

Panther

Spotlight

PITTSVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

THIRD QUARTER

2022-2023

From the Desk of the District Administrator



Dear PSD Families,

Every February, we celebrate Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month to emphasize the importance of CTE in preparing students for career AND college success. No matter which career cluster or pathway they follow, CTE courses equip our students with essential skills for the global economy of the 21st Century.

Pittsville has deep roots in agriculture, forestry, construction, and manufacturing and it is no surprise that the community supported the financing and construction of a state of the art 24,000 foot CTE Facility. PSD was also the recipient of a state

grant for \$37,500 in 2022 to fund a new fabrication laboratory (fab lab) facility. All of these facilities and new equipment mean nothing without talented and caring educators to unlock students' potential within them. Please join me in acknowledging our exceptional CTE Staff, Counseling Department, and Administration in support of these opportunities for PHS Students!

We are excited to announce changes to our 4-Year old Education Programming (4K). Beginning with the 2023-2024 School Year, 4K will meet five days per week with full-day and half-day options available for families. Two sections will run in the morning from approximately 8:00-11:30 AM, including lunch. For those choosing the full-day option, the afternoon session will be for enrichment, playtime, and rest time. All play-based, developmentally appropriate instruction will occur during the AM sessions. Those choosing the half-day option will be responsible for transportation for their child after the morning session. The District will provide transportation during regular bus routes in the morning and at the end of the typical school day for those choosing the full-day option.

4K provides students the opportunity to participate in a consistent early learning program that is developmentally appropriate and will provide a foundation for lifelong learning. Through comprehensive 4K programming, children build social and pre-academic skills that will be a foundation for their future growth and success. PSD's goal is to provide exceptional, developmentally appropriate, play-based learning experiences to all four-year-olds!

4K is free and is open to any students turning four years old on or before September 1, 2023 for enrollment in the 2023-2024 school year. 4K is an optional program in Wisconsin, and children are not required to attend. We are pleased to be able to offer both consistency and options to our families based on need and family choice!

How many of you reached your maximum potential in high school? I hope that the answer to that is none of you. Yet, with this in mind, many of us as parents and in the world of education see them as finished "products" in need of "fixing" if they're not meeting our expectations. We become fixated on problems, gaps, and deficits, rather than looking for opportunities. We all need to take time to see kids for not only who they are, but who and what they can be. Our children are perfectly imperfect, just like we were when we were their age. The key to unlocking that potential and instilling confidence is to help them discover their hidden talents, abilities, and interests. Focusing on their strengths creates confidence in their own abilities and leads to growth. Every learning experience should be an opportunity to assess that growth and feedback, which will build confidence in themselves that they can continue to grow and show progress. Struggle and progress should go hand in hand and this will encourage our children to embrace challenges.

All children can succeed; I truly believe that. The question is, how are we measuring success and progress? Is it through a focus on learning and growth, and that failure is simply opportunity, or is it based solely on metrics and benchmarks? When we guide children through this process, we will all see their potential.

Jason Knott, District Administrator



Lindsay Meissner - Agricultural Education
Alyssa Anderson - Family/Consumer Science
Dr. Rod Watson - High School Principal
Emily Krystowiak - High School Counselor
Stephen Hadfield - Technology Education
Jordan Rayburn - Business Education



News from the Nurse's Office

Immunization Changes and Updates for 2023

A few new changes will go into effect for the 2023-2024 school year in regards to vaccines. Below are the previous requirements and new requirements that will go into effect next school year.

Previous requirements were:

- For entry into Kindergarten: 4 doses of polio vaccine, 3 doses of hepatitis B, 4 doses of DTaP/DTP/DT/TD, 2 doses of varicella (chicken pox) * parental report of varicella disease as an exception to varicella vaccine was allowed, 2 doses of MMR
- At Sixth Grade: 1 Tdap

New requirements for the 2023-2024 school year:

- For Entry into Kindergarten:
 - 4 doses of polio vaccine
 - 3 doses of hepatitis B
 - 4 doses of DTaP/DTP/DT/TD
 - 2 doses of varicella (chicken pox)** Exceptions to the varicella vaccine requirement will be allowed in both child care centers and schools ONLY if the child has had a case diagnosed by a healthcare provider. If the student had a prior case of chickenpox it must be documented by a health care provider and reported. ** For persons reporting a history of atypical or mild cases, assessment by a physician or their designee is required for school entry, and one of the following should be sought: 1) an epidemiologic link to a typical varicella case to a laboratory-confirmed case, OR 2) evidence of laboratory confirmation if it was performed at the time of acute disease. When such documentation is lacking, persons should not be considered as having a valid history of disease because other diseases might mimic mild atypical varicella.
- For Entry to 7th-11th grades
 - 1 Tdap
 - 1 MenACWY-containing vaccine
- For Entry into 12th grade
 - 1 MenACWY-containing booster

