

The Pennfield School



The Lunchbox Express

May 13, 2010

Dear Pennfield Parents and Community Members,

To the scores of parent, faculty and guest artists that made Friday's "Art Day" an overwhelming success, thank you. Our students' experiences were phenomenal; there certainly were a lot of beautiful Mothers' Day presents created that day! Three cheers to Susan Kremer who masterfully organized Arts Week!

Tomorrow is Grandparents' Day, with the program beginning at 10:00 a.m. Please note the following reminders:

- Our parking lot will overflow tomorrow. If you can park in the field by Bistline House or on the grass by Cranston House (where I live), that would be terrific. Spaces close to the building are reserved for grandparents who need those spaces.
- If grandparents or "grandfriends" haven't registered, simply leave a message at the Front Desk. We want to ensure that we have lunch for all of our guests.
- Upper School students should be in concert dress, and Lower School students should be in their Sunday best.
- All students need to bring their own lunch, since **hot lunch is not provided on that day.**

Come to MayFair on Sunday. It's "the best" Community event of the year! Bring your neighborhood friends!

The lacrosse season is nearly over. This weekend, both the girls and boys A teams will participate in tournaments. The girls team will play at Faxon Farm against seven other schools from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday. The boys team will host their own tournament on the Glen from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday as well. Six other schools are invited to this year's tournament. The end-of-the-year Sports Banquet and Award Ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 27th at The Pennfield School from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Reminder - The Fourth Annual Golf and Tennis Tournament is on May 25th. There are still many spots available for golf and tennis. Please check your schedule and sign up for this fun-filled event. All money raised goes toward scholarship funds. Thank you!

Looking ahead...

Thursday, May 13 th	For Upper School parents and students: Understanding the Secondary School Admission Process, 7:00 p.m. in the Library
Friday, May 14 th	Grandparents' Day, 10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Saturday, May 15	Girls A and Boys A Lacrosse Tournaments, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 16 th	MayFair 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Monday, May 17 th	Hot Rodders Book Club for Grades 4 and 5, 3:00-4:30 p.m. in Mrs. Gon's Room
Tuesday, May 18 th	First Grade to Norman Bird Sanctuary from 1:30-2:30 p.m. After-School Sports Resumes for Grades 3-5, 3:00-4:15 p.m.
Wednesday, May 19 th	Nursery and Pre-K Screening, 10:15-10:45 a.m.
Thursday, May 20 th	Moving from Kindergarten to First Grade - Parent Coffee, 8:00-8:30 a.m. and Program, 8:30-9:15 a.m. (Lunchroom) Entering the Upper School Program, 8:30-9:15 a.m. (Library)
Friday, May 21 st	Admission Open House 8 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Hearing Screening Grades Pre-K – Three in the morning. PSA Meeting 8:30 a.m. in the Lunchroom Upper School Play, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 22 nd	Upper School Play, 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 25 th	The Fourth Annual Pennfield School Scholarship Golf and Tennis Tournament Kindergarteners to Green Animals, 12:45-2:15 p.m. Second Grade to Norman Bird Sanctuary, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 27 th	Dr. Day Piano Recital at 3:15 p.m. Sports Banquet, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Monday, May 31 st	Memorial Day (no classes)
Tuesday, June 1 st	Summer Camp Registration Deadline!
Friday, June 4 th	PSA Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast for Parents, 7:30-8:15 a.m. PSA Meeting 8:30 a.m. in the Lunchroom Final Friday Assembly Alumni Luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Bistline House (8 th Graders join other Alumni for this luncheon.) Semi-formal Graduation Dance, 7-10:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 6	Eighth Grade Trip to Adventure Bound in Caratunk, Maine, depart at 5:30 a.m.

Monday, June 7 th	Eighth Grade return from Adventure Bound at 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 8 th	Eighth Graders may sleep in and arrive by 10:15 a.m. Last Day Primary Primary Department Graduation
Wednesday, June 9 th	Commencement Rehearsal (and Yearbook distribution) Dress Down Day Field Day and Cookout
Thursday, June 10 th	Commencement at 10:00 am. 8 th Graders and their families gather in the Music Room by 9:00 a.m.

For all of your support, thank you.

