



Pelham Press

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<http://pe.arps.org>



Dates to Remember:

- 1/18/17- PTO Meeting- 6 p.m.- Teachers' Room
- 1/23/17- Teacher Workday- NO SCHOOL
- 2/1/17- Pelham School Committee Meeting- 6:30 p.m Community Room
- 2/3/17- Report Cards and Progress Reports
- 2/8/17- Early Release 1:20- No Preschool After Care
- 2/20-2/24- Winter Break- NO SCHOOL



Dear Pelham Families,

If school is canceled or delayed, a message will be displayed on the front page of the [district web site](#). If no message appears, then school is open at the regular time. Information about school closing can also be obtained through the following sources: ARPS School Cancellations or Delays Information Line (413) 362-1898, Radio Stations: FM 93.1 94.7 98.3 100.9 AM 1400 Television stations WWLP Channel 22 WGGB Channel 40 TV Station Websites: www.wwlp.com & www.wggb.com

Pelham School does offer Before School care when there are school delays, beginning at 9:15. Students must already be pre-registered for Before School. Please call the school or check into the office for more information if you'd like to register your child for this program. Preschool also follows the same delay time as grades K-6.

Fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students performed in the winter music concert for their parents this past Wednesday evening, and then again for their classmates and teachers on Thursday morning. We are very proud of our budding musicians and appreciate the support of families in reminding them to practice and bring their instruments on music days. I'd also like to acknowledge the dedication and efforts of our three music instructors, Laura Arpiainen, Heather O'Mara, and Robert Castellano.

We are planning a meeting for a Garden Committee in the last week of January, date TBA. Please let me know if you are interested in joining to help in planning for the spring plantings. Spring is only about ten weeks away!

Sincerely,

Lisa Desjarlais

Community Notes

AFTERSCHOOL AFTERTHOUGHTS FOR JANUARY 2017

January Dates:

Jan. 23 – no school, Teacher Work Day (*I have childcare recommendations.*)

December Highlights:

During this holiday month, we had two guest artists come in and share their craft. Cathy Neale taught linoleum block printmaking and Annie Foley made needlework crafts with the children. Many thanks to these generous women.

We said goodbye to Danielle Fung and wished her good luck next semester as she does her student teaching in Northampton. We will also miss Mr. G. We always joked that he didn't know how to cook so the children made him an illustrated cookbook with some very simple (and cute) kid generated recipes.

For our traditional activities, we made gingerbread houses and ate potato latkes. In addition, there were a number of winter, and holiday related, craft options and we played a Solstice Tag game (with glow bracelets.) The playground snow was fun but the icy patches made it challenging – we had a few slips and falls and broken sleds!

And... **BOXES WANTED:** Lennie is collecting small cardboard boxes for an afterschool project.

Please consider donating any boxes that are the size of a band-aid box or smaller. They do not need to be gift boxes – tea boxes, spice boxes, bouillon boxes, etc. are all welcome. Thanks!

Plus...

The annual Afterschool play is being written as you read this newsletter.

Finally...

We have openings (except on Tuesdays) if you want your child to start attending After School during those long winter months!

Found on the playground on Thursday Jan. 5: cash wrapped in a Sweet Frog receipt. Tell me what you purchased to claim! See Lennie in Afterschool

Kindergarten News



December 31, 2016

Social Justice Social justice in kindergarten means celebrating diversity, learning about fairness and justice, thinking critically about injustice, and practicing early activism that leaves the children with a sense of agency and power. But it also means empowering and supporting our students everyday in their own conversations, successes and challenges. One way we are doing this has come from an idea that came out of our Leadership Lunchea. Each child took a self-assessment to indicate skills that they feel confident about and areas where they sometimes feel frustrated and could use more support. We compared and contrasted the assessments and then matched the children up into Duos. Each Duo comprises students who have lots to offer to their partners. If a student feels a little shy about expressing himself, he may be teamed up with someone who feels really good about using her assertive voice and can lend support. On the flip side, that same student might be able to help a partner who struggles with transitioning from one activity to another by inviting her to the sit next to him for the following activity. The idea is to foster a sense of cosmopolitanism that helps the children to bond with one another and feel confident that they all have lots to offer to their peers. But what do the kids say? Here is some dialogue from our latest Leadership Lunch:

"I like how duos are working together." (Matthew)
"I think some duos don't really talk together too much yet." (Luna)
"Maybe we should go for a partner walk with our duos every day!" (Carl) "Yeah!" (Luna)
"Not first thing in the morning though, 'cause some kids might miss out if they came in a little late." (Nolan)
"Yeah, let's do it at the end of the day before we go home!" (Carl)

This idea, generated by the children, will be put into action this week. They are clearly demonstrating an understanding of the importance of bonding with and supporting one another.

