



# Pelham Press



Vol. 23, No. 13, March 1, 2013

<http://pe.arps.org>



## March and April Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, March 19- MCAS begins- see enclosed schedule

Wednesday, April 10- **OPEN HOUSE**- 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.- Student and parent event

April 15-19- Spring Recess- **NO SCHOOL**



Dear Pelham School Families,

I am delighted to announce that Melissa Davis, our second grade teacher, has been identified as a recipient for the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award. Teachers are selected based on staff input and must meet specific criteria. Students in second grade were most excited when I delivered this announcement and shared their perspective of why she should receive it. I'd have included some of the students' thoughts that were compiled by Deb King in response to " Why did Ms. Davis win this award?":

- She is very nice and kind.
- She does real fun stuff with the kids.
- She's a good teacher because she really teaches us.
- She only gives us hard work because she cares.
- She's very educational.
- She's actually very helpful.
- She teaches really good because she really likes her job and she's nice.
- She cares about us really, really, really much.
- She's really nice and always does stuff for us.
- She helps out in Haiti and she gives them things they don't have.
- She makes learning fun.
- She makes us laugh.
- She's one of the best teachers I've ever had because when she teaches us something, we remember it.

I'd also like to recognize some of our fifth grade students for their successful participation in the annual Massachusetts Children's Book Award contest sponsored by Salem State College. Sophie Acker, Cady Case, Shelby Hall, and Hanna Hartman are commended for their interest and in meeting the criteria to participate in the official vote today. Students must have read or have heard read-aloud, at least five of the books from the 2013 Master List to vote in March for their favorite. One of these students read over 13 of the texts! All students in grades 4-6 had the opportunity to participate and the school purchased multiple copies of texts for students to borrow. This program served to generate excitement and interest in reading and provided a shared reading experience for many. We hope to have more students participate next year!

Pelham School has a shiny new laminator thanks to the generous support of the PTO. Our old laminator was nearly thirty years old, and badly needed replacement. All of our staff are appreciative in having this new machine which helps to preserve and prepare learning materials for students.

Finally, on a more serious note, Deb King has announced that she is retiring at the end of this school year. She has been an integral part of Pelham School for many years and will be sadly missed by us all. Ms. King has been an amazing support and resource for students, families, and staff members and we wish her the best of luck in her well-deserved retirement. She will always be welcome in our community.

Sincerely, *Lisa Desjarlais*

**Pelham School  
Spring 2013  
MCAS Testing Schedule**

March 18-April 5				
English Language Arts- Grades 3-6				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
March 18	19 <b>Grade 4 Long Composition- 9:00-12:00</b>	20	21 Grade 3 ELA 9:00-11:30 Grade 5 ELA 9:00-11:30	22 Grade 3 ELA 9:00-11:30 Grade 5 ELA 9:00-11:30
25  Grade 4 ELA 9:00-11:30	26	27  Grade 4 ELA 9:00-11:00	28 <b>Grade 4 Composition Make- Up Date-9:00-12:00</b> Grade 6 ELA 9:00-11:30	<b>29 NO SCHOOL GOOD FRIDAY</b>
<b>April 1</b>  <i>Makeups as needed</i>	2 Grade 6 ELA 9:00-11:30 <i>Makeups as needed</i>	3  <i>Makeups as needed</i>	<b>4</b>  <i>Makeups as needed</i>	5  <i>Makeups as needed</i>  <i>Last day of testing</i>

## THE AMHERST-REGIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

Dear Pelham Public School Families:

District staff members have contacted you multiple times recently about the New England School Develop Council's Time-on-Learning study, which identified a shortfall in the mandatory instructional hours in our elementary schools, as well as to solicit feedback on potential ways to address that shortfall. We appreciate the high volume of thoughtful responses we received from families. They truly informed our work and assisted us in developing a recommendation to the School Committee on how to best move forward.

On Thursday, March 7, the Pelham School Committee voted to adopt a consistent schedule that will have the same student hours five days per week. The new hours will be 8:50-3:10 Monday through Friday and will provide the required additional structured learning time for all students with no reduction to the weekly time allotted for recess, specials, or lunch. This schedule, which was supported by the majority of families who provided feedback, will take effect at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year.

