



Pelham Press

Vol. 21, No. 35, June 10, 2011

<http://pe.arps.org>



Dates to Remember:

Sunday, June 12

Wednesday, June 15th

Friday, June 17

Wednesday, June 22

Wednesday, June 22

Thursday, June 23

After School Picnic - 4:30 - 6:30 at Mill River

Look Park chorus trip- 9:00-1:00

Field Day

Mill River Trip-Grades K-5

Grade 6 Graduation- 7 pm

Last day of school!!! **Early Release at 1:20- No After School**



Dear Pelham School Families,

At the PTO meeting on Monday evening, the drawing was held for the baskets from the Spring Fair. The winners are:

- Grade 6 gift card baskets: Missy Kosuda, Leanne Hasbrouck, and Diana Zhradnik
- Grade 5 wine basket: Cherylina Choquette
- Grade 4 home movie night basket: Owen Toal
- Grade 4 movie night out: Penny Stevens
- Grade 3 cooking basket: O'Malley
- Grade 2 yoga and exercise basket: Sue Tippet
- Grade 1 UMass sports basket: Missy Kosuda
- Kindergarten family fun basket: Lisa Desjarlais
- PTO gift baskets: Cynthia Weigel and Judy Rudolph
- Office arts and crafts basket: Modestou

Congratulations to all of the winners of these delightful baskets and a big thank you to all of the families that contributed to the baskets!

At the end of this newsletter you will find information for our Field Day next Friday. We have a fun-filled day planned and need parents to help to make this day a success. If you are able to help out, please fill out the attached form and return it to the school.

I have included the minutes from Monday evening's PTO meeting as well as the Pelham School Visioning Committee meeting on May 25. The minutes from all of our school governance groups and committees can be found on the Pelham School web site, but I will begin to include them on a regular basis within the Pelham Press. It is important that the parent community is kept informed on a consistent basis on the events and issues related to Pelham School. Your support is critical in ensuring the success of your child's educational experience and information that is provided in a timely and consistent venue will enable parents to join in this partnership.

Have a lovely weekend!

Sincerely,

Lisa Desjarlais

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 back of this sheet for answers to some frequently asked questions about MAP testing.

Sincerely,

Lisa Desjarlais

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

Fall Enrollment for Pelham After School

The After School Program is now accepting childcare requests for fall 2011. The program follows the school calendar, and runs daily from school dismissal time until 5:30 P.M. The cost is \$40 per month for each daily slot, but Wednesday counts as a double slot. Full time care is \$240 a month. There are sibling discounts, as well as scholarship opportunities. We also accept state vouchers. Please contact Lennie Ware

(265-3766) or Janet Scott for a form.

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.)

FROM THE SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAM

The end of the school year is approaching. School library classes end this week. **All library books** are due back by **Thursday, June 16**. Please start searching for all those missing book!

6:30 p.m., Pelham Library Community Room

IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Lipman, Ruth Carolan, Amy Kroin, Kristen Mattocks, Lisa Desjarlais, Elise Stromgren, Amy Wasserman, Diana Zahradnik, Judy Rudolph, Tina McPhearson, CherylNina Choquette, Amy Wasserman.

Principal's Report LISA	Maryanne Lombardi donated a 6 foot tall fiberglass sneaker work of art (from the Art and Soles exhibit in Springfield last year) to the school. The sneaker will be set in concrete somewhere on the grounds of the school. Lisa asked if the PTO in the past has supported the Field Day event, such as purchasing refreshments and/or water. Field Day is Friday June 17. Approximately 120 children. Amy will check to see if anyone will donate watermelon to the school. PTO will purchase water and provide watermelon or popsicles. Lisa has received raw data from school survey 35/100 responses, overall parents very satisfied with academics, school guidance and extra curricular activities. Parents asking for more information about school committee and PTO meetings – looking for earlier notification on agendas. There were some strong opinions expressed about mixed grade classrooms. More information to come when Lisa compiles the comments into a report. School Improvement Plan has been drafted and presented to school committee. Regionalization has been discussed at school committee and a public forum is coming up June 16, 2011, Thursday in the Library Community Room. Pelham School is looking for new Art, PE, Computer and Special Education teachers.
Treasurer's Report Diana	Diana reports the current balance is \$13,621.21 (before Basket Raffle). Diana needs to secure gift wrap vendor for next year. Prices between the two companies are comparable; both companies have a variety of gifts to offer. She is suggesting we stick with the Genevieve's, local company and we did very well last year with the sales. PTO decides to contact Genevieve's.

