



Penn Valley



Winter Paw Prints



2023-2024





News from the School Counselor

Congratulations to the following students for maintaining perfect attendance during the first half of the school year. Perfect attendance includes no days absent, no early dismissals, and no late arrivals. These students were recognized with Panther 200 Club certificates on the last day of the second marking period.

**Aerilynn Behrmann Ava Berry Annelise Bowman
Harper Hellmuth Jaxon Pope Chloe Texter Michael Titano**



During the third and fourth marking periods, we will be recognizing the classrooms that maintain the best attendance percentage each week.



Lunches with Mrs. Johnson

Throughout the school year, Mrs. Johnson will invite students to her room to have lunch. The purpose of these lunches are to allow students the opportunity to enjoy a quiet space to interact with peers within their grade level. Lunch activities may include playing games, reading books, watching videos, or just talking about school life.

National School Counseling Week

February 5th through 9th is National School Counseling Week. The purpose of this week is to focus on the work that School Counselors do for the school community. School counselors work to support the academic, career, and social-emotional needs of the students as well as support teachers and families. Counselors attend parent meetings, serve on a variety of teams to analyze data, promote students thinking about their future plans, and help teachers develop interventions to support students in their academic journey. Counselors provide a safe space for students when they are having difficulties and need to deal with “big feelings”. Please reach out to Mrs. Johnson if you or your child feel they could benefit from her assistance.



Mrs. Johnson



News from the Office



This year is absolutely flying. We are more than halfway there. Our students continue to be awesome participants in our School Wide Behavior Intervention System (SWPBIS). SWPBIS team has done an amazing job supporting our Panther 200 incentive program. Our classes have hosted wonderful All School Meetings. At the School Board meeting in January, four fifth graders presented about all of the great things happening at our school.

Field Trip season is approaching. If you are considering being a chaperone, please complete the volunteer process by completing all of the necessary background checks and upload them into our new system called App Garden. This information can be found on-line on our school website under "Parent Information Center." These take time to process, so it is suggested you get started now.

Please be advised that Kindergarten registration will begin online on February 20th. If you have a neighbor who has a child who will be kindergarten age, please let them know of this date.

Are you experiencing food insecurity? Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC) is here to help. BCOC has a small Emergency Food Pantry at the HELP Center that is open to all community members. It is located in Bristol. Three nonprofit agencies offer services through the HELP Center: Bucks County Opportunity Council, St. Mary Medical Center, and United Way of Bucks County. Together, they use HELP as a food pantry, a distribution center, and a "shop" for brand-new essential goods. No appointment is needed, and walk-ins are able to take up to two bags of food once a week during pantry hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 9 am - 4 pm.

On inclement weather days, the district will notify you via phone and text. If you do not receive a phone call or text, please tune into the radio, ABC, CBS, NBC, or the district website if there is a delayed opening or school closing. Please do not rely strictly on the School Messenger system. We will be moving to a virtual learning model on a modified schedule if we have another snow day. The schedule will be sent out via email if a snow day occurs and will be posted on our website.

There are many more exciting events planned for the second half of the school year. To keep updated on the great things happening at Penn Valley School, please review our school website and visit the backpack icon and the PTO website. We are looking forward to your participation!



Doc Hidalgo is currently working on becoming a certified school therapy dog. You may see him around the building as he is training. The students are very excited to see him and cannot wait until he is certified so they can interact with him in the Spring.

Ms. Hidalgo



Panther 200 Club



Our panthers continue to do amazing things every day! Our Panther 200 Board has been filled many times and we love seeing how all our panthers demonstrate how to be respectful, responsible, and safe. At each all-school meeting, we pull names from the tickets for special prizes. Some of our favorite prizes are extra recess, luxury lunch table, and lunch with a teacher. Keep an eye out for a special sticker or postcard coming home with your student when they earn a ticket. Be sure to ask them how they were respectful, responsible, or safe during the school day.





