

putnam avenue upper school

April 4, 2013

Special points of interest:

- This trimester we will continue to offer open gym to all those interested in coming in early. Open gym begins at 8:00 am and lasts until the start of Advisory.

PAUS Boys Basketball Wins First Championship

We are pleased to congratulate the members of our boys basketball team who won the first ever Upper School Network All City Basketball Championship!! The final score was 66 - 54.

The members of the team are:

- Anthony Castle
- Dimon Carrigan
- Jakigh Dottin
- Robert Favreau
- Nubian Brooks
- Isais Berhe
- Brendan Grant
- Isaiah Robinson
- Kerny Gachette
- Bilal Eddaif
- Peter Kuguru
- Joaquim Vincent
- Jikari Robinson
- Cyrus Singh



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PASSION

Grade 6

The sixth grade community is tangibly excited about our upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. From conversations in advisory to students doing self-directed research about museums and monuments, "D.C. fever" has officially begun! Along with planning and fundraising for the trip, we have also been: reading and writing about Marian Anderson and Wangari Maathai, learning about fossils and landfills in science, adding and subtracting decimals and percentages in math, and studying the characteristics of society in social studies. Please ask your sixth grader about what he/she is learning, reading, and thinking about! We know that the learning process is not limited to the school day, and that the more sixth graders talk about what they are learning, the more the knowledge becomes their own! As always, sixth graders should be recording their assignments in their agenda books and should be reading each and every night. Many students have read one or more of the "Cambridge Middle School Book Award" books and will have the opportunity to come together to talk about their top picks!

With the end of the second trimester upon us, it is a great time to take a moment to reflect on how amazing our sixth grade community is. Spring is here, representing much more than just a change in the weather. Sixth graders are blossoming into seventh graders, and it's wonderful to think about all they have accomplished and all that they will accomplish in the coming months and years!

Financial Literacy at PAUS

PAUS's Financial Literacy Club was invited to the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston on Wednesday, March 20th, to participate in a competition with the Brockton Public Schools. During the competition, which lasted three rounds, groups of students worked together to try to answer key questions about financial concepts. Students were given remotes to input their answer selections. The topics included opportunity cost, bear markets vs. bull markets, 401K's, ATM's, CD's, and marginal utility, just to name a few.

Even though the sixth grade team was beaten by just a few questions, the experience was fun and rewarding; from quizzing each other on the bus and coming up with chants to beat Brockton to getting a chance to "dress for success" and participating in a high-stakes challenge, the scholars had a great time. Refreshments were served afterward, and the PAUS students were very impressed with the selection of ladyfingers, guacamole and tortilla chips, beverages, tasty granola bars, and refreshing red punch.

What was equally exciting was how these sixth grade PAUS students worked together as a team and how they discussed their answers through deductive reasoning. The most impressive moment was when our students gave Brockton students a standing ovation after the winners were handed their award, and PAUS students also made sure to shake hands with the opposing team at the end of the night.



BALANCE

What's happening in the seventh grade

Where Do We Begin?

Since we returned from winter break in February, a lot of exciting things have been going on. First, we started with the block scheduling. Although apprehensive at first, many students have said that they find the block schedule helpful. They feel that they can prepare better for classes if they only have two a day. Also, they like that they have more class time to complete activities or assignments, and they like the extra time that they have to complete homework.

On Tuesday, April 2, we will have our town hall meeting with 7th graders to discuss what to expect for trimester three, ways that we can support them with organizational skills, and end of the year activities. We also want to use the time as a forum for students to voice issues or concerns that they have.

English Language Arts

Students just finished with ELA MCAS on Monday, March 25. They felt that they were well prepared and were confident that they did well. Additionally, they finished their expository unit and have started a new unit on memoirs.

Social Studies

We recently finished our world religions unit and started our unit on West Africa. One of the major themes that we are studying is: "do we have a single story of Africa?" We look forward to our continued work with Kyle Browne from Cambridge Creativity Commons. She will be working with us on creating instruments using recycled or natural resources. We also hope to work with a drummer, Mamadou Diop.

