MISSION STATEMENT
The Pearl Lean Staff, in partnership with parents and community, is dedicated to educating our children intellectually, socially, and emotionally; therefore, empowering them to become responsible citizens, life-long learners and positive contributors to our ever changing world.

VISION STATEMENT
The fundamental purpose of Pearl Lean is to ensure high levels of learning for all students.

24-HOUR ABSENCE REPORTING 1-586-574-3230 OPTION 2
(Please report your child’s absence 24 hours)

December 2017 - January 2018

Happy Holidays
Being Considerate Toward Others

Young children are naturally generous, loving and giving. Those who are very altruistic have parents who help them see things from the other person’s perspective. Here are some ways to help your children grow into individuals who are sensitive to others.

**Be genuine in expressing your feelings.** Follow your instincts when expressing to your children how you feel about negative behavior. For example, when your children hit others, let them know how badly you feel by letting it show in your face and in your concern for the injured party. Let your children hear concern in your tone of your voice as well. Showing your genuine emotions will let your children know it means a lot to you.

**Explain consequences of behavior for others.** Let your children know that their behavior affects others. For example, explain that stealing is not good because other people work hard for their things and value them. Give an example from your child’s own life, “How would you feel if somebody took your favorite video game?” Extend your explanation to stores, if appropriate, explaining that stealing hurts the people who work in the store as well as the people who shop at the store. Focus the discussions to help teach your children why caring is important.

**Express different viewpoints.** Many children have a difficult time looking at things from another person’s perspective. For example, they cannot understand that another might be hurt when they themselves feel fine. You can help them develop an alternative perspective through everyday conversation. For instance, talking about a person who is using a cane and asking, “How do you think it feels to walk with a cane?” This type of example can be used to help children think about viewpoints other than their own.

**Practice what you preach.** Modeling caring and compassion is the best way to teach your children to be caring individuals. The more frequently your children see you acting positively, the better. This includes simple day-to-day acts of kindness toward others in the family, helping out neighbors, or saying “excuse me” in crowds. Reading stories and watching movies about people who devote their lives to serve others are also helpful ways to illustrate the importance of caring and being positive toward others. Read or watch the movie with your children and talk about it after it has ended.

**Reward acts of caring with recognition.** Look for opportunities to catch your child acting positively towards others and comment on it. For example, you might say, “It was nice of you to share your candy with Jonathan,” rather than letting the positive behavior go unnoticed. Recognizing acts of caring can be more difficult than catching children being antisocial, but it is so much more effective.

Look for positive behaviors to praise in your children’s friends. The more often your children see examples of caring in their friends and in other families, the more likely that they will demonstrate caring------it is contagious.

By expressing your feelings, explaining consequences, representing different views, and practicing and rewarding positive behaviors, you can help your children become more positive toward other.

Peace be with you and have a Happy New Year!

Mr. Kerry R. Keener, Ed.S
Principal
November was a month full of fun and learning in kindergarten! We learned about the Pilgrims, the Native Americans, and Thanksgiving. For social studies we also took time to understand Veteran’s Day and family traditions. In math we studied the numbers 0-10 and compared them using the words “more”, “greater”, “less” and “fewer”. We’ve also been counting to 100 by ones and by tens. Ask us to count at home! In reading, we are learning new sight words, as well as new letters and their sounds. When we write, we stretch out words and say them slowly to hear the sounds and write what we hear. We’ve been discussing main ideas and details, and retelling stories. The students are sure to have a very fun December with all of the excitement in the air! It was great to see so many parents at conferences and discuss with you how to best help your child learn and succeed!

November was an eventful month. In social studies, we completed a units titled Time for School and This Is Our Country. The students learned about how rules keep us safe, how we became a country, symbols of the United States, holidays we celebrate and how we elect our leaders. We also discussed what we are thankful for and learned about the first Thanksgiving. In math, we have continued to build on strategies with addition and subtraction. We have also finished our Weather Watchers unit in science. We have written personal narratives and look forward to sharing it with others.

November was a fun filled month for Second Grade. We have been busy! We have built stamina for the different rounds of Daily 5 and are using it successfully. In writing, we completed a Thanksgiving assignment in which kids wrote about the different things that they are thankful for. In Social Studies, we learned that many of the foods that we eat contain corn and completed a corn facts book. In math we have been focusing on using the Math Standards to help us problem solve and have been learning about time and money. Please practice telling time and counting groups of coins with your students at home. In Science, we completed our landforms projects and presentations. The projects turned out amazing and the kids did really well presenting their projects to the class! Thank you everyone who came to conferences. It was great to meet you!
November was a great month in third grade! In reading we focused a lot of energy on fluency, story elements, main ideas with supporting details, and sequencing. We practiced on improving our reading fluency and expression by “phrasing” long sentences into small ones. It makes a tremendous difference in reading comprehension! In writing, we’re improving our writing skills by focusing on personal narratives and persuasive essays. We will develop a 5 paragraph essay for the next writing project. Social studies has been a great way to learn more about Michigan by using informational text reading skills. In math, we finished our first math unit on addition and subtraction properties. The next math unit will be about multiplication. So practice those multiplication facts daily! In science we finished our “Earth and Me” unit and are beginning with the next one, “Changes in Motion.” Science is a great subject to help develop prediction and observation skills. Finally, the third grade teachers want to give a great big THANK YOU to the parents and guardians that attended conferences.

