

# Pella Middle School

## *Acclimating For the Future*

September 2016



### Dates to Remember:

- 10/5 PD – 90 min early dismissal
- 10/10 Parent Teacher Conferences  
3:30 – 7:00
- 10/12 PD – 90 min early dismissal
- 10/18 2 Hour early dismissal
- 10/20 2 Hour early dismissal
- 10/21 No School
- 10/26 PD – 90 min early dismissal
- 10/28 First Quarter Ends
- 11/2 PD – 90 min early dismissal
- 11/2 Club Day
- 11/2 HS Musical - "The Music Man"  
11:30 -1:30
- 11/7 Parent Teacher Conferences  
3:30 – 7:00
- 11/9 PD – 90 min early dismissal
- 11/24 No School – THANKSGIVING
- 11/25 No School

### September 2016

Your kids are at a fascinating stage of life; I get such a kick out of them and enjoy them so much. Last year I shared a post about watching them sprint outside to recess after lunch and play so hard like little kids and then an hour later observing them in deep, mature conversations in class. What a complicated, exciting flux between childhood and nearing adulthood. As you help them through this complicated stage, remember to be patient and to cherish this brief period!

Check out the link below!

<http://inallthings.org/how-to-help-your-kid-survive-middle-school/>

*Maximizing Life's Opportunities for Every Child*

# Parent Teacher Conferences

## Monday, October 10 from 3:30-7:00

Now that we have been in school for about seven weeks, conferences are a great time for you to come in and ask questions, get to know your child's teachers better, clear up misconceptions, and partner with us in your child's education. We encourage you all to join us on Monday, and we thank you for your support of Pella Middle School. Below you will find the letter I sent a couple of weeks ago.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We welcome and encourage all middle school students and parents to join us for conferences on Monday, October 10 and Monday, November 7 from 3:30 PM to 7:00 PM. Each teacher will personally invite certain students and/or parents via phone, email, or hard copy. Please respond to your invitation at your earliest convenience. If you or your student does not get a personal invitation for conferences, please know we welcome and encourage all to attend.

Schedules will be posted on all teachers' doors. You may sign up during the days of conferences on a vacant time slot, or feel free to email any teacher with whom you wish to meet. This is an opportunity to understand and support your student's needs and for teachers to answer questions you may have. We appreciate your participation and partnership in your student's education.

### Schedule:

- October 10 - Full school day **\*Conferences 3:30 - 7:00 PM**
- October 18 and 20 - District-wide two hour early dismissal for K-6 conferences
- October 21 - No Classes
- November 7 - Full school day **\*Conferences 3:30 - 7:00 PM**

Respectfully,

*Mr. Manning*

*Opportunity is missed by most because it is dressed in overalls and it looks like work.*

# Peer 2 Peer Pella

**Peer 2 Peer Pella** is a mentoring program between general education students and students with disabilities. It is a reverse integration system that allows students with disabilities to interact with general education peers and work at their own skill ability in the special education environment. Student mentors have signed up to help at least one time per week during their study halls and lunch periods. Being a mentor allows students to work on leadership and compassion, while creating long lasting relationships with their peers. Currently, we have 28 students signed up in the Peer 2 Peer program.



**Above: Caden Verhoef works with Ella Jahner on an activity teaching the importance of following directions.**



**Left: Peer 2 Peer participants join together to enjoy a Constitution Party planned by students from the resource room.**

**You can be the Best, You can do the Best, or you can give it your Best Shot.**

# Peer 2 Peer Pella Continued

## Peer 2 Peer Group Photos



Participants listed in no particular order:

Ella Jahner, Bailey Knouse, Jayden Richards, Alyssa Geetings, Carver VanZee, Brooklyn Huizer, Madison Smith, Brynnlin Kroymann, Ella Kiene, Kaina Geetings, Cameron Knox, Emma Robinson, Abbi Adrian, Bailey McClaughlin, Brionna Phelan, Alexa Gaylor, Ashly Kamerick, Cailee Dix, Callista Webb, Aidan Johnson, Faith Diers, Willa Kelpe, Zarah Van Dyk, Devin Arkema, Kaci Brown, Sierrah Hilligas



Don't wish for anything more than you're willing to work for.

# All Students

## HyVee Donates Again



HyVee Manager, Derrick Sparks, and his team continued to demonstrate their generosity and drive to partner with our schools by donating over 350 water bottles for our students this month. They encouraged our students to stay hydrated as they work hard to maintain their academics while being involved in extra-curricular activities. Thank you HyVee!