OLD BUSINESS – REVIEW AND RESULTS:

Staff appreciation AMY W	Amy looking for info about the new Art teacher, once hired – for the Original Art. Meg Gallagher and Leanne Hasbrouck said the luncheon was elegant and a good time. Amy reports that it was a good turnout, better than previous years. Lisa says that the first week of May works well, staff appreciation week.
Electronic Recycling CHERYL NINA	CherylNina reports we will deposit \$854 from this event. Advertised on Craig's list, Belchertown Sentinel and at schools. Good turnout; a couple people thought they could just drop off for free.
Clothes Recycling RUTH/ELISE	We filled up the sun room with bags of clothing (approximately 50 large garbage bags of clothing and other articles - rugs, etc.) Fashion Republic paid by pound, we made \$130 profit. Event may have been more worthwhile if the trailer could be left at the school over the week.
Spring Fair RUTH/DIANA	We made \$650 from the Basket Raffle. \$1,048.00 deposit from food and ticket sales. Bounce house was \$295 (total proceeds were then approximately \$1,400). Rain put a bit of a damper on some of the activities/events, in addition we did not have any UMass volunteers. A lot of parent support at the games. Bounce House worked out but the climbing wall was canceled due to the rain. Consider whether we want the wall next year, it is expensive though many children enjoy this event. Mr. Lipman's Cake Walk "walked off" 28-30 cakes this year, it worked well – Paul says this was a good, very manageable number of cakes.
Pelham Scholarship DIANA	Diana needs the information about where to send the scholarship and who the students are. Ruth will follow up with the scholarship folks.
Target Gift Cards for teachers DIANA	Diana needs to purchase the gift cards.

NEW AND ONGOING BUSINESS:

Rena Moore Book Award RUTH/LISA	Lisa will get in touch with Margaret Light, Tracy Farnham suggested to Ruth and Lisa that we get in touch with Rena to present the award.
Elections RUTH	Diana agrees to stay on as Treasurer, Elise agrees to stay on as Secretary, Kristen Mattocks accepts nomination as PTO President from Ruth, CherylNina seconds, remaining PTO members vote unanimously to accept nomination. Kristen accepts.
Certificates for "retiring" PTO parents RUTH	TBA
Bus Driver Appreciation DIANA	PTO purchases donuts and coffee for the bus drivers in appreciation of their efforts throughout the year. Eric Corp has usually delivered the donuts and gifts; which get brought to the office at the Middle School.
Basket Raffle Winners LEANNE	See Pelham Press for full list
PTO Website RUTH	Ruth wants to look at the quote on the site referring to the PTO's mission, she thinks it may not be accurate.
New Curtains for the stage LISA	Lisa reports on the latest with the curtains. Bruce Klotz did not recommend side panel curtains; however, because the elevator in the school runs over the side tracks. Lennie Ware is going to match funds \$680, quote was \$1380. \$700 needed, PTO votes unanimously to fund. Accordion doors' original distributor came up and looked at the doors to give us an estimate. Bruce estimates that it will be \$5-10G to fix the accordion doors. Lisa will wait for the final estimate and see how much it will be. Stage is no longer used as instruction space so that they aren't actually necessary.
School Storage Shed DIANA	Diana made some calls about the shed. Contacted Skips Outdoor Accent (12x12 mini-barn style \$2500 no delivery charge). Diana contacted Rick Light but has yet to hear back with a quote. If we donate the shed to the school, then the school needs to maintain it; school committee will need to vote on having the structure at the property and will need to contact the town about a building permit. The shed may need a foundation. Lisa will contact the school committee and check with the town.
PTO policy on Events ELISE	Elise will draft for next meeting.
Next PTO Meeting July 18, 6:30 p.m.	PTO Summer meeting will be at Kristen Mattock's house, pot luck. Agenda and directions to Kristen's house to be distributed.

Meeting adjourned 8:43 p.m.

Pelham Education Visioning Committee

Attending: Annie Foley, Kristin DeBoer, Fred Vanderbeck, Warren Hall, Tom Fanning, Darius Modestow, Lisa Desjarlais, Janet Scott, Claire Kurtz (notetaker)

Reviewed and approved agenda as presented by Darius, Chair:

Report of Subcommittee Reviewing Current Pelham School Budget

Fred reported he met with Debbie Gould, John Trickey, and Lisa. They concluded that a Pelham-resident-only student population is not viable for supporting the school.

