



*Passion. Pride. Ownership.
Balance. Perseverance.*

February 2014



Inside

- February in the 6th Grade : Gr.6
- 7th Grade showing excellence: Gr.7
- 8th Grade Preparing for the Future: Gr.8
- Announcements
- Learning to Balance
- Parent Coffee



“Be The Best You You Can Be!”

Sign up for Basketball



Required documents : A CPSD permission form and a copy of a valid physical (within the last 13 months) must be submitted before a student can participate along with a concussion certificate.

Dates- 3/3 to 4/11

Offering: Basketball

Days: Tuesday, and Thursday

An end of the season basketball tournament amongst the four Upper Schools and the Amigos School will be held during the week of 4/7 at a location to be determined.

See Coach Alexandre, Coach Godfrey, or Mr. Richardson



Grade 6

By:
Sixth Grade Team

February in the Sixth Grade

Despite a week's vacation, February has been a busy month in 6th grade!

In ELA, sixth graders are exploring our core value of passion, specifically in the area of social justice, by studying freedom fighters and freedom movements from around the world! We are reading non-fiction texts to explore people and movements that have greatly impacted our world... from Gandhi to Claudette Colvin and beyond. Please ask your sixth graders to share what they know!

Our young mathematicians are working on our Data and Statistics unit. They are learning to interpret information presented in mathematical data including graphs and charts, to make judgments and predictions based on trends, and to calculate measures of central tendency.

Sixth grade geologists modeled plate tectonics using Oreo cookies and then finished their unit on fossils by going to the Harvard Museum of Natural History to investigate fossils from New England. The geology unit will wrap up with a discussion of renewable and non-renewable resources and fossil fuels. Students will engineer and test ways to treat wastewater in order to answer the question, "How renewable is water as a resource?"

Our apprentice archaeologists are examining how the early farmers of the Neolithic Age transitioned from villages to Sumerian city-states. They are examining how people

come together to form successful communities, considering the questions: Who has the right to tell you what to do? What gives them that right? What is fair? These are hot topics for sixth graders!

On Friday, February 14th, the 6th grade celebrated Balance Day! Teachers offered students the opportunity to experience some of the activities that bring balance into their own lives: yoga and aligning your mind, body, and soul with greatness; growing plants; baking cookies; making valentines; and trying out musical instruments. Balance Day was great fun for students and teachers, alike, and a great way to head into February vacation!



Grade 7

By:
The Seventh Grade Team

Seventh Grade showing Excellence!

At the Museum Of Science, we did a lot of things, the first of which being watching the movie about the human body. It explained how many of the organs in our body work. For example, it explained how our stomach digests foods and liquids. It also shows how babies have a reflex that keeps them from drowning. It was pretty interesting, but pretty gross. On our way to lunch, I saw my favorite part of the museum: a large glass box with tubes and bridges criss-crossing around inside it, with billiard balls rolling through the passages, practically defying gravity. We stopped at the “physics at play” area, and experimented with the equipment there. There was an area where you could select a certain speed and race to see about how fast you ran, among others. The room next to it was entirely devoted to light. There was a deformed mirror, a light illusion, and something called “shadow pictures”, where you stand in front of a screen and it makes a bright flash, then freezes your shadow.

After that, we went to an area where you could gather supplies and build a miniature sled. The goal was either to make it go as fast as possible or as slow as possible. I thought it was interesting how much you could do with a platform, some fabric and a few pipe cleaners. After that, we had lunch and kept going. Then we made our way to the hall of human life. The activities there were very immersing, and there were a ton of them. Each one taught you something new about your body. I learned that our pupils grow when we’re scared. I think that was the most interesting part of the trip. –Theo Boehm

7th grade Social Studies students have been working on a rather complex two pronged project. Students have been analyzing the primary reasons for the "fall" of the Roman Empire through primary and secondary sources, and comparing and contrasting those reasons with issues that effect the United States today. They have been identify and researching such topics as our "couch potato culture, political squabbling, terrorism, growing economic equality, environmental threats, dependence on foreign oil, and even moral and cultural decline.

The aim is to write a letter to the president describing the similarities between the "fall" of Rome and the issues facing American. Most importantly students are coming up with creative solutions to these threats to America. Lastly students will be presenting their findings to the class in the form of a powerpoint presentation.

Students have been working diligently to help solve the problems that weaken the fabric of our social system.



