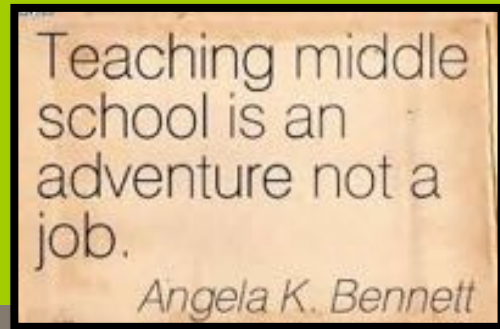


# Pella Middle School



## December - 2017

In the midst of learning, we were able to find a little time for holiday spirit – complete with pajamas, candy canes, ugly sweaters, hot cocoa, and Christmas socks and snacks! Our students and staff spent the last twelve days before break enjoying your children immensely. They have such great character and good hearts, and they know the importance of relationships and being grateful. I hope you were able to spend quality time with your child(ren) over break. They are fantastic kids, and we feel blessed to have the opportunity to learn from and with them every day.

### Dates to Remember:

12/25-1/2	Break
1/3	Class Resume
1/3 – 1/5	2 Hour Late Starts
1/11	End 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester End 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter
1/12	No Class
1/15	Begin 2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester Begin 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
1/17	1:45 PD Dismissal
1/24	1:45 PD Dismissal

*Maximizing Life's Opportunities for Every Child*

# Respecting and Developing Every Child's Potential

## Hand-Sewn Emoji Pillows



*Independent Living FCS students recently learned the basics of hand-sewing. Students got to apply their newfound skills by hand-sewing an emoji pillow with their choice of facial expression.*

## Guinness World Record Attempted Again

The Pella Middle School 7th grade students participated in a Guinness World Record attempt for most cup stackers stacking on the same day on November 9, 2017. Last year the record was set at 622,809, and we were a part of setting that record. The goal for this year was 635,000, and we reached an impressive 578,704. Along with our Pella students, this event has included 24 countries around the world.

**\*\*See Photos Below\*\***

*Ability is what you have; skill is what you learn.*

# Pursuing Excellence

## Guinness World Record Attempt Photos



Developing Every Child's Potential



# Become a Person of Integrity and Personal Balance

## Lending A Helpful Hand



Carver VanZee and Caden Riggen work hard to get their work finished in class, so they can lend a helpful hand to our school building. They are in the middle of renovating a small garden area in the back of the building, as well as cleaning up some plants in the front of the building. We have such great kids, and the list of those willing to lend a helpful hand in order to keep our building and grounds looking nice is endless. We want to extend our gratitude to each and every one of them for their help. We appreciate it, and I think they enjoy the opportunity to serve and work with their hands as well.

A big part of being successful is being prepared.

# Exhibiting Global Awareness



Marion County Public Health Department

PO Box 152 • 2003 N. Lincoln

Knoxville, Iowa 50138

Phone: 641.828.2238 Fax: 641.842.3442

A little over a month ago, students participated in an after school event for Red Ribbon Week. Pella Middle School graciously allowed me to host a pizza night with fun activities of button making and volleyball. This was a great opportunity for me to promote drug prevention, but also to shed light on a statewide program that is led by youth. Iowa Students for Tobacco Education & Prevention, or ISTEP, is an organization that was started by high school students who were tired of tobacco hurting family and friends. Every county in the state of Iowa has the opportunity to start a chapter in their community. All that is needed is an adult and at least three students who are interested in working with me to make a difference. To promote tobacco prevention we would plan a minimum of one event a year. There are lots of ways to do this, my event was just one example. I am looking for students or even an already existing group that would be interested in forming the first chapter in Marion County. If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact me. I can be reached at 641-828-2238 ext. 149 or via email at [vstalter@marionph.org](mailto:vstalter@marionph.org).

-Venessa Stalter  
Marion County Public Health Department



*You can be the best, you can do the best, or you can give it your best shot.*



# Pursuing Excellence



Annually, Pella Middle School staff get Tom, our 15 year old frozen turkey, out of the freezer to take on the students in a little bowling competition. The winning percentage speaks for itself, because the staff are 15-0 when it comes to wins and losses. If you look at the picture, you will see why we have the success rate we do. Staff like “Turkey Legs Tangen” take this event very seriously. Just look at the form and follow through on this roll! The most important element of this event is the comradery we build with the students through healthy competition. We enjoy the opportunities we get to partner with our students in fun events in order to show them how much we care, even though we are a pretty competitive bunch.



**Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care.**

# Exhibiting Global Awareness

## So...what are Screen Agers?

According to "Screenagers" filmmaker, Delaney Ruston, students today are spending an average of six-and-a-half hours a day in front of screens, and that is where the name Screenager came to be. It is important that we partner to help students navigate the digital world while emphasizing the importance of balance in their lives. In January or February, we plan to show "Screenagers" to all fifth through eighth grade students. We believe it will raise some great questions and conversations around screen time. We will invite any parents willing to join us for this learning opportunity, and we will keep you posted to when we will be viewing it. In the meantime, you can learn more about "Screenagers" at the link on the bottom of this page, and there is an excellent article on the heavy price we may pay when we turn to iPhones for childcare.

[https://growingleaders.com/blog/heavy-price-pay-iphones-become-babysitters/?utm\\_source=Master+List+%28Monthly,+Weekly,+Daily,+Events+%26+Offers%29&utm\\_campaign=b4fb5ab2de-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_b8af65516c-b4fb5ab2de-304166589h](https://growingleaders.com/blog/heavy-price-pay-iphones-become-babysitters/?utm_source=Master+List+%28Monthly,+Weekly,+Daily,+Events+%26+Offers%29&utm_campaign=b4fb5ab2de-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b8af65516c-b4fb5ab2de-304166589h)



<https://www.screenagersmovie.com/>



*No significant learning happens without a significant relationship.*



# Exhibiting Global Awareness

## Paying It Forward

Sami Clark, 7<sup>th</sup> grade, was able to deliver over 30 Care Bags to the Crisis Intervention Services (CIS) in Oskaloosa. Thanks in part to her former 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Foskett and her organization, and over **100** various body and hygiene products donated! This was the portion of her Global Goals assignment with her focus on Gender Inequality for her Social Studies class.

Sami explained who she was, who she represented, and the why and where this all came from. The director, Marsha (seen in the picture with Sami) told her, "I don't know you very well, young lady, but I can sense your heart. It's good." What better compliment could there be?

Sami learned a lot from her experience, but two takeaways really stuck out:

1. There is always a need, but CIS specifically had been hoping for warm blankets for children. The Care Bags Sami delivered were FILLED with new blankets!

2. Those who seek the services of the shelter aren't worried about next month, next year, resolutions, taxes, Christmas sales, etc., they come in needing their need met for TODAY. This day.

Sami's family left humbled and made more aware...and wasn't this a lesson that never ends?



*Attitude determines preparation; preparation determines outcome.*



# Building Caring Relationships

In memory of Caiden Knox, the orchestra displayed this beautiful bouquet at their December concert. The middle school orchestra also played a song they felt represented him in his memory. Caiden passed away in November due to complications from an asthma attack. We think of him often.



# Respecting and Developing Every Child's Potential



Mrs. Belding and Mrs. Muprhy provide a variety of experiences to keep students active and engaged in learning that will help them understand the importance of physical fitness in their lives.



# Respecting and Developing Every Child's Potential

Mrs. VanWyk and her student teacher, Lauren Roush, provided students with a unique painting experience that incorporated historical leaders who made an impact from other classes. The student work turned out absolutely amazing!





# Building Caring Relationships

## *Embracing the Holiday Spirit*



# Character Counts



## Calendars and Helpful Links

**2017-2018 Approved District Calendar:**

<http://www.pellaschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FINAL-of-2017-18-approved-2-13-17.pdf>

**Middle School Specific Site:**

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

**Middle School Handbook:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rUWOmkYWFolz2wtEzKRP25fo86sENvXtpd-mDCAIU-4/edit>

**Middle School Band:**

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

**Middle School Choir Site:**

<https://sites.google.com/a/pella.k12.ia.us/pella-6-8-vocal-music/>

**Pella 1:1 Handbook:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lwKAUBESJbVmRgTpaU2iJBq4tpCo-Z\\_VFNmf-gfe6Ag/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lwKAUBESJbVmRgTpaU2iJBq4tpCo-Z_VFNmf-gfe6Ag/edit)

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

<http://www.pellaschools.org/calendar/>