

Pembroke Intermediate School Newsletter

October 2018 ~ Volume 8, Issue 2



“Communicating our Progress ...”

Next week, the Intermediate School will be sending home several different reports to help assist each parent/guardian monitor their child’s level of academic achievement and growth. One set of reports is the Fall 2018 STAR Reading and Math ‘universal screens.’ The STAR screenings take place three (3) times per year and are designed to gauge student growth throughout the school year. Another set of reports include the ‘Individual Student Reports’ from the 2018 New York State Assessments. These reports from New York State provide detailed information about your child’s performance on the 2018 ELA and Math Assessments for grades 3-8 and performance on the 2018 Science Assessment for students in grade 4. So, for example, if your child was in 3rd grade last year, then you will receive a report describing their performance on the 2018 3rd grade ELA assessment along with a report for the 3rd grade Math assessment.

The Intermediate School building-wide results for the 2018 NYS Assessments indicate that our district continues to remain on the right path. With that said, we desire to work closely with the community and use all available resources in an effort to increase our children’s knowledge and skills so that they may be prepared to graduate from high school with a readiness to discover their career. Early indications of success are evident as our last year’s 4th graders ranked 37th out of 431 school districts on the New York State Math Assessment. They were #1 in 4th Grade Math in comparison to the twenty-two Genesee Valley school districts. Congratulations to last year’s 4th grade students and teachers! Our combined 3rd through 6th Grade New York State ELA and Math assessment results continue to rank our Intermediate School as one of the top elementary schools in the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership. Great Job!

And so, as we communicate student and building-wide progress, we must press forward with the goal of working together to prepare our students to be successful. I believe close attention to our 2018-19 Intermediate School Action Plan will keep our students, faculty, and staff focused on important areas leading to success. While making decisions to provide the best education for all children in this district, we are counting on you for your continued help and support in setting goals and providing opportunities to help assist your child on this important journey. With your support, it is our mission to ensure growth for your child.

Reminder about Dismissal Practices at the I.S.

To continue with our efforts to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for all students, we would like to remind all parents that if you intend to pick your child up at the end of the school day, we require parent notes or a phone call to the secretary in the Main Office by 10:00 a.m. A daily list of ‘pick-up students’ is shared with the classroom teachers by 10:30 a.m. each day. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that the Main Entrance is a “secure” entrance meaning that no one is allowed through the inside ‘double doors’ unless they have signed-in and have permission. Dismissal is a very busy time of the school day and it is our goal to maintain best safety practices for our children. We value your partnership and thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Reasons to Celebrate!!



Happy Birthday in October to.....

Liam Scheeda
Kasen Brick
Dominik Redmon
Allie Spaulding
Madison Dana
Lila Sharp-Robinson
Elizabeth Tracy
Joshua Luderman
Aurora Ottaviani
Everett Spaulding
Kaylee Swable
Seneca Calderon
Derik Kio

Lillian Laughlin
Brien Tyoe
Amaya Pahuta
Philomena Troche
Emma Barbaritz
Olivia Breeden
Izzabella Paige
Jacob DiPalma
Alexis Santini
Alyna Seppe
Miss Komosinski
Mr. Foster
Mrs. Dorf

Dragon Celebration Wall Postings

Kanton DeRoller
Nathan King
Landen Santini
Alyna Seppe
Luke McGaughey
Kassie Crane

Dominic Will
Wyatt Summers
Reece Starowicz
Alyssa Bauer
William Gibson
Dylan Vaughn

Counselor's Corner

Sherry Grande 585-599-4531 x 2931 sgrande@pembrokescd.org

RESPONSIBILITY

The 2018-19 school year is off to a great start! I am so excited to be able to get to know our little Dragon's even better! October is a perfect month to discuss the Character Trait RESPONSIBILITY. Responsibility means doing what you are supposed to do and accepting consequences. It means taking care of yourself and others, following through with duties and being trusted to do them. As a family, we can make sure our kids are eating right, getting to bed on time, checking their planners and finishing homework before they play. Now that we are well into the school year- we can help our kiddos be responsible when it comes to both homework and attendance. Attendance is directly related to school success as well as helping our children grow both socially and emotionally. Expecting our children to have good attendance and being on time for school shows them the importance of school and their role in it. We all know that homework is not always fun, and for a kid there always seems to be something better to do. However, it is a students' responsibility, to practice, to follow through, to continue their learning outside of school as well. By supporting our kids at home to do their homework and finding an appropriate learning environment teaches our kids responsibility and to take pride in their accomplishments. Your children will hear more about responsibility through classroom lessons and daily announcements.



