



Principals' Page



MARCH 2018

Mrs. Heather Nuneviller, Principal

Mrs. Jen Rinehimer, 5th Grade Principal
Dr. Kathie Kotch, 6th Grade Principal

Mr. Mike DeCaro, 7th Grade Principal

PSSA Testing Schedule Announced

Again this year, all students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 in all Pennsylvania school districts will take the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) ELA and Mathematics Assessments. The assessments are designed to provide information about the quality of our school programs, the progress of our students, and data for curricular and instructional planning purposes.

The entire ELA and Mathematics Assessments take approximately six to seven hours to complete and will be administered **April 10-April 12, 2018** for ELA and **April 17-April 18** for Math. The assessments consist of both multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions requiring written responses. The results of the assessments will be reported to us and forwarded to you when they are received from the state.

All students in Pennsylvania in grades 4 and 8 are also required to take the PSSA Science Assessment scheduled for **April 23** through **April 27, 2018**. This test will take approximately two to four hours to complete and consists of open-ended writing prompts and multiple choice items.

This test will have an impact on future course programming for your child. In all grades 5-8, students who score at the "basic" or "below basic" levels of proficiency in mathematics and/or ELA portions on the PSSA test will receive additional academic assistance. In grade 7, the ELA support will be in lieu of a World Language class. By offering academic support for those students experiencing difficulty in mathematics and/or reading, we hope to provide students with the necessary support and assistance which will lead to a more successful academic school experience in the middle school.

Please be sure to encourage your child to do his or her very best on all of these assessments. It is very important that your child attends school and arrives on time daily to fully participate in the test sessions.

The tests will be administered the first two hours of school. Please be mindful of the testing schedule and avoid scheduling any appointments or trips during the testing window. As always, a good night's sleep and healthy breakfast will help to ensure that your child will perform up to his or her ability.

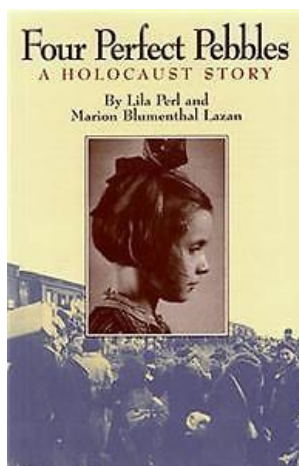
Author to Visit 6th & 7th Grade Students

On Thursday, March 22, the students will get to experience a guest speaker, Marion Lazan. Marion is a Holocaust survivor and the author of the memoir, "Four Perfect Pebbles". Prior to the experience, Mrs. Lazan will personally sign copies of her book with the student's name and a special message. If you are interested in purchasing the book locally, hardcover and paperback copies should be available at the Towne Book Center after March 2nd. You can also purchase the book at any distributor of your choice.

Prior to March 20th, any purchased books will need to be sent to school and collected so that they can be submitted to Mrs. Lazan for her autograph.

If you would like to learn more about Mrs. Lazan's story, please check out the link below.

<http://www.fourperfectpebbles.com/>



Upcoming Events

- 3/5-23 5th/6th Cradles to Crayons Drive
- 3/9-12 7th Grade Math Placement Testing for Algebra 8
- 3/12-13 7th Grade Math Placement Make-Ups
- 3/13-14 6th Grade Math Placement Testing for Algebra 7
- 3/19 6th Grade Math Placement Make-Ups
- 3/22 6th/7th Four Perfect Pebbles Assembly
- 3/23 7th Grade Dental Examinations
- 3/29 Spring Break
- 3/30 Spring Break
- 4/2 Spring Break
- 4/5 End of 3rd Marking Period (Tentative)

Lunch Financial Assistance Program Offered

DID YOU KNOW??????

- You may apply for Free or Reduced Meal benefits at any time throughout the school year?
- Studies have suggested a strong link between child nutrition and learning in school? This supports the importance of the availability of school meal programs in improving the educational performance of our children.
- Spring-Ford offers healthy meals every school day? Children from families with incomes at or below 130% of the poverty level, children from families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needs Families (TANF) and children in families receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are eligible for free lunches. Children in families whose income is between 130% and 185% of the poverty level are eligible for reduced price lunches.
- The Spring-Ford Area School District Food Services Department understands that some families are facing financial difficulties? Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to submit Free and Reduced lunch application forms annually as well as any time during the year when their household information or income changes. While we strongly encourage families to apply for the Free and Reduced meal benefits, the final application responsibility lies with the parents/guardians.
- The application process is easy and you can apply online? Pennsylvania's COMPASS website: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/compass.web/CMHOM.aspx>
- You also have the option of submitting the application form directly to the District's Food Services Department? Click [HERE](#) for the application form and [HERE](#) for instructions for completing



