



PENN  
VALLEY

*Paw Prints*

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**SUMMER 2024**

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# OFFICE NEWS

Dear Penn Valley Families,

Wow! Another school year has come and gone. Penn Valley has had an exciting school year! Our students continue to work on exhibiting behaviors that are respectful, responsible, and safe. I am proud to announce that our school has once again received a No Place for Hate Designation. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and parents. I also wanted to announce that Doc Hidalgo passed his school therapy test, so you can look forward to seeing him next year.

I would like to extend a special "Thank you!" to our PTO Executive Board for their tireless efforts throughout the year. I also want to express my gratitude to all the PTO members who have served on various committees. Your help and support have been invaluable in making this school year a success.

As we head into the summer break, I encourage all students to avoid the "summer slide" by continuing to read and practice their math facts. It is important to keep these skills sharp during the summer months. Our school library will be open on Tuesdays from 9:30-12:30 and Thursdays from 1:30-3:45 pm. Incoming Kindergarten students to outgoing Grade 5 students are welcome to visit the library. Please note that students will need to be accompanied by an adult.

If you are interested in volunteering next year, it is never too late to complete the clearance process and become a volunteer. All the necessary information can be found on our school webpage. If you have already completed this process during the current school year, your clearances are valid for 60 months, or five years.

A friendly reminder that our school is currently under surveillance. I strongly recommend that students do not remain on the property after hours without adult supervision. Any vandalism to the school will be reported to the police for investigation. Let's all work together to keep our school beautiful. If you see something suspicious, please contact the Falls Township police department.

In closing, I would like to wish our outgoing 5th grade students "Good luck!" as they transition to middle school. I am confident that you will thrive at William Penn! Remember to continue working hard and strive for success.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy summer!

Ms. Hidalgo

# KINDERGARTEN

The month of May was a busy one for our Kindergarten classes.

We loved visiting the Elmwood Park Zoo and feeding the giraffes! Our first Field Day was a blast.

This year has flown by, and we are wrapping things up with many activities that will help us review some of the things that we have learned.

We celebrated with our Kindergarten Celebration on June 13th and had an amazing time!

Have a safe and happy summer!



# 1ST GRADE

This year was nothing less than pure success! The growth these students made this year was truly amazing. The last marking period was full of exciting, educational activities. We kicked it off with our field trip to The Please Touch Museum and finished with Field Day!

The last few weeks of school we really pushed hard to read as many stories as possible in our Into Reading Program. We learned all of the reading strategies, and it is time to put them into practice independently to prepare us for 2nd Grade! Be sure to read over the summer to stay on top of all the skills we learned. Maybe keep a journal as well to practice your writing skills! We completed all 15 topics in Math, which allowed us time for review. In Science, we learned about air and weather and had tons of fun with some outdoor activities!

Remember to check out your local library for activities offered over the summer to help keep your child connected to school and to prepare them for 2nd grade. Check Penn Valley's website for more information! Have a great, safe, restful SUMMER!





# 2ND GRADE

It's hard to believe our school year is coming to an end. Our second graders have learned so much this year. Recently, students have had the opportunity to read many new books, including *I am Helen Keller*, *The Stories He Tells: The Story of Joseph Bruchac*, *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *Jackie and the Beanstalk*. The second graders have learned about comparing and contrasting two stories, how to use context clues to find meanings of unknown words, and the components of biographies, realistic fiction, and poetry.

In math, second grade has learned how to measure in centimeters, meters, inches, feet, and yards. We also worked on solving addition and subtraction problems with measurement. Students just completed a unit on bar graphs, picture graphs, and line plots. Ask your child to survey your family on their favorite summer activity and record the data!

Our writing units have included poetry, opinion writing, and letter writing. Children have learned how to write various types of poems, including acrostic, haiku, and cinquain. We have learned the difference between formal and informal letters and how to write a unique closing to a letter. Students wrote about their favorite fruit and favorite cookie and included reasons as to why they enjoy them.

We have enjoyed time with our 5th grade buddies, whether it was playing games or reading together. Field day was amazing with all of our favorite games. We are hoping our 2nd graders have a wonderful summer and wish them all good luck in 3rd grade!



# 3RD GRADE

Third grade has been having a wonderful time learning and reflecting on the school year. In writing, students reflected on how they have grown this school year academically and emotionally. They created unique paper flowers to share along with their writing pieces. Students were excited to learn more about Native Americans through their experiences with Robin Moore and his Tipi Raising Program. Along with raising a twenty-foot tipi on Penn Valley grounds, students listened to stories and experienced the dress code of the culture. Students learned the importance of leadership, teamwork, and appreciation of the environment. In math, students have been practicing their multiplication and division facts using Timestables.com. Some 3rd graders have mastered up to the 12 times tables! Students gained new knowledge about equivalent fractions and polygons. They learned exciting new math vocabulary: concave and convex polygons. "Google" it if you haven't heard of these math terms! Students are learning how to use Canva to create awesome presentations collaboratively with their peers. Some have chosen to make presentations on the instrument they will be playing next school year!