Does your child struggle with coming to school in the morning? You may be experiencing what the experts call school refusal. School refusal can range from making excuses such as “My stomach hurts” to flat out defiance of coming to school. For some kiddos, this can be due to anxiety about school related to peer interactions, fear of failure, or a combination of a few things. Although this behavior can be challenging, it can get better! Here are a few tips from if you are experiencing school refusal behaviors from your child: 1. Check for physical causes: make sure it is not a real symptom by confirming with a physician. 2. Keep to a regular sleep/ wake schedule: Children need their rest, and if you notice a pattern of your child constantly waking up “grumpy”, not getting enough rest could be the culprit. 3. Talk about it with your child: talk about what is going on before school with the intention of a clear plan to return to school. 4. Don't lecture: Sometimes as parents, we unintentionally get pulled into lengthy debates with our children. This is not helpful and only reinforces the negative behavior. Keep it brief. 5. Do not make it appealing to stay home: If a child stays home due to refusal, be mindful that TV, ipads, computers, and extra sympathy make it more appealing. 6. Set up a conference: If you notice that there are a pattern of behaviors and you are at a loss for what to do, set up a meeting with your child's teacher or school counselor to discuss a plan. 7. Be supportive: It is vital to relay an attitude of “You can do this” and “I am here to support you” throughout this process. Tips found here and more information on school refusal can be found online at the Raising Children Network, Psychology Today, and Empowering Parents websites (keyword: School Refusal). If you are having concerns about your child and school please do not hesitate to call.

PEMBROKE INTERMEDIATE
INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE TEAM
October 2018 Newsletter

Physical Education Teachers – Ms. Dylag and Mr. Stoldt

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Fall Fitness: With the weather turning into fall we have started our FitnessGram testing. Students will be doing the 20m Pacer test, Curl-ups, Push-ups, Trunk lift, and Sit and Reach. With each component of Physical Fitness they will try and better their scores from the Fall to the Spring.



WELLNESS & FITNESS CENTER NEWS

Our Wellness Fitness Programs have been rolling out fantastic. Students come to Wellness/Fitness 2 days out of their 6 day cycle. Mr. Stoldt has them tracking their distance on the treadmill in the Fitness Center. We are going to see how far we can travel across the state by the end of the quarter!

In the Wellness Room students are learning the 8 dimensions of Wellness and how they affect their life-by filling out their Wellness Wheel. Below is an example of one that you can fill out yourself! The concept is to have the wheel ‘balanced’ in order for you to be healthy in all aspects of life.

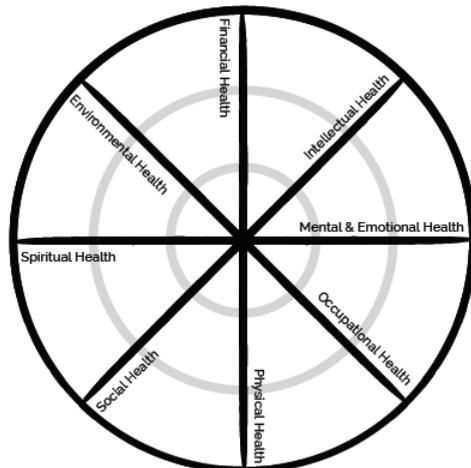
MY WELLNESS WHEEL

Step 1

Well-being is like a wheel. Within the Wellness Wheel model, each wedge represents a dimension of health. The more balanced you are in each area, the better the wheel rolls (*thriving*). If you're unbalanced, the wheel becomes dysfunctional (*surviving*).

Analyze your well-being by rating each dimension of health for your personal life. Shade in each wedge to the line that best describes your current level of health.

- The smallest ring represents **low**.
- The middle ring is **average**.
- The outer ring is **high**.



ART NEWS



The school year is off to a great start! We are deep into the first projects of the year and it has been great to see so much enthusiasm!

Third grade has been working on a multi-step composition using warm and cool colors! Each student has made two different paintings, one using only warm colors, the other using only cool colors. Next they will use these paintings to put together a landscape or other scene that uses overlap and the concepts of foreground, middleground, and background.

Fourth grade has been working on enlarged drawings inspired by the world of Georgia O'Keefe. They have been using their skills to draw flowers from life that focus on looking closer than we usually would at people and things around us. When we take the time to look closer we notice small details and make observations we might miss otherwise.