*The only time success comes before work is in the dictionary.*

## Gymnasium Sound System Fundraiser



We are \$4,400 closer to our \$14,000 goal for a much needed gymnasium sound system upgrade, and we will continue to work toward the goal over the course of this school year. This month, we were very fortunate and blessed to have an anonymous donation of \$1000. We use our gymnasium regularly for

classes, but we also host multiple middle school events in which a sounds system is necessary. We know an improvement will allow us to provide better quality for our spectators in the future.



*There are no victories at discount prices.*

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Party (8GP)

The 8th grade party planning is not quite lurking around the corner; however, it seems like an appropriate time to share general information about what the 8th grade party is in case you do not know. The 8th grade party is an annual tradition that continues to be a success because of such supportive parents. A



team of parents will attempt to make it an event focusing on the students in a less formal setting. Please consider being a part of the planning for this year. You, the



parents, make nearly all the decisions about the 8th grade party and dictate what type of party it is, and I want to express my gratitude in advance for those willing

to assist with the planning and preparation of this annual tradition. I am looking for a parent volunteer to take the lead. If you would like to play a pivotal role in the success of this annual tradition, please let me know. Thank you in advance!

*Nobody Cares How Much You Know...  
Until They Know How Much You Care.*

**Did you know we serve 158 seventh grade students and 178 eighth grade students at the Pella Middle School?**

# All Students

Why do we exist, what do we want to accomplish, and who are we as a school/school district? These are questions and guidelines we will use to maintain our focus.

## Pella Community School District

### Why do we exist?

(Mission and Vision)

*To Maximize Life's Opportunities  
for Every Child.*

The Pella Community School District strives to be the best in the world at preparing students to be productive team members of society by teaching them to solve problems with unpredictable solutions. This happens through the following:

- Creating a passion for things students care about
- Teaching students how to ask questions that beg for solutions
- Developing a perspective that causes one to consider other points of view when considering solutions
- Experimenting with the impact of solutions to weigh the personal and economic costs of the solutions
- Teaching students ways to self-assess the quality of their solutions



### What do we want our students to accomplish?

(Goals)

#### **BECOME A PERSON OF INTEGRITY AND PERSONAL BALANCE**

- Students will manage their physical, emotional, and social health. Students will demonstrate and practice the pillars of character in a safe learning environment.

#### **IMPROVE ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY**

- All students will make growth regarding established standards and performance expectations. In addition, all students will achieve identified proficiency levels.

#### **DEVELOP COMPLEX THINKING SKILLS**

- All students will increase proficiency in problem solving models in all subject areas.

#### **BECOME AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR**

- All students will communicate effectively with others in a variety of contexts and formats including reading, writing, speaking, listening and interpersonal skills.

#### **DEMONSTRATE TEAMWORK/ COLLABORATION**

- All students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to achieve a common goal.

#### **EXHIBIT GLOBAL AWARENESS**

- All students will analyze ways their actions, as well as the actions of others, impact the world environmentally, socially, culturally, politically, and economically.

### Who are we?

(Brand Pillars)

