



# Pelham Press

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## Dates to Remember:

Monday, September 12  
Monday, September 12  
Wednesday, September 21  
Wednesday, October 5

Pelham Parent Council/PTO, 6:00 p.m.  
Instrument Rental Night, 4:00-6:00 p.m.-ARMS  
School Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.  
Fall Curriculum Night, 7:00-8:00 p.m.



Dear Pelham School Families,

Welcome back! The first day of school went wonderfully , despite the complications with the phones. **Our new phone number is (413) 362-1100.** The students and teachers are busy in classrooms getting to know each other, learning new routines, and quickly settling down to get another school year underway. It was great to see so many excited and happy faces the first day. We welcome our new students and families into our school community. Despite the overcast skies, the Pelham “Back to School” picnic proved to be a good transition into our first day, and it was a pleasure to see so many families enjoying the evening.

Please note that the school day officially begins at 8:40 AM, and school is dismissed at 3:05 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and dismissed at 1:20 PM every Wednesday. Any child that arrives after 8:40 will be considered tardy, and must be signed in by a parent at the office. If you will be picking up your child before dismissal time, please send in a note so the teacher will be able to plan accordingly. Any child being dismissed early must be signed out at the office by an adult. Please call the school office (362-1100) to report your child’s absence, or if you are delayed for parent pick up.

We have some exciting changes and opportunities in staffing! Five new staff members have joined Pelham School this school year. Hillary Wilbur-Ferro will teach art, Jen Zabek will teach PE, Gabby Richard-Harrington is our technology teacher, and Melissa Davis is the special education teacher for grades 4-6. In addition, Emily Samuels has joined our staff to teach chorus and will also work with classroom teachers on a rotating basis to integrate music and movement into instruction. We welcome all of these staff members to our learning community!

I would like to extend our utmost thanks to several members of our parent community. Mary Lombardi donated our “sneaker art” sculpture to our school grounds and orchestrated the installation of the sneaker as well as the landscaping around it. Our new sneaker sculpture has already gained rave reviews! The Maroulis Family also surprised us all by repainting the Pelham School sign in front of the school. We are all greeted with a bright and fresh sign as we enter our parking lot every morning. Pelham School appreciates these generous gestures.

I am looking forward to another wonderful year here as your principal. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns at [desjarlais@arps.org](mailto:desjarlais@arps.org). Your partnership with us in your child’s education is crucial for a successful and positive learning experience. Have a great school year!

Sincerely,  
*Lisa Desjarlais*

## 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!***

In an effort to reduce copying costs and improve the efficiency of the delivery of the Pelham Press, we will be going electronic before the end of September. A form is attached to return to the school so you can share your email information and be included on the mailing list. This information will not be shared elsewhere. The Pelham Press will also be uploaded onto our website. If anyone has notices or fliers to include in the Pelham Press, I am requesting that they forward them to me in an electronic format.

### **Kindergarten News**

We have had a nice transition to Kindergarten. The children visited with their families for a few hours with half the class. Our first day together as a whole class was very exciting. We spent time getting to know each other's names, and learn a little about each other. Learning all of the rules and routines can be confusing, but we are working on the importance of building a classroom community together. The only disappointment of the day was not being able to go outside for recess. Hopefully, tomorrow will bring us a little sunshine! We are all looking forward to a rewarding and exciting year together.

### **First Grade**

We are off to an exciting beginning to first grade with our annual study of monarch butterflies and their life cycle. Countless caterpillars of all sizes are munching away on their only food source, milkweed leaves, as they prepare to pupate into adult butterflies. After a celebratory party and parade, we will release the butterflies so they can begin their long migration to the mountains of central Mexico where they will hibernate for the winter.

We, too, are excited about our journey of growth and change this year in first grade. I look forward to a wonderful year.

Chinchilla news! Our three classroom chinchillas will be looking for an adoptive home this year. They come complete with a cage and supplies. Please let me know if you are interested.

Paul Lipman

### **Second Grade News**

Second grade has had a terrific start to the new year. We have been learning the routines of the classroom as well as my expectations. I have been very pleased with the way the children cooperate with each other and listen to the instructions.

