



Pelham Press

Vol. 21, No. 2 September 9, 2010

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Dates to Remember:

Monday, September 13
 Monday, September 13
 Friday, September 24
 Wednesday, September 29
Friday, September 24 to Friday, October 1

Pelham Parent Council/PTO, 7:00 PM
 Principal Open Office Hour, 5 – 6 PM
 Ice Cream Social 6:00 PM
 Fall Curriculum Night 7:00-8:00
BOOK FAIR



Dear Pelham School Families,

Thank you to all the families that returned the many forms sent home at the beginning of the year! If you haven't had an opportunity to return them yet, please send them in as soon as possible. These forms are necessary to get all of our information organized for our students and families.

We began the week with our first all-school assembly with a focus on community building. It was wonderful to have the entire school together, and the students have all been asked to complete an assignment which portrays what it means to be a part of Pelham School Community. Our goal is to have these projects up and ready to display for Curriculum Night. Bob Castellano and Laurie Rabut met with grades 3-6 at the end of the assembly to demonstrate the types of instruments that students are able to take lessons for this year. Information was distributed in classrooms for students that didn't receive it in the spring. Band and Orchestra will begin next Thursday, September 16 in the morning. Please help your student musician to remember all of their materials for their ensemble practice and lessons.

Mark your calendar! The Pelham Parent Curriculum Night will be on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 for all grades. We have tried to divide up the teacher presentations to provide as few overlaps as possible for families. Most of the art teachers will be in their respective areas and feel free to visit these areas during the evening. Some arts teachers may not be able to make this time as Pelham School shares them with other schools that are having their Curriculum Night on the same evening. Special education and other specialist staff will be in the classroom areas. Here is the schedule for the night:

Class Presentations--Grades K, 1, & 2	7:00 - 7:20 PM
Class Presentations--Grades 3 & 4	7:20 - 7:40 PM
Class Presentations--Grades 5, & 6	7:40 - 8:00 PM

This is a parent/guardian only event, a time when teachers share with you important information about their classrooms and their curriculum. This fall meeting gives teachers a time to discuss the units they will teach during the year, classroom routines and procedures, and general information parents need to help their children at home. If you have a question about homework, the reading program, or health units, this is the time to ask your child's teacher about them. Also, most teachers will have a sign up sheet for parent conferences. Teachers will begin their classroom presentations promptly at the time on the above schedule. We hope to see all of you there! Our goal is 100% parent participation at this important and informative event. Information about childcare will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Lisa Desjarlais

Pelham Kindergarten News

What a wonderful start to our new school year! We are getting to know each other, becoming comfortable in our room, and beginning to develop a sense of community already. The Kindergarten transition days went well, allowing all of us the time needed to feel comfortable with each other, and our new surroundings. I look forward to a wonderful year with our new Kindergarten families.

Debbie Jacque

Mr. Lipman's Class- Grade One

Did you know that one female monarch butterfly can lay over 1,000 eggs? I had the good fortune of capturing an egg laying female which deposited nearly 200 eggs on a milkweed plant inside a netted enclosure. First graders are now watching nearly 200 caterpillars grow and change into adult butterflies. After a celebratory party and parade, we will release the butterflies so that they can begin their long migration to the mountains of central Mexico where they hibernate for the winter.

We too, are excited about our journey of growth and change this year in first grade. Please stop in after school for a visit.

Second Grade News

Second grade has had a terrific start to the new year. We have been learning the routines of the classroom as well as my expectations. I have been very pleased with the way the children cooperate with each other and listen to the instructions. During these first few weeks I will be assessing student's reading and math levels as well as reviewing skills learned in first grade. We began the year talking about what makes a good friend. We are reading stories about friends and discussing how friends treat each other. The children have begun to write stories about what makes a good friend. The children are looking forward to our bubbles unit which will begin next week.

Mrs. Corey

Third Grade News Meg Gallagher

I am so very happy to be getting to know my new students! They are full of wonderful ideas and plenty of energy! I am introducing a program to them this year, called the Responsive Classroom. I will be telling you more about it as the year unfolds, but for now ask your child about our Morning Meetings and our Hopes and Dreams for this coming school year. We will be working on the skills of cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self control (CARES).

Fourth Grade Pelham Press

I am overjoyed with the enthusiasm of the new class. They are coming in on time and ready to learn. They've been putting in a solid effort in all the things we've started and learning the daily schedule quickly. Their observations and attention to detail are a wonderful thing to behold. Some of the subjects we are investigating are factors and arrays and electricity. We are also learning about Native American legends and putting together an art exhibit which will hopefully be ready by Curriculum Night. Please stop by if you have and questions. I look forward to meeting everyone!