Math

The Math MCAS is quickly approaching. Although we will be reviewing in class, students should spend time in April and May to practice their math skills. There are many online resources that will benefit 7th graders. Encourage students to practice their skills at some of the following helpful sites:

1. ixl.com/signin/Cambridge

-Students should know their username and password

2. <http://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/search/>

-Students can find old test questions, based on standards

3. http://www.mymcas.com/html_pages/quizzes.htm

-Student can find some practice questions along with hints and helpful links

Last Words

We would like to recognize Alex Henriquez who will be performing in the *Wizard of Oz* which will be presented April 5- 7 at 7 pm in the auditorium. Also, look out for a notice or email regarding class web pages that teachers are in the process of creating. Finally, on Friday, April 26, 7th graders will be going to Harvard University to spend a day in the life of an undergraduate. We hope that this will be an enriching experience for all students.

putnam avenue

Grade 8

PI DAY

The 8th graders celebrated Pi Day on 3/14. We used pi to find our hat size, tried to memorize digits of pi, and each student wrote a Pi-Ku. Congratulations to Cayley DeLancey who memorized 206 digits, Kalilah Hall who memorized 142 digits, and Ollie Sussman who memorized 111 digits! Kudos to the many other students who memorized anywhere from 10 to 64 digits of pi.

MATH MCAS

8th Grade Math MCAS prep is starting Saturday, March 30th. Letters went out to families on March 27th. Please contact Ms. Calioro if you have any questions.

ARTIST VISIT

We had a visit from Winfred Rembert, an artist from Cuthbert, Georgia, who paints on leather canvases. Here's what two students had to say about the visit:

"I thought having Mr. Rembert here to tell us about his past was amazing. It was very exciting, educational and fun. I was and am glad that we had an opportunity to meet a man that went through the worst part of history and survived. I just loved the way he talked to the teachers and to the students. I just loved having him and hopefully we can see him again in the future." – Armani Boutros

"Mr. Rembert speaking to us was a great experience to have. It was interesting to hear someone who had been a slave talk to us and share his past life. Some of his questions were confusing, embarrassing, and funny but he kept his composure even when we, as a class didn't. He was also very interactive with us and kept our minds, at least mine, busy with questions, scenarios, and scenes that I imagined about his past and that I wish I hadn't imagined. Mr. Rembert also seemed very passionate when he talked about his paintings and how he engraved his past life into them. I now realize, in more depth, the pain that the African-American slaves went through and now have a better understanding of how they were treated and acted upon. Overall, I thought it was definitely a unique assembly with a unique man and his unique story, but it was also nice to have a fellow Georgian in the room." – Peter Kuguru

PORTFOLIOS

All of the 8th graders are working on their portfolios. As of now it is recommended that students have completed Goals #1, My Growth #1, Career Survey, College Research, Faith for the Future, and Goals #2. Students should be working on My Growth #2 and their Extracurricular and Community Service letters. If you would like an update on your child's progress, please contact his/her advisor.

TUTORS

We have tutors available Tuesdays and Thursday from 8:0-8:40am and Wednesdays from 3:00-4:30pm. The tutors are able to help with homework, studying, projects, and portfolio work.



Pi is hard

It

Is infinite

By Sofia Canale-Parola

Show respect

And

Try your hardest

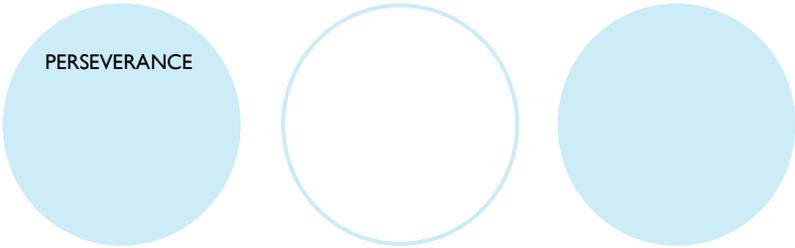
By Rose Guillaume

Three point one

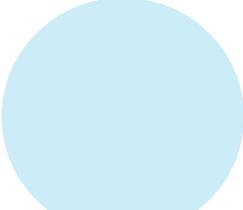
And

Don't forget four

By Jhanelle Bynoe



PERSEVERANCE



Counselor's Corner

Dear Families,

During the second trimester, a number of new and different opportunities were offered to PAUS students for both before and after school programming. One of those offerings was the 7th and 8th Grade Boys' Breakfast Club. Run by Kyrk Morris, a Cantabridgian who attended Cambridge Public Schools and is now an educator and mentor in various schools in the area, all 7th and 8th grade boys were invited to attend. The boys' club continues to meet every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8 -8:45 am and includes a core group of about 12 boys who attend regularly, as well as others who stop by when they can. During their breakfast, the boys have the chance to talk about what is important to them, what they are concerned about, and develop positive relationships among themselves and with Kyrk.

