

# THE PANTHER DISPATCH

PFEIFFER INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL / NOVEMBER 2011



## From the Principal's Desk:

### Parent - School Involvement

Earlier this month Pfeiffer Intermediate held two events to increase parental involvement with the school. Those events were Donuts for Dads and Muffins for Moms. Both events were absolute successes! Events like this are meant to make parents feel comfortable with the school their children attend. Countless studies have demonstrated that the more involved a parent is in their child's education, the better the child will do in school. Communication between home and the school is imperative for a child's success. This communication can be in the form of phone calls, e-mails, conferences and other events that take place in the school. I talk



with parents on a daily basis and there have been many instances where a small problem is handled before it turns into a big problem. I am always amazed at how supportive our Pfeiffer parents are of the work our teachers do on a daily basis. I would encourage parents to attend conferences and introduce yourself to your child's teachers

if you haven't done so already. We are eager to work with parents to ensure we are delivering the best education possible. If you have any questions or concerns please call or stop by and we would be more than happy to meet with you. We are all in this together, and we look forward to working with you this year.



<b>Nov. 1 DARE Graduation (1st 9 weeks)</b>	<b>6:00-7:00pm</b>
<b>Nov. 4 Community Day</b>	<b>1:05-2:50pm</b>
<b>Nov. 7 PATS meeting (parent group)</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Nov. 9 Parent/Teacher Conferences</b>	<b>5:00-8:00pm</b>
<b>Nov. 10 Parent/Teacher Conferences No School</b>	<b>8:00-8:00pm</b>
<b>Nov. 11 No School</b>	
<b>Nov. 16 Fundraiser Pick-up</b>	<b>2:30-6:30pm</b>
<b>Nov. 21-23 Iowa Testing 5th grade SC/SS</b>	
<b>Nov. 24-25 Thanksgiving recess</b>	
<b>Nov. 28 No School</b>	

## Pfeiffer Announcements

All Pfeiffer Intermediate announcements can be found on the Pfeiffer website. Announcements are posted daily. Go to [perrylocal.org](http://perrylocal.org), click on building then click on Pfeiffer.



### 5th Grade Language Arts & Social Studies

As we finish up the first nine weeks, students have worked hard in transitioning to the intermediate school. The grading period ends October 28. Please be sure to check your student's grades in Pinnacle. All user names and passwords were sent home in a letter during the month of September.

Homework is a vital part of the intermediate school. Practice at home is important to help your child succeed on the graded assessments. Don't forget to

check your student's planner each day for homework information, notes from the teacher, and upcoming test information.

In social studies, we are studying the Mayans, Aztecs and Incas. These three civilizations had different ways of ruling their people, providing food for their families, and dealing with the land where they lived. They also developed unique tools that were technological advancements for their people in order to survive and to make life easier. Their beliefs systems are

different than our own today. Each of these civilizations has its own unique culture.

In language arts, students are working to improve their everyday spelling in sentences and



## *Perry D.A.R.E. Skate Party*

Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>  
11AM – 2PM

Admission \$5.25 (includes regular skates)  
\$1.75 inline/speed skates

North Canton Skate Center 5475 Whipple  
Ave NW  
330-4997170

**Games & Lots of Prizes  
to be given out!!!**

paragraphs. Topics sentences and concluding statements are being fine-tuned to show an understanding of written expression. In reading class, students need to use their Active Reading Strategies to help them understand all aspects of the fiction and nonfiction texts that we read in class daily. The Elements of Fiction are being practiced over and over to help students understand the characters, plot, climax, resolution and setting within the story/novel.

Please do not hesitate to call the school or email if you should have questions or concerns. We look forward to talking with you at conferences in November!

## **5th Grade Math & Science**

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math and Science department would like to remind parents that conferences will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 and November 10<sup>th</sup> from 8-8 here at Pfeiffer. More information will follow or please contact Pfeiffer Intermediate for more information.

In math class, we will be heading into Unit 4. In this unit, students will be learning about fractions! Students will identify the various types of fractions used, including proper, mixed and improper. They will write multiple forms of numbers that are equivalent to a given fraction, find equivalent fractions by multiplying the

numerator and denominator by the same number. Represent 1 as any whole number over itself. In addition, students will become familiar with finding the least common denominator or LCD. We will finish Unit 4 on fractions by adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing.

Towards the end of November, we will be entering Unit 5 which covers ratios and percentages. Students will use models and visual representation to develop the concept of ratio as part-to-part and part-to-whole, and the concept of percent as part-to-whole.

Every week students are working on previous skills by completing daily Focus questions.



Students have three days to practice and ask questions in class before being quizzed on day four.

Please have your son or daughter practice and review the Focus questions at home, so that they are prepared!

