Volume 5

January, 2011

Panther Prints

Pilgrim Park Middle School Newsletter

PPMS SCHOOL CALENDAR
January

1/10 High School Info Meeting for 8 Gr. Sp. Ed. Students & Parents N. Café, 12:25-2:30pm
1/12 PTO Meeting/LMC, 1:00pm
----- Song Fest/PPMS Gym, 7:00pm
1/13 Miscellaneous Photo Day 7:00am-2:30pm
----- Mix-it Up,Café, 9:59am-12:15pm
1/14 Elementary School Tour, 8th Gr. Band & Chorus, 7/8th Gr. Orchestra, 8:00am-2:20pm
----- Spelling Bee, LMC,12:45-2:30pm
1/18 Bus Committee Meeting 9:00-10:00am
----- Wrestling Practice Begins (new wrestlers only), 2:30-4:30pm
1/19-21 Foreign Language Trip to Mexico Airplane Activity/Stage 7:20am-2:30pm
1/19 Lunch w/Principals (all 3 lunch hours)/L8, 9:59am-12:15pm
1/21 6th Gr. Activity Afternoon/Cafe & Gym, 2:30-4:00pm
1/22 ACT (MTSY Test), 8:00am-noon
1/24 No School – Teacher Workday
1/25 3rd Qtr. 8th Gr. Kickoff Assembly
1/25 & 26 Bus Assemblies/Gym 12:19-12:44pm
1/26 3rd Qtr. 7th Gr. Kickoff Assembly
----- 7th Gr. Abe Lincoln Presentation
----- 8 Gr. Band FT to Bucks Game
1/27 3rd Qtr. 6th Gr. Kickoff Assembly
1/28 PBIS Incentive, 2:05-2:31pm
1/31 8 Red Rally, 12:19-12:44pm
----- Incoming 6th Gr. Parent Info Night (PIN)/Café, 5:30-8:30pm

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Diversity Team (W), 12:19-12:44pm
Intramural Badminton, Boys & Girls Gym, 2:30-4:00pm (1/3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, 25)
Wrestling Practice/Café & Balcony (M,T,W, F), 2:30-4:30pm
Ski & Snowboarding Club/Sunburst 3:00-7:30pm (1/3 & 1/10)
DDR Club, 2:30-4:00pm (1/4, 11, 18)
PPMS Chess Club/LMC, 6:00-7:40pm (1/7, 14, 21, 28)
Musical Rehearsal, 2:30-4:30pm (1/3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 25, 26, 28) & 2:30-5:00pm, 1/31
Musical Set Construction (Saturdays) 8:00am-2:00pm (1/8, 15, 22, 29)
Drumline Club (M), 2:30-4:00pm (1/17, 1/31)
Panther Jazz Band (T), 2:30-3:45pm
Pandemonium Jazz Band (W)/Band Room, 2:30-3:45pm

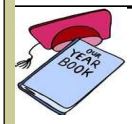
EEF/PTO Support Enhances Student Learning

The Elective Teachers at Pilgrim Park would like to extend a big "THANK YOU" to The **Elmbrook Education Foundation** and the **Pilgrim Park PTO** for their grant contributions towards purchasing two sets of "Smart Response Clickers". The Elmbrook Education Foundation contributed $500 and the PTO contributed $1000 towards the purchase of the Smart Response Clickers for the elective classes to share. These hand-held remotes will allow the students and staff to have immediate feedback regarding student understanding and evaluation in the classroom setting. The following departments are a part of the "Elective Grant Team": FCS, Art, Music, Tech Ed, Computers and Foreign Language. The students and staff are very excited to be recipients of these two very generous grants. Thank you again, Elmbrook Education Foundation and Pilgrim Park PTO for supporting the learning process of the students at PPMS!!!

MyElmbrook–Parent Edition, A Personalized Web Experience

On **January 11, 2011**, Elmbrook parents will have a new way to receive communication from their child's school and the district. MyElmbrook – Parent Edition, a personalized web portal for parents, will be launched in conjunction with a completely new Elmbrook website. MyElmbrook – Parent Edition will feature a consolidated view of school and district news; daily announcements, calendar and course information; important forms and documents; alerts for unexcused absences, overdue library books and low food service accounts; and links to key parent resources. To prepare for the launch of MyElmbrook – Parent Edition, new Infinite Campus logins and passwords for middle and high school parents were recently distributed. These logins and passwords can be used for MyElmbrook – Parent Edition beginning January 11. If you are a middle or high school parent with questions about your login and password, please contact your school's data processor (visit www.elmbrookschools.org/myelmbrook for contact information.) Elementary school parents will receive their logins and passwords at the beginning of January.

