



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



December
2014

Issue 4

Principal's Message

Happy Holiday greetings to all of our Pemberton families, it's hard to believe that we are already into the winter holiday season. Fall has been very busy for our staff, students, and volunteers. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would just like to say to all our volunteers how thankful we all are to have you. Our school is so successful due to the tremendous amount of volunteering done by our parents and the community.

As we approach the holiday season, I am reminded of the ART OF GIVING. Students can be so giving of their smiles, laughter, generosity, time, talents, and cute comments. I know that I love to receive and see high-fives, knuckle bumps, thumbs-up, #1 signs, waves, etc., while in the hallway. The ART OF GIVING someone a lift in their day can be so simple or far more complex. Students learn at a young age the ART OF GIVING through modeling from family members, special people in their lives, educators, and community involvement. This is the perfect time of year to teach and reinforce the concept of giving through volunteering in our community, at church, or through scouting programs.

Many thanks to the PTA for a great night at our Annual Auction, the efforts of our PTA and those that attended will enable our PTA to continue the great work they do for all of our students.

I hope you will take time this holiday season to enjoy family, be thankful and encourage our children to give to others.



A Friendly Reminder: The instructional school day for students begins at 8:45 AM. When your student is late to school (unexcused), they are missing key instruction. Please try to have your child here by the designated time. **All dismissal changes must be in writing and submitted to the office prior to 12 pm daily. Phone calls can no longer be accepted. Please fax or email: psmullen@wcboe.org or chlewis@wcboe.org.**

From the Desk of the Assistant Principal, Ms. Carla Hicks



Well, it is December and the holidays are almost here

Another happy season for family and good cheer

There will be tables loaded with turkeys, hams and sweets

We know there will be more than we could ever eat...

What's happening in December!

• **ELA Interim Assessment 2**

Students in Grades 1-5 will take the ELA Interim Assessment 2 beginning December 2, 2014.

• **InView Testing**

Students in grade two will be taking the InView Test starting December 10th. This assessment also serves as a portion of the entry criteria for the magnet program. The InView test is a cognitive ability test composed of five subtests: sequences, analogies, quantitative reasoning, verbal reasoning-words, and verbal reasoning-context. **It is a two - day test and all second graders will be taking the test December 10 -11, 2014.** A Practice test will be given on Monday, December 8, 2014.

• **The Mathematics Intermediate Interim Assessment 2** will be given to students in Grades 3-5 starting December 10, 2014.

Respect
Responsible
Ready-to-Learn
Rethink

Upcoming Dates:

- December 2nd— Grades 1-5 ELA Interim Assessment 2
- December 4th—Grade 3 to Stephen Decatur
- December 4th 6:00-7:30 Primary Family Night at Food Lion (grades pre-k-2)
- December 5th—Grade 3 to WiHi, Grade 1 to Stephen Decatur
- December 10th—Grades 3-5 Math Intermediate Interim Assessment 2
- December 12th—Grade 4 to Stephen Decatur
- December 18th—PTA/Winter Concert 6:30 pm
- December 18th—Holiday Program and Compact Review
- December 22nd-January 4th—School Closed for Winter Break
- January 5th—School Reopens

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Important Information:

Peanut Butter Food Items will no longer be served in the cafeteria for the 2014-2015 school year. They will be substituted with either deli ham or deli turkey sandwiches.



Guidance Corner:

Wow! Thank you parents, staff, and students who made the Food Drive such a success. With the holiday season approaching, this a wonderful time to teach our children issues related to hunger, poverty, and community responsibility. Our school, through the Maryland Food Bank, collected items that went directly to local soup kitchens, pantries and shelters. Once again, thank you for sharing, caring and giving!

School Counselor,
Ms. JoAnne James

Title I News:

Thanks to the parents who came out for the Title I PAC meeting on Tuesday, October 7th, SU Leadership Training on October 16th and the Parent Strategy Workshop on October 23rd.

Parent Involvement:

Families of students in grades pre-k through second, please don't forget our next Family Night at Food Lion if you signed up for it. It is imperative that we know how many people are attending this night, so we can plan for materials and food. Invitations went home in November. This fun learning night will be on Thursday, **December 4th at 6:00**. We are partnering with Food Lion on Nanticoke Road for this event. Students will hopefully have a renewed interest in how math is used day-to-day in a practical manner. Door prizes and incentives will be provided. We are looking forward to a fun-filled night! There will be a similar night held in February for students in grades 3-5. Look for invitations in January.

Parent Information Center:

Anytime you are in our school, be sure to look at our Parent Information Center in the lobby, across from the office check-in window. There are many free resources for parents to help with your child's educational needs. Any parent is welcome to these free resources.

Partners in Learning Compact:

Are you familiar with our Partners in Learning Compact? This is an agreement between the school, parents and students to work together to enable our students to become productive citizens. It is on the back of your child's Tuesday Folder. Take a moment to look it over with your child so we all know the expectations of this compact. Remember that some of the expectations are for families to read together daily and to review basic math facts.