**Parental reports of varicella will no longer be considered verification or proof of vaccination/immunity. Tdap was moved from 6th grade to 7th grade. Meningococcal vaccine (MenACWY) was not required, but now is required at 7th grade and a booster at 12th grade. NOTE: A second dose of MenACWY-containing vaccine should be administered between the ages of 16 and 18 years to students who received a first dose of MenACWY-containing vaccine between the ages of 11 and 15. A second dose is not required for students who received their first dose of MenACWY-containing vaccine at age 16 years or older.

When vaccinations are given/updated please provide an updated copy to the school office. If you want a waiver, then please contact the school office for the paperwork needed.

Equal Educational Opportunities

It is the policy of the Pittsville School District, pursuant to state and federal laws and regulations, that no person may be denied admission to any public school in this District or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular (which would include all Career and Technical Education opportunities), extra-curricular, pupil service, recreational, or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, homelessness status, any physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or any other legally-protected status or classification as required by S. 118.13, Wis. Stats. This policy also prohibits discrimination as defined by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (sex), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (race and national origin), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The District encourages informal resolutions of complaints under this policy. A formal complaint resolution procedure is available, however, to address allegations of violations of the policy in the Pittsville School District.

Any questions concerning this policy should be directed to: Matthew Sherwood, Director of Student Services, School District of Pittsville, 5459 Elementary Avenue, Suite 2, Pittsville, Wisconsin 54466, 715-884-2517 Ext

Looking for events?
Visit our website at
www.pittsville.k12.wi.us

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION

ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

(SECTION 120.06 (8)(c), WIS. STATS.)

Notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of the School District of Pittsville that on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 an election of School Board Members will be held.

Candidates for the School Board are as follows:

VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN TWO:

Nathan Bowden
Mandy Hoogesteger
Rick Winters

Electors will vote in their regular polling places. Polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Dated this 13th of March, 2023.

Julie Strenn, School District Clerk

Board of Education

Mandy Hoogesteger, President

Nathan Bowden, Vice-President

MaryAnn Lippert, Treasurer

Julie Strenn, Clerk

Chris Zawislan, Member-at-Large

Student Representatives:

Samuel Bowden

Madeline Hensel

Nutrition Nuggets

News from Our Food & Nutrition Service Department

Dear Families of Pittsville School District,

As another school year comes to the final push towards summer, we would like to remind all families to please keep a look out in the beginning of July for the next school year Free and Reduced Meal forms. If your family feels they may qualify, please fill out one of these forms and return it to the school office either in person or by mail. These forms are important not only for free and reduced meals but also is tied to grants and funding options for the entire school district. Also, if you feel your family qualifies currently for the rest of this school year please fill out a form and turn into the school office or send into the school by mail.

With the past two years of COVID interruptions and reimbursable meals being at no cost to the students and their families, please take time to check your families Skyward Foodservice Account Balance. If there is a negative balance from before this program took place or possible negative account from cold lunch milk purchases, please make arrangements to pay these balances before the end of the school year. Please remember that any prior meal debt that is on students' accounts before receiving free and/or reduced meal status is still the responsibility of the payer of the student(s) account and is not zeroed out.



Mr. Matt Andres
District Food Service Director
andremat@pittsville.k12.wi.us

Offer Versus Serve: What Does This Mean?

Each student has the right to decline certain food items at Breakfast and Lunch. Every student may select a full meal of all four components at Breakfast or all five components at Lunch. A food item is a specific food offered. A food component is one of the required food groups (fruit, vegetable, grains, meat/meat alternate and milk). The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act requires that students must select at least 1/2 cup of fruit or vegetable at Breakfast in addition to other items or components.

Low Lunch Balances

Accounts below \$25.00 will be notified weekly through the Pittsville School District's [SchoolMessenger](#) alert system. The notice explains that your family food service funds are running low and money should be added as soon as possible. If a family account gets below zero, a notice will be sent out stating if the amount due is not paid in three working days, your children will no longer be able to participate in the breakfast and/or lunch program. If no money is received, a note will go home explaining the account is closed and Pittsville Schools will no longer be providing breakfast, lunch, or milk.

