



A Word From Our Principals

Greetings Parents!

First of all, we would like to thank all of our parents, students and staff who attended our first Chick-fil-A Spirit night held at the Waterfront location. We were able to raise \$223.34 which will benefit our SCC Committee. Our students really enjoyed themselves in the huge play room and Mrs. Morris' 3rd Grade Class won the Chick-fil-A platter for having the most class representation. Please be sure to check out the bulletin board outside the main office to see photos of the evening! We are looking forward to our next event. Stay tuned for more details.

We are making great strides here at Propel Homestead. With your continued support we truly can be a school of excellence... a model of success for other schools to follow.

Please make sure you are reviewing your child's homework daily and are asking them what they are learning in school each day. If you have any concerns about your child's grades please contact their teacher. Furthermore, please continue to encourage your child to do their best every day. We know we have the future leaders of tomorrow who will help reshape our world. Our goal is to help our students dream, and show them how to make those dreams a reality!

Thank you for your continued support. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Mr. Robert Bischoff - Principal
rbischoff@propelschools.org

Dr. Exley Horton Warren – Associate Principal
ewarren@propelschools.org

Make a Minute for Math

Hello families-

It was great to see so many of you out for Math and Literacy night!! Thanks so much for coming. We look forward to seeing you again at conferences toward the end of this month. The 4-sight tests are here again! Be sure to encourage your child to do their best on the test! They will be given Nov. 7th and 8th. We will be posting student names for the 80% club with this 4sight, so please be sure to check with them to see how they did!

-Ms. Mahon
Propel Homestead Math Coach

Fun math computer sites to play at home:

<http://hoodamath.com/games/>

<http://www.toytheater.com/math.php>

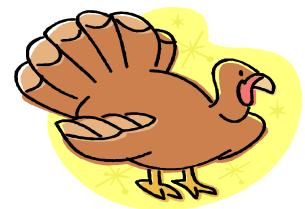
Math Author to check out this Month:

Marilyn Burns

Math activity to do at home

While you do your Thanksgiving shopping, have your child help to add up the total cost of the thanksgiving food! They can help you to prepare to grocery shop by looking through the weekly flyers for all of the deals. When you come home, review the receipts together, tell them how much each item cost, and then have them add up the total!

You can also ask them to estimate how much food they think you will need to have enough for everyone. Ask questions like, "do you think that a 5 pound turkey will be enough for 15 people? Why or why not?" Enjoy spending time together!




We have raised \$50.90 in the month of October with Box Tops for Education. Please keep Them Coming!!

Dates to Remember:

Picture Day

Thursday, Nov. 3rd

SCC Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 8th

5:45pm—7:00pm

Celebration of Learning

Wednesday, Nov. 16th

Parent Teacher Conferences

Nov. 22nd & Nov. 23rd

Thanksgiving —No School

Nov. 21st—Nov. 25th

Market Day Pick-up

Tuesday, Nov. 22nd

3:30pm—4:30 pm

Market Day

Our next sale orders are due by November 16th.

Pick-up is November 22nd from 3:30-4:30 in the dining hall. (Cash, check, and EBT are accepted at the sale. Credit/debit cards are accepted online only.)

* This is the last sale for this year, with the next order starting back in January 2012. Don't forget to stock up on your seasonal favorites! Propel-Homestead earns 10% of our total sale. Please purchase with a purpose and help support our school. Visit www.marketday.com for additional information our school code is 27396

Picture Day Say Cheese

Picture Day is Thursday, November 3rd. All students **MUST** wear their uniform on Picture Day.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



The month of October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month. On Friday, October 14th Propel-Homestead held a fundraiser in which the students and staff were able to wear pink shirts and donate \$1 to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure charity. The school was able to raise and donate \$250!!!

Thank you to all students and staff that donated.

Ridiculously Rad Reading Corner



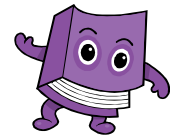
Hello, everybody!

Thank you so much to everyone who attended Math and Literacy Night. It was a great success! Everyone who attended received a tote bag filled with Math Manipulatives, bookmarks, pens, and then were able to fill it with as many books as they could fit into the tote! We look forward to seeing everybody again at parent teacher conferences later on this month, where we will have additional Give-a-Ways!

