



# Pelham Press

Vol. 21, No. 21, February 11, 2011

<http://pe.arps.org>



## Dates to Remember:

Friday, February 11

Valentine's Day Dance

Monday, February 21-Friday, Feb. 25

Winter Recess- NO SCHOOL



Dear Pelham School Families,

Next week, your child (and all students in grades 2-6 in the Amherst and Pelham Elementary Schools), will participate in an administration of a universal screening tool called Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). As a part of the District Improvement Plan, our schools are focused on ensuring that every student is engaged in a rigorous and student-centered learning experience that recognizes and challenges him or her. Some details are provided, below.

For your child this will mean sitting in her/his school computer lab and, under the direction of computer lab and classroom teachers, spending about an hour answering multiple choice mathematics questions on the computer, across a wide range of topics. The assessment tool is well designed to measure how a student is doing and adjust the problems that they are asked to solve, accordingly. This is both to minimize student frustration and allows the test to zero in on just what areas the student needs to learn next.

This work is one aspect of our District's adoption of the Response to Intervention (RTI) model, now used widely across our country. Our first step is the use of a universal screening tool (or assessment) this year.

At the core of good RTI practice is data-based decision making. The more information we have about what skills a student has mastered, and what needs to be learned next, and needed skills, the more specifically we can meet student needs just where they are. This is a benefit to all students. Data-based decisions are core to the three components of RTI, including universal screening, progress monitoring and multi-leveled instruction; all of which must be implemented using culturally responsive and evidence based practices. For more information on RTI, please visit the National Center on Response to Intervention at <http://www.rti4success.org>.

A few classes have already begun this process. You may wish to read more about this tool. You can go to (<http://www.nwea.org>), in the area of mathematics. Through the use of MAP, classroom teachers will be able to access real-time student data to inform instruction, target intervention and monitor progress for all students.

This first administration will serve as a chance for staff and students to become familiar with this computer based assessment, to allow for adjustments as needed, and to provide baseline data. Towards the end of the year, students in grade 2 through 6 will be screened again in mathematics and in reading for the first time. Students in kindergarten through first grade will be administered the primary version of MAP in mathematics and reading as well this spring.

An active team, representing all of the elementary schools, has been working to put our planning into practice. More information will follow as we move to next steps in supporting student learning using RTI design.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me with any questions at [desjarlais@arps.org](mailto:desjarlais@arps.org).

Sincerely,  
*Lisa Desjarlais*

# Community Notes

**Don't wait! Apply for FREE Head Start or Early Head Start Now!**

**Child Care/Preschool/Home-Visiting:** The Parent-Child Development Center, serving families with children birth to Kindergarten age and expectant women for over 40 years, offers **FREE Head Start preschool, FREE Head Start and Early Head Start home visiting programs and Child-Care** in Franklin/Hampshire Counties. Spanish speaking services available. Call 413-475-1405 in Franklin County or 413-387-1250 in Hampshire County for more information.

## Quinlan's Quill

What a January! I am hoping that February is a little friendlier to school days. We have had a rough time getting on a schedule and keeping it. Hopefully, the worst is behind us. As I write this, I have my plans for the next two weeks laid out and I am hoping to have a Constitution and Math test before we go on vacation. This will allow us to begin Ecosystems when we return. Let's all hope for good weather!

Students are learning about our government and how it works. They have been very interested in this topic and it has helped to have a current revolution occurring in Egypt as we study this unit. After this unit, we will move into Science Units. I hope your child explained the report card in reference to Science. The first half of the year we study Social Studies the second half of the year we study Science.

In literature we have been reading biographies about famous men and women from the time period of the American Revolution and Constitution. We are now summarizing those biographies and writing a summary. Students will create a potato look a-like of their biographical person and present their potato and their summary to the class before vacation. After vacation we will launch into our research paper, read short non-fiction books by Jean Craighead George and we will practice for the English Language Arts MCAS which is at the end of March.

In math we have begun our study of fractions and we continue to emphasize problem solving. I know students have struggled with problem solving and transferring the language into math but I have seen some great improvements in the last couple of weeks. I keep telling them the only way you get better at something that is difficult is practice and it is beginning to pay off.

If any parent would like to meet with me about report cards, please call and set up a time. I would be happy to discuss what we are working on and my goals for your child. I can not say enough times how hard your children are working and how much I am enjoying the class. They are an exceptional bunch of young people that I am privileged to teach.

Thank you for your continued support.

