Volume 8

April, 2011

Panther Prints

Pilgrim Park Middle School Newsletter

PPMS SCHOOL CALENDAR
April

4/4, 6, 11 6P Ft to Nature Center 9:55-11:45am
4/5 6A Ft to Nature Center 9:55-11:45am
4/6 8 Gr. AVID Interviews
4/7 8 Gr. German FT - UW Madison 7:30am-1:15pm
--- Wrestling Banquet, 2:30-9:00pm (Dinner at 6:00pm)
4/8 8th Gr. ELL Ft to BEHS 9:30-11:00am
--- 6R Ft to Nature Center 9:55-11:45am
4/12 Parent Network Parent Education Program/S. Cafeteria 6:00-9:30pm
4/13 PTO Meeting, 1:00pm
4/14-17 German Immersion Week-End, Concordia Lang. Villages
4/15 8 Gr. Spanish FT to Latin Communities, 8:00am-1:00pm
---- BEHS Football Visit (All lunch hours, 9:59am-12:15pm
----- 7 Gr. Band FT to Kohl Center Madison, 3:00-11:00pm
4/18 7 & 8 Band & Jazz Band Pre-Concert Rehearsal WCA, 12:20-2:20pm
4/19 7 & 8 Band & Jazz Band Concert/WCA, 7:00pm
4/20 Lunch with Principals (All lunches), 9:59am-12:15pm
----- 6 Gr. Roman Centurion Presentation, LMC 10:45am/12:25pm/1:30pm
4/20 PPMS Triangular Track Meet BEHS-3:30PM
4/22-5/1 Spring Break-No School
5/2 Classes Resume

Diversity Team (W), 12:19-12:44pm
7 Gr. Track Practice, 2:30-4:15pm (4/4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 5/2)
8 Gr. Track Practice, 2:30-4:15pm (4/1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 5/6)
Wrestling Practice/Café & Balcony (M,T,W, F), 2:30-4:30pm
PPMS Chess Club/LMC, 6:00-7:40pm (4/1, 8, 15, 21, 5/13, 27)
Panther Jazz Band (T), 2:30-3:45pm
Pandemonium Jazz Band (W), 2:30-3:15pm
Drumline Club Rehearsal/Band Room 2:35-4:00pm (5/2 & 5/9)
Pilgrim Pizzazz Rehearsal 2:30-4:00pm (4/4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20)
Math Meets Club/LMC, 2:45-4:00pm

8th Grade Graduation Celebrations Planned!

During their time at Pilgrim Park, our current 8th grade students have had an incredible impact on both our school and community. As their final year at PPMS comes to an end, several events are planned to recognize their achievements and celebrate their many successes! Please note that the 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony will take place at **11:15 a.m. on Thursday, June 9.** For a full listing of promotion events, activities, and information, please read The Principal's corner in this edition of *Panther Prints.*

"Inspired by Rube"

7 Red House "The Love Machine"

Congratulations to ALL the seventh grade students for completing another successful Rube Goldberg Project! This year's students needed to create an unsimple machine which fit in with the theme of "Inspired by Rube." This meant that the zanier the creations, the better! Their crazy machines needed to have at least five steps and students needed to build the machine entirely in class using 75% recycled materials. All of the 7th graders' machines performed in class for a team grade on Friday, March 18. Fifteen of the top seventy machines then advanced to the all-school finals on March 23. Three engineers, who also happen to be former collegiate Rube Goldberg machine building champions, judged the machines. This year, Ron Fenske, 8th grade science teacher, was a special guest judge. It was an exciting, energy-filled day and w**e,** the 7th grade science teaching staff, would like to thank the district, school, staff, parents, students, and community members for your support of this annual inquiry-based project!

A special note to all 7th grade students: We are very impressed with ALL of your accomplishments on your machines this year! All students should be commended for their efforts and team work, whether they made the finals or not. Congratulations to everyone!