Don't forget! On January 11, visit www.elmbrookschools.org and click on "Portal Login - Parent" to begin your unique MyElmbrook – Parent Edition experience!



Final Yearbook/Memory Book Sale

There is still time to order a Memory Book/Yearbook for the 2010-2011 school year. If you did not order a Memory Book/Yearbook at Registration, you should have received a recent letter notifying you that your student can still place an order; however all orders must be turned in to Mrs. Kern in the Main Office by **Friday, February 11, 2011**. The cost of the Memory Book/Yearbook is **$15.00** (checks should be made payable to PPMS). This is your last opportunity to order a Memory Book/Yearbook so PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW!

Senate News

With the arrival of the New Year emerges the arrival of a revitalized mindset full of optimism and hope for the coming year. Senators ended 2010 with their annual Merry Messages sale, which successfully brought in about $400. This money will be donated to the MACC Fund. The Senate also voted on several teacher requests. It is always impressive to watch these bright, young students as they exercise their responsibility to vote on money allotment for their school. The students carefully discussed the need for each request. They approved $1000 for our very successful forensics team, $400 for a guitar amplifier for our Music Department, and $250 for a card reader for our Wilson Reading program.

Student Senate is excited to start the new year with upcoming dances and activity nights. The 6th grade activity afternoon will be held January 21, 2:30-4:00 p.m. The next 7th grade dance will be Friday, February 4, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Our second 8th grade dance will be held Friday, February 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Just a heads up that our annual talent show is coming soon! Auditions for all interested students will be occurring Wednesday, February 9. Details are soon to come.

DECEMBER RISE NAMES

RESPECT
Jessica Hitchcock
Suchir Bhatt
Nathan Richter
Wendy Chu
Nick Tennessen
Colin Gray-Hoehn
Owen Gibson
Arden Casanova
Madeline Serafin
Haley Kress
Matt Epple
Danny Meidl

INTEGRITY
Gabi DeValkenaere
Tabitha Walsh
Sara Manjee
Emily Bachmann
Cara Davidson
Sami White
Meredith Gustafson
Jack Leonovicz
Michael Staff
Ishpreet Singh
Natasha Plavsic
Angela Tsiampas

STRIVE
Hannah Ruehl
Mikayla Topp
Jack Leonovicz
Austin Herro
Kacey Thompson
Paige Christie
Katie Petersen
Megan Dehn
Donovan Miller
Ryan Lynch
Alex Stiyer
Sara Kirmis

EXCELLENCE
Collin Rhoten
Jacob Wendt
Cara Farrow
Maria Cardenas
Jennifer Wandt
Maria Seubert
Danny Smerz
Dan Magyar
Zurich Brooks
Ben Malewicki
Jessica Westcott
Andrew Lesar

The Administrators' Corner

Principal's Corner - Mr. Mike Sereno

I hope that all of our families enjoyed the recent holidays and found the time to connect with friends and family. I don't know why, but I always find the new year refreshing…the weather is still cold and dreary and the daylight hours are much too short, yet this time of year always seems to provide a venue for a fresh outlook and a rejuvenated spirit. As Pilgrim Park looks forward to the new year, I find myself energized and excited.

Our staff has spent the last few years working diligently to build upon our rigorous academic reputation and to enhance the positive culture we have maintained throughout the years. The results of these efforts are encouraging. Our students' performance on state tests have consistently fallen within the top 10% of all middle schools in the state, and our students have openly embraced the inherent qualities of RISE – Respect, Integrity, Strive, and Excellence. In fact, we've seen a 30% decline in inappropriate student behavior incidents this year – a tribute to the hard work of our students and staff. We enter 2011 having generated significant momentum in both these areas, and I'm excited to see our results continue to improve.

Thank you to all of our Pilgrim Park families for your continued commitment to our school – our efforts would be fruitless without your assistance. Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2011!

Mike Sereno

Associate Principal's Corner—Mr. Mark Peperkorn

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a chance to find some time to rest and relax over the holiday break and recharge to start 2011 on a positive note. As I look back on my family's Christmas, it was amazing to see what a big role technology played – from gifts given, to pictures/videos taken, to web chats with family members, etc. Many jobs in the world today have a significant technological component and the staff at Pilgrim Park is doing a great job of exposing our students to technology in the classrooms – from computer labs, to the use of Smart Boards and the Smart Response system, to the machinery used in applied technology classes, etc. Earlier this year, we also had Detective Ron LaGosh give a presentation on the dangers of technology facing our students – issues involving social networking sites such as Facebook and the inappropriate use of email/texting. In the past few months, we have started to see an increase in the number of students using their cell phones during the day at Pilgrim Park. I have no doubt that cell phones will become an important part of the educational process at some point in the future (and some high schools have begun to experiment with this idea). But we need to ask that you remind your children that they are to leave their phones in their lockers during the day. Several students have had their phones taken away because parents called/texted their son/daughter during the school day. If you need to get a message to your son/daughter, please call the office and we will deliver the message for you. We appreciate your support on this matter.