News from Pre-K



Pre-k has been busy learning this winter! So far we have learned and reviewed 17 out of 26 letters! We are going to start looking at some sight words, too. Another new idea we are learning about is our Social Emotional growth. We have been practicing identifying our feelings and how to use our words in order to express how we feel and what we need. Cops N' Kids paid us another visit! They came and read a story to us. The story was about a snow day, and we got to draw snowy pictures with chalk! We even got to pick out a book to take home with us. Pre-K just started our imagination unit and we are excited to show our creative sides!

Mrs. Sulat



News from Kindergarten

The Kindergarten kids have been busy returning to the routine since the winter break. We have enjoyed writing our goals for the new year, and learning about winter, snow, and MLK Jr.! We will be busy this marking period learning about addition and subtraction and celebrating the 100th day of school!



Mrs. Kline, Mrs. Sheedy, & Mrs. June





News from 1st Grade

Our First Graders had their first Snow Day...two of them!!! Regardless of the weather, our first grade students are steady learning and excelling in their academics!



In Reading, we will soon begin Module 6 with a new selection of stories and reading strategies. Many strategies will be revisited at the same time. In Writing, we are beginning our next unit of study. During this unit, the students will be using the website “PebbleGo” to do some research. They will research their favorite animal, as well as a United States President! In Math, we have been working with place value and counting beyond 120. We completed our Science unit on Sound and Light. Now that Science is complete, we will move on to Social Studies using our Social Studies Alive program. We are looking forward to the 100th Day of school and the home project we are doing to celebrate the 100th Day! We are looking forward to sharing our poems about “penguins” at our next All School Meeting! We included a picture from our First Annual Friendsgiving Celebration with Kindergarten! We had a great time!



Mrs. Rapciewicz, Mrs. Johnston, & Mrs. Zuczek



News from 2nd Grade

Second grade continues to learn and grow! Each week in reading, we learn so many new vocabulary words, which we are then able to write in sentences. We've read so many wonderful stories in our Into Reading program. Two recent favorites were Hollywood Chicken and How to Read a Story. Students have learned how to make predictions and about the author's point of view. In math, students are currently learning how to identify coins and total values of coins and dollars. Soon they will learn how to tell time to the nearest five minutes. In writing, we continue to work on writing a five sentence paragraph with a topic sentence, three detail sentences, and a closing. Recently, we completed our science unit on solids and liquids. Second graders learned the many properties of different solids and liquids. Ask your child to tell you about our upcoming all school meeting. We are excited to continue learning this year!



Here we are learning a song in American Sign Language.



Mrs. Dipentino, Mrs. Arose, & Mrs. Schluchterer





News from 3rd Grade



Happy New Year! Third Grade began the year discussing and writing about our hopes and dreams for 2024. We are wrapping up our science unit on Motion and Matter. Students had a great time making and observing the motion of twirly birds. They adapted the twirly birds to observe if and how the motion changed with additional weight or a change in the structure of the wings. Students worked with magnets and learned about magnetic fields and magnets' push and pull forces.



In math, third graders are working to master their multiplication facts, find the area of regular and irregular figures, and read and create graphs. The reading program has introduced some awesome literature this marking period. Students learned about the Constitution, why we celebrate the Fourth of July, and why the Statue of Liberty is green. Students have just begun the drama unit and are having fun reading plays, changing their voices for characters, and talking about the setting. Students are encouraged to read every night for 100 Step Challenge and increase stamina and vocabulary. We welcome Mrs. McGurrin's and Mrs. Zubrzycki's student teachers, Miss Poll and Miss Tobin! Third Graders continue to practice mindfulness and be respectful, responsible, and safe.



Mrs. McGurrin, Mrs. Zubrzycki, & Miss Surdy



News from 4th Grade



The Fourth grade team reflected on the second marking period as a marking period filled with improved Writing, Math, Science and Reading! As writers, the team worked on developing our skills by “stretching” our writing with descriptive language such as metaphors, personification, and similes. We challenged our writing abilities by looking at winter scenes and then using our senses to write about what we saw. In reading, we traveled to Naomi, Florida and “spent time” making new friends with Opal, Winn Dixie, and a host of other characters in a fourth grade favorite book, titled, Because of Winn Dixie. We continued challenging our abilities by researching turtles, butterflies, and other migratory animals as we developed meaningful “Canva” presentations for each other to enjoy. Grammar has also been a slam dunk when applying our learning of nouns, verbs, helping verbs, conjunctions, and transition words.

