



# Purdy Elementary School

## December 2013



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 5th Grade Band Parent Night @ H.S. 6:30 PM  Day 1	3  Day 2	4  Day 3	5  Day 4	6 Purdy Pride Day  Day 5	7 Breakfast With Santa 8:00-10:00 AM 
8 	9 Orchestra Concert @ H.S. 6:30 PM  Day 6	10  Day 7	11 Market Day P/U 4:30-5:30  Day 8	12 Holiday Concerts @ H.C. 6:00 PM—K-1 6:40 PM—2-3 7:25 PM—4-5  Culver's "Scooper Night" Day 9	13 11:50 Dismissal No Lunch Served  Day 10	14
15	16  Day 1	17 Geography Bee Preliminary Round 12:20—1:00 PM IMC  Day 2	18  Day 3	19 Board of Education Meeting @ Luther 7:00 PM  Day 4	20 Holiday Parties  Last Day of Classes Before Winter Break Day 5	21 
22	23 No School Winter Break	24 No School Winter Break	25 No School Winter Break Merry Christmas! 	26 No School Winter Break	27 No School Winter Break	28
29	30 No School Winter Break	31 No School Winter Break 		<b><u>Future Dates</u></b> Jan. 2 Classes Resume Jan. 3 Purdy Pride Day Jan. 8 Market Day P/U 4:30-5:30 Jan. 14 School Geography Bee Finals 12:20—1:20 PM Jan. 15 Group Activity Photo Day Jan. 21 PTO Meeting—6:30 PM Jan. 23 11:50 Dismissal—End of Second Quarter Jan. 24 No School—Records Day Feb. 1 Fort Atkinson Science Fair Entries Due		



# PURDY PANTHERS

## PURDY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



### December 2013



#### **FROM THE PRINCIPAL** **Enjoy the Holiday Season**

Dear Parents,

Late October and early November are very busy months for our school. In addition to a heavy load of instruction from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM our school and its staff squeezed in report cards, parent teacher conferences and an Open House all of which require many extra hours of preparation. Our new report cards featured some nice improvements including being aligned with the Everyday Math program and new, higher standards for expected reading levels.

Having State VFW Commander Renee Simpson here was a real highlight on Veteran's Day. She exemplifies the changing face of our military especially compared with a Purdy Veteran, grandma Linda Worsham, who we also highlighted. It was also great to show Commander Simpson the steadfast dedication our VFW and Legion Honor Guard who year in and year out are always here helping us learn about our civic responsibilities. Thanks Veterans!

It was great to see so many people at our Open House. I am not exactly sure how many were here but I would estimate close to 200 parents and grandparents visit classrooms through the morning and we served 420 turkey lunches. I heard a lot of compliments as I visited with people throughout the morning and lunch hour. Needless to say our students are more than excited when a loved one comes in though the classroom door!

We have already begun to prepare for Holiday events. It begins with the PTO Breakfast with Santa on December 7th. This is followed on December 12th by the Holiday Concerts of which we run three concerts in one night which is easier for parents with more than one Purdy child.

Here are some Concert tips and expectations:

- All children are expected to participate unless prior arrangements are made or there is an emergency. After weeks of practice, our students really look forward to this special night by performing in front of you!
- Use parking lots in back of the school. I only say this because the front is so congested. All parking doors are open and just as close to the stage.
- Keep parking fire lanes and auditorium aisles clear. Be patient between performances. Everyone always gets a great seat.
- If you need handicap seating notify the office before the concert. Handicap seats are reserved and if not used released to anyone.

Read separate articles for more information about the concerts.

The holidays are a great time to teach about giving. Many classrooms have charity gift giving programs. Please look for these opportunities or even consider adopting a Purdy family.

Hoping you have a great holiday!

Rick Brietzke, Principal  
Purdy Elementary School



**CONNECT 5 (FORMERLY  
ALERTNOW)...SCHOOL  
CANCELLATIONS AND  
POSTPONEMENTS**

As snowy days and dangerous weather conditions draw nearer, the District and school will continue to use Connect 5 to announce cancellations, delays, and postponements. We will continue to notify parents of important and emergency school programming announcements with phone calls or/and emails.

**Note: Please keep us up to date on telephone number changes.**



**HALLOWEEN BASH  
RAISES \$2800.00  
TOWARDS SCHOLARSHIP  
& PTO DONATION**

This year's Haunted House and Monster Mash raised \$2,800.00 for more post-secondary scholarships—Dream Scholarship, which is managed by the Fort Foundation and a \$500.00 PTO donation. The scholarship is designed to encourage needier children who previously attended Purdy to consider college or technical school for their post high school plans. To date ten scholarships have been awarded. The scholarship is awarded when students graduate from Middle School. Criteria includes: family need, behavior, extra-curricular activities and grade point average.

**PURDY POWER DOLLARS FORMS**

You can order Purdy Power Dollars any-time during the month. Extra forms are available in the office.



**SAFETY/PEACE PATROL  
OF THE MONTH**

On Friday, November 22, 2013 the following students were treated to Culver's because they were selected as Purdy Patrols of the Month. They represent many very dedicated patrol members that are doing a fine job of helping make our school a safe place.

