

Pelham Press

Vol. 21, No. 28, April 15, 2011

<http://pe.arps.org>



Dates to Remember:

April 18-April 23

Friday, April 29

Wednesday, June 22

Thursday, June 23

Spring Recess

Annual Lasagne Dinner 6-8 pm

Grade 6 Graduation

Last day of school!!!



Dear Pelham School Families,

During the past week, we have had two evening events that were both quite fun and informative. The Variety Show last Friday evening was quite entertaining, and we all enjoyed watching our talented and courageous performers. Our Spring Open House Wednesday evening was a resounding success! It was wonderful to see students taking such proud ownership of their learning in showcasing their work to their families. There was a great turnout from families, and every classroom had unique and interesting presentations.

The Pelham School Council is currently revising the School Improvement Plan and as part of that process, Pelham School is seeking your feedback and input in many areas of our school learning community. We have developed a survey that we are asking you to complete by April 27. Please click on the link below to participate in the survey, and the results will be shared with families later in the spring. If you have already participated, please do not take the survey again. This message was sent out on Wednesday, and sent home in a paper format for those families who do not receive the Pelham Press electronically. We thank you for your time and your participation is very much appreciated!

<http://pelhamparentsurvey2011.questionpro.com>

Below you will find the MCAS testing schedule for math and science that begins in mid-May. Please note that dates that your student may have a testing session. We hope that your student has a restful and enjoyable spring vacation break and returns energized for the final stretch. Enjoy the lovely spring weather!

Sincerely,

Lisa Desjarlais

**Pelham School- Spring 2011
MCAS Testing Schedule- Math & Science**

May 10-May 26 English Language Arts- Grades 3-6				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	10 Grade 5 Science	11 Makeups as needed	12 Grade 5 Science	13 Makeups as needed
16 Makeups as needed	17 Grade 3 Math Grade 5 Math	18 Grade 4 Math	19 Grade 6 Math	20 Grade 4 Math
23 Makeups as needed	24 Grade 3 Math Grade 5 Math	25 Grade 6 Math Makeups as needed	26 Makeups as needed	

THE AMHERST-REGIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Serving Amherst, Pelham and the Amherst-Pelham Region

170 CHESTNUT STREET
AMHERST, MA 01002

413-362-1810 (PHONE)
413-549-6108 (FAX)

April 12, 2011

Dear Families,

The Amherst and Pelham Schools have begun using a computer-based assessment tool developed by Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) called Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP). These are tests that determine each child's instructional level and measure academic growth throughout the school year, as well as from year to year, in the areas of reading, math and language usage.

MAP tests are unique in that the software actively adapts test questions according to the student's responses, making the questions more difficult or easy, until it determines the student's instructional level. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. With MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. Having the right data is a key component in making learning more individualized to each child.

Your child's MAP results are reported in a measurement called **RIT scores** that measure both achievement and growth over time. This is a different type of score than a typical test that provides a percentage correct. It is also different from many tests that provide results based on your child's score compared to others in his or her grade. Instead, the RIT score is an equal-interval scale, like feet and inches, that is independent of grade level. As a result, we can easily measure growth in learning. This type of score increases the value of the tests as a tool to improve student learning because it enables teachers to recognize where to focus attention for your child's learning.

By the fall of 2011, we will have administered MAP multiple times and trained staff in how to interpret and utilize assessment scores for collecting baseline data and determining instructional levels to inform instruction. We look forward to using the MAP results in conjunction with other data points to help teachers better understand and assist each and every student with making academic progress.

Please see the following page for answers to some frequently asked questions about MAP testing.

Sincerely,

Lisa Desjarlais
Principal

Frequently Asked Questions about MAP Testing

Q: What is *Universal Screening*?

A: Universal screening is conducted with all students at a grade level; and followed by additional testing or short-term progress monitoring after targeted instruction, to assess growth.

Q: *When and how will I receive information about my child's results and progress?*

A: During the fall 2011 parent-teacher conference, results will be shared by your child's teacher. By that time, students will have had at least 2 administrations of MAP, to allow for sufficient data points to assess growth. By the fall, teachers will have been trained in the analysis and interpretation of scores. In addition, parents will receive a copy of their child's assessment results.

Q: *How well established is MAP?*

A: During the norming process, MAP was administered to more than 2.8 million students, 6,905 schools in 1,123 districts located in 42 states.

Q: *How is this like or unlike MCAS?*

A: MCAS is administered in spring of each year, and the results are received by teachers the following year (fall), whereas MAP results will be available to teachers within 24 to 48 hours, in order to inform instructional planning for individual students as well as for the class as a whole.

Q: *In what subject areas will my child be tested?*

A: Student in **grades K-2** will be administered the MAP for Primary Grades (MPG) in the areas of reading and mathematics.

Students in **grades 3-6** will be administered MAP in the areas of reading, mathematics and language usage.

Q: *How often are students tested and how long do the assessments take?*

A: Students will be tested three times per year (late September/early October, January and mid May/early June).

MAP for Primary Grades takes approximately thirty (30) minutes per subject area, but it is untimed so students may use more or less time as needed.

