

PCPS Blog

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What's Happening in PCPS

Critzler Elementary School

SOL Testing Schedule

3rd grade Social Studies on Monday, May 16th

5th grade Reading on Tuesday, May 17th

3rd grade Reading on Wednesday, May 18th

4th grade Reading on Thursday, May 19th

3rd grade Science on Friday, May 20th

Dublin Elementary School

DES students are gearing up for the Standards of Learning Assessments which begin next week. Students have been learning test taking strategies and reviewing content to prepare. It's helpful for children to have a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast on days that they test. Check with your child's teacher to see the exact schedule for his/her class.

The first grade students will be visiting the zoo on Friday. They have learned about animals, their habitats, and characteristics in preparation for the trip. Hopefully, they will have a beautiful day!

The Rockin' Afterschool students have a field trip to the Barter Theater planned for May 21. They will see a musical version of Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day. They are looking forward to the trip! The last day of the Rockin' Afterschool Program will be May 26.

School will be closed on May 30 in honor of Memorial Day. June 2 and 3 will be early release days.

First grade students performed at Monday's PTO meeting. They sang songs about animals and insects they have learned about this year. After the performance, Mr. Martin, a PE teacher at DES who won the "Kiss a Pig" contest at the Shamrock Festival did, indeed, kiss a pig! The delighted students watched as Ms. Cox, our librarian, and Mrs. Fuller, one of our first grade teachers, followed suit. We aren't sure how delighted the pig was, but we hope he enjoyed the attention!

Pulaski Elementary School

Pulaski Elementary School has been celebrating a great academic year this week! "SPIRIT WEEK" has been amazing. Students have been reviewing for SOLs, PALS and AIMS assessing for growth this year! We have been dressing each day of the week to celebrate our school spirit and pride. One day we were seeing doubles and triples...WHAT A FUN WEEK! Parent please help your child get the rest and food he/she made need during the SOLs.

READING AND FUN. Visit our library for a great BOOK FAIR going on all week. Parent volunteers have been assisting everyday! Come visit and pick out a good book. Lots of title to choose from and share with your child.

Plants, vegetables and herbs are blooming in the GREENHOUSE. Plants far available for sale at \$2.00 a 4-pack! Stop by at 3 PM. All money goes to the garden club

We want to thank our student school leadership team "Kids Helping Kids" for a safe year! They are been reliable, friendly, and focused in their daily job!

If you happen to drive by school yesterday, Wednesday, and saw 4th grade student busily working in one of the fields..they were reviewing Math and having fun at the same time. Teachers have been creative this year and numerous events were planned to capture the attention of the students. Thanks students, staff, and parents for a wonderful week!

Riverlawn Elementary School

Great Graphs!

Second grade students have been learning about graphing in math. In pairs, the students surveyed their class to collect data for their graph. Then the classes went to the computer lab to make a graph from the data they collected. The students typed in the title, categories, number increments, and added their data to create a graph. Some of the topics they chose were: favorite tv show, favorite sport, favorite after school activity, and favorite school lunch. The second graders are proudly displaying their "great graphing" on the second grade hall at Riverlawn!

Thanks!

Preschool, kindergarten, and first grade teachers would like to thank everyone who attended the PTO program on Tuesday, May 10th. The students worked hard and it showed! They performed several "Fairytale" songs, including: Three Little Pigs, The Big Bad Wolf, and Little Red Riding Hood.

Tadpoles

Mrs. Arnett's preschoolers and Mr. Ratcliffe's and Mrs. Hunt's first graders have new additions to their classrooms. They have welcomed a group of tadpoles. The students have been reading and completing fun activities on the transformation that the tadpoles will experience. They hope the students will observe the tadpoles turning into frogs before the year ends.

Snowville Elementary School

SOL TESTING

Third grade students will be taking their Standards of Learning tests this week (Monday – Social Studies; Tuesday – Reading; Wednesday – Math; Thursday – Science). Fifth grade students will be taking their Science test on Friday. To help motivate students to do their best, each member of the faculty and staff has been assigned to a grade level and subject. These individuals will provide motivational sayings, cards, treats and other good things to encourage students to do their best.

Dublin Middle School

Extended learning students in Ms. Bell's class are creating a school flower garden outside the cafeteria at Dublin Middle School. This project was proposed to combine practical math applications with an active, hands-on approach using science and math. In March they planted seeds in the classroom to observe and measure average growth. A soil sample was collected to analyze, the area was cleared of weeds and then measured to map. Bags of soil were added as well as a fence. Students created and cut out polygon shapes from a seed blanket garden mix which will attract hummingbirds and butterflies. These math students have calculated the cost of soil, fencing and plants to keep within the budget. Soon the plants will be transplanted according to each group's design. Students have enjoyed gardening and being outdoors in the spring and appreciate the support given by a grant from Remediation Innovation.

Anthony Phillips, a former Pulaski County student, visited Ms. McCain's science classes at Dublin Middle School on May 11, 2011. He talked with students about hydrological studies he has conducted in Pulaski County and Montgomery County while he was an undergraduate student at Virginia Tech. Anthony showed students the Max Creek watershed map as an example of the kinds of information he gathered about the local rivers and tributaries and their flooding potential.