Fifth grade has been working on making personal mandalas. These radial symmetrical patterns originate from the Himalayas and are typically made by monks over a long period of time using colored sand. Mandalas are never permanent, they are always swept up and poured into a flowing river. Ask your 5th grader why!

Sixth grade has been working on learning the mathematical proportions of the face! This is the first phase in our portrait drawing unit. Next we will work on refining the features of the face and start observation drawings! Starting in October each 6th grader will be receiving their sketchbook. At the beginning of each month they will be given an assignment to be due on the last class of each month!

Music News

All grades are exploring music notation! Whether you are new to reading music or have been playing in band there are plenty of opportunities to improve your skills. Students will use Boomwhackers as they begin to match pitches to the lines and spaces of the staff. They will also use their music reading skills to solve Mystery Tunes. This is all in preparation for learning new instruments in class.



Third and fourth grade students can purchase their own personal recorder to use in class for \$3. Please send the money in a labeled envelope to Miss. Rush. If you have your own recorder at home please bring it to keep at school.

Choraliers

Choraliers can now take rehearsal home with them by using Google Classroom. The Classroom will be used to access practice tracks, singing exercises, and evaluate rehearsal progress to help us prepare for the concert. If you are new to Google Classroom Miss. Rush will give a demonstration on how to access it in rehearsal.

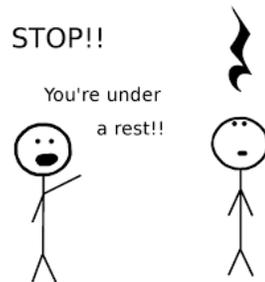


Reminder to all Choraliers the 33rd Annual Rock-A-Thon is Friday, October 26th from 5:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. Get pledges to help raise money for your charms account. A minimum of \$20 worth of pledges is needed to participate. All money will be collected that night.

**PEMBROKE INTERMEDIATE
INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE TEAM
October 2018 Newsletter**

MUSIC NEWS (INSTRUMENTAL) –Miss Komosinski, Mr. Chaffee, & Mrs. Chase

What a great start to the year it has been! We have 30 students in A Band, 32 students in B Band, 21 students not in a band but in lessons, and 28 students that are just beginning an instrument! I can't wait for our 3rd graders to join our band program in January and watch how big our program can grow!



33rd Annual Rock-a-thon!

- Be looking for Rock-a-thon sponsor sheets that went out this week!
- Any student in B Band, A Band, or Choraliers may participate
- The Rock-a-thon will take place on Friday, October 26th from 5:30PM-9:30PM in the Sr High Cafeteria
- Students pledge money to rock in a rocking chair during our event (Students must bring their own rocker)
- Students must pledge at least \$20 to participate in the Rock-a-thon (all money raised is due that night!!!!)
- All money raised will go into each student's Charms account (with the exception of \$5 that we use for pizza and pop!). A student's Charms account is like their music bank account. Money in Charms can be used to purchase things involving the music department (music department apparel, reeds, music trips, etc). Money in a student's Charms account rolls over from year to year and stays with them all the way until they graduate (or until they use it of course!)
- Throughout the Rock-a-thon we will have various activities such as: Karaoke, Minute to Win it Games, Rocker Races, Heads Up! Charades, and many more!

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INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE TEAM
October 2018 Newsletter**

S.T.E.M. – Mr. Steffan

Hello again! I am so excited to see the students off their summer lag and working hard while still having fun. We have been learning the scientific method, working on experiments, building clay racers and beginning to master the art of CBT (computer based testing) .

Grade 3-Just completed two projects in their structures unit and will be moving on to bridge building and testing in the very near future. First they will use the iPads to design and test their bridges before physical models are built. Testing day is always one of the most fun days of the year!

Grade 4- Has just finished their first structure project and will now be moving on to animals and their adaptations. The lifecycle and food chains/webs have been high on their interest levels. Sarah Choate and Austin Post/Jack Feitshans turned in awesome projects. Patrick Reeves also worked hard and should be proud! They will be moving on to the building of flood plains and river deltas.

Grade 5- These awesome kids just competed in the 1st annual Clay-Off Tournament where they had to build racers out of clay, test their hypothesis and try to beat the other groups down the ramp across the finish line. They will be moving on in their structures unit as well.

