

Paton-Churdan Community School

October 2017

PARENTS, VISITORS & FRIENDS

FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE WE ASK THAT ALL PARENTS CHECK IN TO THE OFFICE ANY TIME THEY ENTER THE SCHOOL.

ALSO PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN DROPPING OFF OR PICKING UP STUDENTS TO PARK IN THE PARKING LOT, NOT IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING. THAT DRIVE IS SPECIFICALLY FOR BUSES OR SCHOOL VEHICLES.

Hot Lunch Reminder

October lunch/breakfast money is due. Don't forget you can check your students' lunch balance any time from the PC website by logging on to the JMC parent portal. If you have not set up a password please call Ann for assistance.

National Walk to School Day

Mark your calendars! Wednesday, October 4 is National Walk to School Day. We will once again be participating with a walking school bus in Churdan and a walking crew at the school. For more information on the day, see the letter sent home with your elementary school student or talk to Mrs. Towers.

2016-2017 Yearbooks for Sale!

Get your copy of the 2016-2017 yearbook before we sell out! Our FULL COLOR, WHOLE SCHOOL yearbook is a steal at just \$35! Grab a book to remember the year! Stop by the office, send money with your student, or grab one if we are selling at a home game!

Congratulations to our PC Homecoming Court

King Jake Berns

son of Brian & Lori Berns

Queen Grace Geisler

daughter of Greg & Heidi Geisler

Senior Court

Isaac Ireland nephew of Jenny & Ryan Mobley

Charlie Minnehan son of Anthony & Tami Minnehan

Jacob Thompson son of Marlin & Dezetta Thompson

Madisyn Behrens daughter of Jen Aubrey & Ben Behrens

Faith Davis daughter of Kelly & Ian Jewett and Cassie & Rickie Baugh

Kirsten Hoyle daughter of Kris Hoyle

Casey Richards daughter of Rob Richards & Sharron Baumgartner

Maria Tasler, daughter of Mike & Karen Tasler

Mariah Tasler, daughter of Mike & Karen Tasler

Junior Class Attendants

Megan Carey, daughter of Greg & Heather Carey

Clay Smith, son of Jake & Annie Smith

Sophomore Class Attendants

Madi Minnehan, daughter of David & Phyl Minnehan

Jon Thede, son of Jay Thede & Larena Foster

Freshman Class Attendants

Chloe Berns, daughter of Brian & Lori Berns

Connor Brus, son of John & Angie Brus

Mini King

Mason Kiley, son of Deanna Thompson & Joe Hood

Mini Queen

Rosalina Hartman-Redlin, daughter of Andrew Hartman

2017-2018 Yearbooks Available to Pre-Order!

Order a 2017-2018 Yearbook today and get the opportunity to personalize it! Order before October 27, 2017 and get FOUR icons for free! Another perk to ordering the yearbook early is that it comes at a discounted price of only \$30! To order go to www.jostensyearbooks.com.

The yearbook staff would also like your input in creating our title! We can't decide between "Making Our Mark" and "Leaving a Legacy". Please take the following survey to help us decide:

<https://goo.gl/forms/je5Tdrclu5OhP5E22>

Attention 5-12 Parents!

During the week of October 16, students in grades 5 through 12 will participate in the Gallup Student Poll. The survey is anonymous and voluntary. However your student does not have to participate in this survey. If you do NOT agree to have your 5-12 student(s) complete the survey, please complete the form that was sent home with your child or pick up the form in the office. If you have questions, contact Mrs. Towers.

ICAN FAFSA Assistance

A representative from the Iowa College Access Network will be at Paton-Churdan the morning of October 27 to help senior parents file the Free Application for Financial Aid (FAFSA). All senior parents are encouraged to take advantage of this service. Contact Mrs. Towers for more information and to reserve a meeting time.

A Tale of Two Art Rooms

A college friend of mine who is also an art educator is sharing a blog with me about strategies, lessons, and the fun we have in our art rooms. Although I never mention student names, I would love to include some photos of the students with their artwork. Since it is on Facebook, Instagram, our website, and Blogger, it is seen by anyone who wishes to see it so I will be sending home photo permissions for you to sign. If you do not wish your child to appear on the blog, I will make sure they do not appear on the blog. I may share photos of their artwork without sharing their faces.

