



Pelham Press

Vol. 22, No. 22, February 10, 2012

<http://pe.arps.org>



Dates to Remember:

Monday, Feb. 20-Friday, Feb. 24

WINTER VACATION WEEK- NO SCHOOL



Dear Pelham School Families,

The Valentine's Dance last evening was a huge success and had a great turnout! The students had a lot of fun dancing and running around the gym with their classmates, and we were amazed by some of their dance moves! The theme of the event was the 80's which resulted in a lot of unique and interesting interpretations in the outfits that were donned by the attendees. The PTO did a great job in organizing this event and there were many treats to be enjoyed by all. For the first time, a silent auction fundraiser was held with a variety of gift certificates and items being sold. If you had bid on an item and left before the silent auction closed for the evening, you will be contacted by one of the PTO members to claim your item. A big thank you to all the classroom teachers and Lennie Ware who helped make the decorations for the gym, as well as to the PTO for all of their hard work in hosting this fun family event.

At Pelham School we are very excited to be working towards identifying Core Values that our parent community, staff, and students all recognize to be important in a positive and supportive school culture. Every family should have received a letter asking for their input in selecting the Core Values that families feel are important in our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports.) This program provides us with a framework that focuses on positive academic and behavioral outcomes through the use of data and evidence based interventions. The Core Values will help us to develop explicit expectations for behavior that are consistent across all areas of the school environment and reinforced in a proactive approach. We are committed to continuing to enhance and build upon the existing programs that we have in place to strengthen our systems of supporting students within our school. **Please return the Core Value survey by next Wednesday the latest. The classroom with the highest percentage of returns will win a popcorn-movie party!**

Sincerely,

Lisa Desjarlais

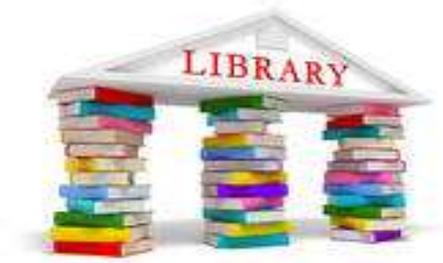


Dear Parents,

Several Pelham School Teachers have formed a bowling team (The Pelham Penguins), which, once a year, raises money for Big Brothers Big Sister of Hampshire County. This annual event, The Bowl-A-Thon, takes place this year on Saturday, March 3 and Sunday, March 4. It includes dozens of teams that raise almost \$60,000 to support mentoring for children in Hampshire County, many of whom attend school in the Amherst-Pelham District. Please think about forming a team or sponsoring our team of Pelham School teachers in this effort to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County. Sponsorship checks can be made out to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County and sent to the Pelham School office by February 28.

Thank You, "The Pelham Penguins"

Pelham Public Library News



It's always wonderful to see Pelham families using the Library after school and on weekends, kids showing their parents around, families borrowing books, magazines and movies, playing on the computers and visiting with people in the community. We're lucky to have such a great resource and love to see people taking advantage of it. Remember, it's YOUR library! Are there programs you'd like to see offered? Speakers you'd like to hear? Book groups you'd like to form? We always welcome your ideas and suggestions. You can come in and tell us or use the handy suggestion box on the desk if you prefer.

We also welcome volunteers of all ages, from older children to seniors. Do you have a couple of hours each month to lend a hand shelving books, cleaning DVDs, rearranging or helping out at the desk? Would you like to bake cookies for an upcoming Tea? Decorate a bulletin board? Do your kids need a community service project? We can always use an extra pair of hands at the Library!

If your kids have been thinking about Chess Club it's not too late. We have one week left. Feel free to drop by next Wednesday at 2:30 to learn the game from Andy Morris-Friedman, chess teacher extraordinaire! More programs will be coming soon. Watch this space for information or email us at library.pelham@gmail.com.

See you at the Library!

Sincerely,
Jodi Levine, Interim Director, and the staff of the Pelham Library

A New Member of the Pelham Community in 5th Grade
Mount Holyoke College Student Teacher: Sarah Moore

Hello everyone!

