



News from the Office

Our school year is off to a great start. It is unbelievable that the first marking has been completed. 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 put on your calendar. Please view our school website, the PTO website, and Facebook page to see what is happening. All flyers will be blasted, so please check email daily in efforts to support the District's Green Initiative.

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. The PTO continues to do a wonderful job supporting this program.

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 district's PowerSchool System (SIS). You can access the system using the icon on the district or school website. The link is at the top of our 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. Stop at the next designated cone where you will pick them up or drop them off and continue to move forward. 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@pennsburysd.org in the morning. Thank you for your assistance with these matters.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Ms. Hidalgo



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE NURSE

To Parents and Guardians:

The Pennsbury nurses would like to remind you of the guidelines that we follow in our district. If your child experiences any of these symptoms either the evening before school or the morning of a school day, please keep them home from school.

The symptoms include the following:

- **A temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher:** the student needs to be fever-free without the use of over the counter medications, such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen, for **24 hours** before returning to school. **PLEASE NOTE: if your child is sent home from school with a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, he/she cannot return to school the next day.**
- Fever and/or chills with headache, muscle aches and/or sore throat.
- Fever with cough, runny or stuffy nose.
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea.

Covid-19 specific symptoms:

People with Covid-19 have had a wide range of symptoms, ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 after exposure to the virus. If your child is experiencing three or more of the following symptoms it is recommended that your child stay home and test for Covid-19:

- Fever, chills, headache
- Cough, congestion, shortness of breath, sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose, difficulty breathing
- Fatigue, muscle/body aches, loss of taste and/or smell
- Nausea, vomiting diarrhea

Please contact the nursing office if you suspect Covid or if your child has tested positive for Covid-19 before returning to school.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Health (DOH) recommend the following steps to teach and protect your child/family from the flu and other illnesses:

- Get your family vaccinated for the seasonal flu.
- "Handwashing, Handwashing, Handwashing"; Washing your hand under clean, running water for twenty (20) seconds can help prevent the spread of germs. Always cover your mouth and nose if you sneeze or cough. Throw tissues in the trash immediately. If you do not have a tissue you can sneeze into your sleeve; do not cover your mouth and nose with your hands.

If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based cleaners (containing 60%-95% of alcohol) are also effective.

- Stay home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. Especially avoid close contact with people who are ill or have medical conditions. This will help stop the spread of your illness.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or nose.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work, or school, especially when someone is ill.
- If you or your child is severely ill seek medication attention and/or contact your health provider.



News from the School Counselor



Holiday Resources

If your family needs support this holiday season, please reach out to Mrs. Johnson at 215-949-6800 X14850 or ajohnson@pennsburysd.org. We are partnering with our PTO and with Toys For Tots this year.

Additional resources are listed below:

Shop With a Cop

Please note the following resource for our students and siblings ages 4-13 years (applications for older or younger children will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis/situation). There is an application process that has to be completed. Tullytown Police Department is happy to have teamed up with Middletown Township/PD for this event and will do their best to help as many children as possible. The deadline for the application is December 1st. Please find the Shop With A Cop website and application [here](#). This event is not just limited to a certain school district; the application is open to ALL BUCKS COUNTY CHILDREN.

Food Pantry



Penn Valley partners with Manor Elementary School each week to provide food baskets for any family that has a need. Look for the weekly blast from Ms. Hidalgo to sign up. If you are fortunate to have an abundance of food items, you can drop them off in the lobby of Manor Elementary or at Penn Valley.

Shout out to the Penn Valley staff for providing Thanksgiving baskets to 10 of our families.



News From the School Counselor Continued

No Place For Hate

Penn Valley is once again working on earning the designation of being a No Place For Hate school. This marks our 8th year!

Six students have been selected to be part of the No Place For Hate student committee. Congratulations to Emily Ziegler, Gabe Webb, Ethan Bennett, Evan Thoennes, Nadia Tilapa, and Liam Moss.



Our first activity was completed in the month of October. Mrs. Johnson visited all classrooms to read the book *More Than Peach* by Bellen Woodard. The students discussed the importance of making sure that everyone feels represented and included in our school. Boxes of multicultural crayons were delivered to each classroom. Ask your children to tell you about the book!

Our next activity will take place in January. Students will be working on identifying unique characteristics about themselves and then completing a bingo scavenger hunt.

Mrs. Johnson

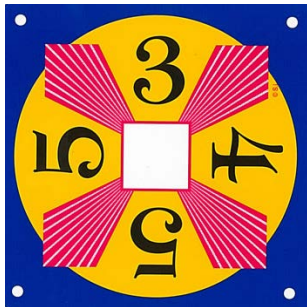


News From the Math Specialist

Pennsbury has fully adopted a new math series! enVision is the first math series that combines problem-based learning with visual learning. Students learn more about math by solving rich, reality-based problems. They gain a deeper, clearer understanding of math concepts with visual models and scaffolds in every lesson. Grades 2, 4, & 5 are in their second year of the program and kindergarten, 1st grade, and 3rd grade began with the new program this school year.

