

putnam avenue upper school

Family
Newsletter

OWNERSHIP

Special points of interest:

- A look inside each grade
- Events
- End-of-year field trips
- Important dates

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May 23, 2013

East Cambridge Cleans Up

On April 27, 2013, Putnam Avenue Upper School partnered with the Kennedy-Longfellow School, East End House, and the East Cambridge Business Association to celebrate National Service Week and Earth Week by organizing the 4th annual East Cambridge Clean-Up Day. Over 100 neighbors and friends came together to engage in a range of projects throughout East Cambridge. While some picked up trash, others weeded, cleared garden beds, planted flowers, raked leaves, and covered the playground with a fresh layer of mulch. PAUS students, parents, grandparents, and staff worked

alongside the likes of City Sprouts volunteers, Biogen employees, school committee members Marc McGovern and Fred Fantini, and Vice-Mayor Denise Simons...

Just to name a few!

Once all was said and done, the volunteers were treated to a lunch and environmental fair where kids and adults alike enjoyed additional time together on a beautiful, sunny day.



Students vs. Staff Games

The Putnam Avenue soccer team will play the staff on June 17 and on June 18, the Putnam Avenue ultimate Frisbee team will play the staff. Our staff is on a roll! Will the soccer or ultimate Frisbee team finally get a victory over the teachers?

group of 7th grade boys challenged the teachers in an afterschool flag football game, and the teachers came away with another victory?

they have long looked for.

Let's hope that the students have a team that can work together, cooperate, and give the students the victory

Also, did you know that a

PASSION

Grade 6

From a house-building project in math to writing short stories about social issues in ELA, and from studying the environment in science to writing two-voice poems about ancient Greece and Egypt in social studies, the PAUS sixth grade community is engaged in exciting end-of-the-year projects and learning experiences! We are excitedly finalizing our Washington, DC itinerary, and planning a plethora of other wonderful field trips, too, including our upcoming trip to Fresh Pond in West Cambridge to learn about the pond's animal and plant populations. With all of the hustle and bustle, plus the warmer weather, this is

an important time to be checking in with your sixth grader about finishing up the year on a strong note. We continue to have high expectations of the sixth graders regarding their class work and homework assignments. If you should have any questions pertaining to upcoming trips, assignments, or sixth grade life in general, feel free to contact your sixth grader's advisor!

Fifth Grade Transition

In early May, the fifth graders from our three feeder schools -Kennedy-Longfellow, Morse and King-came to visit. Current sixth graders were instrumental in helping us to plan for and facilitate this event! From the opening presentation showed to support moving from class to class, this year's sixth grade class demonstrated pride (one of our core values!) by ensuring that the visit was a positive experience for the visiting fifth grad-

ers. We ran mini-class sessions in each of the core subjects, ate pizza, learned about things from the six-day schedule to lockers, and from advisory to writing down homework in an agenda book. The fifth graders were enthusiastic and deeply engaged in each class, and reported feeling very excited about next year! It was a great day, and laid the foundation for a wonderful 2013-2014 for the PAUS sixth grade community!

Meeting with a Holocaust Survivor

Micheline Federman lives in Cambridge, is a CSV volunteer in the Kennedy Longfellow library, worked as a scientist before her retirement, and is a Holocaust Survivor. She and her family were sheltered in a small town called Le Chambon Sur Lignon in Nazi-occupied France. It's an incredible story, told in the film "Weapons of the Spirit." Here is a link to a clip from the

film: <http://youtu.be/TdUqLTY6c> (The PAUS library has also purchased the movie). The amazing thing about the town is that 5,000 citizens sheltered 5,000 Jews. No one turned in a neighbor, while all over France, Jews were being rounded up and sent to concentration camps. This is truly an amazing story of the triumph of good over evil.



Putnam Ave. Upper School Seventh Grade Takes Over Harvard

On April 26 the entire grade went to spend the day at Harvard University. As part of a college readiness initiative that Harvard and the City have partnered on, all seventh grade students in the district spent a day at the university. PAUS students began their visit with a brief tour of Harvard Yard, and then they went to Sanders Hall to eat lunch in the freshman dining hall. For many of the students, this was an exciting time as the architecture of the building reminded them of the fictitious school, Hogwarts, which is featured in the Harry Potter books.

Secondly, they enjoyed the limitless amounts of food that they were allowed to eat!