My name is Sarah Moore and I am a senior at Mount Holyoke College. I am from Plano, Texas, which is just north of Dallas and home of Frito Lay, Cinemark Theatres, and Dr Pepper. My major is education and psychology with a minor in sociology, and (hopefully!) by the time I graduate this May I will be a certified elementary school teacher.

I have been at Pelham School since last spring working as an intern in 3rd and 5th grade. I immediately fell in love with the school atmosphere, culture and community, which is why I requested to do my full time student teaching here. Even though I've only been working full time for about 2 ½ weeks, I can tell that I made the right decision to student teach here. I have already learned so much from my cooperating teacher, Mrs. Quinlan, and I am sure my learning will continue to grow throughout my time here. I look forward to working with your students and getting to know even more of this amazing school community!

Sincerely,
Sarah Moore

Quinlan's Quill

We are very lucky to have an intern this semester. Sarah Moore is a Mount Holyoke student who will be working with the 5th grade this semester. She wrote a paragraph to introduce herself to all of you. I encourage you to read it and introduce yourself to Sarah.

Fifth graders continue to work hard. We are trying to wrap up units before February vacation. We will complete the Constitution Unit and the Literature and Writing Units before the break. Students are reenacting the Constitutional Convention in play form as a final project of the Constitution Unit which they seem to be enjoying. Our biographies will be done before the break and some students are creating power point presentations to go along with the biographies.

In Math we have begun our study of fractions which we will continue after vacation. Also, Sarah will be teaching a mini geometry unit and a mini poetry unit next week which may carry over to after vacation.

After vacation, we will be starting our Ecosystem unit and Research Papers. Also, we will begin to prep for MCAS ELA test which is at the end of March. We will inform you of the dates as soon as we plan as a staff.

I hope everyone has a good vacation and maybe there will be some snow!

Suzanne Quinlan

Sixth Grade News

In math, we are ending our 4th unit, operations with fractions and decimals, which means we are half way through the 6th grade curriculum! We will have the test next week. We can add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions and decimals. Our unit ended with writing algebraic expressions such as: 5 fewer than $\frac{5}{6}$ the amount, and solving equations such as: 2 divided by $\frac{3}{4} = 4 \frac{1}{4}$. I have been impressed with students' flexible thinking and perseverance.

Our Robotics unit is underway, featuring Lego NXT robots. We are programming them to perform several tasks as if they were planetary rovers, needing to maneuver around rough terrain. After teams figured out how to make the robot drive forward in a figure eight shape, they experimented with speed, and are currently building touch sensors and programming their robots to say "ouch" when they bump into something.

We have been learning about ancient cultures for the research reports. After two weeks of taking note cards, students have organized them into categories, crafted thesis statements, written outlines and introductions, and are now writing the reports. Our areas of study include ancient Mesopotamia, China, Cambodia, Egypt, Rome, Greece, and the Maya, and topics include slavery, industry, religious practices, architecture, hieroglyphics, theater, and gladiators, among others. The students are also creating artifacts for our own "6th grade museum" being displayed outside our classroom in the glass case.

Last, in language arts, we are finishing up our focus on the reading skill of identifying "main idea" in a passage, and learning rules about using commas. It's busy! Thank you for your donations of granola bars and tissues.

Margaret Light



DEAR 6TH GRADE PARENT/GUARDIAN,

OUR ANNUAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
ORIENTATION FOR
PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF INCOMING
7TH GRADE STUDENTS
HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR:

Wednesday, March 21, 2012
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

The evening will include an introduction to the Middle School program and information about electives and course offerings.

This evening is for parents/guardians (not students).

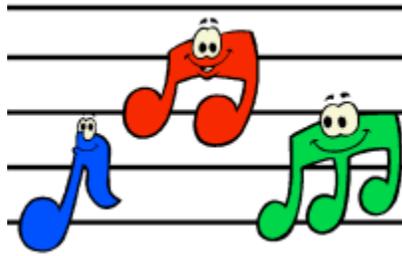
6th grade student orientation/visits will be after the April Vacation Week.