Yours truly,



Rob Kelley
Head of School

Upper School Curriculum Update

English

Mrs. Pigott's sixth grade completed reading and analyzing Homer's *Iliad* (A Richards' translation). They found Achilles to be "spoiled"; yet they were intrigued by his goddess mother, Thetis, who was always there to help him through the difficult times. However, in the end, the balance of fate was low for Achilles for a short but famed life. The class was for the Greeks to win, although a few students kept their support for the Trojans. Short stories were written using a god or goddess coming to life in the student's everyday life. There will be a final assessment on the book. Their next selection will be reading the play *The Phantom Tollbooth* based on the book by Norton Juster. The play includes two acts and many scenes. They will be making the play come alive by staging it in our imaginations. The students are choosing parts such as The Whether Man, The Awful Dynne, The Everpresent Wordsnatcher, The Earl of Essence or perhaps the Duke of Definitions to name a few parts. Additionally, the class will be reading *The Top Ten Shakespeare Stories* by Terry Deary. This short book full of hilarious illustrations will set the stage for future Shakespeare readers to know that he wrote plays so people would be entertained. He wanted people to have FUN! At last, their vocabulary is almost completed. The students will receive their remaining vocabulary words and the top spelling demons to study for the end of the term.

Mrs. Knowle's sixth graders are continuing to write and read poetry, using this genre's compact features to guide their development as writers, able to express logical, coherent and purposeful ideas. We have read a play adaptation of *The Phantom Tollbooth*, individually and dramatically as a class, focusing on wordplay and the characteristics of drama found in this work. Students are studying figures of speech and literary devices found in poems, and are practicing using these in their writing. Additionally, they are completing requirements for Annotated Bibliographies due by the end of the term.

In addition to their poetry unit, seventh grade English students have been reading John Steinbeck's short novel, *The Pearl*. Students are recognizing many literary devices in *The Pearl* that they have learned throughout the year, including foreshadowing, metaphor, simile and other forms of symbolism. Students will finish their study of the novel with both a test and writing assignment. As the year draws to a close, we will have an introductory unit focusing on Shakespeare with related reading and writing assignments. Seventh grade students continue to develop vocabulary, grammar, and test-taking skills through Great Source's Vocabulary for Achievement and a variety of grammar lessons and worksheets. Vocabulary assessment is given weekly, testing comprehension, ability to use new words in properly written sentences, and ability to identify each vocabulary word's part of speech as it is used in the student's sentence.

As a culmination to English and History curricula over the winter and spring terms (including *Johnny Tremain* in the winter term), the eighth grade recently took a field trip to Boston. Having prepared in advance, each student participated in a reenactment of the historic trial that followed the Boston Massacre of 1770, taking on the persona of a real figure from the trial. Students also walked a portion of the Freedom Trail, viewing Faneuil Hall, Old South Meeting House, Park Street Church, Granary Burying Ground, and Boston Common. They also spent time at the New England Holocaust Memorial, a fitting opportunity to meld our study of America's quest for independence with our recent unit on the Holocaust and Elie Wiesel's memoir, *Night*, and were reminded of the importance of a society's respect for human rights. Eighth graders will wrap up their literature study this year with a focus on Shakespeare, including an introduction to at least one play and some of his sonnets. Students continue to develop their vocabulary, grammar, and test-taking skills through Great Source's Vocabulary for Achievement and a variety of grammar lessons and worksheets. Vocabulary assessment is given weekly, testing comprehension, ability to use new words in properly written sentences, and ability to identify each vocabulary word's part of speech as it is used in the student's sentence.

History

Sixth grade completed their study of Ancient Greece, and their gods and goddesses adorn the upstairs hallway. Please stop by if you have not seen these unique and artistic creations! Students have just begun to learn about how the end of Greek civilization led to the rise of the Roman Empire. They will learn about the empires of Julius Caesar and Augustus, as well as, the beginning of government and the rise of Christianity.

As the seventh grade World Cultures classes complete the term, students are demonstrating the well-honed skills of historians! They are using previously taught research skills to prepare presentations about a self-selected country, as well as brochures and power point presentations. We have enjoyed unbelievably informative presentations by two Pennfield parents. Onne van der Wal's photographs of South Africa captured the beauty of the continent. Eoin Howlett encouraged us all to view the world (Ireland, Europe, and the Middle East) through a multi-perspective lens. What a priceless treat for the students and teacher. A heartfelt thank you to you both.

Eighth grade students recently wrapped up the study of our government by creating the "perfect" Supreme Court nominee. Each group presented their nominee and the students chose the best one and compared him/her to the list of possibilities. This has been a very timely issue as we follow the nomination of Elena Kagan. The last area of study is the Civil War. Students are partnered in a project to either make a song or a podcast about an assigned topic/event (Battle of Bull Run, Emancipation Proclamation) that occurred during this time. They will utilize their technology time to complete this project and present it to the class.

