



Pelham Press

Vol. 22, No. 1 September 16, 2011

<http://pe.arps.org>



Dates to Remember:

Wednesday, September 21	School Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, September 30	Fall Potluck and Ice Cream Social
Friday, September 30-October 7	Book Fair
Wednesday, October 5	Fall Curriculum Night, 7:00-8:00 p.m.



Dear Pelham School Families,

There will be an additional School Committee meeting next Wednesday evening to discuss the merits of forming a "Regional School District Planning Committee". The purpose of the committee will be to join together with another town/s to study regionalization and ultimately present a recommendation back to our town. The School Committee will take a vote as to whether to put an article on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant requesting permission to form this committee.

The Pelham School is seeking one parent to join our Pelham School Council. The School Council is a representative, school building-based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers, community members required to be established by each school pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 59C. The function of the Council is to assist the principal in adopting educational goals for the school, identifying the educational needs of students, reviewing the school's annual budget, and formulating and revising a school improvement plan. Meetings are held once a month on Wednesday mornings, from 7:30-8:30. Please complete the School Council Interest Form at the back of this newsletter and return to the school office if you are interested. Elections will be held on Curriculum Night on October 5th, and the first meeting will be on October 12th.

Parents are welcomed as additional chaperones on class field trips, as volunteers in the school library, and as helpers with special classroom projects. State and Federal law requires that school volunteers pass a CORI check. In order to work in classrooms and chaperone on Field Trips parents **must** complete a CORI form. Please contact the school office to process your CORI form if you would like to participate this year.

The "Power of One" group visited Pelham School this week in an anti-bullying program for all students. The show was a skit-based performance that reviewed all aspects of the bullying process in educational detail. The message of the show was that every child has the "Power of One", the power to report and deal with bullying when they see it. Both teachers and students thoroughly enjoyed the program, and I have included some photos on the next page of students that were participants. Thank you Deb King for being so quick with the camera!

Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,
Lisa Desjarlais

THE POWER OF ONE!!



*******REMINDER: PELHAM SCHOOL IS A FRAGRANCE FREE ZONE*******

**We have several staff members who are allergic to fragrances.
Please refrain from using perfumes or heavily scented lotions or detergents.**

***The Pelham Press is going electronic again, beginning next week!
Please return your Pelham Press Email Form if you have not already done so.***

Quinlan's Quill

Fifth grade is getting into the full swing of learning and beginning to get our programs up and running. The first couple of days were a lot of assessments and the students really worked hard. I am getting to know the students socially and their learning style. It is a great group of kids and I am looking forward to this year.

Fifth graders are learning that I love index cards. Before we begin a unit, we always go over vocabulary for that unit. So, yesterday students started studying their river cards and their math vocabulary cards. Studying consistently 10 minutes a night helps the vocabulary become part of their long term memory. The language of learning is vital to success.

In reading we are learning about ourselves as readers and choosing "Just Right Books". They are also reading for an extended period of time while students are being met one-on-one with teachers to assess their reading skills. It is always interesting to hear what students are reading, and how they feel about reading.

This week we are beginning our first piece of processed writing which is a Personal Narrative paragraph. Students have done this many times and we will focus on descriptive language, voice and creating a picture in their heads. We will also learn the writing process that we do in 5th grade.

Our math program is up and running. We are starting with the basics of place value and will quickly move into mathematical properties and algebraic expressions. We will also begin our problem solving program in the near future. Students will have problem solving work every week which will be appropriate for their level, and they will move at their own pace. Also, we will have strategy weeks where we will focus on one problem solving strategy for that week.

We are all figuring out how the 5th grade works and how this year can be successful for all students. We are a social group and it will be important to learn when it is appropriate to be social and when it is not.

I look forward to seeing everyone on October 5th which is Open House. As always my door is open to parents. I truly feel we are a team and need to work together.

Suzanne Quinlan

Sixth Grade News

September 14, 2011

We've had a busy start to the school year. In addition to various assessments, we've been talking about ourselves as learners and how to stay healthy. When we examined our eating habits, we looked at the new "My Plate" food recommendations and the need to limit excess salt, fat, and sugar. It was particularly interesting to measure out the 11 teaspoons of sugar that are in a typical can of root beer. We'll all have a healthy year if we eat well, get enough sleep, exercise daily, and manage our stress.

