



# Pelham Press

Vol. 21, No. 18, January 21, 2011

<http://pe.arps.org>



## Dates to Remember:

Friday, January 21

Thursday, January 27

Thursday, January 27

Friday, January 28

Friday, February 4

Movie Night 6:30 pm

Fine Arts Center Trip-Grades 5 & 6

Movie Night 6:30 pm

NO SCHOOL- Teacher Furlough Day

Report Cards



Dear Pelham School Families,

Due to yet another snow day, the Movie Night tonight has been rescheduled until next Thursday evening. At this rate, we will be going to school in July!

Last evening, families and friends were entertained by an outstanding performance given by the Pelham School Band, Orchestra, and Chorus. Kudos to these students for their dedication and commitment to learning and practicing their respective instruments and songs. We appreciate all the parental support that helps students to attend the various events as well as helping them at home with their practice schedule. These developing musicians are learning many valuable skills in these endeavors that will last a lifetime.

Please feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns. My email address is [Desjarlais@arps.org](mailto:Desjarlais@arps.org). In addition, our Pelham School website is posted above, and I encourage parents to take a moment to visit the website to explore the many sources of information posted there regarding various school groups, committees and organizations.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

*Lisa Desjarlais*

## Mr. Lipman's Class

**Report Cards** Your child's first Pelham School report card will be coming home soon! I hope I have accurately reported your child's performance in school and have left you with a positive impression.

Report cards in first grade are **not** written for first graders to read. They are intended as reports to parents and, as such, should not be shared directly with your child. You may want to talk to your child, in general terms, about how school is going. You might say, "Mr. Lipman thinks you are becoming a great reader!" or, "Mr. Lipman thinks you listen carefully in school!" Every child should view themselves as competent and successful learners with areas to grow and it is our job to build self-esteem. When we feel good about ourselves we are most ready to take on new challenges. I want to see smiles only and no tears! Your love and approval means the world to your child.

I try to follow a 3-to-1 rule when giving feedback and I hope you will too if you talk to your child about the report card. The 3 to 1 rule is... three positive comments **before** 1 area of improvement. It's much easier to think about ways to improve **after** hearing about the many things that are going well. Our brains shut down to negatives and open up to positives. So, please stay positive even when there may be some difficult issues to face. Call me right away if you have questions or concerns about the report card.

**Sneetches** We played a game called "Sneetches" after hearing the book "Sneetches" by Dr. Seuss. In this story, some creatures called "Sneetches" have stars on their bellies and other "Sneetches" have none. The "Plain Belly Sneetches" are left out and treated unfairly. A profiteer and cynic named Sylvester McMonkey McBean arrives with a "star on/star off" machine and starts charging "Plain Belly Sneetches" \$3 "eaches" to have stars applied to their bellies. The "Star Belly Sneetches" then want their stars removed because they are no longer special, so they pay McBean \$10 "eaches" to have their stars taken off. By the end of the story all the "Sneetches" are out of money and are so mixed up that they no longer can differentiate "Star Belly Sneetches" from "Plain Belly Sneetches." They realize the foolishness of their ways and learn to work together.

First graders made stars to wear on their bellies and took turns having privileges like extra recess, sitting in chairs and lining up first. Some feelings were hurt and lots of discussion followed as we processed the game. We discussed how this game relates to skin color and concluded that it is not what's on the outside but what's on the inside that matters.

Throughout the year we will revisit this theme and children will have varied opportunities to explore racism. Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or comments.

### **Ms. Zander, Our New Intern**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

My name is Magdalen Zander; I will be student teaching in your child's first grade classroom at Pelham Elementary this spring (every school day from January 18<sup>th</sup> until May 3<sup>rd</sup>). I am currently a graduate student of Collaborative Teacher Education Pathway (CTEP) at UMass. Last semester I student taught in a third grade classroom at Kensington Ave Elementary in Springfield.

Throughout the semester I will be helping in the classroom, teaching lessons, and I will instruct a guided reading group. I will also need to document my work with your children through pictures and video. I will be sending home a permission slip for that soon. Part of my coursework also requires that I am the lead or head teacher for a two-week period near the end of my semester.

I am looking forward to learning with your children this upcoming semester and I am looking forward to meeting all of you.

Thank you,

Magdalen Zander

## **Second Grade News**

January has been a busy month. We have just completed our unit on nutrition. Everyone did a great job on the assessment. Children are thinking more about what they are eating, especially talking about the snacks they have and in what food groups they belong. We also got a lesson on tasty and healthy snacks by Calvin's mother. We made smoothies and our own trail mix. YUM! This week we begin our unit on continents (if it ever stops snowing and sleeting!!)

