

# Piqua Junior High School

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Mr. Jeff Clark, Principal

Mr. Chad Albers, Asst. Principal

The Piqua Junior High School Parent Newsletter is a quarterly publication that includes teacher updates, Honor Roll listings, Students of the Month, Perfect Attendance, and other important information parents should know.

## Classroom Recaps

### 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Math 7 students spent most of fourth quarter working on Geometry standards. This included scale factor, angles/finding missing angles, complementary, supplementary, adjacent and vertical angles. We have also been exploring and understand the relationship among circumference, diameter, area, and the radius of a circle. We have used the formulas for area and circumference of a circle and used them to solve real-world and mathematical problems. Solving real-world and mathematical problems involving area, volume, and surface area of two and three dimensional objects composed of triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, cubes, and right prisms is a major area of focus as well.

Rounding out the quarter, we moved to Statistics and Probability standards. This included finding probabilities of multiple events using organized lists, tables, tree diagrams and simulation. Also, using sample space to compare the number of favorable outcomes to the total number of outcomes and determine the probability of the compound event.

In the fourth quarter, Advanced Math 7 worked on solving different theoretical and experimental probability scenarios. They also examined numerous ways to compare and illustrate statistical data sets. Students ended the quarter working on Functions (graphing, writing equations, and comparing direct and inverse variations) to continue to prepare for algebra in the 8th grade.

During the 4th Quarter of Mr. Scott's 7th Grade Social Studies class, the students started by learning about the Middle Ages. Topics such as the Crusades, the Hundred Years War, the Black Death, and Feudalism were discussed. The class also learned about the Renaissance time period where they learned about Renaissance artists such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, and Donatello. The students learned how new discoveries and inventions of the time period have had an impact even now. At the end of the quarter, the students learned how to create a monthly budget, taxes, rent an apartment, and pay all the other bills that come with daily life. Through this project, the students learned just how



## Upcoming Events

**August 13 – Indian Days  
(Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Graders)  
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**August 14 – Indian Days  
(Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Graders)  
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**August 19 – 1<sup>st</sup> day of school**

## PBIS Celebration



Three years ago, Piqua Junior High School students were introduced to a new program, PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support). The concept of Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Kind was the main focus of the program. To reward the students for doing such a great job of showing responsibility, kindness, and respect during the school year, all students were treated to a PBIS celebration outside on May 21 where they could play cornhole, kickball, badminton, and other fun activities.

far they could stretch a dollar and gained an appreciation for the value of a dollar. It has been a fun year and it has been great getting to know this year's 7th grade students. Have a great summer and see you all in August.

The Miami Social Studies students wrapped up this school year learning about Leonardo da Vinci, and the Renaissance time period. We discussed famous painters, Shakespeare, trade with the far East, and the innovations and ideas that helped shape our world today. It has been a great year with these students. Have a great summer!

Mrs. Hahn's science students have been busy this last quarter of the school year. From climate to populations, students have been learning how the abiotic factors of an environment affect the organisms living in it. In April, the Piqua Water Department and Miami County Soil and Water Conservation Department presented information about our own water sources, how the water is treated, and the differences in water quality. Next, we took a closer look at how the angle of the sun, global winds, ocean currents, air pressure systems, elevation and precipitation characterize a climate region. Students were able to demonstrate how salinity and temperature affect water movement and utilize technology in their learning process. Then we looked at various biomes around the world and identified them by their abiotic and biotic factors.

Labs were the favorite part during our unit on populations. Students worked in groups to come up with a method to determine a population and then test their method in class. In addition, we evaluated the different types of population graphs and when they would be utilized for diverse population data.

After our populations unit, we dove into the topic of succession, using readings, a puzzle, student assessments, and video clips about primary and secondary succession. Students were shocked at the destruction of the ecosystem around Mt. St. Helen's after its eruption in 1980 and were able to predict how the ecosystem looks today thanks to succession.

