

# JUNE

# Pelham Press

Vol. 21, No. 34, June 3, 2011

<http://pe.arps.org>



## Dates to Remember:

Monday, June 6

June 8-10

Sunday, June 12

Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

Friday, June 17

Wednesday, June 22

Wednesday, June 22

Thursday, June 23

PTO Meeting- 6:30 pm

Nature's Classroom Trip-Grade 6

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,

The end of the school year is quickly drawing near, with multiple events and field trips to fit in our busy days. A big thank you to all the families who were able to attend the final Chorus, Band, and Orchestra concert last evening. It was wonderful to see such a turnout! The students played at their finest and it was a stellar performance. We are very proud of our budding musicians and vocalists, and recognize all the hard work and effort that goes into making these performances. I'd like to thank the students for their commitment and all those extra practice hours. They are an inspiration for all of our younger students who are coming up to embrace these opportunities. I'd also like to thank the teachers for their words of encouragement, endless patience and dedication, and finally the parents, for supporting their students in their musical endeavors.

A reminder that all medications (inhalers, EpiPens, etc.) need to be picked up by the close of school on June 23rd. All medications that haven't been picked up by then will be disposed of. Our lost and found clothing section is brimming with boots, coats, and other assorted clothing items. Please take a moment to browse through this rack, located across from the gym. All unclaimed items will be donated to a charity at the close of the school year.

Another call for books! At the end of the year, we have a book swap that is held annually in which students have an opportunity to select a book to take home for the summer. We are looking for donations of books for students from kindergarten through sixth grade. Please send in any gently used books to donate for this good cause. Summer reading is critical to maintaining a students' reading progress and skills.

Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

*Lisa Desjarlais*

Dear Parents,

As we get near to the end of the year, I typically have some kind of “good-bye” letter to the Pelham families. I also might have discussed summer opportunities and situations for your children, or reflect on the past school year. However, because of the loss of Peter Hall, Shelby Hall’s father from third grade, I thought I would primarily discuss some suggestions for dealing with death when it comes to children.

Teachers, counselors and classmates make up a child’s “second family “. They, too, have strong feelings when a “family member“ experiences a death. We cannot always know what our children are thinking or feeling during this time. Children tend to express grief in their ways of behaving. They act out their feelings and emotions. Each child reacts differently. They may withdraw, be aggressive, panic, feel guilty or experience fear. Especially since this was the death of a parent, your children may become especially anxious regarding the health and safety of their own parents. If your child seeks you out to talk , be available and REALLY LISTEN. Share some of your own feelings ( not all , of course ) with your child. Be supportive and available and acknowledge the reality that grief hurts.

We are a very supportive school community and these are the times when that comes clearly into view. We have encouraged class discussions and there have been beautiful cards and drawings done by some of our children.

So... during this sad occasion, I hope that you remember that I am always available to help your family during this difficult time. Also... take this summer time to cherish your time together. Have fun, play and use the summer to create new and exciting activities.

As usual, I want to thank you all for trusting me with your children. They are delightful and continue to bring pleasure to my working day. I say a special good-bye to “my” sixth graders with whom I have worked for many years. I will really miss them.

Have a nice summer.  
Deb King

## Quinlan's Quill

This is my last Pelham Press of this school year. We welcomed June this week and the students definitely have summer fever. As we wrap up the year, we will be reading some great literature, doing some fun math, writing and giving demonstration speeches, creating an end of the year book and learning about puberty.

We are reading the book Bud not Buddy in small groups. Students are really enjoying the book and the main character of Bud whose ten- year old voice is clearly heard in this book. Also, we are learning about the Great Depression which is the time period the book is written. Students are also reading another book in their Book Clubs. They have named their clubs, written a constitution and have assigned themselves reading homework in order to finish the book in 10 days. Groups are reading Soup, Caddie Woodlawn, Rifles for Waite or With Every Drop of Blood. Students will be discussing these books in their groups every day and learning how to ask good questions, how to think and question as you are reading and how to be participating members of their book clubs.

In writing we are writing and presenting Demonstration Speeches. Students will demonstrate something they enjoy to do or make. This is as fun activity for students to present in front of the class.

Be on the lookout for the "mean" fifth grader. Students are measuring the different parts of their bodies and then teams of students will find the average or the mode for each part. Finally, we will create the "mean" fifth grader out of newspaper, tape and rulers.

Our last unit of the year is a health unit. I will teach them about what is happening in their bodies, about puberty, and about the danger of drugs. These topics are uncomfortable for some students but they are part of the curriculum and I will be using the Great Body Shop Pamphlets to lead the discussions.

Finally, we will be creating our end of the year book. Students will compile a book with memories of 5<sup>th</sup> grade both academic and social. They will bring this home at the end of the year as a kind of yearbook for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

There are many exciting things happening as the year ends. I want to thank all of you for letting me be your child's teacher. I have thoroughly enjoyed this year and seen such wonderful growth both academically and socially in the students.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and I will see you in September.