This year Propel Homestead is focusing on Hundred Book Challenge- our independent reading program that is designed to maximize student academic success. Students track how many hours they read and receive incentives along the way! Here is a list of our Ridiculously Rad Readers for the first two months of school:

100 Step Challengers (25 Hours of Reading): Armani Bates, Mary Bettes, Jamarr Grace, Jaishon Hawkins, Daereon Kyles, Dorian McEachern, Elgin Oliver, Jonna Oree, Isaiah Richards, Andre Rhone, Macaiah Thaxton, Taylor Watts, Janelle Wright

200 Step Challengers (50 Hours of Reading): Jaumir Garland



Great job, everyone and keep on reading!

Mrs. Frazier, Literacy Coach

We're reaching for our vision! - A note to our parents & families



By Floyd Cephas, Jr. | District Behavior Support Coach

As Propel employees, we are guided by certain principles and realize them with specific practices. In keeping with our vision, our School Wide Positive Behavior Support systems hold us accountable in the following areas:

- Continuous use of data to shape and guide instruction.

Numbers don't lie! Whether helping students grow socially or academically, we plan to teach or re-teach by using data.

If a student doesn't understand a certain academic concept, we use their homework, quizzes and tests as data to see what needs to be taught or reviewed. The same approach is taken to improve on students' performance of appropriate social behavior. Some examples of how we track behavior data are the "minor binder", "whale done days", and the middle school point system. If students aren't meeting their behavior goals, we intervene with behavior lessons, parent contact, and student conferences. Thank you for your ongoing support of this process!

- Success is built upon strengths.

We take great care to encourage each of our students by recognizing their successes while helping them grow in other areas. There is special attention paid to recognizing what each student does well, and we set out to encourage them in continuing to perform well; if a student is a great artist, well behaved or an excellent mathematician, they will hear their teachers' praise and receive recognition for it. Along with this support, students are also challenged to grow in the areas where they may be struggling, either academically or behaviorally to guide them in being the best student they can be.

- Consequences are restorative

Research reviews indicate that the most effective responses to school violence are:

Social Skills Training, Academic Restructuring and Behavioral Interventions

(Elliot, Hamburg, & Williams, 1998; Gottfredson, 1997; Lipsey, 1991, 1992; Tolan & Guerra, 1994)

Our administrators, counselors and teachers all collaborate to provide a safe, civil school environment for your children. Over the past 5 years we have seen a dramatic decrease in incidents that would compromise that safe environment (fights, threats, verbal altercations). This progress has been achieved through the use of "consequence" strategies that keep students in school, not excluded from it. This approach has been effective because of the hard work of our staff, but certainly wouldn't be possible without the cooperation and understanding of our great Propel families. We hope to continue toward our goals with your support; our great children and their families are what make Propel a special place to learn and work!

Kindergarten

Fall is in full swing and our Kindergarten students have been busy exploring and learning about trees and the four seasons. We have learned about the different parts of a tree, their function, and the different shapes of trees. We recently took a field trip to an apple farm to learn about apple trees. We had a wonderful time drinking apple cider, going on a hayride and learning how to correctly pick apples! When we returned, we made apple cake and applesauce. We even took some apples home to our families and shared some with teachers in our school.



1st Grade

First Grade has been hard at work mastering their short vowel sounds and sight words. We have also been learning about various story elements including main idea and details. We are really beginning to dive into the writing process and compiling stories about our favorite animals and food!

In Math, we are continuing to master adding as well as shapes names and attributes. In Science, we are beginning to investigate solids, gases, and liquids. Please continue to work with your child on sight words and sound mastery as this is key to their success in Reading.

We look forward to seeing you all for Parent/Teacher Conferences to discuss the progress of your students. Continue to SEE, BELIEVE, and ACHIEVE. We do it in first grade everyday!

2nd & 3rd Grade

2nd Grade

Thank you for supporting Math and Literacy Night! We had a great turn out. If you are in need of additional resources please let us know and we would be happy to send some home.

Fall conferences are fast approaching. If you did not sign up, additional forms will be sent home. We are striving for 100% attendance. If the times offered do not meet your schedule, please let us know and accommodations will be made.

Second grade will be taking a field trip to the Children's Museum on November 9th. Students will be exploring the water room. This is a great extension to our Solids and Liquids science unit. Students will also use the screen printing station to explore how liquid moves through the solid screen.