During reading, we are getting ready for Chinese New Year and Martin Luther King Day by reading books about how both the Blacks and Chinese were treated when they came to our country. Next week we will read about the traditions surrounding the Chinese New Year. Second grade has a Dragon Parade to celebrate. This year Chinese New Year begins on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In math we have diverged from our unit on the number system, to learn about graphing. The children have had fun creating their own graphing questions, surveying their friends, and making pictographs and bar graphs, Venn Diagrams, as well as Line Plots. Next week, we will take a mid-year assessment and then return to adding and subtracting two and three digit numbers. Each unit we learn new strategies that increase our efficiency with solving these problems. I have been very pleased with the children's diligence in learning the fact patterns that have gone home. Most children have learned the face value of all our coins, but have not mastered skip counting. This is something you could work on at home when you are emptying your change.

Snow season is upon us. The children love diving into and getting covered in snow. It would be helpful to have a pair of shoes and a dry pair of socks to keep in their cubbies so they can change, if necessary, after our recesses.

## HITCHCOCK CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT PRESENTS

### WILD WINTER FUN ON CURRICULUM DAY

*(Amherst Schools have no school on this day)*



**Casey Beebe and Colleen Kelley**

**Friday, January 28, 8:30am-3pm**

**Ages 7-9 (1st-4<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Members: \$45 per day/Non-members \$55 per day**

**Pre-registration required; please call 413-256-6006.**

Join us for this special day off from school exploring nature in winter. We will look for tracks and signs of animals, try our hand at building shelters, play in the snow, and learn about snowflakes and the technology and adaptations of winter survival. Warm clothes required, boots, snowpants, hats and gloves! Bring snack, lunch, a water bottle, and a full change of clothes.

### WINTER VACATION CAMP

**Young Naturalists, ages 6-8 (grades K-2)**

**Nature Explorers, ages 9-11 (grades 3-5)**

**Monday-Friday, February 21-25, 8:30am-3pm**

**Members: \$45 per day/Non-members \$55 per day**

**Pre-registration required; please call 413-256-6006.**

Join us for your choice of from one to five days of winter exploration. We'll spend time indoors focused on animal tracks and signs, snow geology, evergreens or winter weeds. And we'll go outside every day to experience both the excitement and peace of nature in winter. Songs, crafts, games, and live animal observations will all be a part of our days.

### VERNAL POOL ADVENTURE ON CURRICULUM DAY

*(Amherst Schools have no school on this day)*

**Helen Ann Sephton and Ted Watt**

**Friday, March 18, 8:30am-3pm**

**Ages 7-9 (1st-4<sup>th</sup> grade)**

**Members: \$45 per day/Non-members \$55 per day**

**Pre-registration required; please call 413-256-6006.**

Join us for this special day off from school. During the first warm, wet nights of early spring, salamanders, wood frogs, and spring peepers migrate to vernal pools through woods, over fields and lawns, and across roads. Come join us for an exciting day of vernal pool exploration! We will hike to a vernal pool where we will collect aquatic critters, look at them up close, and learn about their fascinating lives. Warm clothes required! Bring snack, lunch, a water bottle, a full change of clothes and waterproof boots if you have them.

## Safari Resolutions



Be conscious of what you eat; banish your hunger with healthy calories! Certain foods may not be as healthy as you think. Try eating foods that are whole. Whole foods are unprocessed and unrefined, which makes them healthier and much easier for your body to digest. Whole foods typically don't have any added sugar, salt or fat.

Amherst Elementary Schools  
January 2011

### LUNCH PRICES

Type A Lunch Price	\$2.50
Reduced Lunch Price	\$ .40
Milk/Chocolate Milk	\$ .40
Adult	\$3.25

### PREPAID LUNCHES AVAILABLE

10 Lunches-\$25.00 20 Lunches-\$50.00  
30 Lunches-\$75.00 40 Lunches-\$100.00

### ALL STUDENT LUNCH INCLUDES

Skim Milk, 1% Milk or Low Fat Chocolate Milk / 100% Juice/ Fresh Vegetable / Fresh Fruit

### Lunch Alternatives

**Monday**-Italian Combo Sandwich  
**Tuesday**-Veggie Wrap/Chefs Choice  
**Wednesday**-Tuna Sandwich  
**Thursday**-Turkey Sandwich  
**Friday**-Ham & Cheese Sandwich  
**Daily Alternative**-Sunflower Butter/Jelly Sandwich w/Cheese Stick  
Yogurt/Bagel Lunch