It is then the parent's responsibility to provide their child with a lunch from home. Once money is added, your children may again participate in the school's food service programs. Here are a few tips to insure your family food service account is up-to-date and in good standing.

- Check with your voicemail and email to see if your family received an alert message concerning a low lunch balance.
- If you received a notice, please send payment as soon as possible.
- When sending in a payment, please include your family name, students' first and last name, and amount sent.

Online Payments are Easy and Convenient

Parents can make online payments from home or work, 24/7. If their child's food service balance is low, it only takes a few minutes to add money to it using their VISA or MasterCard credit or debit card (NOTE: your credit card will be charged \$2.50 for the convenience of making an online payment). Payments are made through the student's Skyward Family Access account.

- Visit our district website www.pittsville.k12.wi.us
- From the left side menu click on Skyward > Family and Student Access
- Log in to Skyward Family Access (you will need your Login and Password)
- Select "Food Service" from "General Information" menu on the left
- View Balance and select "Make Online Payment"
- Enter payment amount and select "Pay with RevTrak"
- Verify payment amount and select "Go to Checkout"
- If a new customer, select "I am a new customer" and enter your email address. If a returning customer select "I am a returning customer."



Menus are available online at www.pittsville.k12.wi.us

2022-2023 Meal Prices		
PCCC	Breakfast	\$.50
	Lunch	\$1.65
	Snack	\$.50
	Milk	\$.40
School-Age	Breakfast (4K-Gr 12)	\$1.00
	Lunch (4K-Gr 3)	\$2.45
	Lunch (Gr 4-8)	\$2.85
	Lunch (Gr 9-12)	\$3.30
	Milk	\$.40
	After School Snack	\$.50
	Reduced Lunch (4K-Gr 12)	\$.40
After School Snack for Free/Reduced		FREE
Adult Lunch \$4.00		



Dr. Seuss Birthday Meal

The week of February 27 through March 3, 2023 was read across America week and within it lands Dr. Seuss's birthday. We did a special lunch at our elementary/middle school on Tuesday (thanks to the snow day) Feb 28 to kick off the week and to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with food themed after his books. Our next special lunch to look forward to is April 24 when we have our Beach Day celebration.

National Pie Day

On March 14, Pittsville Food Service Team celebrated National Pie day (3.14 Pi for all the math loving students and staff) serving freshly baked apple pie topped with whipped cream at our elementary/middle school and chocolate crème pie at our high school during lunch service. We look forward to this day every year as last year we did pumpkin pie and chocolate mint pie at the schools. What flavor of pie should we have next year's National Pie day? Any suggestions please let Matt in the kitchen know and we will see what the most asked for flavors come up!



High School Principal's Message



Hello Pittsville Community!

I hope by the time you read this, spring is in the air! March can be such a tease with the long, sunny days and baseball practice contrasting with periodic snowstorms to remind you that it is still winter. Assuming we will eventually get to the season of renewal, I will dedicate this submission to how PHS is moving forward next year.

The most important improvement to our school is in the course handbook. We constantly update the handbook by listening to our students during scheduling, responding to our community and post-secondary partners, and reacting to our staff situation. Last year we added classes such as Restaurant Management (which offer dual college credit), STEM: Science Olympiad, Advanced Art, Statistics, Civics, Economics, and Geography while shelving AP Human Geography, AP Psychology, and Computer Programming. This year we have added AP Biology, AP Government, Advanced Entrepreneurship, and Basics of Computing. These classes give our students some more advanced options. When combined with the college course options, RVA classes, and other rotating classes in our master schedule, we are able to offer a dynamic and robust course listing to students, despite our small size!

The other way we're moving forward is by continuing to revise and refine our grading policy. We want our grades to reflect student achievement. We want grades to be related to how well students mastered the skills and content in each class. We can probably all remember a time we got a good grade in a class for doing everything required, but did not exactly master the material. We also probably remember classes where our grades were lower than our abilities due to something missed, misunderstood, etc. When grades are based on clear proficiency, they are far more reliable. We are piloting new software from a company called Otus to learn about creating standards-based report cards with a hybrid component. We will always use letter grades, due to college admissions and scholarship requirements, but we will work on ways of getting more specific and useful feedback to students and families at the same time.

Improving our course offerings and grading policies are only two of the ways we are moving forward as a district. We are using our Early Release time to really dive into our curriculum and respond to students. We are working hard on learning new skills through book studies and conferences. And we're gathering information from our students about how we're doing for them. If anyone reading this newsletter has feedback for us, please feel free to reach out!