During these first few weeks I will be assessing student's reading and math levels as well as reviewing skills learned in first grade. We will begin the year talking about what makes a good friend. We will also start our unit on bubbles in two weeks. This is a fun way to learn about scientific investigation using hypothesis, observation, and inferring skills. I am excited to be able to teach and nurture your child; and I am looking forward to working with you to make this a successful year.

### **Grade 3 News**

Third Grade is an exciting place to be! The students are enthusiastic, friendly, curious, and full of ideas. They came with a wealth of background knowledge, (especially in reading and Legos) that is making each discussion stimulating and varied. We welcome our returning student, Cynthia Jiang Xie, and our new classmate, Raciny Mey with enthusiasm! The class is busy learning the third grade schedule and routines as we complete fall assessments and dig right into some new units and materials. This should prove to be a fantastic year!

### **Fourth Grade Pelham Press**

I am overjoyed with the enthusiasm of the new class. They are coming in on time and ready to learn. They've been putting in a solid effort in all the things we've started and learning the daily schedule quickly. Their observations and attention to detail are a wonderful thing to behold. We have already begun looking at simple circuits for our electricity unit. Some of the subjects we will be investigating are factors and arrays. We will also be learning about Native American legends and putting together an art exhibit which will hopefully be ready by Curriculum Night. Please stop by if you have any questions. I look forward to meeting everyone

### **Quinlan's Quill**

The fifth grade class is off to an incredible start. The students are learning the routines of the new class and are rising to the expectations that are being set. They are a great group of kids whom I look forward to getting to know this year. The support from the families has been great, planners are getting signed and homework is complete. This year I will begin implementing the Responsive Classroom approach to my classroom management. Margaret Light and I took a class this summer and we will be implementing parts of the program in our classrooms. Ask your children about the structure of morning meeting.

We are starting the year with The River Unit, an Effort Unit and learning the Skeletal System. We will then proceed to the American Revolution and The Constitution. This should take us through February. We will then study Ecosystems from February Vacation to April Vacation. After that, we will learn about sound, light and energy and prepare for the MCAS testing in May. As you can see, our curriculum is quite full. Along with the units of study we will be reading, writing, and learning new math skills. Fifth grade is a time for exciting learning both academically and socially. I am looking forward to working with all the students and the parents this year. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to stop by. The best time to catch me is in the morning, I am here before 7:30 every morning. I truly feel we are a team when it comes to teaching your child, and I hope we will all work together to make this year a great one for everyone.

### **6th grade 2011**

We've started our sixth grade year with various assessments to identify how to best help each student build on their language arts and math skills. We'll discuss our learning styles and how to use specific strategies to be successful learners, as well as how to take care of ourselves by eating healthy food, getting enough sleep, and exercising regularly. We'll start weekly spelling and vocabulary groups in a few weeks. Our writing program will begin with sentence work, to be followed by writing paragraphs, and then various process pieces. Our nonfiction reading unit starts in January, and this includes writing research papers. The reading program includes both fiction and nonfiction work, sometimes in groups and other times individually, as we build reading and comprehension skills. Our math curriculum begins Thursday with a review of place value. This year we'll tackle many topics, including algebra, ratio and proportion, percent, geometry, and probability, and we also have on-going problem solving books. Our first science unit will be studying rivers, both local and worldwide, and will include a variety of experiments. Then we'll study Maps and Globes for several weeks, to be followed by two short science units, physics and robotics in January. In February we'll grow plants and conduct various experiments. In the spring we'll learn about health and safe behavior. In addition to the subjects

we study, we address organizational and social skills. This year we are incorporating the structures of Responsive Classroom, including Morning Meeting, logical consequences, and careful use of teacher language. Our sixth graders are training for the greater independence that will be required of them in the following years. Our goal is that each Pelham student is a successful learner, with the skills and knowledge they need for the next step in their education.