Here’s a look at what we’ve been doing, and a look ahead: In Social Studies, students have been studying our economy and how they play an active part in it. We will begin studying government very soon! In Math, we are continuing to build strategies for multiplication and division, while reinforcing strategies introduced in 3rd grade. It is expected that your son or daughter know his or her multiplication facts fluently to improve their abilities in daily math. Please review unknown facts with them nightly until they have committed them to memory. In Science, students continue to learn about their first unit of study, View From Earth. In Writing we are finishing up our personal narrative unit and moving on to informational writing. We have been practicing our organizational skills by using our PAWS Binder and are looking forward to holiday break at the end of the month. Thank you for all of your support so far this year.

Every week we have been reviewing our multiplication facts. Our multiplication moms have been coming in and testing us on our facts. Our culminating event is a cupcake party. We finished our biography reports. Everyone was eager to learn a great deal about famous people from all walks of life. Don’t forget to visit our “Wax Museum” on December 19th from 10:00-11:00 in the café and gymnasium. The Social Studies classes will be learning about colonization of North America, and in Science we are completing our Objects in the Sky unit. We are continuing to move forward in Math, Dividing Whole Numbers, Dividing by 2-digit divisors, and fractions. We are all set for our field trip to Cranbrook Science Center on Wednesday, December 13th, can’t wait!
Welcome to our New Counselor

Albana Metaj is a graduate of Michigan State University, where she received a Bachelors of Science in Psychology. After graduation, Albana Metaj attended Oakland University, where she received her Masters of Arts in clinical and school counseling. Albana has experience running counseling groups with elementary school students. As our new school counselor here at Pearl Lean Elementary, she hopes to be positive role model for the students and someone who they feel comfortable talking to for any social and emotional concern that they might have here at school. In a few weeks, she will be running counseling groups with the students that focus on promoting good behaviors, making friends, reducing anxiety while at school, building positive self-esteem and managing life changes that may come up in the students lives. She is looking forward to having a great school year with all the students and staff.

PTO News:
The next PTO Meeting is December 5, 7:00PM in the cafeteria. Please join us to help make a difference.

PTO officers for the 2017-18 school year are as follows:

President      Michelle Burkett
Vice President         Nichole Brown
Secretary               Leah Merciez
Treasurer               Shelly Deal

Attendance
Removing your child from school early on a frequent basis may result in a truancy referral to the County Truancy Officer, leaving early is considered the same as tardiness.

Holiday Break
School will close at 12:03 p.m. on Tuesday, December 19th for the Holiday Break. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 3rd, 2018.

½ Day December 19
Dismissal at 12:03pm

No School
December 20 - January 2
Resume School     January 3rd at 8:47

Cafeteria News
See the monthly calendar of lunch selections which is sent home at the beginning of each month or it is located on the district website, www.wcs.kids.net/foodservices.

Breakfast & Lunch Price
Breakfast - $1.25     Reduced Breakfast .30¢
Lunch - $2.75          Reduced Lunch .40¢
Milk .60¢
For American Education Week in November, many parents and students collaborated to enter The Student/Parent Poster Contest. Here are our poster contest winners:

Winners will go to the December Celebration/Board Meeting.

5th Grade: Tamim Uddin - Mrs. Razook
4th Grade: Saemah Hasan - Mr. Connolly
3rd Grade: Ayat Ahmed - Mr. Pini
2nd Grade: Farik Zaman - Mrs. Madden/Ambroziak
1st Grade: Raeesah Uddin - Ms. Wybo
Kindergarten: Mayssane Talbi - Mrs. O’Grady

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WINTER REMINDERS!

Now that the cold weather has arrived, students should dress warmly wearing gloves, hats, mittens, boots etc. All children are expected to go outside on days that weather permits. This is especially true before and after lunch. The decision for going outside at lunch recess is made after 11:00 a.m. each day. Factors determining outdoor recess are wind, temperature, wind-chill index and sunshine. A general guide is that the children will be sent outside if the temperature and/or wind chill index is 15 degrees or above. In many cases, it is much colder when children arrive at school than what it might be at lunch recess. Just to be on the safe side, parents should dress students as if it will be outdoor recess. Exceptions to going outside will be made with a written request from your child’s “SPECIALIST”.