Finally, students have been working hard to review for their science final. The first part of the final will include lab stations for the students to perform the lab skills they have learned in seventh grade. The second part entails a multiple choice format that spans topics from the whole year. The last part of the final is a short answer and extended response section that has students using their investigative skills and attitudes to complete the assessment.

We appreciate the four years we have had with Mrs. Spurling, but we are excited for her new opportunity at Carroll High School for the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. Hahn looks forward to working with her new colleague, Mr. Schaefer, in August.

Mrs. Spurling's science students have been extremely busy finishing out the year. In the last quarter we worked hard to better understand climate and populations. We ended the year with an investigative wrap-up project that involved ecosystems, abiotic and biotic factors, climate, and population ecology. The students did an awesome job making their ecosystems come to life all while utilizing technology throughout the whole process.

Throughout the unit, labs were the favorite as we studied populations through candy and using beans to represent "organisms" in a contest to see who could determine the population density of each ecosystem using various methods other than counting. The students then took what they learned from their labs and other classwork to use that information to excel on quizzes and tests.

Finally, students began reviewing hard in order to perform well on their science final exam. The science exam consisted of a lab practical, multiple choice questions, and finally a short answer portion. The students completed jeopardy, vocabulary bingo, quizlets, and a review sheet to help them get prepared for their science final where they will combine all of the skills they learned throughout the year in one final display.

This year has been wonderful for the students and the teachers. The students have had numerous educational opportunities that allowed them to grow both academically and socially. We look forward to watching them excel throughout the years with all that Piqua City Schools has to offer. We wish everyone a safe and fantastic summer!

Fourth quarter began with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced Language Arts students wrapping up their argumentative essays where they persuaded their audience to have their same opinion on a debatable topic of their choice. They learned the different techniques of persuasion and how to use factual evidence to make a strong argument. The students then moved on to their endangered species project. This challenged them to create an informative website and a persuasive commercial with the intention of saving their animal species from extinction. The quarter ended with the novel *The Cay* where the students focused on theme, plot, and character development. The students have also been reviewing for final exams which include literary terms, reading comprehension, writing, grammar, roots, and affixes. It has been a fantastic year full of progress!

Fourth quarter began with ELA students reviewing and preparing for the ELA AIR test given in the beginning of April. The students also began each day completing grammar practices which helped them strengthen their writing skills. They wrapped up their argumentative essays where they wrote to persuade an audience to have their same opinion on a topic of their choice. Along with this, the students dove into their second class novel, *Tangerine*. While reading *Tangerine*, the students

analyzed the plot development and focused on how each minor character impacted the main character. This led to the final assignment of the year: creating a Google Slideshow that explains choices one character made and analyzes the effects on the main character. This assignment required the students to think deeply and write analytically. We wrapped up the quarter with review for the final exams which covered literary terms, reading comprehension, writing, grammar, roots, and affixes. They also read their third class novel, *The Cay*, where they analyzed theme, plot, and character development. It has been a wonderful year full of noticeable progress!

Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Butler's Read 180 students made AMAZING growth this year! The students have learned an enormous amount of information about how to become better readers and how to tackle difficult texts. They have also worked on improving their writing. We finished the year with an argumentative essay where the students argued what they believed to be the biggest struggle teens face today. The seventh grade classes also worked on a presentation over motivational speakers which was a great experience for everyone involved. 8th Grade classes are ending the quarter with another novel by Sharon Draper titled *Tears of a Tiger*. Students have worked very hard this year and we are very proud of each and every one of your children and wish them the best next year and beyond!

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE

During the 4th quarter of the school year Mr. Smith's American History classes have studied the following topics Urbanization, Immigration, Sectionalism, The Civil War, and Reconstruction.

The following essential questions were investigated during the 4th quarter:

- How did expansion change America socially, economically and politically?
- What impact did "manifest destiny" have on the growth and development of the United States?
- In what ways was the Civil War both a beginning and an end?
- How did Geographical, Economical, and Political differences between the North and South lead to conflict?
- How did the Union win the Civil War?
- How did the end of Reconstruction affect the lives of future Americans?

