



# Pelham Press

Vol. 21, No. 13, December 2, 2010

<http://pe.arps.org>

Happy Hanukkah



**Dates to Remember:**

Thursday, December 2

Friday, December 3

Monday, December 6

Thursday, December 16

Friday, December 4-January 2

School Committee 6 p.m.

NO SCHOOL

PTO Meeting

Senior Center Choral Performance grade 4-6

Holiday Recess



Dear Pelham School Families,

I would like to express my appreciation to the Pelham Cultural Arts Council for supporting Pelham School once again in funding three field trips to the UMass Fine Arts Center performances. Without their support, our budget would not be able to pay for these trips, and students have an opportunity to view high quality and educationally sound performances that enhance our curriculum. The performances funded this year are “Three Cups of Tea”, “Laura Ingalls Wilder”, and Chinese Acrobats. In addition, the Council has also funded a grant for Roger Tinknell, a renowned musical children’s performer who will come to Pelham School sometime after the new year. I would like to extend an invitation to parents and family members to come to Mr. Tinknell’s performance, and more information will be forthcoming.

Pelham School welcomes three new special education paraprofessionals to our staff. Ben Parker will join third grade as a support staff member, Carol Wilson will share her time between kindergarten and second grade in supporting students, and Kathleen Colasurdo will replace Cathy Neale in sixth grade. We thank Cathy for her many years of dedication and service to the Pelham School and wish her the best in her new adventures.

Students at Pelham School are very busy in their classrooms! Sixth grade students have just completed a unit on researching a country of their choice by learning how to take notes through paraphrasing and bulleting, sorting the information into categories, and finally pulling it all together into a project. The classroom is adorned with many colorful mobiles and Big Books on countries around the world. Sixth grade students have also partnered with kindergarten in a community service project to be their “reading buddies” in addition to their weekly time with first grade. Fourth grade students are in the midst of making diaramas about the Pilgrims using sticks and clay. Their projects are creative and demonstrate their knowledge of the Pilgrims and the time period. Third grade collected a whopping 200 pounds of food for the Amherst Survival Center food drive, and are now in the process of collecting ‘Pennies for Peace’. We commend the hard work of students everyday here at Pelham School, and it is due to the amazing support of parents and the high quality instruction and dedication of our teachers. We have much to be thankful about.

Beginning with this week’s Press, I will be adding a new page to the newsletter entitled “Kid’s Corner”. I wanted to establish a venue to share the wonderful writing that takes place at Pelham School. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

*Lisa Desjarlais*

# Community Notes

## FREE CONCERT AT PELHAM LIBRARY

The Friends of the Pelham Library present "Music for Two Violins" – Alicia Casey and Benjamin Van Vliet, violins and featuring special guest pianist Estella Olevsky. Sunday December 5 at 3pm. The music of Bach, Prokofiev, Moszkowski and Piazzolla will be featured at this free concert in the Pelham Library at 2 South Valley Road, Pelham.

***Found: a child's watch. Please contact Lennie Ware @ 265-3766 and identify it to claim.***

## RENAISSANCE BELL RINGERS

On Saturday, December 4th, the Pelham Community Hall Committee will host the Renaissance Bell Ringers, under the direction of Elva Anderson, who will perform a Christmas Concert at the Pelham Community Hall located at 40 Amherst Road starting at 10:30 a.m. There will be coffee, hot cider and homemade refreshments available from 9 – Noon. Come join us!

Additional parking is available at the Pelham Elementary School.