We appreciate your willingness to provide input into this process and look forward to supporting your children through this transition in the fall.

Sincerely,

Maria Geryk

Superintendent of Schools

**\*NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL- More information will be forthcoming regarding this change in start time. At this time, we will continue to offer Before School at the same time.**

## Third Grade News

Meg Gallagher

February and now March have been busy months for third grade. In reading, we have completed our historical fiction unit. We have worked on elements of historical fiction, setting, characterization, predicting, and main ideas. Currently we have been working on nonfiction text. We are asking and answering questions that demonstrate understanding of a text. We are learning how to use specific details from the text as the basis for our answers. We continue to work on determining the main idea of the text, recounting the key details, and explaining how they support the main idea. We have specifically looked at how nonfiction can be organized in relation to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

We have completed our poetry writing. We ended the unit with a lovely poetry share with the second grade. Groups of three third graders read their poems with great expression to groups of three second graders. We were able to complete three sets of readings per child this way. Afterwards, we shared a refreshment of fruit cups and the audience members and poets mingled. It was really very sweet.

As you probably know, students have selected a state to study in our research unit. Each child is taking notes this week and next on the location, landforms, and fun or interesting things to see and do in their state. The excitement is infectious. "My state's bird is the cardinal!" "Wow, the highest peak in my state is 14, 494 feet tall!" When the notes are completed, we will learn how to transform them into a five paragraph report. Coupled with a powerpoint display and a creative map, we will begin gearing up for our annual State Fair! Parents will be able to attend the fair on Open House night in April, and the rest of the school visits our room during the day.

The Simple Machines unit has been a tremendous hit. Students have learned much about the six machines. Learning centers were a huge success, where students cooperated very well as they explored the various aspects of the machines.

I look forward to seeing you next month at Open House!

## Fourth Grade Press

The salmon eggs have arrived! A fishery representative stopped by with three hundred or so pink, pea-sized eggs. They rest on an incubator tray. When the alevin hatch, they drop through the screen and rest on their prodigious yolk sacs. If you look carefully you can make reasonable guesses as to which will hatch next. We have been reading Leaper, by Robert M. McClung. It tells the story of one lucky salmon that makes it all the way from an egg to a mature adult. Along the way Leaper's journey is fraught with obstacles, human-made and natural. Students will be taking notes and drawing sketches in their science journals with a partner. When they have finished going through the book, they will find a new partner and share their notes. Once students have a good understanding of the material, they will come up with project ideas that display all they have learned.

We have our sights set on mushing! The children have read several books, including Stone Fox. Little Willy enters himself and his trusty dog Searchlight in a sled race to win money to pay the overdue taxes on his Grandfather's farm. But he is up against Stone Fox, a quiet but determined Native American, and his squad of seasoned Samoyeds. Many students have also read a book called The Greatest Win Ever. This book is a fictional account of one musher's dramatic victory over all the challenges of dog sledding. Interspersed in the story are factual tidbits about Iditarod history, geography, rules, and equipment needed.

MCAS will begin next week on Tuesday. I will not be giving homework Monday. Make sure your child is well-rested and ready to work!

# THE AMHERST-REGIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & ACCOUNTABILITY  
170 CHESTNUT STREET  
AMHERST, MA 01002

413-362-1871 (PHONE)  
413-549-6108(FAX)

## AMHERST & PELHAM 2013 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The Amherst and Pelham Schools will begin kindergarten registration for the 2013/2014 school year on:

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013  
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2013  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013  
**9:00 AM – 2:00 PM each day**

**Amherst parents/guardians are urged to register at your neighborhood school. Pelham parents/guardians should register at the Pelham Elementary School** during the same hours.

There will be **one EVENING REGISTRATION** session to accommodate those whose schedules prevent them from registering during the day. The evening registration will take place on:

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2013 6:00-7:00 PM  
AT CROCKER FARM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

There will be interpreters for the following languages present during the evening session to assist families: Spanish and Chinese. Parents/guardians from any area of Amherst or Pelham may register their children at this evening session.

