

Pella Middle School

Acclimating For the Future



Dates to Remember:

4/5	PD – 90 minute Early Dismissal
4/12	6 th Grade Orientation – This will take place during the school day.
4/14	No School – Good Friday
4/17	6 th Grade Orientation @ 6:30PM
4/19	PD – 90 minute Early Dismissal
4/22	8 th Grade Party @ 6:30
4/26	PD – 90 minute Early Dismissal
5/4	Tulip Time – Dismissal at 11:15
5/5	Tulip Time – Dismissal at 11:15
5/17	PD – 90 minute Early Dismissal
5/26	Last Day of School

Spring 2017 February, March, April

Spring is in the air, and the students and staff are clamoring to get outside to enjoy it! I don't know what it's like in your workplace, but Spring brings a certain excitement to the school setting each year - in addition to nicer weather, students and staff anticipate Tulip Time and then the end of a great school year. I'll be the first to admit that staying focused becomes an added challenge! With this in mind, I ask for your continued support in encouraging your kids during 4th quarter; we still have great work to accomplish these last few weeks! Help your kids to finish strong - continue to push them academically, and help them navigate finding balance in their lives during these busy, exciting final days of 7th and 8th grade.

Maximizing Life's Opportunities for Every Child

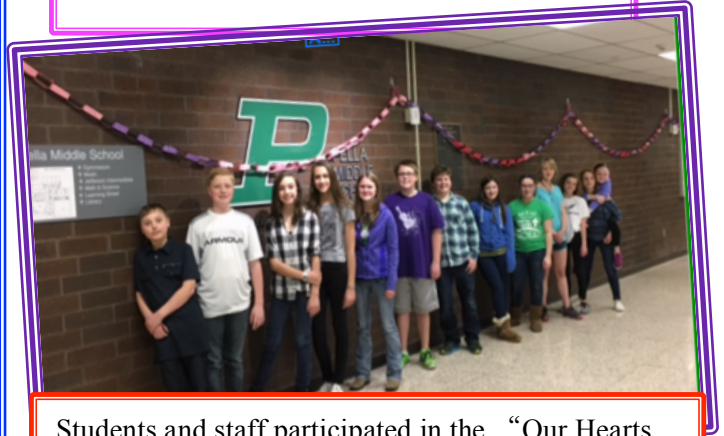
Student Accomplishments



Geordie Laidlaw
8th Grade

Geordie Laidlaw was awarded a \$1200 grant from the Pella E-Cycling Committee. Geordie showed impressive initiative and leadership during the application process. The e-cycling grant has provided funds for a water bottle filling station, which has been added to our Middle School Cafeteria. These filling stations help eliminate the use of disposable, plastic water bottles and are friendlier for our environment!

Our Hearts Are Linked



Students and staff participated in the “Our Hearts are Linked” fundraiser, which helped raise awareness and money for the American Heart Association. **RED** links are “in memory” of someone who passed away due to a heart related condition; **PURPLE** links are “in honor” of someone who is a survivor of a heart related condition due to medical treatment; **PINK** links are “in celebration” of those who have not had a heart related condition. Thanks to all who participated!

Exhibiting Global Awareness



Chelsea Jorgensen, Brynn Randol and Ashley Blommers sell pretzels on Valentine’s Day to raise money for Meals from the Heartland.

Attitude determines preparation, preparation determines outcome.

Student Accomplishments

EXTENDED

Metaphors

Students in Mrs. Brand's Language Arts Class use extended metaphors to demonstrate status quo.

Status quo is a prison.
Bars are holding you in to a certain way.
The schedule is the same every day.
You have little choice in where to go and what you can do.

Those in power hold the keys.
Breaking free results in trials, and you're often judged along the way.
Trapped between the walls of society.

Status quo is a fence.
It keeps certain things in and others out.
There are some that dislike the fence.
They jump over, they climb, they break it down.
Sometimes the fence is sharp, hurting those that challenge its boundaries.

Yet, there is often a gate
That allows people to pass through.
Society holds the key to the gate.
Only some people will find it.

