



Pearl City School District

December 2019 Newsletter

District Website: www.pcwolves.net

"Inspire in everyone a passion to excel"

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

The school year is already into the second quarter, with the semester due to end the beginning of January. I guess either I am getting older because time is flying by or maybe we are just having fun. I am believing it is because we are having fun in the district. I want to share a few things that are going on in the district.

Emergency Closings

As we prepare to enter the winter season we will be notifying students and families of cancellations, delays, early releases via the District calling system (School Messenger), website, local TV stations and local radio station.

Levy

The Pearl City School Board approved an estimated tax levy at the November board meeting. This year's levy is asking for a 4.94% increase. Please understand that the district does not receive what we ask for in the estimated levy, we only receive what the PTELL (Tax Cap) law allows. PTELL will limit the district's rate at 1.9% (Consumer Price Index), but levying a higher rate ensures that the district will also receive any increases in EAV and any new construction. If a taxing body requests in its levy a dollar amount over 5% a Truth and Taxation Hearing must be held prior to the adoption of the tax levy in December. Since we are requesting 4.94% we do not need to conduct a public hearing, but the district will still conduct a hearing as a means to remain completely transparent. The public hearing will be held on Dec. 18th at 6:20pm in the high school library.

Academic Success

The Pearl City School District received some great news this past month regarding the academic success of the district. All of the schools in Pearl City have been recognized as commendable schools. The Illinois State Board of Education provides many ways to measure the success of students and school performance. This information can be found on the Illinois State Report Card, which can be found at www.illinoisreportcard.com. The Pearl City School District is above the state average in all of the academic measurements. One of the specific measurements is to show what percentage of freshman are on track to graduate. The state defines freshman on track as students who have five full-year course credits and no more than one failing grade in English, math, science, or social studies. According to nationwide studies, students on track to graduate at the end of their freshman year are nearly four times more likely to graduate from high school as students who are not on track. The state average is 86.5% of freshman on track. Pearl City School District has 92% of students on track to graduate. The Pearl City graduation rate is also at 90%, whereas, the state average is 86%. There are many other measurements that you can find at the website listed above.

Citizenship

There are so many ways that the students of Pearl City show citizenship in the communities. Many of our classes have written letters to veterans and current military personnel. Students in different organizations have created food and clothing drives in the district. Our high school students are required to complete a set number of community service hours each school year. Finally, our FFA students had an eye glasses collection contest and they collected over 100 pairs of eyeglasses that were then donated to the PC Lions Club.

As you can see there are a lot of great things going on in the Pearl City School District. The district is very proud of all of the hard work and dedication that the educators, coaches, students and parents put into all aspects of the district. Thank you for continuing to support the Pearl City School District. We will continue to move from good to great.

Important Dates
to Remember

Dec. 3rd
No PASS Classes

Dec 4th
Elem K-4
Winter Concert 7:00 PM

Dec. 7th, 8-10am
8th Grade Pancake Breakfast
At Applebee's \$5

Dec 11th
5th-12th Band & Choir
Winter Concert 7:00 PM

Dec. 13th
6th Grade Cake Raffle

Dec 17th -20th
HS Finals Open Campus

Dec. 19th
Elem Holiday Parties 2:00

Dec. 20th
• No PASS Classes
Parent Interaction day

- End of 2nd Quarter
- Early Release 1:00

Dec. 23-Jan. 3
Winter Break

Jan. 6th
School Resumes for Students

Winter Clothing

Winter clothing is an important part of winter fun. The elementary students will be going outside for recess as often as the weather permits. Coats, hats, snow pants, boots, and mittens or gloves are a must.



**Student of the Month
for
November
and
Top Dog for
Jr./Sr. High**

**7th Ayden Bratley
8th Rhett Forth
9th Addison Bremmer
10th Cody Pitts
11th Makayla Milam
12th Isabella Kostallari**

**Top Dog
Caitlin Niesman**

High School Semester Finals

As in previous years, semester finals will be prior to break. The finals will begin on Monday, December 16th. This will be a full day of school. Then beginning on Tuesday, December 17th, Pearl City will have open campus. Students will only be required to come to school when they have a final. The schedules for finals will be posted on the website and students received a paper copy on November 25th during their 3rd period class. Finals count for 15% of the students' semester grade. Please make sure your child knows when his/her finals are. If a student misses a final, they will receive a zero on that final.