- **Tyler Betanski**
- **Haley Clavey**



**WINTER COATS AVAILABLE**

We have girls winter coats and a few boys coats available. Please inquire in the office.



**PTO FALL BOOK FAIR**

Thank you to everyone who purchased books for your children or for your teacher from the wish list boxes. The fall book fair raised over \$1450 Scholastic dollars for us to use to purchase books for classrooms and our library as well as our birthday books program. Each student at Purdy will receive a new book during their birthday month!

A big thank you to Rebecca Hakenson, Maggie Messler, Rachel & Connor Nelan, Tammy Hedrick, Kim Kramer, Jody Mack, Rachel Lehmann, Heather & Brooke Hartwig, Kim Luebke and Wendy Byrnes for working the Scholastic Book Fair and everyone else for making it a success!!

Jill Draeger



**PURDY HOLIDAY  
CONCERT:  
December 12, 2013  
Fort Atkinson High School**

Mark your calendar! Your child will be performing in our **annual winter concert**. We will present for you an evening of entertainment starring your children. Please note the outline of the special times for each grade level as listed below.

Every child is expected to perform unless there is a family emergency that evening, since this is a co-curricular program rather than extra-curricular activity. The students have been working hard to bring you their best. Please have your child ready to line up in the maroon hallway *behind* the High School Auditorium at the time listed below:

**KINDERGARTEN & FIRST GRADE**

Put coats in the HS library.  
Line up at 5:50. Concert: 6:00  
Afterwards meet in the library.

**SECOND & THIRD GRADE**

Put coats in HS commons.  
Line up at 6:30. Concert: 6:40  
Afterwards meet in the commons.

**FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADE**

Put coats in HS commons.  
Line up at 7:15. Concert: 7:25  
Afterwards meet in the commons.

NOTE: Families are encouraged to park in the rear parking lots. In many cases these will be closer to the auditorium than the "far reaches" of the front parking lot.



**DRESS REHEARSAL at the  
High School Auditorium  
December 12, 2013**

Family members who are unable to attend the evening concert are welcome to come to our dress rehearsal that day. Please be aware that this is our only rehearsal in the auditorium, it is longer than a regular concert and as such will involve some stopping and starting to fix any technical difficulties which may arise.

**Kindergarten & First Grade**

8:45—10:00 AM

**Fourth & Fifth Grades**

10:00—11:35 AM

**Second & Third Grades**

12:15—1:30 PM



**DRESS FOR THE WEATHER**

Please make sure your child has the proper clothing (coat, mittens, boots, snow pants) when they leave for school in the morning. When snowy, only children with boots are allowed off the blacktop.



**WELCOME NEW  
STUDENTS**

The following students are new to Purdy School. Welcome to a great place to learn.

Elijah Barr  
Alexa Dean  
Deric Evenson  
Simera Jagielski

Early Childhood  
First Grade  
First Grade  
Second Grade



## **TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING**

A number of Purdy Elementary School families and classrooms were interested in giving to charitable organizations in the area. Two were again selected for giving by Purdy families, classrooms and staff. Gifts may be delivered right to the organization or dropped off at Purdy for a special delivery before the holidays. So instead of giving traditional classroom or teacher gifts, one may select from the following:

### **Fort Atkinson Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry is looking for almost everything.

They always need:

- Peanut Butter and Jelly/Jam
- Cream Soups—All
- Boxed Potatoes
- Canned Fruit
- Chef Boyardee Canned Meals
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Cereal, Pancake Mix & Syrup
- Toiletries (tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, shampoo, etc.)

### **Jefferson Co Humane Society**

- Laundry Soap & Dryer Sheets
- Towels
- Old Comforters
- Rawhides
- Cat Toys
- Squeaky Dog Toys
- Postage Stamps
- Purina Kitten Chow (Yellow Bag)
- Purina Cat Chow (Blue Bag)
- Purina Puppy Chow (Blue Bag)
- Purina Dog Chow (Green Bag)
- Paper Towel & Toilet Paper
- Bleach
- Cash Donation

The following classes/grades are giving to the following charities:

Mrs. Kratz (K) Food Pantry

First Grade F.A. Food Pantry

Second Grade F.A. Food Pantry

Third Grade F. A. Food Pantry, and  
Jefferson County Humane  
Society

Fourth Grade F. A. Food Pantry

Fifth Grade F. A. Food Pantry



## **HAUNTED HOUSE AND MONSTER MASH**

The Haunted House was open to the public on Friday, October 25th and Saturday, October 26th and then on Monday, October 28th with the Monster Mash for Purdy students and families.

This event could not go on without all the volunteers. We want to thank the following staff, students and parents for donating their time and talents:

Staff member volunteers include: Rick Brietzke, Jeff Jensen, Patty Brain, Missy Peters, Michael Stricker, Michelle Brown, Lisa Perkins, Pam Gustin, Ruth Gavin, Kris Hofer and Kelly Opperman.

Other volunteers include: Karen Behm, Dawn Blackwell, Niki Boos, Isabel Bouton, Morgan Brittain, Alex Bull, Nick Catton, Eric Cortes, Maureen Edwards, Megan Gill, Cedric Hermann, Rebecca Hakenson, Debra Keckeisen, Jill Keckeisen, Natalie Koch, Jack Krueger, Alexis Long, Gail Maas, Jessica May, Brett May, Maggie Messler, Bella Nava, Karla Nava, Mike Opperman, Alex Partoll, Lori Partoll, Lesley Paske, Sierra Pursley, Morgan Schubert, Ken Strege, Yesenia Torrez, Tim Voelker, Kelly Voelker, James Weeden and Cody Kruse.





