



DECEMBER 2023 | ISSUE 1

THE PENNRIDGE PULSE

Showcasing the Highlights in the Pennridge School District

A Message from the Superintendent..

Dear Pennridge School District Community,

I am delighted to extend a heartfelt welcome to you as we unveil the inaugural edition of "Pennridge Pulse," our newly launched newsletter crafted to showcase the extraordinary stories unfolding across each of our 11 schools. This platform offers a glimpse into our district's exceptional experiences and achievements.



While educators and administrators witness the daily experiences and achievements within our school walls, we recognize that capturing all the wonderful happenings can be challenging for our parents and staff. "Pennridge Pulse" is our response to closing that gap, as we strive to bring forth at least one uplifting story, shared by each building leader, so each school has a story in every edition.

This newsletter transcends mere storytelling; it celebrates the combined endeavors of our devoted teachers, staff members, and administrators. It is a testament to the relentless hard work and dedication that saturates every classroom and every corner of our district. I invite you to join us on this adventure by sharing your stories, photos, and exciting moments from classrooms and school events. Together, we can transform "Pennridge Pulse" into an authentic reflection of the dynamism and positivity defining our educational community.

As we step into December, let's pause to contemplate the spirit of the season—a time for gratitude, joy, and community bonding. May the stories featured in this edition of "Pennridge Pulse" serve as a source of inspiration and upliftment during this special time of the year.

I sincerely thank you for being an integral part of the Pennridge School District family. I eagerly anticipate the collective success and positive energy that "Pennridge Pulse" will bring to our community.

All good wishes,
Angelo

#PennridgeProud



Please share stories for "The Pulse" with
David Thomas,
Director of Communications &
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GERMAN CLUB CREATES ORNAMENTS FOR GRAND VIEW HOSPITAL



The German club sponsored an ornament-making activity after school today. German club members, their friends, and other interested high school and middle school students who take German had the choice between six different ornaments. More than 100 ornaments were donated to Grand View Hospital where they will either decorate the common areas of the hospital or be given to patients who have to spend the holidays in the hospital. The turnout was outstanding and lots of fun was had by all!



WEST ROCKHILL ELEMENTARY



A thankful feast and some precious visitors to the classroom

November and December have given us some very special moments inside these classrooms at West Rockhill. In late November, it was time for the annual Thanksgiving Feast and students in the Life Skills and Autistic Support programs went to BJ's to purchase materials for the event. They also had another treat when they ate lunch at Chick-fil-A after! The students then helped to prepare the food, and their families joined the students and staff for all of the festivities!



The students in the life skills program were also able to learn about life cycles by observing chickens hatching from their eggs. The eggs were gifted to the classroom from Moyer's Chicks. The eggs were incubated in the classroom and the students witnessed an egg hatch. They were able to see what happens each step from the first hole in the egg to the chick emerging. They also helped move the chicks to their brooder before they went to their home on a local farm. They read the story, "How Does an Egg Hatch?" By Eric Carle. The week was enjoyed by all!





**PENNRIDGE
NORTH**
Middle School

NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Season of Peace and Music at North

On the last evening of November, Mr. Hong and the chorus students wowed the crowd with a lovely Winter Concert! Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students sang their hearts out for a packed audience!

On Tuesday, December 5, North Orchestra and Band students performed for their families. The Winter Concert began at 7:00 PM with Mrs. Stanell and her String Ensemble then transitioned to the Vivaldi Orchestra. Mr. Vollberg took the stage next with his Concert Band. The performances wrapped up with the Symphonic Band performance. It was an awesome night of holiday tunes! Thank you to all who attended and to our Pennridge students and staff for filling the atmosphere with your amazing musical talents.



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SELLERSVILLE ELEMENTARY

Spreading Kindness to Celebrate the Life of a Beloved Teacher

The staff of Sellersville Elementary created Cara's Spark Club to celebrate the life of one of our devoted teachers. Cara showed kindness in everything she did. Sellersville continues her legacy of kindness through the actions of our club. The Cara's Spark Club's mission is to spread kindness in our school and community. Students are nominated to be a member of the club and meet before school several times a month to plan and prepare for the kindness acts. Led by Mrs. Esposito, they collected blankets, towels, beach towels, sheets, dog coats, and animal nail clippers to donate to Last Chance Ranch. The facility uses these items to support the animals they rescue in the area. In total, the Club collected twelve large trash bags of comfy materials to support the animals at the rescue.



Cara's Spark Club participates in a kindness assembly for Sellersville Elementary, they are planning various kindness acts for the community and record kindness acts on a bulletin board where they add post-its sharing kind acts they have seen at Sellersville. In the club's first year, they are keeping kindness at the forefront of our school community just like Cara would have done!

GUTH ELEMENTARY

The Guth Community Supports Families in Need

Guth Student Council's "Help for the Holidays Collection" Guth families collected 665 pounds of non-perishable items to donate to Penridge Fish Organization. Guth's Student Council organized and promoted the drive to help provide for families in need during the holiday season. The drive ran from November 27 through December 8. More than 20 boxes of food and household needs were donated.

Our annual Giving Tree supported dozens of families who needed help to make the holiday season special for their children. The Giving Tree allows families to provide gifts to support families who need help. Families sign up to provide gifts and gift cards for those who request and need assistance. We were happy to be able to provide all families who requested support.

Guth is very thankful for the kind and generous families who contributed to support those in need.