~Mrs. Minnehan

ReCAPS

All Kindergarten through 5th grade students receive weekly CAPS lessons. CAPS lessons focus on the three domains of a well-rounded school counseling program designed to offer the most benefit to all students-- Careers, Academics, and Personal/Social skills. Below is a reCAP of topics and lessons during August and September. I often encourage students to take work home and tell their parents about what we are learning in CAPS. I now encourage you to talk to your child about CAPS lessons and find times to incorporate these lessons into your daily interactions.

To start the year each class learned about my role as school counselor whether it be through role playing or skits, a Counseling 1st Aid Kit or the book, Mrs. Joyce Gives the Best High Fives by Erainna Winnett. Students learned that Mrs. Towers cares for every student, is here to be a listening ear and that I am here to help students be successful in school and outside of school.

After learning about what Mrs. Towers role at the school, classes have discussed the following...

*K- We read Boris Bear Remembers His Manners by Andrea Doray. We made Bee reminders to remember to Bee nice, Bee polite, Bee a good friend!

*1st- We're talking about being a good friend-- We learned 5 Fabulous First Grade Phrases-- thank you, you're welcome, please, sorry and excuse me. We talked about when we use these phrases and how they help us be a good friend. We also learned about whole body listening with the help of Cookie Monster's mantra--eyes watching, ears listening, mouth quiet, body calm. To practice we played a lot of Mrs. Towers Says. We've got some great whole body listeners!

*2nd grade- We're focusing on skills to be a good friend. We watched the video "How to Lose Your Friends." From there we made a list of what we want in a good friend as a class and then created personal wanted posters for a good friend. Second grade was also initiated into our special Peace Club. They know PEACE begins with them and we'll be discussing conflict resolution skills throughout the fall to help us be good friends and stewards of peace.

*3rd grade-- We're taking a full class focus on personal responsibility. We read Julia Cook's "But It's Not My Fault." After reading the book we've worked through taking ownership of our actions and mistakes.

*4th grade-- We're learning about the brain. The amygdala, prefrontal cortex and the hippocampus. What are they and what do they have to do with mindfulness?! Ask your fourth grader, they know!

*5th grade-- We pledged to be PROUD leaders of the elementary. We understand that younger grades are looking up to us and it is our job to be positive examples. Now we're learning about goals. Fifth graders are answering the following questions--Why goals? What is the difference between short term and long term goals? And how do I create a SMART goal?

Please take the time to see what your student can tell you about these lessons and incorporate your own lessons or discussions. Building the social and emotional skills discussed throughout the month can not be mastered in a weekly 35 minute lesson. Thank you for your support! Mrs. Towers

1st grade Kind Kid's Club

by Ms. Menke

Each day the first graders end the day with a class meeting. We call this Kind Kid's Club! We talk about how to be kind, ways to be a PROUD rocket, how to solve a problem, what to do in sticky situations, and much more! Sometimes we even get Kind Kid's Club tasks. Our first task was to write kindness letters to victims of the hurricane in Texas. We wrote letters and illustrated pictures for the Royalwood first graders in Texas. We can't wait for our next KKC task!



K-8 Art

If you haven't heard, PC students received a beautiful gift from a famous artist in Germany who does large paintings of everyday items (our favorite was his candy art). The fifth grade PC students had communicated with Gunter Beier by email. We interviewed him about his work and ideas. He is a famous artist in Germany with artwork at the Haribo Company and art shows all over Germany and Korea. This summer, I sent him American candy and photos of the student work from the last two years. He surprised us by sending a valuable print of his work to the students of PC. The print has been framed and is on display in the foyer of the school. This is a very rare thing for an artist to do! The Jefferson Herald interviewed the students who were involved with the interview process and did a front page article about it.

THE JEFFERSON HERALD
Thursday, August 17, 2017 www.beherald.com \$1.00

120th Year Jefferson, Iowa

Back to school

SWEET SURPRISE
P-C students who made unlikely connection with a German artist returning from summer with a print waiting for them

By ANDREW MCGINN
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An artist in Germany whose work has been exhibited from Switzerland to South Korea should, in theory, have little in common with fifth-graders in Churdan, some of whom have never even been to Des Moines. Sometimes, though, all you have to do is ask.