Thank You



Our 5th annual Pearl City Schools Veterans Day celebration was a great success due to the efforts of many people.

Thanks to the administrators who entrust to me the planning of this very special day; to the music department for their great contribution and to Scott Woodley and Steve Sheffey for their music; and to our key note speaker, Gary Eisenhower. Special thanks to State Senator Brian Stewart for his special presentation to Mrs. Dorothy Ditzler and to her for sharing her day with all of us.

Most importantly, thanks to our veterans and their families whose service and sacrifice made this day and every day possible. Their participation is always overwhelming, especially this year with the snow. Thank you all who made this day a great success!

I would also like to thank the people and businesses that donated to our purchase of the flags, poles, and stands from the branches of the military: Brinkmeier's Plumbing, State Bank of Pearl City, the Schneider family, Little John's Tap, Route 73 Brew and Chew, Pitts' Drywall, Spahn and Rose Lumber, and Fischer Excavating. Thank you very much!

Plans are underway for next year, and I look forward to seeing you then!

The Pearl City Technowolves Lego League team is hard-at-work once again this fall. With the world-wide theme "City Shaper," teams this season must find a problem within the community concerning building or city design, and then design an innovative solution for that problem, presenting that answer in the form of a skit that includes research. Also, the table missions for the robot game focus on obstacles like a city crane dropping a box and moving an elevator to a certain position (missions are constructed from Legos and placed onto a competition table). This year's team members include: Miranda Posey (8th), Kendra Kuhlemeier (7th), Natalie Greene (7th), Xander Krolow (6th), Kayden Martin (6th), Tana Gravert (6th), Mackenzie Lotz (5th), and Parker Allen (5th). The season runs from the start of school until the regional competition in December; the team also hopes to repeat their time at state in January, depending on the results at the qualifier in December. Go, Technowolves!



Read, Read and Read Some More!

Take some time to enjoy a good book with your child. No matter their age, read to them, read with them, read and discuss what you are reading, model for your child daily. READ, READ, READ. Admire the book by noticing the cover, pictures and other features. Who wrote it? Who illustrated it? To whom is it dedicated? Take your time instead of flying through pages, turn them slowly to build anticipation. What will happen next? Can you guess? Talk about it. What did you and your child think of the story? Did you agree? You don't have to agree. Do you want to read another book about the same topic or maybe the same author?

When you read with your child, especially with excitement, you show how much fun reading can be. That is a gift that can last a lifetime.

The Renaissance Home Connect can help you and your child choose books at an appropriate level.

AT-HOME HABITS LEAD TO SCHOOL SUCCESS

To support your child's learning experience:

Establish sleep routines. Kids who get enough rest are better able to concentrate and follow rules.

Have them clean out their backpack daily.

You're sure to find important papers, notes, permission slips and maybe a leftover snack.

Keep a class schedule handy. This makes it easy to ask specific questions about school, such as, "What did you do in P.E. today?" Logging into Skyward to see what kinds of assignments they are doing could also be a good conversation starter.

Get organized. Does your child always know where to find their backpack, jacket, glasses, shoes and other items? Pick a special place to keep them. Do they know where they are going after school, so they are not worrying about that all day when they should be concentrating on lessons.

Practice manners. Role-play challenging situations. "You and a classmate disagree about who is first in line. What should happen next?" Give them positive words to use when they are upset.

Answer questions. Encourage your child to ask you-and their teachers-if they are confused. "What does this mean?"

Read together. In addition to reading to your child and listening to them read, read the same books separately and discuss them.

Make a study spot. Choose a comfortable homework location. Stay nearby to offer support and supervision. Come up with a study schedule with an ending time. Remember home work should equal 10 minutes x their grade level—1st grade 10x 1 = 10 min. 2nd 10 x 2 = 20 min. 3rd 10 x 3 = 30 min. 4th 10 x 4 = 40 min. 5th 10 x 5 = 50 min. 6th 10 x 6 = 60 min. This is an average amount of time for each night. We all know that some nights will have less homework and some nights might have more. If you child has more than this regularly—

contact their teacher.

