



# Pelham Press

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<http://pe.arps.org>



## **October Dates to Remember:**

October 5-17	Book Fair
Saturday, October 20	ABC Walk
Tuesday, October 23	Grades 5 & 6 Freedom Trail Field Trip
Thursday, October 25	Early release- 1:20- Parent Conferences
Tuesday, October 29	Early release- 1:20- Parent Conferences
Wednesday, October 31	Grades 1 & 6 Magic Wings Field Trip
Wednesday, October 31	Haunted House at Pelham School!
Wednesday, October 30	Picture Day



Dear Pelham School Families,

Curriculum Night was a resounding success! Pelham School thanks all of the parents who were able to make it to their children’s classrooms to participate in the teacher presentations. It was an excellent turn out, and demonstrated the commitment of parents as active members in our partnership for the education of their students. The days of preparation prior to the event were remarkable to observe as students and teachers focused on completing projects for display. The effort of the teachers, staff, and students to prepare for this important event was in evidence throughout the building. A special thanks for the Book Fair helpers!

I am excited to announce that we have a new PE teacher, Dustin James, who began formal instruction today. Dustin replaces Jen Zabek, who left for a full-time position prior to the start of the new year. I’d like to thank Kacey Schmitt for working as a PE sub until the hiring process was complete and getting PE started for the year at Pelham School. Dustin brings multiple experiences in working with students at many grade levels and with much coaching experience as well. We welcome him into the Pelham School Community!

Our absence reporting number has been changed as we were experiencing problems with calls not being recorded accordingly. **The correct number to call is listed on the website and is (413)362-1198.** We request that you call when your child is going to be out to leave a message on this line before 9 am.

Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,  
*Lisa Desjarlais*

# *First Grade News!!!*

First of all let me express how happy I am as a teacher at Pelham Elementary! My first graders are so happy and eager to learn that I almost feel like I'm on vacation still! ALMOST! We have been very busy in first grade these past two months.

The Monarch Unit in science has been a big hit. Our caterpillars matured nicely until they were big enough to make their chrysalis. Twelve days later, we got our first butterfly. A week later, we had 27 butterflies! The release of the butterflies was a huge success. Students and families gathered around the garden and helped set the butterflies free. Then, we treated ourselves to butterfly themed snacks, and apple cider! No butterflies have been spotted so we are hoping that they have started their migration to Mexico. We will continue learning about the Monarch and we'll compare them to other insects as well. To celebrate all our gained knowledge, we are taking our expertise over to *Magic Wings* to enjoy the presence of even more butterflies. And what a better way to do it than by sharing this experience with our Sixth Grade reading buddies! We are really looking forward to this day!

Coming up after this science unit, we will be learning about what a president's job is, how the president is elected, and about US symbols. This is a fun and interesting unit full of art activities.

In English Language Arts we continue to work hard on reviewing consonant sounds. We are also working on word families with the vowels a, i, and o. The students have gotten into the literacy centers routine very well. At these centers, we work on reading and writing high frequency words, or as we call them "popcorn words"! They sure do pop-up everywhere. In the next weeks, I will start our guided reading groups. I will meet with 3 to 4 students in a group, and practice reading at their instructional level. New reading books will start coming home from our guided reading at school. Make sure they come back!

What a great way to start the year!

Don't forget to read with your child every day, and to continue practicing those spelling words!

Your first grade teacher,

Mrs. Gonzalez

## Second Grade News



Our fabulous Pelham second graders have been off to a busy start this school year. It has been exciting for me (Ms. Davis) to transition to a new position this year and to welcome the students into the transformed art room that we are enjoying as our new classroom.

In reading we have started the year by exploring some wonderful stories that deal with friendship and learning responsibility. Within these stories we have also been working to build skills around the different areas of language arts including vocabulary, comprehension, and story elements such as characters, setting, and plot. We have also done reading assessments so that children are able to choose “just right” books for them that they can read each day on an independent level.

In writing we have been working on personal narratives as well as adventure stories connected to the book, “The Cats of Tiffany Street.” We have been working on sentence structure on a daily basis, including appropriate capitalization and punctuation. We will be moving into writing nonfiction pieces, including an “All About” book that will allow students to begin some basic research and to present information about a given topic.

We have also launched our Everyday Math series this year and have learned and reviewed so much in these past few weeks. We recently wrapped up Unit 1 and covered topics including time, money, calendar and temperature, place value with ones, tens, and hundreds, skip counting, filling in missing numbers on the number line, and finding patterns on the number grid. We have also done some basic addition and will build on addition and subtraction skills in Unit 2.