The highlight of our fourth quarter was the Washington D.C. trip. Along with seeing the monuments, museums, and experiences DC has to offer, students develop a sense of patriotism and national pride. Students also experience the sacrifice of our brave men and women that serve or served in the armed forces at Arlington National Cemetery. This trip instills lifelong values and memories for our students.

The Social Studies students in Mr. Riley's classes learned about the country's movement westward and the trials and tribulations of all involved. Many students did an outstanding job with their Google Slides presentations. We moved on to the causes leading up to the Civil War and the Civil War itself.

In mid-May, nearly 200 students and adults traveled to Washington D.C. where they had the opportunity to learn about the history of this great nation first hand. On this year's trip we had nearly perfect weather. The students were upbeat and took full advantage of the learning opportunities provided to them. The students who were unable to take the trip studied about the same monuments and the memorials that the kids in D.C. were exploring.

We will wrap up the year with President Lincoln's Assassination and a final exam that covers much of the material from 4th quarter. Each of us on the Mohican Team hope that it is a great summer for you and your family. We want to wish the best to the soon to be freshman.

Mrs. Hewitt's Language Arts and Reading finished off the year reading both *Anne Frank* and *The Outsiders*. Students learned what life would be like living through the Holocaust, and during the 1960s. They completed activities on characterization, theme, conflict, and learned how to read a drama while reading *Anne Frank*. During *The Outsiders*, students navigated through the struggles the main character, Ponyboy, endured. Students wrote a variety of journal entries on both *Anne Frank*, and *The Outsiders*, and were able to relate their life to both Anne Frank and Ponyboy's experiences. My students have worked hard this year and I am confident that they are prepared for high school! Have a great summer!

The end of the year finds Mrs. Butt and Miss DeBella's classes completing unit three in SpringBoard. Students were asked to work collaboratively and research an issue of national or global significance. Students then prepared a multimedia presentation where they informed peers about the issue and convinced them to take action. As part of the assignment, students

were asked to incorporate different types of media. They have spent a huge amount of time working on this project and should certainly be proud of themselves. Students will have presented during the last week of school.

Depending on your child's class, he/she will have read either *Tears of a Tiger* or *Refugee*, in which they completed activities associated with the novel. In addition, upon returning from Washington D.C., students will have taken final exams. Students have learned copious amounts of information this year. We are confident that students are ready for ninth grade. We want to thank all of our students for a great year, and wish everyone a safe and relaxing summer break!

In the fourth quarter, Mrs. Snapp's Math 8 students focused on finding volumes of cylinders, cones, and pyramids, understanding multiplication properties of exponents, and solving problems using scientific notation. After AIR testing, students were introduced to using the Desmos graphing calculator to solve systems of equations. The Desmos graphing calculator will be utilized in their high school algebra class.

The Algebra 1 students spent the beginning of the quarter interpreting two-way frequency tables and scatterplots. The Desmos graphing calculator was used to help determine the line of best fit for the scatterplots. After AIR testing, the students worked on simplifying radicals and the Pythagorean Theorem in preparation for the geometry class they will take in high school.

The Geometry students spent most of the fourth quarter understanding the properties of circles. They found how the Pythagorean Theorem helps derive the equation of a circle and then graphed circles on a coordinate plane. They found that all circles are similar and used transformations to help determine this concept. The properties of circles incorporated many of the concepts from the entire year, such as special right triangles, transformations, arc measurements, and completing the square.

8th grade science students wrapped up the year with a return to the unit on Physical Science. Students completed a project dealing with simple machines by creating catapults. Students followed the experimental design process to test and modify their prototype. The catapult design stated use of household materials to launch a ping pong ball across the room. Groups tested their catapults three times, working toward perfecting their catapults ability to shoot not only with distance but also with precision and accuracy. Best of luck to all the 8th graders as they continue their journey at the high school.