## Toy Collection

The Westover Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol has set up a Toy Collection day for the Squadron's **Toy Drive to benefit Shriners' Hospital!** K Mart is allowing us to collect toys from customers on Sunday 12 Dec 2010. We need as many toys (new in box) as possible to make a miracle happen! Please help us to get as many toys as we can for this great cause; our goal is to fill the Ford E-Series van! We will be out there from 1000 to 1600(1:00 to 4:00); here is a brief run down of the details again:

Big K Mart @ 1277 Liberty Street Springfield

12 Dec 2010 1000 to 1600(1:00 to 4:00p.m.)

## New Winter Farmers Market

**Where:** Amherst Middle School. **When:** The Grand Opening is this Saturday, December 4th  
Over 25 farmers and food producers have joined together to offer everything from beautiful baby salad greens and bok choy to artisanal cheese, sweet and crunchy carrots, grass fed lamb, pork and beef. The list is too big to fit on this page-- Apex Orchard's famous apples (have you tried their Honey Crisp?!?), Sidehill Farm's luscious yogurt. El Jardin's sour dough breads fresh out of the oven. Atlas Farm, Stone Soup Farm, Red Fire Farm and Simple Gifts will have their wonderful veggie selections. Winter Moon Roots with their carrots, beets, and psychedelic watermelon radishes. Bug Hill Farm's Black Currant Cordials.....And if it gets cold, Bally Farm has hats, gloves and mittens knitted from their own sheep wool! Because local food is always a cause for celebration, we are making it a festive event with free music from Darlingside. There will be prepared local delicacies served by The Turkish Kitchen, Tom Hidas' Curried Veggies (formerly of Amber Waves Restaurant) and the Black Sheep Deli.

Live music too. Don't miss it!!!

Who: 25 local farmers and producers.

Where: Amherst Middle School, 170 Chestnut St., Amherst MA

What: A Brand New Winter Farmers Market

When: Every Saturday from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM (Starts December 4<sup>th</sup>)\*

## Monsters Exhibition Opening night

Monsters or no monsters? You decide! Come and see Multi-Arts scary exhibit of monster faces at the Amherst Chamber of Commerce: 28 Amity St. in Amherst Opening night: Thursday, December 2 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m or come any day from December 2nd through December 31st. Hope to see you there. Catalina <http://www.multi-arts.org/>

When Thu, December 2, 5:30pm – 8:00pm GMT-  
n 05:00



### **Borders gives schools free gift cards worth \$15**

On Dec. 4 and Dec. 5, any Borders customer making an in-store purchase, whether of a book or a bagel or a latte, will receive a \$15 gift card to donate to a public school of choice through DonorsChoose.org, an Internet-based charity.

If you happen to be near a Borders bookstore this Saturday or Sunday, drop in and buy something small -- like a cup of coffee. Any purchase entitles you to request that a \$15.00 Borders gift card be donated via Donorschoose.com to a school of your choice (ARHS, please!). This will entitle us to buy new books for our library at a time that our books budget is 1/5 of what it was 5 years ago. Thank you!

For more information, see: <http://tweentribune.com/borders>

## Holiday Wish List

2010

### Would you like to make a teacher's wish come true?

Each year around holiday time, the PTO asks Pelham School teachers to create a list of items for their classrooms to enrich curriculum and enhance every child's learning experience. This is a wonderful way to show your appreciation to the staff in a way that will benefit all. Please contact your child's classroom teacher if you need more information regarding a specific item.

**Kindergarten:** Gift cards to Michael's, acrylic paint, aluminum foil

**First Grade:** bath dust for chinchillas (Dave's Soda and Pet Food City), soccer ball, jump ropes, Pick Up Sticks, Connect Four, Candy Land, Chutes and Ladders, adhesive number lines to 20, stop watch, clear tape for dispenser

**Second Grade:** head phones for computers, brown envelopes (6X9), scotch tape for dispensers, Scrabble Flash, Boggle Reinvention, math or word games, Magnadoodles, Kid friendly stop watch, Magnifying glasses,

**Third Grade:** Crayola Model Magic – single packs in color, Crayola markers – thick + thin, Ziploc bags – qt. size, magnetic tape, Kleenex unscented tissues, Ticonderoga #2 pencils, gift card to Stop + Shop to use for MCAS snacks

**Fourth Grade:** Gift Certificate to Cowl's Building Supply

**Fifth Grade:** Big Y gift cards, electric pencil sharpener, stickers for planners and signs, fun pencils, items for grab bag, used books for book bag

**Sixth Grade:** granola bars, Stop and Shop or Big Y gift card to buy supplies for plate tectonics and structure of earth lessons – we use food as models, red pens, pencils

**Music:** Tissues, beanbags, CD's: ethnic music + classical jazz

**Nurse Paula:** Kleenex, bottled water (small size for kids)

**Guidance Counselor, Ms. King:** Kleenex, Clorox handi-wipes (non-scented), holiday donations for children of families in need.