We are one of several classrooms in the building that start each morning with a Morning Meeting, as developed by the Responsive Classroom folks. We call our time "Morning Circle" and it includes a greeting, sharing, activity and message. We've had fun together and made some connections that we expect will enhance the social atmosphere of the classroom. We have the "CARES" list posted in our room, as we work on our skills of cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy and self-control.

In math we are working through our first unit, teaching students the mathematical concepts, as well as how the math program is organized. Every day we correct homework, have a lesson on new material, try a few problems with a check by the teachers, then have independent practice work. Our program also includes Problem Solving books students use to solve word problems and explain their thinking. In sixth grade we assign math homework every night.

Our river unit is underway and it includes field trips, science experiments, river literature, and a study of ancient civilizations. Our science and social studies units this year include Maps and Globes, Experiments with Plants, Physics, Robotics (hopefully), and Health. We will be writing various process pieces including a personal narrative, descriptive essays, a persuasive essay, a research report, various expository paragraphs, book summaries, and a business letter. We will read historical fiction, realistic fiction, biographies, poetry, and folklore together. In addition to the subjects we study, we address organizational and social skills. Thank you for helping your children transition back to school – this is a pivotal year and the expectations are high.

If you have any questions, or would like to touch base at any time, I check my email daily: lightm@arps.org, and/or we can set up a time to meet before or after school.

Margaret Light

PTO NEWS

The Pelham PTO had its first meeting this past Monday. We've changed our format this year in order to encourage more parents to attend meetings. This year, we are providing free childcare and pizza, for both parents and children, and our meetings will last one hour at most. We had several new kindergarten parents attend our meeting, and we are hoping to have at least one parent from each grade attend our meeting throughout the year. Minutes from the PTO meeting can be found on the Pelham School website. Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 3rd, so please plan on attending this meeting, and bring your kids, too!

We have several exciting upcoming events that we encourage families to attend. Our first event of the year will be a Harvest Potluck/Ice Cream Social on Friday, September 30th. We will provide beverages and ice cream, and are asking families to bring a main dish or side dish to share with other Pelham families. We will also kick-off our annual book fair on Friday, September 30th, so please mark this night on your calendars and plan to bring the family down to the school to enjoy dinner and ice cream, get to know other families and buy some books!

We very much need volunteers for all the events we do throughout the year. Our first volunteer need is for the book fair. Our book fair runs from September 30th-October 7th. The kids LOVE the book fair, and this is an excellent opportunity to be able to work directly with our children to help them find a book they like. We need parent volunteers to help with the book fair each day during afterschool hours (3:15-5:30), during the Harvest Potluck, and during the Pelham Open House (October 5th). Please, even if you only have an hour to spare during one of the afterschool sessions, we need your help. Contact Ellen Leuchs to sign up to volunteer: eleuchs@comcast.net

Community Notes

HAWLEY FARM TO HAWLEY RESERVOIR—THE WALK

The Pelham Historical Society has planned a walk on Saturday, September 24, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., leaving from the United Church parking lot. The group will visit the site of the former Hawley Farm and learn about the history of the farm and the creation of the Hawley Reservoir. The walk will possibly include a quarry site. The public is invited. For information, including a rain date, if necessary, call Bruce Klotz at 253-1601.

DEMONSTRATION OF SHAPE NOTE SINGING

On Sunday, September 25, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., the Pelham Historical Society invites the public to hear and experience Shape Note Singing at the Historic Town Hall on the corner of Route 202 and Amherst Road. This music has its roots in early New England. Visitors' participation at this special tenth anniversary Pelham exhibition of Shape Note Singing is encouraged but not required. Books will be available to borrow. Participants may come and go as they please. The public is invited. For information, call Barbara Jenkins at 253-2929.

HARVEST SUPPER AT HISTORIC TOWN HALL IN PELHAM

The Pelham Historical Society will hold its traditional New England boiled dinner and pie auction on Saturday, October 1, at 6:30 p.m. at the historic Town Hall on the corner of Amherst Road and Route 202. State Representative Steve Kulik will be the auctioneer. As space is limited, reservations should be made soon with Elva Anderson at 253-3970 or Doris Holden at 253-5993. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for children under ten.

School Council Interest Form

If you are a interested in being a part of the Pelham School Council, please return this form with a brief write up of who you are and why you would like to be a part of the Pelham School Council. Thank you for your interest in this position. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Lisa Desjarlais, principal of Pelham School at 362-1100 or at Desjarlaisl@arps.org

Name: _____

Child's name(s)_____

Phone Number:_____

Email address:_____