MAP takes approximately one hour per subject area but it is untimed so students may use more or less time as needed.

Q: *How will this data be used?*

A: In conjunction with other state and district assessments, these will be used to plan instruction, including differentiated instruction for all students, and progress monitoring for individuals.

Q: *What does it mean to differentiate instruction?*

A: Students come to school with varying levels of readiness to learn, different ways in which they learn best, and a wide range of interests. Differentiating instruction means that a teacher recognizes those academic differences and modifies classroom instruction in order to help each child reach his or her academic potential. All students are challenged without excessive stress, and each student is helped to grow academically. (Tomlinson and Allan, 2000)

Q: *Where can I get more information about NWEA, MAP and RIT scores?*

A: www.nwea.org

IF IT LOOKS LIKE A CAMP, AND FEELS LIKE A CAMP....

Do you need summer care? I will be having 2 weeks of all day care this summer. These camp like sessions, scheduled for June 27 – July 1 and August 22- 26, are staffed by familiar faces and have been very popular in the past. The cost is \$185 for each week with a sibling discount. State vouchers are accepted and some scholarships are available for eligible families. This fun program, held at the Pelham School, will run from 8:30 to 4:30 (with early and late care negotiable). See Lennie Ware to sign up or call 265-3766.

(This program is not limited to current after school families.)

Dear Pelham Parents,

I think it's spring !!!! Not only is it warm and beautiful, but it is also our vacation time. A time when we could all use a break.... Whether it be time for family get togethers or more playtime for our children and ourselves. This week is a time to interrupt the school ritual and have more relaxation and fun. Although it may not be a break for everyone, it is also a week filled with two major holidays, Passover and Easter. I have heard the children talk about how excited they are that these holidays are coming. So... Enjoy your family rituals since these are also a way to bring closeness and celebrations to the family. We can emphasize the themes of rebirth, renewal and freedom that encompass these holidays.....especially as they relate to our lives today. In closing , I would like to share something I found upon my travels. The children love looking at this and some have asked me for a copy.

On my bulletin board is a poster that says...Mom's Rules for a Happy House.

Give more than you receive.

Be kind.

Think outside of the box.

Show love.

Laugh often.

Love, Mom (or Dad)

Enjoy the week .

Deb King

Kindergarten News

We are finishing up our math geometry unit with a group project. A group meeting was held to discuss and vote on one idea to build a sculpture out of geometric cubes. Part of this process is co-operating with each other, and being able to accept someone else's idea being the one chosen. We then had to vote again on the ideas of ways to build the voted idea. The class voted to build a volcano! We have been busy building the past few weeks, getting our finished sculpture ready for Open House.

Our wood unit has been very successful. This class loved being scientists, experimenting with pieces of wood and discovering many things about them. We made pictures of things made out of wood, made how-to books about things made of wood, sketched actual trees outside, and finished with wood sculptures.

Journal writing has now included writing stories that are going to be published. We are practicing the stretching of words and their sounds, using upper case and periods with sentences, and using our word lists with sight words. Remembering that a story has a beginning, middle, and end can be confusing and frustrating. We are working really hard on this. Editing is the final stage before a book is published!

Happy Spring to everyone, I think it is finally here! Debbie Jacque

From the Nurse's Office:



Starting the week after spring break, we will be screening all 5th and 6th grade students for scoliosis. This is a state mandated annual screening for all students in grades 5th through 9th to assess for any curvature of the spine. Each student's torso will be examined by the school nurse with utmost respect and privacy. To perform this assessment, the boys will have to remove their shirts, and the girls must wear a sports bra or swimsuit top. If you would like to have more information, or would like to exempt your child from participation, please contact our school nurse, Paula Russell.

Community Notes

Retrospective: Wildlife Sculptures by Holland Hoagland

Exhibit runs May 3 to June 29, 2011

Artist's reception: Thursday May 19, 2011 (4-7 pm)

(Visitors must show ID to enter building. Call for hours)

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

300 Westgate Center Drive

Hadley, MA 01035



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Take Me Fishing



Day of Fun, Fishing, and Learning

Saturday, May 7, 2011

rain or shine - 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
South of the intersection of Route 9 & Route 116 North
behind Staples and Applebee's Hadley

Free fishing for kids 14 and under

Free live bird demonstration



- Baiting a hook
- How to cast
- Arts & Crafts
- How your rod works
- Face Painting

Borrow a rod and reel (or bring your own rod, barbless hooks only).
Food on sale by Hadley Boy and Girl Scouts.

Prizes will be awarded in three age groups
for the longest fish caught.

Wildlife and nature art on exhibit in
Regional Office Gallery.



For fishing day information, call 413/253 8303 or Federal Relay Service
for the deaf and hard-of-hearing 1 800/877 8339.

All activities are accessible to people with disabilities.
If you require special arrangements, call the number above.

Supported by

- Big Y
- The R & R Sport Shop
- The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Fifth Annual Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools Latino Achievement Night

The Fifth Annual Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools Latino Achievement Night will be celebrated on **May 20, 2011** at the Amherst Regional Middle School, located at 170 Chestnut Street in Amherst, Massachusetts. The event will begin at 6:30 and it is open to all families, friends, staff and community members.