Mrs. Feldmeier, Mrs. Albrecht & Mrs. Reedy

Senate News

March was a busy month for the Senators. The Student Senate held their talent show, Park Palooza Remix! The show was a success, complete with teenage life humor from our MCs, dancing, singing, and even an encore of a humorous acappella group. Student Senate would like to thank everyone who attended the show. The results of the show are: 1st place - Derek Jennings, Joey Rock & Sean Wei performing, "Squirrels" By Insideout A Cappella; 2nd place - Jaclyn Janowski & Jonah Kidd performing "Just the Way you Are" by Bruno Mars; and 3rd place - Khai Le Dombroe performing, "Back to December" by Taylor Swift.

The Senate also completed their officer elections for 2011/12 school year and the results are:

7th Grade - President: Eleni Tongas Vice President: Katy Kemnitz

8th Grade - President: Josh Dempsey Vice President: Allie Amato
Secretary: Niyaz Nurbhasha Treasurer: Lisa Browne

The Student Senate is looking forward to attending the statewide middle school WASC conference in Green Bay called JAM. About 25 Senators were selected to attend and will bring back exciting new ideas to their fellow Senators.

MARCH RISE NAMES

RESPECT
Gregory Schuh
Abbie Gerczak
Nathan Molnor
Jennifer Wandt
Donovan Miller
Alydia Stangle
Christian Halfhide
Taylor Allen
Amanda Arndt
Kristina O'Malley
Maddie Fitzpatrick
George Korkos

INTEGRITY
Sarah Mueller
Justin Forbes
Andrew Olson
Ryan Wolff
Aidan Collins
Holly Muth
Kate Watry
Gretchen Gutenberger
Jeffrey Bickel
Francesca Suino
Winston Markusse
Michael McChesney

STRIVE
Nancy Chang
Joe Timm
Brooke Heller
Thadd Sapa-Kotlarek
Anatalia Ashcroft
Sheila Rose Basile
TJ Melonas
Trevor Timmerman
Arya Kamrani
Zach Jaekl
Tyson Curtis
Brianna Hart

EXCELLENCE
Timothy Vrakas
Chloe Clark
Rolands Berzin
Alex Plavsic
Joe Abolt
Haley Knight
Allie Glaudell
Payeng Xiong
Maddie McCann
Ciarra Davis
Thomas Swittel
Maxwell Zupke

The Administrators' Corner

Principal's Corner - Mr. Mike Sereno

While it seems that we are just beginning to break away from wintery weather, the end of the school year is just around the corner. While the 4th quarter of the school year is an exciting time for all of us, it is especially so for our current 8th grade students. This group has provided tremendous leadership and has been a true asset to our school during the past three years. We have a number of events planned to celebrate their accomplishments and their time at Pilgrim Park Middle School. A synopsis of promotion events is outlined below:

8th Grade End-of Year Dance - Friday June 3

This year's dance will take place from 7:00-10:00 p.m. at Pilgrim Park. An informational flyer is included with this newsletter. The theme for this year's dance is *A Night at the Movies,* and the evening promises to be full of fun, energy, and excitement. Thank you to our parent planning committee who has been working hard to provide this celebratory event for our students.

8th Grade Promotion Ceremony – Thursday, June 9

Our 8th grade students will be formally recognized for their achievement at our 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony, which will begin at 11:15 a.m. on Thursday, June 9. Please note that this is a time change from previous years. The ceremony will last until approximately 12:45 p.m. with a reception to follow. Our parking capacity is limited, so please follow the instructions from the parking attendants when you enter in the morning. Car-pooling is also a great idea, if possible. Eighth grade students will be treated to a formal brunch at *Davian's Banquet and Conference Center* prior to our ceremony.

Promotion Ceremony Attire

Many of our students have begun shopping for formal attire for our 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony. We recognize the importance of this event and want our students to look their best! Please remember that all school dress code expectations apply and can be found in the front of your student's assignment notebook.

For girls, skirts, dresses, and shorts may be worn as long as they are of appropriate length (longer than a student's finger tips when their arms are relaxed at their side). Capris or pants may be worn. No spaghetti straps, halter tops or exposed stomachs will be allowed (please note that all straps need to be two inches or more in width. For boys, shorts or slacks with a summer shirt are considered appropriate. Reminder that no holes in pants are allowed and all pants are required to fit appropriately (no undergarments may be shown). Parents will be called to bring additional clothing or take students home if they are not dressed appropriately.

