



November Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

As the third month of the school year begins, I am amazed that we have already arrived at this place on the school calendar, and I am feeling somewhat anxious about all that needs to be accomplished. Our programs throughout the building are up and running and the staff and students are working hard to achieve grade level goals. Teachers have now developed a clearer understanding of the students within each classroom and have tailored instruction to maximize their potential.

I was extremely pleased to see the number of parents that visited our school during October parent conference days. It is truly this collaborative effort that will make the difference for each and every child. While we continue to develop a more thorough understanding of your child as a learner, the most accurate image can only be generated when ongoing parental communication is included.

We will continue in our efforts to make our school the best that it can be. As always your support is an extremely important part of your child's success. Please let your child know that you understand their challenges and support their efforts. Setting aside a small period of time each day to let them know that you recognize the importance of a good education will make a world of difference.

HOMEWORK CLUB:

The Homework Club has started. Please sign up in the office.

FOURTH ANNUAL TURKEY TROT:

Come join us on Tuesday, November 24 at 2:45 for our fifth annual turkey trot for a 1 mile fun run. More information to follow.

CLASSROOM INTERRUPTIONS:

It is our intent to continue to minimize classroom interruptions during the school day. **It is extremely difficult to get messages to students. This should only be done in an emergency.** Please make plans with your child at home before school. In another effort to minimize classroom interruptions, we will not call into classrooms to inform a student that forgotten lunches or lunch money has been brought to the office. Students who arrive at lunch and realize that they do not have lunch money or their bag lunch with them can stop at our office reception window to see if it has been delivered to the school for them.

LOST AND FOUND:

Lost and found is starting to accumulate many sweatshirts, lunch boxes, etc. If your child is missing any clothing or other items, please have them check Lost and Found in the cafeteria.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY:

There will be a ½ day of school on Wednesday, November 25, 2009. Dismissal will be at 11:30 a.m. There will be no school on November 26 and November 27, 2009. Enjoy this time with your family!!

NO SCHOOL:

There will be no school on Monday, November 11 (Veteran's Day) Monday, November 30, 2009 (Professional day). School will reopen Tuesday, December 1, 2009.

REPORT CARDS HOME:

Report cards will go home on Monday, November 16, 2009.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT:

Fall/Winter Concert – Thursday December 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Report time 6:30 p.m.

Don't miss the PMMS: Band
Chorus
WMG

KEY NEWS:

This year's Artist-in-Residence is Kara Beausoleil. Grade 5 high math students will receive horizontal enrichment in the Grade 5 mathematics strands 3 times a week with Mrs. Pac beginning in November. Grade 7 Ceiling Tiles begin on Friday 10/30 and will run for 7 sessions. Grade 8 Ceiling Tiles begin on Friday, 1/8/10, for 7 sessions. Grade 8 Legacy begins Friday, 3/19/10 for 6 sessions. Grade 7/8 Solar Cars begins the end of February. Construction Challenge will begin in December.

Grade 6 Stock Market will run from February through May.

2009 Science Overnight Celebration for Grades 5 & 6 will be held December 4 – 5. A presentation and registration forms will be given to students on Friday, 11/13/09. Look for these forms to come home with your Grade 5 or 6 student on that Friday. Registration day is Monday, 11/16/09. Student registrations must also include the registration fee. Typically this program is filled on the first day of registration.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM:

Prices: Student lunch \$2.25
Reduced Lunch \$.40
Ala Carte Milk \$.50
Paid Breakfast \$1.25
Reduced Breakfast \$.25
Lunch tickets sold @ \$45.00 for 20 day ticket.
Assorted snacks are sold between \$.25 - \$1.00.

If a student forgets his/her lunch money, they will receive a sandwich and milk for \$1.00. **This will be paid the next day.**

Free/reduced student lunch applications are available throughout the year. If your child is eligible for free/reduced lunch, he/she is entitled to free/reduced breakfast daily.

GRADE 5 NEWS:

The fifth grade Spirit Club hosted a costume party to which everyone was invited to participate. The winners of the ten categories are posted outside of the cafeteria. We thank Mrs. MacWilliams, Mrs. Dugan, Mrs. Felix, Mrs. Blackburn, Mrs. Labodycz, and Mrs. Anderson who volunteered their time and acted as our judges.