## More Important News

### STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the students who were selected as the March Students of the Month for the 2018-2019 school year. Seventh graders include Ava Casto, Chase Joyal, Jacob Lewber, Maddison Ward, Naelynn Arnett, Jacob Beasley, Gage Gambill, Olivia Hutman, and Alex Millet. Kylee Cremeens, Anna Monroe, AustinThompson, Breeze Cary, Alexis Flora, Ayva Fuentes, Justinus Williams, and Gabe Dancer were selected as the 8th grade Students of the Month.

April Students of the Month are seventh graders Teegan Shoe, Lukas Smith, Mya Evans, Brooklyn Larck, Evan Clark, Landon Jones, Brayden Kohler, Blake Little, Lauryn Richard, Kyen Warner, and Laila Borger. Eighth graders selected as the April Students of the Month were Carsyn Meckstroth, Reagan Howard, Lienne Casey, Audrey Evans, Aaron Waters, Conner Smith, Zane Pratt, Raylynn Ward, Savannah Cox, and Gabe Holden.

For their accomplishments, each student was invited to a special luncheon with their teachers. They also received a personalized certificate, locker tag, and coupons to Buffalo Wild Wings and Cold Stone Creamery. Congratulations to these deserving students.



## **STUDENT LEADERSHIP**

Student Leadership worked during 4th quarter to prepare for Teacher Appreciation Week and 6th Grade Visits. Thanks to a lot of work by Jordan Adkins, we put together a video in which students thanked a school staff member for something they do. These messages were personal, meaningful, and, at times, funny! Everyone did a great job, and we appreciate the time and effort Jordan put into the project. Additionally, members of Student Leadership welcomed 6th graders to PJHS on May 9th. Tour guides described our school, the staff, and our building expectations as they walked around in an attempt to make the transition easier for students next year. It's been a great year for Student Leadership! Thank you to all members for your help with our events. Eighth graders - good luck as you move on to high school! Seventh graders, we will be in touch to develop plans for next year. Have a great summer!

## **PIQUA JUNIOR HIGH AWARDS PROGRAM**

The evening of May 2, 2019 was a special time at Piqua Junior High School. It was on that evening that we had the opportunity to recognize a large number of our students for both their academic and personal achievements.

### **STEVE HILL MEMORIAL AWARD**

Again this year, Piqua Junior High School is proud to present the Steve Hill Memorial Award to one eighth grade student who has shown both academic excellence, responsible school citizenship, and participation in extracurricular athletics. Mr. Hill was a 1980 graduate of Piqua Central High School who embodied all of those qualities. Unfortunately, he passed away in 1990 from a rare form of cancer.

This year, the recipient of the Steve Hill Memorial Award was Brady Ouhl. While a student at PJHS, Brady was a member of the football and baseball teams, National Junior Honor Society, choir, 4.0 Club, and was selected to be one of four PJHS students to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C.

## **ARCHIE GRIFFIN AWARD**

Piqua Junior High students Laurynn Barr and Bryson Roberts have been selected to receive the Ohio High School Athletic Association's prestigious Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. The award, named for the two-time Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin, is presented each year to a male and female student who have been outstanding in their efforts to promote sportsmanship in their school and community.

Laurynn was a member of the cross country and track teams. She also is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, and Student Leadership. Her strong leadership skills and positive attitude made her an easy choice for this award.

Bryson was a member of the football, and basketball teams. He was also a member of the National Junior Honor Society. His excellent work ethic and determination to excel more than qualify him for this award.

Way to go Laurynn and Bryson!

## **TOP 10 AWARDS**

On the academic side, each teacher was asked to compile a list of their top 10 students in each subject area. The top student in that subject received a plaque and the remaining top 10 students received a beautiful personalized certificate. Students receiving plaques include eighth graders Katelyn Brown (1), Kaydence Dorsten (1), Seth Foster (1), Kaden Hartzell (1), Skylar Poth (1), Kristen Shaneyfelt (1), Kadin Skinner (1), Kevin Slife (1), Tarika Sutter (1), Haily Tyson (1), Justinus Williams (1), Mahala Bragg (2), Matthew Weiser (2), and Savannah Cox (5).