Sincerely,
Mike Sereno

Associate Principal's Corner—Mr. Mark Peperkorn

It is hard to believe that we are three quarters of the way through the school year. Its seems like just yesterday we were meeting with the 6th graders to calm their nerves about the move to middle school and talking with the 8th graders about their leadership role in their final year and how they could have a positive impact on Pilgrim Park Middle School.

As we get closer and closer to Spring Break and potential family vacations, it is a good time for us to review the proper procedure for getting advance assignments. We are always grateful if vacations can be scheduled when school is not in session – but we understand that sometimes this cannot be avoided. Should you need to take your son/daughter out of school, we recommend that you request homework assignments in advance. One week prior to the scheduled absence, students should bring a note to the attendance office requesting an Advance Assignment Form for the period of time they will be absent. Teachers will not be expected to prepare advance lessons for more than one week. A parent must sign the form prior to teachers issuing work. The student will then take that form to his/her teachers to be completed before he/she leaves. A reasonable amount of notice should be given to the teachers if advance assignments are being requested. The expectation is that if a student follows this procedure, that the work given to him/her will be completed by his/her return to school. Students who choose not to do an Advance Assignment Form will need to complete all work upon returning while also completing the current class work.

As always, thank you very much for your support of Pilgrim Park Middle School.

Sincerely,
Mark Peperkorn

Athletic Corner

Pilgrim Park is excited to officially welcome the track season! All track athletes should reference the calendar and be aware of track commitment dates. These dates are also posted on the PPMS website. The athletes and coaches look forward to seeing parents and fans at our hosted meet at Brookfield East on April 20. Go Panthers!

Panther 4N6!

Eighty schools competed in Oconomowoc on March 26 at the State Forensics Tournament. Panther Pride filled the field house as the Pilgrim Park Forensics Team captured 4th place in the large school division! Twenty-four team members qualified for the Power Round & 15 won 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies!

Medalists included: Alex Stiyer, Noah Kozlowski, Georgette Wellnitz, Gloria Grzybowski, Eleni Tongas, Katie Kemnitz, Niyaz Nurbhasha and John Shebesta.

Trophy Winners (3rd Place): Sarah Werking - Storytelling; Lisa Browne - Moments in History; Nihal Nurbhasha - Informative Speaking; Abby Guenther & Meredith Gustafson - Demonstration; and Avery Ulschmid - Humorous Solo.

Trophy Winners (2nd Place): Emma Corwin & Libby Sukowatey - News Reporting; Shannon Bayne - Prose; Katie Radiske & Jane Desmond - Group Acting; P.J. LeClaire & Alex McGuire - Group Acting; Elizabeth Smurawa - Storytelling. **Trophy Winner (1st Place):** Apoorva Selvaraj - Moments in History.

Congratulations on this awsome accomplishment, students! Your coaches, Mrs. Andrews, Ms. Sundelius, Mrs. Uttech, Mrs. Romano and Mrs. Stockinger, are all very proud of you! Well done, Panthers!

Spring MAP Testing to Begin in April

During the coming weeks, 6th and 7th grade students will take tests called Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP). This assessment, which was also administered in the fall, assists us in determining your child's instructional level and allows us to measure academic growth throughout the school year in the areas of Reading, Math, and Language Arts. The test is taken on a computer.

MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. With MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. Over the next few weeks, 6th and 7th grade students will spend a total of about three hours completing these tests. Parents will receive results after the student has taken a spring assessment.

AID FOR AIDS

Mrs. Parulski's students are sponsoring a fundraiser for the Sarnelli House, an orphanage in Thailand for children born with AIDS. They will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts, punch cards and handmade beaded bracelets. The delivery date is Friday, May 27. Specific information will be coming online soon. Any questions, please contact Jean Parulski in Room U10, at Ext. 210 or at parulskj@elmbrookschools.org. Thanks for supporting a wonderful cause!

Girl Scout Blood Drive - Monday, May 2

Eighth grade PPMS Girl Scouts in Troop 2734 are hosting a blood drive on Monday, May 2. Imagine knowing that you've helped save a life. In about an hour, you can make a blood donation that helps up to three others heal and live. Each and every day nearly 800 donors are needed to meet the demand in local community hospitals served by BloodCenter of Wisconsin. Please help ensure that blood will be available for patients who need it and make your appointment to donate. Call Liz Watry at 414-807-6462 or visit www.bcw.edu/pilgrimpark . We hope to see you there - **Monday, May 2, 2:00-6:00 p.m. at PPMS**.