Before the winter holiday the Spirit Club will hold its annual flea market. If you have items to donate we would appreciate it. All sorts of items are accepted – toys, books, household appliances, holiday decorations. We will accept any donations two weeks before the event. More details will be available in the future.

It was a pleasure to meet the parents who were able to attend conferences. As always we encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Our science and math books are on line. Please contact your child's teacher for the access codes. The availability to use the books on line should greatly reduce the load to backpacks.

GRADE 6 NEWS:

It was a pleasure to meet and speak with parents at conferences. It is always comforting to know that we are on the same page and together we can assure the success of your child. A very busy time of year is quickly approaching and sometimes it can be hard to stay focused with all the outside activities. We're hoping you make homework a priority and check agenda books and their completed homework nightly. Late homework will negatively impact your child's grade.

We have completed our first round of mock mini MCAS testing. Most students did very well and prove they are learning and retaining. Ask your child how they did.

We are looking forward to our field trip to the Yale Peabody Museum in November. Each 6th grade team will be going on a different day. Endeavour 11/8, Voyager 11/19, and Apollo 11/20. Each class needs to have four chaperones. Check with your child's teacher if you would be willing to chaperone.

Thanks for your continued support.

GUIDANCE NEWS:

Helpful hints for making homework time more productive:

1. Make sure all written homework/assignments are in the agenda book.
2. Bring home all required books and work-put a big star in the agenda book near the subject that requires you to bring home certain materials for homework.
3. Set up a time/space/place for a homework zone area that is clear of distractions (noise, windows, pets, phone, TV, computer, anything that will create avoidance).
4. Best time to do homework is right after school—it's still fresh in the memory.
5. Start with the least favorite subject.
6. Set the timer for 20 to 30 minutes for homework. Then take a break for 5 minutes. Set the timer again for the next subject.
7. Parents-check off each homework assignment completed in the agenda book.
8. Teachers depend on students to ask many questions, so, ask away.
9. Check with your teacher on setting up a time for extra help.
10. Homework Help Club started! It meets Wednesdays after school. Sign up is required by 1:00 on Wednesdays.

Vocational High School Open House – Mark your calendars!

If a vocational high school is being considered, please attend the open house scheduled for:

C-Tech/Vocational High School
Lower Pioneer Valley Career and Education Center
November 24, 2009 at 6:00 pm
Web address: www.LPVCareerTEC.org
Telephone: 735-6300

TEAM OLYMPUS:

- We are almost through the first quarter of the year. Time certainly flies. Things have gone well, and we hope to keep students on track for the next term.
- Please check supplies. The agenda books are losing pages. Please feel free to replace it with any organizational planner that will work for daily assignments.
- Remember to check those agenda books nightly if you have any question about homework. You can expect that your child has homework EVERY night.
- Thanks for all your support. It was great seeing all of you at conferences. Remember to contact us anytime with questions or concerns 569-5951.



AVALON NEWS:

Thanks for your understanding about moving our Team Building Day. Team Building Day was a huge success. The students really pulled together and met the challenge of working together as a team. Thank you also to the parents that volunteered.

We'll be collecting canned and non-perishable foods to donate so please bring in some items.

Ms. Torone's class has been working hard "retiring" words that should not be used in writing and creating vivid words to replace them. So look for them in your child's writing.

Remember to replenish school supplies as they are used up.

Congratulations to our students of the month:
Hannah Dziadzio and Nick Labodycz

ATLANTIS TEAM NEWS:

The Atlantis team would like to thank the many parents who attended parent conferences. We enjoyed meeting you all and discussing your child's progress and achievement. Grades will be closing soon so please check with your child to see if they have any work to be completed because of absences. Please check to see if they need any materials replaced for the new term. As always, please check their agendas to be sure they are staying current with assignments.

Team Building was a wonderful experience. Students learned to work as a team to solve problems, accomplish tasks, make new friends and share their many talents. We enjoyed seeing them work in a different environment and seeing the diversity of talents on the team. Field trips are always a valuable learning experience.

The Team wishes everyone a wonderful
Thanksgiving holiday