. Otto Jester will be presenting on helping your child to pick the right book and how to help him or her get the most from what they are reading.

**Invitations will be coming home for all students soon. Be sure to look for them and get them back asap. Can't wait to see you!**

## **Title I News**

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. Two surveys were sent home during the first week of school. One was a Parent Interest Survey and the other was a Volunteer Survey. Thank you to those who have completed and returned these with your child. This information is helpful to us in planning upcoming events and recruiting volunteers throughout the year. Our first Parent Advisory Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7th from 5:30-6:00. Invitations will be sent home in Tuesday folders. Please let us know if you plan to attend by returning the form to school. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Title I program and to provide input.



### **IMPORTANT CHANGE THIS YEAR!**

County Wide, all elementary schools are implementing a new practice to ensure student safety. Phone calls can no longer be accepted to change a student's method of transportation home during the school day. A note, fax or email is needed in the office prior to 12:00 PM to authorize any such requests.

**FAX: 410-677-5848**

**Email Contacts: [psmullen@wcboe.org](mailto:psmullen@wcboe.org), [chlewis@wcboe.org](mailto:chlewis@wcboe.org) or your child's teacher**