**PURDY ELEMENTARY**  
**SCHOOL AND**  
**THE FORT ATKINSON AREA**  
**SCIENCE FAIR**

Families should begin talking about the upcoming Science Fair. It is best to spend a few weeks tossing around ideas to study and answer. This helps students arrive at an interesting question that they want to answer. A variety of helpful planning books and learning sessions are available at school and at the Dwight Foster Public Library. Note: Grades 3-5 teachers require students to prepare a science fair project for school and encourage students to enter the Fort Atkinson Area Science Fair. Information packs will be coming home soon. It is a great opportunity for extra learning. Note the following dates:

- 6:30 PM—December 3rd, Science Fair Entry Help Session at Dwight Foster Public Library
- February 1, 2013 - Fort Atkinson Regional Science Fair Entry Deadline Date
- February 6 & 11, 2014 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Purdy Science Fair Open House
- February 21, 2014 - Drop-off & Set-up for F.A. Regional Science Fair Entries at Hoard Historical Museum
- February 22, 2014 Fort Atkinson Regional Science Fair @ Hoard's Museum
- February 25, 2014 School Visits to the Science Fair
- February 25, 2014 Science Fair Project and Essay Pick-up (3:00—5:00 PM)



**5<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND:**

There is a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band  
**PARENT NIGHT**  
taking place on  
**Monday, December 2nd at 6:30 pm**  
in the  
**High School Auditorium!**

All current 5<sup>th</sup> grade band students (with instruments!) and their parents should attend.

Band expectations and procedures will be explained and students will demonstrate band concepts and will be playing for you!!

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**5<sup>th</sup> GRADE**  
**ORCHESTRA CONCERT!**

**Monday, December 9th**  
**6:30 PM, High School Auditorium**



The orchestra students have been working hard! Please attend the concert and enjoy some beautiful holiday music!

Please Note: This is a separate concert from the elementary "Holiday Concerts" - this is a concert solely for 5th grade orchestra students!!

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**FIFTH GRADE BAND AND**  
**STRINGED INSTRUMENTS**

Students need to continue to practice a minimum of 75 minutes per week. Keep on playing away at home!



## WINTER WEATHER

Winter weather is here. Mornings are quite cool, some days near freezing or below. Students will go outside for recess everyday unless the temperature drops below zero including the wind chill. Please make sure your child wears a warm coat, hat, gloves or mittens and boots to protect him/her from the cold weather.

Please do not call school for school closings. Rather listen to the radio or watch TV. Below is a list of stations to listen to or watch for school closings:

WFAW/WSJY/WKCH  
WSLD  
WISC-TV-Ch. 3  
WMTV—Ch. 15  
WIBA/WTSO.WMLI/WZEE/WMAZ  
Today's TMJ4/WKTI/WTMJ

Please make sure a plan is made in advance for your child should school be dismissed early. The safety of our children is our main concern.



## HOT LUNCH AND MILK MONEY

Just a reminder for parents to please put the **money in an envelope with child's name, grade, homeroom teacher and amount enclosed.** Please make sure your children have money in their account. District policy allows us to let students eat **twice** before money is received. Thank you for your help.



## TRAFFIC SAFETY REMINDERS

Please drive safely around school. Use the parking/drive-through or side streets to drop off or pick up your children. **Many parents report that using prearranged side streets work out well in reducing their stress in not having to use a congested parking lot. Further, it often takes less time to do so.** Do not use the bus drive through as well as Main Street. The latter two are dangerous, hold up buses, and in some cases illegal.



## LOST AND FOUND

**Parents are reminded** to check the Lost and Found. Each year hundreds of items are lost and never found. Eventually, these are donated to area charities. The lost and found is located by Door 5.



## BEFORE OR AFTER THE CONCERT

### PTO/CULVER'S "SCOOPER NIGHT" DECEMBER 13, 2012

PTO/Culvers "Scooper Night" will be held on Thursday, Dec. 12th. 10% of your purchase on that day will go to Purdy PTO. Stop to eat before the winter concert and help our PTO at the same time! More information will come after Thanksgiving.



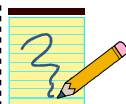
## **GEOGRAPHY BEE IS COMING AGAIN**

Once again Purdy students will be participating in the National Geographic Society's Geography Bee. It is a good chance for students to build their geography skills in an area that has lost some favor in the United States. Not at Purdy!!! This year students in grades 4-5 will be eligible to enter the Geography Bee, which will be held during noon hours. Dates include:

- **Dec 17**—Geography Bee Preliminary Competition in IMC 12:20 to 1:00 PM. All students in grades 4-5 may enter. This is a written test that is read by Mr. Brietzke.
- **January 14**—Geography Bee Finals in IMC 12:20 PM to 1:20 PM. In all, the top two scores from each room and the next five highest scores in grades 4-5 will participate in the school finals. A total of 15 students will be in the school bee. Parents are invited to attend!