Suzanne Quinlan

## Sixth Grade News

We are finishing our scientific experiments on the *brassica rapa* plants. This week we took our plants off the water, and are waiting for them to dry out before we thresh and harvest the seeds. We will write up our results in lab reports, and then present our findings to the class. It will be interesting to see if over fertilizing the plants made them taller, or if overcrowding made the plants shorter, or if blocking some of the light made a difference.

In math, we've started operations with fractions and decimals. We'll be learning and practicing the algorithms for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing, while making sure we have a strong conceptual understanding of why it works. The Unit 3 tests will come home soon, and those grades were on the report cards.

In our study of Ancient Cultures, we are coming to the end of our realistic fiction books. We've been learning about the ancient cultures of Egypt, Greece, and Rome. Our field trip on Friday is to see various artifacts from these cultures at the Mt. Holyoke Art Museum, and to participate in reader's theater.

Margaret Light

**The Pelham PTO invites you and your family to join us for a fun-filled night of dancing in celebration of Valentine's Day!**

**Friday February 11th, 2011**

**6:30 - 9:30**

**Pelham Elementary School Gymnasium**

**Our theme this year is:**



**"Sock Hop"**

**Come dressed to enjoy an evening of dancing in your best 50's sock hop attire!  
(optional, of course)**

**DJ/Dancing/Music for All Ages  
Special Requests/Annual Limbo Contest**

**Pizza by the Slice/Baked Goods  
Juice/Water/Coffee**

**For more information contact:**

**Tracy Farnham @ 256-4143/531-7641/[tqfarnham@gmail.com](mailto:tqfarnham@gmail.com)**

**Please contact me at the above number if you can contribute baked goods or other items to the sale.**

**Donations Accepted**



**Grant's Chocolate Secrets**

Enjoy sweet snacks that satisfy. Try one of these tasty recipes: mix 2/3 plain raisins with 1/3 chocolate covered raisins for a healthy snack; make a trail mix of dried fruits, nuts and semi sweet chocolate morsels; hide a single Hershey's kiss in a cup of rice pudding; jazz up your banana by drizzling a small amount of melted chocolate on top.

Peelham  
Elementary  
February 2011

**LUNCH PRICES**  
 Type A Lunch Price \$2.50  
 Reduced Lunch Price \$1.40  
 Milk/Chocolate Milk \$1.40  
 Adult \$3.25

**PREPAID LUNCHES AVAILABLE**  
 10 Lunches-\$25.00 20 Lunches-\$50.00  
 30 Lunches-\$75.00 40 Lunches-\$100.00

**ALL STUDENT LUNCHES 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=360mg 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 413-382-1838"*

**WE PURCHASE LOCAL!**  
 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 cafe 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
 Veggie of the Month Cauliflower	1 Baked Chicken Nuggets w/ Dipping Sauce Corn Baked French Fries Whole Wheat Bread	2 (V) Spaghetti (With Meatballs or Plain) Green Beans Garlic Bread	3 Turkey/Gravy over Rice Raw Cauliflower w/ Dip Dinner Roll	4 <b>Safari Day</b> (V) Whole Wheat Classic Cheese Pizza Veggie Sticks With Low Fat Dip Dried Fruit & Chocolate Morsel Mix
7 Hard Shell Beef or (V) Bean Tacos w/Cheese, Salsa Steamed Rice Corn	8 Breaded Chicken Patty on a Whole Wheat Bun Steamed Carrots	9 <b>Brunch For Lunch</b> (V) Whole Wheat French Toast Sticks w/ 'Syrup' (P) Sausage Potato Puffs	10 Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes Steamed Green Peas Dinner Roll	11 (V) Whole Wheat Classic Cheese Pizza Tossed Side Salad With L Fat Dressing
14 <b>Valentines Day</b> (V) Vegetable Soup Heart Shaped Toasted Cheese Sandwich Baked Fries Valentine Cookie	15 Baked Chicken Nuggets w/ Dipping Sauce Corn/Rice Whole Wheat Bread	16 (V) Egg & Cheese Omelet (P) Sausage Potato Puffs Whole Wheat Roll	17 Hamburger or (V) Veggie Burger on a Whole Wheat Bun Raw Cauliflower w/ Dip	18 <b>Lucky Fruit or Veggie Day</b> (V) Whole Wheat Classic Cheese Pizza Veggie Sticks With Low Fat Dip
21 WINTER RECESS	22 WINTER RECESS	23 WINTER RECESS	24 WINTER RECESS	25 WINTER RECESS

♥ Crispy Nacho Chips<sup>28</sup>  
 Seasoned Meat or (V) Beans  
 Cheese Sauce  
 Steamed Rice  
 Salsa



**Happy Valentine's Day**

**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