**The Office, Mrs. Scott:** Extra mittens and gloves for children without

Dear Pelham Families,

I enjoy working with your children.

Kindergarten students are getting familiar with the percussion instruments. They are discovering the ABA form through the listening to happy/sad music about a clown.

First grade students are learning to take turns playing certain beats, or parts of songs on the classroom instruments. They are also learning to notate rhythms of simple rhymes and name motions in the movement/singing game “Jenny Mouse”.

Second grade students are getting familiar with long notes expressing the motion of turtles and snails. Second and third grade students accompanied their singing of an accumulative song that required good listening and focus.

The third grade class played an interactive “trust” activity that included getting the speed limit from the tempo, stepping to the beat, stopping when the music stops, and closing one’s eye and let the “driver” (partner) drive them safely.

Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students have been asked to improvise eight beat long phrases with a partner on the drums. Students experience the rondo form while singing “He/she’s playing a solo” in between the turns of each student’s solo on the drums.

Fourth grade students are having a very special treat: two free classes by the “University Dancers,” UMass students taking dance education classes with professor Paul Dennis.

The fifth grade class played the cooperative singing game “Shoo Fly Don’t Bother Me.” The activity that goes along with the song includes turning a circle inside out and back. Fifth and sixth grade students had fun dancing the Israeli dance “Mayim” and following different tempos while passing the beanbag around the circle.

Chorus sounds really good,

I am looking forward to the upcoming performances in January.

Agnes Zsigmondi

## Third Grade News

### Meg Gallagher

Thank you again for the food donations to the Survival Center. We sorted, checked expiration dates, and packed up close to 200 pounds of food. Students helped me load up my car, and my daughter and I took it over to the Center where it was thankfully received.

Pennies for Peace! Thank you for your donations for this project also! Please keep the pennies coming. We counted 600 pennies the first day, and plan to count our next round this week. Giving just feels good. Tying it to math lessons just makes it all the better!

Our Mexico unit is progressing nicely. We studied the geography and climate of Mexico, and student groups gave PowerPoint presentations to their classmates before the Thanksgiving break. Everyone did a wonderful job. We are currently learning about the history of Mexico through its sculptures, paintings, buildings, and crafts.

We have begun a new unit in math called Perimeter, Angles, and Area. We reviewed the length of units of measure such as inch, foot, yard, centimeter, and meter. We are working on understanding perimeter as the measure around the outside edges of a 2-dimensional figure and area as measurement in square units. Our investigations will explore geometric moves, identifying attributes of triangles, angles, and quadrilaterals. We will continue our work on place value of numbers up to 1,000.

In Language Arts, everyone had much fun reading fractured folktales. These are tales based on the traditional stories but broken apart in hilarious ways. The Three Little Javelinas is one example. Ask your child to tell you about it. We are now taking a crack at writing our own fractured folktales. The students are very excited about this project and are working diligently. It's a pleasure to watch!

## Fourth Grade Pelham Press

In reading we are wrapping up our look into Pilgrim life. The students have read many books on why different travelers on the Mayflower came to the New World. Some might be surprised to know that there were different groups of people on the Mayflower. The Strangers, as they were called, were not so much motivated by the promise of religious freedom, but rather the opportunity for a better life than they had in England. The Saints of the Holy Discipline had been persecuted relentlessly by King James and had to hold their services in secret. No doubt they were also looking for a new chance, spiritually and economically. And there was the crew who delivered the passengers safely and returned to England with the Mayflower. To wrap up the unit students are writing reports on topics relating to Pilgrim and Native American life. Some students have gone on to projects that relate to their report. They have also completed an end of the unit. They chose 10 questions from a menu of about 50 to answer in detailed mini paragraphs. I was very impressed how dedicated they all were to do their best work.