Plan Ahead

Please have children prepare for school the night before. Be sure lunch or lunch money, homework, books, gym shoes, and musical instruments are in or near back packs, so they are not forgotten. We are trying to promote student responsibility. Phone calls home for missing papers, gym shoes, instruments, lunches, agendas, etc. WILL NOT BE ALLOWED. Phone calls are only made for sickness and emergencies.

Reminders

For the safety of all, animals are NOT ALLOWED on school property at any time, excluding service animals accompanying disabled people. Also NO smoking is allowed on school property at any time.
Notes from Nursing

Happy and Healthy Holidays!

The holidays are a time for friends and family to gather, sharing conversation, good food, and potentially the influenza virus and other contagious illnesses.

Reduce the risk of Seasonal flu by getting vaccine protection. Children and adults who are vaccinated will also provide added protection for the infants and grandparents who might be at the holiday gatherings and have the highest rates of complications from the disease. It’s not too late to vaccinate!!

Pertussis (whooping cough) is also on the rise in the United States and here in Michigan. The best way to prevent pertussis is to get vaccinated. Make sure infants and young children get their 5 shots on time.

Protection from the childhood vaccine fades over time.

Adolescents and adults need to be revaccinated, even if they were completely vaccinated as children. This is especially important for families with new infants.

Pertussis is a respiratory illness that is easily spread by coughing and sneezing. The disease starts like the common cold, with a runny nose or congestion, sneezing, and mild cough or fever. After 1 - 2 weeks, severe coughing begins. Infants and children with the disease cough violently and rapidly, over and over, until air is gone from their lungs and they are forced to inhale with a loud “whooping” sound. The coughing can last for weeks, even months. Adults and adolescents typically have a milder form of pertussis; however, they can still easily spread the infection to others, including infants and young children.

Pertussis is most severe for babies; more than half of the infants less than 1 year of age who get the disease must be hospitalized.

Norovirus causes about 20 million gastroenteritis cases a year in the United States. There is no vaccine to prevent it. Wash your hands often and follow simple steps to stay healthy. Noroviruses are a group of related viruses. Infection with these viruses affects the stomach and intestines and causes an illness called gastroenteritis; inflammation of the stomach and intestines. The illness often begins suddenly. You may feel very sick, with stomach cramping, throwing up, or diarrhea. People with norovirus illness are contagious from the moment they begin to feel sick until at least 3 days after they recover, some may be contagious even longer.

Norovirus can spread quickly from person to person in crowded, closed spaces like schools, daycare facilities and shopping malls. Wash your hands carefully with soap and warm water, especially after using the restroom and changing diapers, and always before eating or preparing food. If soap and water aren’t available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Enjoy your holiday break,

WCS School Nurse
Used with permission: CDC
# Pearl Lean Elementary School At Home Reading Calendar

**Student Name:** _______________________  **Teacher Name:** _______________________

## December 2017

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Each day that the student reads the required amount of time, a parent/guardian will initial the appropriate box on the calendar. Students turn in the calendar during the first week of the following month.

**K-2 Students:**
Read for a minimum of 15 minutes each day.

**Grade 3-4 Students:**
Read for a minimum of 20 minutes each day.

Students should read the required amount, a minimum of 20 days per month.
### January 2018

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- **Grade 3-4 Students:**
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Students should read the required amount, a minimum of 20 days per month.
NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Under Federal law, you as parents may request the following specific information about the professional qualifications of your children’s teachers:

1. Whether the teacher has met the state qualifications/licensing for their grade level/subjects.
2. Whether the teacher is on a temporary permit or waiver.
3. The teacher’s majors, graduate certificates/degrees, and discipline fields.
4. Paraprofessional services and qualifications

For further information, please call: (586) 574-3230.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

December 19        ½ Day School, Dismissal @ 12:03 pm
December 20 – January 2          NO SCHOOL, Holiday Break
January 15    No School, Martin Luther King, Jr. day
January 19        ½ Day School, Dismissal@ 12:03 pm

W A R R E N  C O N S O L I D A T E D  S C H O O L S
31300 Anita | Warren, Michigan 48093 | 1-888-4WCS-KIDS | www.wcskids.net

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Student Achievement
A focus on measurable student achievement in our Professional Learning Communities.

High Expectations
Clear expectations for every stakeholder, including students, staff and parents.

Strong Relationships
Strong relationships among all stakeholders, including: teacher-student, parent-teacher, principal-teacher, and superintendent-board member.

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, it is the policy of the Warren Consolidated Schools that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes") be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chief Operating Officer, 31300 Anita, Warren, Michigan 48093, (586) 825-2400, ext 63110.