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:

Pre-K wanted to thank all of the parents who attended American Education Week. You made your child feel extra-special. If you were not able to attend last week, we will have other opportunities for you to visit. We have family nights and "Pre-K/K Rotation Days", periodically throughout the school year. Also, we wanted to take this time to thank all of the parents who donate snacks and other supplies to our classrooms. We appreciate your support. The Pre-K classes will be wrapping-up their theme on the "Five Senses" soon. We encourage the Pre-K families to help their child/children be mindful of the senses they are using, especially during their Thanksgiving dinner. Once we return from our Thanksgiving break we will be talking about the four seasons: summer, winter, spring, and fall. Winter will be here before we know it! The Pre-K children will be traveling to Stephen Decatur early in the month of December to see a play called "Lazy Jack." Attending the play will allow us to practice being good audience members, enable us to practice retelling what happened at the beginning, middle and end of the play, and it will help reinforce our listening skills.

Kindergarten:

Our Kindergarten students are having fun working with beginning, middle and ending sounds in words, and learning how to say and spell our high frequency words. Please continue to read with your child each night and discuss the book you have read together. Keep in mind to ask questions relating to the beginning, middle, and end of the story about the characters and the problem. Please also take time to read nonfiction texts with your child at home and reread the scholastic articles we send home. In math we are counting to 100 daily and working to write our numbers. Thanks to all who joined us for dinner for our science night, we had an awesome science evening with our students and families, while the children learned about the four seasons. Each kindergarten classroom demonstrated a season and the students learned about life cycles, painted with corn, had a presentation from the Salisbury zoo about insects and spiders, and did some chilly experiments with ice and water. As the cold weather creeps up quickly, please see that your child wears a warm jacket to school each day. The children enjoy going outside for recess to play, and need appropriate warm clothing.



Grade Level News continued:

First Grade:

In December, first grade will be learning about many holidays from around the world. We will read stories to talk about the traditions and cultures of various countries then compare and contrast how the traditions and cultures are the same or different than our own. In Math, we will continue to work with the concept of shapes and expand to talk about 3 dimensional shapes. We will also work with word problems to practice addition and subtractions skills. The first grade class will be going to Stephen Decatur High School to see the play *Lazy Jack* on the morning of December 4th. The play discusses the topics of responsibility and greed. We hope that your child will enjoy the trip. The holiday parties for first grade are being scheduled. Each teacher will notify the parents as to when the party will be scheduled.

Second Grade:

Second grade is looking forward to a delightful December! We will continue reading about *Amazing Animals* in Unit 2. In math we will continue working on place value and addition and subtraction of 3-digit numbers. Please make sure that your child is completing their homework each night and reading each evening. Information about our Winter Celebration will be coming home in Tuesday folders this month.

Third Grade:

Seasons Greetings, third grade families! New school supplies make great gifts for the upcoming holiday season. We are looking forward to our two field trips on December 4th and 5th. If you haven't done so already, please send in your child's money and both permission slips. Looking ahead in reading, we will continue discussing traditions and celebrating diverse cultures. In social studies, we will begin an economics unit. Scientific studies will include life cycles and the environment. Lastly, we will learn how to calculate elapsed time and use appropriate tools for measurement in math. Please continue to read for at least 20 minutes every night and work on multiplication and division fact fluency. As always, thank you for your support!

Fourth Grade:

Fourth grade looks forward to a busy and exciting December. On December 12th, we will travel to Stephen Decatur to watch a production of *"Lazy Jack"*. Please send in permission slips and money as soon as possible. Information about our Holiday Party will be coming home soon in Tuesday folders. In math, we will continue our unit working with fractions and the four operations. Students are practicing with the PARCC assessment online to prepare them for the actual assessment coming up in March. The classroom Spelling Bee's have been completed to find a class winner and runner up for all three classes. The school Spelling Bee will be held on

Fourth Grade continued:

January 15th. Permission slips will be sent home in the coming month. In reading, we will focus on the theme of "Heroes" past and present. We will use a variety of genre' to meet the goals of this theme. We will also be working toward a listening and speaking project where we learn more about the traditions of our peers. We will enhance our vocabulary skills using www.freerice.com. Hopefully, we will all be ready for a holiday filled with a few good books. In science, we will continue our unit on Weather. Students are excited to use our new wireless weather station to analyze the local weather patterns. Please visit <https://rainwise.net/weather/PES21801> to get up to date weather condition at Pemberton Elementary. If you are in the school during morning announcements, listen for the daily weather report. In social studies, we will be learning about the history of Maryland in the upcoming weeks. The first round of the Geography Bee will be conducted on Friday, December 5th. Only students with signed permission slips turned in by December 3rd will be able to participate. Those who qualify for round two will meet in the cafeteria on December 15th. The top ten scorers will compete in the grand finale on January 9th.

Fifth Grade:

After Thanksgiving, students will continue to add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators and solve real-world problems involving the addition and subtraction of fractions. In reading, students will begin a new unit called *Making a Difference*. Students will develop a general understanding of people who make a difference in their lives. In social studies, students will continue to investigate explorers and begin to examine colonial times. During science, students will apply the knowledge they've gained about Earth Science and Earth's constructive and destructive forces to real-world situations integrating the STEM subjects. Please remember that our spelling words as well as our vocabulary terms are closely linked to the academic content students are learning. In order to help parents reinforce these words at home, both vocabulary words and spelling words can be found online at <http://spellingcity.com>. Please use this resource as you help your child with their weekly homework assignments. 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. Our supply is already dwindling. Finally, be sure to check the weather regularly so that your child may dress appropriately when 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.