



Pelham Press

Vol. 21, No. 17, January 14, 2011

<http://pe.arps.org>



Dates to Remember:

Saturday, January 15
 Monday, January 17
 Tuesday, January 18
 Thursday, January 20
 Friday, January 21
 Thursday, January 27
 Friday, January 28
 Friday, February 4

MLK Breakfast and Chorus Performance ARMS 9:00 am
 NO SCHOOL-MLK Day
 Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Performance 12:45
 Band, Orchestra, and Chorus Concerts 1:30 pm , 7:00 pm
 Movie Night 6:30 pm
 Fine Arts Center Trip-Grades 5 & 6
 NO SCHOOL- Teacher Furlough Day
 Report Cards



Dear Pelham School Families,

We are delighted to announce that the Pelham School Chorus will be performing in the annual Martin Luther King assembly TOMORROW at the ARMS. All chorus members should have received a notice informing them of this event. All of the singers will attend breakfast free of charge, however parents, other relatives, and friends of the chorus members will need to pay for their breakfast tickets. I hope that many of you will attend to lend support as well as to celebrate Martin Luther King and all that he represents.

The after school Art Club Program is coming closer to implementation. This program begins the first week of February, and a notice has been given to all students who signed up providing specific information. Students in grades K-2 will attend on Tuesdays, from 3:15-4:15, and grades 3-6 will attend Fridays, from 3:15-4:15. We recognize that students will be hungry at the end of the day so we are looking for donations of snacks, as well as encouraging students to bring something in to munch on in the time between dismissal 3:05 and the start of the program. I will also be in touch with the parent volunteers who offered up their time as well as donations of supplies soon.

As many of you are aware, a superintendent search is underplace and three finalists have been announced: Maria Geryk, John Bayess, and Gerald Kohn. As part of their interview and selection process, they will be meeting with the community as well as staff within the district. These meetings will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of next week. In addition, the candidates will also be visiting the schools, and Pelham School is scheduled to be one of the sites visited on each of these days. For your convenience, I have posted the schedules for the finalist visits below, and more information may be accessed at this link:

<http://www.arps.org/node/2623>

I strongly encourage parents to attend any of these meetings to get to know the candidates and provide some feedback for the search committee. Although the visits for families and community members are at Amherst sites, each time slot/location is intended for parents of any age children as well as members of the community from all four towns.

Have a great three day weekend!

Sincerely,
Lisa Desjarlais

Schedule for Finalist Visits

Finalists for the position of Superintendent of Schools will visit the district on January 18, 19, and 20. On those days, the schedule will be as follows:

8:00 am to 9:00 am - Coffee with parents/community in the ARMS cafeteria

9:00 am to 9:30 am - Central office welcome and quick tour

9:30 am to 10:30 am - Administrators/Superintendent's Council

10:30 am to noon - Tour of ARMS/ARHS (by principals)

Noon to 1:00 pm - lunch with chairs of Pelham and Amherst School Committees

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm - Tour of elementary schools

2:30 pm to 3:30 pm - Reception with parents/community members at Wildwood

3:45 pm to 4:45 pm - Meeting with teachers at ARMS Library

4:45 pm to 5:45 pm - Dinner

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm - School Committee interview (ARHS Library)

Third Grade News
Meg Gallagher

Our students are busily creating poetry. Students have learned many techniques that poets use such as similes, metaphors, rhythm, rhyme, repetition, alliteration, and personification. After enjoying, reading, reciting, and analyzing many poems, we are now writing our own using at least two of the techniques listed above. I am enchanted reading them!

We began learning about Historical Fiction this week also. Ask your child about the great molasses flood in Boston! We are back in smaller reading groups enjoying a story based on this true event that took place in January of 1919.

Last week we worked very hard at mastering the algorithm for subtraction. This week students are applying their knowledge to various word problems using either addition or subtraction strategies. We continue to review telling time. Please engage your child in reading an analog clock daily.

In Social Studies we have looked at the cities of Boston and Nairobi. We began with some geography of the continent of Africa. Our next assignment was to read the book *Masai and I* by Virginia Kroll in small groups. The students listed five facts they learned about the traditional way of life of the Masai who lived in the area we call Nairobi before the Europeans arrived. The students are strengthening their cooperative learning skills as they carry out these assignments. They seem to enjoy the freedom of locating the information themselves from globes, atlases, and books. We have also read about Nairobi and Boston, made charts about each city, and filled in a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the two.

Today we begin our much beloved Simple Machine/Design and Motion Unit. There will be an abundance of hands on experimentation taking place over the next several weeks.

Please remember to be sure your child has packed their homework folder each night. We seem to have a bit of forgetfulness in 2011.

Also, it is important that students have indoor shoes to put on at school. The classroom floor becomes such a mess when outdoor boots are worn inside. Thank you for your help in this area.

Fourth Grade Pelham Press

We have begun a new science unit on rocks and minerals. Children are learning to distinguish between the two and have started making their own crystals. We are taking notes on the three basic types of rocks: igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic and are learning how each of them is formed. Soon we will discover how the earth has changed over time. Students will choose an area of geology and create a mini report to share with the class. There might even be a little time to study some fossils.

We wrapped up our geometry unit and are now moving into the study of fractions. We are learning how regions can be divided into different fractional components such as halves, thirds, and quarters. We have even divided grids into combinations of fractions. Soon we will be learning about mixed numbers and improper fractions. These are values that are more than one whole. We will make fraction cards to help us practice the new concepts and play a card game with them.

