



Pelham Press

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Dates to Remember:

- 1/16/16- Pelham Students perform at MLK Community Breakfast- ARMS
- 1/18/16- NO SCHOOL- MLK Jr. Day
- 1/19/16- PTO Meeting- 6 p.m.
- 1/21/16- Winter Concert Evening Performance 7 p.m.
- 1/22/16- Winter Concert Day Performance – 9 a.m.
- 1/25/16- Principal’s Coffee Hour- 8:45-9:45 a.m
- 1/29/16- NO SCHOOL- Teacher Workday
- 2/5/16- Report Cards go home



Dear Pelham Families,

The Pelham School Chorus has been invited to perform at the annual Martin Luther King Community Breakfast. Each year the committee organizes this breakfast event to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King and his fight for a just society. One major feature of the celebration is the musical contribution from an elementary school chorus and this year, Pelham students have been invited to sing at the event. The breakfast begins at 9:00 a.m. and family members of the chorus members are strongly encouraged to attend the event and to have breakfast. While the chorus members and their teachers receive free breakfast (complimentary tickets), parents and family members have to purchase a ticket for the Breakfast. In addition to sharing such a wonderful time with their children, the proceeds from the ticket sales are used for scholarships for ARHS graduating high school seniors, a very worthy cause. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens and \$5 for young people of age 12 and under.

We have installed a doorbell chime on side of the cafeteria door so that parents can access the door to the cafeteria more easily during drop off and pick up times. This door should not be the point of access during the day, but only during Before School between 7:00-8:50 a.m. and during the After School time frame beginning at 2:45-5:30 p.m.

I will begin to hold monthly coffee hours beginning Monday, January 25th in the cafeteria. I’d like to provide this opportunity for parents to join me in an informal venue to share their thoughts, questions, and concerns. I will extend this invitation to staff as well so that some of them can join in as well. My intent is to find other dates and times that are varied so that more parents have a chance to join in if it works better with their schedules.

Have a great weekend!

Lisa Desjarlais, Principal

Second Grade News

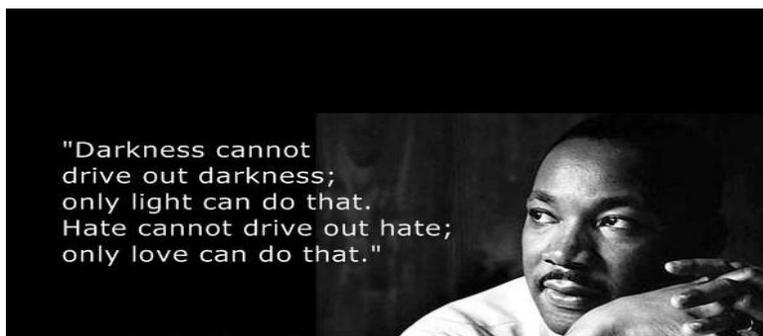
Happy New Year! 2016 has blown in with some cold winter weather- finally! We are staying warm and active in our classroom during these cold weeks.

In Language Arts, we are continuing to practice weekly memory words, learn new phonics patterns, and work with various grammar rules. Thank you for your support in helping the children to complete their weekly homework and study for their spelling test. The extra practice at home is very important. We are also continuing on with 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. Again, thank you for your support in helping the children complete the math homework. If the homework is ever unclear, please call me or refer to the unit letter that I send at the start of each new math unit.

In Social Studies, we have begun a unit which focuses on American heroes who worked for civil rights for African Americans. Our unit focuses on seven men and women. Of course, there are many, many more people who have done 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. As I said in the letter I sent home, 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 **Thursday, January 28, 2016** for our Civil Rights Learning Celebration. I will send another notice home as the date approaches.



Community Notes

Afterschool Afterthoughts for Jan.'16

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that 2016 will be a good year for you and yours!

In January there are a few noteworthy dates, as follows:

Jan. 10 – tuition for February is due.

Jan. 18 – no program, Martin Luther King Day

Jan. 28 – no program, teacher work day

Feb.10 – gap care is being offered

WINTER WEAR

Please make sure your child has enough warm, dry clothes (gloves, hats, boots, etc.) to make it through our afterschool program. Often these items may be wet from the school recess. Since our outside time is longer than what the school offers, it is very important that the students can stay warm. Snowpants are quite helpful, but please label them, as many look the same and they can get mixed up easily.

STAFFING

Some new/old staff will be working during UMass intersession. We are thrilled to have Bill Wilson, Jill Cavanaugh, and Jake Light helping us out.

Sneha Alagappan graduated in December and will not be returning, and Jordan Levine has a semester abroad but will join us again in the fall. We will have a new intern, Matt Livingston, joining us at the end of January. Feel free to introduce yourself to this fine fellow.

THE PLAY

If you have an inflatable alien, please return it and send me the photos as soon as possible. I will distribute the toy to another family so that everyone that wants to be involved has an opportunity.

THE AMHERST, PELHAM & AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Serving Amherst, Pelham and the Amherst-Pelham Region

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OFFICE OF STUDENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

The Amherst, Pelham and Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools are firmly committed to the safety, well-being and academic achievement of all students, district practices and guidelines are developed based on this commitment. We want to ensure that all parents and guardians are aware of the district attendance guidelines so we can work together as partners to best support our students.