**Children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2013 are eligible to enroll in kindergarten for the fall. There are no exceptions to this requirement.**

An **original** birth certificate, proof of immunization, proof of residency in the district and a current physical examination are required for admission. The **original** birth certificate, proof of residency, and immunization record should be brought to registration. A physical examination can be performed up to the start of school and forms for a physician to fill out will be available at registration. If parents/guardians have questions concerning student eligibility, they are requested to direct their questions to the appropriate building principal.

Crocker Farm – 413 362-1665  
Fort River – 413 362-1217  
Pelham – 413 362-1100  
Wildwood – 413 362-1412

It is important that you register and make a screening appointment so placement can be made in a timely fashion.

# Community News

**WHATS COOKIN IN PELHAM?** -- You'll find the answer by attending the first meeting and program of the Pelham Historical Society in 2013. Learn what folks would have been growing, preserving, cooking and eating in Colonial Pelham and beyond. Please bring a family recipe to share from any region of the country. Samples of New England dishes will be available for your enjoyment. The program will be held Monday, March 18 following the business meeting that starts at 7:00 p.m. The Pelham Historical Society meets in the Ramsdell Room of the Community Center of Pelham, 2 South Valley Road, Pelham. The public is welcome. For information: Kathy Keyes, 253-2739

**SPLASH** is happening at Amherst College on **April 27th from 9am-4pm**. In its third year, SPLASH offers a unique variety of classes taught by Amherst College students for students in grades 6-12 taught. Courses include comic books, Chinese, Arabic, friendship bracelets, a cappella singing, logic games, nitrogen ice cream, Rubik's Cube and MORE! **Students have the opportunity to take 5 SPLASH classes of their choice**. For a full list of courses and registration info, please visit [https://amherstsplash.learningu.org/learn/Splash/2013\\_Spring/catalog](https://amherstsplash.learningu.org/learn/Splash/2013_Spring/catalog)  
There is a \$10 registration fee which covers all five classes, course materials and lunch! All classes are 55 minutes in length. The online registration will be open on Friday, March 15th 2013.



**The Pelham Penguins raised \$975.00 for Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Hampshire County! A big thank you to all of our sponsors for supporting this amazing organization.**

# PARENT NOTICE

## LIFEPRINT NEXT GENERATION CHILD SAFETY EVENT

*This Program Provides Parents with Vital Tools  
Recommended by the FBI and the Department of Justice*

**Where: Connecticut Valley Oral Surgery Associates**

100 University Drive, Amherst, MA 01002

[www.CtValleyOralSurg.com](http://www.CtValleyOralSurg.com)

**Contact: Reception 413-549-5100**

**When: Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 10:00am – 2:00pm**

- FREE** FBI Certified Biometric Palm Prints
- FREE** FBI Certified Biometric 10 Digit Fingerprints
- FREE** Full color Digital Photograph of your child
- FREE** Child Safety Journal which provides law enforcement the vital information about your child should they go missing



Endorsed by:  
**John Walsh**

**There is NO Data Basing**  
After each child goes through the line, parents are handed a Child Safety CD (which contains the Biometric Palm & Finger Prints, Digital Photo, and Child Safety Journal). The only record of the visit is handed to you to take home.

[www.lifeprintevent.com](http://www.lifeprintevent.com)

# ALL NEW

## BIOMETRIC PALM PRINTS

The FBI developed a brand new 1.2 billion dollar identification database called:

**Next Generation Identification (NGI)**

Its purpose is to hold and process both Fingerprints and Palm prints

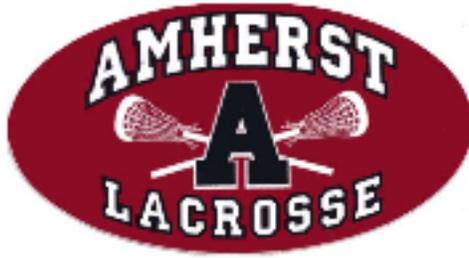
*Over 40% of prints left at a scene are Palm Prints*

There are few, if any, places a parent can go to get their child's FBI Certified Biometric Palm Prints. So don't miss this rare and free opportunity!

FBI certified means that the Palm and Finger Printing equipment that we use for our events have been tested and meet, or exceed, the FBI's high standards.