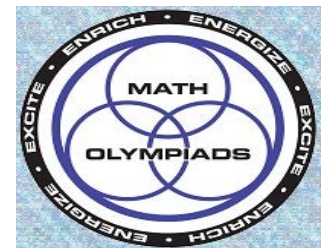


Check out this site with great resources for families: [enVision Mathematics K-5 at Home](#)



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.



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



- 1st Grade **Sherlyn Samayoa**
- 2nd Grade **Brandon Hale**
- 3rd Grade **Donnie Parker (2nd time winner)**
- 4th Grade **Lily Rakowski**
- 5th Grade **Declan Krotz (2nd time winner)**

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.



News From the Math Specialist Continued

Puzzle Time

Can your family solve this math puzzle?

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Eagles} + \text{Eagles} &= 16 \\ \text{Saints} + \text{Patriots} &= 13 \\ \text{Patriots} - \text{Eagles} &= 2 \\ \text{Eagles} + 1 &= \text{Rams} \\ \text{Rams} + \text{Saints} &= ? \end{aligned}$$

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 a Game Day!





Pre-K

We have been busy learning the routines of being in school this first marking period! In the past two months, we went to our first assembly, learned how to use the cafeteria, tried PE class for the first time, took part in fall activities like making applesauce, and went on our very first Field Trip. Our Field Trip was to Snipes Farm, and we were able to bring our grown-ups with us to connect home and school learning. At the farm, we learned about green houses and different animals like rabbits, ducks, and chickens, and we even got to have a picnic lunch on the farm. The most exciting part was picking our own pumpkins! During Halloween, we all dressed up as 101 Dalmatians and had a wonderful fall celebration. We even took part in the costume parade and followed the Pennsbury Marching Band! At this point of the year, we have reviewed most colors and can identify six letters of the alphabet on our own. Numbers and shape review, as well as rhyming, is coming soon!



Mrs. Sulat



Kindergarten

Wow! Our Kindergarten students sure have grown during the first marking period!

The Kinders have learned all the rules for school! They are great at showing the silent signal and giving a silent hello to all the friends they have made at Penn Valley.

They also love eating in the cafeteria!

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.



Mrs. Kline

Mrs. June

Mrs. Sheedy



1st Grade



Take a ride on 1st grade's bus!

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. In the next few weeks, we will focus on Science. Our unit will be Sound and Light.

We had a lot going on so far this year! We did our first estimation contest. We had to guess how many candy corns were in the jar. Stay tuned for the next estimation station! Our students are doing a fabulous job with 100 Step Challenge. Some of us are close to reaching 100 steps in our 100 Step Challenge Reading. Please remember to read and log every day so more friends can be recognized for their achievements. Your goal should be 100 lines per marking period! We had a great time during our Halloween party! Thank you to the parents that helped to make it a huge success! We also met with our 4th grade buddies for the first time this year. We made Thanksgiving placemats to be used with senior citizens in our community.



Mrs. Rapciewicz

Mrs. Johnston

Mrs. Zuczek



2nd Grade

Second grade has been busy learning and growing! We are continuing with our new reading and math programs, which we began last year. In reading, we've learned so many new vocabulary words, as well as the difference between long and short vowel sounds. We've also read so many wonderful stories in our Into Reading program. Students have learned about author's purpose, the central idea in a story, and about the setting of a story.

In math, students have learned many different strategies to solve addition problems. They've also learned the difference between even and odd numbers and how to use arrays to solve problems.



In writing, we spent so much time reviewing complete sentences, subjects, predicates, end marks, and types of sentences. Currently, students are learning how to write a persuasive essay. We're working hard to write a full paragraph with 5 complete sentences consisting of a topic sentence, three detail sentences, and a closing sentence.

In social studies, we learned about maps and communities. Ask your child to sing you a song about communities! Soon we will begin our science unit on solids and liquids.

We are excited to continue learning this year!

Mrs. Dipentino

Mrs. Schluchterer

Mrs. Arose



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. 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 and the geography of several locations throughout our country, such as Roseburg, Oregon and Las Cruces, New Mexico. We also learned about the seven continents.

In math, we have been having loads of fun exploring the many different strategies and properties involved in multiplying and dividing. 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!



Mrs. McGurrian



Miss Surdy



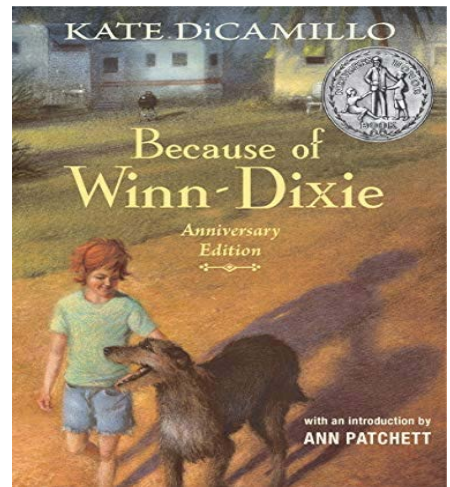
Mrs. Zubrzycki



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 learner. We love participating in our Morning Meetings together as we greet, share, and get to know one another. One of our favorite parts of the week is our Friendship Friday, when we get to give a shout out to our friends and recognize the amazing things they do for our team each week.

