

Eagle Nation

Pontiac Academy for Excellence Elementary School

****ATTENTION PARENTS—A SECOND STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY HAS BEEN ADDED TO OUR CALENDAR IN THE MONTH OF MARCH. THERE WILL BE TWO DAYS WHERE SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED TO STUDENTS FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT. THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON BOTH FRIDAY, MARCH 20, AS WELL AS FRIDAY, MARCH 27. PLEASE MAKE ANY NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR STUDENTS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.**

A Note From Mr. Sedick

Hello everyone! As we begin to enjoy slightly warmer temperatures, I am encouraged that the end of this cold, blustery winter is approaching, and warm, sunny days are on the way. However, this has several implications on our school here in the heart of Pontiac. First, with the 3rd marking period coming to a close after this month, as always, it is imperative that parents keep in contact with their students' classroom teachers in order to keep their students in as good of shape academically before report cards come out.

Second, the staff of Pontiac Academy for Excellence will be spending a signifi-

cant amount of time analyzing student standardized testing scores, as the results from the MEAP will become available to staff this month. Teachers will have access to individual student achievement reports that they will be sharing with parents in the upcoming weeks. It will be essential to focus on areas of low achievement as we continue to work toward our goal of making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) at Pontiac Academy for Excellence.

Also, we are beginning to plan for supplementary academic programs to give our young people who fell short of achieving academic proficiency on this year's standardized tests. The

fourth segment of our after school tutorial program will begin at the midway point of this month, and will continue through the end of April. Also, we have begun to make plans for an upcoming Saturday School program that will be opened to students who meet certain achievement levels on standardized tests. There will certainly be more information regarding these programs when they are finalized.

As we enter March, please consider that there isn't much time left in our school year. In saying this, I am asking the parents to continue the wonderful support that they have given us in keeping our students focused, so that they can have every opportunity to be successful at PAE!

March is Reading Month!!!



With the month of March upon us, Pontiac Academy for Excellence staff members are planning to implement their ideas as they pertain to reading month in their classrooms. Throughout the school,

teachers will be conducting special lessons in their classrooms to promote a sense of enthusiasm and interest in reading. Through our partnership with our wonderful parents, Reading Month is sure to be a hit!

March 2009

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Upcoming Events

- Monday, March 2: Literacy Night at PAE from 5-6:30 pm
- Wednesday, March 4: Book Fair at PAE begins
- Thursday, March 12 and 26: TOY Parent Workshop Meetings from 6-7:30 pm
- **Friday March 20 and Friday March 27: No School Staff Development Days**

End of the 3rd Marking Period is Approaching!

The end of the 3rd marking period is set for Friday, April 3. Being that this date is rapidly approaching, it is essential to speak to our students regarding the importance of doing their best in school and not getting distracted. Our staff will serve as constant reminders to our young people of the importance of each and every lesson, assignment, quiz, and test that they will partake in over the course of the last 4 months of the school year. With the help and support of the parents, our teachers can get the maximum amount of educational output from our students.

Upcoming Saturday School Opportunities at PAE

This year, in an effort to give our students every opportunity to be successful that we can, PAE will be offering a Saturday School program for those students who qualify. The purpose of Saturday School is to give our students more chances to practice MEAP-style questions in order to prepare them for next Fall's test. Elementary students will have access to breakfast, one hour of Reading instruction, one hour of Writing instruction, one hour of Math instruction, as well as some time to get caught up on missing assignments,

and lunch will be provided. In order for this program to be successful, we need the full support of the parents of those students who will be invited to participate in this program. For the program to yield strong and successful results, it is key that students be in attendance each week of Saturday School. The start date for Saturday School is March 28. The program will extend for a total of 8 weeks, and will conclude in June. Parents, please be on the lookout for information regarding this incredible opportunity to get our young minds as prepared for next year's MEAP test as possible.

Upcoming Literacy Night at PAE

This month's Literacy Night is on Wednesday, March 25 at PAE. In contrast to Literacy Nights in the past, this one will feature the work produced by students, as we are continually working to engage our students, and increase their awareness and interest in reading. Students will be working on projects and activities throughout the month of March in preparation for this event. We look forward to seeing as many of

our students and parents at this event as possible, as we are always encouraging our little ones to become wonderful and skilled readers!

"All great achievements require time."
-Maya Angelou



Book Fair Arrives in March!!!

Greetings from the PAE Library!

We are scheduled to conduct our Spring 2009 Scholastic Book Fair from March 5 to March 13! The theme of this book fair is "Lights! Camera! Book Fair!" and we are very excited because reading makes our kids stars by engaging their imaginations as they experience and share the joy of reading! The book fair offers our community a chance for families to shop together in

a safe environment. The Scholastic Book Company delivers hundreds of quality books, suitable for every interest and reading level. They even provide a selection of discounted items to appeal to every budget! The profits from the book fair allow us to improve our library and expand our lending collection. In the past, we have earned hundreds of new titles for students to borrow! It is very exciting to watch and

listen to the classes visiting the book fair and then selecting our new library books based on our student's interests. The book fair is a great way for families to connect by reading together and sharing a love of books. Showing your child that reading really matters is one of the best examples you can possible set! Thank you for supporting the PAE Library!

~ Mrs. Weiler—Elementary Librarian