### SENSIBLE SNACKS CONTAIN

Fat=7g or less - Sat Fat=2g or less  
Sodium=350mg or less - Sugar=15g or less

\*If you have a food allergy, please speak to the Director or Lead Server. \*Consuming raw or undercooked meat, poultry, seafood, shellfish or eggs may increase your risk of food borne illness, especially if you have certain medical conditions. \*Menu is subject to change, notice posted when available. If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding this menu, please contact the food service director

Rebecca Threlley 413-362-1839

### WE PURCHASE LOCAL!

Produce is purchased through regional suppliers when seasonably available. Visit [www.Whitsons.com](http://www.Whitsons.com) to see all that we are doing to help save the environment!

### V=VEGETARIAN SELECTION

♥=HEALTHIER CHOICE

P=PORK PRODUCT

### WE OFFER BREAKFAST DAILY

Don't forget to stop by the café for breakfast (cereal, fruit, juice & milk available daily)

Monday-	Warm Muffin
Tuesday-	French Toast Sticks
Wednesday-	Wheat Bagel, Cream Cheese
Thursday-	Pancakes
Friday-	Ham, Egg, Cheese Sandwich
	Breakfast-\$ .50
	Reduced Breakfast-\$ .30
	Adult-\$1.00

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 Baked Chicken Nuggets w/ Dipping Sauce Corn Baked Potato Wedges Whole Wheat Bread	4 Soft or Hard Shell Beef or Bean Tacos w/Cheese, Salsa Steamed Rice Corn	5 Vegetable Soup Toasted Cheese Sandwich Baked Fries	6 Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes Steamed Green Peas Dinner Roll	7 (V) Whole Wheat Classic Cheese Pizza Veggie Sticks With Low Fat Dip
10 Cheesy Mozzarella Sticks/ Whole Wheat Roll Assorted Fresh Veggies Fresh Orange	11 Spaghetti (With Meatballs or Plain) Green Beans Garlic Bread	12 Safari Day Crispy Nacho Chips Seasoned Meat or Beans Cheese Sauce Steamed Rice Salsa	13 Open Face turkey Sandwich w/ Gravy Baked Fries Green Peas Strawberries/ Whipped Cream	14 (V) Whole Wheat Classic Cheese Pizza Tossed Side Salad With L Fat Dressing
17 <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY NO SCHOOL</b>	18 Baked Chicken Nuggets w/ Dipping Sauce Corn Baked French Fries Whole Wheat Bread	19 (V) Baked Mac & Cheese Whole Wheat Roll Green Beans	20 <b>BRUNCH FOR LUNCH</b> Whole Wheat French Toast Sticks w/ Syrup (P) Sausage Potato Puffs Fresh Orange	21 (V) Whole Wheat Classic Cheese Pizza Veggie Sticks With Low Fat Dip
24 Breaded Chicken Patty on a Whole Wheat Bun Steamed Carrots	25 Beef & Macaroni Bake (American Chop Suey) Corn Italian Garlic Bread	26 Fish Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Veggie Sticks Fresh Orange	27 <b>SUPERBOWL PARTY</b> Mini Hamburgers or Mini Cheeseburgers Salsa/Chips Veggies/Dip Pudding Parfaits	28 <b>TEACHER CURRICULUM WORK-DAY NO SCHOOL</b>
31 Hot Dog on a Whole Wheat Bun Potato Wedges Green Peas				

**DID YOU KNOW?** Most products sourced by Whitsons have 0 Trans Fats - Milk & Chicken Products are hormone & antibiotic free - All dressings & ketchup are all natural, with no artificial ingredients & no HFCS (high fructose corn syrup) - All condiments are low fat - Teriyaki sauce & soy sauce are low sodium - Sliced bread, hamburger buns & hot dog buns are 100% w. grain & contain no HFCS - Breads, tortilla wraps, taco shells, nacho chips, panini bread, all natural frozen yogurt, teriyaki sauce, soy sauce & all condiments are free of any partially hydrogenated oils & HFCS - Yogurt is 100% all natural & contains no artificial ingredients - Breakfast items have no trans fats, HFCS or artificial colors - Pancakes & waffles are w. grain & contain no artificial colors or flavors - All pasta is Barilla w. grain - All rice is brown - Pizza crust at secondary level is whole grain; elementary level is whole wheat - Tuna is dolphin safe & packed in water - Canned fruits are packed in natural juice only, no syrup - Fresh fruits & fresh/frozen veg. will be used when gov. commodity not available - All cheese is low fat - Donuts & breakfast pastries have no trans fats, artificial colors or flavors - Fish sticks have whole grain breading - Flavored milk contains no HFCS

