

The Pennfield School



The Lunchbox Express

May 20, 2010

Dear Pennfield Parents and Community Members,

What a MayFair! Thank you Bernadette Ottiano and Stephanie Buckley, MayFair Co-Chairs extraordinaire, for orchestrating such a successful day. MayFair, as you all know, is an important fundraiser for the PSA – which supports faculty professional development, technology enhancements, and special teacher requests - and it is an opportunity for the “greater public” to see our School. On both accounts, our school shined bright.

Speaking of high impact energy - please come to Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory this weekend. It's a show not to be missed. Running time is about an hour.

With three weeks left in the academic year, please take special care to read the “coming events” section of the LBE. There certainly are quite a few special days planned before Commencement.

I encourage parents and families to attend the Final Friday assembly on June 4th – The Administration is sponsoring a thank you breakfast, from 7:30-8:15 a.m. for parents that morning, which will include, coffee, bagels and fruit salad. Please stop by and enjoy! Commencement on June 10th has the right mix of pomp and circumstance and light-hearted fun. It is always a beautiful ceremony - and a bittersweet time for all.

There are still a few tickets left for the 2010-2011 tuition raffle. The odds are quite good! Stop by the Front Desk. The deadline is May 25th.

Finally, if you know of a family that might be interested in learning more about Pennfield, we have an Open House tomorrow between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Looking ahead...

Friday, May 21st

Admission Open House 8 a.m.-10:00 a.m.
Hearing Screening Grades Pre-K – Three in the morning.
Upper School Play, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 22nd

Upper School Play, 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 25th

The Fourth Annual Pennfield School Scholarship Golf and Tennis Tournament (The weather is going to be glorious!)

Kindergarteners to Green Animals, 12:45-2:15 p.m.

Second Grade to Norman Bird Sanctuary, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Tuition Raffle Drawing at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 27th PSA (MayFair wrap-up) Meeting, 8:15 a.m. in the Lunchroom

Dr. Day Piano Recital at 3:15 p.m.

Upper School Sports Banquet, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Monday, May 31st Memorial Day (no classes)

Tuesday, June 1st Summer Camp Registration Deadline!

6th Graders – Ancient Rome Day, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Parents invited.

Friday, June 4th Thank You Breakfast for Parents, sponsored by the Administration, 7:30-8:15 a.m

PSA “Hot Lunch” Mtg., 8:30 a.m. in the Lunchroom

Final Friday Assembly

Alumni Luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Bistline House (8th Graders join other Alumni for this luncheon.)

Semi-formal Graduation Dance, 7-10:00 p.m.

- *Girls are to wear a semi-formal dress, preferably with straps, and of an appropriately modest style. If the dress does not have straps, then a wrap or shawl should be worn.*
- *Boys are to wear a suit or dress khakis with a blazer, shirt & tie and dress shoes. No sneakers please.*

Sunday, June 6 Eighth Grade Trip to Adventure Bound in Caratunk, Maine, depart at 5:30 a.m.

Monday, June 7th Eighth Grade returns from Adventure Bound at 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 8th Eighth Graders may sleep in and arrive by 10:15 a.m.

Primary Department Graduation

Wednesday, June 9th Commencement Rehearsal (and Yearbook distribution)

Dress Down Day

Field Day and Cookout (normal dismissal time)

Thursday, June 10th

Commencement at 10:00 am.

8th Graders and their families gather in the Music Room by 9:00 a.m. (8th graders received Commencement instructions in the mail.)

All other students should arrive by 9:30 a.m. and adhere to the dress code below.

- *Girls are to wear a semi-formal dress, preferably with straps, and of an appropriately modest style. If the dress does not have straps, then a wrap or shawl should be worn.*
- *Boys are to wear a suit or dress khakis with a blazer, shirt & tie and dress shoes. No sneakers please.*

For all of your support, thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rob Kelley".

