

**Penn Valley
Elementary
School**



**Fall 2023 Paw
Prints**



News From the Office



We have had a wonderful first marking! Students have been actively engaged in the learning process and participating in all different types of activities. We have many upcoming activities that we hope you will put on your calendar. Please view our school website, Instagram page, PTO website or PTO Facebook Page to see additional information. All flyers are blasted, so please check your email daily to stay on top of what is happening at Penn Valley Elementary School.

The Panther 200 Club is off to a great start. Our School Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support plan (SWPBIS) is going well. Students are exhibiting the expected behaviors of being responsible, respectful and safe. I wanted to say "Thank you!" to those of you who took a moment to complete our SWPBIS survey. It was useful information the team will use moving forward.

I strongly encourage you to learn about the new High School building initiative as it will impact the students who are currently in our elementary school. Upgrades to the High School campus will provide our current students with even more amazing opportunities as they move through their High School years. Please be an active participant and get involved by attending meetings, completing surveys or reading up on information as it becomes available. Knowledge is power. Here is the link to the Pennsbury website of the current updates.

The district is offering Parent Academy nights. The Pennsbury Parent Academy (PPA) is a series of educational programs and presentations offered to Pennsbury parents and guardians to support school success and continued home-school partnerships on various topics to promote parent and guardian community engagement. Topics include Mental Health & Wellness, Supporting School Success, Social Media & Internet Safety and Diversity & Inclusion. Parents and guardians are the most effective advocates for their children, making important decisions throughout their child's educational career about programs, schools, and opportunities. The PPA is designed to help you understand how these decisions can shape your child(ren)'s future.





News From the Office Continued



Just a reminder that all volunteers must obtain clearances to volunteer in the building. You can register using App Garden. This information can be found on our website under the Volunteer Clearance icon. It is recommended you do this now before an event takes place because some clearances take time to receive.

Report Cards will be given all four marking periods for students in Grades 1 through 5 only. In order to view your child's report card at the end of each marking period, you will need to register on the districts' PowerSchool System(SIS). You can access the system using the icon on the district or school website. The link is at the top of the website.

We need your help in keeping our students safe. The student drop-off time begins at 8:40AM. That is when there is adult supervision available. Students are expected to be in their homerooms by 9:00 AM. Please follow the traffic laws when using the car rider line. Please follow the directions of our security guard. Also, dogs are not permitted on the premises at arrival or dismissal time.

We have had an increased amount of students coming in late and leaving early. Please understand that Pennsylvania has a school code for school attendance that dictates the amount of time students need to be in school. Students are expected to be in their classrooms ready to learn at 9:00 AM. When a student comes in late they start the day playing catch up. Picking up early also disrupts the learning day for all. It is important that students attend the full day of school to ensure academic success. If your child will be absent from school, please email the attendance line at pvattendance@pennsbury.org in the morning. Thank you for your assistance with these matters.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Ms. Hidalgo

News From the School Counselor

During the month of October, Mrs. Johnson visited the Kindergarten, First, and Second grade classrooms to read the book *A Little Spot on Halloween* by Diane Alber. The students then created "Positive Pumpkins" to decorate the A Wing Hallway. Some fourth and fifth grade friends assisted in the project by cutting out all of the pumpkins! Stop by during conferences to check out the positive messages from our students.

What Do You Want To Be When You Get Older?

Third grade students recently completed two career activities with Mrs. Johnson and her intern, Miss Kristen Morozin. The classes discussed jobs involving keeping people safe, jobs in hospitals and schools, jobs that involve driving and working outside, as well as what careers they might want to have when they get older. Students also practiced identifying coins and discussed how money can be used.



Mrs. Johnson



News From the Math Specialist

MATH CLUBS HAVE BEGUN!

Penn Valley hosts two morning math clubs. 24 Challenge Club is a math game club open to students in grades 3-5 that meets every Tuesday morning from 8:15-8:45. To play the game, students must use all four numbers on any given game card along with any of the four operations to make the number 24. The first student to make 24 wins the card to gain points. The student with the most points earned wins the round.

Our second math club is Math Olympiads where students explore topics and strategies in depth and learn how to become proficient problem solvers. Club members will enter five worldwide contests between December and March. Math Olympiads is open to 4th and 5th grade students and meets Friday mornings from 8:15-8:45.

Problem of the Month Solvers



Our lucky October winning entry came from:

Sylar Gonzales
in Mrs. Gatt's class



Congratulations to the following students who correctly solved the October Math Problem!

The correct answer was 3.

Rubin Curevac

Joley Debolt

Nicholas Cartolaro

Kyle Sorrentino

Matilde Tun

Afreen Sultana

Ava Kind

Skylar Gonzales

Ayesha Sultana

Leah Miller

Lucie Haba

Don't forget to try out the November problem!