We have all enjoyed our first science unit of the year which was all about Bubbles and scientific exploration. We’ve done a number of exciting experiments where we’ve used the scientific method by asking questions, doing research, constructing a hypothesis, doing an experiment, drawing conclusions, and communicating our results. We have also studied the ideas of water/surface tension, the fact that bubbles are objects that have gas trapped inside of them, and the effect that soap has on water tension. We are all looking forward to our final bubble extravaganza next week, which will wrap up our unit.

## **Fourth Grade Pelham Press**

The year is off to a great start. The students have already shown me that they are very capable. We have settled in with our first two units. In social studies the children have been reading about Native American culture. They will now chose a topic to study more closely and find information for a project. The project will include a written portion and a visual hands-on presentation. Children have chosen topics such as pottery, beads, weaving, and the ubiquitous hunting and trapping. We may be ready by curriculum night to have a display for you.

In science they have been exploring electricity. They have built many things that demonstrate an understanding of a complete circuit. They have also investigated items that permit the passage of electricity (conductors) and inhibit the passage of electricity (insulators). Who would have guessed that electricity can pass through the graphite core of a pencil? They have just completed a large project called a question and answer board, and they are ready to be tried. Using a circuit tester, students connect a question to the correct answer and a bulb lights up. The secret is on the back of the board; wires complete the path electricity must travel.

At the beginning of the year, we take time in the classroom to familiarize students with their homework responsibilities. We have to do a little practice in spelling this week and next Monday, but expect spelling homework next week. They already have been doing vocabulary, math, and reading homework. I sent home homework club slips to some families. Let me know if you need your child in homework club for support.

# Community News

October weekends at Andrews Greenhouse offers fun for everyone. There will be Pumpkin Painting for kids of all ages. Climb aboard our favorite tractor and let the farmer tell you how it works. Play the Hay Game-search through bales of hay for fun fall prizes. Enjoy refreshments and the beautiful fall foliage of the Pelham Hills! Lots of fun on October Weekends, rain or shine, 10-4. 1178 South East Street, Amherst 413-253-2937. Thank You Lisa, We really appreciate it, Carol @ Andrews Greenhouse ([253jcc@comcast.net](mailto:253jcc@comcast.net))



Boy Scout Troop 500 Amherst is having an Open House for prospective scouts and their families Tuesday, October 16 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the South Congregational Church, 1066 Southeast Street, Amherst. Troop 500 has a 50+ year history in Amherst working with school-age boys (grades 6-12). Troop activities are organized and run by the boys, including weekly meetings, monthly campouts, and projects in the community. Our Scouts learn practical outdoor skills and develop leadership skills while having a lot of fun. Troop 500 does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, or sexual preference. For more information, contact Scoutmaster Peter Crowley at (413) 348-8052.



# ***THE BOOK FAIR RUNS THROUGH WED Oct 17th!***



*We're Open Every Day  
After School  
& the Evening of  
Curriculum Night (Wed Oct 10th)*



*The Pelham Book Fair is sponsored  
by the **Pelham PTO** and proceeds  
go to the **Pelham School Library**.*

Questions? Feel free to contact  
Ellen Leuchs (mom of Jamie in 6<sup>th</sup> grade)  
[eleuchs@comcast.net](mailto:eleuchs@comcast.net), 413-244-4891





## **OPEN HOUSE**

**Where: Pelham Fire Station  
2 South Valley Road**

**When: Sunday, October 14, 2012**

**Time: 12:00pm til 3:00pm**



### **Refreshments – Displays – Demonstrations**

- Fire Trucks & Police Cars
- Meet Firefighter's & Police Officer's
- Tours of Fire & Police Station
- Safety Information
- Items for Junior Firefighter's
- Fun for the whole Family

*[www.pelhamfd.com](http://www.pelhamfd.com)*

> **PARKING:** Elementary School or Upper Level of Library Parking Lot <



## Curriculum Night Childcare Registration Form- 2012

The Curriculum Night is meant to be a parent only event, but we recognize that childcare can be an issue for many families. In an effort to provide parents with an opportunity to visit their children's classrooms, a childcare service is being offered by After School director, Lennie Ware, for the Pelham School Curriculum Night on Wednesday, October 10 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. **Preregistration is required** for this service in order to ensure that there is sufficient staffing coverage and space to accommodate the needs of the group. There is **a registration fee of \$2.00 per child.** **Please return your registration fee with this form .** This service is only being offered for ages four and up. We are sorry that we cannot accommodate young children for this event.

**Please return this form with your child to Pelham School by Friday, October 5.**

Child (ren) \_\_\_\_\_ Age

\_\_\_\_\_ Age

\_\_\_\_\_ Age

\_\_\_\_\_ Age

Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Please list the grade levels classrooms being visited:

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**Children on the playground MUST be monitored by an adult.**

**Parents are requested NOT to leave the building while their children are at childcare. Parents must sign their children in when they arrive as well as when they come to pick them up.**