



December 21, 2012

putnam avenue

upper school

After School Programs

After school enrichment clubs have come to an end for trimester one. Miantsa and Kamai (gr.6) worked on paper mache characters in Creativity Commons, and Samuel and Marvin (gr.6) were excellent team players during the volleyball season. Maya (gr.6), Mary, Anthony, and Bukari (gr.8) were amazing for the Model UN and MIT Science had a delicious ice cream project along with their roller-coaster projects. Andy (gr.6) learned that as a 6th grader, you have the power to be a leader through the Harvard Leadership Club. Nellisha and Betty (gr. 6) were just awesome in City Step with their dancing moves! We look forward to two new groups next trimester, which begins on 1/14/13. Financial Literacy & Technical Theatre!

By: David Thompson

Highlights

- We all survived the Hairy Man! The first ever Putnam Ave. Fall play was an amazing success. The cast and crew of students entertained audiences for two nights with the story of *Wiley and the Hairy Man*.



- The boys volleyball team won the city championships
- The basketball season will be starting soon.

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Achieve 3000

Putnam Ave. is committed to being a 21st century school, and the sixth grade teachers are constantly seeking out ways to integrate technology into the curriculum in meaningful ways. Achieve 3000 is a program that we feel will do just this. Through Achieve 3000, a cohort of sixth graders will engage in online reading practice. Achieve 3000 is a Lexile-based reading program through which student's reading levels are consistently assessed, monitored, and pushed to a higher level. The program incorporates articles and activities designed to meet students exactly where they are as readers and to elevate students reading comprehension. Based on the success of this program at other Boston area schools, we are optimistic about the potential of this program to further differentiate reading instruction at Putnam Ave. We know that no program is "one size fits all," and do not see this as a replacement for what happens in our classrooms rather, we believe that Achieve 3000 is a valuable tool that will aid us in our mission to challenge the students of Putnam Ave. Feel free to peruse the Achieve 3000 website at <http://www.achieve3000.com/> and contact Blaine Yesselman, sixth grade ELA teacher, with any questions!

BU Basketball Players Visit PAUS



BU Basketball players and coaches visited the Putnam Avenue Upper School to speak to the PAUS students about the core values of their team and connect them to the core values of the Putnam Avenue Upper School. Coach Joe Jones spoke with the students while Coach Carmen Maciariello ran three of the BU players through drills in the gymnasium. Players Travis Robinson and James Kennedy also spoke with the students and executed the drills that Coach Maciariello ran them through. Students from PAUS were then able to participate in the same drills the BU players executed. At the end, the BU players signed autographs for the PAUS students. After the BU players left the PAUS students then reflected on their experience while answering reflection questions.

IXL



The PAUS math teachers are thrilled to start using IXL! IXL is a standards-based math practice program. It offers a wide range of problems focusing on all of the Common Core Mathematics standards from grades Pre-K through high school. We are excited that students can work on a variety of skills. Whether they need to practice the current concepts, review concepts from previous years, or move on to challenge themselves, IXL has something for them. Teachers are able to generate reports to analyze where each student's strengths and weaknesses lie. Because this is an online program, students can access their account from home or school and can work on skills to meet their needs. Students can also generate reports to see which areas are posing difficulty for them, in which areas they are making progress, and which areas they have mastered. For those areas that are posing problems for students, IXL offers explanations to help students understand their mistakes. Every PAUS student has an IXL account. In 6th and 8th grade, students have been working in IXL both in the classroom and at home. Students enjoy using the program and have voiced that they would like to use it more! 7th grade students will start using their accounts in the next week.

Arabian Nights

On Wednesday, December 12th, the PAUS sixth grade community embarked on a journey into the world of story. While watching the play *Arabian Nights* at the Central Square Theater, we were transported as stories weaved their way through history, love, and enchantment. Kings and queens dazzled, court jesters danced and entertained, and through it all, the power of story-telling prevailed. A very impressive audience, the sixth graders commented on the creativity of the play, how much effort the actors must have put in to learning their lines, and how colorful and amazing the set design was. While the story is set in ancient Persia, themes of love, jealousy, family and friendship helped us feel connected to the complex and intriguing characters of *Arabian Nights*.



7th Grade Activity

On December 10th, a group of 6th, 7th and 8th graders participated in a fun, social activity with Ms. Walsh and Ms. Fulkerson's class and with Mr. Almeida and Mr. Burke's class. The students frosted and decorated cookies, did a snowman craft, and even saw some impressive dance moves as well! Everyone seemed to have a great time and enjoyed getting to know one another. Hopefully this activity will encourage students to be friendly and helpful to all of their peers and to be open to making new friendships.



CRLS Trip

After eating lunch in the Media Cafeteria at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, the Putnam Avenue 8th graders were guided by CRLS students through the halls of the newly renovated building. The students got a chance to see a variety of classrooms throughout the school, while upper classmen answered important questions about the different learning communities, classes they'd recommend, and their favorite dishes served by students in the culinary program! Once they were good and tired from the tours, PAUS 8th graders then got a chance to rest their feet in the auditorium while Lynn Williams, head of guidance at CRLS, and 15 students talked about their experiences at the high school. All in all, the 8th graders got a good sense of what life at CRLS will be like when they transition to 9th grade next year!



