



Pemberton News

We are Pemberton Elementary School One School-One Community



February
2015

Issue 6

Notes From Administration:

The second term has just ended; it is hard to believe that our school year is now half over! While the calendar shows 90 instructional days given to our students that also leaves 90 to continue our rigorous instruction. Your teachers are working on a daily basis to plan and deliver high quality Instruction for all of our students at Pemberton Elementary. Report cards will be issued on January 30th, please do not wait to set up a parent conference if you wish to have one with your child's teacher. The staff of Pemberton Elementary is committed to offering families clear and current information about a student's academic progress.

This year students in grades 3 - 5 will be administered the PARCC Assessment rather than the former assessment most have known as MSA. Like MSA, PARCC will be administered over multiple days but there are several changes to how students are assessed:

- * The PARRC is given in a window (March 2nd - March 27th). If you have children in two or more tested grades they may not be tested on the same day.
- * PARCC is a computer based assessment. Because of this, a window of time is given rather than set days to account for bandwidth issues and the number of computers available at one time.
- * PARRC has two test windows rather than one. To make it simple to understand, the March window tests three days of English Language Arts (Reading and Writing) and two days of Math. This test window assesses through student writing samples. The April/May window (April 20th - May 15th) will more of a traditional assessment using a multiple choice format, testing both reading and math for three days.

As we get closer to each assessment window, families will be notified of the homeroom test schedule.

Our Barnes & Noble book fair will be held on Saturday, February 14th from 11:00 AM -3:00 PM. An information flier will be sent home with more details for the event. Please take time to join us for this wonderful community event.



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 or Email Contacts: psmullen@wcboe.org, chlewis@wcboe.org or your child's teacher.

JANUARY 30TH IS A CASUAL DAY FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS. PLEASE WEAR YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS JERSEY.

SCHOOL DELAYS

During school delays the time to arrive for school is as follows:

1-hour Delay-start time is 9:45 am

STUDENTS MAY NOT ENTER THE BUILDING BEFORE 9:15 AM

2-hour Delay—start time is 10:45 am

STUDENTS MAY NOT ENTER THE BUILDING BEFORE 10:15 AM

LIABILITY PREVENTS EARLY DROP OFF OF STUDENTS!

SPRING IS ALMOST HERE and it is time to sign up for West Salisbury Little League Baseball! Signups for 4 to 18 year olds will be every Saturday in February from 10am until 2pm at West Salisbury Little League. Boys and Girls Welcome. For more information please contact Kristen Wheatley, President 443-359-1389.

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

Upcoming Dates:

- February 5th- Title I Family Night at Food Lion for Intermediate students (Grades 3rd-5th) 6:00 pm
- February 12th—Jump Rope For Heart 8:45 am-2:45 pm
- February 13th—Schools Closed Professional Day
- February 16th—Schools Closed President's Day
- February 19th—Kindergarten's first Parent/Child Rotation
- February 23rd—McDonald's Spirit Night 5-7 pm

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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.

Grade Level News:

PreK:

Pre-Kindergarten will be having fun this month to one of our most favorite themes: **Let's Move**. We will enjoy moving like dinosaurs, doing exercises, and dancing to music. In reading, we will talk about action words and the difference between real/make-believe. In math, we will use ordinal numbers, draw shapes, and compare size, amount & weight. Please keep an eye out for a Valentine's Day Class List. Your child can enjoy making cards for his or her friends. Talk about what letter each of their friends' names begins with. In writing, we will be writing about friendship and who we love! Happy Early Valentine's Day!

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten will begin a new theme in reading called **Wheels Go Around**. We will be studying many types of transportation. In this theme more HF words will be introduced. Please continue to study these words at home. Our first parent and child rotation will occur Feb. 19th. You will be invited to join your child in a fun morning of activities focused around the Chinese New Year. In Math, we will continue to work on composing and decomposing numbers to 10. Look for addition and subtraction flash cards to come home with your child. Many children in kindergarten have already mastered counting to 100 by 1's and 10's. Please count with your child daily. Every Kindergartener has weekly homework. Please check your child's book bag every Monday for their homework. Home is to be returned completed on Friday morning.

First Grade:

First grade is excited that we are now in Term 3! We look forward to all of the learning and fun that we have planned! In reading, we will continue working on identifying the main idea, summarizing, recalling details, sequencing as well as comparing and contrasting. We will also continue to practice appropriate first grade writing. Please keep encouraging your child to read every night and practice the words in his/her agenda. To ensure that our students are successful on their spelling tests, they should practice the words daily. In math, we will be working on place value and comparing numbers up to 100. We will also continue practicing time to the hour and half hour. Your child should practice their math facts up to 20 on a daily basis. In science and social studies we will be learning about Valentine's Day, President's Day, and Heart Health. Jump Rope for the Heart will take place on February 12th and more information on this will be sent home in your child's Tuesday folder. Please check your child's school supplies and replenish where necessary. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