We look forward to seeing you.

Michael Hayes
Principal

Betsy Dinger
Assistant Principal





Music Curriculum Notes

I have read the books “Clifford We Love You” and “Mama Don’t Allow” to the students in **Kindergarten**. The students sang the songs in the books and accompanied their singing on the percussion instruments. They also took turns playing ten kinds of instruments (each with its own number) with the African American spiritual about the band of the ten angels. The same class enjoyed playing interactive singing and movement games, such as “Little Sally Water,” “Grandma, Grandma, Sick in Bed,” and “Partner, Won’t You Clap with Me?”

First grade students sang the African American spirituals “I’m on My Way” and “This Little Light of Mine,” the lullaby “Hush Little Baby” and a relaxing song, “Peaceful Waters.” They enjoyed performing the song, “My Brand New Drum” using percussion instruments. The same students discovered the AABCA form of Virgil Thomson’s “Walking Song” and expressed the form through motion, using scarves. They had fun guessing their peers identity by listening to their singing voice in the Japanese game “Kagome” and showed their social skills playing “Bow to Your Partner.”

Second grade students sang rounds, such as “Scott Land’s Burning” and the Native American “My Paddle.” They discovered the octaves in the songs and counted the musical steps. Other two part songs included the Russian “Mir/Peace” and “Cookie” from Trinidad, a song that they accompanied on the bells. **Second and third grade** students Played the “Bluebird” game **and along with fourth grade** students sang several African American spirituals such as “Come and Go With Me to That Land,” “This Little Light” and played “Shoo Lie Loo” a singing game from the same tradition.

Third grade students Enjoyed playing four kinds of instruments to accompany their singing of the accumulative song, “We Are Fine Musicians.” They also used xylophones to play the accompaniment to the Mexican song “Chiapanecas.” African American songs included “Sold off to Georgie” and the call response song “Long John.” **Third and fourth grade** students learned about the triplets (three eighth notes played on one beat) in the “Ecology Round” and enjoyed the singing/movement activity to the song, “Moving so Free.” **Fourth, fifth and sixth grade** students had fun using the ball in the singing game “Pop Goes the Weasel.”

Fourth grade students discussed musical vocabulary words in the song “Music for the World,” which they also sang beautifully. They took turns improvising 16 beat phrases on the drums to the rhyme, “My Mother, Your Mother” and performed the Israeli dance “Mayim.”

Fourth, fifth and sixth grade students Sang The National Anthem “Star Spangled Banner” and solved a word puzzle about the history and origin of the song.

Fifth and sixth grade students layered five different rhythms in a drum/percussion circle, and in the next lesson experienced playing polyrhythm, (several time signatures played at the same time) which is one of the main elements of all African American music. The same students sang African American partner spirituals such as “Oh When The Saints Go Marching in” and” This Train.” **All the students** played the African American children’s game “Oh Won’t You Sit Down.”

Agnes Zsigmondi

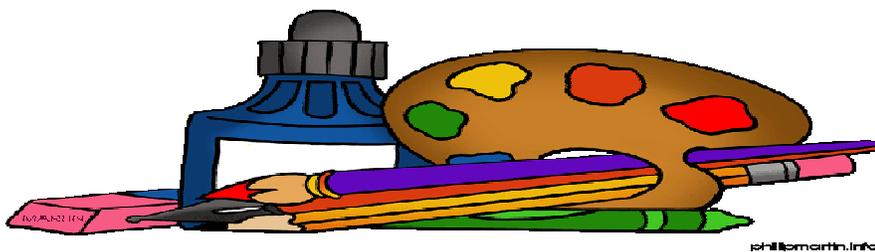
Chorus and Music/Movement Integration

In our December all-school “sharing” assembly, Grade 5/6 chorus sang songs with a winter theme. Led by the 1st grade, everyone learned a very active version of the “12 Days of Christmas”; we also sang a lovely round celebrating light. Fifth grade performed their “rap” about the 13 colonies to great acclaim.