Anthony is a storm chaser and is currently attending Ball University in Indiana to complete his master's degree in meteorology. He showed students precipitation maps and Doppler radar images of the two tornadoes that touched down in Pulaski County on April 8, 2011. Anthony was monitoring the radar images for Pulaski County from Indiana that night and called friends and family to warn them that they should take cover because the storms were unusually severe and beginning to show circular wind patterns. He also sent out alerts from his Facebook page to Pulaski County residents. Anthony showed the students how to utilize the maps and radar images to detect possible tornado formation.

After his presentation, Anthony answered a wide range of questions from the students and provided advice about moving to safety in various situations. He also showed students his NOAA radio and explained that when there is a weather alert, every locality's tone has a different frequency and that it would set off their NOAA radios that are battery powered. This is important if the family's electricity is interrupted and/or phone service is not available.

Anthony shared some storm chasing stories with the students and took them outside to see his vehicle equipped with radios, cameras, GPS equipment, laptop, and even an anemometer on the roof. He has had to install a solar cell just to power it all.

Anthony has traveled through the areas of Pulaski County that were affected by the tornadoes on April 8th, and wanted to help students understand how and where the tornadoes formed, how our mountainous terrain normally buffers us from severe tornadoes, and how residents can be better prepared if there is another tornado.

Pulaski Middle School

The Pulaski Middle School Chorus is wrapping up our school year. We will be presenting our 2011 Spring Concert Tuesday, May 24th at

7:00 pm in the Pulaski Little Auditorium. Song selections include Airplanes by B.o.B., For Good from Wicked, and Lucky by Jason Mraz. Admission is free! Come out and support our music program.

Mr. Whitaker's class will continue to review for the SOL test. Please check out the "SOL review at home" link on my web site – <http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/MrWhitaker/pc.cfm> if your internet connection is slow go to <http://teachersites.schoolworld.com/webpages/MrWhitaker/sol.cfm> for review activities. In class we are creating a review book using iPads and will continue with this activity until the SOL test date. If your child has not brought home an SOL review packet for USII please contact me and I will get them another one.

It is with many regrets that I have decided to retire this summer. Got to have a little fun, you know. I have loved it here, and all the people I have worked with. They are a great and special bunch!

I won't go fishing. Actually, I have discovered that I am a "nerd", and really like tinkering with electronics. This summer, I am planning to start my 'Electric car conversion adventure', in which I design and build an electric car. Wish me luck on that one! When I get it finished, I will bring it by the school to show the students, and maybe create some enthusiasm for an alternative to fossil fueled transportation. Maybe we can start a club activity or something like that.

I'll miss everybody! "Mr. Henry" Henry Aitchison, para-educator

Pulaski County High School

Approximately sixty junior students participated in the Youth Excel Program on May 12, 2011. Students had the opportunity to shadow positions in business, education, health care, media, parks and recreation, retail, industry and many others. This exciting program is available to juniors enrolled in US History courses. Thanks to the Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce for their hard work in making this opportunity available to our students.

PCHS FFA members Brittiany Mills, Brittany Sarver, Katlyn Smith and Taylor Smith placed third in the New River District Senior Livestock Evaluation Career Development Event at Virginia Tech on Tuesday, May 3. The contest required students to place four classes of livestock animals including Charolais bulls, Simmental heifers, breeding gilts and Suffolk ewes based on visual inspection and the use of EPD's (expected progeny differences). The contest was put on by Dr. Dan Eversole, Animal and Poultry Science Professor, in conjunction with his Livestock Evaluation final exam.

The Pulaski County High School Theatre Arts Departments presents LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS Friday night at 7:30 and Saturday at 2:30 and 7:30 this week (May 13 and 14) and Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 7:30 next week (May 19-21). Tickets for the show are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, students, and senior citizens. (This play is not recommended for small children). For more information, contact Jeff McCoy in the Theatre Arts Department at 643-0339.

PCHS Seniors will be making a special presentation on Friday May 13. Each graduating senior has been given the task of selecting a faculty or staff member in Pulaski County who has had a great impact on their school career.

The 6th annual Senior/Faculty Basketball game will be played Thursday night May 12. Proceeds will be given to the Tornado Relief Fund.

On Friday night May 6, in the PCHS Little Theater, "A Night on Broadway" was presented by our Drama, Band, Choir, Art, and Culinary Arts Departments. The production was a huge success with an overflow crowd. The departments collaborated on a night of music, food, and art work.

Pulaski County High School Chapter of the National Honor Society will induct their 2011 members on Sunday May 15 at 2:00 in the Little Theater.

PCHS CTE Industry testing will conclude on Friday May 13. This testing gives students the opportunity to earn certification of all areas of CTE, when they have completed the qualifications in their program.

Pulaski County High School girls softball team has now won four districts games in a row. The ladies are now currently in second and will host Hidden Valley on Friday May 13 at 5:00.

Tux and Drape pictures will be made for Juniors on May 23. These pictures are very important for next years annual. Wing IT supplies both the tux and the drape for the students. Pictures will be made during the school day in the CTE building.

Hat Day was held on Thursday May 12 and sponsored by Service Learning. Students donated \$1.00 for the privilege of wearing a hat. All proceeds will be directed to the Pulaski Tornado Relief Fund.

All core departments are gearing up for SOL's all this week. SOL's begin on May 16.

Bio-Bedazzlement 2011 was produced on Wednesday May 11 by the Honors Biology class. This annual event is a way of reviewing for SOL's through play acting, songs, and poetry. All other biology classes took part as an inter-active audience.

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