There is a direct correlation between school attendance and academic success. Students who attend school every day, on time, learn more and are more successful than students who do not. When students are absent from school, they miss out on carefully planned units of instruction, active learning experiences and class participation. Students who are frequently absent are more likely to fall behind and more likely to drop out of school.

Massachusetts state law dictates that children between the ages of six and 16 attend school regularly and names parents and guardians as responsible to ensure such attendance. It is essential that families teach their children, in a developmentally appropriate way, the importance of school attendance. Since attendance patterns are formed early in a child's educational life, it is important to help children develop good attendance habits from the time they enter school. While it is the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure their children attend school regularly and on time, it is the district's responsibility to determine what type of absences can be considered excused based on state law. Because of this responsibility, there are very few reasons for an absence to be excused in our district. "Excusable" absences include illness, religious observance, mandated court appearance, or serious family crisis such as an accident or death.

School staff will work diligently to ensure all families and students understand the attendance policies and guidelines in the district. With this in mind, families should be aware of the following:

- Parents/guardians must report absences to the school; however, it is up to the school to determine whether the absence can be excused.
- Parents/guardians are required to report absences on the same day they occur and prior to the start of the school day. If an absence is not reported as outlined, a parent note will be required upon the student's return to school.
- Students should arrive at school on time because tardiness cannot be excused. Three tardy arrivals equal one unexcused absence. All students arriving after the start of school must report to the main office before proceeding to their classroom.
- Parents/guardians will be contacted by the school for unreported absences, and the absence will be recorded as unexcused.

- If a student is absent for three days or more, a note explaining the reason for the absence is required upon the student's return.
- For reference, all attendance guidelines are outlined in the Student Handbook.
- Parents/guardians should feel free to ask for clarification about any of the attendance guidelines. Each school will identify the person who can field these inquiries, but if in doubt, inquire in the main office.

Our district is committed to academic achievement for all students, which is why we want every child to attend school on time, every day in order to take advantage of the educational experiences our teachers plan for all learners. We look forward to working with you to make this possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marta Guevara
Director of Student & Family Engagement



Welcome to our **SAFARI CAFE @ Amherst/Pelham Elementary Schools**

THIS **JANUARY 2016**

We Purchase Locally & Offer Gluten Free Foods! If you have a food allergy please speak to the manager, chef, cook or server.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <p>PRODUCE OF THE MONTH ORANGES</p>				HAPPY NEW YEAR
<p>4 Crispy Chicken Patty Sandwich Baked Tater Tots Cucumber Coins Applesauce Fresh Orange</p>	<p>5 Mozzarella Sticks & Marinara Sauce WW Dinner Roll Carrots Celery Sticks Sliced Peaches Bartlett Pear</p>	<p>6 Cheeseburger Corn Vegetarian Baked Beans Pineapple Cup Banana</p>	<p>7 Two Soft Tacos Brown Rice Black Beans Mild Salsa Diced Peas Fresh Orange</p>	<p>8 Cheese Pizza Broccoli Florets Celery Sticks Mixed Fruit Fresh Green Grapes</p>
<p>11 Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Corn Pineapple Cup Fresh Apple</p>	<p>12 Shepherd's Pie* Peas Orange Sweet Red Pepper Strips Fresh Green Grapes WW Bread</p>	<p>13 Hot Dog Sweet Potato Puffs Carrot Sticks Applesauce Spinach & Tomato Salad Banana</p>	<p>14 Beef Burger Cheeseburger* Vegetarian Baked Beans Carrot Sticks Diced Peas Fresh Orange</p>	<p>15 Cheese Pizza Spinach Salad Carrot Sticks Applesauce Fresh Apple</p>
<p>18 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>19 Pasta with Chicken Meatballs & Sauce Steamed Green Beans Garden Salad Fresh Apple Pineapple Cup Carrot Sticks</p>	<p>20 Mac & Cheese Steamed Carrots Spinach Salad Sweet Red Pepper Strips Strawberry Cup Bartlett Pear</p>	<p>21 Hamburger with Lettuce & Tomato Sweet Potato Puffs Corn Garbanzo Beans Fresh Orange Sliced Peaches</p>	<p>22 Cheese Pizza Veggie Dippers Broccoli Florets Mixed Fruit Fresh Apple</p>
<p>25 Popcorn Chicken Oven Baked Fries Romaine Salad w/ Tomato Veggie Dippers Applesauce Banana</p>	<p>26 Chicken Fajita Brown Rice Romaine Salad w/ Tomato Carrot Sticks Black Beans Peach Cup Fresh Orange</p> <p>TRY IT TUESDAYS enjoy a free sample</p>	<p>27 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Diced Peas Empire Apple Romaine Salad w/ Tomato Carrot Sticks w/ Ranch Dip</p>	<p>28 Loaded Beef Nachos Black Beans Brown Rice Pineapple Cup Bartlett Pear</p>	<p>29 NO SCHOOL</p>



Did you know that our menus are healthy, nutritious and flavorful made from wholesome ingredients? We have very high ingredient standards and strict procedures in place to make sure of it! We also purchase locally when seasonally available. Check us out at www.kitson.com or scan our QR code to see all that we are doing at your school to keep your kids healthy!



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.



*Consuming raw or under cooked 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. The USDA and this institution are both equal opportunity providers and employers.