



**Penn Valley
Elementary School**

*Spring
Paw Prints
2024*

News from the Office

Dear Penn Valley Families,

I can't believe that a third of the school year has gone by. The students and staff continue to work hard!

Please be advised that Kindergarten registration has begun on-line. Please visit the District website. [Click here to register.](#)

Field Trip season is here. 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."

The students continue to do an amazing job participating in our School Wide Behavior Intervention System (SWPBIS). Our Panther 200 incentive continues to be a success. Students continue to model expected behaviors. The different grade levels have done a nice job running our All School Meetings.

The students continue to work hard every day on the PA Common Core standards. The students in Grades 3-5 will be taking the PSSA assessment beginning at the end of April. The dates are as follows: ELA April 22nd, 24th and 26th, Math April 29th and 30th. Grade 4 only will take Science May 2nd and 3rd.

I would like to remind you to please follow the traffic laws when arriving and leaving the school property. Please do not block driveways. Students must wear bike helmets when riding to school. This is the law. Also, a friendly reminder that dogs should not be brought to school during these times as well. Thank you for helping to keep our students safe.

There are many more exciting events planned for the remainder of the school year. To keep updated on the great things happening at Penn Valley School, please review the school website, PTO websites and PTO Facebook page. We are looking forward to your participation at these exciting events!

Sincerely,
Ms. Hidalgo

News from the Counselor

Internet Safety

Students spend a lot of time online. It is a good idea to remind them about how to stay safe online. Watch this [link](#) with your family to make sure the lines of communication are kept open about internet safety.



NOVA

The Network of Victim Assistance in Bucks County offers free and confidential support for any victims of crime. Their supports are available whether you were personally affected by a crime or something that occurred nearby. Their hotline is available 24/7. Please reach out to them if you need support. 1-800-675-6900

Bucks County Resource Directory

This [link](#) is created by the Bucks County Intermediate Unit to supply information on community resources. Items included in this directory are children's services, clothing, community action agencies, counseling, credit, domestic violence services, drug and alcohol, early intervention services, employment, food, healthcare, housing, legal assistance, mental health service, parenting resources, and utilities.

News from the Counselor Continued

Summer Vacation

Summer vacation usually brings happy thoughts to students as they think of days swimming in the pool, vacations, and extra video game time. For other students, however, it can be a stressful time because of the change in routine and not being able to see their friends every day. To help your child during this time, consider some of the following suggestions:

- **Share your contact information** with the family of your child's friends before summer vacation starts so you can arrange days and times to get together. Falls Community Park and your neighborhood parks are great places to gather for both kids and adults.
- **Establish a routine at home** for your child(ren). Everyone likes to go to bed late and sleep late during the summer months, but it is best to set limits. It will make the transition back to school easier in September if you maintain a schedule during the summer.
- **Limit social media and video game time.** These two activities are kid favorites, but limits need to be maintained for how much time a child spends using these items. Make a trade off of 2 to 1 - two hours playing outside to 1 hour of electronics time. Most social media sites are not suitable for elementary school students. Please make sure you are monitoring their interactions with others.
- **Spend time as a family.** Bucks County is full of fun, free activities for families.
 - *Ringin' Rocks - Bring your hammer and listen to the rocks.*
 - *Core Creek Park and Tyler State Park*
 - *Washington Crossing Historic Park*
 - *Take a walk along the historic Delaware Canal. Look at the wildlife and read about the history of the Canal.*
 - *Kids Castle Playground in Doylestown*
 - *Levittown Library or the Little Free Libraries located in many of our neighborhoods. You can drop off books you are done reading and find some new treasures.*
 - *911 Memorial Park in Lower Makefield - A wonderful place to visit and remember those we lost in the attacks of 9/11/01*

Kindergarten

The Kindergarten classrooms were buzzing with excitement during the marking period! The children loved exploring the 100 board, learning new words and, practicing reading!

The upcoming month proves to be busy as we look forward to our trip to the Elmwood Zoo. We will begin our animal research project! We will be researching the Giraffe for our trip to the Elmwood Park Zoo!