### **From Special Education:**

Hello Pelham Elementary students and families. My name is Miss Davis and I am a brand new teacher at your school this year. I have just moved out to this part of the state from a small town called North Adams. I will be working in grades 4,5, and 6 as a special education teacher. I love working with children and challenging them to be the best learners that they can be. I also love to travel and regularly visit places like Haiti where I can help families in need. I am very excited to be joining all of the wonderful people at Pelham Elementary including students, staff, and families. I am looking forward to a wonderful year with all of you!

**Melissa Davis**

### **From Guidance:**

Dear Pelham families,

Welcome back to school !!!

I hope that your summer was enjoyable and that your family feels “ready” to return to school and the children’s new classrooms. It is always wonderful to greet those freshly scrubbed faces, with their enthusiastic and sometimes slightly nervous smiles.

The first morning was a seemingly easy transition for each of the children and the voices in the hall sounded happy and comfortable. As most of you know, I am the “feelings teacher” or school adjustment counselor. Not only am I available to meet with you or your child individually regarding any social or personal concerns, but I also go into each classroom weekly, to offer a social/emotional curriculum lesson. I use lessons from The Second Step, the Olweus Bullying program, Steps to Respect curriculum or other constructed lessons that may meet the needs of your child’s classroom.

I also have lunch groups each week with children from second grade through sixth grade. They bring their lunch into my room and I offer a different environment to talk, eat and play in my room when they are finished with their meal. This year I may be offering some groups dealing with specific issues concerning child development. If you as a parent, feel that there is a need for a particular kind of group, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the past I have facilitated a meditation group, friendship groups and children of divorce groups ( called by a different name in the school.)

There are some children whom I see each week as part of their schedule. Often they are allowed to bring a friend with them into my room for our half hour together. If you hear your child talking about having gone to “Ms. King’s” room, that is probably why. We typically play games, play with legos, and make arts and crafts or some other engaging activity. Again, if this is something you would not like your child to do, please inform me.

Once again, thank you so much for all you do to support our Pelham community. We could not do the work we do, without the incredible support from our families. You are the first teacher of your child, and I honor any suggestions you may have for me in my role as school counselor. Your involvement in our school makes an enormous impact on all of us who attend and work at Pelham.

Thank you and keep in touch !

Deb King

## PTO NEWS

Pizza! Free childcare! Hanging out with other Pelham parents! Planning fun activities for our kids! Hearing about important issues for Pelham School! If any (or all) of these things appeal to you, **please join us for our first PTO meeting of the year on Monday, September 12th** in the teacher's conference room at Pelham elementary. We will provide childcare for your children AND pizza, so you don't have to worry about feeding your kids or finding a babysitter. Festivities begin at 6:00 in the Pelham Teacher's Lounge (children meet in the art room), and the meeting will last NO LONGER than 1 hour. We NEED parents to participate to make these events successful, and would like AT LEAST ONE PARENT FOR EACH GRADE to attend. Please be that parent!

Please RSVP to PTO President Kristin Mattocks ([kristinmattocks@yahoo.com](mailto:kristinmattocks@yahoo.com)) so that we can plan for pizza and childcare needs. We hope to see you then!

# News from the Specials Teachers

## MUSIC

Happy New School Year Pelham Families!

I am excited to return this fall to teach general music classes to all the students at Pelham school. I am looking forward to sing, dance, play instruments and musical games with your children as they learn about musical notation, styles, cultures, history and many skills in music class this year.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Zsigmondi

## MUSIC & MOVEMENT

After an absence of many years, I am happy to be returning to Pelham School to teach music. While the school looks considerably different, I am finding the staff and children to be as wonderful as ever. It's great to be here.

I like to describe my teaching as "3 interlocking circles": music is a discipline with its own vocabulary, skills, and concepts; music can be a vehicle to teach and/or reinforce concepts/skills in other curricular areas; music is a form of human expression. Throughout the year I hope all these circles will be explored, and that the classroom curriculum will be enriched by music and movement.

Since I'll be at Pelham only on Wednesday mornings, the format we will be using is a bit different from the traditional program. I will be directing the Grade 5/6 chorus on a weekly basis; for all classes, and in collaboration with the classroom teachers, I will be integrating music into other curriculum areas. These classes will occur on a rotating basis, with ongoing consultation and collegial planning key. So far, content areas that we've chosen include Science, Math, and Social Studies. We'll be singing, moving, and creating music throughout; it's quite exciting!