We look forward to seeing you at conferences!

Mrs. Breisinger & Ms. Koschik

3rd Grade

It's hard to believe that we are already approaching the holiday season. Our third graders have been hard at work! On November 7th and 8th our students will take the reading and math 4-sight tests. These tests prepare them for the PSSAs that they will take in the spring. Please remember that your child needs a good night sleep and a good breakfast in the morning. Please be sure that your child arrives to school on time so that we are able to get a prompt start on our assessments. Do not forget that parent teacher conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 21 and phone conferences are scheduled for Tuesday, November 22. Please return your conference time sheets so that we are able to schedule everyone! In science, we are finishing up our unit on plants. The students really enjoyed studying about the life cycle of plants. Our next science unit will be on sound, where the students will have the opportunity to explore sound through the use of manipulatives. In math, we are continuing to work with number operations. We have been studying problem solving, rounding, mental math, and estimation. Also, our students are continuing to use the writing process to develop well written paragraphs. Continue to review the importance of following the 3 Bs with your child and remind them of how critical it is to stay focused and on track. We remind your child daily that their education is one of the only things that cannot be taken away!! We again want to thank you for your continued support!

Miss Fritzius and Mrs. Morris

Giant Eagle



Apples for Students

Please be sure to register your Giant Eagle Advantage Card to Propel Homestead. Every time you use your card Propel Homestead will receive points toward purchases for our children.

To help us achieve our goal, please register your advantage card at www.gianteagle.com or by calling 1-800-474-4777.

Our school ID number is: 5271.

Red Ribbon Week

The week of October 24-28, Propel-Homestead participated in Red Ribbon Week. Red Ribbon Week focused on "Celebrating Being Drug Free & Making Smart Decisions". Different classes and grade levels participated in special lessons and activities throughout the week. Each homeroom decorated their door to compete in a contest demonstrating what the students learned throughout the week and their commitment to staying drug free and making smart decisions. The winning door for K-2 was Ms. Koschik's room. The winning door for 3-5 was Ms. Fritzius's room. The winning door 6-8 was Miss Baker's room. Each of those home-rooms will receive a pizza party.

4th Grade

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching, and it's a great time to spend time in the kitchen as a family! Did you know that reading a recipe is a great way to build reading comprehension? Math skills can be built in the kitchen as well as children measuring different ingredients in a recipe. Included is a spin on a traditional Thanksgiving recipe you can make with your family and build reading and math skills as you do it! - Have a great holiday!

Mr. Laughton and Mrs. Wilson

Pumpkin Pie Cake

1 box yellow cake mix - remove 1 cup and set aside
Add 1 stick of melted margarine or butter
Add 1 beaten egg to cake mix
Mix and press in bottom of greased and floured 9 x 13 pan
In a bowl, put 1 large can of pumpkin
3 beaten eggs
1/2 cup brown sugar

In a bowl, put 1 large can of pumpkin

3 beaten eggs
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup white sugar
2/3 cup evaporated milk
1 1/2 teaspoons of cinnamon

Beat well and spread over cake mixture. To the 1 cup reserved cake mix, add 1/2 cups nuts and 1/2 stick of soft margarine or butter. Crumble together and spread over pumpkin mixture.

5th Grade

Happy November! We are looking forward to seeing all of you in the near future. Parent - Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Nov. 21 - 22. As per the Parent Handbook, it is mandatory that each child's parent/guardian attends the conference. Confirmation of your appointment time was sent home in the Thursday folder. Please contact us if you are unsure of your appointment time or if you need to reschedule.

We cannot wait for our first field trip that will take place in December. In order to participate in the field trip, students must receive 20 stickers on their B Cards between November 3 and December 21.

In math, students are beginning to use long division to solve problems. Using flashcards and math games to increase fact fluency will assist students in mastering this skill. In science, we are wrapping up the Food & Nutrition unit. Students will be working on research projects within the coming weeks.

In shared reading, we are reading the novel *Holes*, by Louis Sachar. In writing, we are working on informational essays and increasing the number of body paragraphs from two to three. In social studies, we are sharpening our geography skills daily, along with learning about early European explorers.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your continued support in Propel!