Seventh graders receiving plaques were Landon Adams (1), Naelyn Arnett (1), Kiesha Carlotta (1), Jack Chappie (1), Evan Clark (7), Kalei Evans (7), Jaelynne Gray (1), Bailey Haworth (1), Sabastian Karabinis (1), Jackson Lambert (1), Wyatt Marrs (1), Matthew Meiring (1), Caden Pilkington (1), Alexandria Preston (1), Richard Price (1), Nataya Yaqub (1), Trenton Laughman (3), and Marin Funderburg (4).

Congratulations to all students who received plaques and certificates!

## **4.0 CLUB**

What a tremendous achievement it is to be able to maintain a perfect 4.0 grade point average for all four quarters during both seventh and eighth grade. That is exactly what Nathan Buecker, Rachel Cavender, Savannah Cox, Kelsey Earick, Zachary Henne, Zoe Leasure, Brady Ouhl, Kirsten Shaneyfelt, and Matthew Weiser were able to accomplish. Their hard work and dedication to their studies were recognized with a special certificate and their names will be engraved on a plaque along with all previous 4.0 award winners to be placed in the PJHS commons for all students to see.

Congratulations to all of you on a job well done!

## **PERFECT ATTENDANCE – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter**

### **Seventh Grade**

Naelynn Arnett, Simon Baker, Jacob Beasley, Alexandria Beisner, Qynton Blake, William Bollinger, Laila Borger, Aidan Burns, Adien Carns-Detrick, Ava Casto, Jack Chappie, Kellie Cromer, Phoenix Dysinger, Floyd Edwards, Stephen Edwards, Kaylee Eleyet, Jacob Felts, Joshua Heath, Regina Heisler, Olivia Hutman, Dylan Jenkins, Derek Jones, Chase Joyal, Emma Kidder, Trenton Laughman, Ben Lavey, Romen Medley, Alexander Millet, Jasmine Oswald, Bryce Phillips, Emma Pierron, Alexandria Preston, Emma Preston, Richard Price, Thurston Rampulla, Lauren Richard, Colton Rittenhouse, Lukas Smith, Sherry Sprowl, and Kyen Warner

### **Eighth Grade**

Laurynn Barr, Trinity Bettelon, Trista Boeke, Coltin Byron, Kasey Cantrell, Bryce Deal, Mackenzie Fast, Brianna Finrock, Zachary Henne, Andrew Hinkle, Izaiha Keaser, Brielle Penley, Kadin Powers, Aidan Powis, Joey Reed, McKenna Reindel, Trenton Rudd, Kadin Skinner, Kevin Slife Jr., Collin Snyder, Brayden Soliday, Fate Studebaker, Austin Thompson, Everett Trainer, Hayley Vincent, and Nathaniel Webster

## HONOR ROLL- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

### Seventh Grade

**Honor Roll (3.75 – 4.0 GPA)** Landon Adams, Mickey Anderson, Naelynn Arnett, Simon Baker, Madison Brake, Kiesha Carlotta, Allie Cathcart, Jack Chappie, Elizabeth Copsey, Brody Curtner, Stephen Edwards, Kaylee Eleyet, Kalei Evans, Jacob Felts, Marin Funderburg, Diana Gertner-Agudelo, Bailey Haworth, Allison Hicks, Tahneal Johnson, Chase Joyal, Sabastian Karabinis, Brenden Kelly, Emma Kidder, Brayden Kohler, Tate Kuhlman, Brooklyn Larck, Trenton Laughman, Benjamin Lavey, Sierra Leonard, Wyatt Marrs, Zander Mason, Romen Medley, Matthew Meiring, Andrew Miller, Jasmine Oswald, Bryce Phillips, Emma Pierron, Alexandria Preston, Emma Preston, Richard Price, Braylin Shaner, Teegan Shoe, Hunter Shoffner, Lillian Shoffner, Abigail Smay, Logan Thompson, Kaylee Tillman, Audrey Tobe, and Cason Worley