Monthly Health Tip: Hygiene



Your students may not know they are beginning to sweat differently than they had previously. Now that the weather is warming up it is a great time to discuss some new hygiene routines or brush up on their existing routine. Some important topics to cover include:

Shower daily (at this age showering is a cleaner option than bathing) to remove dirt and oil from the skin that can lead to body odor.

Apply deodorant/antiperspirant daily as a second step in controlling odor. A great time to apply deodorant is directly after showering.

Change out of sweaty clothes and always put on clean clothing after showering.

Always empty dirty clothing out of gym bags.

Always wear clean socks and let shoes air out to avoid foot odor.

Keep personal items personal. Sharing towels, brushes, and other personal items with others can spread germs and serious skin infections.

Gently Used Clothes Needed

The 5/6/7 Nurse's Office is in need of gently used girls and boys sweatpants or leggings sizes 10/12 or medium and up. Adult sizes are welcome. If you are currently cleaning out closets and looking for a new home for your stretchy bottoms, we would be happy to take them off your hands.



“Cradles to Crayons” Needs Your Support

The BUILDERS CLUB of the Intermediate School is collecting SOCKS for ‘Cradles to Crayons’ during the month of March. The sock collection will be from Monday, March 5th until Friday, March 23rd. Receptacles will be in the 5/6 Lobby – NEW SOCKS OF ALL SIZES will be collected.



From the Desk of Mrs. Rinehimer.....



5th Grade News



March 2018

Letter from Mrs. Rinehimer

Hello 5th Grade Students, Parents, Guardians, and Families,

Wow! It is March. I am looking forward to bright sunshine and warmer days. As we move into the Spring, I wanted to commend the 5th grade for getting involved in the clubs and activities that the Intermediate School has to offer. The students have been running, walking, cooking and writing just to name a few. Members of the band, orchestra and chorus are busy practicing for the spring concert and the hallways will soon be filled with artwork for the art show.

Of course we still have a quarter and a half left of the school year. The 5th graders have done a tremendous job with their learning and I am proud of the effort I see every day. I encourage you to keep up with the routines that are working and continue to help your children to stay diligent with school work so everyone can enjoy all of the end of year activities.

Announcements, Activities and Clubs are posted on the website, along with information about upcoming events. The students are working hard, but if there are ever any questions or concerns, I encourage you to contact your child's teacher.

Warmly,

Jennifer Rinehimer

Lessons Learned

ELA students are analyzing an editorial, blog and magazine article. They are searching for information to help them decide where they stand on the importance of art class in schools.

Social Studies the students are focusing on the Middle Colonies. They are learning about how the geography of the land in this area was ideal for farming and trade. Students are also observing the relations between the colonists and the Indian tribes.

Science (Chapter 6), we are studying how Earth's surface changes. We have learned how Earth's surface is worn down by the destructive forces of weathering and erosion and built up by the constructive force of deposition. As an activity, students molded a clay model of a hill and then created a topographic map to match it! This week we are exploring how mountains are formed and how glacial deposits shape Earth's surface.

Math, we just finished a chapter on numerical expressions and patterns. Some topics included: order of operations, graphing ordered pairs and generating patterns. We have now started Chapter 8 on fractions and decimals and are currently learning about greatest common factors and reducing fractions to simplest form.

Counseling Updates:

How to Prevent Bullying:

After reading the book, "Say Something" by Peggy Moss, 5th grade students were able to empathize from the perspective of a bullying target. Students also reviewed the roles in the Bullying Circle (bully, target, henchman, etc.) They then discovered through classroom role-plays how each student has the capability to shift the power away from a bully in real-life scenarios by supporting the target.

Career Education:

Students participated in a classroom game of Jeopardy, which created awareness of Postsecondary Education options and correlating careers. As a concluding activity, students were asked to reflect upon their own career ambitions and the education paths which would be necessary to pursue them. Feel free to ask your child about their future aspirations—there were some great ones!

Coming soon! Comprehensive review of all 5th grade counseling topics!



From the Desk of Dr. Kotch.....