Discussion of Outer Ring Regionalization Proposal

Fred attended the Shutesbury Education Study Committee meeting of 5-24-11. Shutesbury proposed forming three subcommittees: education, finance and governance. They are seeking two members from each of the three towns (Shutesbury, Leverett and Pelham) to join each subcommittee—six representatives from each town in total. Their next meeting in Shutesbury is June 13. After some discussion we agreed Darius will propose sending two representatives to the finance subcommittee only. Selection of these two members was tabled. We acknowledged that researching regionalizing with Amherst is our first priority. Researching regionalizing with Outer Ring towns of Shutesbury and Leverett is second. As we continue with the next phase of research, Tom recommended reviewing the report of the Four-Town K-12 Regionalization Study Committee from June 26, 2010.

Public Forum Planning

We discussed a request by the Pelham School Committee for the Visioning Committee to hold a public forum June 16. After much debate, we recommended that the School Committee postpone the forum until fall.

Conclude Our Exploration of Some Options

The following two options are not financially viable as a future direction for Pelham School : closing the school; limiting student body to Pelham residents only. Since these options are not financially viable, we feel there is no further need to consider educational, governance or quality of life impacts of these options.



LEISURE SERVICES & SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION DEPT

Amherst Massachusetts

Bangs Community Center
70 Boltwood Walk
Amherst, MA 01002
www.lsse.org

Phone: 413.259.3103

Phone: (413) 259-3065
Facsimile: (413) 259-2407
lsse@amherstma.gov

LSSE Youth Camp Scholarships Available

Thanks to the support from two recent grant awards the Town of Amherst Leisure Services and Supplemental Education Department, LSSE, is offering up to 75% in subsidy for children to attend summer recreational camps and up to 85% for children to attend week-long programs in the arts. Families in need of financial assistance will benefit from the successful applications made through the Friends of Amherst Recreation to the Xeric Foundation and the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts totaling \$8,000.

“The generosity of these grants gives us an opportunity to reach out to families in need in a significant way. In this current economy, I think the change in income parameters was important in order for more children to be able to participate in summer programs. These funds will also expand support to families that may not have been eligible in the past and will allow for a wider range of assistance explained Linda Chalfant, LSSE Director.”

The summer Adventure Playground and Early Adventures day camp program will include week long swimming lessons, arts and crafts, games, sports, field trips and new for this year, a pilot program offering Spanish language lessons. The week long art programs feature full day and half day cartooning, clay, collage, sculpture and other enriching art programs taught by award winning artists Lahri Bond and Deborah Bazer. Former professional actress and drama therapist, Becca Greene-Van Horn will present acting and improvisational programs for children, youth and teens. David Ranen, Choral Director for the Amherst Regional Middle and High School will offer a new program entitled “Broadway Sings” for 6th -9th graders July 18-22.

Sports camps for all ages and types will also be eligible for deep subsidies of up to 75% so youth may attend half day and full day instructional sports programs taught by renowned area and regional coaches and teachers. Sports camps offered include baseball, softball, basketball, soccer, tennis, field hockey, lacrosse, volleyball, ultimate and more.

LSSE is a Town of Amherst Department that builds community and strengthens families through a variety of recreational and educational programs, services and facilities, serving approximately 50,000 preschool age children through senior citizens all over the Pioneer Valley and the Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools. LSSE offers hundreds of programs annually, including adult and youth education classes, aquatics, licensed after school programs, community theater, youth and adult sports, vacation, day and resident camps, and numerous special events. For more information about the fee reductions or to register for programs, visit www.lsse.org or call the office at 413-259-3065.

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Multi-Arts Summer Camp 2011

where every child is an artist

theater
 fashion design
 art
 woodworking
 storytelling
 creative writing
 dance



Ages 4 to 13

Sample Schedule



8:30 Games
 9:00 Art
 10:00 Snack / Outside Time
 10:30 Theater
 11:30 Storytelling (ages 4-7)
 Creative Writing (ages 8-13)
 12:30 Lunch / Water Games
 1:30 Fashion Design / Woodworking
 2:30 Dance
 3:25 Pick up

Theater We'll explore the craft of acting through pantomime, script writing, acting and improvisation, and will stage original plays.

Fashion design Design and create your own garment. And, yes, we will have our very own runway show to mark the end of camp!

Art The art room is a busy place. We'll be working in 2D & 3D on illustrations, books, paintings, and props for plays.

