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# The Panther Press

Peach Plains Elementary Newsletter

January/February 2011

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## CELEBRATIONS!

- **Kidsville News:** Superintendent Keith Konarska was recently recognized as a "Super Superintendent"!
- **WGVU "Cool Teacher" Awards:** Mrs. Leary, Mrs. Jerovsek and Mrs. Ferris were recently nominated for this award. Congrats!
- **Media Club:** This club is eager to create public service announcements (PSAs) for our fellow Panthers about good character. Thanks to Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Fiore and parent volunteer Mr. Vince Deur for helping!
- **SCORE with Team Peach:** We totaled 1,300 green tickets for positive behaviors in January. Keep it up team!

## ODDS & ENDS

- **Recycling/Green Efforts:** For the third year, Peach Plains has been recognized as an official Michigan Green School. Mrs. Pellegrum is in the process of organizing our student "Energy Patrol". We continue to reduce the amount of waste we produce in the lunchroom by gently "crunching" our milk cartons. Capri Suns are still welcome and will earn us 2¢ per pouch.

## LOOKING AHEAD

2.18 Author Assembly

2.24 Variety Show at Lakeshore Middle

2.25 LaRon Williams Assembly

3.4 No School – Records Day

3.7 School Board Meeting at Peach

3.9 ½ Day – Conferences

3.10-3.11 No School – Conferences

## CURRICULUM CORNER



### MUSIC UPDATE

Ms. Mari Jo Koedyker

Greetings Peach families! I have the distinct joy of teaching your children! Here are a few things that we are looking forward to regarding music:

**4<sup>th</sup> graders** are in the middle of recorder season and sounding great! Students are preparing for the Link Up concert on April 20 during the school day at the Frauenthal Theater. This concert is always a highlight for 4<sup>th</sup> graders and a great opportunity for students to hear an orchestra concert, some for their very first time, performed by our own West Michigan Symphony!

**5<sup>th</sup> grade** choir members began spring music and are preparing for the "Festival of Choirs" May 5th. This special bi-annual event is held in the GHHS Field House and features all choirs from GHAPS.

**Lower EI** has been moving like jellyfish, acting as hunters to find animals, and sailing the seas as pirates! These activities have reinforced movement with flow and finding the resting tone of the song. Students have also been coming up with same/different rhythmic patterns, and are doing a great job!

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## MORE CURRICULUM CORNER

### PE UPDATE

Mr. Nate Allen

Once again, we find ourselves enjoying the snowy days of another Michigan winter. Even though it is colder outside, we all need to remain active.

The winter months may be some of the most difficult times to find ways to stay active outdoors. However, it also presents us with great opportunities to have some unique fun. Whether you are into skiing, ice-skating, or sledding, the winter months can be quite enjoyable outside despite the cool temps.

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*Encourage your child to spend some time outside every day. Even just 30 minutes outside building a snowman or playing some snow football will be beneficial to the physical well-being of your child.*

*Don't let the cool weather limit what activities you can participate in outside.*

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The few months before Spring Break will be a whirlwind of activity in P.E. Currently, our **3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades** have been focusing on basketball skills, while our **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders** have been working with manipulatives (different ways to control equipment). Students will also be experiencing units focusing on floor hockey, jump ropes, the parachute, and volleyball within the next few weeks.

We also have our **Jump Rope for Heart** event right around the corner. It will definitely be a fun and active few months.

## SAFE PANTHERS

A conference held at Hope College entitled "Keeping Our Kids Safe" shared some points for schools and families. Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman's key notes for parents are:

- Media violence primes children to see killing as acceptable.
- Watching violence, adults and children both come to see the world as a much more dangerous place than it really is and act upon those misinterpretations.
- Screen violence can change a child's brain which leads to troubled thinking and a short fuse.
- Violent video games can become addictive and cause children to be desensitized.
- Young children should not have TVs in their bedrooms.
- Children who watch a lot of TV often have lower grades.
- Children who watch violence on TV accept violence as a way to solve problems.

## CONFERENCE TIME

Another opportunity to talk about your child's growth is right around the corner! Information will be sent Friday. May we have another week of 100% parent participation! Our families are key to student success.

### A Note from the Principal

We have so many exciting things happening! From our new technology to our informative and inspiring assemblies, learning continues to be engaging at Peach.

I will be offering office hours Tuesday, 3.8 from 4:00-5:30. Feel free to stop in and chat.

Thank you,  
Kathryn Drake  
Principal