

# Pelham Press



Vol. 21, No. 30, May 5, 2011

<http://pe.arps.org>



## Dates to Remember:

Thursday, May 5  
 Sunday, May 15  
 Thursday, May 26  
 Monday, May 30  
 Wednesday, June 1  
 Thursday, June 2  
 June 8-10  
 Wednesday, June 22  
 Thursday, June 23

School Committee Meeting- 6:30 pm ( see agenda on page 2)  
 Spring Fair  
 Band & Orchestra Concert- 7:30 pm  
 No School- Memorial Day holiday  
 Chorus Concert 7 pm  
 Chorus Concert 9:45 am  
 Nature's Classroom Trip-Grade 6  
 Grade 6 Graduation 7 pm  
 Last day of school!!!



Dear Pelham School Families,

The Pelham School staff was honored with a wonderful “teacher appreciation” luncheon provided by the PTO yesterday. A huge thank you to all the parents that sent in the delicious desserts, as well as to the PTO for working so hard to make this happen. It is important to take time to honor our educators and acknowledge the crucial role teachers play in making sure every student receives a quality education. Pelham School teachers are dedicated to providing an excellent educational experience for students and families, and our partnership with families is a key component in that equation.

This is my final request for Pelham Parent Surveys! Please take a few minutes to provide some feedback on the educational programs and other areas of Pelham School. The window closes for the survey on May 11. Again, we thank you for your time and your response is very much appreciated. Here is the link again for your convenience: <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 are asking each parent to actively support us in making this testing period one that works well for all students involved. Here are a few important test preparation tips that will help your children do their best on the tests:

- Please make sure that your child arrives at school on time,
- Make sure that your child gets to bed on time,
- Ensure that your child eats a nutritious breakfast,
- Provide a healthy, nutritious snack for your child.

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 <i>Makeups as needed</i>	12 Grade 5 Science	13 <i>Makeups as needed</i>
16 <i>Makeups as needed</i>	17 Grade 3 Math Grade 5 Math	18 Grade 4 Math	19 Grade 6 Math	20 Grade 4 Math
23 <i>Makeups as needed</i>	24 Grade 3 Math Grade 5 Math	25 Grade 6 Math <i>Makeups as needed</i>	26 <i>Makeups as needed</i>	

**AGENDA for Meeting of the Pelham School Committee**

**6:00 PM, Thursday — May 5, 2011**

**Pelham Community Room**

1. Welcome
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Agenda Review
  - C. Approve Minutes
2. Announcements and Public Comments
3. Superintendent's & Principal's Update
4. New and Continuing Business
  - A. Quarterly Financial Review
  - B. RTI
  - C. Long Range Planning
  - D. School Choice
  - E. School Committee Membership
  - F. Accept Gifts
5. Subcommittee Reports
  - A. Visioning Subcommittee
  - B. Budget Subcommittee
  - C. Policy Subcommittee
6. School Committee Planning
  - A. Calendar Review
  - B. Items for upcoming meetings
7. Adjournment

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

## Quinlan's Quill

How time has flown this year! It is May and the kids are definitely feeling a little spring fever. As May begins we are beginning some new units and reviewing some old material. I hope everyone noticed the MCAS dates in the last Pelham Press because 5<sup>th</sup> grade is the most affected class. We will have two Science MCAS sessions and two Math MCAS sessions. Please be aware of the dates and help your child be as prepared as they can be.

Thanks to the support of Pat Cahill, Science coordinator for the district, we have worked on a fun science unit that dealt with the concepts of energy, light and sound. Pat has brought us many hands on activities which the students have thoroughly enjoyed. Also, we have been reviewing some released items for the Science MCAS. The Science MCAS is different from the English Language Arts MCAS because they have to remember vocabulary and concepts that have been taught throughout their elementary experience. Therefore, it is extremely important that I review some of these concepts and remind the students of the activities that they did in younger grades. We have been known to bring "experts" from the other grades to help us with the concepts. The students are also relieved to know that many of the questions are "common sense" questions which they "just know".