On Field Day, students were able to experience a FULL day of fun-filled competitions. The third-grade Pepsters cheered and danced for the opening ceremonies in the gymnasium. They made us very proud! For the Armed Forces Day Celebration, our grade level represented the Army branch by making camouflage hats to wear to this special event, honoring those who make/have made many sacrifices for our country! They cheered and sang a song to show their patriotism and thankfulness to retired and present-day Army men and women who attended this wonderful event.

Good luck, third graders and keep up the great work as you venture into fourth grade. We are sure that all of the students will continue to practice multiplication and division facts over the summer, along with completing the district math and reading packets. It's been a great year!



# 4TH GRADE

In 4th grade this marking period, we finished the PSSAs and dove into amazing literary adventures by reading two chapter books, "Charlotte's Web" and "James and the Giant Peach." The students made impressive presentations on these books and shared their insights with the class. Additionally, they engaged in a fascinating debate about whether bugs should be squashed, creating persuasive billboards to express their opinions. They skillfully backed up their arguments with facts from the text and then debated their peers using the evidence they gathered.

In math, we didn't just learn about line plots, measurements, and fractions, we also discussed real-life scenarios where these skills are crucial. This approach made the learning practical and relevant, reassuring parents about the value of the curriculum. The students learned how to compare, add, subtract, and multiply fractions, understanding their application in everyday situations like cooking, shopping, and dividing items equally.

In social studies, the students delved into the history of William Penn and Philadelphia, discovering that Philadelphia is known as the City of Brotherly Love and that William Penn established the Great Law of Pennsylvania, guaranteeing fair treatment for all. They explored the history and significance of Pennsylvania's founding, delved into the colonial period, and discussed the impact of Penn's policies on the development of the state. Their understanding of important historical figures and events that shaped Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, such as the role of Philadelphia in the American Revolution, the drafting of the Constitution, and the city's rich cultural heritage, was truly impressive.

Throughout this period, the students grew tremendously as 4th graders, and we celebrated their hard work and accomplishments with a fun-filled beach blast. While we are sad to see the year-end, we know they will shine brightly in 5th grade.





# 5TH GRADE

Can you believe it is June already? Fifth graders are looking forward to their last days of elementary school. It probably seems not so long ago that they were just starting here at Penn Valley!

Although we have been busy planning for end-of-year fun and taking our PSSAs, we have also been working hard in 5th grade. In reading we finished the novel *Number the Stars*. We were lucky enough to hear a true story from the daughter of a Holocaust survivor!

We enjoyed our field trip, visiting our middle school, and getting to meet new friends at our mixer. In our last days, we look forward to making final memories at Penn Valley. We really enjoyed yearbook breakfast and our promotion ceremony, and we can't wait for clap-out. It is a fun time of year!

Although our year is almost over, we still have so much to do and much to learn! We look forward to continuing to make memories along the way! Just a few more recesses, no place for hate promises, Oh Penn Valley sing-a-longs and morning meetings left for our soon to be middle schoolers! Enjoy every minute!





# MATH SPECIALIST

Penn Valley hosted its fourth annual Math Bee on June 7, 2024. One student was selected to represent each homeroom in kindergarten through fifth grade. The entire school cheered on their classmates as they solved fact fluency and problem-solving questions. All of our participants did an amazing job. This year, the first-place award went to fifth-grade student, Ava Kind. Our second and third-place champions were Sharin Phillips in kindergarten and Nicholas Cartolaro in fourth grade. A fun time was had by all!



Summer Math packets were sent home to all students in order to help them keep their math skills sharp over the summer. Here is the digital link if you need to print another packet.

[Math Packet](#)

When we return to school next year, we will be celebrating all of our PV students who dedicated time to learning over the summer. Everyone who turns in a completed summer math packet and reads throughout the summer will be recognized in September and invited to join an "Outdoor Fun Celebration" with a special treat to honor all their hard work.

# MATH SPECIALIST

All Penn Valley students will have access to IXL throughout the summer to practice targeted math skills.

Have a wonderful summer, and we look forward to seeing everyone next year!

Mrs. McDowell



We've used IXL to reinforce our curriculum this year, and your child will continue to have access to the online program over the summer. With thousands of interactive skills, IXL is a fun way for your child to keep their learning fresh.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Studies have found that students lose one to two months of math and reading skills over the summer. Use IXL to encourage your child to continue learning!

#### HOW DO I FIND SKILLS TO WORK ON?

1. Log in to Clever using your student's Pennsbury email credentials. Once in Clever, click on the IXL tile as shown below.



2. You'll be taken to your child's personal dashboard. Here you can see suggestions from their teachers of skills to work on over the summer as well as recommendations based on their practice history and learning needs.
3. Have your child explore these recommendations and choose skills that are interesting to them.
4. Keep coming back to see new suggestions throughout the summer!



#### HOW DO I CHECK MY CHILD'S PROGRESS?

1. Sign in to your child's account and select the "Analytics" tab.
2. You'll be taken to your child's Student Summary report.
3. Review the list of accomplishments and skills to work on.
4. Encourage your child to keep learning!