Mr. Shaw

Quinlan's Quill

Another great year has started in 5th grade. Every year I am excited and nervous about the beginning of school and this year was no different. The first few days have been wonderful getting to know my students. I look forward to a fabulous year! This year the 5th grade will begin the year with the Real Me and Effort Unit. We will then study the Revolutionary War and Constitution which will take us until January. In the new year we will study Ecosystems, Sound, light and energy, astronomy, and end the year with Marvelous Machines and Puberty. Our literature and writing units will connect with our content study. In math we will be reviewing computation of whole numbers and then move onto fractions, decimals and percents. Also, we will be working on problem solving quite a lot. It should be an exciting year with lots of growth academically and socially. I look forward to working with all parents, my door is always open.

Mrs. Quinlan

Grade 6

We've started the sixth grade curriculum with the Real Me unit, a focus on who we are and how to take care of ourselves. We've already talked about our learning styles, and will learn more about nutrition, exercise, and stress management through various projects, including keeping food logs, building ourselves three dimensionally in paper and reading realistic fiction. We'll start weekly spelling and vocabulary groups in a few weeks. Our writing program will begin with sentence work, to be followed by writing paragraphs, and then various process pieces. Our nonfiction reading unit starts in November, and this includes writing research papers. The reading program includes both fiction and nonfiction work, sometimes in groups and other times individually, as we build reading and comprehension skills. Our math curriculum began Wednesday with a review of place value. This year we'll tackle many topics, including algebra, ratio and proportion, percent, geometry, and probability, and we also have on-going problem solving books. After the Real Me unit, we'll study Maps and Globes for several weeks, to be followed by our first science unit, physics, in January. In February we'll grow plants and conduct various experiments. In the spring we'll learn about health and safe behavior. In addition to the subjects we study, we address organizational and social skills. Our sixth graders are training for the greater independence that will be required of them in the following years. Our goal is that each Pelham student is a successful learner, with the skills and knowledge they need for the next step in their education.

Mrs. Light

Music

Dear Pelham school families,

My name is Agnes Zsigmondi McCraven and I am the new music teacher and chorus director at the Pelham School. The students call me Ms. Zsigmondi or Ms. Z.

I am very excited to be back at this wonderful school where I worked as a music teacher from 1990-1995, until I got a full time job at Crocker Farm School. This year I am teaching music at both of these schools. I am a long time Pelham resident and both of my children attended Pelham School. I am hoping to be able to meet you September 29th at the open house in the second part of the evening.

You can reach me at mccravea@arps.org or leave a message in my school mailbox if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ms. Z



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES
INTERVENTIONS AND ELE
170 CHESTNUT STREET
AMHERST, MA 01002

413-362-1871 (PHONE)
413-549-9834 (FAX)

September 8, 2010

Dear parents/guardians:

We are very excited to be working with your children and look forward to a very productive, challenging and fun year. We wanted to give you an update on the work we began two years ago to align our districts' attendance guidelines. We are committed to ensure the safety and academic achievement of your children and have designed our guidelines to reflect that.

As you know, regular and punctual attendance to school is essential for the success of students in schools. Students who attend school every day, on time, learn more and are more successful than students who do not. Students who are absent to school miss out on carefully, well planned units of instruction, active learning experiences and class participation. Students who are absent frequently are more likely to fall behind and more likely to drop out of school, after their elementary school years.

Because attendance patterns are formed early in a child's educational life, we need to help all children develop good attendance habits. Massachusetts state law dictates that children between the ages of 6 and 16 attend school regularly and name parents/guardians as responsible to ensure it happens. It is essential that families teach their children, in a developmentally appropriate way, the importance of school attendance. Because there are very few reasons for an absence to be "excusable" in our district and state (illness, religious, court mandate, serious family crisis such as an accident or death), we expect all children to be in school everyday, on time.

We are committed to providing a welcoming, caring environment, whereby each member of the school community has a sense of belonging and safety in their school buildings. Our school staff will work hard to ensure all families and students understand the attendance policies and guidelines in the district. We have established what we believe is an effective and efficient system of communication to provide information, advice and support to families in all matters of attendance. With this in mind, families:

- Will receive the school handbook (s) of the school (s) their children are enrolled in during the first weeks of school, where all attendance guidelines are explained.
- Must understand that the superintendent or his/her designee (usually the school principal) is the only person that can legally excuse an absence. Parents/guardians must report absences of their children to school, but it is up to the school to decide if the reason given for the absence is "excusable" or not.
- Should know that students may be excused temporarily from school by the superintendent or his/her designee for the following reasons: Personal illness or quarantine, Family emergency such as a Death or serious illness, Religious observance or obligation, **Urgent** medical or dental treatment.
- Must call to report absences on the same day and no later than the start of school (8:40 for elementary and 7:40 for MS) to report every absence.
- Tardiness will not be excused. All students arriving to school after the start of school must report to the main office before proceeding to their classroom.

