



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

January 2014



Inside

- 6th Grade happenings: Gr.6
- 7th Grade makes the jump: Gr.7
- 8th Grade takes advantage of opportunities: Gr.8
- Announcements
- Lunchtime Forum
- Note from PAFA President
- NCFO rehearsals



“Be The Best You You Can Be!”

January

January: A Time to Reflect and Recommit

January 1st is often a starting point for many things including, but not limited to, reflections from the past year, resolutions for the coming year, and recommitment to previous priorities. The first of this year was no different for Putnam Ave advisors. The month of January has been filled with opportunities for our staff and students to restart with structures that haven't been working as efficiently as possible, return to the community building activities we had left behind in September, and remind ourselves of the three core values (Passion, Pride, and Ownership) that we've already taken on as themes during the first trimester. January was also an excellent time to contemplate the goals that the adolescents and adults, alike, established earlier in the year, make adjustments, and develop new plans. As we look forward to the remainder of 2014, our advisories will continue to focus on core values (Balance and Perseverance), future planning, transitions, and reflective practices, while providing our students with a safe space to feel significant, like they belong, and to have fun!



Grade 6

By:
Sixth Grade Team

Sixth Grade Happenings

Our wonderful 6th grade students continue to take pride in and ownership of their learning!

In science, 6th grade geologists just finished a project where they plotted earthquake data to decide where they would want to build a vacation house. Next, the geologists will look at fossil evidence to determine what these fossils tell us about Earth's history. The fossil unit will culminate with a trip to the Harvard Museum of Natural History to complete a fossil lab with really cool (and very old!) fossils.

In math, students are working on operations with fractions and mixed numbers. They focused particularly on division, exploring conceptually and visually what it means to divide a fraction by a fraction. Students used blocks to model dividing fractions, and have applied those skills to real-world problems.

In ELA, 6th graders have demonstrated pride in themselves and the impact they have on others through writing "This I Believe," essays. Through working on these essays, they persevered through the process of exploring their beliefs, and the life experiences that led them to the beliefs they have!

In social studies, 6th grade archaeologists are completing their field journals, examining and analyzing prehistoric artifacts to gain insight into the lives of early hominids. Of particular interest to these young archaeologists has

been the role played by technology in shaping lives, both of early hominids and their own.

As we come to the mid-point of the second trimester, we wish to remind families of our 6th grade daily homework calendar, <https://sites.google.com/a/cpsd.us/putnam-ave-6th-grade/>, which offers an online resource as a supplement to students' agenda books.

$$\frac{2}{3} \div \frac{5}{6} = \frac{4}{5}$$





Grade 7

By:
The Seventh Grade Team

Seventh Grade is getting a jump on life and academics through portfolios!

7th grade academic portfolios are in the making and they center around our school core values. Students created fabulous and thoughtful coats of arms about how they see themselves when it comes to demonstrating pride within their various communities. This opportunity allowed students to analyze how important their role is in the many different aspects of their lives. With the social pressures surrounding youth, it is not always easy to be the best when it comes to showing pride from within.

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.” The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. shared this great message about knowing oneself and ability. It is important that we further encourage our students to think of themselves beyond the walls of the classroom and see themselves as a vital part of the society with which they exist. Having students develop and structure their own personalized coat of arms is powerful. Some of the questions that 7th graders were asked to ponder were: “What is a unique trait or quality I bring to Putnam Ave. Upper School? How do I demonstrate pride at my grade level? How does this contribute to our school community?”

Additionally, the future leaders of Putnam Ave. completed their personalized coat of arms by incorporating slogans, mottos, symbols, words, etc. that speak to their demonstration of pride. This made students see that they already bring contributions to society and live the core values of Passion, Pride, Ownership, Balance, and Perseverance. We push each individual student on how

they can be a positive influence within the communities they exist. This rich experience was developed even more because students were able to see the process that others went through and how they represent each layer of society that they are a part of outside of school. Each advisor assisted and encouraged students in brainstorming their thoughts on how they demonstrate pride and made sure that their coat of arms were brought forth for all to see in advisory.

Portfolio Updates:

- Balanced Me Resume (Due by February 14):
Resume including current education background, extra-curricular activities, skills, languages, and interests.

-“I Am a Well Balanced Student (Due by March 14):
Reflection piece with evidence of extracurricular activity or after school club

Field Trip Updates:

Museum of Science – Thursday, January 30, 2014
The Human Body IMAX and corresponding exhibits

Check out our 7th grade website - tinyurl.com/PAUS-grade7 and 7th grade science - missrosescience.wordpress.com



Grade 8

By:
The Eighth Grade Team

Taking Advantage of Opportunities and Being Acknowledged

Putnam Ave. began an Algebra 1 class! The class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:45-8:40am. Students who were interest completed a mid-year exam on January 8th. Upon completion of the class students will have the opportunity to take an Algebra 1 final with the goal of taking Geometry in 9th grade.

