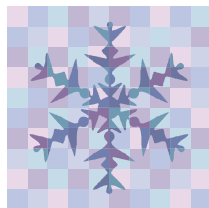


JANUARY, 2010

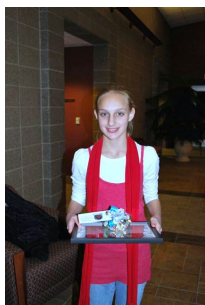
SECOND QUARTER
STUDENT OF
CHARACTER



Jaguar Tracks

Pioneer Ridge Middle School Parent Newsletter

Pioneer Ridge is proud to recognize Lillian Zawacki as its Second Quarter Student of Character. Lilly was recognized at the December 7th Board of Education meeting, where she was presented with her certificate of achievement. Lilly is the daughter of Carl and Theresa Zawacki and attended Edgerton Elementary School before entering Pioneer Ridge this fall as a fifth grader. Mr. Wayne, Lilly's teacher, had the following to say about her, "Lilly is known by all of her teachers for bringing out the best in herself and the people around her. As much as I would like to take some credit in Lilly's success as a student of character, I cannot. She entered PRMS with these qualities and I am simply honored to have her in my class and at our school. I am very excited to see Lillian grow during the rest of the year in 5th grade and over the next few years as a PRMS Jaguar." Thank you Lilly, for all that you do to represent the true Jaguar Spirit!



PIONEER RIDGE STUDENTS GIVE BACK

"Give Where You Live" is the Pioneer Ridge Middle School Ambassador's theme for the 2009-2010 school term. The eighth grade Ambassadors kicked off the first semester by giving back to a group that has given PRMS so much since its inception in August of 2007. The eighth grade Ambassador group wrote personal notes to all of the USD 231 Board of Education Members and all of the employees District Administration Building. Accompanying these notes of appreciation were homemade treats.

The month of October was filled with a week of activities promoting Red Ribbon Week. Students were able to participate in school spirit activities and become drug detectives searching out important drug related facts hidden throughout the school. Students discovering all 20 facts were entered into a drawing for gift

cards.

November kicked off with our annual community food drive. The Ambassadors coordinated a competition among all classes of the school. Over 2,060 non-perishable food items were collected for the local food pantry. Mr. Cox's sixth grade class won the individual class competition bringing in 242 items. As a reward, the class received a pizza party. The sixth grade class won the overall collection prize, collecting 826 items. The seventh grade ambassador group wrote notes of appreciation to the staff of our feeder school, Edgerton Elementary, congratulating them on their state assessments awards and for sending us such great students each and every year. Along with the personal notes, came some homemade treats, to thank all of them for being extra sweet.

While the first semester was winding down in December, there was still much giving in store. During the month of December, students brought in their spare change to help participate in the Mayor's Christmas Tree Adopt-a-Child program. The PRMS students collected \$485 to help out some local children over the Christmas Holiday season.

JAGUAR ORCHESTRA CONTINUES TO GROW

The Jaguar Orchestra Program, under the direction of J.J. Wallace, is now entering its third year at Pioneer Ridge. The growth of the orchestra has been impressive, starting with 35 students and growing to over 100 in just two short years. The quality of our orchestra is also improving daily, due to the hard work and enthusiasm displayed by our students. Starting in 5th grade, students may choose instruction on Violin, Viola, or Cello, with the option for Bass being added in 6th grade.

In the last two years, Jaguar Orchestra students have been

selected for or performed in several special events, including String Romp in Junction City, KS, and String Fling in Manhattan, KS. Most recently, Alison Faris, Alexa Wilden, Charlie Becker, William Brown, and Chase Johnson represented Pioneer Ridge at the Northeast Kansas Music Educator's Honor Orchestra in December. This group was made up of students from all over northeast Kansas, including Shawnee Mission, Olathe, Blue Valley, Lawrence, Kansas City Kansas, and other districts.

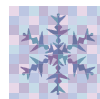
The Jaguar Orchestras have been the guests of the Kansas

City Symphony to watch one of their rehearsals, and have been invited to visit with Master Luthier Anton Krutz for a demonstration of how instruments are built at the Kansas City Strings Shop in Merriam, KS.