Second Grade:

Second grade is looking forward to a Fabulous February! We will begin Unit 3: **Around Town: Neighborhoods and Communities in Reading**. In math, we will continue our work with place value, one-step word problems, and regrouping. Our social studies lessons will focus on presidents as we celebrate President's Day in February. In science, we will begin our study of simple machines. 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:

Brrrrr it's cold outside, but our learning is on fire!! During this month we are finding equivalent fractions and determining additional strategies for finding products and quotients in Math. Please practice basic facts at home to improve your student's fluency. In Reading and Science, our focus will be on animal habitats and adaptations. Social Studies will be a time for us to explore how our economy works as we study economics. We will also be studying notable African Americans to honor Black History Month. Please remind your child to dress appropriately for the weather. We are halfway through the school year and many supplies need to be replenished or replaced. Don't forget to check your child's folders for wear and tear as well as their supplies such as pencils, paper and glue sticks! As always, thank you for your continued support in your child's education.

Fourth Grade:

Hello February! In math, we will finish our study fractions and move on to understanding and comparing decimals. Please continue to review multiplication facts with your child. In reading, we will continue with our theme heroes. Our unit on weather will come to an end in science. We will begin learning about matter. In social studies, we will learn the rich history of Maryland. The school wide spelling bee was held during January. In reading students are continuing to read about "Heroes" in all walks of life. We are also finishing up rough drafts of our American Legion Auxiliary Essay Contest on **"What Freedom Means to my Family"**. Final copies will be due next week for the February 1st deadline. Fourth grader Michelle Rao will represent Pemberton Elementary at the regional spelling bee at UMES in March. Please check your child's agenda nightly and encourage them to complete and turn in all homework. The Geography Bee was held on January 9, 2015. Our **school champion was 5th grader Rachel Watford**, and the **first runner-up was 4th grader Victor Bermudez**. As you can see 2015 is off to a face pace!

Fifth Grade:

Students have just begun a unit in mathematic on decimal operations where they will add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals to the hundredth place using models, drawings, and strategies based on place value. In reading, our theme is **"Making a Difference"**. We are reading inspirational biographies on children and adults who are making a difference. 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. 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



Grade Level News continued:

Fifth Grade continued:

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.

Title I News:

Hopefully the New Year is off to a great start for our students and families! By now all of our intermediate students (grades 3-5) have received an invitation to our Title I Family Night at Food Lion on Thursday, February 5th. A second notice has also been sent out and we are so looking forward to spending the evening with you and your child(ren)! On the evening of Thursday, March 5th, a Spring Expo will be held to provide parents and guardians with information on summer camps and activities around the area. There will also be breakout sessions for middle and high school students. Information on this exciting event will be sent home in the Tuesday folders soon, so be on the lookout. Pemberton's Parent Advisory Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 5:45 PM in the office conference room prior to our PTA 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 in March, 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 maintain our high expectations for achievement and behavior. As a family, please make sure to continue checking homework each night and make sure all homework and projects are turned in on time. As a student, continue to practice your math facts and read for at least 20 minutes each night. Working as a community and as a team, will help our children to become even more successful than they already are!

Title I News—IMPORTANT DATES:

March 5th-Spring Expo-flyers will come home in Tuesday folders soon

April 21st- Title I Spring Parent Advisory Council Meeting 5:45

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.

Guidance Corner By Joanne James:

Students today must take local, state, and national tests. Many children are able to cope well with all these tests while others have high levels of anxiety. Here are a few helpful anxiety reducing strategies to aid you and your child.

Helpful Test Anxiety Strategies

1. Parents make sure your child is eating a healthy diet.
2. Stress eating more fruits and vegetables, and less fatty foods.
3. Getting regular exercise helps reduce stress.
4. Students need at least eight hours of sleep a night.
5. Regular school attendance is very important. The more days of school a child misses, the farther behind he/she gets and anxieties increase.
6. Tell your child that being well prepared for a test is the number one way to help reduce stress.
7. During the test, remind the child if he/she does not understand the directions, asks the teacher to explain them again.
8. Comfort your child with lots of hugs. Touch helps to calm the nervous child.

Tell your child, "I love you first; your school performance is secondary."

JoAnne James, School Counselor



It's that time of year again! February is Healthy Heart Month! To celebrate this, we will be raising money for the American Heart Association through Jump Rope for Heart. Any donations for the AHA is greatly appreciated! The Jump Rope for Heart Event will be Thursday, February 12th. Below is the event schedule. We can't wait to Jump with you!

Scheduled Time	Grade Level
8:15-8:45	Morning Announcements
8:45-9:40	3 rd Grade
9:40-10:35	5 th Grade
10:35-11:20	1 st Grade
11:20-12:10	2 nd Grade
12:15-1:10	Kindergarten
1:10-2:05	4 th Grade
2:05 -2:45	Pre-K