Rob Kelley
Head of School

Nursery

The Nursery children completed an insect theme. For art, they made spotted ladybugs with flying wings, glittery dragonflies, fuzzy bumblebees, hairy caterpillars, and symmetric butterflies. They also went on a bug hunt and listened to a lot of great books about adventurous and silly insects.

The children really enjoyed their first Arts Festival Week. They attended the performances and were so well behaved. We were very proud of them. Next, the class focused on their Moms as they prepared for Mother's Day. They created colorful flowerpots and decorated their own gift bags with handprint flowers. The children had very sweet things to share about their special moms, too. They also did an outstanding job performing at the Grandparents' Day celebration.

The Nursery class is ending the year focusing on the ocean. They have already created a jellyfish and seahorse, and several other creatures will be following.

What a busy and wonderful year we have had. The children have all grown up and it will be so hard to say goodbye to such a sweet group. Our primary field day and graduation will be the perfect send off.

Pre-Kindergarten

I am writing my last Lunchbox Express of the year for Pre-Kindergarten, and I can't believe that we are already on to the letter Yy. This has been another wonderful year, and Mrs. Cabral and I want to thank our Pre-K families for making it so special. Each year, I like to write my final Lunchbox Express highlighting some of the great things that took place in Pre-K this year.

- Weekly exposure to upper and lowercase letters A-Z, the letter sounds, and numbers 1-20.
- Thematic art projects, literacy materials, Everyday Mathematics and science experiments for the following monthly themes: Apples, The Farm, Pilgrims and Native Americans, Festival of Lights, Penguins, Jan Brett, Insects, God Bless the USA, Dinosaurs, I am Special, Mommies, and the Ocean.
- Implemented a new Gardening curriculum that included seed discovery, planting, composting, harvesting and other green initiatives.
- Field trips to the Apple Orchard and Escobar's Dairy Farm.
- Handwriting Without Tears, reading readiness, and music curriculum.
- Read 100+ books so that Scholastic Books could donate books to needy children.
- Baked and prepared desserts for the Aquidneck Island Soup Kitchen and for the Portsmouth Police and Fire stations with our 3rd grade Buddies.
- Worked with art teacher, Sue Kremer, and created beautiful hand-painted rocks, friendship flags, colorful ceramic butterflies, and plant markers for the gardens along with our 3rd grade buddies.
- Hosted the Mother's Day Brunch with gifts and songs lovingly prepared by the Pre-K children.
- Participated in Library time with Mrs. Knowles each Thursday morning.
- Parents volunteered in the classroom each month for our Kitchen Chemistry activities. Some of the delicious creations included Remi's Grandma's Apple Cake, Johnny Cakes, holiday treats, crepes and friendship fruit salad.
- Learned over 20 songs, chants and finger plays consistent with our monthly themes.
- Daily show and tell consistent with the letter of the week.

- Bi-weekly meetings with our 3rd grade reading buddies including an end-of-the-year cookies and lemonade dedication of our Friendship Bench in the garden.
- The unforgettable wedding of Miss Q and Mr. U.
- Introduction to Spanish.
- Yoga on Fridays with Miss Karen King along with several other special Mommy and Me Yoga classes.
- Attended several shows and productions during Arts Festival Week.
- Experienced a “Touch Tank” from The Fish and Wildlife Center courtesy of Veronica Masson.
- Performed for our Grandparents at the special Grandparents’ Day assembly.
- Primary/Kindergarten Department Field Day on Monday, June 7th!
- Primary/Kindergarten Department Graduation on Tuesday, June 8th!

I am positive I have left out other highlights, but overall we have had so much fun and your children are well prepared for Kindergarten! We want to thank you for sharing them with us. It has been our privilege to teach them. Have a great summer.