We have spent a good deal of time on our first of two geometry units. Right now we're immersed in angles. Children have firmed up their understanding of acute, obtuse, and right angles, and are now learning about degrees. We are using special shapes called power polygons to serve as benchmark measurements and to construct new angles by putting two or more together. Angles are useful in describing different shapes. For example, acute triangles are triangles where all three angles are acute. In other math news, students are beginning an inquiry into area. Students are building designs with the power polygons and determining how many small equilateral triangles it takes to cover the same area. Then they figure out how many rhombuses, trapezoids and hexagons it takes.

A reminder about snacks in the classroom. We are trying really hard to make sure students are bringing in tasty and nutritious snacks. It is important for kids to eat right as it sets the tone for their day, in some respects. Please make sure you have talked with your child about preferences, bearing in mind that sugary candy-like snacks are not ok. Also, some children are not clear about what they are eating for lunch, and it is a problem for adults running lunch duty and for your child. Please make sure your child is clear about their lunch plans.

## Quinlan's Quill

As I write this Pelham Press, I am assuming that students have reached two important milestones. They have earned their fifty points which comes with a movie and popcorn and the links have reached the floor and I have baked a special treat. These are tributes to how well the students listen, cooperate and respect each other. The students should feel proud of how well they are doing in all areas of their learning, academically and socially.

In our study of the Revolutionary War, students have learned what led up to the war and after the Thanksgiving holiday we will focus on the war itself. Students have been engaged and interested in this important part of our history. We have also had a little bit of fun and created our image of George Washington which is displayed outside of our room.

We will be finishing up our literature books in the beginning of December. Our next literature unit will be biographies based on the Revolutionary War and The Constitution. Students will have different biographies with similar work. This literature unit will be more individual than the previous unit.

In math we have finished up multiplication and have moved onto long division. Students did well on the last math test except for attention to details and careless mistakes. Students understood the concepts but they also have to be accurate. Long division will require accuracy by all students.

Our Friday Problem Solving days are going well with some students finishing the first set of problems. We also teaching specific problem solving strategies whenever we can. We started with logical reasoning otherwise known as Quizzles. Some of the students are extremely excited and challenged by Quizzles which is exciting to see.

In writing we are working on Compare and Contrast paragraphs and will soon move onto Cause and Effect paragraphs. These are difficult paragraphs to write but with practice we are getting the hang of it.

It is such a pleasure to teach the students. They are interested in learning and so fun to teach. I am thoroughly enjoying this year and I hope they are.

Suzanne Quinlan

## Sixth Grade News

Sixth graders have been learning about the Earth in our *Maps and Globes* unit. We started the unit considering the size of the Universe, and have come through the Solar System to planet Earth. This week we studied the structure of the Earth, and next we'll learn about plate tectonics. After that we'll study various systems people have devised to describe our location, such as dividing the globe into hemispheres and latitude/longitude.

In Language Arts, we've added in the last pieces of our curriculum to the schedule: weekly practice with conventions in writing (capitalization rules this week), and reading skills (identifying main idea). In writing, the personal narratives are finished, and we're working on taking notes for the research reports. I want to remind you that on short weeks, we don't have Wordly Wise. We often have a spelling rule that we study together as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade (not in our usual spelling groups), but we didn't have time this week.

Our math unit on measurement is finished, and we're reviewing for the unit test which will be next week. We have found area and perimeter formulas for rectangles, parallelograms, triangles, and circles. We have practiced linear measurement and working with polygons and polyhedrons. Please remind your child that their strategy notebook section of their binder is a valuable source of information as they study for the test.

Thank you for your donations of tissues (we have a good supply) and granola bars (we can always use more), and for your continued support!