- Will have to send a note to school upon the students' return to school, if they did not report an absence as outlined.
- If you do not report an absence, you will be contacted by the school and the absence will be recorded as "unexcused".
- Must send a note, explaining the reason for the absence, upon the students' return to school after being out three days or more.
- Should feel free to ask questions/clarification about any of the attendance guidelines. Each school will identify the person who can field these inquiries. When in doubt, inquire in the main office.

We have partnered with the Prevention Office of the Northwestern District Attorney's Office to provide a continuum of services and support to families pertaining to issues of school attendance. Their "School Is Where It's At" (SIWIA) program works with district staff, children and families in the process of understanding the importance of attendance to school and provide support whenever issues of truancy (excessive absences or tardiness) occur.

Our district is committed to the academic achievement of "every student, every day" and we expect that every student will come to school every day and on time to take advantage of the educational experiences our teachers plan to challenge and motivate all learners. Our mission is to provide the best education possible for your children and we look forward to working with you to make this possible. Have a wonderful school year!

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Marta Guevara
Office of Interventions and ELE



5th and 6th Grade Fundraiser

Pelham recycling and Bake Sale
Saturday September 11th
9 to 12

Bring your bottles and cans to recycle, Bake a treat to sell
Or buy a treat

All proceeds to benefit the 6th grade field trip.
Located in the parking lot of the Fire Station.



We still need VOLUNTEERS!

*It's fun and
a great way to browse for holiday gifts.*

**Do you have 2-3 hours to volunteer
immediately after school
or during the school day?**

**Please Volunteer
for the
PELHAM BOOK FAIR
September 24th-October 1st**

We need help:

- Unpacking and setting up
- Staffing the cashier's table
- Helping kids fill out their wish list forms
- Packing up

If you're interested

Please contact Ellen Leuchs (mom of Jamie in 4th grade)

eleuchs@comcast.net, 413-244-4891

****The Pelham Book Fair is sponsored by the Pelham PTO and all
proceeds go to the Pelham School Library.***



Dear Parents:

Welcome to the start of a new school year and another year of A+ School Rewards. Starting October 8, 2010 through March 25, 2011, Pelham Elementary will have the opportunity to earn cash through Stop&Shop A+ School Rewards Program.

All you have to do is:

Log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus to register online

OR

Dial 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop&Shop using your Stop&Shop Card earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Stop&Shop website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at stopandshop.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Attending to this simple process makes a HUGE difference to our school. We need your support.

Please be sure to register your card to benefit Pelham Elementary using ID # 05202.

Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean the world to our children.



Pelham Elementary School District

170 Chestnut Street
Amherst, MA 01002

413-362-1810 (phone)
413-549-9883 (fax)

September 9, 2010

Dear Parents,

Welcome to another school year! We hope you had an enjoyable summer – the weather was certainly perfect.

We have many new and wonderful things for this coming year. One of them involves the school lunch program which is committed to serving healthful and nutritious meals to our children. We have installed a new POS (Point of Sale) system to make it easier for our staff to collect monies, and develop the correct ordering count for delivery. Each child and his/her unique ID number has been loaded on to the NutriKids system which will now track the meal count and milk count for each child. The computer automatically keeps track of pre-payments and gives a report of the balance available.

Since our goal is to also relieve some of the congestion at the start of the day with the collection of money, we are distributing the attached coin envelope for each child which is labeled with their name and grade and it is sturdy enough to be used multiple times. We encourage parents to send in pre-payments in an amount to cover several meals so there is less exchange of currency or checks. (i.e. \$50 covers 20 meals – almost a full month!) Meals will still be \$2.50 per day and the students have five (5) choices: regular hot meal, fun meal, cold sandwich, salad meal or sunbutter (no peanuts) and jelly sandwich. Milk is \$.40 – all prices are the same as last year. If you feel you qualify for free or reduced price (\$.40) meals, please submit an application for approval.

We trust this new service will be a tremendous help to parents, give the children an opportunity to have a healthy meal mid-day, and assist our staff members to streamline our process by computerizing the school lunch program.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the school office.

Best regards,

Lisa Desjarlais
Principal