Some examples of questions include:

1. Name the southernmost state.
2. What is the most populated country in the world?
3. What is the largest country in the world?
4. Windswept ocean coast mountain areas tend to be less wet or dry than areas away from the ocean?
5. Name a major river in Africa that flows north.
6. What is the name for the area of Wisconsin that was not covered by glaciers?
7. When Columbus found America, what had he been hoping to find?
8. Slaves brought to America by European and American ships came from what continent?
9. What happens to the temperature as you increase altitude?
10. Name the northernmost state.



## **BEE STUDY TIPS**

What's the best way for students to prepare for the Bee? Here are some tips from the new National Geographic Bee Official Study Guide:

- ✓ Get the necessary tools. A blank outline map and a good, up-to-date world map, atlas, and geography reference book are your best study tools.
- ✓ Learn map terminology. Understanding what you're looking at and reading labels and coordinates correctly on a map are essential.
- ✓ Follow current events: News items regarding political upheavals, International agreements, and discoveries are fair game for Bee questions, so make sure you are an informed citizen of the world.
- ✓ Understand the interconnectedness of geography: Subdivisions of geography, such as physical features, climate, and culture, are all influenced by each other. Once you understand this, it will be easier to categorize and remember information about countries and regions.
- ✓ Keep geography fun: There are many games you can play to help study for the Bee. Check out the five new questions each day on the Bee website: [www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geobee).



## **GET YOUR GEOBEE BUZZ ONLINE**

Looking to bone up for the Bee? Look no further than [nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com). They've custom-crafted award-winning Web pages to make geographic learning fun and fast.





**TOP FIVE GEO BEE  
PREP PAGES AT  
[nationalgeographic.com](http://nationalgeographic.com)**

1. **GeoBee Challenge Game:** Got what it takes to beat the bee? Test yourself with five National Geographic Bee questions every day.
2. **GeoSpy Game:** Can you find your way around a blank map? We tell you the place-name, you click the correct location to win.
3. **MapMachine Flags and Facts:** Quick! What language do they speak in Malta? Find the answer in Flags and Facts—plus country and state profiles, statistics, flags, and maps.
4. **Xpeditions Atlas:** Print crisp, clean black-and-white maps that make perfect handouts. Plus, you can erase all place-names with a single click, making them a quiz maker's dream.
5. **Free Lesson Plans:** Where else can you find hundreds of standards-based, teacher-tested classroom activities? Simply search by topic and grade level. Then print, prepare, and teach!

And that's only the beginning. For more National Geographic ideas for educators, just visit the Web page we've built especially for you: [nationalgeographic.com/education](http://nationalgeographic.com/education).



**NO PLAYGROUND  
SUPERVISION UNTIL 7:30 AM  
OR AFTER 3:10 PM**

Playground supervision begins when the first buses come to Purdy Elementary School. Please do not have your children arrive at school before then. The School will not be responsible for supervising students that are on our facilities before or after stated supervision times.



**NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHY WEEK**

**Sample  
2014**

- ✓ Name the western most state.
- ✓ Name the northern most state.
- ✓ Name a continent with no countries.
- ✓ Name the largest river (by volume)
- ✓ What river flows through Fort Atkinson
- ✓ Name the highest mountain in the world
- ✓ Name the lowest point in the US
- ✓ Name the highest point in the US
- ✓ Name a food crop in Wisconsin that leads in production.
- ✓ Name the large lake north of Wisconsin.
- ✓ Name the line of latitude on which the sun is directly overhead on the first day of spring for us.
- ✓ Name the largest city in Wisconsin.
- ✓ Rivers always flow which way: Downhill, north or south?



**HEALTHY SNACKS FOR  
CLASSROOMS**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who have sent healthy snacks for their child's classroom. We have seen fresh fruit, vegetables and dips, cheese trays, and trail mixes! The kids love these healthy snacks (along with the teachers).

It is preferable that you keep cookies, doughnuts, cake, cupcakes, candy, etc. at home. By supporting and promoting proper dietary habits you will contribute to your child/children's health and academic performance.

Reminder that Student Nutrition provides healthy classroom snacks at a very reasonable cost...they even deliver! Please contact The Nutrition Center at 568-7811, Ext. 1161 or visit the school district's web page [www.fortschools.org](http://www.fortschools.org) under School Nutrition link.



## **HOW AMERICA'S CHILDREN GAIN WEIGHT**



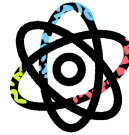
Kids never use to worry about being overweight. They just went outside, ran around and burned off that energy, but that is no longer true. One-fourth of all high school students are overweight in Wisconsin. Habits they learned in early childhood got them there. Currently, childhood obesity is nothing short of an epidemic. Today's children will live shorter lives if this trend is not turned around.

A few interesting facts to consider are:

- In the 1950's, kids had three cups of milk for every cup of soda. Today that ratio is reversed, meaning they get all the calories and none of the nutrients.
- Kids are increasingly sedentary, spending three hours a day in front of a TV or computer.
- In the United States, portion sizes have exploded.
- 90% of overweight children will have at least one avoidable risk factor for heart disease.
- Bad food is easier to come by than good.

So what can you as a parent do to improve the situation for your child?