Thanks for reading,

Rod Watson
PHS Principal

PHS Math Department

Statistics is a new class for PHS offered in term 3. This is the first time we have offered the class on campus for high school students. During the first week of statistics class, the students worked on a collaborative project. They worked with each other to find the best solution and tried to predict a pattern to improve their scores. It has been great to see the students enjoying the hands-on activities that statistics has to offer.



Elementary School Principal's Message



Greetings from the Elementary School!

We are all waiting patiently for spring weather to arrive! The staff and students celebrated Read Across America Week by participating in activities to foster the love of reading. One of my favorite things about being the elementary school principal is being in classrooms reading to the students! Throughout the week, I visited several classrooms to share my love of Dr. Seuss with the students. I read a story, shared a snack, and did some fun activities with the students. It is so great to see the students excited for reading. We ended the week with an amazing school-wide reading event, where staff members shared their favorite stories with students. It was a great week filled with reading, fun, and learning!

We had another successful Empty Bowls event this spring. It was so wonderful to see everyone and to be able to host everyone in our cafeteria again. We also hosted STEM Night, the art show, and a 4K Open House the same evening. All proceeds will be going to PANS, our local food pantry. We really appreciate the community support for this event!

We are excited to celebrate Mr. Ron Klein, one of four Crystal Apple Winners this year! Mr. Klein was nominated by students, then voted on by staff to be eligible for this award. Mr. Klein participated in an interview process with local business owners / representatives to share his teaching philosophy and accomplishments. After going through the interview process, they recognized Mr. Klein as one of the winners! He is the recipient of \$1000 and will be recognized at a special banquet in May. Congratulation to Mr. Klein. He is so deserving of this award and honor.

Coming up at the elementary school:

We begin Forward Exam testing on Tuesday, March 21st. Students in Grades 3 - 8 participate in this state test.

There is no school on Friday, April 7th and the following week. We wish you a fun, safe, and warm spring break.

We will be offering a 4-week summer school program this year, starting on Monday, June 5th. Please visit our website pittsville.k12.wi.us in April for course information and registration.



Mrs. Friday



The Carnival Returns

The PTO spring carnival is returning this year!

Please mark your calendars for April 28, 2023 and be ready to join us.

This is a free to enter and play event.

There will be concessions for purchase including Rocky Rococo Pizza.

Kindergarten Connection -Ms. Dunow, Mrs. Heinzen, and Mrs. Petersen

The Kindergarten students celebrated their 100th Day of School in early February with great excitement! Each student asked friends and family members to send letters and cards in hopes of receiving 100 letters in our classroom. This was such fun, and we enjoyed reading the letters and counting them as they were received. Thank you to everyone who wrote letters to our students! We sincerely appreciate it. The students participated in many learning activities leading up to our 100th day.

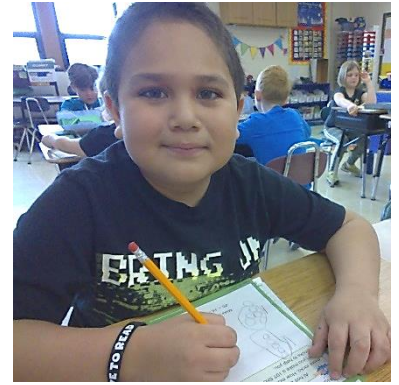
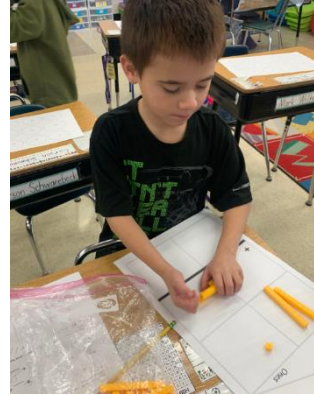
They read stories about the 100th day, completed a dot-to-dot activity to 100, played number games to 100, worked on a 100's number grid to complete a picture, and even found 100 candies that were hidden around their classroom. The children were able to use their creativity to build objects using various items

(cups, dominoes, Legos, popsicle sticks and more). Each child received a t-shirt that read "100 Days of Learning." The children loved the shirts for this special day! The children each completed a project at home with their family on the theme of a collection of "100 things." Those projects were brought in and students told about their collections in their classrooms. The children recently participated in a "Knowledge Quest" Fundraiser in our classroom. Thank you to all of the children for doing your best on this activity and for the families who supported this project with monetary donations. We appreciate everything that our families and community members do to support our young learners!