We held many holiday circles this month, dedicated to talking about and engaging in the meanings and traditions of this year's December holidays. In a darkened room with a circle of battery-operated tea lights, we read about the importance of the solstice, made nature-inspired decorations, and strung cranberries to hang on a tree. We sang Hanukkah songs, listened to klezmer music, explored a menorah, and talked about the importance of the eight nights. We played xylo bars to the Carol of the Bells and read "The Night Before Christmas", writing about what we would do if we went downstairs and saw Santa like the narrator in the poem. We made kinaras and talked about the core values that are celebrated on Kwanzaa. We specifically focused on Self-Determination, and then likened that to New Years Resolutions. The children wrote their own, and then we darkened the room and made a pathway with luminaries. The children read their resolutions, and walked through the pathway from the first half of kindergarten to the second. Here are some of their resolutions:

"I will help nature." (Chiara)
"I will be gentle." (Colin)
"I will help my dad to cook dinner." (Connor)
"I will be kind to my sister." (Meghan)
"I will be in the green zone." (Jeremy)
"I will be like W.E.B. DuBois. He wanted all people to learn." (Adelomo)

Superkids Reading and Writing

We have added S and L to the list of letters we have been studying, and we have really started to focus on more reading. The children are making some impressive leaps! Also, we have written our first letters to our pen pals in Senegal! Copies of our letters are on the wall in the hallway outside our classroom. Come and check it out!

Mathematical Development

One of our very favorite math games this month was dreidel! The children learned the yiddish symbols for gimmel, hay, nun, and shin quickly and were delighted to put them into good use, adding, subtracting, and even dividing things into two equal piles.





First Grade News January 6th, 2017 Happy Three Kings Day!

In first grade, we continued to learn about family traditions from around the world. This week, we learned about Three Kings Day! We made crafts, small books, and even ate Three Kings Star cake. We learned how children in Puerto Rico and other parts of Latin America leave hay and water for the camels (or horses like in Puerto Rico) the night before, and wait presents from the three kings: Melchior, Balthazar and Gaspar.

Science: Air and Weather Unit

In science class, we have started a new unit called Air and Weather. In this unit we will be exploring the properties of air and learn about the weather. We already started by exploring with objects such as feathers, balloons, and stars. We also made parachutes using string and napkins. The students have really surprised me with their previous knowledge about air! Other investigations will include: Observing the sky, exploring with wind, and looking at change in the seasons.



Math We started unit 4. It involves mostly measuring and continues to work on addition and subtraction strategies.

First Grade Family Potluck!

Thank you to all the families who were able to make it to our Family Potluck last December! The activity was a huge success. We had great food that represented our families and our traditions. Best of all we had our families with us!

Second Grade News

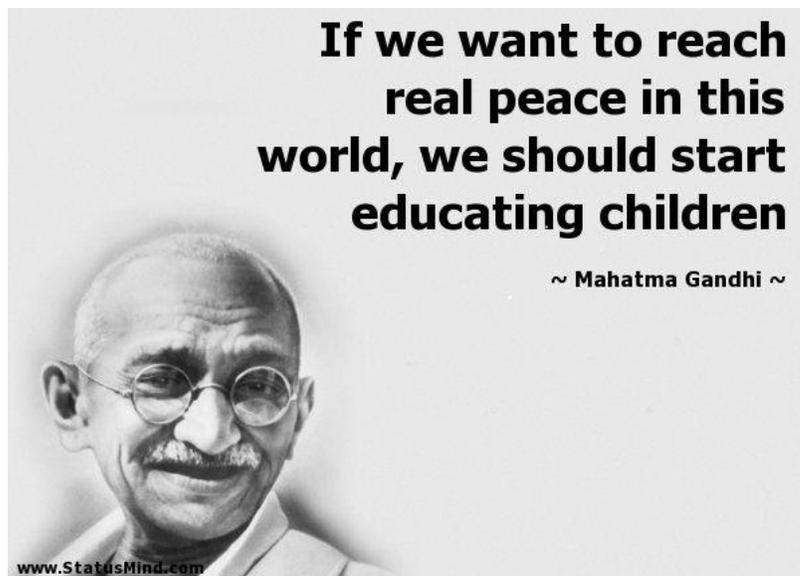
Happy New Year! As 2017 begins, I am trying to have an emphasis of positivity, kindness, bravery, and social justice in our second grade class.

In Language Arts, we will continue to practice weekly memory words, learn new phonics patterns, and work with various grammar rules. As the memory words get more challenging, I have told the students not to worry too much about the weekly spelling tests. We practice the words each day during centers, and there is practice woven into the homework. As with everything, they just need to do their best. No pressure at all! We are also continuing a reading unit that focuses on realistic fiction. In this unit, we are learning about story structure, plot, summarizing, and various reading strategies such as making predictions and asking questions.

In Math, we have started a new unit with the new year. This unit will focus on money, addition and subtraction strategies, and adding multi-digit numbers.

In Social Studies, we have begun a unit which focuses on African American heroes who worked for civil rights in our country. Our unit focuses on eight men and women. Of course, there are many, many, many more people who have done and continue to do extraordinary work for civil rights in our country. Perhaps you could check some books out of the library to learn about some additional heroes with your children. I realize that this is a big topic. I also understand that there are a lot of current events that exemplify that there is still much work to be done in our country. I work hard to teach the unit honestly but not to impose my own views on your children. I also try to maintain the focus on the heroism and bravery of these Americans. The unit is intended to be inspirational so that the children can see that each one of us has the ability to do great things in this world. If any questions arise, please feel free to contact me.