Calling all girls!  
Learn to play Lacrosse!



Amherst Youth Lacrosse is looking to create Girls' Lacrosse teams for grades 3-4 and 5-6 for Spring 2013. The teams will hold regular practices and compete against teams in Western Massachusetts. Games will be played from April 21st to June 9th.

If you are interested in being a part of this organization or signing up a child please contact me at [ayljuniors@gmail.com](mailto:ayljuniors@gmail.com).

If you have questions, call:  
Bob Kuzmeski  
Director, Amherst Youth Lacrosse  
[ayljuniors@gmail.com](mailto:ayljuniors@gmail.com)  
413-687-7885

\*\*\* This is not a school sponsored event \*\*\*

# LSSE Indoor "Futsal" Soccer!

**Who:** Boys and Girls ages 6-11

**What:** 4 Futsal Clinics

**When:** Mondays, March 11th through April 1st

Grades 1-3: 5:00-6:30 PM

Grades 4-5: 6:30-8:00 PM

**Where:** Amherst Middle School Gym

**Cost:** \$59

To register, log onto:  
[www.lsse.org](http://www.lsse.org)

TOWN OF AMHERST



## Futsal



Come learn about Futsal, the only indoor soccer variant sanctioned by FIFA, from Devin O'Neill, assistant coach for the Men's Soccer team at UMass. Coach O'Neill was an All-New England soccer player at Middlebury College ('91) and brings 18 years of experience at the collegiate level. Futsal is played with a smaller ball with less bounce than a regulation soccer ball. This is a great program for individuals to sharpen their soccer skills as Futsal helps develop better ball control, passing skills, and technique. From beginner to advanced, the clinics will be geared toward all levels and focus on skills development and having fun!



**For more information or to register, please visit [www.lsse.org](http://www.lsse.org) or call the LSSE front desk at 413.259.3065. Questions? Contact Mark Miville, Sports & Recreation Director, at [mivillem@amherstma.gov](mailto:mivillem@amherstma.gov).**

**Not a School Sponsored Event**

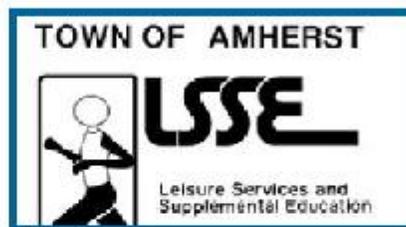
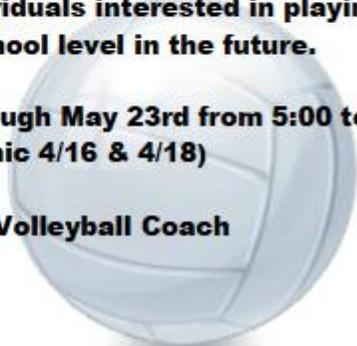
# Youth Volleyball Clinics

For those in grades 5-8 who would like to improve their volleyball skills. The emphasis will be on having fun while learning good fundamentals, with the eventual goal of playing competitive games. This is an excellent program for individuals interested in playing competitive volleyball at the high school level in the future.

Tuesdays & Thursdays, April 9th through May 23rd from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., Middle School Gym (no clinic 4/16 & 4/18)

Instructor: Sue Adair, Middle School Volleyball Coach

Cost: \$89



For more information or to register, please visit [www.lsse.org](http://www.lsse.org) or call the LSSE front desk at 413.259.3065. Questions? Contact Mark Miville, Sports & Recreation Director, at [miville@amherstma.gov](mailto:miville@amherstma.gov).

**THIS IS NOT A SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENT**



Did you know... Our menus represent the most healthy, nutritious, wholesome and flavorful food made from the best ingredients available. We utilize regional, seasonal & sustainable food whenever possible. All of our purchases contain zero trans fats, unless naturally occurring. The majority of the food served by Whitson's contains No HFCS & No Artificial Flavors, Colors or Sweeteners, and we continue to work on this initiative. Our milk and chicken products are free of added hormones and antibiotics at the time of processing. Our meats, condiments and cheeses are all lean or low fat. Most entrees contain between 500-900 mg of sodium. We also always offer whole grain pastas, rice and bread products. All of our menus meet or exceed the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act Standards.