After lunch, students went to the Museum of Natural History to discuss college life with two undergraduate students. Our students were quite engaged and asked questions such as, *“What happens if you come to class without a notebook or a pencil?”* or *“What do you have to do to become part of the sky-diving club?”* Ultimately, students walked away with the notion that college requires students to be independent

and responsible for their own learning—there will not be anyone next to you reminding you to go to class or turn in an assignment. At the same time, students understood that there are many rewards and time for intellectual and social exploration that come with this independence.

After the Q&A session with Harvard students, a science graduate student shared his research on insects. Students were able to see a bumblebee take flight off of a leaf or watch a dragonfly eat a mosquito with precision!

Math Carnival

PAUS had our first Math Carnival on May 1st. It was a HUGE success! We had over 100 students participate! There was pizza, popcorn, FUN math games, prizes and of course, Mr. Thompson in the dunk tank. Many students became experts at a game and spent the evening facilitating play for their classmates. All in all it was a great night!



Important Dates to Remember

Upcoming Seventh Grade Dates:

The first of the end of the year trips is on Friday, May 31. We will be going to Project Adventure in Beverly, MA.

The 2nd payment for the end of the year trips is due, Friday, May 24, in the amount of \$50.

The 7th Grade report mini is due on Monday, June 3.

Upcoming Eighth Grade Trips:

May 17th: Harvard

May 24th: Science Showcase

May 29th/30th: Boating

May 31st: Theatre Espresso

June 5th-7th: Pennsylvania

Upcoming Six Grade Trips:

June 3rd/5th: Fresh Pond

June 10th-13th: Washington D.C.

Grade 8

Many 8th graders participated in three Math MCAS Prep sessions on Saturday mornings during the month of April. Students were able to work in small groups and receive targeted support in areas of weakness. It was great to see the hard work and dedication of so many students. All of the 8th graders worked very hard on both Math and Science MCAS. We are very proud of all of them!

The next few weeks are very busy for 8th graders. We have several field trips coming up, we are working diligently on

portfolios, we are completing year-end projects, and we are getting ready for graduation.

In addition, we will attend the Cambridge Science Showcase this month. Students will have the opportunity to present the work they did on their Lego Mind Storms and see the projects of 8th graders at the other Upper Schools.

Lastly, we have a few families who are still in need of financial support for our end-of-year trip. If anyone is able and willing to donate, please email Ms. Calloro (mcalloro@cpsd.us).

Jordan's Furniture

On Sunday, April 28th, 2013, students from PAUS attended a graduation ceremony at Jordan Furniture's IMAX theatre in Reading, MA that provided guest speakers who spoke to students about making sound financial decisions. The speakers drew from life experiences about how no matter what the odds, if you work hard and make the correct decisions in life, someone will notice and rewards will be forthcoming.

One speaker spoke about his father and how he was called "nothing" throughout his entire high school experience. From there he went on to play in the NFL. Other speakers included representatives from the Federal Reserve Bank.

Financial Literacy's teacher Cedric Turner spoke to an audience that included Cambridge and Brockton school students and parents. He talked about the meaning of success and how each person from Jordan's

Furniture was important to the success of the company.

Ellot from Jordan's Furniture stressed thinking outside the box: how to stand out from the rest of the crowd. Just looking at the store was a great example of his message; making it a different kind of experience to shop for furniture (having a candyland at the entrance, a section for mountain climbers, an IMAX theatre, etc.) It's all about making the correct decision in life - there are no grey areas. Winners win, and losers lose because of winning decisions and losing decisions. The experience was capped off with free popcorn and a film about how to succeed.



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PRIDE

June 2013

WWW.PUTNAMAVENUE.CSPD.
 US

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	27 Memorial Day - No School	28	29 7th Gr. Library Trip 8th Gr. to Boat-house Spring Concert, 6:30pm	30 7th Gr. Library Trip 8th Gr. to Boat-house	31 8th Gr. Theatre Espresso Field Trip, Talent Show, 6:00-8:00pm 7th Gr. Trip Project Adventure	1
2	3 7th Gr. Iport Mini Presentations	4 7th Gr. Iport Mini Presentations	5 8th Gr. Trip - Pennsylvania	6 8th Gr. Trip - Pennsylvania	7 8th Gr. Trip - Pennsylvania 7th Gr. NYC Trip	8
9	10 6th Gr. Trip - D.C.	11 6th Gr. Trip - D.C.	12 6th Gr. Trip -D.C. 7th Gr. Trip - Six Flags PAFA Meeting 6:30-8:00pm	13 6th Gr. Trip - D.C. School Council Meeting 6:30-8:00pm	14 Parent Coffee 8:00-8:40am	15
16	17	18	19 PAUS 8th Grade Graduation Early Release Day	20	21 End of Trimester 3 Last Day Of School	22