News From the Math Specialist Continued

Fact Fluency

Fact Fluency is an important skill to help your child be successful in math. Students who have a strong foundation and understanding of their basic facts can focus their energy on problem solving and be more proficient mathematicians. Students in 1st and 2nd grade should practice their addition and subtraction facts daily. Students in 3rd through 5th grade should practice their multiplication facts daily. Below are our October winners for their hard work practicing their math facts.

Congratulations to our October Math Fact Power Raffle Winners

Come visit
Mrs. McDowell
in C-26 to pick
a prize!

- 1st Grade **Patryk M.**
- 2nd Grade **Colin S.**
- 3rd Grade **Luke R.**
- 4th Grade **Chance S.**
- 5th Grade **Adrianna P.**

Keep practicing your fact fluency at home! Don't forget to turn in your finished page from your colored Fact Power tablet every Friday. Maybe you will be one of our lucky winners next month.

Puzzle Time

Can your family solve this math puzzle?

$$\text{Snowman} + \text{Snowman} + \text{Snowman} = 24$$

$$\text{Snowman} + \text{Candy Cane} + \text{Candy Cane} = 18$$

$$\text{Candy Cane} + \text{Candy Cane} - \text{Top Hat} = 6$$

$$\text{Snowman} + \text{Top Hat} \times \text{Candy Cane} = ?$$



News From the Math Specialist Continued

Summer Reading & Math Celebration

Penn Valley students who turned in their summer reading postcard and summer math packet celebrated their hard work over the summer with some "Outdoor Fun". It was a great time had by all!

Mrs. McDowell



Pre - K

Pre-k has been busy learning for the first part of the school year! For Halloween we were a team and dressed as the 101 Dalmations, Mrs. Sulat was Cruella Deville! So far we have reviewed all of our colors and learned 9 Upper & Lowercase letters! Something that we are working on is the sounds our letters make so we can start to review some Sight Words during the winter time! Another new idea we are learning about is shapes. We have some visitors coming, Cops 'N' Kids. These volunteers will come and read a story to us, we will draw pictures of what details we remember from the story, and we even get to pick out a book to take home with us. Pre-K is looking forward to our very own Thanksgiving feast, we have been learning about family traditions/how families can be different and thought this would be a fun way to tie it all in together!

Mrs. Sulat



Kindergarten

Wow! Our Kindergarten students sure have grown during the first marking period! The Kinders have learned all the school rules! They are great at showing the silent signal and giving the silent hello to all the friends they have made at Penn Valley, and they love eating at the cafe. Our classes loved learning about Fall, exploring the pumpkin, and participating in their first Halloween parade! A special thank you goes out to all the parents who donated snacks and helped out with the Halloween party. We are looking forward to sharing their growth with you at conferences!

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



1st Grade

1st Grade has made a smooth transition into the daily routines this year. We are steadily moving along in our Into Reading Series. Some of the strategies we have learned so far are sequencing events, character feelings, and context clues. We also covered phonics by reviewing short vowel sounds, and grammar by learning about nouns and verbs.

In math, we have been working on addition strategies. We are learning about the different tools we can use to solve number stories. We completed our unit in Social Studies. We covered topics about what we can learn from others and who works in our school. The next few weeks we will focus on Science. Our unit will be Sound and Light.

Halloween was a success! Thanks to all of our parent helpers that made the magic happen! We are looking forward to our First Annual Friendsgiving with Kindergarten!

Please remember to read your 100 Step Challenge and record the number of books you read on the 100 Chart! We are looking for more students to reach 100 steps! Continue to practice your math facts and turn them in for an opportunity to win a prize!

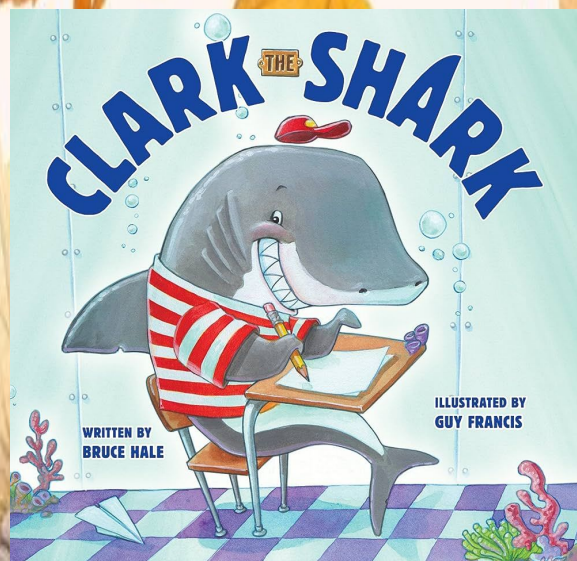
Mrs. Rapciewicz, Mrs. Zuczek, & Mrs. Johnston