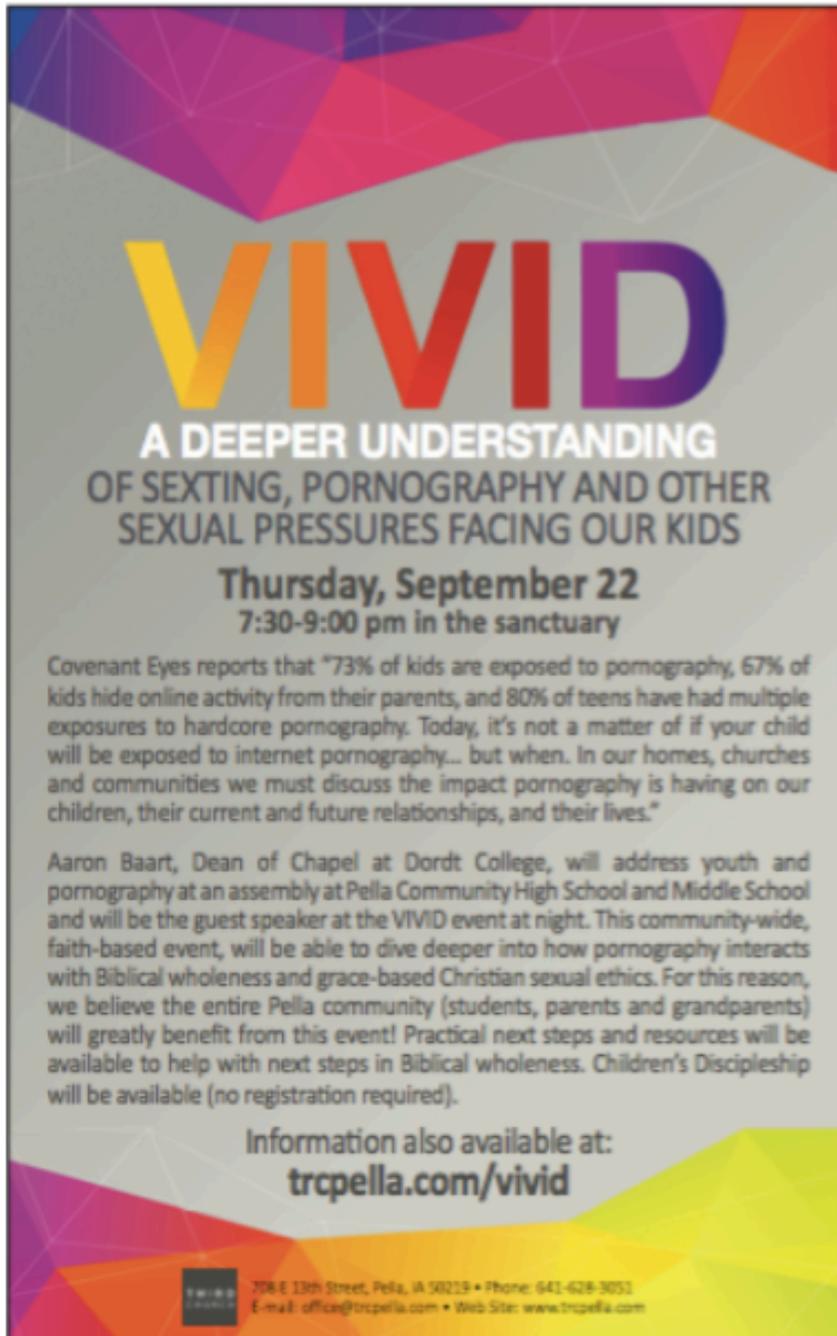
**We are Pella Community Schools**  
Pursuing Excellence  
Building Caring Relationships  
Respecting and Developing Every Child's  
Potential



*Maximizing Life's Opportunities for Every Child*

# Aaron Baart Assembly

Unfortunately today, it's not a matter of whether your child will be exposed to Internet pornography...but when.

A poster for a VIVID event. The word "VIVID" is written in large, colorful letters (V: yellow, I: orange, V: red, I: purple, D: blue). Below it, the text reads "A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SEXTING, PORNOGRAPHY AND OTHER SEXUAL PRESSURES FACING OUR KIDS". The date and time are "Thursday, September 22, 7:30-9:00 pm in the sanctuary". A quote from Covenant Eyes is included: "73% of kids are exposed to pornography, 67% of kids hide online activity from their parents, and 80% of teens have had multiple exposures to hardcore pornography. Today, it's not a matter of if your child will be exposed to internet pornography... but when. In our homes, churches and communities we must discuss the impact pornography is having on our children, their current and future relationships, and their lives." The speaker is Aaron Baart, Dean of Chapel at Dordt College. The poster also provides contact information for trcpella.com/vivid and the address: 708 E 13th Street, Pella, IA 50219. Phone: 641-628-3051. E-mail: office@trcpella.com • Web Site: www.trcpella.com.

**VIVID**  
A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING  
OF SEXTING, PORNOGRAPHY AND OTHER  
SEXUAL PRESSURES FACING OUR KIDS  
Thursday, September 22  
7:30-9:00 pm in the sanctuary

Covenant Eyes reports that "73% of kids are exposed to pornography, 67% of kids hide online activity from their parents, and 80% of teens have had multiple exposures to hardcore pornography. Today, it's not a matter of if your child will be exposed to internet pornography... but when. In our homes, churches and communities we must discuss the impact pornography is having on our children, their current and future relationships, and their lives."

Aaron Baart, Dean of Chapel at Dordt College, will address youth and pornography at an assembly at Pella Community High School and Middle School and will be the guest speaker at the VIVID event at night. This community-wide, faith-based event, will be able to dive deeper into how pornography interacts with Biblical wholeness and grace-based Christian sexual ethics. For this reason, we believe the entire Pella community (students, parents and grandparents) will greatly benefit from this event! Practical next steps and resources will be available to help with next steps in Biblical wholeness. Children's Discipleship will be available (no registration required).