Adding with Tens and Ones! ~ Ms. Gachnang, Mrs. Moore, and Mrs. Stone

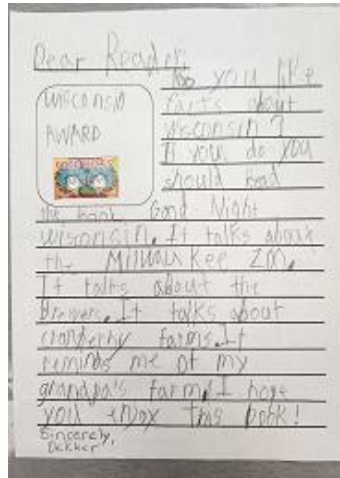
First graders have been exploring the big question: What are the ways to use tens and ones to add? They have been adding 2 multiples of ten in problems like $40+30$ and $80+20$. First graders are using mental math to add tens to two-digit numbers like $50+10$ and even $64+10$ or $58+10$! First graders love using a hundreds chart, number line, base-ten blocks or even drawings to solve harder addition problems. These tricky problems include adding a 2 digit number with a one-digit number like $24+5$ and $37+8$, where students need to make a new group of ten. Our trickiest problems are adding a two-digit number with another two-digit number as in $65+13$ or $78+24$! First graders love math!



Second Graders are Floating in Science Yumminess!

How does a root beer float fit into science? Does it contain matter? Is that matter a solid, liquid or gas? The second grade students have been busy learning about matter. They have been observing the properties and working with various items such as honey, cooking oil, dish soap, cornmeal, lima beans, and rice. They can categorize items, according to their properties, into solids, liquids and gasses. Through their discoveries they have added some important science words to their vocabulary such as viscous, translucent, transparent, particulate, and particles. To understand how states of matter can change the students observed this concept by assembling and enjoying a root beer float! When we asked Abigale, "How does a root beer float have anything to do with science?" She answered, "The ice cream is a solid, the root beer is a liquid, and the foam is a gas. All of them are matter!"

In Writing Workshop, the students have been working on their persuasive writing skills: stating their opinion and providing reasons for their opinion. To practice their skills students chose books that they love to read and have been busy writing letters to persuade others to read those books! Here is an example of a persuasive letter a student wrote. Now, doesn't that just make you want to cuddle up with that book and read it?



Third Grade Is Out of This World!

The third grade students have been busy learning about the solar system in Science class. In January, the third graders went on a field trip to the U.W. Stevens Point Planetarium. While they were there they learned about all of the planets in our solar system and about the constellations. Upon their return they picked a planet in which they wanted to research and began using a variety of research materials to find information about their planets. They were able to use books, articles, and search the internet to find information about their planet.



As a fun way to showcase their learning each student created a planet prop to show their planet (model, poster, powerpoint presentation, etc.). The students gave a presentation to read his/her report and show their planet prop to the class. This was a wonderful experience for our students to be able to work on giving speeches and knowing the importance of the volume of their voice, using expression when speaking, and making eye contact with the audience. The third graders' learning was OUT OF THIS WORLD!

5th Grade Science: Aquatic Invasive Species

~by Celia Rademan & Zoey Rademan

On Friday, Jan 20th, an aquatic invasive species speaker came to visit our 5th Grade classes to discuss with us the things that can affect aquatic environments, such as invasive fish and invasive plants. We talked about the different types of plants and animals that can be harmful to our environment, and part of the reason is because of us. For example, if you do not clean off your boat in the harbor, zebra mussels can attach to it, and they let go when you get to another harbor, allowing them to spread out through all waters.

Also, releasing fishing bait into a body of water when you are done with it can cause some invasive species to start spreading. Some species, like rusty crayfish, were used as bait, then released, and now they are an invasive species to us. They also dominate the native crayfish species and wipe out their population in battles for food and other things. Sea lampreys are also invasive and they latch onto other fish in streams and suck their blood and kill them. This affects us by giving us less fish and other species for our bodies of water.

There were also some fun activities, like guessing how many shells were in a bag, and whoever was closest got a prize. There were also some fun quiz questions about invasive species that we answered.

Special thanks to Amanda Burzynski for coming from Golden Sands resource conservation and teaching us all of this awesome knowledge about aquatic invasive species!