I hope to see you all on **Friday, February 3, 2017** for our Civil Rights Learning Celebration. I will send a notice home as the date approaches.



Pee Wee Tennis Clinic with Mollie Domian

For players ages 6-9

**Saturdays from 11:00am-12:00pm
at the Hampshire Athletic Club**

90 Gatehouse Road Amherst, MA 01002

Dates: Jan 14, 21, 28; Feb 4, 11, 18

Cost: \$120 (HAC members)/\$136 (non-members)

Cash or check payment due at first clinic

Players will need to bring their own tennis racquet and wear non-marking athletic sneakers. All other equipment will be provided.

Mollie is an Amherst native who has been coaching in The Valley since 2008. She won the MIAA State Individual Championship, was a top-ranked USTA New England junior player, and was the #1 singles and doubles player for Cornell University. She also coached with the Amherst College Women's Tennis team from 2012-2014 and is USPTA certified.

To register: email molliedomian@gmail.com or call (413) 883-2244

Welcome to our Lunch Cafe

Amherst/Pelham Elementary Schools

January 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 C HAPPY NEW YEAR!!	3 Mozzarella Sticks & Marinara Sauce WW Dinner Roll Carrots Celery Sticks Sliced Peaches Bartlett Pear	4 Cheeseburger Corn Vegetarian Baked Beans Pineapple Cup Banana	5 Two Soft Tacos Brown Rice Black Beans Mild Salsa Diced Peas Fresh Orange	6 Cheese Pizza Broccoli Florets Celery Sticks Mixed Fruit Fresh Green Grapes
9 Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Corn Pineapple Cup Fresh Apple WW Bread	10 Shepherd's Pie Peas Orange Sweet Red Pepper Strips Fresh Green Grapes WW Bread	11 Hot Dog Sweet Potato Puffs Carrot Sticks Applesauce Spinach & Tomato Salad Banana	12 Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich Vegetarian Baked Beans Carrot Sticks Diced Peas Fresh Orange	13 Cheese Pizza Spinach Salad Carrot Sticks Applesauce Fresh Apple
16 C HAPPY NEW YEAR!! MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	17 Pasta with Chicken Meatballs & Sauce Steamed Green Beans Garden Salad Fresh Apple Pineapple Cup Carrot Sticks	18 Mac & Cheese Steamed Carrots Spinach Salad Sweet Red Pepper Strips Strawberry Cup Bartlett Pear	19 Hamburger with Lettuce & Tomato Sweet Potato Puffs Corn Garbanzo Beans Fresh Orange Sliced Peaches	20 Cheese Pizza Veggie Dippers Broccoli Florets Mixed Fruit Fresh Apple
23 F TEACHER'S CURRICULUM WORK DAY NO SCHOOL	24 Chicken Fajita Brown Rice Romaine Salad w/ Tomato Carrot Sticks Black Beans Peach Cup Fresh Orange	25 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Diced Peas Empire Apple Romaine Salad w/ Tomato Carrot Sticks w/ Ranch Dip	26 Loaded Beef Nachos Black Beans Brown Rice Pineapple Cup Bartlett Pear	27 Cheesy Pepperoni Pizza Cheese Pizza Romaine Salad w/ Tomato Carrot Sticks w/ Ranch Dip Fresh Green Grapes Sliced Peaches
30 Hot Dog on a Bun Baked Tater Tots Blueberries Fresh Orange Celery Sticks w/ Ranch Dip Carrot Sticks w/ Ranch Dip	31 Mozzarella Sticks & Marinara Sauce Steamed Green Beans Celery Sticks w/ Ranch Dip Carrot Sticks w/ Ranch Dip Fresh Orange Applesauce			

Our menus are healthy, nutritious and fun! We use fresh, whole ingredients. This is why we're partnered with Whitsons for their family-owned mission to provide you with pizzas made from only the finest ingredients. Family tradition is what it is, but the way that it's made can be savored with every bite. Visit us at www.Whitsons.com or follow the QR code for more info.



Produce of the Month



Carrots

We proudly support clean, organic, local and delicious! We're here to help!

Available Daily
Whole Grain Bagel w/ 8 oz yogurt and string cheese
Sunbutter and Jelly
Sandwich on Whole Wheat Bread
Garden Salad with Cheese (2oz) and Whole Wheat Dinner Rolls (2ea)
Ham & Cheese Sandwich on Whole Wheat Bread
Turkey & Cheese Sandwich on Whole Wheat Bread

All Lunches Include
Vegetable and fruit choice of 1% white milk, fat free white milk, and fat free choc milk.

Full lunch price - \$2.75
Reduced lunch - \$0.40
Choice of milk - \$0.50

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding this menu, please contact Rebecca at 413-362-1839.

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