In math we are finishing up with our decimal unit and then will combine our knowledge of decimals with a fraction/decimal/percent Investigations Unit. This unit does a good job of consolidating the concepts with games and activities so the students see the relationships between these three concepts. Once we have completed this unit we will fill in some of the frameworks that I have not taught this year before the Math MCAS. We will review some geometry, metric measurement and probability. Also, we will be working on some Math MCAS practice problems to give the students a sense of the Math MCAS.

Our final literature book of the year will be Bud not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis. This is a wonderful book that takes place during the Great Depression where the main character is a 10 year old African American boy. Also, we will be having Book Clubs where groups of students can pick their own piece of work and read them together as a group and discuss the piece of literature just as adults do in the Book Clubs. This will be a fun way for students to share a piece of literature together.

Before the end of the year is upon us, I want to thank you for letting me work with your kids. They are all unique individuals who bring a lot to a classroom. A teacher can laugh with them, joke with them, and enjoy teaching them. They are hungry to learn, respectful in all ways and just a joy. Thank you for letting me teach your kids.

Suzanne Quinlan

## Sixth Grade News

We are working our way through a series of short math tests. On Tuesday we had our test on Integers and Rational Numbers, and then started our unit on Probability and Statistics. We are also taking a look at past MCAS tests to familiarize ourselves with the format, remind us of all we've learned this year, and celebrate how much we know.

We finished our biography unit, and had several "visitors" in class reading one-page summaries of their famous lives and asking "Who Am I?" We met Galileo, Sacajawea, Napoleon, Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Amelia Earhart, Abe Lincoln and 16 others who have made important contributions to the world. You can see a poster with everyone's picture – including costumes and props - hanging in our classroom.

We all enjoyed Eshu Bumpus' work in our classroom which taught us about storytelling. We re-worked famous fairy tales and added our own details, voices, songs and surprises to them. Austin and Liam did a great job telling theirs to the school at our assembly last week. The rest of us told our stories to our 1<sup>st</sup> grade reading buddies Friday afternoon.

In reading, we've started books by Mildred Taylor that focus on the Logan family facing prejudice in the southern United States in the 1930's. We are reading *Song of the Trees* and *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* in small groups, while we work on oral reading fluency, reading comprehension, and identifying elements of fiction. The theme of making good choices for yourself, even when others around you aren't supportive is something we will discuss in detail during our health unit, which we will start later in May.

Margaret Light

## Music News

Lately, **Kindergarten and first grade** students discovered how Vivaldi described the signs of spring using the language of music in his "Four Seasons" suite for string instruments. Children had a chance to express each part of the music through movements. Kindergarten students played the Sol, Mi and La notes on the bells. They walked through the same notes placed on the three staff lines on the floor, singing the corresponding song "Rain, Rain" and found the "musical monkey" hiding in the lunchboxes marked with the name of these notes by listening for clues from my recorder.

**First grade** students sang the enchanting song "Peaceful Waters." **First and second grade** classes read short melodies using the Do, Re, Mi, Sol and La notes. The "musical monkey" game is also a favorite in these classes, where I add the Do and Re sounds. **First grade** students played percussion instruments to accompany their singing of the accumulative song "Gonna Build Me a House" and played the cooperative singing games "New Shoes" and "I've been to London."

**Second grade** students sang the Hopi "Corn grinding" song and imitated the sounds of grinding with the sand blocks. They started playing simple patterns to songs, such as "Hickory, Dickory Dock" and "The Cat Came Back" on the xylophones. Along with **third grade** students, they also learned the accompaniment on the bells to "Alabama Gal" and danced the line dance that goes with the song. **Both classes** performed the "Irish Stew," a dance with partner changes and played the African-American singing game "Pizza, Pizza."

**Third grade** students accompanied their singing of the song "Follow the Drinking Gourd" about the underground railroad on the xylophones. They discovered the "theme and variation" form, dynamics and timbre used by the composer Edward Grieg while listening to "The Hall of the Mountain King." Children enjoyed learning about the story that this piece describes.

**Fourth grade** students learned to play "Twinkle Twinkle" on the xylophones and created variations to the melody. **Fourth, fifth and sixth grade** classes all played the accompaniment to the pop song "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" and the Arabic songs "Tumba" and "Rain, oh, Rain." The same classes danced the "Irish Mixer" a challenging dance with partner changes.