Information also available at:  
[trcpella.com/vivid](http://trcpella.com/vivid)

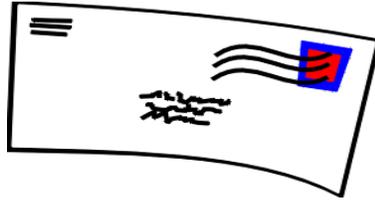
708 E 13th Street, Pella, IA 50219 • Phone: 641-628-3051  
E-mail: [office@trcpella.com](mailto:office@trcpella.com) • Web Site: [www.trcpella.com](http://www.trcpella.com)

**Aaron** and Nicole Baart visited Pella Community High School and Pella Community Middle School this month. They delivered a compelling and meaningful message. If you have not yet spoken with your middle school student about the content, I would encourage you to do so. I know it is not easy, but it is necessary. Lastly, if you were unable to attend the evening session, Third Reformed Church will have DVDs of the presentation. I am grateful they came, and I believe it was impactful. Thank you for your support of this presentation.

***A big part of being successful is being prepared.***

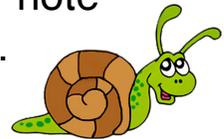
## Monthly Parent/Guardian Challenge

SNAIL



MAIL

In this age of computers and cell phones, communicating over long distances is literally right at our fingertips. Fast and convenient seems to be the trend! Situations where an envelope and stamp are needed may be rare for our students' generation, but they still exist. When you get the chance, help your child address and stamp a blank envelope. Better yet, encourage your child to write a nice note to a family member or friend, and send it through the mail. These are great skills to know now and for the future.....



### Cappin' for Childhood Cancer

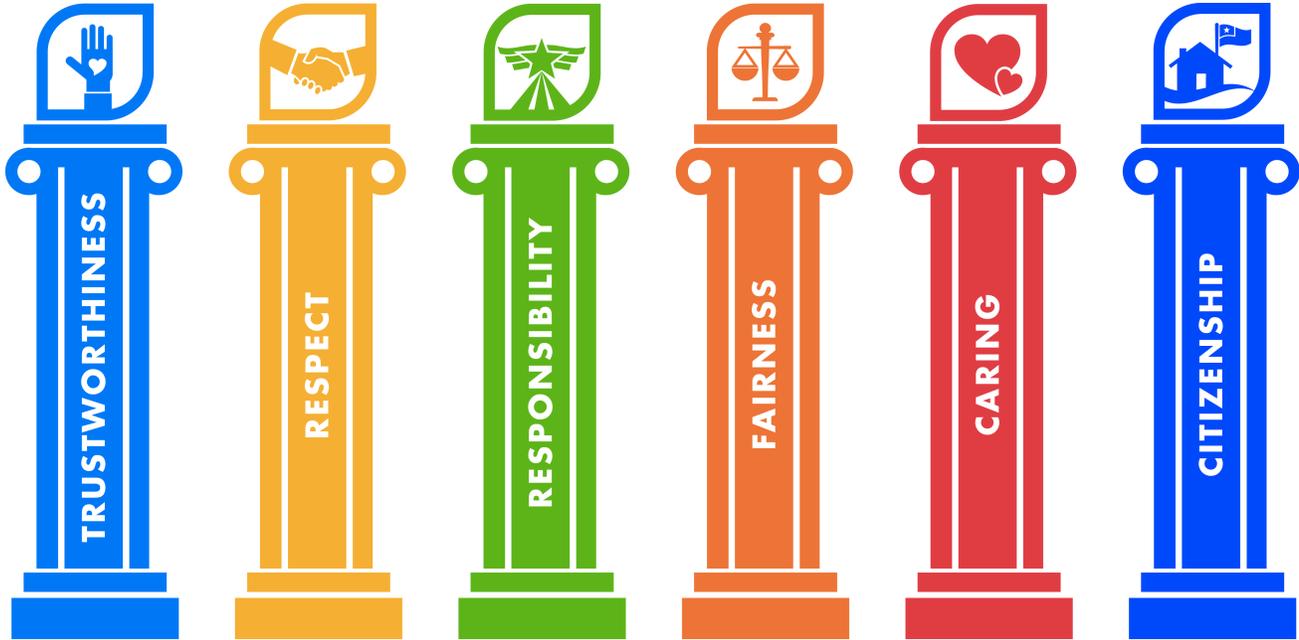
September is National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. In support of those kids who are undergoing treatment for their illnesses, we offered the students and staff an opportunity to participate in our

"Cappin' for Childhood Cancer" event. By donating \$1, they were allowed to wear a hat or scarf to school on Friday, September 23. We had many people participate and over \$228 was raised for this amazing cause! We are anticipating this amount to grow as we offer more CCC days throughout the year.



*Attitude determines preparation,  
preparation determines outcome.*

# Character Counts!



*Character is what you show when no one is watching.*

before you speak

**think!!**

- t + is it true?
- h + is it helpful?
- i + is it inspiring?
- n + is it necessary?
- k + is it kind?