For those of you new to this wonderful community event, this celebration was envisioned by a group of families, staff and community members from several surrounding towns and cities, six years ago when our district established the Latino Initiative. Data revealed that, as a group, Latinos were performing at lower levels than other students in our district and a series of recommendations were formulated to address the issue and try to close this achievement gap. One of the strategies suggested was the creation of a community celebration of the achievements of Latino students every year, as it is accustomed in the majority of the countries our students' families come from.

As a true community event, this celebration is open to the public and hundreds of people come to support our students. In addition to celebrating every student who attends the activity by school, certificates are given to students at transition grades (K, 6, 8 and 12) who have excelled in any of the following categories:

Academic Achievement – *This category recognizes excellence and achievement in academic work in all areas.*

Community Spirit – *This category recognizes students who are “all-around great kids”; these students are a positive influence on their peers, are thoughtful, respectful, and inclusive in a variety of settings (class room, clubs, sports, playground, etc.)*

Effort – *This category embodies students who demonstrate hard work, perseverance, determination and a great love of learning.*

Leadership – *This category embodies students who take initiative in one or more of the following areas: academics, sports, clubs and community service (school and family).*

Progress- *This category recognizes students who have shown great improvement in academic subjects, attendance and/or behavior.*

Please contact Mildred Martinez at www.martinezm2@arps.org or by calling (413)362-1871, if you have any questions about the event.

Dear Pelham Community,

Please join us on Monday, May 2nd at 6:30 p.m. for our May PTO meeting. Childcare is available upon request with at least twenty-four hour notice. Refreshments are available.

Thank you.

Best,
Ruth Carolan
rdcarolan@charter.net
(413) 230-8859

Pelham PTO Agenda
May 2, 2011 - 6:30 pm
Teacher's Lounge - Pelham Elementary School

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Principal's Report including school committee update – Lisa
- Treasurer's Report – Diana

Old Business:

- Variety Show – Tracy

Ongoing Business:

- Staff Appreciation: Wednesday, May 4th – Amy
- Electronic Recycling – Saturday, May 14th – Cherylina (need three volunteers)
- Fashion Republic Clothes Recycle, May 14 – 22nd – Ruth
- Spring Fair – May 15th - Ruth, Amy, etc.
- Stage Curtains – Lisa
- Shed – Cost Estimates – Ruth/Diana
- PTO Pelham School Scholarship – Diana/Ruth

New Business:

- Pelham Elementary School/PTO Website – Ruth
- Guidelines on what Pelham PTO supports – Elise



Mark your _____ calendars for the 2011 Pelham Spring Fair, held on Sunday May 15th from 12-4 p.m. at the Pelham Elementary School. Bring your friends and family to this great event. This is the PTO's largest fundraiser and we need volunteers. If you or someone you know can help out for one hour, two hours, or the full four hours, please fill out the information below. We need all the help we can get! We are looking for people to work in two-hour shifts (or any other time you can) from 12-2 p.m. or 2-4 p.m. (or both). Please indicate what you want to do:

- run games
- distribute prizes
- sell tickets
- work at concession stand
- monitor the bounce house
- help at the climbing wall, or
- anything



THANKS AND WE WILL SEE YOU THERE!



Please fill out the information below, cut at the dotted line and return to: Pelham PTO, Ruth Carolan by Wed. May 11th

Name: _____

Best way to contact you: Email Phone Both

Phone number or Email address: _____

What you want to do: _____

You could be the winner of this beautiful quilt.

Tickets will be for sale at the lasagna dinner and the town meeting night. Tickets are 6 - \$5.00 or \$1.00 each. The quilt will be on display both nights for you to see in person. This quilt to benefit the Pelham Elementary 5th & 6th Grade – Natures Classroom Trip.

Drawing to be held at the Pelham Elementary Spring Fair on Saturday 5/15/11. It just takes one ticket to win....



Pelham Elementary PTO will be
holding a
**used clothing
collection**

We are collecting:

- WEARABLE & USABLE CLOTHING
(Men's, women's, & children's)
- SHOES, BELTS, HANDBAGS
- LINENS
- STUFFED ANIMALS

Date: Drop off May 14 - 22

Drop off in Pelham School

Lobby between 8:20-3:05pm

Time: School Hours

DON'T THROW IT AWAY !

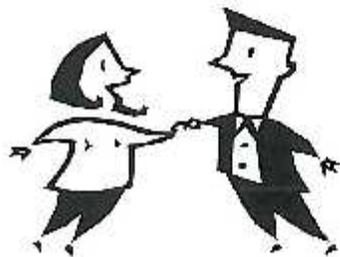
**Support
your school**

Contact person: Ruth Carolan

rdcarolan@charter.net

Call us for more details

The school will receive a donation for the total pound-
age that we can collect. Please put clothing items in
well tied plastic garbage bags.



10% of proceeds will go to local shelter.


Fashionrepublicinc.com