Kindergarten

It has been a great year in Kindergarten and we have learned a lot about each other as we developed skills for reading and writing and arithmetic! The students are working on their last unit of the Treasures curriculum. Lessons in this unit encourage students to identify words with initial /j/ j, /kw/ q, /y/ y, and /z/ z and to review the phonograms -ug, -ut and -un. While reading our Big Books and leveled readers, the children are using illustrations to help answer questions and they are working with cause and effect. Our high frequency words for this unit are: my, with, where and me. We use these words to write informational sentences in our journals. Several lessons each week concern the concept words: opposites, sound words, number, color and food words.

The Everyday Math lessons for this month introduce the use of the hour hand to estimate time on an analog clock, function rules, and the \$1 and \$10 dollar bills. We will continue to work with measuring activities and reinforce and extend counting, estimation, and other numerical activities. We enjoyed playing dice addition with our Grandparents on Grandparents’ Day and while we are pretty expert at playing this game with two dice, several of the children in the class challenged their grandparents to play the game using three dice!

We have been busy working in the Pennfield garden and will be adding some scarecrows to keep away the birds. We went for a walk on the Greenway Trail and visited Glen Farm. On this visit the class watched a Farrier trim the hooves of a very patient horse, and the children took a turn at brushing a horse. We also walked along the corrals and took a turn at feeding a great big carrot to the horses resting there. The children had such a good time and remarked that: “It was the best day ever!” We went on a spring walk with Mrs. Reed at the Norman Bird Sanctuary. It was a beautiful and sunny day and besides seeing lots of swallows flying on the field, we found tadpoles in the pond and watched the blue azure butterflies dance along the path.

Grade 1

It’s hard to believe that this year is winding down to a close. The first graders have been very busy with many exciting projects and activities. It’s always exciting at this time of year to see the progress that all of the children have made in their academics and to look back and see how far they’ve come. First grade is filled with growth in so many ways!

In language arts, we are in the process of finishing all of our literature anthologies as well as our leveled phonics readers. For the final story in our anthology, first graders will be reading a story about making a sand castle. This story prompts interesting story discussions on construction and architecture. Students will design a sand castle and write about the different features their creation has. Maybe this summer they will want to test their designs at a favorite beach!

In math, first graders studied telling time, frames and arrows, basic facts, hundreds, tens and ones, “what’s my rule,” geometry and counting pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters. We are currently working with dollars and learning how to make change. We have also been playing “Around the World”, a favorite first grade math game!

Until the end of the year, our social studies lessons will be based on geography. Our adventure in learning started with coral reefs. We painted our own reefs paying careful attention to the unique creatures that inhabit these amazing places. We moved from coral reefs to islands. Students made a topographical map of an imaginary island complete with a map key explaining their map. We are currently learning about oceans. We started by learning about tides, currents, water temperature around the world, and how waves are formed. We are currently studying ocean life. First graders are also learning about report writing and will be choosing their topics very soon! The topic will coordinate with our social studies theme. It is amazing to see all of the geographical wonders that are in and surrounding our beautiful country and the world!

Grade 2

It’s hard to believe that the year is winding down to a close so quickly. The second graders are demonstrating each day how ready they are to move to third grade and take on the challenges of a new grade and new teacher.

In language arts, the second graders are continuing to read from many interesting books, magazine articles, and short stories. They also love the chapter books we’re reading in class, as well as their own silent reading books. Of particular note was an article we read in our National Geographic magazine titled “Iceland, Land of Fire and Ice” and shortly thereafter, we were learning about the volcano in Iceland and what problems the volcanic ash cloud caused.

Another challenging and interesting project we just completed was our descriptive poems that we wrote in honor of our grandparents. We began by creating a “senses chart” to help us use descriptive words to describe a special time spent with grandparents. Then we brainstormed rhyming words, wrote our rough draft, and presented our grandparents with our final copy on Grandparents’ Day. What a special moment to see the second graders reading their poetry aloud to their grandparents!