- Buy fewer high-calorie, low-nutrient foods and more high-nutrient foods.
- Have a variety of nutritious foods available for snacks.
- Model healthy eating behaviors for your child.
- Serve reasonable portion sizes.
- Drink more water.
- Eat when hungry, and stop eating when full.



## **SCIENCE FAIR IDEAS**



December is a great time to plan for the Purdy Science Fair and also get entered in the Fort Atkinson Regional Science Fair. Students in grades 3-5 are required to do a science fair project following their grade levels expectations that reinforce District curriculum.

Do not build a volcano as this does not test any question or use variables! Instead answer questions about the world around children. The Purdy IMC, Dwight Foster City Library and Internet have ideas and resources. Some ideas include: testing the strength or absorbency of paper towels, effectiveness of stain sticks, durability of batteries, weight of air in a ball at given psi, blind taste tests, etc.

Check grade levels for class due dates. The Purdy Science Fair is Feb 6 and the Fort Atkinson Science Fair is Feb 21-23.

## **MARKET DAY NEWS**

Once again the Bonus Days were a huge success. Over 50 pies were ordered allowing us to reach the 45% profit and earn \$2500.00 for Purdy Elementary. We were also able to donate 50 pies to the Fort Atkinson Community Thanksgiving Dinner and 25 pies to the Food Pantry along with many donations from staff and families. A big thank you to those that donated a pie! Our top sellers were Brayden McGeough, Landon Smillie and Haley Clavey. They each received a gift card for Domino's Pizza. Thank you again for all of your support and hard work to make this happen. This month stock up on cookie dough or order Holiday Cut Out cookies for your holiday gatherings. We are always looking for volunteers on the first Wednesday of each month to help pack orders. It only takes about 30 minutes.

Market Day Co-Chairs  
Dawn Church and Mary Lynn Vaillancourt



### **Notes from the Nurse's Office**

*Diabetes Awareness should continue year round!*

Although November was American Diabetes Awareness Month, diabetes affects people year round. In the United States, approximately 8.3% of the total population has diabetes and 1 child in 400 has been diagnosed, according to the American Diabetes Association. Diabetes is a serious yet manageable disease that many people have misconceptions about. There are two types of diabetes: Type 1, sometimes referred to as juvenile diabetes, and Type 2, which is typically diagnosed at an older age but is now, also, seen in children and adolescents often.

**Type 1** diabetes is typically discovered in childhood. The body cannot make insulin, a hormone needed to convert sugars and starches into energy we need in everyday life. The sugar we eat stays in the blood and can produce high blood sugar levels because no insulin is there to break it down. These individuals must take insulin to make up for their bodies not making it.

In **Type 2** diabetes, the body does make insulin, but does not process it properly. Therefore, these individuals end up with increased sugar in their blood because the insulin cannot do its job of breaking sugar down into usable energy. These individuals don't necessarily need to take insulin; they may change their diet and/or take other medicines that make their bodies more receptive to their own insulin.

Typical symptoms that occur with undiagnosed diabetes may include:

- Urinating often
- Feeling extremely thirsty much of the time/being hungry without getting full
- Being tired/irritable more often than usual
- Weight loss
- Darkening of the skin around neck/armpits (acanthosis nigricans)
- Blurry vision

Over winter break, if you become concerned your child is experiencing these symptoms, please take them to their physician to be evaluated. Visit [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org) if you would like more information or please feel free to contact the school nurse!

It's Time To Get Ready For the

# 2014

## Fort Atkinson Regional Science Fair

**Saturday, February 22** at the

Hoard Historical Museum in Fort Atkinson

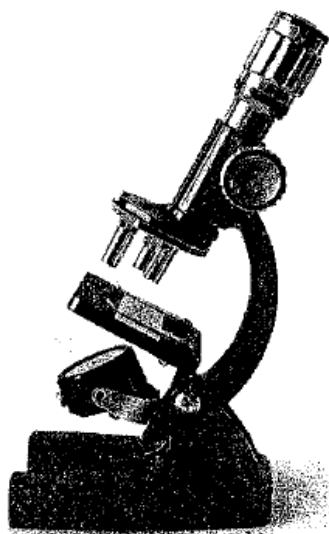
Prizes include a microscope, medals, t-shirts and other great stuff!

**Questions about science projects?** Join us for our fair project help session! We will have a group of scientists available to answer your questions about any aspect of your project.

**Tuesday, December 3 at 6:30 pm**

**Dwight Foster Public Library**

**209 Merchants Avenue Fort Atkinson**



Entry forms, rules, hours and other details can be found in the Science Fair booklet available at the NASCO Farm & Home store, the Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson or on our website:

**[www.fasciencefair.org](http://www.fasciencefair.org)**

Additional information available  
on the website.

***What scientific wonder will you  
discover this year???***





## **When should a child stay home from school?**



Children often do not like to miss school. They also need to be in school as much as possible in order to be successful in school. However, children who are sick need to stay home if they will not be able to concentrate sufficiently for learning or may cause others to become sick.

To help reduce the spread of illness to student and staff, please keep your child home from school for the following reasons:

**Fever (100 degrees or greater):** Your child should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen before returning to school

**Vomiting:** Your child may return to school after s/he has not vomited for 24 hours and is back on a regular diet.

**Diarrhea:** Your child may return to school after being diarrhea-free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

**Cough/congestion:** If your child's cough is frequent or severe and his/her nose is extremely runny, it is likely that they do not feel very well and will not be able to concentrate sufficiently for learning. S/he also would benefit from more rest and fluids at home.