# Laptop Reminders

## Tips for Parents - Social Media

- Set parameters on laptop usage at home.
- Avoid having your student use his/her laptop in his/her room.
- Have a “charging station” in the kitchen, so it does not have to go to student’s room for charging.
- When your students are using their devices, have them sit with their backs to you, so you can see their screens.
- Anytime your students create a new account, sit next to them, so you know the usernames, passwords, and abilities of the site.
  - Then check their usage once in a while to hold them accountable.
- Have your students explain the purpose of the site they are using/accessing.

## **Avoid laptop screen breakage - speak with your student about ways to avoid spending \$200-350 to replace an LCD projector/screen.**

- Avoid leaving the charger tip on the keyboard when shutting the lid.
- Avoid leaving headphones on the keyboard when shutting the lid.
- Avoid leaving pens/pencils on the keyboard when shutting the lid.
- Avoid leaving papers with paper clips or staples on them when shutting the lid.

These simple steps can help students reduce the likelihood of replacing their screens.

## Academic and Eligibility Policy

The faculty and administration of Pella Middle School have developed the following policy for students who are failing classes. A list with any student failing a class will be compiled by the iStudy Supervisor through Infinite Campus software, and the list will be compiled approximately every four weeks. See schedule below. Students failing any class will be placed on the Academic and Ineligibility List. Students not participating in extracurricular activities will be required to stay after school on Wednesdays from 1:45 to 3:15 for two weeks. Students participating in extracurricular activities will be rendered ineligible under this policy to represent Pella Middle School in any public extracurricular performance, as well as required to stay after school on Wednesdays from 1:45 to 3:15 for two weeks. Once a student is placed on the Academic and Ineligibility List, he/she will not be removed until the end of the second week (i.e. Wednesday morning through Tuesday end of day for two weeks in a row).

- The academic list will be compiled on Monday at 3:15.
- Student on the academic list who is failing a class will call home on Tuesday to communicate their grade with parents or guardian.
- The ineligibility period will start Wednesday and will run through the end of the day Tuesday two weeks later.
- Each student on the list will be required to stay after school both Wednesdays during the two weeks in an after school study hall from 1:45 - 3:15. Students may also be required to stay after school at any time during those two weeks in order to receive additional academic support.
- A list of all eligible students will be provided to the athletic director, the principal, and each coach as soon as the list is compiled.
- Extracurricular activities covered by this policy, but are not limited to: football, volleyball, cross-country, wrestling, basketball, track, shooting team, softball, cheerleading, jazz band, and show choir.
- Students will participate in any co-curricular events if it is required as part of a class grade.
- Being on the academic ineligibility list does not prohibit the student from practicing with the team.
- The administration will have the final say if there are any discrepancies.
- This list is confidential and will not be posted or made public.

Welcome to Pella Middle School! My name is Anne Pentico, and I am the middle school counselor. This is my 6th year as the school counselor in this building, 10th overall. I thoroughly enjoy working with middle schooled-aged people and supporting their ever-changing needs.

As the Pella Middle School counselor, my primary responsibility is to support the academic, career, and personal/social development of every student. I will do this in a number of ways including meeting with students individually and in small groups, but also conducting large group or classrooms lessons throughout the year. I also work with parents, collaborate with teachers and staff, and consult with community services and organizations to meet the needs of Pella Middle School students and their families.

Any student can request to meet with me or can be referred by a teacher, administrator, or parent. I encourage you to reach out if you have concerns about your child, and if you would like your child to meet with me, please contact me directly. I can be reached by email at [anne.pentico@pella.k12.ia.us](mailto:anne.pentico@pella.k12.ia.us) or by telephone at [641.628.4784](tel:641.628.4784).

Thank you, Mrs. Pentico

**2016-2017 Approved District Calendar:**

[http://www.pellaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/2016-17\\_SchoolCalendar.pdf](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\\_S4OmTFuauYwSz6IXl5SsjYh68y-h9K8qZ6M5VM/edit](https://docs.google.com/a/pella.k12.ia.us/document/d/1QyO3_S4OmTFuauYwSz6IXl5SsjYh68y-h9K8qZ6M5VM/edit)

**Pella Digital Learning Environment (DLE) Link:**

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

**Activities/School Calendar - has ALL 2016 - 2017 district activities:**

[http://www.littlehawkeyeconference.com/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5genie=206&school\\_id=4](http://www.littlehawkeyeconference.com/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5genie=206&school_id=4)

*Maximizing Life's Opportunities for Every Child*