2nd Grade

Second grade has been busy learning and growing! In reading, we've enjoyed some great stories, including Clark the Shark and Picture Day Prediction. We've learned so many new vocabulary words, and have learned patterns to help us read more challenging words. Students have learned about author's purpose and about the setting of a story. In math, students have learned many different strategies to solve addition problems. Ask a second grader to show you how to solve an addition problem using partial sums or an open number line. In writing, we spent several weeks reviewing complete sentences, subjects, predicates, end marks, and types of sentences. Currently, students are learning how to write a full paragraph with 5 complete sentences consisting of a topic sentence, 3 detail sentences, and a closing sentence. In social studies we learned about maps and communities. Soon we will begin our science unit on solids and liquids. We are excited to continue learning this year!

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



3rd Grade

Third grade has had a very productive first marking period! We quickly learned and adjusted to our daily routines. We continue to work hard on our 100-Step Challenge. One of our committed third graders reached her 200th step last week! We have been moving along in our reading series learning some new Spanish words, along with some interesting characters such as Judy Moody, Marisol McDonald, and Scaredy Squirrel. We are tackling the fun-filled reading and language arts learning program called Waggle.

In social studies, we strengthened our geography skills as we explored globes and maps, the geography of several locations throughout our country, such as Roseburg, Oregon, and Las Cruces, New Mexico. We also learned about the seven continents. We are enjoying the TCI learning platform with all of the interactive student activities.

In math, we have been having loads of fun exploring the many different strategies and properties involved in multiplying and dividing. Students continue to strengthen their math skills using IXL. Thank you to all of our awesome volunteers who made our Halloween parties a huge success! We are looking forward to the Turkey Bowl and celebrating Thanksgiving with our families as we enter into the new marking period! This year we are trying something new with a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving feast consisting of jelly beans, Hawaiian Rolls (toast), pretzels, and popcorn. We appreciate the support of our students' families!

Mrs. McGurrin, Mrs. Zubrzycki, & Miss Surdy



4th Grade

Fourth grade has had a great start to the school year. We are learning to demonstrate our best character as we understand the expectations of being a responsible, respectful and safe fourth grade learners. We love participating in our Morning Meetings together as we greet, share and get to know one another.

Our fourth grade teammates have become the experts in story elements and have applied their new knowledge when reading their first novel. We have finished our first novel, titled Frindle by Andrew Clements. We have also enjoyed reading in our Storyworks magazine. We have read fictional stories about teamwork and perseverance and also informational texts about courageous individuals who have survived Death Valley and those who have used their voice to fight for what they believe. When reading fiction, fourth grade readers have learned about characters, setting and plot and nonfiction text features and text structure when reading informational text.

In math, fourth grade friends are polishing up their basic math fact skills. We have worked on adding, subtracting and even multiplying larger numbers! Learners have practiced different strategies to find partial products and even multiply two-digit numbers using basic facts. We are working on maintaining a positive outlook when trying to solve multiple step problems. Fourth graders are learning the importance of taking their time, lining up numbers and showing our thinking in their math notebooks, step by step.

Fourth grade writers are growing more and more confident each day. Using their editing eyes, writers are checking to be sure they have capitalized letters and correctly punctuated each sentence. Writers are using resources to check their spelling. Be sure to have your 4th grader check for these at home when writing.

Fourth grade learners know they can do hard things and prove just that! They have learned that productive struggle is something we work through with a positive outlook and coping skills to learn. Keep up the great work 4th grade! You do amazing things each day to learn and grow.

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



5th Grade

This marking period, 5th graders have had fun getting to know one another, building community and learning to work together. We have worked on 5th grade expectations and goal-setting.

In reading, we completed our Inventor's Module. We learned that inventing takes creativity, curiosity and perseverance. We enjoyed our read-aloud, Harry Potter. Our classrooms have morphed into Hogwarts classrooms, and the kids have had fun immersing themselves in our story! We even had the opportunity to have a sorting hat ceremony. In addition, we are proud of our progress toward our 40 book challenge.

In math we have studied place value to the thousandth. We have learned about exponents, the power of ten, adding, subtracting and multiplying decimals. Now that we have mastered our multiplication facts, in 5th grade we are applying this skill to solve complex, real world problems.

In writing, we have learned the traits of personal narratives. We have drafted a "seed story" and have used a writer's workshop to edit and revise our writing to include transitions, dialogue and paragraphing. We look forward to sharing our finished narratives soon!

In science we finished up our Earth and Sun Unit. We learned how to use shadows to observe the rotation and revolution of the Earth. We learned that outdoor shadows can help us tell time!

Our 5th graders have been working hard and having fun! We are off to a great start this year! They have made Penn Valley proud!