Margaret Light

# Kids Corner

Fall is an explosion of colors or orange, red, and yellow  
Fall sounds like crunchy leaves under your feet  
Fall tastes like delicious candy from trick or treating  
Fall smells like pure sweet maple syrup  
Fall looks like leaves falling gently down from the trees  
Fall makes me feel frustrated for school but excited for Halloween and Thanksgiving  
by Alex Rosenbach

Autumn is brown like the bark of a tree  
It sounds like rain pouring on a platform when leaves fall  
It tastes like pumpkins in a pumpkin pie  
And smells damp and foggy from the rain  
Autumn looks like a tree blew up  
It makes you feel so good  
by Selena Seang

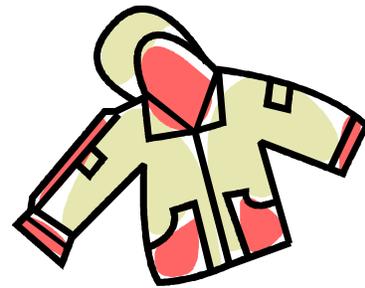
Harry Wolff-Landau  
The color is like fire in a dark cave  
It sounds of whistling wind  
The taste of a crisp apple  
The smell of frosty mornings  
Fall looks like a phoenix flying through the air  
It feels like a dream  
By Harry Wolff-Landau

Thanksgiving is the color of lightly sprinkled dirt  
It sounds like a family coming together with happiness  
It tastes like Thanksgiving turkey  
And smells like tasty food being prepared for the feast  
Thanksgiving looks like colorful leaves and wonderful food  
It makes me feel cozy inside, happy as can be  
Sarah Blatz

# *Warm Winter Clothing Give A Way*



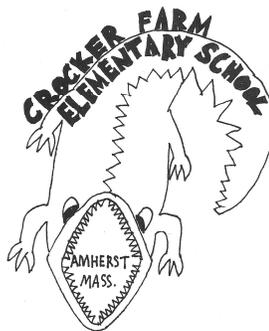
It's that time again - the weather is getting cooler and we're thinking about winter. In an effort to ensure that all Amherst children are toasty this winter season, individuals or families in need of boots, jackets, snow pants, hats and/ or gloves are invited to come to Crocker Farm School on Monday, December 6th between the hours of 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM or 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. There will be gently used outerwear in from very small to adult sizes.



This event is open to the entire Amherst community.

If you have any questions, please contact Erika Zekos ([studiozed@comcast.net](mailto:studiozed@comcast.net)) or Micaela Henry ([micaela.henry@yahoo.com](mailto:micaela.henry@yahoo.com)).

This event is sponsored by:



Parent/ Guardian Organization

# THE AMHERST-REGIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Serving Amherst, Pelham and the Amherst-Pelham Region*

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
170 CHESTNUT STREET  
AMHERST, MA 01002

413-362-1810 (PHONE)  
413-549-6108 (FAX)

December 2, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians:

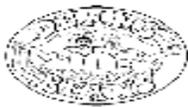
Tomorrow your children will not be in school and the day is listed on the district calendar as Teacher Curriculum/Workday. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind the community that last spring, as part of a community-wide effort to support shrinking budgets, the membership of the Amherst-Pelham Educational Association (Unit A—Teachers) voted to approve a “give-back” during the 2010-2011 school year in the form of three furlough days without pay. The three curriculum/workdays scheduled on the calendar will serve as those furlough days, and teachers are not required to report for work. You should know, however, that many, many of them will be working anyway—whether at the school building or at home—writing lesson plans, grading, preparing report cards, and much more. The work goes on, teachers simply will not be compensated for it or receive the professional development training to which they are contractually entitled.

The generosity of APEA Unit A resulted in an FY11 budgetary savings of more than \$335,000 for the three districts. This savings, coupled with the Amherst community’s generous approval of the Proposition 2 ½ override, resulted in many tangible benefits to our students, allowing the district to maintain programs and eliminating the need for mandatory study halls at ARHS. We are extremely grateful to our teachers for their willingness to make this personal sacrifice for the good of our children.

Best Regards,



Maria Geryk  
Interim Superintendent of Schools



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		
Grand Total			

\* 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.  
 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



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		
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 Please return this form to the school. Thank You!!  
 Any questions: Amy Wasserman 253-4664, amy@cutnpaced.com

**Great Gift Idea!!**  
**The December order will be extended to the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. This program helps to fund the staff luncheon in March.**