**Fourth and fifth grade** classes started to sing the Chinese "Feng Yang" song and play the accompaniment on the gong, cymbals and drums. These classes are also working in groups to create dance moves to a hip-hop tune, that chorus is working on.

**The sixth grade** class is working on learning to play the bongo and xylophone parts to accompany the song "Bongo Joe. In addition upper grade students played the 12 bar blues pattern on the xylophones and enjoyed playing the Native American "Stick/bone hiding game."

The **Pelham Chorus** will present a concert for families on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June at 7:00 pm and one next morning at 9:30 for the school community. I hope to see you there.

Happy Spring!  
Agnes Zsigmondi

## ***From the Nurse's Office:***



### **Notice for family newsletter on BMI screening....**

To Families with students in grades 1, 4, 7 and 10

Massachusetts General Law (105 CMR 200.500:Annual Assessment of Physical Growth and Development) requires that the Body Mass Index (BMI) and corresponding percentile of each student in grades 1, 4, 7 and 10 is calculated and reported directly and confidentially to a parent or legal guardian.

To comply with this regulation, we will be sending a packet of information about BMI which was developed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to all families of students in grades 1, 4, 7 and 10. This packet will contain information on your child's BMI, healthy eating, physical activity and where to find additional resources. This information will be mailed to you in the upcoming weeks. If you have any questions about your child's BMI, please feel free to contact the nurse at school or your child's health care provider.

# **Community Notes**

## **MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE AT QUABBIN PARK CEMETERY**

The Memorial Day observance honoring the people removed from their original resting places for the building of Quabbin Reservoir will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, May 29, at Quabbin Park Cemetery. Members of the Pelham Historical Society will meet at the Museum at 9:30 a.m. to march behind the Society's banner at this service.

For more information and to sign up, call Elva Anderson at 253-3970.

**Come join Boy Scout Troop 500 Amherst** to see how Scouting is evolving as it enters its 2nd century. We are having an Open House for prospective scouts and their families Tuesday, May 17 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the South Congregational Church, 1066 Southeast Street, Amherst. Troop 500 has a 50+ year history in Amherst working with school-age boys (grades 5-12). Troop activities are organized and run by the boys, including weekly meetings, monthly campouts, and projects in the community. Our Scouts learn practical outdoor skills and develop leadership skills while having a lot of fun. For more information, contact Scoutmaster Peter Crowley at (413) 253-0964.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

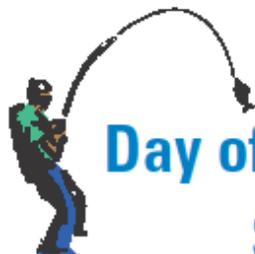
300 Westgate Center Drive

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](mailto:www.martinezm2@arps.org) or by calling (413)362-1871, if you have any questions about the event.



Mark your calendars for the 2011 Pelham Spring Fair, held on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best way to contact you:  Email  Phone  Both

Phone number or Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

What you want to do: \_\_\_\_\_

# **SPRING FAIR FOOD TABLE**

**Sunday May 15, 2011**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

Please call or write if you can bring:

- \*Chili
- \*Soup
- \*Salad
- \*Corn Bread
- \*Electric skillet

OR if you can help set up or serve during the fair.

It will be fun (and yummy)!

Contact:

Alicyn Mindel

413 992 7290

[alicynmindel@gmail.com](mailto:alicynmindel@gmail.com)

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 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 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....



# Clean out and help Pelham Elementary School \$\$\$ Clean Up \$\$\$

Pelham PTO is partnering with Fashion Republic  
for a **Used Clothing Collection.**

We are collecting:

WEARABLE &  
USABLE CLOTHING  
(Men's, Women's  
& Children)

SHOES, BELTS, HANDBAGS  
LINENS  
STUFFED ANIMALS

The school receives a  
donation for the total  
poundage that we can  
collect.



Drop Off:

**WELL TIED** plastic  
garbage bags  
Pelham School Lobby  
During School Hours  
**May 14-22**  
**8:20 am-3:05 pm**

Contact Person:  
Ruth Carolan  
rdcarolan@charter.net

10% of proceeds will go to the survival center