Math

Students in Ms. Dickinson's sixth grade math continue to study polygons. After a week of classifying three- and four-sided figures, students are moving on to polygon measurement. They will find the area, perimeter, and circumference of relevant polygons. In the last week of sixth grade math, students will review the four decimal operations (with which they struggled earlier this year). Students have worked hard all year, and Ms. Dickinson is proud of their dedication and practice in their mathematical studies.

Mr. McCarthy's sixth grade students will close out the year with a variety of topics. They will be completing the blueprints and 2-D model of their 'Dream Room' – a project they have been working on in recent weeks. This project is dependent on student calculations of perimeters, areas and volumes of polygons and prisms. The sixth grade will continue to use these calculations to practice both their operations with fractions and decimals as well as conversions between different systems of measurement. Lastly, the students will begin a cursory exploration of probability and dependent events.

Seventh grade students will be exploring some more complicated geometric concepts as we move toward the close of the year. Using proportions within geometry, using ratios to introduce the angle relationships that trigonometry is based on, and calculating midpoints and distances in polygons will all be covered in depth. The last major topic the students will tackle will be data analysis. Some concepts, such as frequency tables and basic probability, will be review material. Others, such as sampling, surveys, and permutations, will take the students' basic knowledge and build toward an understanding of basic statistics.

Since the most recent Upper School Lunchbox Express, the Algebra students completed their Stock Market Project – the average team outperformed the overall market by 80%!! The eighth grade will finish out the year with some of the most challenging topics yet covered. Understanding operations with polynomials will allow students to explore using the FOIL method to combine binomials, and from there, they will utilize factoring to transform trinomials into binomials. The key skill that students will learn will be how to graph polynomial expressions. Once the students have mastered trinomials and quadratics, they will tackle radicals – the last concept of the year. Students will learn how to use radicals, or square roots, as tools of the Pythagorean theorem and other geometric ratios as well as graphing.

Science

In Mr. B's sixth grade science class, students will spend the remainder of the term exploring the universe. Their recent work has dealt with the concept of a "light-year" as a more practical unit to measure extremely vast distances in space. Their investigations will deal with the life cycles of stars, star formation and death, nuclear fusion, the big-bang theory, universe expansion, stellar formation, and relative sizes of and distances between stellar objects. Next week, they will begin using our new school telescope to make solar observations (weather permitting). Students will end the term with a cumulative final exam covering all material since January. They will spend some class time preparing and learning how to review and study for large exams.

As the seventh grade wraps up a packed year of chemical and environmental science studies, they continue to explore the functions and structures of plants, using Little Slocum Farm as a learning laboratory. Having thoroughly examined seed dispersal and germination, as well as the process of capillary action in stems, students will investigate the chemistry of photosynthesis in leaf cells, respiration in roots, and fertilization and pollination in flowers. They will finish the term with a sizeable Plant Test. This spring, science is everywhere!

Eighth grade science students are just culminating their investigation of the respiratory and excretory systems and are beginning a short investigation into the nervous system and the complexity of human senses. This material provides us with many unique lab opportunities. Students will culminate the term with an in-depth focus upon human sexuality, reproductive health and child development. The final exam will take place during the first week of June. This cumulative assessment will cover all material since the mid-year exam in January. This exam will account for 15% of the term grade.

Spanish

The sixth graders are now working on Unit 2, Lesson 2 in their book. This unit is helping students to review most of the vocabulary learned during the first and the second terms of the year. In grammar, students are studying the verb IR that they will use to say where people are going. Sixth graders are also working on their last project of the year. The project consists of creating a brochure for the school of their dreams, which is located in a Spanish-speaking country!

Although they near the end of the school year, students are not winding down in Spanish class! Students in 7-02 are learning vocabulary related to the city and things to do around town while in grammar they are focusing on stem-changing verbs. Students in 7-01 are revisiting previously learned grammar concepts and are working hard at deciphering the *¿Eres tú Maria? Telehistoria*. In the cultural arena, both sections of seventh grade are working in groups creating travel videos for their country of choice. All travel videos are due on June 1st.

Students in eighth grade Spanish will be hard at work during these last few weeks! Students in 8-01 are learning vocabulary related to leisure activities while in grammar they are focusing on indirect object pronouns and demonstrative adjectives. Students in 8-02 are revisiting previously learned grammar concepts and are enhancing their comprehension through reading and audiovisual activities. In the cultural arena, both sections of eighth grade are working in groups creating travel videos for their country of choice. All travel videos are due on June 1st.