**Rash:** Consult with your child's health care provider regarding a rash of unknown cause. Your child will need a return to school note from their health care provider before coming back to school.

**Communicable Illness:** If your child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease requiring antibiotics (such a strep infection or pink eye) they need to be excluded from school until they have been treated with the antibiotic for 24 hours and they are feeling better

It is very important that if you are calling your child in absent due to illness that you list the symptoms that your child is experiencing. This allows for surveillance of illnesses in our schools.

Please emphasize to your children effective ways to stay healthy, which include: Frequent hand washing or use of hand sanitizer, coughing/sneezing into their upper arm or shoulder, keeping their hands away from their face, staying away from individuals who are sick and protecting their immune system by eating properly and getting enough sleep.

Thank you for your assistance in keeping our schools a safe, healthy and enriching environment in which to learn. Please feel free to contact the School Nurse Office at 563-7805 for any questions.

School District of Fort Atkinson Nurse



**CHARACTER COUNTS**  
**Caring/Empathy**  
**JoEllen Arnerdt-School Counselor**

I love the holiday season. December is the month of giving. We all love to give and receive gifts. But each year I remind my own children that the best gift they can give me is to be a caring, kind person at home as well as at school.

**But how do we teach empathy?**

Empathy is the ability to understand another's perspective and to consider it before acting. This is a difficult skill for a young child who is egocentric—in the “Me stage”. The ability to feel empathy is directly related to the ability to form relationships. Relationships give children the feeling of security, which allows them to feel safe and move beyond their own needs. Children learn to care about others when they experience the feeling of being cared for themselves. There are many benefits to teaching empathetic behavior and strengthening children's moral development:

- **Positive interactions among children:** As children gain the ability to understand their own emotions and feelings they can better understand the feelings of another. Attainment of these skills will create a more cohesive classroom environment with less challenging behaviors.
- **Strong interpersonal skills that help children to be successful later in life:** As children gain the ability to put themselves in another's shoes, they will have the ability to get along well with others. This skill will later affect a person's ability to get a job, build relationships, and communicate their needs appropriately.
- **Getting along with other builds self-esteem:** Positive self-esteem strengthens a child's ability to feel good about the choices that they make. Children will build strength and confidence in who they want to be and have the ability to allow others to be who they want to be.
- **Beginning to understand social responsibilities:** As children gain the skills of empathetic behavior, they will recognize how their actions affect other people and events. This presents an opportunity to teach children how to care for others, plants and animals, and the environment.

**Try these questions with your students at home:**

**How do you know if someone cares about you?**

**How do you feel when people show that they really care about you?**

**How do you feel when you do something really caring for someone else?**

**What do you think the world would look like if nobody cared about anybody else?**

**What does it mean to “put your self in someone else's shoes”?**

# **Purdy Parent Teacher Organization Meeting Minutes**

## **Instructional Materials Center (IMC)**

### **November 12, 2013**

Present at Meeting: Maggie Messler, Rick Brietzke, Heather Hartwig, Pam Gustin, Mary Lynn Vaillancourt, Katie McIntyre, Karen Behm, Dr. Jeff Zaspel, Justin Luebke, Jackie Flack, Patricia Tippelt, Rachel Broadhead

Additions/Corrections to October Minutes: None

Treasurer's Report: Checking Account \$644.07, Savings Account \$6,055.56

Purdy Power Dollar Report: We are way behind in our orders this year compared to last, \$12,000. We currently have \$330 in cash and \$8,605 in cards. We brainstormed ideas to have someone available to sell at conferences or at Breakfast with Santa. Justin is looking for an opportunity to explain it to more parents so they know about it and what it is. Pam Gustin will make a flyer to send home. We will post something on Facebook also.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- School Board Meeting Update: Dr. Zaspel shared that the board is focusing on the referendum we will have April 1, 2013. A finance committee met and reviewed the budget and will make recommendations to the Community Advisory Committee. Without the referendum, we will have a large deficit and more cuts will need to be made.
  - Market Day Update: Mary Lynn Vaillancourt reported that 425 pies were purchased. In order to get the 45% profit, PTO purchased 75 more pies. 50 pies were donated to the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 25 to the Food Pantry. 22 additional pies were donated by Purdy families to the Food Pantry. Even with the donations, a \$2500 profit was made. This month is the cookie dough sale. We are hoping for 100 boxes. We need more parent volunteers to help when the cookie dough arrives.
  - Spiritwear Update: Patricia Tippelt has volunteered to be our Spiritwear chairperson. She is looking for new ideas for future Spiritwear orders, including camouflage options. There is not enough time to do a sale before Christmas, but we will do one in the spring.
  - Halloween Activities: All activities went well. After scrambling for volunteers, we had enough. We don't have final numbers for the amount made. Saturday attendance was down. Next year, better advertisement that there is a "lights on" time for smaller children.
- Social Media Page: Thanks to Katie McIntyre, we do have a Facebook page. Please like the page so you will get updates!