**LUNCH PRICES**  
 Reimbursable Lunch Price \$2.75  
 Reduced Lunch Price \$1.40  
 Milk/Chocolate Milk \$.50  
 100% Juice \$.50  
 Milk/Chocolate Milk

**PREPAID LUNCHES AVAILABLE**  
 10 Lunches \$27.50 20 \$55.00  
 Lunches  
 30 Lunches \$82.50 40 \$110.00  
 Lunches

**LUNCH INCLUDES**  
 Skim Milk, 1% Milk or Fat Free Chocolate Milk /  
 Vegetable Choice / Fruit Choice  
**AVAILABLE DAILY**  
 Whole Grain Bagel w/Yogurt/ Sunflower Butter &  
 Jelly Sandwich / Assorted Meat  
 Sandwiches/ Salad **Above Lunches include:**  
 Vegetable choice, Fruit choice, Low Fat Milk &  
 Mozzarella Cheese

**SENSIBLE SNACKS CONTAIN**  
 Fat-7g or less Salt Fat-2g or less  
 Sodium-360mg or less Sugar-15g or less

**WE OFFER BREAKFAST DAILY**  
 Don't forget to stop by the café for breakfast .  
 Monday Muffins  
 Tuesday French Toast Sticks  
 Wednesday Bagel  
 Thursday Cereal  
 Friday Breakfast Sandwich

Vegetarian 
 Healthier Choice 
 Pork Choice

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				1 WG Pizza Wedge Broccoli Tips w/ Ranch Dip Fresh Cucumber Salad Mixed Fruit Orange
1 Chicken Nuggets Oven Baked Fries Three Bean Salad Cucumber Coins Peach Cup	2 Homemade Mac & Cheese Broccoli Spinach & Tomato Salad Applesauce Banana	3 Mozzarella Stks. & Sauce Peach Cup Carrots Pear	4 Whole Grain Fish Sticks Sweet Potato Puffs Peas Dinner Roll Apple Cobbler	5 WG Pizza Wedge Carrot Sticks w/ Ranch Dip Pineapple Cup Apple
11 Fluffy Pancakes w/ Sausage Baked Tater Tots Orange Cucumber Coins Applesauce	22 Beef Burger* Vegetarian Beans Veggie Dippers Romaine Salad w/ Tomato Peach Cup Pear	12 WG Pasta w/ Meat Sauce* Green Beans Romaine Salad w/ Tomato Cinnamon Applesauce Pear	14 Crispy Beef Taco Spinach Salad Rice & Beans Orange Strawberry Cup	15 WG Pizza Wedge Romaine & Chickpea Salad Applesauce Green Grapes
24 Chicken & Cheese Quesadilla Rice & Beans Broccoli Tips w/ Ranch Dip Diced Pears Apple	27 Whole Grain Fish Sticks Cream of Tomato Soup Diced Pears Cucumber Coins Green Grapes	20 Crispy Chicken Sandwich Fresh Green Beans Strawberry Cup Veggie Dippers Apple	21 Grilled Cheese Oven Baked Fries Corn Blueberries Banana	23 WG Pizza Wedge Romaine Salad w/ Tomato Green Grapes Carrot Sticks Mixed Fruit
24 Chicken Nuggets Peach Cobbler Carrot Sticks Apple Slices	24 Chicken Soft Taco Black Beans Spinach Salad Orange Strawberry Cup	27 Meatball Hero Romaine Salad w/ Tomato Baby Carrots & Celery Peach Cup Banana	28 Oven Baked Chicken Vegetarian Beans Veggie Dippers Romaine Salad w/ Tomato Apple Slices	29 Good Friday No School

**WE PURCHASE LOCALLY!** Produce purchased through regional suppliers when seasonally available.
 **DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A FOOD ALLERGY?** If indicated by your child's school nurse or doctor, we'll provide a meal alternative. We can provide specialty packages; contact your food service director for details regarding your request!

\*\*\*Seasonal produce is available when locally available. \*\*Milk and eggs may increase your risk of foodborne illness, especially if you have a milk or egg allergy. \*\*\*\*When prepared in advance, not to be served after 48 hours.