The students are working hard to “power up” their reading to the next level. Encourage them to go over their frequency words. Have them read their book in the bag to everyone!

We look forward to sharing your child's growth during conferences!



1st Grade

It's hard to believe that our 1st graders will officially be 2nd graders in less than 40 days! We are on our last modules in our Into Reading series. We will continue to build our vocabulary, make conclusions, vowel teams in phonics, and types of sentences. We will revisit cause and effect relationships, summarizing, author's purpose, story structure, main ideas and details, and making inferences. We completed measurement in math and we are moving on to telling time and counting money. Please practice coin recognition at home with your child, as well as hour hand and minute hand identification. This will help during our lessons in class.

During writing, we are continuing to work on our sentence structure. We are making sure we use capitals and punctuation so we are ready for 2nd grade. We began our last Science unit called Air & Weather. This is a very fun and hands-on unit! The students will be making kites, wind spinners and doing tons of fun activities! We were able to join with our 4th grade Buddies for a fun Egg Hunt before Spring Break! We searched for eggs that had the correct compound words!

We are looking forward to our Field Trip to the Please Touch Museum and Field Day!



2nd Grade

Our second graders are continuing to work hard and learn so much! In reading, students have worked on new reading skills and strategies to apply to their reading. Some of these strategies include cause/effect, summarizing, and author's purpose. Most recently students have enjoyed reading and analyzing different types of poetry.

In math, students have learned how to solve three digit addition and subtraction problems using several strategies. The second graders just finished our measurement unit. They learned how to measure using customary, as well as metric units.

Students regularly complete a daily language practice in writing. They've become experts at correcting grammatical as well as punctuation errors in sentences. They have also recently learned how to write a variety of poems, including haikus, diamantes, and acrostic poems.

In May we will be attending our 2nd grade field trip! We will have the opportunity to visit the Churchville Nature Center and learn about different animals' habitats.

We are looking forward to finishing the school year and preparing our second graders for third grade!



3rd Grade

Third grade has been very busy in all academic areas. Our newest writing project shows the ways we have made growth this year. In Social Studies during the 3rd marking period, students learned how choices people make are affected by available resources in the Economics unit. In our Civics unit, we learned how being an active citizen benefits others. Students will be learning about ecosystems and building aquariums and terrariums right in the classroom during Science. If you are a student reading this, please stop by our 3rd-grade classrooms and see them in a few weeks!

In math, we continue to master multiplication facts while exploring equivalent fractions using number lines, fraction strips, and fraction circles. Third-grade students have also been eagerly preparing for the upcoming English Language Arts and Mathematics PSSAs. At the April All School Meeting, students shared many useful test-taking strategies and ways to keep calm, by not stressing the test. We are thankful to Miss Poll from Bryn Athyn College and Miss Tobin, from The College of New Jersey, for being a part of our 3rd-grade team.

We are looking forward to the tipi-raising event coming to us in May. Thank you to the Pennsbury Arts Foundation for the generous grant to help support this event! Thank you, too, to student teacher, Miss Tobin, for providing the materials for the eclipse demonstration and to the science department for the learning activities on April 8th!

Finally, third graders celebrated Earth Day by visiting Falls Township Community Park, guided by Park Ranger Brian. We “rocked our socks” on March 21st in support of World Down Syndrome Day. Keep it up, keep it up, keep that PV spirit up, say, KEEP, what, IT, what UP!!



4th Grade

The fourth graders have been working hard in Reading, Writing, Math, and Social Studies! In writing, we researched important Black American historical figures. The information we gathered was used to complete a biography project. We wrote about our chosen person's early life, education, challenges they faced, as well as their legacies. This was culminated by an amazing Canvas presentation in the classroom. What a spectacular job by all!

Fourth-grade Mathematicians are mastering our multiplication and division facts. Our focus for the first and second marking periods was to perfect addition and subtraction and work on mastering our multiplication and division fluency. As we explored division, we learned that multiplication and division are inverse operations because multiplication undoes division and division undoes multiplication. In the third marking period, we learned about simplifying, adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions! We learned that fractions are especially important because we use them in our everyday lives when we measure ingredients for cooking and baking, tell time, and eat slices of pizza or pie. We also learned how to create and interpret line plots.