Suzanne Quinlan

## Sixth Grade News

I have been impressed with how hard our sixth graders have been working. We are finishing our end of the year testing in language arts and math. The students are particularly glad that we are finished with our regular math lessons! Our last unit was geometry, and you should see the geometry unit and probability/statistics unit tests this week.

In language arts, we finished our Mildred Taylor books on prejudice today. We are still working on reading skills packets, and have two to go – drawing conclusions, and identifying bias. We will be enjoying some Reader's Theater in the next weeks.

Our trip to Nature's Classroom is rapidly approaching! Please check the packing list and start gathering things. I want to remind you that we are outdoors no matter the weather, so your child must be prepared to stay warm and dry even if it rains for all three days, or is particularly cold. Similarly, your child needs insect repellent and sunscreen. One last reminder: your child may bring a pair of shorts, but will be expected to wear pants at Nature's Classroom.

Back at school, we are finishing up the year with several projects. We are working through our health unit, learning about how damaging drug and alcohol abuse is to the human brain and body. We will write letters to the editor of the local newspaper, trying to persuade readers to adopt healthy habits. Our last writing project involves compiling 15 pieces of writing into a 6<sup>th</sup> grade book.

Margaret Light

# 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.)***

# the *Fresh Air* fund

serving children since 1877



Is this the  
summer you  
host a child?

Fresh Air children on first-time visits to host families are six to 12 years old and stay for one or two weeks. Trips are available in July and August.

Since 1877, The Fresh Air Fund, an independent, not-for-profit agency, has provided free summer vacations to more than 1.7 million New York City children from low-income neighborhoods.

This is not a school sponsored event.

For more information:

Susan Morrello - 413.256.6463

Jeanne Esposito - 413.253.9272

or

The Fresh Air Fund - 800.367.0003

[www.freshair.org](http://www.freshair.org)

[facebook.com/freshairfund](https://facebook.com/freshairfund)



*Financial Assistance Available*



# Summer Youth Classes

## Visual Arts & Instructional Classes

### Clay Animals, Creatures, & Things

Ages 5-7 Tuesdays, 4:30 -5:30 p.m.  
June 21-Aug. 9 Amherst Bangs Center, \$104

### Watercolor Painting & Drawing

Ages 7-10 Thursdays, 4:30 -6:00 p.m.  
June 23- Aug. 11 Amherst Bangs Center, \$136

### Magic 101



Ages 11-14 Tuesdays, 3:30 -5:30 p.m.  
July 12-Aug. 16 Amherst Bangs Center, \$104

### Teen Blacksmithing



Ages 13-17 Mon.- Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Shepherd Barn, Northampton, \$235  
Session A: July 18-July 22  
Session B: July 25-July 29  
Session C: Aug. 1-Aug. 5

### Teen Jewelry Making (w/ Polymer Clay!)



Ages 14-18 Mon, Wed, Fri, 1:00 -3:00p.m.  
July 11-July 22 Amherst Bangs Center, \$129



## Performing Arts Classes

### Fantabulous Fairy Tales

Grades K-2 Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.  
June 27-July 1 Amherst Middle School, \$149



### Wizards, Witches, & Harry Potter

Grades 3-5 Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
July 11- July 15 Amherst Middle School, \$149

### ZumbAtomic-Zumba for Kids!

#### Session A: Lil Starz

Ages 3-5 Mondays, 4:00 -4:30 p.m.  
June 20- Aug. 1 Amherst Bangs Center, \$79

#### Session B: Big Starz

Ages 6-12 Mondays, 4:45 -5:30 p.m.  
June 20-Aug. 1 Amherst Bangs Center, \$79



### Youth Acting Intensive

Grades 6-8 Thursdays, 2:00 -5:00 p.m.  
July 25-July 29 Amherst Bangs Center, \$149

### Teen Acting Intensive

Grades 9-12 Mon.-Fri., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Aug. 1- Aug. 5 Amherst Middle School, \$159

### Broadway Sings



Grades 6-9 Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.  
July 18-July 22 Amherst Middle School, \$119

### Intro to Classical Guitar



Ages 8+ Wednesdays, 6:00 -7:00 p.m.  
June 29-Aug. 3 Amherst Bangs Center, \$105



## Tennis Lessons

### Youth Tennis

Ages 8-12 Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
June 4-June 25 Mill River, \$110



### Pee Wee Tennis

Ages 5-7 Saturdays, 9:00-9:30 a.m.  
Mill River, \$72  
Session A: June 4-June 25  
Session B: July 9-July 30  
Session C: Aug. 6-Aug. 27



For more information or to register visit [www.LSSE.org](http://www.LSSE.org) or call (413) 259-3065

These are not school sponsored programs.