

Good morning, it's January 17, 2013, and welcome to Panther News. I'm _____, _____th grade.

There is no school ... and no PANTHER NEWS ... this coming Monday. It is an important day for two reasons. It is "Martin Luther King, Jr. Day", a United States federal holiday marking the birthday of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr., and it is the Presidential Inauguration of reelected President Barack Obama.

We mention King first, because if it weren't for his social activism in the "American Civil Rights Movement" in the mid-1950s and 1960s, Barack Obama ... an African American ... probably would not be our President.

Good morning, I'm _____,
_____th grade.

King sought equality for African Americans, the economically disadvantaged and victims of injustice through peaceful protest. He helped bring about such important legislation as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

This coming Saturday is also the “National Martin Luther King Day of Service”. This federal legislation challenges Americans to transform the King Holiday into a day of citizen action volunteer service in honor of Dr. King. Volunteers across the country donate their time to make a difference on this day.

Good morning, I'm _____,
_____th grade.

By serving this MLK Service Day ... Saturday ... you will be "Making A Difference" ... M.A.D. ... in your life as well as the lives of others. Volunteering is not only good for others, but good for you as well!

Research has shown that there is a strong relationship between volunteering and health. Those who volunteer live longer, have greater ability, and have lower rates of depression later in life than those who do not volunteer.

There are many simple ways you can volunteer: you along with your parents can help out at a local food bank; you can help someone move; you can help an elderly neighbor with the yard work, taking out the trash, or just spending some time visiting; you can put a dollar in a Salvation Army kettle; you can pay for a drink for the person behind you in line. The possibilities are endless!

Good morning, I'm _____,
_____th grade.

There are some websites you can go to this Saturday to help out on “National Martin Luther King Day of Service”. You can go to “GoodSearch.com”, and “TabForACause.org”.

If you want more ways and places to volunteer, visit “MLKDay.gov”, and then look for "Find a Project." This website states:

“The MLK Day of Service is a part of United We Serve, the President's national call to service initiative or action. It calls for Americans from all walks of life to work together to provide solutions to our most pressing national problems.”

Good morning, I'm _____,
____th grade.

One of our most pressing national problems right now is gun violence and particularly, gun violence in schools. As we mentioned in a previous broadcast, the shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut was a horrible event.

Everyone is now talking about gun violence and gun control. Yesterday, President Obama announced a 500 million dollar program proposal to help get rid of gun violence. Mr. Chambers and his 8th grade classes are currently doing their part by producing "Gun Violence in Schools" brochures to provide education about this problem.

Good morning, I'm _____,
_____th grade.

What can you do about “gun violence in schools”? You can take a pledge. The “Student Pledge Against Gun Violence” is a national program that honors the role that young people, through their own decisions, can play in reducing gun violence.

Go to “pledge.org” and read the information. Mr. Chambers will begin to set up the pledge here at our school, and then you can sign it. We will have more information about this in our next broadcast.

Approach your Student Council classmates to set up a “student movement against gun violence in schools”. This could involve making posters and banners; signing petitions; writing letters to city, state and national representatives; planning and coordinating meetings and marches.

Good morning, I'm _____,
_____th grade.

Go to “whitehouse.gov”, and then look for “Now is the time to do something about gun violence”. Read about President Obama's plan to keep us and our communities safe by reducing gun violence, and then join the conversation.

Here are some of the points of the President’s plan to reduce gun violence: Require background checks for all gun sales; strengthen the background check system for gun sales; pass a new, stronger ban on assault weapons; give law enforcement additional tools to prevent and prosecute gun crime; make our schools safer with new resource officers and counselors, better emergency response plans.

Some quick announcements:

Congratulations, Dr. Majumdar, our high school physics teacher! A publishing company in Germany has published her Doctoral research work in book form. The book is the result of seven years of research work at Kent State University, Ohio.

The Primary Student Council is sponsoring the “Teddy Bears with Love Project” for the Sandy Hook Elementary students in Newtown, Connecticut. They are collecting teddy bears the month of January. Their plans are to send them to the Sandy Hook children for Valentine’s Day. Donate, and take your teddy bear to the gym area.

There will be another blood drive today in the library. You must be at least 16 years old, and weigh at least 120 pounds to be able to donate blood.

There will be an “Honor Roll” assembly for grades 9 through 12, tomorrow, 8:00am.

There will be a “Welcome Back” dance for grades 6 through 8 in the cafeteria, tomorrow, 4 – 8pm ... sponsored by the Student Council.

We have a new and improved website for Tejano Center for Community Concerns and Raul Yzaguirre School for Success. Check it out at tejanocenter.org.

Mr. Brown wants us to announce that the Service Learning Club will be meeting in his room every Wednesday from 4:15 to 4:45 to discuss and develop different service projects that will support the community.

Teachers please submit your students' writing to Mr. Chambers so we can then contact those students for our broadcasts. We would like for them to have an opportunity to "go live" ... read their compositions ... on PANTHER NEWS ... a great experience!

Again, our e-mail address so you can send your comments and submissions to PANTHER NEWS for broadcast consideration:

panthernewsreport@panthernewsreport.com

Please make sure that you are following the uniform code in your student handbook. Wear your ID badge at all times while on campus. Respect each other as you pass by in the hallways. Stay to your right, and NO BULLYING, please! If you see trash in the hallways of our buildings and anywhere on our campus, pick it up, and throw it in a garbage can.

Communities in Schools

Today: Reading Tutoring - Vocabulary Review, Homework Completion. College and Workforce Readiness – Military Speaker, “U.S. Coast Guard”. Youth Development Enrichment – Soccer, Xbox, Wii, Board Games.

Friday: Career Awareness – “Organizational Skills”, Homework Completion. Physical Activity – Soccer Scrimmage. Fine Arts Technology – Xbox, Wii.

Lunch Menu

Today: Spaghetti and Meat Sauce with Breadstick or Beef BBQ Baked Potato, Cucumber Coins, Ranch Dressing, Baby Carrots, Diced Pear.

Friday: Pepperoni Pizza, Steamed Broccoli, Cheese Sauce, Orange Glazed, Sweet Potato, Vanilla Pudding, Diced Peaches.

That's all for now. We'll see you next Thursday.
Have a great day, and study hard! Your future depends
on it!