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



Music



Since school began, your student has been reviewing musical skills and concepts previously learned and I am getting to know all of them, both musically and personally! In the next few months, students will be engaged in singing folk songs, playing classroom instruments, playing musical games, reading and writing music to reinforce the new solfege pitches, rhythm patterns, or musical skill.

Halloween week was a special and fun time in music class. We loved exploring instruments and new songs!

Miss Kate Haas



SPARK

This year has been the best yet. In SPARK, we're trying some exciting new things:

Kindergarteners are getting great at coding, and moving towards our first big build projects for the year!

First grade just started building their marble labyrinths, extending their coding knowledge to use pushes and pulls to design an engaging challenge for their fellow students.

Second grade is about to begin animating, and bringing stories to life on the Chromebook!

Third graders have created some incredible games on Scratch, and will soon move towards creating inventions using the Makey Makey that bring their games to life!

Fourth grade Shark Tank is going swimmingly, as we invent solutions to problems, create prototypes, and market them to teachers and classmates to sell our business plans.

Fifth grade will be completing our Mars Mission project together, and coding VEX robots to solve problems, clean litter, and play a giant game of Hungry Hungry Hippos.

Mr. Fallacaro



Physical Education

Welcome to Physical Education at Penn Valley Elementary School. It has been a fun, productive and busy start to the school year. Team building, decision making, communication and sportsmanship have been a huge focus for grades 3, 4 and 5. They have also been showing off their throwing, kicking and rolling skills over the past few weeks. Two of their favorite activities so far this year were castle ball and sink the ship. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders have been working on their locomotor and non-locomotor movements, pathway traveling and spacial awareness.

Turkey Bowl is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21st. Turkey Bowl is a school wide event where the 5th grade students compete against the teachers in a friendly game of bowling, throwing, and dodging a ball.

Look for more information in the next issue of the Penn Valley Paw Prints. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at tbehe@Pennsburyisd.org

Mr. Behe



Library

We began the school year with each student writing their name and favorite book on a puzzle piece. The puzzle pieces were assembled into one large puzzle outside the library. It has created a great sense of community.

Recess Readers is back. Recess Readers is offered to students in second through fifth grade once a week. Students can choose to come to the library to read during recess. The choice is made each week and does not require a long-term commitment.

Students interested in Reading Olympics will meet in November and will begin reading the Reading Olympics books. We will meet again in December and meet weekly beginning in January. The competition will be in March or April.

We started the year reviewing basic library procedures and concepts, but we have now moved on to new content at each grade level. Kindergarten students listen to several stories each week and complete an activity related to the story. First grade has been learning about how the library is organized. Second grade students can now identify and use the different parts of a book. In third grade, we learned how to search the online catalog. Fourth and fifth graders have reviewed the many databases available through the library and both grades are beginning research projects. Fourth grade students will work in small groups to research and promote books that are eligible for this year's Caldecott Award. Fifth grade students have each selected an animal to research.

Mrs. Stolber



Art

Penn Valley students are embarked on some new art adventures that celebrate the changes that fall brings.

Fall is a great time to explore different textures in nature. The **kindergarteners** are touching smooth leaves, bumpy tree bark, and rough sticks. We are using our observations to make watercolor paintings of trees.

The **first graders** are reviewing the art concept of "texture" that we learned last year in kindergarten. We are creating an up-close view of a fall scarecrow, complete with some feathered bird friends.

In **second grade**, we are learning about leaves. We observed that leaves have lines on them called, "veins." We discussed how people have veins too. We are drawing veins on our paper leaves using construction paper crayons.

The **third graders** are working on apple trees that shows highlights and shadows in our paintings. We are also discussing and celebrating the pollinators that we can thank for our food.

This week in **fourth grade**, we are painting a birch tree landscape with skies inspired by dutch artist, Vincent Van Gogh. As we painted, we listened to the song, "Starry, Starry Night" by Don McLean.

The **fifth grade** is studying the art element, "form." We are filling in our pumpkin drawings by blending different tints and shades of oil pastels in order to make them appear round and real.

Ms. Mummey



Penn Valley Holiday Sing



Wednesday, December 20, 2023

All Penn Valley students are beginning to prepare special songs to share at our upcoming **Holiday Sing on Wednesday, December 20th**. There will also be special performances by the band, strings, vocal ensemble, chimes club, and 5th grade chorus. ***We are excited to welcome 5th grade parents to see our performance. More information will be coming home in December!***

PANTHER 200 CLUB



Our panthers are doing a great job showing respectful, responsible, and safe choices. We have filled the board 3 times this school year - that is 600 Panther 200 Club tickets! 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.

Each time we fill the board to 200, names we pull winners for special prizes. It has been so fun to watch our winners enjoy special lunches and other prizes with their classmates.

