

January 2016 News for Pellston Elementary School

From Mrs. Tami Pichla, Pellston Elementary Principal (231) 539-8421

Pellston Schools: Where EVERYONE is fully valued!



Friday, January 22: Half Day of School (Due to MS/HS End-of Semester Exams)
Dismissal at 12:35 and lunch will be served!



Important Dates to Remember

January 22	End of 1 st Semester: Half Day of School Dismissal at 12:35, Lunch Served
January 22	Wear ORANGE against Bullying
February 1-4	Dental Checks
February 11	Valentine's Day Luncheon/Parties
February 12	No School –Professional Development
February 22	Wear ORANGE against Bullying
March 17	Half Day of School-Dismissal at 12:30 Parent/Teacher Conferences K-12: 1-4pm; K-5: 5:00-7:30pm
March 25	No School – Good Friday
March 31	End of Third Marking Period
April 1-11	No School-Spring Break
April 12	School Resumes
April 11-May 27	M-STEP Testing Window



Positive Behavior "Bee" Winners



Drawing: December 4, 2015



Lillian Ditta	Mrs. Vieau's Class
Bella Mallory	Mrs. Matelski's Class
Nathan Tennant	Mrs. Stempky's Class
AbbyGail Small	Mrs. Thompson's Class
Mischell Rosebohm	Ms. Klebba's Class
Soraya Rostar	Ms. Saddison's Class
Chance Schlappi	Mrs. Welch's Class
Ashanti Walker	Mrs. Wagenschutz' Class
Joey Milbrandt	Mrs. Ingraham's Class
Jade Schley	Mrs. deCastro's Class
Aston VanHuysen	Mrs. E. Wolford's Class
Emma Sayles (Overall Winner)	Mrs. Wagenschutz' Class
Classroom Winner:	Mrs. Thompson's Class

Congratulations to these students for being responsible, respectful, caring, and safe! The winning students had a special Christmas lunch with the principal on December 4, 2015

Regular Attendance to School is **CRITICAL** to Student Success and it is the Law!

A Review of Pellston Elementary's Attendance Policy:

- On the 5th day of accumulated absences (excused or unexcused) during a semester, a committee will review the student's absences and if deemed necessary, a letter will be mailed to the parent/guardian by the administrator to serve as a reminder about the responsibility of regular attendance.
- On the 10th day of accumulated absences (excused or unexcused) during a semester, a committee will review the student's absences and if deemed necessary, a letter will be mailed to the parent/guardian by the administrator requiring a meeting/conversation between parent/guardian and administrator within 5 days. If necessary, the meeting will be facilitated by Northern Community Mediation (NCM).
- Any additional absences could result in a required meeting facilitated by Northern Community Mediation (NCM). An "Improved Attendance Contract" agreement will be developed. If an agreement cannot be reached or is not followed, an immediate petition to the court officer for truancy will be made.

Annual Valentine Luncheon/ Special Person's Day



Thursday, February 11, 2016

We will be having our annual Valentine Luncheon on Thursday, February 11, 2016.

Tickets are purchased upon arrival at a cost of \$4.25. Specific times for each grade level will be sent home by mid- January with your child in your invitation.



*Please RSVP by
February 5, 2016.*



January is School Board Appreciation Month!

Please take a moment to say THANK YOU to our school board members for their commitment to Pellston Schools!

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M-STEP Results Reset the Academic Bar of Higher Expectations for Michigan Students

In the Spring of 2015, students across Michigan participated in a new state assessment called Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). Over 82% of students statewide completed the test on-line. This was the first time Pellston students were formally assessed using a computer generated State assessment.

All students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 were assessed in English Language Arts and Mathematics. In addition, grades 4 and 7 were assessed in Science, grades 5 and 8 were assessed in Social Studies, and 11th graders were assessed in both Science and Social Studies. The M-STEP measures what students know and are able to do compared to Michigan's state standards.

The M-STEP is a very different test than other tests administered in past years. **Therefore, the Michigan Department of Education cautions that results should not be compared to those from prior years.** Because this is a different test measuring different standards, scores should not be compared to scores on the MEAP test. This year's M-STEP data will provide a baseline to which future year's data can be compared.

PELLSTON ELEMENTARY M-STEP 2015 RESULTS

Students tested May 2015; Results released December 2015
Percent of last year's students/grades scoring in each category

Math

	Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Not Proficient
3 rd Grade	18.2%	21.2%	42.4%	18.2%
4 th Grade	20%	51.4%	20%	<10%
5 th Grade	<10%	12.2%	39%	41.5%

English Language Arts (including Reading)

	Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Not Proficient
3 rd Grade	17.4%	23.5%	29.4%	32.4%
4 th Grade	25.7%	34.3%	25.7%	14.3%
5 th Grade	<10%	36.6%	31.7%	26.8%

Science

	Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Not Proficient
4 th Grade	<10%	<10%	54.3%	42.9%

Social Studies

	Advanced	Proficient	Partially Proficient	Not Proficient
5 th Grade	<10%	<10%	58.5%	39%

A Magical Way to Improve School Success?

There is an easy way to improve your child's chances at school. It will entertain, delight and strengthen the bonds between parent and child. And... it is virtually free! Does this sound too good to be true? Actually, it isn't. The magical method is...

Taking time to read aloud to your child!

Research has repeatedly proved that this simple parenting technique for students of all ages is among the most effective. Children who are read aloud to by parents get a head start in language and literacy skills and go to school better prepared.

Retrieved from: readaloud.org



VERY Cold Weather is Here!

Parents please make sure students are dressed warmly when coming to school. Students will be having an outside recess every day unless the temperature or wind chill drop below 0°.

FREE Breakfast & Lunch

If your family wasn't eligible for free and reduced lunch earlier this year, **please reapply** if household income levels are changing. Eligibility is based on the previous month's income. Forms are available in all district offices.

Inclement Weather/School Closings

Occasionally, weather conditions or other circumstances may cause the cancellation of school. When this occurs, the public is notified immediately after the decision is made. Ordinarily, this will be done prior to 6:00 a.m. and the announcement will be made by the following local radio and television stations:

Radio Stations

Cheboygan WCBY 1240AM; WGFM 105.1 FM
 Petoskey WKHQ 106FM; WMKT 1270 AM
 WMBN 1340 AM; WXLT 98.3 FM
 Gaylord WKPK 106.7 FM
 St. Ignace WDIG 940 AM; WMKC 102.FM
 WCKC 107.1 FM

Television Stations

Traverse City WPBN/TV 7/4
 Traverse City WWTV 9/10
 Traverse City 29 & 8
 Fox TV WGKI



SCHOOL CLOSINGS TEXT ALERTS

Parents can sign up to receive text alerts that announce school related cancellations through Remind 101. Remind 101 is a safe and confidential one-way text messaging system. You will never see the other phone numbers in the system and they will never see yours. To receive messages via text: text **(231) 237-5529** with the message **@pellst**. You can opt-out of messages at any time by replying, **unsubscribe @pellst**.