



Neshaminy School District
Pearl S. Buck Elementary School
 Mrs. Stephanie Miguelez, Principal
www.neshaminy.k12.pa.us/bes

February 2014



PSSA Testing

Please do not schedule vacations during this time.

March 17—28

PSSA Reading
 and Math
 Grades 3, 4 & 5

March 31—April 4

PSSA Writing
 Grade 5 ONLY

April 28—May 2

PSSA Science
 Grade 4 ONLY

Message from the Principal

February is a sweet month with lots going on at Pearl Buck!

First, we are starting to prepare for our second round of **morning tutoring and enrichment** which will run for 8 weeks from February through April.

Also, for the first time, Buck will hold a **“Pennies for Pasta”** fundraiser for the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society. One lucky class will win a free luncheon provided by the Olive Garden Restaurant! So many people we know have been touched by these diseases and the news gets better every day about how our efforts are making a difference towards a cure.

The **Science Fair** will be held on Thursday, February 13 at 7:00pm. This year we have added 3rd grade students to the participants. Science is really becoming a big thing at Buck, especially since we were awarded a Neshaminy Education Foundation Mini-Grant to build a greenhouse for the use of the

school. Very exciting science happenings at Buck!

Next up we have one of the most fun evenings of the year...**Pizza Bingo!** Don't miss this great night of family fun, prizes and pizza on Friday, February 21 at Maple Point. Tickets will be sold in school.

Right on the heels of Pizza Bingo we start our **Scholastic Book Fair** from February 24-28. Students will get to visit the Book Fair during their Library time and there will be a Family Night on Tuesday, February 25. We have a super fun Fiesta theme which should make for a lot of “loco” teachers and students!

Finally, our annual **PSSA Evening of Strategies and Support** will be held on Tuesday, February 11. Dr. Barbara Michaels, Motivational Clinical Psychologist, will be speaking about getting your children to reach for the stars.



A big thank you to everyone who participated in our Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Our joint venture with Oliver Heckman Elementary School raised \$2,300 for the American Red Cross Philippines Relief Fund. A good time was had by over 150 participants who played in a basketball tournament and created crafts for local organizations. What a wonderful day for a great cause!

Happy Valentines Day to all!

Mrs. Miguelez



Cold Weather Reminder:

As the cold weather is now upon us, some parents have asked if and when students go outside for recess. Fresh air and exercise are important to children, so unless it's bitterly cold temperatures and/or wind chills below 20 degrees, or if it's raining/snowing at the time of recess, we will be going outside. Children should be prepared each day with hats, gloves/mittens, and a warm coat to wear outside. Your cooperation and support of this matter is greatly appreciated.

Helpful Information from the Guidance Office—

Mrs. Lenahan

Why is Service Learning Important?

Service learning is important because it teaches students that they have a civil responsibility to their community. Every person plays a role in making their community strong and volunteering combined with education helps to reinforce these values. Getting your child involved in service learning will help him grow as a student and as a person, and it's a great way to keep your kids active during summer down time too. Looking for ways to get started with your child? Encourage him to solve a problem that's important to him with these ideas for service-learning projects for young children:

- Create and Donate.** Ask your child who in your community might need something and what you could make to help them. It could be as simple as making a meal for a family that has a new baby, or making get well cards for a friend who is sick. Whatever you do, it doesn't have to cost a lot of money to make a huge difference!

- Raise Money and Give.** Is there a cause that your child is passionate about - perhaps a local homeless shelter, kids' museum, or zoo? Help him create a plan to raise money for his favorite organization. Then implement your plan over the course of a few weeks or months. Research the organization so your child can explain why it's important for your community and keep a graph of the money you've raised. As you fundraise by washing cars, soliciting donations, or sending out an email campaign, your child is learning about numbers, money amounts, and communication. When you've reached your goal, drop off the donation in person.

- Advocate for a Cause.** Is there a cause that your child or family cares deeply about? Perhaps animal conservation, recycling, or eating healthy and organic foods? Think of ways to teach

- Start a Community Garden.** Rent or select a plot of land in your neighborhood and start a community garden. Invite friends to join you and set up a plan to buy the seeds, plant and maintain the garden. During the process, your child will learn math, measurement, and science skills as he watches his plants grow.

- Start a Giving Campaign.** Reach out to your child's school or your neighborhood organization to collect anything from recyclable goods to deliver directly to a recycling program, food for a food bank, or stuffed animals and toys for a local fire station or homeless shelter. When you deliver your donation, ask what will happen to it to make sure it's going toward a good cause.

Service learning will not only benefit those involved and teach your child important skills, but it's also a great way for you and your child to spend some quality time together doing something meaningful. You may be surprised at the impact even a young child can have!