6th Grade – Hands On Equations

Sixth grade students have been working very hard to become proficient at the learning target: I can solve one step equations. Sixth grade is when students begin to learn about variables or unknown values, in expressions and equations. While students learn algebraic methods in the primary grades, sixth graders really start to build a solid algebraic foundation. We introduce the idea of solving equations by utilizing the program, Hands On Equations. Hands on Equations uses simple manipulatives to build equations on a “scale” (a laminated mat) that must remain balanced as they simplify and solve the equation; pawns to represent the variables and number cubes to represent the numbers in the equations. The program has three levels of learning. Sixth graders have been working on Level One introducing “legal moves” with the manipulatives to simplify and solve each equation.



7th Grade Social Studies

It is hard to believe that we have already put in 3/4ths of the school year! Time flies when you are having fun. In seventh grade Geography we have been very busy. My students are learning about many nations throughout the world. The regions we have been focusing on are Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. After learning about each region, we have been comparing them to each other to see how the rate against each other. We have learned the importance of keeping the debt level low and the relationship between the literacy rate and life expectancy. These are just some of the pieces we have been comparing. As we wrap up the quarter, it is my hope that they will continue to have a better understanding of what is going on in this world and know what key piece to look at to get that understanding.



Literary Podcasts

The 8th grade students have been studying the Literary Nonfiction Genre in their most recent reading units. As a culminating activity, groups wrote their own literary podcast episodes. Book club groups collaborated to create an informational and attention grabbing podcast that discussed the central ideas, issues, and themes of the Literary Nonfiction books that the students read in class. The students worked on analyzing the text, tracing common themes across texts, and finding common issues that characters faced in order to create their podcast episodes. The 8th graders worked on writing attention grabbing introductions, they got creative with adding music to their podcasts, and adding other creative elements to their podcasts. We presented our podcasts in a Gallery Walk so that everyone could enjoy each group's podcasts.



Elementary Phy Ed News

It's hard to believe that the school year is already two-thirds over. There have been a lot of fantastic things happening!

Varsity Gym: The gym floor has been replaced and it is beautiful! While it has been difficult managing the different locations for class, the wait has been well worth it! Starting Monday, February 27 all PE classes will return to their normal locations.



Athletic Shoes: With the move back to the gym this brings the necessity for students to wear proper athletic shoes for the gym. Since the varsity gym has been closed, we have been more flexible with students who have not been wearing athletic shoes for class, but due to the new gym floor and a few injuries that have happened because students weren't wearing athletic shoes, we will now be **REQUIRING** students to have athletic shoes specifically for PE. These athletic shoes do not

need to be new but they cannot be used for outside recess as this will bring debris into the gym and scratch the new floor. If your family needs help with this shoe requirement, please contact one of the PE teachers and we will do our best to help you out.

PE FUNDamentals: We've done a lot of fun things this quarter starting with winter games in January and continuing work not only on our throwing, kicking and catching skills but also our teamwork, communication, and listening skills.



4K Registrations Needed

The Pittsville 4K students are having a great time in school this year! As spring approaches, it is time to start looking ahead to next year. The Pittsville School District is moving forward with a new format for our 4K students that is designed to better provide for our youngest learners. Starting with the 2023-2024 school year, 4K students will come to school 5 days a week with the option to stay the whole day, or be picked up from school at 11:30 a.m. With this new format, it is very important that we get an accurate count of students that will be attending so we can provide staffing for appropriate class sizes.

If you are planning on your child attending Pittsville's 4K program in the fall, they need to be 4 years old before September 1, 2023. Registration is online at the Pittsville website - www.pittsville.k12.wi.us. At the top of the website, you will select the PARENTS tab. Select Enrollment and Registration in the left column. Select How to Enroll.

This screen will have all of the choices you have for enrolling your 4K child. Please note that if you are not in the Pittsville District, the open enrollment window closes on April 28, 2023. For questions about enrolling a student at Pittsville Elementary School please contact the elementary school administrative assistant, Karen Garrels, 715-884-2517. If you do not have access to a computer, you can stop in at the Elementary School Office or the High School Office on any regular school day from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. to register in person.



PHS Counselor's Corner - 3rd Quarter

With the melting of the snow, it means spring is around the corner. Spring also means that state testing season is now upon us. The State of Wisconsin and Pittsville High School value seeing how our students have progressed through the 22-23 school year. Here is a snapshot of what has been and will be happening with our current 9th-11th grade students and state testing.

The juniors took the ACT and completed it on March 8th. We had perfect attendance that day which is a wonderful gift! So as to help our junior class, the high school staff prepared a home cooked breakfast for our students. This is always a great hit for all those who have bellies!