**TEACHERS COLLEGE at COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
PROVIDES FURTHER STAFF DEVELOPMENT  
FOR GRADE 3-5 TEACHERS**

by Rachmana Santorelli, District Elementary English Language Arts Curriculum Leader

At the end of August, Colleen Cruz, a Senior Staff Developer, and author of two books, came to Amherst to provide four days of staff development for teachers of grades 3-5 from across the Amherst-Pelham School District. During that time, Colleen reviewed the theory and components necessary for creating a balanced literacy program while concentrating on the methods of Reading Workshop. The Amherst district had just purchased the newly published Units of Study for Teaching Reading: A Curriculum for Reading Workshop, Grades 3-5, written by Lucy Calkins, director of the Reading and Writing Project at Teachers College, and Kathleen Tolan, Deputy Director of the project. These books are not merely lessons for teachers; they are not the typical teacher's guide, instead, they are an in-depth look at teaching reading strategies to all learners with an emphasis in on-going assessments that provide information on how to take students from where they are and help them move to the next stage of reading development. In addition to teaching specific units of study, it contains information on how to confer with individuals, small groups of students with similar needs, how to assist students in deepening their reading comprehension while improving their fluency, rate, and stamina, and most of all, how to become people, genuinely interested in the world around them, seeking pleasure and information and sharing that with others in meaningful conversation allowing them to expand and develop new ideas.

The staff development that Colleen provided on January 11 was very different. This time teachers had the opportunity to go into classroom lab-sites and observe her expertly lead a reading workshop. Teachers observed Colleen going through the various parts of the *minilesson*, from explicit instruction to gradually releasing the responsibility to students, they listened-in as students practiced the same strategy and shared with their assigned *reading partners*, and they conferred with students. In the midst of all of this teachers were able to take notes on classroom leveled and browsing libraries, *strategy charts* for students to refer to, *reading logs* where students keep track of the books they read in order to study their reading habits and growth, and *reading notebooks*, where students jot notes, make sketches, or create graphic organizers in order to track their thinking. Afterwards, Colleen led de-briefing sessions where teachers could share thoughts and concerns about their own practice.

Colleen left teachers with a Reading Workshop Checklist as a way of remember what is essential, a way of creating an environment and lessons for a curriculum that will help us to create the kind of readers that will allow students to become engaged learners in a continually changing society.

Colleen will return in March when teachers will have another opportunity to go into labsites, this time she will be gradually releasing the responsibility of the teaching to teachers. Meanwhile teachers will be able to access help from school-based coaches and the District Elementary English Language Arts Curriculum Leader.

THE PELHAM PTO PRESENTS:  
**MOVIE NIGHT!**  
**THURSDAY JANUARY 27, 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**



Do you drink coffee???  
 Have you tried Dean's Beans??  
 It's locally roasted, fair trade,  
 organic, kosher and tastes  
 great!

More importantly, your purchase helps fund the staff appreciation lunch in March.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Unit Price	x	Quantity	=	Total
Sumatra FR (dark) Whole Bean	\$9.00				
Sumatra FR (dark) Ground	\$9.00				
Moka Sumatra (medium) Whole Bean	\$9.00				
Moka Sumatra (medium) Ground	\$9.00				
Decaf Peruvian (dark) Whole Bean	\$10.00				
Decaf Peruvian (dark) Ground	\$10.00				
Decaf Liberation (medium) Whole Bean	\$10.00				
Decaf Liberation (medium) Ground	\$10.00				
Hot Chocolate, 12 ounce	\$4.50				
Java Drops, Milk Chocolate	\$8.50				
Java Drops, Dark chocolate	\$8.50				
 Pelham Coffee Mug	\$10.00				
2 Pelham Coffee Mugs	\$15.00				
<b>Grand Total</b>					

\*All coffee and Java Drops are 16 ounce bags. Decaf is Swiss Water Process.

All orders are due at the last day of the month (except December)  
 and usually arrive within 2 weeks.

Please make checks payable to: **Pelham Elementary PTO**

Please return this form to the school. Thank You!!

Any questions: Amy Wasserman 253-4664, amy@cutnpaced.com