**Honorable Mention (3.5 – 3.749 GPA)** Brennan Baumann, Jacob Beasley, Laila Borger, Garrett Brown, Ava Earl, Floyd Edwards, Alexa Fogt, Carson Hawk, Joahua Heath, Jackson Hemmert, Olivia Hutman, Jackson Lambert, Gracie LaPointe, Abigail Luttrell, Brody Paylor, Sherry Sprowl, Ashln Sullivan, Aldan Workman, and Nataya Yaqub

**Commended List (3.25 – 3.49 GPA)** Alexandria Beisner, Brooklynn Black, Elizabeth Fiest, Regina Heisler, Derek Jones, Landen Jones, Landen Martin, Layla Mitchell, Ellah Rojas, Aidyn Sarson, Trinity Shawhan, Caleb Wallace, Kyen Warner, and Averii Wiley

### Eighth Grade

**Honor Roll (3.75 – 4.0 GPA)** Jordan Adkins, Olivia Anthony, Laurynn Barr, Tanner Beck, Makayla Berrien, Trista Boeke, Libby Bradney, Mahala Bragg, Marissa Bragg, Alyssa Brock, Ryan Brown, Ida Buechter, Nathan Buecker, Coltin Byron, Breeze Cary, Lienne Casey, Rachel Cavender, Jacob Chen, Jesse Clayton, Savannah Cox, Kylee Cremeens, Kaydence Dorsten, Kelsey Earick, Mackenzie Fast, Kaydence Fergus, Brianna Finfrock, Alyssa Fleck, Alexis Flora, Torrence Foster, Ayva Fuentes, Pearl Golden, Lovena Grillot, Lilia Haning, Zachary Henne, Reagan Howard, Jazlynn Jackson, Landon Lawson, Zoe Leasure, Ivy Lee, Kyzer McDade, Adriana McKinney, Carsyn Meckstroth, Anna Monroe, Isabella Murray, Peyton Offenbacher, Brady Ouhl, Deanna Perkins, Kaylee Phipps, Zane Pratt, McKenna Reindel, Bryson Roberts, Kirk Robbins, Caylee Roe, Trenton Rudd, Sam Schmiesing, Torin Schulte, Kirsten Shaneyfelt, Kadin Skinner, Kevin Slife, Brock Smith, Brayden Soliday, Elahmarie Soto-Garcia, Fate Studebaker, Olivia Stumpff, Tarika Sutter, Kiya Treon, Logan Tucker, Hailey Tyson, Cadence Wall, and Matt Weiser

**Honorable Mention (3.5 – 3.749 GPA)** Janen Allen, Colten Beougher, Chloe Bragg, Kasey Cantrell, Carly Coleman, Jaeden Davis, Deon Eichelberger, Haley Finfrock, Brooklyn Goode, Elaini Grove, Lucas Huelskamp, Max Kaye, Azalia Matthews, Kennedy Nicholas, Traven Owen, Brielle Penley, William Ratliff, Philip Rossman, Connor Smith, Collin Snyder, Xavier Strunk, Hayley Vincent, Raylynn Ward, Ethyn Wright, and Trea Young

**Commended List (3.25 – 3.49 GPA)** Diego Arzola, Madison Cota, Anson Cox, Alanna Darner, Elijah Frazier, Ali Helmandollar, Xavier Huffman, Seth Kiser, Elaine McMaken, Laine Moses, Caleb Mullins, Kadin Powers, Olivia Proffitt, Diego Ramirez-Huffman, Morgan Schlosser, Jordan Slife, Aiden Smith, Dax Smith, Kaylee Snapp, Jaylen Snelling, Brady Stahl, Seth Staley, Joseph Strevell, Jana Wagner, Aaron Waters, Isaac Waters, Zoe Woodruff, and Megan Wynn