This marking period, we split into small literature circle groups, and did in depth analysis of characters, settings and plot structure of the novel Owl in the Shower. Our book discussions led us into different explorations about nature which was highlighted by our class trip to Peace Valley Nature Center, in Doylestown. Although the weather was a little damp, it could not dampen the great experience we had identifying lentic and lotic water ways, listening to toads singing in an attempt to brighten our day, observing the deer and turtles as they moved around their habitat and searching in the stream for aquatic life.

This marking period also exposed us to an exploration of Social Studies. We traveled through the States and Regions of the United States. We used online sources to help us broaden our knowledge of the Regions of the United States, through our research packet. Soon, we will discover all there is to know about our home state of Pennsylvania!



5th Grade

We are entering our last marking period of elementary school! It has been a fun year! In the 3rd marking period we celebrated our 1,000th day of school! We helped with our Hoops fundraiser, which was a big success. We visited the highschool to watch Anastasia the Musical. In addition to learning, we have been having a lot of fun!

In reading, we wrapped up our drama and poetry units, and have begun reading nonfiction in our disasters unit. We all safely experienced the earthquake, just as we began studying earthquakes in our classroom! Meanwhile, in math, we have conquered fractions, while in writing we fine-tuned our grammar and essay writing skills. Social studies lessons have helped us understand the birth of our country.

We look forward to many upcoming 5th grade privileges. We will get to visit our future middle school and take a building tour. We will participate in a mixer, where we will get to meet students from other elementary schools who will be moving up with us. We will be the first to receive yearbooks at our yearbook breakfast. Our field trip is right around the corner (May 3rd). 5th graders will have an end-of-the-year party, clap-out and promotion to look forward to as well! Keep those new 5th grade t-shirts ready for all of our special events as we wrap up our elementary school days!



News from the Math Specialist

Pi Day

On March 14, Penn Valley celebrated Pi Day with different activities throughout the day and an assembly to learn about the famous mathematical ratio of pi. Some lucky students had the chance to “pie” Mrs. Hidalgo and Mrs. McDowell to raise money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. It was an afternoon filled with learning and laughs.



Math Olympiads

Way to go to all our Penn Valley Math Olympiad students! This year, our Math Olympiad team competed in five worldwide competitions to put their problem-solving skills to the test. Congratulations to our Penn Valley Math Olympiad Champion with the greatest total points on our team: Ava Kind in 5th grade. Ava also received a perfect score on Olympiad #2 this year, which is an impressive achievement.



News from the Math Specialist Continued

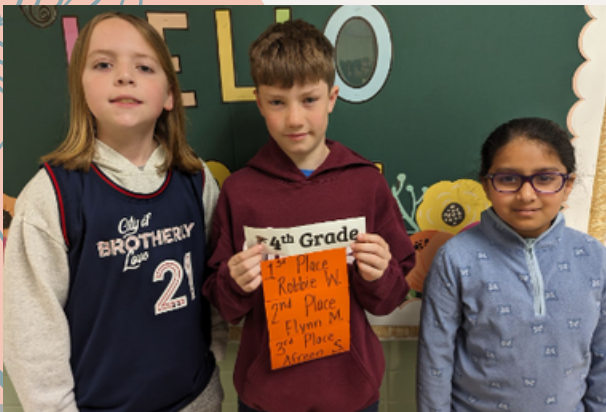
24 Club Math Madness

Starting in March, our Math 24 Challenge Club has been competing in a Math Madness bracket. Our third, fourth, and fifth graders have gone head to head against each other each week. Congratulations to the following finalists in their grade level brackets.

The students in the club grew in the game throughout the year, and we hope to have them back to play again next year!

Third Grade

1st Place: Cambree Sierra
2nd Place: TJ Steinkirchner
3rd Place: Kyle Sorrentino



Fourth Grade

1st Place: Robbie Walker
(Penn Valley 2024 Champion)
2nd Place: Flynn Miller
3rd Place: Afreen Sultana

Fifth Grade

1st Place: Mackenzie Alioto
2nd Place: Autumn Doyle
3rd Place: Scarlett Toth



Art

Our talented Penn Valley artists have been busily preparing their drawings, paintings, and sculptures for various upcoming art events.