Students have begun writing personal narratives. After practicing prewriting techniques, they selected their top story ideas. They made a four page picture booklet to map out their stories. Students practiced telling them before beginning first drafts. Throughout this process, students are encouraged to share their progress with a teacher or another student. Many writers rely on feedback from their peers. Most students are typing up first drafts, being sure to double-space and leaving room for written comments. In other writing news, be sure to check out student-revised reports on display.

With the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr., students are preparing something special for our assembly. We have begun our African-American social studies unit and are learning more about famous and not so famous people who have made an important contribution to our society. Students will also be reading a collection of Mildred Taylor books that illustrate what it was like living in the southern United States during the first half of the twentieth century.

The snow is here. To play in the snow, children need boots, snow pants, jacket, and gloves. Please make sure your child has these items!

Sixth Grade News

We started a new science unit last week. Our *brassica rapa*, “Wisconsin Fast Plants” are growing quickly in our classroom. We have an insulated greenhouse that keeps them warm, watered, and well lit. Students have developed experiments that vary the amount of light, fertilizer, density of plants per container, and exposure to pollen. We observe and measure the plants several times a week, and will ultimately graph our results, write reports, and share our findings.

In math we are winding up our fractions concepts unit. The unit test should be in about two weeks. There is a lot of vocabulary in this unit, so encourage your child to study their strategy notebook pages.

Our language arts work has included a short study of folktales. We are analyzing the elements in various types of folktales, and have enjoyed reading them and watching videos. On Thursday we’ll start the Ancient Cultures literature unit, and that will include a trip to the Mt. Holyoke art museum in February to look at their artifacts and participate in a reader’s theater play. In writing, you should have seen and signed the graded research reports. Students also wrote summaries on the friendship books they read over vacation, and you can enjoy the booklets they created on the bulletin board outside our classroom. Our next grammar packet is studying comma usage, and our reading skills focus is on time sequence.

As you know, we have a lot to cover this year! Several students have been out with illnesses, and it is important that they make up missed work when they are feeling well again. Sometimes this means we need to use recess or skills time, particularly if students are reluctant to get it done on their own time, such as at home. Please continue to encourage your 6th grader to act maturely and take responsibility for their actions, including accepting the logical consequences of choices they make.

Margaret Light

Kids Corner

Paneer

When I was at sleepaway camp, we made an Indian cheese called paneer, and when I got home, my family and I decided to make it ourselves. Paneer is a simple cheese made with milk and some type of acid to curdle the milk, so we added lemon juice.

First, we filled a pot with milk and set it on the stove to simmer. While we waited for it to be ready, my mom got a fruit juicer from the cabinet and set it on the table. We put a half a lemon in the juicer. My sister Nora and I took turns pushing down on the handle to squeeze the lemon juice into a measuring cup. When we had enough, the level of the milk in the pot had risen, so we knew it was ready. My mom turned off the stove and poured the lemon juice into the milk. As she poured, we could see the milk separating into the curds, solids, and the whey, liquid. My mom stretched a piece of cheesecloth over the top of a bowl and poured the curdled milk through the cheesecloth so that the whey poured through but the curds stayed on top. Then we put another piece of cheesecloth on top and piled books and dishes on top of that to squeeze the extra whey out. After about ten minutes, the paneer was ready. It had the look and consistency of tofu. My mom made an Indian stir fry with the paneer and vegetables from our garden. It was delicious!

By

Adin Klotz
Grade 5

THE PELHAM PTO PRESENTS:
MOVIE NIGHT!
FRIDAY JANUARY 21, 6:30 p.m.
PELHAM SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

“DESPICABLE ME”
RATED PG

The story of a [super-villan](#) named Gru who plans to use three orphan girls as pawns for a grand scheme, only to find that their innocent love is profoundly changing him.



- REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
- BRING A LOUNGE-CHAIR, BLANKET, PILLOW, OR SLEEPING BAG

♥ ♥ CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED ♥ ♥
THIS IS NOT A DROP-OFF EVENT

“FUND-RAISING”

Enjoy a real treat for dinner!

Take home a delicious, “take & bake” pizza or “scoop & bake cookie and support!

PELHAM ELEMENTARY 6TH GRADE

PIZZA ORDER FORM (send home)

Large 16” Cheese (add toppings at home)	\$14.00	_____
Large 16” Cheese and Pepperoni.....	\$14.50	_____
Large 16” Basil Pesto.....	\$14.50	_____
Large 16” Sundried Tomato	\$14.50	_____
Large 16” Asiago Almond.....	\$14.50	_____
Large 16” Organic Veggie Medley.....	\$14.50	_____
Large 16” Pesto with Mushrooms	\$14.50	_____
Large 16” Pesto with Organic Veggies	\$14.50	_____
Gift Certificate.....	\$20.00	_____
Party Pack - 3 Medium 13” cheese.....	\$30.00	_____
Pesto Party Pack - 3 Medium 13” Pesto.....	\$32.00	_____
Asiago Party Pack - 3 Medium 13” Asiago.....	\$32.00	_____
Gluten Free Party Pack - 3 Medium 13” Cheese.	\$36.00	_____

COOKIE DOUGH

Lemon sugar.....	\$12.00	_____
Chocolate Chip.....	\$12.00	_____
Oatmeal Raisin.....	\$12.00	_____
Maple Sugar.....	\$12.00	_____

Name: _____ Total

Due: _____

Cash Cks payable to: **PELHAM SCHOOL** Charge Student Account

Return order form to: **PELHAM SCHOOL OFFICE** By: **MONDAY, JANUARY 24TH**

Pizza Pick up date: **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 3PM-4PM OR 5PM-6PM**

Location: **PELHAM SCHOOL, K-2 HALLWAY BEHIND THE GYM**