Open Enrollment Application Period – FEBRUARY 7-25, 2011

The Public School Open Enrollment Program is a statewide program that allows students grades K-12 to attend a public school in a district other than the one in which they reside, if space is available. Parents/guardians must submit an application to the non-resident district of their choice during the three-week period of Monday, February 7 through Friday, February 25, 2011 to be eligible for consideration. Applications will not be accepted after the 4:00 p.m. deadline on February 25, 2011. Once the application period begins, you can apply online through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website at http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html.

Existing Open Enrollment Families: Please be aware that if you have a child enrolled through Open Enrollment, there is no need to reapply. HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE ANOTHER CHILD WHO YOU WISH TO ATTEND ELMBROOK SCHOOLS, YOU MUST GO THROUGH THE APPLICATION PROCESS. Siblings of currently enrolled students are given preference in the selection process.

Please direct your questions to Michelle Hoffman, Student Services Supervisor, at 262-781-3030, extension 1191.

Athletic Corner

Intramural Badminton - Want to hit the birdie around? All PPMS students are welcome to play intramural badminton in the gym, 2:30-4:00 p.m. on the following dates: January 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18 and 25. Come for one session or all ten!

PPMS Wrestling Club will start on Tuesday, January 18, for those wrestlers who are new to the sport and those who want to work on technique. We will meet each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 2:30-4:30 p.m. The first day of wrestling team practice will be January 31. Physical card must be turned in to school by the start of regular practice. Any questions, please email Mr. Rakowiecki. rakowiem@elmbrookschools.org

Foreign Correspondence

Bonne Année! ¡Prðspero año nuevo! Frohes neues Jahr! Annum Novum felicem! Happy New Year! We hope everyone had great holidays. In France and Spanish countries, the holiday season isn't over until the day of the three kings. People in France traditionally send New Year's cards to wish their family and friends good fortune in the year to come. On January 6, French, Spanish, and Latin-American families celebrate a tradition of serving a King's Cake, which is a round cake with a hidden tiny bean, coin, figurine, or charm. The cake is cut into pieces and distributed. Whoever finds the hidden prize is King or Queen for the day. In many families, that person may ask for special favors all day long.

Students who start language as 7th graders will complete the first year of language while here at Pilgrim Park. This gives our students the advantage of starting high school already in French 2, German 2, Latin 2 or Spanish 2. Down the road, it also allows students to get early credits for college, and complete five years of language, expected for admission at many of the high-end colleges including UW-Madison.
Sixth graders will be learning more about 7th grade languages at the Foreign Language Showcase this month where they can meet the teachers, and get an idea of what learning foreign language is all about. We look forward to talking to all of the 6th graders later this month!

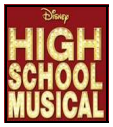
Notes From The Music Department

Welcome back to all of our students! We hope you had a great holiday break. The annual elementary school tour will take place on Friday, January 14, from 8:25 a.m. - 2:20 p.m. All 8th grade choir and band students and 7/8th grade orchestra students will be participating. We will perform for Tonawanda, Dixon and Burleigh elementary students and will eat lunch at Mayfair Mall, so students need to bring lunch money that day. All students will wear the normal concert attire, which is black bottoms and white tops.

All PPMS students are eligible to audition for the 2010 WSMA Middle Level State Honors groups. There are separate groups for band, choir and orchestra and only the best musicians from the entire state are chosen to perform. There is one concert next October in Madison and every year we have a few of our PPMS students chosen for this very prestigious award. Only the music teachers can register the students online. Registration closes February 4, 2011. If you want more information, please contact your music teacher.