The District Art Show will be held on Tuesday, May 2nd through Thursday, May 4th in the Pennsbury High School East gymnasium from 6pm-8pm. Students with artwork featured in this show receive an invitation approximately one week prior to the event. Please come out to celebrate the accomplishments of students in grades K-5 from schools throughout the Pennsbury School District.

In addition, Penn Valley's spectacular, "Art & Literature Night" is scheduled for Thursday, April 27th from 5:30-7:00. If you are interested in helping to prepare for the show, please email Miss Mummey (art teacher) at kmummey@pennsburysd.org.

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!

Physical Education

Throughout February and March, students in Physical Education participated in many individual and team games.

In February, students learned gymnastic skills such as balances, tumbles, and mat stunts. There was also a day where students participated in an obstacle course using the rock wall, balance beam, and hanging ropes. To finish out the month of February, students learned basic hockey skills. Throughout the unit, students worked on dribbling, passing, and scoring into a net while playing small, sided hockey games.

March brought the excitement of March Madness. Students in all grade levels learned basketball skills such as dribbling, passing, and shooting. Their skills were tested when playing small and large games of basketball in class. In March, students also participated in a net games unit. Students learned the game “Newcomb” which is a throwing and catching game using a volleyball net. Pickleball and paddle ball were also taught.

Field Day is scheduled for May 30th and the rain date is May 31st.



Music

Fill the World with Song Friday, May 17th, 2024

Penn Valley's Spring Concert is fast approaching! 4th and 5th graders, including the orchestra, band, and chorus will be performing for family and friends on Friday evening, May 17th. Information about tickets and arrival times will be sent home later this month.



This year's concert will feature songs from all over the world. Performances will be given from the fifth grade chorus, concert band, and string orchestra. Selections will also be performed by small groups including the Pennsbury Honors Choral Festival members, fourth grade vocal ensemble, and fifth grade chimes club.

**We look forward to sharing with
everyone on May 17th!**

SPARK

As the end of the year approaches, we're wrapping up our final STEM projects, and you can see them at our Art, SPARK, and Literacy night on May 23rd!

- **Kindergarteners** will explore materials science and buoyancy as they design boats capable of sending messages across distances.
- **First graders** delve into the world of forces, motion, and directions by constructing mini golf courses.
- **Second graders** build Skiers, snowboarders, and sleds, iterating through the design process and using their knowledge of forces and friction to design and race.
- **Third graders** wrap up their bridge research and venture into the realm of virtual reality exploration, culminating in the creation of seed dispersal machines.
- **Fourth graders** embark on a fascinating journey into neuroscience, experimenting with marble runs and conducting a simulated concussion experiment known as the egg drop.
- **Fifth graders** will conquer advanced robotics missions and explore human interactive design, crafting board games and mechanisms for cardboard carnival games to conclude the year on an exciting note.



Library

It's hard to believe we are approaching the end of the school year. The Library has been full of activity this year. Kindergarten is ending the year learning nursery rhymes while first grade has been hearing fairy tales. Second grade is learning about trickster tales and fables and third grade has been reading tall tales. As the younger grades read traditional tales, fourth grade students are learning about different fiction genres, and fifth grade is finishing their final research project.

Grades 1, 2, 3, and 5 wrap up the year practicing and performing readers theater for their classmates. The readers' theater performances are a favorite every year.

All library books are due May 31. Please check under beds, on bookshelves, in cars, and in favorite reading spots for any missing books. We do not charge fines for late books. If a book cannot be found or is damaged your student will receive a notice indicating the cost to replace the book.

Classes can earn 20 minutes of extra recess during library if everyone in the class returns their books by May 31! Mrs. Stolber hopes to take out every class this year.

Congratulations to our Reading Olympics teams who competed at Mill Creek Elementary in March. Both teams won the coveted blue ribbon!