Fourth grade mathematicians are working towards mastering our math facts, especially multiplication and division. Our focus for the first and second marking periods was to perfect addition and subtraction and work on building fluency of multiplication. Our goal for the third and fourth marking period is to master multiplication. We expanded our math vocabulary through exploration of line relationships, quadrilaterals and triangles. As we explore factorization and geometric figures, we are anticipating using these skills as we go forward in area, perimeter, and division in the upcoming months.

Our study of Science continues even as we begin Social Studies in the third marking period. We have explored magnetism, electricity, and force, but we will continue to explore our fourth grade concepts including the Solar System as we prepare for our Science PSSA in the Spring. Fourth grade is “out of this world” with the knowledge we’ve learned in Science. Additionally, we are learning the importance of stretching outside our reading comfort zone as we continue to read a variety of genres. Keep up the good reading practice and enjoy each book along the way! Remember that homework is an integral part of learning. Homework is designed to reinforce skills learned during the day and to help your teacher understand the concepts that you may struggle with from the day's lesson.



To round out the year, we look forward to traveling the United States in Social Studies. As we travel through the states and regions of the United States, we look to discover all there is to know about our home state of Pennsylvania and its history.



This team works hard to build their minds and their hearts. Keep up the great work, fourth grade team!

Mrs. Klacik, Mr. O'Donnell, & Miss Peters



News from 5th Grade

This marking period, 5th graders have enjoyed our holiday celebrations, working with our 2nd grade buddies, working hard toward their 40 book challenge, and fun assemblies put on at PV!



In reading, we have been working hard at achieving 20 books by the end of marking period 2. We enjoyed reading Home of the Brave. We studied historical fiction, theme, and figurative language as we learned about a refugee from Sudan and his conflicts when he came to America. Many students were impressed by the author's style of writing as well as the inspiring story of Kek. We are so proud of our hard work and thinking!

In math, we have learned about long division and multiplying & dividing with decimals, and we have started learning about fractions. We have also been focusing on the quality of our math work by utilizing the acronym "EWS." E=equation with a variable, W= show work, S=sentence with a label. We have seen such an improvement in our math skills and are so proud of the students for taking on this challenge. Knowing our math facts has been integral in our success with these complex topics.



In science, we finished up our Mixtures & Solutions Unit. We learned about the differences between mixtures and solutions. We also learned about separating mixtures & solutions. It was fun to see the water evaporate from our salt water solution and see the final result: salt crystals!



Our 5th graders have been working hard and having fun! We are so excited to start the last half of their last year in elementary school! They have made Penn Valley proud!



Mrs. Gatt, Mrs. Dimitri, & Mrs. Krasselt



News from Library



Beginning in the third marking period, all students at Penn Valley will be researching a president in honor of Presidents Day. We will have multiple experts on ALL of our presidents from George Washington to Joe Biden. Students are enjoying selecting who they will research.

Kindergarten students continue to listen to several stories each week and complete an activity related to the story. First grade has started listening to fairy tales, and second grade students are learning about trickster tales. In third grade, students learned about how the library is organized. Fourth graders are working on posters to support the books they think should win this year's Caldecott Award, while fifth graders have started their animal research project.



Students on the Reading Olympics team have been busy reading and meet every Wednesday morning at 8:15 am in the library.

The competition is scheduled for March 21st at Mill Creek Elementary School.

Reading Olympics Meeting Dates:

February 7

February 14

February 19

February 28

March 6

March 13

March 20





News from Gym



Since our return from winter break, we are continuing our focus on team building, decision making, communication, and sportsmanship. Students are having a blast learning new skills, practicing old skills and participating in a variety of games.

Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders have been busy learning fun scooter activities, how to jump rope, and how to do different hula-hoop tricks. Students loved trying to steal flags from their classmates during a game called Mario Kart with the scooters.