5<sup>th</sup> grade science has been very busy exploring nature's recyclers. Our classrooms are currently the homes of some interesting organisms --worms! We have been studying how worms and other decomposers are a crucial part of an ecosystem. Students discovered why our world is not full of waste and about the various types of organisms that carry out the process of decomposition. Lots of hands-on



science makes our learning fun and students are doing an excellent job taking on the role of investigators. In order to help your child succeed in science, please be sure to review every night. Our Nature's Recyclers Unit is full of new vocabulary and concepts that are important to review. One of the most important parts of science is the discoveries that are made through investigations. Making sure that your student is practicing and thinking about science every night can only make learning in the classroom more meaningful.

As always, feel free to contact your student's teachers at any time. You can find email addresses and website links from the Perry Local Schools homepage ([www.perrylocal.org](http://www.perrylocal.org)). We appreciate your continued support at home and hope to see you at November conferences.

## **6th Grade Language Arts**

Language arts classes are reading before class, during class, and after class! Students are reading both assigned and self-selected novels. This will help develop both skills and interest in literature. Continue to have your

child read for twenty minutes every night. Research shows that this is the best way for students to improve their decoding skills, comprehension, and fluency. As we progress to the second nine weeks, students will be immersed in the stages of plot. Students should be able to compose a plot diagram using a literature selection. We will also continue analyzing character traits and points of view.

Writing will continue to be a focus in class. We will compose various types of writing such as journal entries, descriptive paragraphs, and personal narratives. Students should be able to edit and revise both their own and their peers' compositions.

Please remind your child to record homework in his/her planner each day. Also check to see if the work is done neatly and completely. A well-prepared student always does better in class. Many of our students adjusted well to Pfeiffer and continue to complete all work to the best of their ability. This is a remarkable feat especially at the beginning of the year! What an accomplishment – thank you for being a leader in our classrooms.

## **6th Grade Social Studies**

The sixth grade Social Studies classes have been studying about the area of Mesopotamia. We learned about the 7 characteristics of Civilization.

The students were able to look at artifacts to determine which characteristic of civilization it showed. Our classes have also been discussing how some of the inventions of the past, such as the wheel, are still being used today.

Timelines are also an important part of viewing history. We will be reading timelines, and they will also learn what A.D., B.C., B.C.E., and C.E. represent. The students will then apply this knowledge to create their own personal time line showing events that happened before and after their birth. It will be exciting to learn more about our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students!

It is unbelievable that we will be starting our second 9 weeks grading period! The sixth graders will begin learning about ancient Egypt. We will be mummifying carrots and apples to see how the Egyptians preserved their dead. There are many fun and exciting activities planned for this unit.

## **6th Grade Math**

Sixth grade mathematicians have recently finished tackling the concepts of algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities, perimeter, and circumference. They are currently investigating topics relating to data analysis and will continue to do so in the month ahead. Following data analysis, students will be exploring the area of geometry. In this unit, students will learn to classify and describe two-dimensional figures,

define geometric vocabulary, and identify relationships between planes. In the pre-algebra class, students have wrapped up the concepts of equations, inequalities, modeling operations with fractions, and also proportions. We will continue to review these concepts as the year progresses to not only keep the material fresh, but also to develop an even deeper understanding

in these areas. In the coming month, your child will be working with percents and related applications. Have him/her impress you by calculating the tip on your next trip out to eat or even the markdowns on those Christmas sales!

Thank you for your encouragement and support at home. You are a huge part of your child's success in the classroom. Please continue to encourage your child to bring his/her planner home nightly so you may be aware of homework assignments, upcoming projects, quizzes, and tests!

## 6th Grade Science

Wrapping up the month of October, the sixth grade scientists continued exploring the area of Life Science. We learned

about the building blocks of life—cells!! Students learned about the work of the cell and the function of each part inside the cell. Once we “cell-abrated” our cell expertise, we learned how



cells “build” complex organisms such as humans by investigating tissues, organs and organ systems inside humans.

In November, we will continue our Life Science explorations. The next few investigations will have us discovering the world of plants! Our plant encounters will introduce the students to a variety of activities involving plants during which they will be observing, growing, collecting, dissecting, and experimenting.

## Pfeiffer Art

### 5th Grade

What does it take to transform a pile of old t-shirts into spectacular works of art? Just a spare hoola hoop, some teamwork and a little creativity.

Pfeiffer art students worked hard weaving old t-shirts in and out

through hoola hoop looms creating beautiful hand-crafted rugs. Stop by to see the rugs on display in Pfeiffer's main entryway. A special thanks to all parents and staff members who helped by donating t-shirts.

## Pfeiffer Art

### 6th Grade

According to the Magazine Publishers of America, only 20 percent of magazines are recycled from the home. Have you ever thought about what you can do with all of the old magazines piling up on your counter? Sixth graders at Pfeiffer Intermediate School found a creative way to reduce, reuse and recycle. Students brought in old magazines and transformed them into funky Recycled Magazine Bowls like the one showed below. Pages were ripped from magazines, wrapped around a ruler and coiled into the colorful creations. Not only did students enjoy making their one-of-a-kind piece, they played a part in helping our environment by making art from recycled materials.