Upcoming Winter Music Events:

Wednesday, January 12	"Song Fest '11", PPMS, Gym -7:00 PM (Reception to follow in the Cafeteria) All 6th, 7th & 8th Gr. Choirs/Pilgrim Pizzazz
Wednesday, January 26	Milwaukee Bucks Game, 8th Grade Band
Wednesday, March 9	All District Orchestra Festival (select groups)



High School Musical Tickets will go on sale Thursday, January 27. Visit: www.wilson-center.com or call 262-781-9520. ***Show Dates: February 17 & 18 @ 7:00 p.m. and February 19 @ 2:00 p.m.***

*Tickets will also be sold during students' lunch periods at school during the week of January 31. $8.00 Adults - $6.00 Students (age 17 and younger) & Seniors (age 65 and older)

Elmbrook School District Head Lice Guidelines

There are many myths and old wives tales about head lice infestations. As a school nurse it has always been important to me to try and educate and decrease the fear and "ick" factor of head lice. The District has adopted guidelines that have been posted to the website for parents to become informed. There are websites that are sited on the brochure that are great resources. Please check out the brochure on the school website. "Be Prepared Not Scared." *Michele Gaschke RN, BSN, District Nurse*

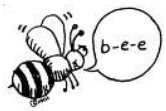
Homework Club Dates January & February

Mondays:
January 10, 17, 31
February 7, 14, 21, 28

Wednesdays:
January 5, 12 , 19, 26
February 2, 9, 16, 23

Students should sign up in the front office ***the week before*** they will attend Homework Club.

PPMS Spelling Bee



Friday, January 14
LMC
1:00 p.m.

Looking Ahead to February

2/1 & 2 Bus Assemblies/ Gym, 12:19-12:44pm
2/2 Private/Parochial PIN Night for Incoming 6th Graders, 6:30-7:30pm
2/4 7 Gr. Dance/Activity Night, 7:00-9:00pm
….. Bus Appreciation Activity
2/9 PTO Meeting/LMC 1:00pm
----- Senate Meeting/S. Café 1:41-2:31pm
----- Park Palooza Auditions, 2:30-5:00pm
2/10 Wrestling@Longfellow MS, 4:15pm
2/11 8th Gr. Dance/Activity Night, 7:00-9:00pm
2/16 Lunch w/Principals 9:59am-12:15pm

School District of Elmbrook
13780 Hope Street/P.O. Box 1830
Brookfield, WI 53008-1830

Pilgrim Park Middle School
1500 Pilgrim Parkway
Elm Grove, WI 53122

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PPMS - Panther Pride

Phone: (262) 785-3920
Fax: (262) 785-3933

NEW Website: http://ppms.elmbrookschools.org/ → Daily student announcements are on the website too!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

News and Notes From The PTO

Happy 2011, Everyone!

We raised about $700 from our November Barnes & Noble and Uno's fundraisers. Thank you to everyone who participated in either or both of those events. Stay tuned for future passive fundraising opportunities.

If you are interested in becoming involved in any of our committees or helping out at school, but haven't had a chance to do so yet, please see the PTO contact list on the school website.

Upcoming events for your student:

6th grade after school activity: Friday, January 21 from 2:30-4:00 p.m.
7th grade activity night: Friday, February 4, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
8th grade activity night: Friday, February 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
All are located in the gym.

Our next PTO meeting is **Wednesday, January 12 at 1:00 p.m.** in the library. Please join us!

Maureen Browne, President
maureenbrowne@hotmail.com 262-781-4923

The Elmbrook Education Foundation Awards Grants

The Elmbrook Education Foundation (EEF) recently completed its SMART Response Campaign to equip all middle school math classrooms with SMART Response Assessment Units! EEF also awarded nearly $17,000 in innovation grants for the current school year, which are listed below. Visit the EEF blog at www.BrookfieldNow.com/EEF for much more information on how EEF supports the School District of Elmbrook. Also "Save the Date"! EEF's Winter Social will be Saturday, March 12, 2011 at the Wilson Center. More information will be available soon @ www.elmbrookeducationfoundation.com Fall Awards granted were:

Patricia Pelzel (Assistive Technology Integrator, Dixon Elementary) will receive a grant award of $5,424 to measure the benefits of using SOLO literacy software in the regular elementary classroom to determine if it should become universally accessible (available to any student at any time that can benefit from its use).

Jeff Ortman (English Teacher, Brookfield East High School) will receive a grant award of $5,490 to conduct a trial to determine if iPads can provide a benefit to small group instruction and/or independent research in the English classroom.

Pam Kasper (Reading Specialist, Swanson Elementary) will receive a grant award of $2,487 to conduct a trial to prove/disprove research on the benefits of using digital readers in the Elementary classroom for all levels of readers.

Angela Roach (Special Education Teacher, Fairview South) will receive a grant award of $2,776 to allow all interested staff to benefit from Ms. Roach's success in developing adapted book libraries for students with special needs.

Jennifer Niles-Burch (Family Consumer Science Chair, Pilgrim Park Middle School) will receive a grant award of $500 to help expand the success of the SMART Response implementation into the elective areas.