MAP Testing

Over the past year you may have heard your child or child's teacher talk about the MAP test. MAP stands for the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). This test presents students with engaging, age-appropriate content. As a student responds to questions, the test responds to the students, adjusting up or down in difficulty. The result is a rewarding experience for the students and a wealth of detailed information for teachers, parents and administrators. The data provides grade-independent analysis of a child's learning that will help our teachers increase student achievement.

Please contact your child's teacher, guidance counselor, or principal if you want to know more about MAP and your child's specific results.



News from the Nurse—Mrs. Meade



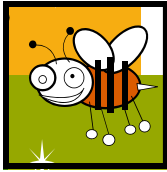
All of the mandated health screenings are completed. Notifications have been sent home if your child did not meet the state standards of their vision or hearing screening. Please send back the vision or hearing referrals that were sent home once your child has been seen by a physician. All mandated dental and physical exams should be complete at this time. If you did not submit a dental or physical examination for your child, your child will be scheduled to be examined by the Neshaminy School District physician or dentist. If your child is still

missing immunizations, please schedule an appointment to receive the mandated vaccines as soon as possible to prevent exclusion.

February is National Children's Dental Month remind your child to brush their teeth twice a day. They can hum the ABC's or happy birthday song while brushing. Limit sugary snacks and encourage plenty of fruits and vegetables. Replace toothbrushes every 3 months, and after an illness to ensure good health.



We are excited to participate in the Pennies for Pasta Drive for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society February 3 to February 21. We are looking forward to reaching our goal by collecting loose change, dollar bills and other donations to help children with leukemia/lymphoma. The classroom that raises the most money will receive a Pasta Party Lunch from Olive Garden. To show our support, students are welcome to write letters to the LLS heroes who have been diagnosed with leukemia/lymphoma.



The Buzz...at Buck

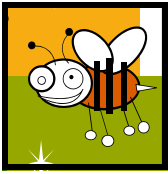


Breakfast Bags for Aid for Friends



January
Ambassadors
of the Month





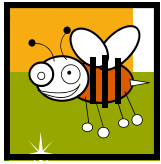
The Buzz...at Buck



Chuck E. Cheese Night



Mad Science School Assembly



The Buzz...at Buck

150 plus Pearl Buck and Oliver Heckman students raised \$2,300 for the American Red Cross Philippines Tsunami Relief Fund with crafts and a 3 v 3 Basketball Tournament at Maple Point!



MLK Day of Service





Full Day Kindergarten

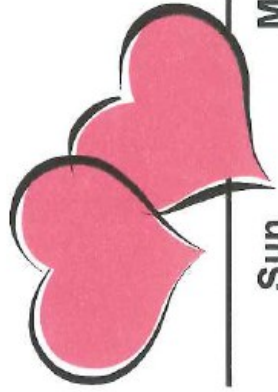
Some of our Full Day Kindergarten students recently had a chance to present a poem to the Neshaminy School District Board of School Directors. Under the direction of Mrs. Sandi Schaeffer, our Pearl Buck students really performed to perfection!

Progress Reports

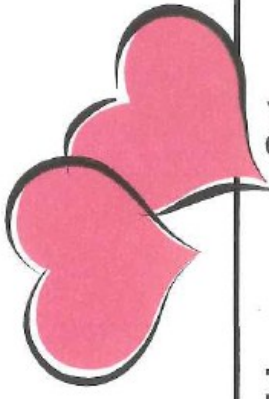
The second marking period came to an end on January 29 for first through fifth grade. Please be aware that the District will not be sending home a hard copy of your child's Progress Report. Progress Reports can be accessed through the Home Access Center. You can also check your child's attendance, as well as make changes to contact and emergency information through this program. If you have misplaced your user name and password, please e-mail the school secretaries or send a note in to school and we will send the information home.

Creating a Safe Environment

Neshaminy School District and Pearl S. Buck Elementary School believe that we must work to create and maintain safe schools, which lead to a positive and effective place of learning. We believe that this work is best done with the help of school safety partners. We are pleased to announce that we are partnering with the Middletown Township Police Department with daily visits to our schools by local law enforcement. Middletown Police Officers will routinely visit the schools throughout the day and be a visual presence for our staff and students. This is just our way of promoting a safe and trouble free environment.



Pearl Buck Elementary School February 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 SNOW DAY	4 Dibels—Gr. 2 Faculty Mtg @ 3:35 Day 4	5 Day 5	6 Day 1	7 Reading Awards Assembly Day 2	8
9	10 DEMF Rehearsal Day 3	11 Day 4	12 Day 5	13 Science Fair 7 P.M. Day 1	14 Day 2	15
16	17 President's Day— District Closed	18 Day 3	19 DEMF Rehearsal Day 4	20 Day 5	21 Book Fair Assembly (kick-off) Pizza Bingo @ MP Day 1	22
23	24 DEMF Rehearsal Day 2	25 Day 3	26 Book Fair—See Schedule Day 4	27 Day 5	28 Day 1	

NOTE: Day rotations are subject to change if school is closed unexpectedly