The freshmen and sophomores will be taking the preACT secure on Tuesday March 28th. This test is replacing the ACT ASPIRE in the state of WI. Students will be testing on the four core academic subjects of English, Math, Science, and Reading. These tests are completed in one sitting and are taken on student chromebooks. The results from the exam will be received in the fall and will give a prediction on how the student will score on their ACT. In addition to this, the sophomores will also complete the Forward exam on April 4th. This two part test evaluates students on their social studies knowledge. Lastly, grades 9-11 will be taking their final STAR exam, which is a progress monitoring test, on May 9 and 11. The results accumulated over the course of the year will be sent home so families can see the progress completed over the year.

As a testing facility, we appreciate family support to complete these exams. Please take some time to chat with your students about their upcoming exams. As always, if there is a date conflict, please contact the main office.

~ Mrs. Krystowiak, krystemi@pittsville.k12.wi.us.



Middle School Counseling: [Academic & Career Planning](#)

6th Grade students have been introduced to our Xello program, creating digital profiles that will grow with them each year until they graduate. Fourth quarter will consist of lessons where students will reflect on personal interests and explore the link between interests and careers. We will learn about the importance of making informed decisions and how our decisions can impact our future.

7th Grade students engaged in first semester lessons to learn more about the various career pathways, biases in career choices, and identifying their own learning styles. They were able to travel to Mid-State Technical College in February for Discovery Days. Students completed an assessment which identified their top [career clusters](#) and were exposed to the various programs offered.

8th Grade students started this semester understanding the process of high school course planning and graduation requirements. Students also researched and presented a career to their classmates to learn more about required education/training, benefits, job outlook, and daily duties. All 8th grade students and many parents completed an Individual Planning Conference with Mrs. Petersen to set academic and personal goals for high school. This meeting required students to share their preferred career pathway and future career interests to help make connections to courses and potential careers.

Thank you for being involved supporters of your students' futures! Read more about how students benefit from parental involvement in their education [here](#).

~ Mrs. M. Petersen, petermar@pittsville.k12.wi.us



Musical Notes...

General Music K-2 has been performing music by use of voice and instruments. They especially enjoy songs which can be played as a game or songs that include any kind of movement (marching, patting to the beat, clapping to the rhythm, etc.)

General Music 3-5 have been working on creating and notating rhythms, learning note names and demonstrating understanding of connections between music, other classes, and the world around them.

General Music, Choir, and Band 6-8 have been demonstrating their ability to sing/play expressively, on pitch, and in rhythm, while using proper technique and maintaining a steady beat. Many have been rehearsing solos and/or duets for the Stratford Solo & Ensemble, as well as working on repertoire for the Spring Concert.

High School Choir, Band, and Jazz Combo students have been preparing for Solo & Ensemble performances, as well as working on repertoire for the Spring Concert.

Three High School Band seniors were selected for and attended the Dorian Band Festival in Decorah, Iowa. They rehearsed under nationally recognized directors and took specialized Master classes from the Luther College professors.



Ashton Becker at the UW-Eau Claire MS Band Festival



Avery Vanatta, Delaney Klamrowski, and Natalie Fuller at the Dorian Music Festival.



Avery Vanatta and several other students contributed lovely music during the Empty Bowls night.



2nd Graders learning a song accompanied with an autoharp

PHS Forensics 2023

The high school forensics team, consisting of 16 members, prepared and competed in Sub Districts at Assumption High School on February 21 or submitted their entries virtually for the state competition the end of that week. The team did very well and headed for Districts at SPASH, March 11. We currently have eleven state qualifiers with the potential of three more.

Forensics is an extra-curricular activity which students elect and commit to participating in to better themselves and their abilities. Many students, if not most adults, find speaking in public scary and also feel as if they "aren't any good at it". It takes courage to step out of our comfort zones and CHOOSE to grow in something that we don't see as a strength and that is exactly what this students have done. Determination, hard work and PRACTICE have allowed these students to succeed in their entries this year.

The state competition will be tough and they only get one opportunity to perform in their category but this group will keep working and compete one more time, April 22 in Madison. Wonderful job students and thank you to the parents who help encourage their students to grow and stretch.

The team consists of: Delaney Klamrowski in Persuasive Speaking, Hunter Mc Daniel and Emma Bowden in Impromptu Speaking, Alli Marti and Lucy Vanatta in Informative Speaking, Sara Giles, Lilly Andres, Gwyn Kumm and Ellie Rayburn in Prose Reading, Helena Elmhorst and Kenz Klamrowski in Poetry Reading, Leah Downs, Ava Jones, Brianna Doleshal and Keyrra Knudson in Group Interpretive Reading and Arianna Kleven in Farrago.