Our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders have been completing individual and team cooperative challenges this month. Their teamwork skills were most recently tested during a game of Shipwreck. Four ships were wrecked in a storm and the sailors (AKA the students) needed to work together to gather all of the ship supplies that went into the ocean. I was impressed by their communication and teamwork not only with sailors from their original ship, but also with sailors from other ships as well. Each class completed the task they were given while working together, using great listening skills, and giving positive praise to their teammates. Students also learned and demonstrated their jump rope and hula hoop skills throughout the month.

In the months of February and March, students will be learning skills used in the game of hockey, basketball and volleyball. Students will also learn gymnastics, tumbles, and rolls.





News from Art



Warm winter wishes from the Penn Valley Art Room! It has been a busy few months working together on creative tasks and exploring new ideas in the world of art.

Kindergarten- The students are celebrating the artwork of the famous Dutch painter, Piet Mondrian. We are observing the lines, shapes, and colors characteristic of his work. Our “Mr. Mondrian” paintings will celebrate his favorite shapes: squares and rectangles.

First Grade- The first graders are learning about the color wheel and how it teaches us “color-mixing math.” We are using watercolor paint to experiment how the “primary colors” are used to make the “secondary colors.”

Second Grade- Second grade students are exploring the work of the notable Spanish artist, Pablo Picasso. His abstract style allowed him to create unusual portraits with funny faces. Students will be exploring his style in both paintings and clay sculptures.

Third Grade- The students are learning about works of art that belong to the category called, “portraits.” We now know that “portraits” are images of people, and “self-portraits” are images of yourself! Our winter characters are all bundled up for winter in cozy coats colored with markers.

Fourth Grade- The fourth graders are studying illustration. We are creating a character that is part snowman and part ice cream sundae. They will be finished with watercolor paint and colored pencil.

Fifth Grade- Fifth Grade students are exploring the art element “value.” Our winter forest paintings show depth and shadow.



Make sure you ask your child about what they are doing in the art room. And as always, thank you for your continued support of the visual arts program here at Penn Valley!



Miss Mummey



News from Music



Congratulations to the following students for their recommendation and participation in the Pennsbury Elementary Choral Festival on March 9, 2024: Mackenzie Alioto, Alexander Bennett, Aiden Ford, Skylar Gonzales, Lucie Haba, Natalie Hunter, Eden Johnson, Julia Maria, Olivia Smigelski, Aleigha Soltys, and Chloe Texter. These students are currently attending extra rehearsals to learn new pieces for the concert. Our guest conductor, Mr. Tom Shelton, will lead selected fifth grade students from the entire Pennsbury School District in a morning of choral rehearsals with the culmination of an open rehearsal for friends and family.



Congratulations to ALL Penn Valley students on a wonderful Holiday Sing in December. I was so proud of the work that our students put into preparing for this special afternoon of music and celebration!



Penn Valley Spring Concert

Friday, May 17, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Penn Valley's annual Spring Concert will return on Friday, May 17th. This concert includes all of the amazing music ensembles at Penn Valley: 5th Grade Chorus, Concert Band, String Orchestra, Chimes Club and Vocal Ensemble. More information will be coming home soon for our 4th and 5th grade students who will be performing!



Miss Haas



News from SPARK



This second half of the year, all classes are starting with a short unit on robotics - and here's what's next:

Kindergarteners will complete robotics, and soon learn about materials science and buoyancy to create boats that send messages from one place to another.

First grade learns about forces, motion, and directions, and they will be building mini golf courses that you can play at Art and Literacy and SPARK night!

Second grade will soon complete their parachute challenge, followed by learning about how plants and animals adapt to survive in their environments.

Third graders complete their bridge research, move towards a few lessons using virtual reality headsets to explore and create, and later create seed dispersal machines to help us plant real seeds to take home!

Fourth graders will learn about the human brain and create marble runs, and this will be followed by a simulated concussion experiment done with real eggs - the egg drop!

Fifth grade will be completing even more robotics missions, finishing the year learning about human interactive design, creating board games, and creating mechanisms for cardboard carnival games.



Thank you for sharing your wonderful students with me in SPARK!

Mr. Fallacaro