In classrooms, integration has taken many forms. Kindergarten and 1st learned songs in keeping with their study of light related holidays, while 2nd sang about the continents and their important rivers and mountains. Third grade learned a challenging and finger tapping “Multiply Your Fingers Blues” to reinforce memorizing the times tables. Fourth grade is singing songs from the Civil Rights movement in conjunction with their work in Social Studies; 5th grade learned and performed, beautifully, a musical version of the Preamble to the Constitution. Not to be outdone, 6th grade sang and danced their way through the vocabulary of their study of tectonic plates.

At the combined string, band, and chorus concert on February 1st, the chorus presented their favorites from the term; they showed their skills in singing in unison, in partner harmony, with descant, and in round. A lot of wonderful music was heard!

Emily Samuels



Pelham students celebrated the Chinese New Year this year participating in various dragon activities, or Sumi-e brush painting techniques. It was lovely to see the variety of all the dragons and explore Chinese brush painting.

Kindergarten just completed some art work inspired by the artist Sonia Delaunay. Delaunay's work uses lots of circles. Kindergarten artists stamped and traced circles and then completed work with oil pastels and watercolors.

First graders focused on circle designs and decorated recycled CD's to make their own spin top this week. Bey Blades are a big hit in my house recently and the opportunity to use recycled objects and make our own version of Beyblades was irresistible.

Second graders began a lesson on overlapping snakes. They learned how to draw parallel lines and overlapping objects, to make snakes look intertwined. Next week, they will focus on patterns, designs and color families.

Third grade practiced drawing three dimensional letters and looked at the work of Robert Indiana. He is the sculptor and painter is best known for his sculpture of the word love, in NY on 6th avenue. With Valentine's Day around the corner, it seemed like a great project.

Fourth graders began a cross hatching landscape activity. Practicing one point perspective, horizon lines, 3 dimensional buildings and cross hatching.

Grade five has continued our figure study. After making three dimensional sculptures of figures, inspired by artist, Alberto Giacometti, students are now completing a figure drawing lesson.

Sixth grade has been working on contour line drawings. They are completing a contour line drawing of a shoe, and adding some realistic, some imaginative settings.

February is Black History month. Many grade levels will be looking at the art of famous Black African Americans and participating in projects inspired by their work.

A handful of snow inspired activities are on hold, should we ever have snow this winter. With the weather we have had, they may wait until next year.

Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee Arbor Day Poster Contest



TREES...A RENEWABLE RESOURCE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE!

Arbor Day is a special holiday that celebrates one of our most valuable natural resources... trees! Since 1872, people across the country have set aside the last Friday of April for planting trees and caring and appreciating the trees growing all around. Amherst is celebrating too!

Your family is invited to the Sustainability Festival on Saturday, April 21 on the Amherst Town Common 10am-2pm. You will learn how to plant, prune, and identify trees and enjoy games, prizes, and more!

The Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee is seeking artwork for a Poster Contest.

Contest Eligibility

All 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students enrolled in Amherst-Pelham Public Schools are invited to participate. One submission per student, please.

Art Specifications

THEME: "Trees...a renewable resource for a sustainable future"

Deadline: March 15, 2012

Contest details can be found at <http://www.amherstma.gov/index.aspx?NID=214>

Prizes

1st Place The winning submission will be made into a poster that will be displayed around Amherst. The first-place artist will also receive a \$50 prize.

2nd Place Six movie tickets to the upcoming Disney animated feature, "The Lorax"

1st -12th Place winners will be featured in a 2013 calendar. Sales of the calendar go to the Amherst Gift Tree Fund, which is used to plant and care for trees in Amherst.

All posters will be exhibited at Amherst Sustainability Festival on April 21 2012.

For any inquiries please email APSTC member Linzy Rodrigues on linz.sav@gmail.com or call Hope Crolius, Chair, Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee at 413-461-6832.



We all know that Grant loves his snacks! But did you know that he only chooses smart and delicious snacks? Grant always chooses carefully; some of his favorites are whole grain pretzels, popcorn, almonds and raisins.