Grade 6- This group of students is such a pleasure to work with, they are rocking the science world with their first unit on the scientific method in the books, we are moving on to severe weather and climate. We will be doing both a erosion project as well as a volcano project!!! Great jog to Blake Carpenter for a 100% on the first science unit test :)

***Get that Whale Watch paperwork in ASAP!

Questions:

ksteffan@pemborkecsd.org

**PEMBROKE INTERMEDIATE
INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE TEAM
October 2018 Newsletter**

AIS Math – Mrs. Wilson

MATH Minutes

Each of the grade levels have been continuing to work very hard and track their own success in AIS Math.
Here is a brief overview of what each grade level has been working on:

- ★ **Third Grade:** The students just finished up learning about rounding to the nearest ten and hundred, and we have now moved into addition. They are doing GREAT with it so far! After we finish addition, we will move into subtraction with borrowing. They are also loving practicing their addition and subtraction facts on Reflex. I encourage them to continue at home as well if they have Internet access.
- ★ **Fourth Grade:** In fourth grade we have been brushing up on our addition and subtraction to the millions place, as well as rounding. We are now working on expanded form and word form of numbers, and will wrap up this unit shortly with comparing the values of numbers in base ten. We have also tackled multi-step word problems together. Please continue to encourage your child to practice on Reflex at home if you have Internet access... it is a GREAT way for them to practice their multiplication facts by playing games!
- ★ **Fifth Grade:** We are making quite a bit of progress in fifth grade! We have learned about expanded and word form of decimals, rounding decimals, and multiplying and dividing decimals by powers of ten with exponents. We will be going into comparing the values of numbers in base ten and some measurement conversion before we get ready to wrap this first unit up. The students continue to practice their multiplication facts on Reflex almost daily in class. I encourage them to play at home as well if you have Internet access!
- ★ **Sixth Grade:** The sixth grade students have really worked hard so far! We have learned how to solve one and two-step equations, as well as how to write and simplify ratios. We are now finishing up with unit rate and will be moving on to percent. We will finish up with a visit to customary measurement before we wrap up this first unit!

Every other Friday, Mrs. Konieczny (3rd & 4th), and I choose a Math “Student of the Week” from each grade level. We look for a student who has worked hard all week and really shown growth in the given skill we are working on! The following students were selected as “*Students of the Week*” in Math this month:

- ★ **Third Grade:** Breeanna Magoffin & Logan Benker
- ★ **Fourth Grade:** Riley Bender & Madison Brotz
- ★ **Fifth Grade:** Miranda Wilt & Alynna Seppe
- ★ **Sixth Grade:** Nathan King & Madison Goodrich

As always, please encourage your child to practice their basic math facts at home just a few minutes a day (third: addition/subtraction & multiplication; fourth-sixth: multiplication). It really does make a difference! Practice on IXL at home is also strongly encouraged, as well as Reflex (3-5)! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. As a reminder, SchoolTool is updated regularly with your child’s grades and the homework is sent out nightly via Remind.

Mrs. Wilson

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READING – Mrs. Franks, Mrs. Hungerford, Mrs. Mergenhagen

How to Read an E-Book with Your Child

By: [Reading Rockets](#)

Electronic books, called e-books, are becoming more and more commonplace these days. Some readers, like the first generation Kindle and Nook devices, offer a basic digital version of a print book. Children scroll through the pages to read, and the experience is somewhat similar to reading a traditional book.

Newer, full-color, touchscreen devices such as iPads and the Nook Color have expanded what is possible to include e-books with many more features. These "enhanced" e-books offer a different reading experience. Often bought as apps through iTunes, these e-books provide lots of choice. A user can choose have the whole book read to them, or can choose to read the book themselves. E-book enhancements consist of a range of things, but often include listening to music that complements the story, playing story-related games, completing coloring pages, and more. Most children find interactive e-books fun and engaging. But do they help develop important early literacy skills such as letter names and letter sounds or more complex skills such as comprehension?

The e-book market is too young to have enough solid research on the topic to know for sure yet, but researchers have spent lots of time watching families with young children engage with e-books. These observations suggest that it's easy for kids to get carried away with the digital nature of the e-book. Parents can help keep the focus on reading and the story by following three simple suggestions:

Recognize the novelty factor. The first few times your child is interacting with a new e-book, allow time for exploration of the features. Once your child has spent some time exploring, set out to read or listen to the story without too many non-story related interruptions.

Enjoy the features, but don't forget to focus on the story. See if you can help your child find a balance between having fun with the games and sticker books and really enjoying and understanding the story. As with all books, engage your reader in conversations about the story. "What do you think will happen next? What is your favorite part of the story?"

- Stay present with your child and the book experience. It's tempting to let the device do the work — read the story, play a game and interact with your child. But there's no substitute for quality parent-child conversation. Keep talking, commenting on interesting words and ideas, and sharing your love of literacy with your child.

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