Each month, in an effort to celebrate those who are working hard to be the best they can be, we have a Friday Fun Day. In order to participate in Friday Fun Day, which is the last Friday of the month, students need to have a 70% or higher in three out of four core classes with no outstanding paperwork (parent signatures due). Those who do not qualify have the opportunity to make up missing work. In November, we watched a movie and ate freshly popped popcorn. In December, we had open gym. January's Friday Fun Day is a trip to a BU Basketball game (on Saturday, February 8th). We will go to lunch beforehand at T Anthony's. The more the merrier! It's not too late to get those grades up and join us for the next Friday Fun Day!

Students are working toward starting a Design/Engineering Project in science. This project can take up to three weeks and hopefully will be completed by the time we go to February break. Our goal is to design brush bots that can imitate the swarming action of bees. We'll then engineer them and may have a competition to see which brush bot design can be the most stable. This will be their science showcase project that we will take to the Harvard Showcase in late May.

4 We are continuing to plan end of year activities for the 8th grade! We are anticipating an overnight trip to Hershey,

Pennsylvania. The cost of the trip will be about \$400 per student and we need to have a commitment from at least 40 families, by February 7th, in order to move forward with the trip. Please contact Ms. Calioro for more information.

Portfolio work is ongoing during advisory time. Students should be working on the *Faith for the Future* essay and their portfolio reflections for trimester 2. If your child received a Portfolio Warning Notice please contact his/her advisor to set up a plan that will best help him/her make progress.

During the afternoon advisory period on Wednesday, January 15th, the 8th grade Town Hall took place in the Activity Room. Student Government president Tyler Marcus updated students of plans to fundraise during the Valentine holiday and reminded 8th graders to connect with their representatives (Katie Cooper, Kerny Gachette, Brendan Grant, and Matthew Ormeus) for updates and suggestions. Students who demonstrated Putnam Ave.'s core values were recognized with a certificate by their core teachers.

- Passion: Elizabeth Ball
- Pride: Andrew Knudsen, Isabella Rodriguez
- Ownership: Olivia LaBraico, Jayla Vicente-Blackmon
- Balance: Nihal Dillon
- Perseverance: Beftu Sultan

Introduced at this month's Town Hall was the Advisory Jeopardy Challenge, in which advisories compete in a Jeopardy-style game with the following six categories: Social Studies, Math, ELA, Science, Putnam Ave. Core Values and General Knowledge. The winning advisory gets possession of the championship belt and hold bragging rights for a month. This month's winning advisory is Ms. Chung's in 303!

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, 2/27/14
- 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, 2/12/14
- 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.

Lunchtime Forum

Dear Parents,

In December, Putnam Avenue Upper School introduced the Lunchtime Forum Men's Group co-led by Mr. Chardin and myself. The purpose of the group is to identify and address the stressors and pressures young men experience and also to develop the appropriate coping mechanisms for problem solving. Thus far, the weekly meetings have been a success. We have been able to recognize some outstanding issues while starting the process of implementing techniques for positive resolutions.

Ricky Lawson, LMHC
Student Support Counselor



PAFA Thanks You!



After much planning on behalf of the Putnam Avenue Family Association we were able to host our very first International Potluck. It was an evening of great food, community building activities, and conversations with Putnam Avenue educators. Families were able to sample from a variety of appetizers, entrees, and desserts. There were several vegetarian options as well. Over two hundred people were in attendance. Families not only had the opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal, they also received their child's first trimester report cards. The Putnam Avenue staff made themselves available for the duration of the evening to discuss these reports with families. PAFA would like to thank Mirko Chradin, Pamela Chu, Jania Bell, Mr. Jones, and all of the Putnam Avenue staff and families who contributed to one of many community events to come. We would also like to thank Souper Roll Up Café, Skampa, Ultimate Pizza, Sunset Café, Vinny's, Highland Cuisine, and Bocelli's Restaurant for their gracious donations. You all helped make this event a success!

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 12th, at 6:00 p.m. Please join us to discuss upcoming events and fundraisers. Don't forget Putnam Avenue t-shirts and sweatshirts are still available! If you would like to purchase one please email Jania Bell, school Clerk at jbelle@cpsd.us or the main office at 617-349-7780.

Thank you for your continued support!
Tiffany Robinson



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.

NCFO is starting a chorus to sing

Powers of Ten

for the Cambridge Science Festival this spring. *Powers of Ten* is a collection of songs about the many different sizes of things in the universe. Anyone can join from age 5 to grandparents. (Kids 5-11 require a participating parent.)

Rehearsals are:
Tuesdays 6-7:30pm at the Peabody school.

Come give it a try at one of the first two rehearsals, January 28, or February 4. The music is great, in lots of different styles. You'll learn a little science and have a great time singing. Hope to see you! Questions? Call Carla at 617-661-0479.



Putnam Avenue Upper School

Issue 5 :: January 2014

Family Newsletter

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Cambridge, MA