6th Grade News



March 2018

Letter from Dr. Kotch

Hello to All,

It is hard to believe that we are past the hundredth day of school and daylight savings time begins in a few weeks! As spring approaches, we are planning our field trip and a very busy end of the school year. Please be sure that you have a current clearances on file with the district. If you do not have this completed, you will not be able to chaperone our field trip or volunteer for events.

With the second semester well under way, I want to thank everyone for your continued support of our students, teachers, and school as we collectively strive to provide optimal opportunities for learning each and every day. Conferences were held recently and it is my sincere hope that our students are prepped for success as they navigate through the second half of the school year. Plans are in the works for touring 7th grade and course selection options, as well as PSSA testing. Student attendance during these days helps students not only perform more consistently, but also ensure they are not missing valuable instruction time to make up the testing

.In closing, please encourage your child to finish the year strong. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warmest regards,

Kathie Kotch Ed.D

Counselors' Corner

Time to Think about the Future!

Mrs. Noecker and Mrs. O'Drain have been meeting with 6th grade classes to discuss potential careers, salaries and cost of living issues. Working through monthly expenses and conducting research through the Bureau of Labor Statistics www.bls.gov has allowed them to explore all types of careers and future educational pathways.



6th Grade Field Trip -Hershey Park here we come!

This year's 6th grade trip will be to Hershey Park on Thursday May 24, 2018. Please have all checks made out to "Spring-Ford." **The following are some important points for you to know in advance:**

- Buses will be leaving from the 5/6 Center that morning and will return starting at approximately 7:30 p.m. **to the 5/6 Center.**
- We will be departing Hershey Park per team, so Skylert messages will go out to those parents advising them of approximate arrival times for pick-up.
- Buses will return to 5/6/7 and drop off students behind 7th grade, where the students will enter the cafeteria and meet their parents. Only buses will have access to the rear of the school.
- All parents will park in the front of the school, enter through the 5/6 front doors and go directly to the cafeteria.
- All students will wait in the cafeteria until they are picked up by parents.
- Once student and parents are reunited, they may exit via the 5/6 front doors. We are hoping this allows for a smooth, safe end to a fun-filled day.



Pi Day 3.14

The sixth graders celebrate Pi Day with a special tradition. On Wednesday, March 14th, each homeroom will send their top 2 winners as they will compete in our Team Competition:

Settlers: 9:15
Pioneers: 1:45
Trailblazers 2:30

On March 15th, the three top students will recite the digits of Pi on the morning announcements, to decide the GRAND PI CHAMPION of the sixth grade! Prizes will be awarded by our sponsor this year,



From the Desk of Mr. DeCaro.....



7th Grade News



March 2018

Over \$4,300 raised for Pennies for Patients!

The 7th Grade Center recently ran a campaign called, “Pennies for Patients” to benefit the [Leukemia and Lymphoma Society](#). The campaign will run through Wednesday, February 28th. For many years, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society has seen Spring-Ford’s 7th Grade Center step up and collect large sums of money towards a cure and this year was no exception!

This year our goal was to raise \$4,000.00 and the class of 2023 far exceeded that goal. Almost all of the change has been counted and we have already counted over \$4,300! As a result of that success there will be teachers who have to dye their hair and a certain principal who will be taking 10 pies to the face by students who win a drawing. Every student who made a donation of \$5.00 or more is eligible to win that drawing!

Homerooms were also eligible for rewards based on the participation of those in their class.

Thank you to all students, parents and guardians who helped make this year’s Pennies for Patients a great success!

Spring Sports and Physicals

Students who did not play a fall or winter sport need to be aware that they need to complete both a physical and sports registration to be eligible to play sports in grades 7-12. This information must be completed prior to try-outs so that the student is deemed eligible by the PIAA. The process can be started using this link; <https://athleticsreg.spring-ford.net/>

Copies of the Health History form and the physical form that must be completed by a doctor can be found at this link <https://www.spring-ford.net/high-school-athletics>

Student Government and Aavidum team up for Appreciation Station



Over the week of Valentine’s Day, Student Government and Aavidum teamed up to help bring smiles to students through our “Appreciation Station”. This station allowed students the opportunity to send an encouraging note, free of charge, to another student or staff member either giving them a compliment or letting them know how important that person is to them. Staff and students delivered hundreds of notes of encouragement during Target Time giving students a positive boost to his or her morning!