DEIBLER ELEMENTARY

A month of Holiday cheer at Deibler



The Deibler Dolphins are thrilled to be spreading holiday cheer this month in many ways!! The Deibler House Council is spearheading a donation drive to benefit the Penridge FISH organization. Several of our classes are reading "The Mitten Tree" and collecting mittens for the drive, in addition to other clothing and food items. Many families and staff are also participating in the Deibler Giving Tree by purchasing gifts for families in need. It is certainly heartwarming to see how our community comes together to support one another and model the true meaning of the season for our students.

From Holiday Sock Day to Grinch Day to Ugly Sweater Day, students and staff alike are having a blast getting into the holiday spirit with the 12 Days of Spirit. Here are some pictures of "Elf Day", including some shots of Deibler's very own Elf on the Shelfm Principal, Mrs. Pulli!

We are also extremely proud of our very own Marie Gottshall, a teaching assistant at Deibler, who recently had a book published! The book is titled "First Day Meltdown" and is about a little boy who is in a class with a student who has autism and how teachers help all students learn to be patient and understanding, while also acknowledging their feelings of being nervous or upset.





PENNRIDGE
CENTRAL
Middle School

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Celebrating Students and asking them to Be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible for Others

This is year two of the implementation of Central's PBIS initiative and they are off to a great start!!! This year they will incorporate positive "incentives" called "RAMS REWARDS". These Rewards are for students who demonstrate our school motto. Students can earn RAMS REWARDS on a daily basis, and place them in the appropriate level grade mailbox located near our cafeteria. At the end of each marking period, a random drawing occurs in which the "winner" can choose from a larger group of prizes – displayed in our RAMS REWARD showcase, located in the main lobby at Central.

Also, through the work of our PBIS core team we offer a variety of full school events. Participation in these events is contingent upon our infraction system which we have used for the last two years to address minor/classroom type behaviors. We have already seen a positive impact on student behaviors, and throughout the building have seen an increase in appropriate behaviors.



GRASSE ELEMENTARY

They're Jammin' at Grasse....in their PJ's and with Books!

The students and staff of Grasse Elementary teamed up with CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) to raise money for their "Pajama Day Fundraiser."

Students were able to wear their pajamas to school and donate to CHOP.

Then on November 30th, Grasse held a school-wide event at night!

Families were able to come back to school and rotate through classrooms and hear teachers read stories aloud and participate in little crafts/activities during their annual "Book Jam!"

The signup filled up fast with over 80 families and we raised approximately \$400 for CHOP!



BEDMINSTER ELEMENTARY

Bedminster showing its B.E.S.T & Show off their GLOW!

Bedminster students are recognized for showing kindness and Bobcat B.E.S.T. behaviors when they receive a Golden Paw!!

Every Wednesday, the students who earned a paw come down to visit Ms. Menhardt to trade in their paw for a spot on the "Golden Paw 100 Board!"

Once the board reaches 10 in a row, those students are the lucky Golden Paw Winners!!! They hear their name said proudly over the intercom and come down to win a prize and a picture to be showcased in our weekly Bobcat Blaze.

Bedminster also celebrated its first PBIS event of the year with Glow Day!

The students are recognized for showing their Bobcat B.E.S.T. behaviors. Students enjoyed Glow Games, Neon Cup Stacking, and Glow Day word searches/coloring pages.

Bedminster Bobcats are Positively "Pawsome!"



SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

ANNUAL EXCELLENCE, B.I.N.G.O., AND A TRIP TO THE LINC!



PENNRIDGE
SOUTH
Middle School

One of the highlights of our school year, at South, is their annual fundraiser. Every year, students get excited about the yellow ducks and work hard at making the necessary sales to attend the bingo party as well as the field trip. (This year the students went to the Linc!) What the students don't realize is how much "behind the scenes" work and organization needs to occur before, during, and after the fundraiser. South MS has been fortunate to have the same staff member overseeing the organization of this wonderful fundraiser for twenty years – Mrs. Sandi Hippauf.

Each year, Mrs. Hippauf begins coordinating with the fundraiser salesperson at the end of the previous school year. Once the school year begins, she is already organizing and communicating with South's salesperson in preparation for the much-anticipated fundraiser kickoff assembly and all the parent and student communication required to make the fundraiser kickoff a success.

Throughout the fundraiser, she continually maintains the organization of student sales and the distribution of the well-loved ducks. Even after the ordered products have been delivered and distributed to the students, her job is not done. The final fundraiser experience is the organization of the anticipated big bingo party and field trip.

South MS thanks Mrs. Hippauf for using her much-needed organizational skills and continued dedication to the success of South's largest yearly fundraiser!



SEYLAR ELEMENTARY

Fun Run for the new STEM Lab!

In November, Seylar students participated in their annual Seylar Fun Run! It looks like they had a great time being outside in the beautiful sunshine, running around the school to raise money for equipment and furniture for their new STEM lab while families and friends cheered.

Our Home and School Association scheduled a DJ to entertain everyone as they ran, and a soft pretzel snack when they were done. **Thanks to the generosity of Seylar families and community, they were able to raise \$21,000!** All of our students will benefit from the new STEM furniture purchased as a result.

As a bonus, students' names were drawn to win fun prizes. Some examples include cooking classes with a teacher, teacher-for-the-day, extra time to explore the new STEM lab, and even principal-for-the-day! Congratulations to all of our winners.

We want to thank all of our parents and families who contributed and the volunteers who made the FUN RUN happen! Seylar can't wait for next year.



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