In 2015, Tami Minnehan, the K-8 art teacher at Paton-Churdan Community School, reached out via email on a whim to Gunter Beier. Minnehan's fifth grade students were using candy in their still-life work.

Beier just so happens to have made a career out of painting candy — his hyper-realistic pop art oil paintings of translucent gummy bears and shimmering black licorice wheels in all their delectable glory have been gobbled up by the likes of Haribo, the German candy company that invented the gummy bear.

It turns out when working with candy as a subject matter — whether you're a fifth grader in Iowa or a working artist in Germany — it's customary to sample the goods.

"I always bought extra," Minnehan said recently.

Ditto for Beier.

"I buy more than I need. Because I know the state of affairs," Beier wrote to the students in an email. "The smell of candies or chocolate

for two or three weeks just in front of my nose — I can't resist."

An unlikely friendship was born. Beier answering their questions and sending the students copies of his books and Minnehan sending him photos of her students holding up work inspired by his along with American candy. (Would you believe that a country known for its engineering doesn't have Reese's Peanut Butter Cups?)

The relationship culminated this summer when Beier unexpectedly mailed P-C a personalized print just in time to greet students back to school.

"I got tears in my eyes when he sent it," Minnehan said. "He went through a lot of work to do it, and he's not that into kids."

Minnehan feels a little bad that

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P-C fifth graders have studied Beier's work (below) the past two years. "In honor of their work," he wrote last week in an email, "I send them my gift, the art-print, just like a reminder for a hopefully good time."

In Art:

Kindergarten has learned about Stonehenge. Using stones and rocks, we created a mini Stonehenge. We learned about post and lintel, where Great Britain is, what a horseshoe looks like, and how the people probably built Stonehenge. Larry the Line(a snake) has come out of his basket to teach us about horizontal, vertical, diagonal, wavy, zig zag, etc lines. We are also learning how to use a crayon in small and large spaces. For small spaces, we just use Larry's head and neck and for large, we use his whole body(our arms are snakes too!).

First Grade loves Larry the Line too. He showed them how a little snake spit(dot) and line snakes can create a one point perspective landscape. We mixed and blended crayon to review our skills. Now we are studying Piet Mondrian, an artist who used bare lines and shapes to create beautiful compositions. We are using primary colors plus black and white like he did in some of his work.

Second Grade is totally into trees! We are doing a pencil drawing of a tree after we went out with our sketchbooks and checked out what a tree really looks like. Thanks to Art Hub for Kids, we also learned how to draw and shade a tree. But our trees don't all look the same because each artist has their own style.

Third Grade is learning about self-portraits in perspective. By tracing feet and hands, we can make a person look like we are seeing them from underneath them.

Fourth Grade is learning about the parts of a face and how to draw just part of a face. We are using the medium of glue and chalk pastel to chop a face into a few parts. Pretty messy, but absolutely fun.

Fifth Grade is also studying self-portraits. Their portraits employ a watercolor wash and sharpie. We are also creating a movement effect by outlining the dark and light areas of the watercolor wash.

Sixth Grade studied artist Chuck Close. Chuck Close has face blindness, learning disabilities, was told he would never attend college, and later became a paraplegic, but he still paints! We watched a video about how he overcame the obstacles in his life. We were inspired by his photo realist work and how he used grids. They are creating self portraits using a tracing and grid method.

Seventh Grade Painting Class experimented with baking soda, salt, masking, and watercolor paints. We are now creating a watercolor visual rhythm piece of work by making templates and making our artwork help the eye "move" to create a sense of visual movement. We use overlapping and placement to create movement. Their templates included lobster, apples, brushes, pears, J's, squares, etc!

PC Preschoolers – Ready for Take Off!

By Mrs. Olson

The Paton-Churdan Preschool really grew this year. 20 students pile in our preschool room each day ready to play and learn!

Preschoolers started the year learning about our school and all of the new friends in class. They have been introduced to seven of the ten learning centers that are established in the preschool curriculum.

They also celebrated Curiosity Day with Curious George stories and a nature walk.

As busy as bees is a simile that would most describe the preschoolers at PC! They are excitedly preparing for take-off to becoming future PC Rockets and life-long learners!