Grade 8

By:
The Eighth Grade Team

Preparing for the Future

The 8th graders have spent a lot of time getting ready for the transition to high school. We have had visits from programs at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (CRLS) - Rindge School of Technical Arts (RSTA) and Advancement via individual Determination (AVID). We also have had mentors from the STARS (Students Teaching and Advocating Respect) program meet with 8th graders to talk about the transition to high school. Putnam Ave. students have selected their courses and met with some of the guidance counselors from CRLS. We are planning on having the STARS mentors visit once a month in an effort to ease the transition to 9th grade.

On Saturday, February 8th, eleven students and five teachers from the Putnam Avenue Upper School went to the Boston University men's basketball game versus Lafayette College. The students who attended earned this opportunity through continued hard work and constant dedication towards their school work. They enjoyed an 88-54 victory by the BU Terriers!

BU players and coaches came into the Putnam Avenue School in November to speak to the 8th graders to share their core values and inspire them to do their best work in school. The players and coaches will revisit our school again in the spring.

The February Town Hall meeting for the 8th grade took place on Tuesday, February 11th in the Activity Room. Student Government president Tyler Marcus updated students on the Valentine gram fundraiser and encouraged everyone to voice

ideas with their class representatives (Katie Cooper, Kerny Gachette, Matthew Ormeus). He also introduced the newest class rep, Taquaine Mason. Students who demonstrated Putnam Avenue's core values were recognized with a certificate by their core teachers.

- Passion - Fatima Akter
- Pride - Marielle Parise
- Ownership - Joshua Van Stry
- Balance - Isaiah Robinson
- Perseverance - Jovan Montana

Finally, the Advisory Jeopardy Challenge continued, in which advisories compete in a Jeopardy-style game with the following six categories: Social Studies, Math, ELA, Science, Core Values, and General Knowledge. Reigning champs, Ms. Chung's advisory in 303, did not hold on to the title and passed on possession of the championship belt (along with bragging rights) to Ms. Laskarzewski's winning advisory in 305. Congrats, 305!

What's Happening



Putnam Ave. School Council

The School Council of the Putnam Ave. Upper School will meet on the following dates this school year.

- Thursday, 3/27/14
- Thursday, 4/17/14
- Thursday, 5/29/14
- Thursday, 6/12/14

Meetings are held from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. These meetings are for school staff and families to work together to plan for improvements for the school. All families are welcome and encouraged to attend.

If the date for any of these meetings is changed, an e-mail will go out to this list with the new date.

Putnam Ave. Family Association

The Putnam Ave. Family Association will meet on the following dates this school year.

- Wednesday, 3/12/14
- Wednesday, 4/9/14
- Wednesday, 5/14/14
- Wednesday, 6/11/14

Meetings are held from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. These meetings are for school staff and families to collaborate on school improvements and plan community events. All families are welcome and encouraged to attend.

If the date for any of these meetings is changed, an e-mail will go out to this list with the new date.

February: Learning to Balance All That Is Important

As our advisories continue to delve into the core values, our theme in February has been balance. From creating personal balance wheels to identifying balance roadmaps, students across the grades have used their advisory time to develop understanding of what balance means to each individual. Being able to juggle friends, family, work/school, hobbies, and sports along with mental, spiritual, and physical health is a challenge for most adults, much less for adolescents.

In order to model balance in our own lives, Putnam Avenue staff have demonstrated the importance of balance through our own Wellness Day, committing to incorporating more fun into our workdays, and sharing our extracurricular activities with the students. Our teams have also worked to prioritize this core value in February, as the 8th grade team has welcomed many out of school time providers to discuss students' options for extracurriculars and taking students to a Boston University game. Our 7th grade team has been busy planning field trips and town hall activities that allow for students to have experiences outside of the traditional academic setting. Finally, the 6th grade team planned the first ever Balance Day that was filled with activities from cooking to playing in dirt. So cool!

February is a short month, so soon our focus will be on our final core value of Perseverance. This will be a timely theme as our staff and students prepare for the final stretch of winter and MCAS.



Note from the Nurse's Office

**It is not too late to get
a Flu Vaccine!**

Vaccine is available at
through the Cambridge
Health Department on
Wednesday mornings
and Thursday
afternoons.

The Health
Department is located
at 119 Windsor St.
Call 617-665-3800 for
more information.

Have you attended a Putnam Ave. Parent Coffee?

Please stop by and join us for coffee! This is a great time to speak with admin and speak with various Cambridge Public School workers. Parent coffee is held in the third floor library from 8:00am-8:30am. Below are the next two Parent Coffee date:

March 14, 2014

April 11, 2014 with Dr. Jessica L. Huizenga Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction



Putnam Avenue Upper School

Issue 6 :: February 2014

Family Newsletter

*Passion. Pride. Ownership.
Balance. Perseverance.*



158 Spring St.
Cambridge, MA