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Book Fair: We are all set and ready to go. It will be open during conferences and we are fully staffed by parent volunteers. We still are in need of a cochairman for the spring book fair.
  - Teacher Appreciation- Supper/Conferences: PTO will provide dinner for teachers on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - Breakfast with Santa: Rachel Broadhead reported that the flyers are out. November 20<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for reservations with the discounted price. The breakfast is December 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Best Seat in the House/Best Spot in the Lot/ Holiday Concerts: The Holiday concert is December 12<sup>th</sup>. There is concern that we will not be able to guarantee the parking spots will be available that evening, so we will only be doing the "Best Seat in the House".
  - Sal's Fundraiser: Salamone's needs 4 to 6 weeks notice to plan this. We felt the night of the holiday concert would be too hectic, but we are looking at dates in January or February.
- Other: We will still do Scoopie Night the night of the concert. Justin Luebke will call to arrange with Culver's.

**NO MEETING IN DECEMBER  
BUT PLEASE  
JOIN US AT THE NEXT PTO MEETING  
JANUARY 21, 2014, 6:30 PM IN THE PURDY IMC**

## **Healthy Snacks for Classroom Parties and Birthday Treats**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who sent healthy snacks for their child's classroom. We have seen fresh fruit, vegetables and dip, cheese trays, and trail mixes! The kids love these healthy snacks (along with the teachers). : )

It is preferable that you keep the cookies, doughnuts, cake, cupcakes, candy etc. at home. By supporting and promoting proper dietary habits, you contribute to your child/children's health and academic performance; plus help them develop a life long pattern of healthy eating.

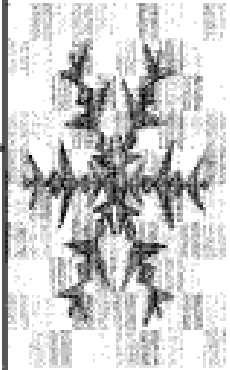
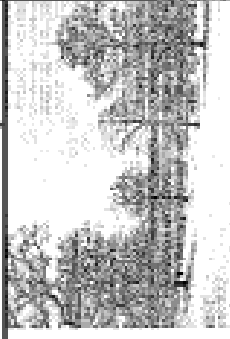


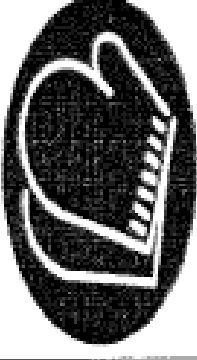


Stuck and can't think of an idea for a healthy snack or birthday treat? Check out a few of the items listed below:

Bread Sticks Celery with Peanut Butter Nuts & Bolts/Trail Mix Tortillas Breakfast Cereals – Low Sugar Cereal Bars Rice Krispies Bars Granola Nutrigrain Bars Popcorn/Cheese Popcorn Baked Tortilla Chips Baked Lays Baked Bugles Combo's Pretzels Garden of Eatin's Reduced Fat Snack Fig Newton's Gingersnaps	Snackwell Cookies/Crackers Peanut Butter & Crackers Nuts/Sun Flower Seeds Granola Bars Pretzels Animal Crackers Chex Mix Graham Crackers Goldfish Crackers Wheat Thins Triscuits Low-Fat Muffins Popcorn Balls Banana Bread Zucchini Bread Raisin Bread English Muffin Pizzas	String Cheese Low-Fat Yogurt Frozen Yogurt Low-Fat Ice Cream Low-Fat Pudding Fresh fruits/Vegetables with Dip Frozen Fruit Strawberries Mangoes Melon Ball Applesauce Fruit Cups/Kabobs Dried Fruit Raisins/Cranberries All Natural Fruit Rollups Fruit Salad Fruit Sorbet Fruit Juice Popsicles
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A reminder that the Student Nutrition Program provides healthy classroom snacks at a very reasonable cost...they even deliver! Please contact Barb Waara at 563-7811 ext.1161 or visit the school district's web page [www.fortschools.org](http://www.fortschools.org) under Nutrition Services.