Status quo is water.
You can clearly look through it
To see how things really are.
It takes on different shapes depending on
Purity, temperature, and form.

Water runs its course
Until it's challenged or changed.
It seeps into everything.
Water is never ending,
But it can fall.

Pursuing Excellence



The Mathcounts team competes in the State Competition at Drake University.

Pictured from the left: Will Rasmussen, Julia Smart, Tony Schmitz, Cooper Vos and Vaughn Thompson.

THANK YOU!



Check In / Check Out in the Office

It was a coughing, sneezing, stuffy-head, sore throat, stomachache kind of winter! Hopefully the warmer weather is chasing away the germs.

Just a friendly reminder - if your child is not feeling well during the school day, he/she should check in at the nurse's office before plans are made for the student to go home. Often times we are able to provide assistance, which then allows for the student to continue with his/her school day. We appreciate your continued support of our Middle School!



Did you know?

Pella Middle School has 120 student athletes participating in track?

70 Boys' & 50 Girls'



8GP - 8th Grade Party

Two weeks from Saturday is the big day; I am sure you are all excited! Please have your sons/daughters turn in their 8th grade party invitations to the office at their earliest convenience. The planning committee would appreciate it.

Rhonda Showman: showmanrk@gmail.com



Respecting and Developing Every Child's Potential

A Night of Stars

Launching Arrows, created by Pella Middle School's Kelsie Sheets, will be hosting its first annual prom for individuals in our communities with special needs. This event is about celebrating these individuals and letting them know that their lives matter. They were created with a purpose and it's time these individuals are treated like the kings and queens they are.

When: Saturday, May 13, 2017

Where: 2110 Vermeer Road East, Pella, IA 50219

Time: 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. (Walk-in starting at 6:30 p.m.)

Ages 12+

More stories online:

<http://whotv.com/2017/04/03/pella-students-excited-for-special-prom-started-by-teacher/>

<https://www.facebook.com/WHOHD/videos/10158461592080313/>

Summer Tennis

Lots of opportunities exist for youth tennis this summer in Pella! Click on the link to find out more or

contact brandt.lindsay@gmail.com with questions.

<https://sites.google.com/view/pellatennisassociation/home>



Respecting and Developing Every Child's Potential



Winter Sports Change

What is a split season?

Starting next school year, Pella Middle School winter sports will go to split seasons. Split season means the wrestling and girl's basketball season will be before Christmas break, and the boys' basketball season will be after Christmas break. The following are some of the reasons discussed at a recent conference athletic director (AD) meeting:

- Several other conferences are going to split seasons.
- DCG, Indianola, and Norwalk already do split season.
- There will be minimal morning practices because boys and girls' teams will not have to compete for gym space. We will have two gyms and two teams sharing space rather than four teams trying to share space.
- Student athletes can try both wrestling and basketball.
- Transportation will be easier to schedule for the district.
- A girls' basketball coach could do boys' basketball if there is a need to find coaches.
- It may help season parameters: School season / Club or AAU season. Encourage these coaches to not compete with each other.
- Consensus: All Little Hawkeye Conference MS and HS AD's are committed to split season 17-18: Girls BB & WR before Winter Break, Boys BB after break.
- If you have any questions, please call or email Mr. Tjeerdsma scott.tjeerdsma@pella.k12.ia.us

Character Counts



Character is what you show when no one is watching.

2016-2017 Approved District Calendar:

http://www.pellaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-17_SchoolCalendar.pdf

Middle School Specific Site:

<http://www.pellaschools.org/schools/middle-school/>

Middle School Handbook:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11sbdnoekXycEhaCmud0jfVtG3MQLNqjrFWv29sFkJik/edit>

Middle School Band:

<https://sites.google.com/a/pella.k12.ia.us/middle-school-band/>

Pella 1:1 Handbook:

https://docs.google.com/a/pella.k12.ia.us/document/d/1QyO3_S40mTFuauYwSz6lXI5SsjYh68y-h9K8qZ6M5VM/edit

Pella Digital Learning Environment (DLE) Link:

<http://pcsd-dle.blogspot.com/>