Missing School Means Missing out on Learning

A missed day here, a missed day there. Does being absent really affect learning? "Yes!" say experts. When kids miss too much school, everyone suffers. Absent students may fall behind, and catching up distracts from lessons and may be disruptive to the rest of the class. Some absences are unavoidable, of course, but it helps when families:

- Prepare at night. Choose outfits, pack lunches and prepare school bags at night. Get to bed on time and set a morning alarm. Fall asleep relaxed, knowing you're ready for the next day.
- Streamline mornings. Wake up at the same time each day and stick to a routine. If your child tends to forget certain responsibilities, make a chart to keep them on track. Take family pride in being prompt.
- Avoid conflicts. When possible, schedule appointments and trips when school isn't in session. If your child needs to miss school, notify the school and ask about make-up work.
- Learn school procedures. Find out when students should stay home from school and the difference between excused and unexcused absences, check the handbook or ask school personnel.



Elementary Young Author Program

Everyone should be thinking about story ideas for their Young Author's book. More information will be coming about due dates and requirements. These books will be judged and a representative will be selected to represent Pearl City School at the Illinois Young Author Conference in Bloomington, IL. in May.



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- ◆ Culver's of Freeport

*A BIG Thanks
to our Sponsors!*

Your generous support helps make our PCHS newspaper and year-book possible! Please show your support to these local businesses!

2019 December



Pearl City Schools

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	5:30 PM JH Boys Basketball vs. Le-Win 6:00 PM HS Boys Basketball @ W. Carroll	6:00 PM HS Girls Basketball @ Aquin	5:30 PM JH Boys Basketball @ Stockton 7:00 PM Elem K-4 Concert	4:00 PM JH Boys Basketball @ Oregon (Mount Morris) 6:00 PM HS Boys Basketball @ Aquin	6:00 PM HS Girls Basketball vs. Pecatonica	8:00 AM Speech @ Stockton 8:00 AM Class of 2024 Applebee's Fundraiser 11:00 AM Varsity Girls Basketball-Amboy Shootout vs. Orion 12:00 PM Varsity Boys
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2:00 PM EPC Football Banquet	JV Girls Basketball Galena Tour 5:00 PM JH Boys Basketball vs. RR/SM	6:00 PM HS Boys Basketball vs. Forreston 6:00 PM V - HS Girls Basketball @ Durand	5:00 PM JV Boys Basketball Galena tourn vs. E DBQ 7:00 PM 5th-12th grade Choir & Band Winter Concert	5:30 PM JH Boys Basketball @ Tri County 6:00 PM HS Girls Basketball vs. Dakota	JH Boys Basketball Conf Tour @ Le-Win	HS Boys Basketball - Forreston Tour HS Girls Basketball PC Holiday Tour JV Boys Basketball Galena 8:00 AM Speech @ Rochelle
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
High School Finals Week						HS Girls Basketball Galena Shootout
HS Boys Basketball - Forreston Tour						
HS Girls Basketball PC Holiday Tour					Early Release 1pm	8:00 AM Speech @ Byron
					End of 2nd Quarter	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Winter Break - No School						
29	30	31	Jan 1	2	3	4
Winter Break - No School						
5	6	Notes				
<i>*Calendar is subject to change *</i>						

2019 December

Menu



Pearl City Schools

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1 Donut Mini Corn Dogs	2 Pancakes & Sausage Nachos	3 Egg Casserole Tomato Soup w/Grilled Cheese	4 Bagels Hot Beef Sandwich	5 Breakfast Pizza Beef Hot Dogs	6	7
8 Funnel Cakes Pulled Pork	9 Pretzels Taco Casserole	10 Scrambled Eggs & Toast Chicken & Dumpling Soup w/ hot ham and cheese	11 Waffles Chicken Strips	12 Frudels Pizza	13	14
15 Cooks Choice Orange Chicken	16 Cooks Choice Tacos	17 Cooks Choice Potato Bacon Soup & Grilled Cheese	18 Cooks Choice Christmas Dinner	19 Cooks Choice Tenderloin	20	21
22 Winter Break Winter Break	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Winter Break Winter Break	30	31	Jan 1	2	3	4
5	6	Notes				
<p>*Calendar is subject to change* Lunch is Offer vs. Serve Each meal is provided with Milk & Whole Grain Bread/Breading</p>						