Dance Professional teachers and special guests will get you moving: funk styles, hip-hop, Indian, flamenco, salsa.

Creative writing We know how to make writing fun! We'll help you turn your ideas into stories and plays.

student-teacher ratio of 4:1
 not a school sponsored event

REGISTRATION FORM

Return form with FULL PAYMENT of tuition, plus non-refundable \$35 registration fee per family, to:

Multi-Arts
 P.O. Box 108
 Hadley, MA 01035

Name Age

Parent/Guardian

Address

Telephone

E-mail address*

Male Female

Workshop I	June 27 - July 8	\$550	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workshop II	July 11 - July 15	\$285	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workshop III	July 18 - July 29	\$550	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workshop IV	Aug 1 - Aug 12*	\$550	<input type="checkbox"/>

Location: Wildwood Elementary School, Amherst / *Workshop IV: North Star, Hadley

\$100 tuition reduction when Workshop II is combined with any 2 week workshop

Financial aid available - Vouchers accepted

www.multi-arts.org



Come to the 13th Annual Elementary School Track Meet at the Amherst Regional High School.

Date: Wednesday, June 15

Time: 4:30-6:30 P.M.

Schools Invited: Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury, Crocker Farm, Fort River, Wildwood, Hartsbrook, Common School

Suggested Donation: \$3 per runner.

Divisions: Grades K-2, 3-4, 5-6; separate girls and boys divisions

Events: Long Jump, Shot Put, 100 meters, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1600m
4 X 100m, 4 X 400m

Refreshments provided!

Sponsored by the Amherst Regional High School Track Teams

Soccer Tryouts for FC Massachusetts

Tryouts for the 2nd season of the local Premier League Boys and Girls Soccer Club (at UMass) will be held next week. 2011-2012 tryout dates - Girls U10 – U17 June 13 & 15; Boys U10-U16 June 14 & 16. At Boyden Fields, UMass Amherst, Check in 5:45 PM Tryouts 6:00-7:30 PM. More information and register for tryouts at: www.fcmassachusetts.com

Michael DeChiara, Shutesbury

Michael DeChiara

michael@michaeldechiara.com



Hello Past and Potential Pelham Players!

It's that wonderful time again when we get to plan for the summer play. This year we're doing one big play, a musical version of "Robin Hood," on the weekend of August 5th. The exact days/times of the performances are not set.

Please come to the Informational Meeting/Auditions next Saturday, June 11, at 1pm at the Pelham Library. Cindy Naughton will describe the show, children will fill out a form indicating their interest in various parts, Cindy will teach songs and ask children to sing in small groups or solo. She will also have selected scenes for children to read for the parts they want. It is helpful for parents to stay close, especially for young ones, and some older ones, who need help deciding on appropriate roles to try. For those newer to Pelham Players: Everyone gets a part and Cindy tries to give kids one of the roles they want if possible. Leads will be double or triple cast (there was once a role that was quadruple cast because so many wanted it). The Pelham Library sponsors the play.

If you cannot make it on Saturday, Cindy is available to meet with you next week, ahead of the meeting. Please call her, 253-5290, to arrange a time if your child wants to try for one of the larger roles. If your child is happy being in the ensemble, "auditioning" with Cindy is not necessary.

Casting will be done by the first rehearsal, which will be soon, but isn't set yet. Cindy will introduce all the songs and encourages all to sing along, so it is really fun for everyone. We will try to schedule most ensemble rehearsals for Saturday mornings and one or two more weekday nights.

Thanks! Looking forward to a fun summer!

Andra

Andra Rose
16 Poets Corner Rd.
Amherst, MA 01002
413-256-8686
ar@andarose.com



Pelham School Field Day- June 17

Parent volunteers are needed for Field Day on Friday, June 17th. This is an exciting and fun-filled day and we need some extra hands to help with some of the activities as well as keeping our students hydrated with beverages, popsicles, and watermelon. Sunscreen and labeled water bottles are highly recommended. There will be a sprinkler available to cool students off, and if children plan on getting wet they **MUST** bring a dry change of clothes. Bathing suits may be worn under clothing, and should be either a one piece suit or a two piece with no middle showing.

A preview of some of the events planned:

Face painting, bocci, water relays, ball run, sack races, spoon races, bubble station, tug-of-war, ball toss at cans, and much more.

Please return the form below if you can support this event.

_____ I can help set up at 8:30

_____ I can help from 10:30-11:45

_____ I can help from 12:45-2:30

_____ I can help clean up after the event

Name: _____