## BAND & ORCHESTRA

Welcome back to the Instrumental Music Program at Pelham Elementary School! We are very excited to begin our 2011-2012 school year and we have many Pelham students enrolled in our instrumental music program. Information about instrument rentals and start up dates was sent home this week to all enrolled families. **A rental opportunity will take place on September 12, 4 PM to 6 PM at the Amherst Regional Middle School Cafeteria.** Local music stores will be in attendance to offer rental instruments. If you cannot attend this event, please call me to arrange a rental for your child. Please contact us through the Pelham School office if you are enrolled and did not receive an information sheet for the string or wind program. We are encouraging all students in the upper grades to consider playing a musical instrument at school. Instrumental music study is excellent for brain development and our music students learn useful practice and study habits in our program! Not to mention the joy, social skills and opportunity for personal expression that music offers! Lessons and band and orchestra will begin on Thursday, September 22 for all students. We look forward to a wonderful musical year with the Pelham students!

We are looking forward to working with your children again this year and watching their musical skills develop even further. As always please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Laurie Rabut, String Program & Bob Castellano, Wind Program

## School Nurse Corner

Welcome everyone to the start of the new school year, AND the endless filling out of forms. We are drowning in paperwork as well! The forms that I will be looking for at the beginning of this year are up to date physical assessments and immunization records from your primary care provider. Ideally, I would like to have annual physicals on every student; however, only kindergarten, fourth grade, and new incoming students are **REQUIRED** to have a physical within six months of the start of the year.

Also, for those students who need to take any medication during the school year I will need to have a signed doctor's order, a signed parent consent form, and the medication in the original package for storage in the nurse's office. All medications are kept in a locked cabinet, except for older students who are allowed to carry their own inhalers and Epipens.

It is a joy to work with your children. They all appear healthy and ready to learn.

Thanks, Nurse Paula

# Community Notes

Come join Amherst-Pelham Cub Scout Pack 515 and see how Cub Scouting is offering family fun together, with an adventure and character building for boys that other groups don't really have. You are invited to an Open House for prospective cub scouts and their families on Thursday September, 15th from 6:45 to 8:15 PM at the Pacific Lodge of Mason's, 99 Main Street, Amherst. Cub Scouting with Pack 515 offers boys, in the first through fifth grades (age 6 to 11), and their families a FUN and supportive environment as they learn citizenship, develop character and gain personal fitness through age appropriate activities. Many of these activities happen right in the den and pack. The most important are the weekly den meetings and the monthly pack meetings. For more information, contact Cub Master, Steve Atkinson at (413) 335-6168.

Come dance the night away with the Jewish dance band Klezamir at the Pelham Library, 2 S. Valley Rd., Pelham, MA 01002 on Saturday, September 10, 7 - 10 p.m. Klezamir's mix of traditional Jewish favorites and classic rock 'n' roll will delight all tastes and all ages. Enjoy easy Jewish dance instruction plus seasonal snacks including apples, honey and challah. Peruse the library's collection of Jewish literature. The suggested donation is \$10 per person or \$20/family, and proceeds will benefit the Pelham Library. For more information, please contact Adam Novitt, Pelham Library Director, 413-253-0657, taxonomy@gmail.com. More information about Klezamir is available from Amy Rose, 413-253-3831.

## **HAWLEY FARM TO HAWLEY RESERVOIR—THE TALK**

The Pelham Historical Society will meet on Monday, September 19, in the Ramsdell Room at the Community Center in Pelham for a short business meeting followed by the program. Before the Hawley Reservoir on Amherst Road was constructed in 1897, the Ezra Brown-John Hawley farm dating to the mid-1790s stood across the road from the reservoir. Robert Lord Keyes will talk and share documents from the archives about the properties that were lost with the creation of the reservoir, as well as about the building of the reservoir itself. The evening is open to the public. For more information, call Julie Ryznic at 549-3823..

## **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.