Our fourth grade teammates have become experts in story elements and have applied their new knowledge when reading their first novel. We have finished Kate DiCamillo's book titled, *Because of Winn-Dixie*, and will soon be starting *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. Students have shared their connections to our characters while learning about friendship, loss, family, and love. We have also enjoyed reading in our Storyworks magazine. We have read a fictional short story titled, *Fancy Dancer*, about a character who has a lot of fun connecting to his culture.



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 four-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 thinking on paper.

Fourth grade writers have read mentor texts like *Saturdays and Teacakes* by Lester Laminack to search for examples of what good writers do. They have found examples of repeated words, dialogue, and descriptive words, and they have noticed how this craft makes it more exciting for the readers. We are working hard to develop multiple paragraphs in a narrative essay.

Fourth grade learners know they can do hard things, use coping skills when frustration sets in, and the importance of being a good friend and teammate. Be sure to let your fourth grader show off all the new things they are learning! They are so proud!



5th Grade

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

In reading, we have reviewed active reading strategies and explored the elements of literature. 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. We are exploring the literary elements such as antagonists, protagonists, major conflict, climax, resolution, and theme. Students have been learning to analyze and write to substantiate their thinking in response to the literature they are reading. We are so proud of our hard work and thinking!

In math, we have studied place value to the thousandth. We have learned about exponents, the power of ten, adding, subtracting and multiplying decimals.

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 seeing the 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



Physical Education

It has been a fun, productive, and busy start to the school year. Team building, decision making, communication, and sportsmanship games and activities have been a huge focus for grades 3, 4 and 5. They have been showing off their kicking and throwing/catching skills in a variety of games over the past few weeks. One of their favorite activities so far this year was playing the game, "Sink the Ship." Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders have been working on their locomotor, non-locomotor movements, and pathway traveling in a variety of tag games. They also showed off their kicking and throwing/catching skills in class during game play.

Turkey Bowl is scheduled for Monday, 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.





Library



We began the school year reading the book, All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold to each class. Then, the students decorated flowers with their pictures and names. The pictures were added to the wall outside the Library to show that, "In this Library, All are Welcome." The flower wall was so popular that we decorated it with leaves and pumpkins in October. It has created a great sense of community.

After a multi-year hiatus, 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 met in October and have been busily reading the Reading Olympics books. We will meet again in December and meet weekly beginning in January. The competition will once again be in person 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 graders are learning about different genres and how to find them in the newly "genrifified" library, while fifth graders are discussing internet safety.

Reading Olympics Meeting Dates

October 12	March 1
December 14	March 8
January 4	March 15
January 11	March 22
January 18	March 29 (if needed)
January 25	April 5 (if needed)
February 1	April 12 (if needed)
February 8	April 19 (if needed)
February 15	
February 22	





Art

Penn Valley students 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 collaging 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 a garden project that shows how a plant looks both above and below the soil. We will draw the vegetables like an artist and scientist as we observe the various parts of the plants from the leaves to the roots.

In **fourth grade**, we are painting pumpkin patches with skies inspired by dutch artist, Vincent VanGogh. 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.





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, and reading and writing music to reinforce the new solfege pitches, rhythm patterns, or musical skill.



All Penn Valley students are beginning to prepare special songs to share at our upcoming **Holiday Sing on Wednesday, December 21st**. 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 soon!



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

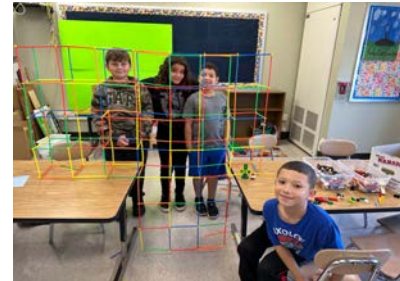
Reminder: **Band** students have lessons on day 2 and 4 with Mr. Haugland. **Orchestra** students have lessons on day 3 with Mr. Terramani. Please look for your child's lesson schedule so that they can be prepared for their lesson each week!

Miss Kate Haas



SPARK

It's been an incredible start to the year learning about STEAM careers and fascinating science topics. I'm excited to be Penn Valley's permanent SPARK teacher and continue our scientific adventures in new ways over the coming years.



Pre-K is learning about science skills, teamwork, and healthy habits.

Kindergarteners began coding with mouse robots, and learned about materials and why they float or sink, by making boats.

1st grade made our first official algorithms and is learning about the forces (pushes and pulls) that make things move.

2nd graders are learning about animals, algorithms, and eventually will create their own animal habitat animations.

3rd grade is practicing computer skills, as well as making things with form and function in mind (working up towards creating a mini-golf course).

4th grade is learning how the human brain and nervous system work together so we can create egg drop experiments and code robot brains!

5th graders will continue learning about robotics, while also practicing more complex coding for video games and 3D design.

I look forward to learning and creating more with these amazing students!

Mr. Fallacaro