# DECEMBER 2013

# FA ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS LUNCH


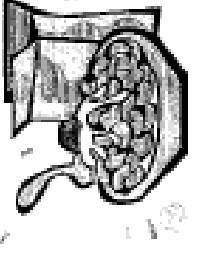

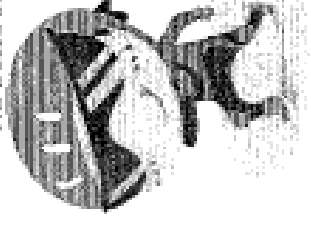



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>MEAL PRICES</b> K-5-\$2.45 daily; \$12.25 w/ky 6-12 -\$2.65 daily; \$13.25 w/ky Adults-\$3.25 daily Milk - \$0.35		* - May contain pork + - May contain peanuts Skim and 2% Milk served daily Menu Subject to Change		Did you know ... If your family qualifies for free or reduced lunches, they also qualify for free or reduced breakfast! <b>SEND 'EM TO SCHOOL FOR BREAKFAST!</b>
<b>2</b> *Nachos with Meat & Cheese OR +PBJ Uncrustable Refried Beans Golden Corn Sweet Pineapple Fresh Fruit	<b>3</b> Onoclets French Toast Sticks OR Ham Sandwich Sweet Potato Puffs Chilled Peaches 100% Apple Juice Cup	<b>4</b> Chicken Patty on WG Bun OR Turkey Wrap KousKous Broccoli Trees with Ranch Sliced Pears	<b>5</b> Fun Fish Sticks OR +PBJ Uncrustable Chicken Rice Pilaf Garden Fresh Salad Fresh Banana	<b>6</b> Dominos Cheese Pizza @ B&R Cheese Pizza Wedges L.P. & SJ OR Tuna Salad on Goldfish Fresh Veggies & Dip Cold Applesauce Frozen Fruit Slusby
<b>9</b> Scrambled Eggs & Pancakes OR +PBJ Uncrustable Hash Brown Potato Sweet Strawberries 100% Juice Cup	<b>10</b> *Hot Dog on WG Bun OR Ham Sandwich Baked French Fries Bieber Baked Beans Chilled Applesauce	<b>11</b> Spaghetti with Meat Sauce Shredded Cheese, Breadstick OR Turkey Wrap Garden Fresh Salad Red Pepper Strips Grapes	<b>12</b> Mini Corn Dogs OR Tuna Salad on Goldfish Rice Pilaf Seasoned Green Beans Colorful Fruit Cocktail	<b>13</b> <b>EARLY RELEASE</b> Early release lunches are available for students to take home. Sign up with your school office.
<b>16</b> Mac & Cheese Soft Breadstick OR +PBJ Uncrustable Steamed Broccoli Sliced Pears	<b>17</b> Popcorn Chicken Dinner Roll OR Ham Sandwich Mashed Potatoes with Gravy Local Vegetable Blend 100% Orange Juice Cup	<b>18</b> *Soft Shell Tacos OR Turkey Wrap Refried Beans Cheesy Mexican Rice Fresh Apple Slices	<b>19</b> Cheese Lasagna Roll Up Soft Breadstick OR Tuna Salad on Goldfish Garden Fresh Salad Yummy Red Pepper Strips Sliced Peaches	<b>20</b> Dominos Cheese Pizza L.P. & SJ Cheese Pizza Wedges @ B&R +PBJ Uncrustable Fresh Veggies & Dip Cold Applesauce Frozen Fruit Slusby
<b>23</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <i>Winter</i> 	<b>24</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> 	<b>25</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> 	<b>26</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> 	<b>27</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> 

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# DECEMBER 2013

# ELEMENTARY BREAKFAST

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>* - May contain pork + - May contain peanuts Skim and 2% Milk served daily Menu Subject to Change</p> <p>This institute is an equal opportunity employer</p>	<p><b>MEAL PRICES</b> K-5-\$1.40 6-12-\$1.45 Adults-\$1.80 Milk - \$0.35 (included with meal)</p>		<p>Did you know ... If your family qualifies for free or reduced lunches, they also qualify for free or reduced breakfast! <b>SEND 'EM TO SCHOOL FOR BREAKFAST!</b></p>	
<p>2 Kellogg's Jump Start Express Kit Whole Grain Cereal Pasty or Grahams Juice &amp; Milk</p>	<p>3 Super Bakery Z Bread Juice, Fruit &amp; Milk OR Juice, Cereal, Snack, Milk</p>	<p>4 *Sausage &amp; Pancake Wraps Fresh Fruit Juice &amp; Milk OR Juice, Cereal, Snack, Milk</p>	<p>5 I&amp;J Breakfast Bar Juice, Fruit &amp; Milk OR Juice, Cereal, Snack, Milk</p>	<p>6 French Toast Sticks Juice or Fruit &amp; Milk OR Juice, Cereal, Snack, Milk</p>
<p>9 WG Strawberry Poplarts (2) Juice or Fruit Milk OR Juice, Cereal, Snack, Milk</p>	<p>10 Mini Muffins Cheese Stick Juice or Fruit &amp; Milk OR Juice, Cereal, Snack, Milk</p>	<p>11 Breakfast Round Juice or Fruit &amp; Milk OR Juice, Cereal, Snack, Milk</p>	<p>12 Pillsbury Mini Pancakes Juice or Fruit &amp; Milk OR Juice, Cereal, Snack, Milk</p>	<p>13 Breakfast Pizza Juice or Fruit &amp; Milk OR Juice, Cereal, Snack, Milk</p>
<p>16 Kellogg's Jump Start Express Kit Whole Grain Cereal Pasty or Grahams Juice &amp; Milk</p>	<p>17 WG Cereal Bar Upstate Farms Yogurt Juice or Fruit &amp; Milk OR Juice, Cereal, Snack, Milk</p>	<p>18 Pillsbury Mini Waffles Juice or Fruit &amp; Milk OR Juice, Cereal, Snack, Milk</p>	<p>19 Super Bakery Banana Bread Juice, Fruit &amp; Milk OR Juice, Cereal, Snack, Milk</p>	<p>20 *Breakfast Bacon Scramble Juice or Fruit &amp; Milk OR Juice, Cereal, Snack, Milk</p>
<p>23 NO SCHOOL</p> 	<p>24 NO SCHOOL</p> 	<p>25 NO SCHOOL</p> 	<p>26 NO SCHOOL</p> 	<p>27 NO SCHOOL</p> 

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