

Dates to Remember

Pawnee Elementary School Newsletter

Dear Parents,

It is January! Welcome back to school and to a new year! Believe it or not, we are already halfway through our school year! Please remember that students are outside for recess most days. Please ensure your child is dressed for the weather! Nobody wants to be outside on a cold day without their coat, hats, and gloves!

Second Quarter Report Cards will be sent home tomorrow. As always, if you find you have questions after you review your student's Report Card you should not hesitate to reach out to your student's teacher. It is also important to share this information and to discuss it with your student. This is a great time to set learning goals, or to reestablish learning habits, like homework completion or study habits. Younger students benefit from simple things like a regular routine that includes a scheduled time for homework completion (or reading a book, even if there is no homework). If you think of it just like you would a daily sport practice; "It" (HW or Practice) is something that you do at a "specific time" (after dinner), in a "specific place" (kitchen table), whether or not you have a "game" (HW), then HW routines will become not just a priority, but a lifestyle that will stay with your young learner for the duration of their educational journey. *After all, part of playing on a sport team includes scheduled practices outside of the game. Much the same, doing well in school also means "scheduled practice" (HW) outside of the "game" (school day)!*

Thank you for supporting
Pawnee Grade School!

Mrs. Loftis

Mark Your Calendar

The window for the state-mandated assessment is April 3rd-7th. This test is given in grades 3-6.

Absences for 3rd-6th graders during this window are **unexcused**.

Per our School Handbook, school work and homework missed during an **unexcused absence** receives a zero. This can have a huge impact on a student's grade.

January 4	Welcome Back Students!
January 5	Report Cards sent home
January 6	Geography Bee 1:30-3:00 (cafeteria)
January 16	MLK Day—No School
January 18	Jump Rope for Heart Kick Off Day
January 18	Board of Education Meeting (7PM)
January 23	2PM Dismissal
January 25	4th-6th Grade Spelling Bee (8:30)
January 27	End of Month Assembly (8:30)
January 30	Miles of Smiles



Please welcome our new speech pathologist,

Kathleen Brandt! Ms. Brandt has joined the Pawnee Team (via SASSED) full time! She is originally from Springfield, IL and graduated from Sacred Heart Grif-

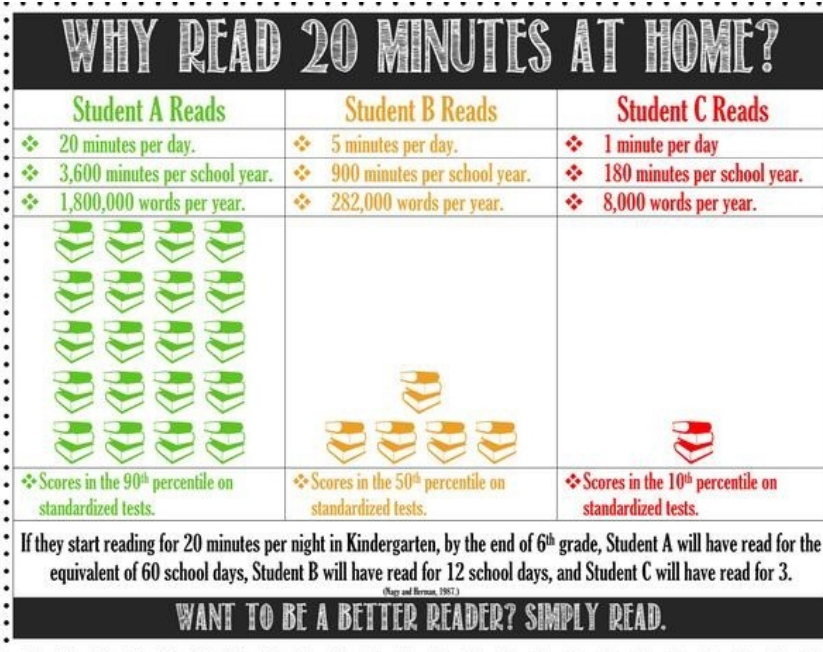
fin. She has a Bachelors in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Illinois State University where she graduated with Honors. She earned her Master's Degree in Speech Pathology and Communication Disorders from the University of Northern Iowa. She recently completed her internship in Pleasant Plains School District. We are so pleased to have her on our team! **Welcome Ms. Brandt!**

We also welcome Erika King to our PreK Program. Ms. King has substituted as a paraprofessional in the District for the last two years. Ms. King will help in the afternoon session of our half day PreK classroom. **Welcome Ms. King!**



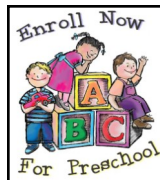
During our school's morning announcements students listen to *Words of Wisdom*. Each day either myself, or another student, shares an important message about character and life choices. The students and staff have expressed that they enjoy listening to and talking about the daily messages shared. These *Words of Wisdom* are an important piece of our character education program at our school. The messages are an intentional effort to help students understand, care about, and act upon core ethical values. Each message ends with the phrase, **"Make it a great day, or not."**

The choice is yours." Students are learning that THEY have the power to have a good day, regardless of the challenges the day might bring. If you would like to learn more about this program you can visit www.projectwisdom.com. Ask your student to share the daily message shared during morning announcements! I often have students tell me days after the fact, if there was a particular "message" shared that they enjoyed!



The Pawnee Preschool Program was awarded a State Pre-school Expansion Grant! This means that four year old students who meet eligibility requirements can attend a FULL DAY preschool program. We will continue to operate the HALF DAY Grant Program for at-risk three and four year olds, as well as the half day Tuition Program for students who are not grant eligible.

Our **PreK Spring Screening** is scheduled for March 30th and 31st. Students are eligible for the PreK Program as soon as they turn three years old. If you would like your child to be screened for the Program please call the Grade School Office at 625-2231.



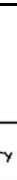
From the PTO...

There are no PTO Meetings in January.

Please consider joining us in February!

Please consider joining the PTO!

PTO Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM.



Top Tips...
For teaching new vocabulary

The amount of brain development that occurs from birth to age 3 is incredible!

It is argued that more brain development occurs from birth to age three, than in any other time of life.

Did you know that new research tells us that children in *robust* preschool programs have as much brain development in two years of preschool as what occurs in a child in grades K-4?

In other words, the brain of a preschool child in a *robust* preschool program develops in two years time, the same amount a child's brain develops in five years of grade school! Wow!!