Improving Reading Skills

I stress to students that the only way to get better at reading is to practice reading, sight words, etc. We talk about how athletes only get better by practicing, even after they make the pros. This is an example that students can relate to. Many students have the skills needed, but they don't take the time to practice them outside of school.

Reading together while alternating sentences/paragraphs/pages keeps your child engaged while you are reading.

- *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You* is a wonderful series that highlights pages of books in multiple colors. It has a section that the child reads, a section that the parent reads, and a section that is chorally read together.

Having your child read to you while you sit and listen helps with their oral reading fluency. Listening while you cook, do laundry, etc. really is not recommended.

Reading to your child allows you to model proper reading fluency, proper expression, proper correcting when you make a mistake, and is your chance to show them how fun and enjoyable reading can be. Even older students love to be read to. ;)

A positive benefit of reading with your child is your relationship grows as you spend quality time together.

There are many wonderful websites to practice reading skills as well. Here are just a few:

abcya.com

Abcmouse.com

Epic.com

Adaptedmind.com

Improving Math Skills

A simple but effective way to increase your child's math skills across all grade levels is by playing mathematical games at home. Not only is there a plethora of card games, but also board and dice games that will quickly increase your child's math fluency skills. It's also a great way to connect with your child(ren).

Card Games

- A card game for the younger students is as simple as a game of war. For younger students, this is excellent number recognition and comparison (higher versus lower) practice.
- You can increase the difficulty of this game by adding multiple cards per round and adding, subtracting, and multiplying the cards together.
- [28 Math Card Games](#)
- Skip Bo
- Uno
- Phase 10

Board games

- *Quirkle* is a game that involves shapes, patterns and simple addition.
- *Cribbage* is a game that involves adding numbers up to 31 and involves a lot of strategy.

Dice games

- [Dice Games](#)
- Yahtzee and Farkle are dice games for purchase that can also help students increase their number identification and math fluency skills.

4th Grade News

4th grade has been really busy this past quarter. They are expanding their minds and learning so much every day.

In Math, the 4th graders worked on learning how to work with fractions. It can be quite a challenge to add/subtract and multiply/divide fractions. They are handling it very well and are really working on turning those fractions into a whole new skill!

In English Language Arts, the students were busy reading about historical fiction while reading an *I Survived* book. The students have also been busy working on their persuasive writing skills. They learned how to write both persuasive and personal essays.

In Social Studies, we have been studying the fur trade in Wisconsin. They learned about the European settlers coming over from France. They were able to practice some math skills by trading in their furs for European trading goods. They learned about the French voyageurs who were instrumental to the success of the fur trade for many decades. They got to design a trading post of their own and draw what it would have looked like inside and outside on the surrounding land around their post.

In Science, students spent much of their time working on an element poster. They were able to choose an element and give a description of it which helped them learn about the Periodic Table of Elements. They spent a lot of time working on the Rock Cycle including fossils and land formations. They were able to practice this by making a model of a landform.

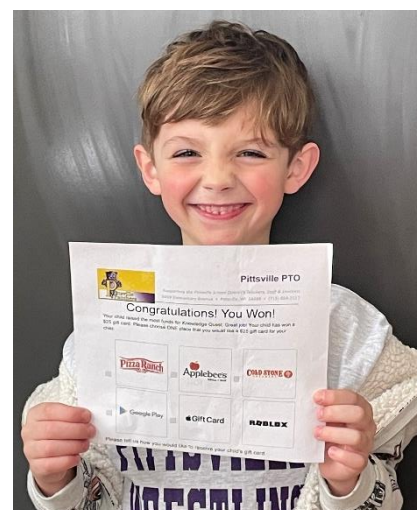
PTO Corner

The Pittsville PTO is excited that they were able to bring back in person events for the Pittsville students. Brian Richards with 4 Ace Productions presented educational magic shows to our elementary students. The 4k-4th grade students enjoyed his Inspector Potential program and the 5th - 8th grade students were entertained by his Ignite Your Potential program. The PTO looks forward to bringing more in person events to our students.



Knowledge Quest Results

The PTO Knowledge Quest Fundraiser was a huge success. The students raised \$5,336.25 and 60 students participated. Henry Hahn is the winner, raising \$625. Henry has a choice to make for where he would like his winning gift card to be from. Great job!



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