DID YOU KNOW...
 All products sourced by Whitsons contain Zero Trans Fats. • The majority of the food sourced by Whitsons contain; No HFCS & No Artificial Flavors, Colors or Sweeteners, and we continue to work on this initiative. • All milk and chicken products are hormone and antibiotic free. • Meals, condiments and cheeses are all lean or low fat. • All entrees contain between 500-900 mg of sodium. • We offer whole grain pastas, rice and bread products.

LUNCH PRICES
 Reimbursable Lunch Price \$2.50
 Reduced Lunch Price \$1.40
 Adult \$3.25
 Milk/Chocolate Milk \$1.40
 100% Juice \$1.50

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

LUNCH INCLUDES
 Skim Milk, 1% Milk or Low Fat Chocolate Milk / 100% Juice/ Vegetable Choice/ Fruit Choice

AVAILABLE DAILY
 Whole Grain Bagel w/Butter or Low Fat Cream Cheese / Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich / Above Lunches Include: Vegetable choice, Fruit choice, Low Fat Milk & Low Fat Mozzarella Cheese

SENIBLE SNACKS CONTAIN
 Fat-7g or less - Sat 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
 Breakfast-\$1.50, Reduced Breakfast-\$1.00, Adult-\$1.00
 Cereal, fruit, juice and milk available daily

Monday- Warm Muffin
 Tuesday- French Toast Sticks
 Wednesday- Wheat Bagel w/ Cream Cheese
 Thursday- Pancakes
 Friday- Ham, Egg, Cheese Sandwich
 V=vegetarian • =healthier choice • P=pork

- If you have a food allergy, please speak to your Food Service 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, contact your food service director **Rebecca Tritley 413-362-1839**.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
		1 • Hot Dog on a Whole Wheat Bun Baked Fries Fresh Tangerine	2 GRANT LOVES SMART & DELICIOUS SNACKS Chicken Nuggets Steamed Rice Corn Raisins	3 • Cheese Pizza Fresh Garden Salad Fruit Choice
6 • Hamburger or Veggie Burger on a Whole Wheat Bun Green Beans	7 • Soft Chicken Tacos w/ Lettuce, Cheese & Salsa Steamed Rice Corn	8 Macaroni & Cheese Green Peas Whole Wheat Dinner Roll	9 Mozzarella Sticks w/ Marinara Sauce Steamed Carrots	10 • Cheese Pizza Fresh Carrot & Celery Sticks w/ Ranch Dip
13 Chicken Patty on a Whole Wheat Bun Baked Fries	14 • Toasted Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Fresh Tangerine Valentine Cookie	15 • Macaroni & Beef Bake Green Beans Whole Wheat Bread	16 BRUNCH FOR LUNCH • Pancakes w/ Sausage (P) Applesauce Baked Tator Tots	17 • Cheese Pizza Fresh Garden Salad Fruit Choice
20 WINTER RECESS	21 WINTER RECESS	22 WINTER RECESS	23 WINTER RECESS	24 WINTER RECESS
27 • Chicken &/or Cheese Quesadilla Salsa Steamed Rice Corn	28 • Pasta & Meatballs Fresh Garden Salad Fresh Tangerine	29 • Beef Nachos w Cheese & Salsa Carrots	<p>IT'S LEAP YEAR! The fruit of the month is TANGERINES.</p>	

Greenleaf Cuisine **WE PURCHASE LOCALLY!**
 Produce is purchased through regional suppliers when seasonally available. Visit our website to see all that we are doing to be p. save the environment www.Whitsons.com

Visit Our Virtual Cafeteria!
 Take a tour of our virtual café! Drag and drop meal components onto your tray and see nutritional information including, allergens, nutrition facts, etc. www.Whitsons.com/Nutrition

Have Allergies to Gluten, Casein or Soy?
 Check out NuLite Foods! They offer great tasting, GFCO/FSC Foods that help people with food sensitivities to be free. Items are available right in your cafeteria! www.NuLiteFoods.com