Our next performances will include the 2nd Annual All-District Orchestra Concert which features all Orchestra students from grades 5-12 from across USD 231, and participation in the 1st Annual Trailblazer Orchestra Invitational, which will feature orchestras from different schools across northeast Kansas.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FILL THE FIELDHOUSE EVENT @ GEHS	JAN. 12
M.L.K. DAY—NO CLASSES	JAN. 18
PRMS SPELLING BEE	JAN. 22
5/6 MATHLETICS	JAN. 26
7/8 MATHLETICS	JAN. 27
P.R.P.A. MEETING	FEB. 3
SPRING BOOK FAIR PRMS LIBRARY	FEB. 3-12



JAGUAR VOICES UNITE

What is "Vocal" class?

On a student's class schedule, the class title says "Vocal", but the vocal department is really made up of two different music groups: General Music and Choir.

The General Music classes are for 5th and 6th graders who come to Vocal Class for a 9-week period, or quarter. Students in these classes will not only sing, but will also move, dance, read, play instruments, listen to and create music through songs and activities. Two-part harmony is the main emphasis of our singing and is demonstrated in a public performance/play at the end of the quarter. During the 2nd semester, these two performances will occur on March 4th during the 3rd Quarter, and on May 17th for students in the 4th Quarter.

PRMS BAND A HIT!

Congratulations are extended to all band students for their outstanding performances at the winter concert in December. The students rose to the occasion and truly brought the music to life. As you heard at the concert, the students are making steady progress toward proficiency on their instruments. The better one plays, the more fun it is to play. Students are encouraged to practice diligently and stay ahead in their band homework.

GOING FOR A PERFECT 2010!

We are so very proud of our students' academic success as witnessed through their achieving of the prestigious Governor's Achievement Award. This award is given to only 12 schools whose students' scores on the Kansas State Assessments rank in the top 5% of all middle and junior high schools in the entire state of

On the other hand, 7th and 8th graders who are in Vocal class are really in Choir.

Seventh grade vocal classes prepare students for singing in 3 parts (Soprano, Alto, Baritone), while Eighth grade choir emphasizes 4-part singing (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). Students who are in these groups are also more likely to be in top singing group at GEHS in the future.

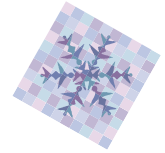
These groups will have concerts on February 22nd and May 6th. Many of these students will also participate in the Emporia State University Solo & Ensemble contest in May. Our PRMS choirs have grown every year and we now have over 100 students in these groups. A success of note: 7th grader Cooper McGuire has made a state choir for the second year in a row and will perform with the Middle-

Besides the band groups, two individuals are also due praise. Eighth grade flute player Caitlyn Reynolds was selected to and has performed with the Olathe Youth Symphony this school year. Seventh grade French horn player Cooper McGuire was selected to the John Philip Sousa Honor Band. The honor band will perform a concert in Lawrence on January 23.

The seventh and eighth graders will now begin preparations for the League

Level Honor Choir in Wichita next month.

5th and 6th graders, who want a more choir-like experience, have the opportunity to join our before-school choir, the Jazzy Jaguars, at the beginning of each school year. This group prepares students for part singing and participates in several performances. You can see this group perform on February 23 and again on May 6. Two 6th-grade students from this year's Jazzy Jaguars, Cal Reed and Trevor Thoeke, also successfully auditioned for the State Treble Honor Choir, and will perform with this group in Wichita at the end of February.



Band Festival. It is scheduled for March 9. PRMS will host this festival with a concert in the gym at 6:00 p.m. The combined eighth grade bands from Wheatridge and Pioneer Ridge will perform two songs under the direction of guest clinician Dr. Martin Bergee (KU). The seventh graders from both schools will also combine and perform two songs with their guest clinician, Mr. Jim Oliver (an outstanding band instructor who is now retired, but still active in music education).

Kansas.

Looking to our 2009-2010 State Assessments, we are confident our kids will once again shine. The theme for our State Assessment celebration this year is "Going for a Perfect 2010!". As these important tests get under way in March, we appreci-

continued support of parents and families to insure every child is well rested and eats a healthy breakfast on the day of their tests. Please be sure to also be checking your child's grade level newsletters for more information regarding dates of test administration and plans for your child's assessments.



Don't Forget Parent/Teacher Conferences!



All conferences will be held in the PRMS gymnasium. For your convenience, we ask that you park in the North/Car Loop parking lot. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there!

Wed., February 10th 4:00-8:00 P.M. Thurs., February 11th 3:00-8:00 P.M.