Music

The Upper School Band participated in a regional instrumental performance Wednesday at St. Michael's Country Day School. Pennfield students played in a variety of combinations (one school, two school, and four school). It was a great opportunity to play challenging pieces in a larger ensemble. The Upper School Chorus joins the Band and the entire school for an exciting performance on Grandparent's Day Friday. Both groups will have their final performances at Commencement. Thank you to all audience members for your continued support of Pennfield's exciting musical program.

Art

The Upper School exhibited their work in the Student Art Show and received a lot of enthusiastic praise. This show is the culmination of all the work done during the year and provides a stunning way for students to meet one of the National Standards for Visual Art: "Students will be able to apply content-specific knowledge in the creation, interpretation and exhibition (or performance) of works of art."

At this time, many Upper Schoolers are hard at work on the production of the play "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" which will be performed on May 21st at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, May 22nd

at 2:00 p.m. matinee. Some students will be performing and others are on the technology crew, working hard behind the scenes on large sets and colorful props. Please come and enjoy the show!!

Physical Education

During the last month leading up until field day, the Upper School will compete in sports and games split up into their green and white squads. Some of the games played in the weeks ahead will be the same games the students will participate in during field day. Field day is planned for the Wednesday prior to graduation.

The eighth grade students may have the opportunity to play paintball on this coming Monday. So far the scheduling of this event has been complicated, but I am confident that the event will take place. More information and forms will be made available once reservations have been confirmed.



Salad Bar/Chili Mayfair Donations

WE NEED YOUR SALADS! AND SOME CHILI TOO!

Please prepare your favorite salads and kindly drop them off at the Salad Bar on Sunday morning, May 16th.

We are also asking for a few **crocks of your favorite chili**. It needs to be hot and in a crock when you drop it off. That is always a crowd pleaser! We are grateful to all of you and your fabulous cooking skills!

Please contact Kathleen Burke at Kburke@pennfield.org to let her know what you will be making.



CAKES Needed for CAKEWALK!!!

This is your chance to get creative! Small cakes are needed as prizes for our annual CAKEWALK! Not a baker? Not a problem! Some of the best cakes are those that are purchased and then embellished with candies, cookies, etc.

Contact Ann Cotter-Kelley 619-2372 if you are able to help out with this event!

BAKE SALE ITEMS NEEDED

Chocolate Chip Cookies, Cakes,
Brownies, Cranberry White Chocolate
Chunk cookies, Grandma's Apple Pie,
International Desserts, Cup Cakes,
Donuts, Muffins, Breads, Pies,
Linzer Torte, Fudge, Peanut Brittle,
Cheesecake, Rum Cake

We need your best desserts for MayFair 2010. We would also like to borrow cake stands and servers.

Call or email Liz Cotta 841-9429/ Ecotta@Portsmouthabbey.org to let us know what you plan to bake for this year's MayFair Bakery.

Bring your baked goods to the MayFair Bakery on Sunday morning, May 16th, or leave it in the Lunch Room on Friday afternoon, May 14th. Thank You Very Much!!

Please label your baked good, and let us know if it contains nuts. For example: "FOR BAKERY-Linzer Torte by Olga Fehn- contains NUTS".

A TICKET!
A TASKET!

COME AND TRY TO WIN A CLASS BASKET!!

THE MAGNIFICENT BASKETS ARE IN THE ATRIUM AND TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE FRONT DESK FOR

\$1 EACH,
12 FOR \$10
OR
25 FOR \$20

SO BUY SOME TICKETS AND TAKE A CHANCE AT WINNING ONE (OR MORE) OF THESE TERRIFIC BASKETS!!!!!!

"YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU DON'T PLAY!"

KUDOS TO ALL CLASS REPS FOR THEIR TIME AND EFFORT!

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Arrives in One Month...
Order yours today.**

Price is frozen at 2009 rate!

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RESERVE YOUR COPY
BEFORE THEY ARE SOLD OUT.

**Please return the lower portion of this order form to the Front Desk
along with cash or check payable to The Pennfield School Yearbook.**

** Primary students may pick up their yearbooks after noon on June 9th. **

Remove lower portion of order form and submit with payment

Please list below the student(s) to receive a yearbook on June 9th (Field Day).

Student's Name

Grade

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____