Second graders love math, and they’re busy with the transition from addition and subtraction into multiplication and division. The students are creating math stories involving equal groupings, and translating those stories into multiplication number models. We’re still working with fractions, too, since it’s one of the hardest second grade math concepts to master.

The community of Newport is our focus for the remainder of social studies this year. Some of the topics that we’ll be studying are Newport’s history and location of famous places, architecture, and our unique geography.

Grade 3

Our trek through the third grade jungle is coming to an end, but a few more adventures still await us, including field day and a garden party with our Pre-K buddies —we are very excited!

Math:

Our current unit of study is so much fun!! The students have explored the concepts of volume and weight through a variety of hands-on activities. They created rectangular prisms and found volume. They also used scales to find the weight of objects in our classroom. They continue to study their multiplication facts and hope to complete the Super Sundae Challenge in the next few days.

Language Arts:

We are wrapping up Unit 5 of the Treasures curriculum. Some of the concepts being studied include pronouns, contractions and possessive nouns, cause and effect, and making predictions.

We have been very busy during the Writer's Workshop block. We are currently studying different styles of poetry. Among these include diamante, haiku, cinquain, ode and limerick. We can't wait to share our poems with our parents and Pre-K buddies at our garden party.

Social Studies:

Our journey continues through the 50 states. Our next stop will be in the Middle Atlantic and New England regions. We will continue to learn state capitals, nicknames and abbreviations through interactive games such as "State Bingo" and "Jeopardy". Next week during Writer's Workshop, students will create a newspaper about their assigned state!

Grade 4

In fourth grade math, students are finishing up Unit 8 on perimeter and area. Fractions, decimals, and percents will be the focus for the remainder of the year. Specifically, students will convert fractions to decimals and percents, use a calculator to convert fractions to decimals, and, if time permits, multiply and divide decimals.

In E.L.A., students will be finishing up our last class novel for the year, Sign of the Beaver. In addition, students continue reading from the Treasures series. Weekly spelling and comprehension quizzes continue.

In social studies, students continue researching and learning about Rhode Island history. Students have created a game board using information about Rhode Island immigrants. In the next couple of weeks, students will complete a timeline, using ten important dates and events in Rhode Island history.

Grade 5

The fifth grade has been studying countries around the world. The students completed a research report, designed a poster, and made a dish to share with the class for our "Cultural Luncheon." In addition, we have had several guest speakers come in and teach us about various countries with some amazing slide shows to go along!

In English Language Arts, we have been working on a unit about fairy tales from around the world in our Treasures book. Our literary element studies over the past couple of weeks have focused on summarizing, sequencing, and problem solving within the story. In Writing Workshop, we are writing how-to paragraphs and fairy tales. We are also deep into reading the novel Hoot by Carl Hiaasen. We are keeping response journals to go along with this exciting environmental novel.

In math, we are working on geometry. Lessons on plotting points on a grid, measuring area of triangles, parallelograms, and volume have been taught in this unit. We will have a math test next week on this unit and move on to our final math unit of the year. This unit will cover an introduction to algebra.

We have a fun field trip to Ballard Park in Newport to end the year. This will be a joint trip with the 4th graders. We will take a walk on The Aquidneck Greenway Trail prior to this visit. We will be comparing and contrasting the two environments to see how they are alike and different. We will follow this visit with a picnic lunch to celebrate our fabulous year together! Happy summer!

**2010 Pennfield Yearbook
Distribution on Field Day
Order yours today.**

Price is frozen at 2009 rate!

THE 2010 YEARBOOK IS ONLY \$30.00

Special discount for additional copies purchased by the same family:

\$30 - 1st child

\$20 - 2nd child - 4th child

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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

***Pennfield Parents & Grandparents
sure can bake!***

Thank you so much to all the excellent bakers out there. We had the biggest and best selection ever. Everything tasted and looked so delicious!!!

Liz Cotta, Jeannie Spiro and Diane Campagna, MayFair Bakery

Don't forget to check the Atrium room for your trays and plates.