Homework Club April

Mondays:
April 4, 11, 18

Wednesdays:
April 6, 13

There will be no Homework Club in May or June.

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

Looking Ahead to May

5/2 Girl Scout Sponsored PPMS Blood Drive 1:30-6:00pm
5/3 Dixon 5th Gr. Shadow Day, 9:40am-12:40pm
--- Parkview Dual Track Meet @Parkview MS 3:30pm
5/4 & 6 Burleigh 5th Gr. Shadow Day, 9:40am-12:40pm
--- Senate Meeting 1:41-2:31pm
-- Cooney Track Invite (8 Gr. Only) at Oconomowoc HS 3:30pm
5/5 Cinco De Mayo Spanish Restaurant 7:30am-3:30pm
5/6 6th Gr. Dance Activity Night 7:00-9:00pm

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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage—PAID
Brookfield, WI
Permit No. 191

PPMS - Panther Pride

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

Website: http://ppms.elmbrookschools.org/

Daily student announcements are on the website too!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

News and Notes From The PTO at PPMS

At our March meeting, we began reviewing spring grant requests from staff. We will continue our discussion on April 13, so please join us to help us decide how to allocate our funds.

We are organizing volunteers for next year. Getting involved in any capacity is a great way to meet other parents and to learn about the issues affecting your student and your school. Incoming 6th grade parents have started returning their volunteer sheet and current 6th and 7th grade students received pink sheets in the third quarter report card envelopes. Please consider how you can get involved and return the sheet to the Main Office. It helps our planning to have much of this in place before June. If you are interested in joining the board, let us know.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on **Wednesday, April 13 at 1:00 p.m.** in Conference Room L8.

Maureen Browne maureenbrowne@hotmail.com (262)781-4923

Notes From The Music Department

Congratulations to all the participants in this year's Solo & Ensemble Festival that was held in March at BCHS. Our students did an incredible job. This year we had 24 of our entries qualify for the State Festival to be held on April 30 at UWM and May 7 at UW-Parkside. Students worked so hard on their performances and should be very proud of their work. All students will be recognized at the end of the year concerts. Here are the state qualifiers for 2011:

Vocal Solo:	Leila Goodrum, Alex McGuire	String Duet:	David Foster, Ling Shi
Show Choir:	Pilgrim Pizzazz	Flute Solo:	Manasi Mohan
Viola Solo:	David Foster, Jessica Hitchcock	Bass Solo:	Elise Kreger
Cello Solo:	Julia Lefond, Ian Lefond, Josh Lukas, Sean Wei		
Piano Solo:	Julia Lefond, Evan Matchette, Luke Profio		
Violin Solo:	Justin Brewer, Tessa Carter, Hantao Jing, Serena Lai, Calvin Osinga, Ling Shi, Leila Goodrum		
Violin Duet:	Tessa Carter & Eileen Freres; Apoorva Selvaraj & Sarah Liu		

The Music Department would like to remind all the students auditioning for the Middle Level Honors groups that you can get all the info from your teachers or you can go to the WSMA website.

Spring Music Concert Schedule *(7:00 p.m., Wilson Center, unless otherwise noted)*

April 19	7th & 8th Grade Band and Jazz Band Concert
April 30	State Solo & Ensemble events, UWM - Time TBA
May 7	State Solo & Ensemble, Pilgrim Pizzazz, UW-Parkside, Kenosha, Time TBA
May 21	8th Grade Choir & Band & Pilgrim Pizzazz to Great America (Departs 7:00am)
May 24	6th, 7th & 8th Grade Orchestra Concert
May 25	7th & 8th Grade Choir Concert w/Pilgrim Pizzazz
May 30	7th & 8th Grade Bands perform in the Elm Grove Memorial Day Parade
June 1	8th Grade Choir & BEHS Choirs, Carroll College, 7:30 p.m.
June 2	6th Grade Band & Choir Concert