Mrs. Soeder isoeder@propelschools.org

Ms. Brill bbrill@propelschools.org

6th Grade

6th grade Math has entered into the world of INTEGERS. We are exploring with positive and negative numbers; profit and loss; elevations and sea level, absolute values, and opposites. Students have been learning how to add/subtract, multiply, and divide while watching their signs. Ask your 6th grader about when to use Keep-Change-Change and how to balance checkbooks based on income and expenses. You never know when a future banker or accountant may be in the works!

In Science we are working on buoyancy and forces in our Floating and Sinking Units. Ask your wizard about Archimedes and his Principle of Buoyancy and Displacement. The next time you take a bath, have your scientist calculate the amount of water that is displaced by each person's mass and weight. We have also been learning about the Titanic and Lincoln's discoveries. Consult your 6th grade physicist to learn about these concepts.

Two of our students, Milligan Garth and Montia Johnson, were chosen to represent Propel Homestead during a Science Exhibition at ASSET, our science curriculum provider. The Open House and Investing in Innovation (i3) Grant update was held on October 19th, 2011 at ASSET's Headquarters on Pittsburgh's Southside. The students participated in the *Showcase of Student Learning* section of the Open House program. During the event, students actively engaged with the attendees of the ASSET Open House through science investigations from a module that highlights important science concepts sparked by hands-on, inquiry-based learning. We are very proud to honor our students for their hardwork and efforts both in and outside the classroom. The representatives were impressed by their presentation and knowledge of the content. Here's a **Wa, Wa, Wa** to you!

7th & 8th Grade

Math - 7th grade is kicking it with proportions. Recently they completed and calculated a Kool-Aid challenge. (i.e.: Calculating how many tablespoons go into 2.5 gallons of sweet and delicious Kool-Aid.)

8th grade is finishing menu percentages. By now, they should be excellent discount shoppers and tippers. Now they are beginning the early and exciting stages of algebra.

Science - 7th grade has wrapped up weather and is now breezing through a unit on earthquakes. Next up is a weeklong computer project where we will identify the differing features of the four types of volcanoes using the Google Earth software program!

8th grade is wrapping up their unit on ecosystems. Next, the class will study genetics and be able to explain why we look like our parents.

Humanities - The 7th grade is finishing their medieval Europe history unit. In reading, they performed two reader's theater plays for the younger students. Also, during the history block, students are presenting research projects about different aspects of medieval life, including the life of a knight and medieval medicine.

Students also read about Japanese and Mexican current events. During this time, they discussed radiation exposure and the energy crisis in Japan and debated the issue of the number of immigrants coming from Mexico.

8th grade is finishing their research projects on the U.S. Presidents, which culminates with a speech on the success of their President's time in office.

Furthermore, students have finished a class favorite, *The Hunger Games* and now are diving into the sci-fi classic, *Flowers for Algernon*. In addition, the students continue to chug away at their Must Do's. (A weekly list literacy based assignments that include fiction, non-fiction, poetry, grammar, and vocabulary)

NURSE'S CORNER

FLU SEASON UPDATE:

Now is time to get your (and your child's) seasonal flu vaccine.

Seasonal Flu vaccines are now available at most doctors offices, Target, CVS, Walgreens as well as some Wal-Mart and Giant Eagle locations.

SCREENING RESULTS UPDATE:

All screening results will be hand delivered to guardians at your parent/ teacher conferences at the end of November. If you cannot make it to school the results letter will be mailed to your home. Please do not hesitate to call me with any concerns.

Cough and Flu season will be upon us quickly-please remember:

The Allegheny County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have provided the following guidelines:

- *Your child should not be sent to school hoping that he or she will feel better after arriving.*
- *Your child should be kept home following a night time bout of nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea and watched for further symptoms.*
- *Your child should remain home if he/she has had a temperature of 100 degrees or higher. A child should have a normal temperature for 24 hours without fever reducing medicines before returning to school.*

Healthy Tip of the Week Smoothie Time!

For a great healthy snack-toss a few ice cubes, yogurt and juice in to the blender-let your kids help. Try these combinations:

Red & White: 4 strawberries, 1 banana, 1 container low fat yogurt, 1 cup orange juice

Cool Blue: 1½ cups fresh or frozen blueberries, low fat yogurt, 1 cup grape juice

Just Peachy: 1 cut up peach or 1 cup frozen peaches, low fat peach yogurt, ¾ cup orange juice.

Mrs. Victoria Myser, RN
School Nurse