7th Graders Visit Roller World



7th grade students Nihal and Fatima along with Ms. Webster enjoying the time at Roller World



Marielle, Isaiah and Jovan taking a break from skating

On December 7th, 7th grade classes 7-2 and 7-3 earned a trip to Roller World in Saugus. This trip was scheduled as part of the CORE VALUES incentive program. When we got there, everyone was THRILLED!!! We rushed inside and got on to the roller rink. Some people could skate, and some couldn't. Jovan and Isaiah showed off their expert skating moves. Kayla was in bliss as she skated for most of the two hours that we were there.

Even staff showed off moves on the skating rink. Mr. Thompson, Ms. Webster, and Ms. Gutter always lent a helping hand to those who didn't know how to skate or were scared of falling. When people on the roller rink fell, we made sure they were alright, laughed with them a little, and then encouraged them to keep on trying. Ultimately, everyone was helping each other out. Even though she only skated for .2 seconds, Ms. Armstrong was on the sidelines cheering everyone on and taking pictures.

There was also an arcade where people who didn't want to skate played games and won prizes. Someone even won a \$60 iTunes card after many tries at a game! We all had a wonderful time. It was a memorable trip for the seventh grade.

By: Fatima Atker and Imani Dottin

Counselor's Corner

In the wake of the tragedy at Sandy Hook, I want to take this opportunity to remind all of our PAUS families how fortunate we are to have access to a multitude of supports in Cambridge. Not only does Cambridge have a counselor and school psychologist assigned to every school, but the city has a wealth of resources to help those who struggle. In times like these, we have been able to provide appropriate supports to students and staff alike within our school and, when needed, in our community.

Additionally, the tragedy has brought to light the difficulty that many have accessing mental health services in our country. In Cambridge, there are numerous non-profits and, specifically, clinics that provide child and adolescent behavioral health services to students in need. Every child in Massachusetts is entitled to health care, whether or not his/her parents can afford it. This allows our kids to access those services they require even faster than in most states.

Below is a sample of some of the resources available at PAUS and in Cambridge. For an extensive list of services in Cambridge and Somerville, please visit www.cambridgesomervilleresourceguide.org/.

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PAUS School Support Counselor
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8th Grade

The 8th grade team is very excited about our new block schedule! The transition was seamless, and classes have been running smoothly! 8th grade students are working toward earning a trip to Boston University (Saturday, December 22nd) where we will be able to attend a men's basketball game. We are very excited for this opportunity and are looking forward to seeing the players and coaches we met before Thanksgiving break. In addition, several 8th graders have been campaigning for election into PAUS student government. Their enthusiasm to be leaders and to ignite change is inspiring! We wish all the candidates the best of luck in the upcoming election.

In ELA students are sharing their advertisements for student government and getting peer feedback. They are also brainstorming topics they are passionate about in preparation for writing an editorial. In Social Studies students ,recreated a medieval society and tried to survive an invasion from Ms. Chung. Students have finished designing, building and testing their Mind Storms robots in science. In math students completed projects connecting scientific notation to the real world.

January 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1 Winter Break (No School)	2 Return from Winter Break	3 School Council Meeting 6:30-8:00PM	4
7	8	9	10 Winter Concert 7:00PM Putnam Ave. Family Association meeting 5:30-7:00PM	11
14	15	16	17	18
21 MLK Jr. Day (No School)	22 End of 1st semester- 6th grade French and Spanish swap	23	24	25 2nd Trimester Mid-Term
28	29	30	31	

Academic Challenge

ACADEMIC CHALLENGE



Sixth Grade: As a team we have put in place different groups for our academic challenge. One class has been working on website development, which is turning out to be pretty amazing. Another class is working on Achieve 3000 ,and the students love it! We have a 6th grade senate that meets during academic challenge times as well. An academic support group is yet another way we utilize academic challenge blocks. The last class works on indoor growing/exercising.

Seventh Grade: We have students who are working with one teacher to help improve on ELA and help them better understand what they are reading and writing. Another group of students is focusing more on math and working through problems to gain more knowledge of what's being taught in the classroom. Two other groups are working on social studies and science extension activities based on students who demonstrated skill and student interest.

Eighth Grade: We split the class into groups based on MCAS scores and teacher recommendations. One group is working on basic math skills, one is working on mathematical problem solving and test-taking strategies, one is working on finding evidence to support thinking in reading and writing and another is working on a creative writing unit.

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Health office news

December, 2012

My name is Susan Aries and I'd like to introduce myself as your child's school nurse. In addition to servicing the Kennedy-Longfellow School, I am pleased to also service the Putnam Ave Upper School community.

It is hard to believe that winter break is already upon us! Overall, students have visited the nurse's office with relatively minor issues and the vast majority of students have returned to class to finish their day. Improved procedures have helped to streamline communication between myself and the PAUS staff. This efficiency is an important part of our success.

I have an open door policy so feel free to drop by and say hello. The Health Office is located to the left of the auditorium on the first floor of the school building. You may also reach me by phone or email with any questions or concerns.

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