In addition to having serious and relevant conversations with each other, the group was also formed to give the boys the opportunity to have fun with one another. According to one of the members, he joined because, "I heard my friends were going and it sounded like a good way to start my day." That same student joined the third week and has attended every session since!

Most recently, all members of the club were invited to participate in a field trip to Skyzone. Not only were all members invited, but all members also attended! The boys were able to take some time to enjoy each other's company, do something physically active, and have a ton of fun. They represented the PAUS community well and are already planning their next outing together.

The club continues to be open to any 7th or 8th grade boy who would like to join. For a permission slip, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Wheeler at 617-349-7780.

Thanks,

Fergie Wheeler, LICSW

Student Support Counselor

Putnam Avenue Upper School

PERSEVERANCE

Rally against Cancer

Thanks to all who have donated to the Jimmy Fund's Rally Against Cancer. We have raised \$575! Please consider donating and join us in supporting the Jimmy Fund by wearing Red Sox gear for Opening Day on Monday, April 8th. You can donate online until April 8th at 3:00pm: www.rallyagainstcancer.org/2013/paus or by mail:

The Jimmy Fund, Rally Against Cancer, 10 Brookline Place West, 6th Floor, Brookline, MA 02445



Ms. Walsh/Ms. Fulkerson's Class

On February 28th Mrs. Walsh's and Mrs. Fulkerson's class concluded a unit on penguins with their Speech Pathologist, Ms. Susan Breen. As part of their speech class the students researched different types of penguins, penguin habitats, and penguin eating habits. As a finale to this unit, Ms. Breen and the children put together a small skit, in which they presented to their friends and family, followed by refreshments. The children were dressed in the fashion of the penguin they were presenting; the emperor, macaroni, chinstrap, rockhopper and baby blue penguin. The array of goodies included decorated penguin cookies frosted by the children and penguins created from olives, carrots and cream cheese. Oh so cute! Everyone enjoyed the presentation as well as the social activity upon conclusion. Ms. Breen and the children are currently working on researching the rain forest and the animals that live there. We can't wait to see what comes next!!



PAUS

School Council

The monthly School Council meeting is a great place for family members to find out all about what is going on at the school and to get to know other parents and school leaders better. Principal Chardin leads the meeting. It begins with updates, including one from parents involved with the Putnam Ave. Family Association and one from a student about the activities of the student government. The lead teachers for each grade discuss what teachers and students have been doing and what they are planning next.

Parents and guardians can come to listen and, if they like, join in the discussion. There are often chances to sign up to work with a small group on improving different aspects of our school.

The April meeting has been changed to Thursday, May 2nd from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. Everyone is welcome to come once or come every month. Hope to see you there!

Mr. Almeida/ Mr. Burke's Class



Rm. 212

6th – 8th grade (all academics)

We have been working hard in March and have finished our ELA MCAS. YEAH! Now we are looking forward to April. This month we are concluding our study of ancient Egypt with a trip to the Museum of Fine Arts. We will be taking a guided tour looking at and discussing artifacts and life during the Old Kingdom and New Kingdoms.



PAUS

April 2013

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2	3 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-7PM	4 Parent/Teacher Conferences, 5-7PM	5 Wizard of oz performance
	8 All City Concert Tour, 7:45AM-12:00PM	9 Middle School Health Survey Day Talent Show Auditions 8:30AM & 3:15PM	10 PAFA Meeting 6:30-8:00PM	11	12 Parent Coffee 8:00-8:40AM School Dance 6:30-9:00PM
	15 April Vacation (No School)	16 April Vacation (No School)	17 April Vacation (No School)	18 April Vacation (No School)	19 April Vacation (No School)
	22	23	24	25	26
	29	30			