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# Wharton's March News

## STATE TESTING TO BEGIN MARCH 12

Wharton will be giving your child state-required achievement tests March 12–23. Students at Wharton will be tested in reading, mathematics, and writing. The tests are a part of the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) program, and are being given to all eligible students. The results of state tests will be reported to you on the School Report Card in the fall. We will review state test results along with other information to help us improve our school program. In addition, you will receive information about your child's performance on the state tests he or she took.

You can help your child do his or her best on the test by:

1. Making sure, if possible, that your child attends school on the days of testing;

2. Making sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before testing;
3. Providing breakfast on the mornings of testing (if your child does not get breakfast at school);
4. Reminding your child to ask the teacher questions if he or she does not understand the test directions;
5. Letting your child know that you have confidence in his or her ability to do his or her best; and
6. Advising your child not to worry about the test—just do the best he or she can.

Please call your child's teacher if you want additional information or have further questions about these tests.

We look forward to sharing the results with you in the fall of 2007.

## Wharton Student Council News Spirit Week—March 19th to March 23rd

The Wharton Student Council officers and representatives have met to decide Wharton's Spirit Week. The students will share in the fun during the week of March 19th - 23rd. Monday, March 19th will be "Sports Day", Tuesday, March 20th will be "Stuffed Animal Day", Wednesday, March 21st will be "Pajama Day", Thursday, March 22nd will be "Crazy Hair Day", and Friday,

March 23rd will be "Twin Day". There will be more information sent home soon to explain any guidelines for the attire of the special days. ISATS are the previous week, so we hope everyone will be in the spirit to participate in Wharton's Spirit Week.

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## Wharton 5th Grade Center

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### Special points of interest:

- ☺ ISAT TO BEGIN 3-12
- ☺ Student Council Spirit Week
- ☺ No School 3-5 Casimir Pulaski Day
- ☺ Battle of the Books

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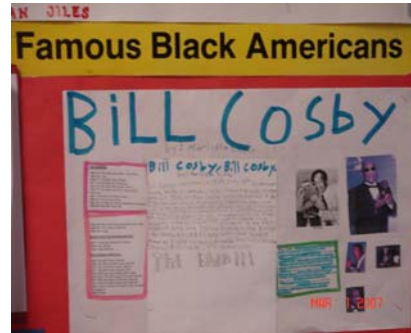
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## March News from Mrs. Brackins' Classroom

Some of the students in room 203 did a really nice job in presenting their biographies to the class. We have received several compliments from the displays in the hallway.

We are presently preparing for the ISATS by working in our Coach Books for Reading and Math. The students are learning a great deal of new terms. Please take the time to ask your child about his or her school day.

In addition, all of the students have written and typed their essay for the Women's Club essay contest. Keep your fingers crossed that students from our class will be winners. Will the Irish luck be with us?



Famous Black Americans

## March News from Mrs. Vogel's Classroom

Hello from the students in Mrs. Vogel's classroom. It is hard to believe that spring is almost here. We have been so busy learning new skills, that time has flown by us. Your students have just completed their Women's Club Essay Contest. It was wonderful to read why my students parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends were so important to them. I would not be surprised if we have a winning essay from our class. All were

written with love and care. We have also been busy preparing for the ISAT tests which are coming up soon. In Social Studies, our students have been working on projects. These are due Tuesday, March 6th.

Congratulations again to Derrick Washington, our PEAK slogan winner. Derrick will be honored on March 8th during an assembly at which time he will receive his PEAK prize.

## Casimir Pulaski Day — March 5th— No School

Casimir Pulaski Day is a regional United States holiday celebrated on the first Monday of every March to commemorate Casimir Pulaski, a Revolutionary War cavalry officer born March 4, 1747. It is celebrated mainly in areas which have large Polish populations. This is a separate holiday from the federal holiday, General Pulaski Memorial Day, that commemorates Pulaski's death at the Siege of Savannah on October 9, 1779.

Illinois enacted a law on June 20, 1977 to cele-

brate the birthday of Casimir Pulaski and held the first official Pulaski Day celebration in 1978. The bill was introduced by Senator Leroy W. Lemke (D) - Chicago. Chicago celebrates Pulaski Day with an annual parade, and many Illinois school children are given the day off. However, as the percentage of Polish Americans in Illinois drops and as fewer Polish Americans are elected to office, more and more schools in the state are opting out of observing the holiday.

## March News from the Classroom of Ms. Modiest

February was a short and busy month! Room 205 will continue working hard in academic areas and peer relationships. On the academic side...all of the students wrote and typed their Women's Essay. They are also finishing their research on a famous African American person. The students are showing effort and working hard to complete this project. Each student researched, typed, and provided a visual for their report. Next week the students will be presenting their final project.

Don't forget it is also ISAT time. Our students are reviewing learned skills for this state required test and that time is quickly approaching. This year the students will be tested in mathematics, reading, and writing. During the last few weeks, your child has been introduced to a great number of math concepts. Please encourage your child to review, read, and write these skills.

Academics are a great importance as well as peer relationships. Help your child feel successful and he or she won't seek disruptive and negative behavior for attention. The students' ability to solve present and future problems depends on their ability to develop skills that will contribute to their future success. Please encourage your child to complete assignments and be respectful to others. With your interest and cooperation, I know your child will grow in the areas indicated.

Happy Birthday to...

Eliazer Saucedo—March 8th



March Birthdays

## The Battle of the Books is About to Begin

Starting the week of March 19th, Queen Novel will visit each classroom to introduce The Pre Battle of the Books. Each classroom will make teams of 5 students. These students will read 10 Caldecott Award Winning Books. Teams will work together and will need to know the characters, main ideas and events as well as the title and author of each book. Classroom teams will have from March 19th through March 28th to read these 10 books. The Pre Battle will consist of teams working together to answer questions regarding the 10 Caldecott Award Winning Books

they read. *All teams can arm themselves for battle by reading each book*, because in the end, only one team will be triumphant and go on to the Final Battle. In the Final Battle, they will represent their classroom against other classroom Pre Battle winners and possibly become Wharton School Champs. The final Battle of the Books will be held on Friday, May 11th.

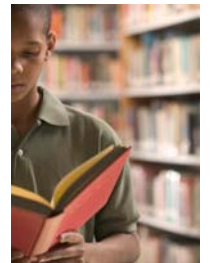


## Pre-Battle Book List

For the Pre Battle, teams will have to read the following 10 Caldecott Books:

1. Jumanji by Chris Van Allsburg
2. Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say
3. The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses by Paul Goble
4. Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and Mary Azarian
5. Saint George and the Dragon by Margaret Hodges and Trina Schart Hyman

6. Smoky Night—by Eva Bunting and David Diaz
7. Lon Po Po by Ed Young
8. A Story, A Story by Gail E. Haley
9. Black and White by David Macaulay
10. Mirette on the High Wire by Emily Arnold McCully



You must read to win the battle.

# March 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				<i>Progress Re- ports Returned to School</i>	<i>No School Teacher Insti- tute Day</i>	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	<i>No School Casimir Pulaski Day</i>			<i>PEAK Presentation 2:00 o'clock</i>		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
					<i>End of 3rd Grading Pe- riod</i>	
<b>March 12 to 16 ISAT WEEK</b>						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	<i>Student Council Sports Day</i>	<i>Student Council Stuffed Animal Day</i>	<i>No Pre-K classes/Homevisits Report Cards Is- sued Student Council Pajama Day</i>	<i>Student Council Crazy Hair Day</i>	<i>Student Council Twin Day</i>	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		<i>Spring Pictures</i>			<i>Non-Uniform</i>	