

March 1, 2013

Family Newsletter

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## Welcome Student Government

Student government is up and running! The process began in mid December when interested students began to obtain signatures from peers, teachers, and administrators as part of their "intent to run" process. Once completed and submitted, candidates were official and began to campaign.

Students did their best to gain the votes of their peers. Candidates from grades 6 to 8 covered the hallways, bathrooms, and even the ceiling with their posters. The eight grade candidates even created video campaign ads. The campaign process ended with the delivery of speeches in a short assembly by grade level before voting took place.

Candidates were informed of voting results after the winter break and have since then been hard at work to ensure that campaign promises are fulfilled. Their first campaign promise fulfilled was in having mirrors installed in the boys' bathroom. An additional one was added into the girls' bathroom. The first fundraising event to support end of year field trips was the delivery of Valentine grams. Up next on Student Government's agenda are selecting school colors and mascot, and additional fundraising by planning the first school dance tentatively scheduled for March 15th. Donations and other means of support are generously accepted.

Congratulations to all elected student government representatives, who have been hard at work. Here are their names: Grade 6 Jackson Codd, Gilli Danenberg, Anthony Grassi, and Elisabeth Kuguru; Grade 7 Varune Sharma; Grade 8 Zahhyeh Abu-Rubieh, Robert Favreau, Mary Gashaw, Kalilah Hall, Peter Kuguru, and Ollie Sussman!



# Student vs. Staff Kick Ball

On Friday, February 15th, we had a staff/student kickball game. The players, chosen by teachers, were students who most exemplify our school's core values of passion, pride, ownership, balance, and perseverance. Winning isn't everything, but the teachers did come out victorious!



Pictures and names not in order:

Ryan Telingator, Will Telingator, Capryce Brown, Emma Harris, Tyler Marcus, Mikayla Duncan, Christian Morales, Javier Bonilla, Mohamed Barry, Tariq Lucona, Sumaiya Mahee, Nellisha Leonce, Adem Ibrahim, Afrin Master, Ishmael Romain, Mariysa Pineda, Katrina Pierre, Brian Cova, Saquara Ruiz, and Tenzin Nangsel

# Medieval Times



On Thursday the 31st, the eighth grade performed their medieval plays for parents and teachers. The eighth graders had been working on writing original plays based on the medieval ages for the month of January, and it was very exciting to see them performed on stage. The students had to work on managing their time to finish the plays by January 1st!

They started out by researching a specific topic (banking, apprenticeship, guilds or workers' rights). They had to use several sources, including one primary source. They then had to take the information and use it to write a play. The actors then had to research the role they'd be playing and write a detailed character description as the character to better know their role. Finally, everyone worked on making sets, and MIT graciously let us borrow some fancy outfits so we could ride out in style!

At 6:30, the plays started with 8-1 putting on a great play about a girl who went back in time and learned a lesson about how to be grateful for what she had. 8-2 followed with a humorous, exciting play about knights. 8-3 had a very informative play, filled with little bits of humor. Finally, 8-4 finished up the evening with a long, funny play. Everyone enjoyed it, and the student government was able to fundraise for the eighth grade end of the year trip! All in all, a very successful night!

By: Celeste Delancy

# Eighth Grade

## Trip

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade is very excited to announce our class trip to Pennsylvania! We will visit Amish Country, Gettysburg and Hershey Park. Deposits are due ASAP! We are also looking for ideas and help with fundraising. Please contact Michelle Calioro ([mcalioro@cpsd.us](mailto:mcalioro@cpsd.us)) if you are interested.

## Portfolios

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been diligently working on completing their portfolios. All of the portfolio documents are posted on the PAUS website and are available through the students' Google accounts. There are volunteers available Thursdays at 8:00am to work with students on their portfolios.

## Other Updates

The district has purchased an IXL account, which has changed our site to [www.ixl.com/signin/cambridge](http://www.ixl.com/signin/cambridge). If students are having trouble logging in they should see their math teacher.

## Class Websites

Grade 8 Algebra: <https://sites.google.com/a/cpsd.us/paus-8th-grade-algebra/>

Grade 8 Social Studies: <https://sites.google.com/a/cpsd.us/paus-8th-grade-social-studies/>

# Seventh Grade

A 7th grade restart assembly was held to raise awareness around the core values here at Putnam Ave. Upper School. Students will have more hands-on projects and academic time to explore and be successful. Awards were also given out to students who demonstrate the core values of passion, pride, ownership, balance, and perseverance .

7th grade students in English Language Arts have utilized technology for prompted responses including essays. They have researched information to develop points that support their opinions about topics. More essays will be displayed soon.

Students have been working diligently with Kyle Browne of Cambridge Creativity Commons to create Islamic inspired borders to adorn a project that they have been working on.

Class 7-2 is piloting a study of the Shanameh epic from Persia. Upcoming field trips related to the project include an afternoon with Xanthe Greshem, an expert storyteller from London. Also, students will be visiting the Calderwood Collection at Harvard University's Sackler Museum.

Our next unit of study is West African kingdoms, and we hope to be creating drums, dancing, and participating in micro economics.

# Sixth Grade

Life in the world of the Putnam Ave. sixth grade community is buzzing! Our partnership with Cambridge Creativity Commons continues to blossom, and Kyle Browne (CCC teaching artist) has become a vital part of our family. From creatively expressing fractions using patterns and material in math, to creating collaged self-portraits to communicate our true selves to the world in ELA, to fossilizing objects in science, and artistically developing personal timelines in social studies, it is safe to say that the arts are an essential part of this year's curriculum, and our sixth grade community in general. Please check in with your sixth graders about their creative endeavors, and particularly the connections they are making between the ideas they are learning in class and artistic expressions of those ideas.

We are eagerly looking forward to meeting with families to discuss our upcoming Washington, D.C. trip in more detail. Letters were sent home right before February break inviting everyone to an information session, and if you did not receive a letter, please contact your child's advisor. While it may be gray and cold outside, there is a tangible feeling of warmth, brightness and excitement in our sixth grade world, and we look forward to continuing the learning experience with the Putnam Ave. sixth graders!

A few quick notes: please check in with your child about their independent reading (they should be reading each and every night), about his/her planner (they should be able to show you where they've recorded each day's homework assignment), and about Engrade (every sixth grade is able to access his/her grades online). Should you have any questions about these items, or anything else, feel free to contact your child's advisor!

# March 2013

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
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4	5 Early Release Day	6	7	8 Model UN Conference at Northeastern (all day)
11	12	13 PAFA Meeting 6:30-8:00PM	14	15 End Of Trimester 2 Parent Coffee 8:00-8:30
18	19	20	21	22
25	26 Passover Begins	27	28 School Council Meeting 6:30-8:00PM	29 Good Friday- No School

# Gym Renovations

The Boston Celtics organization and the company Optimum will be renovating our gymnasium. They started the renovation over vacation and will be finished on March 15. There will be a completely refurbished the gymnasium floor, a new scoreboard, and banners to liven up the gym. As a result, our basketball program will be played outdoors if the weather permits.



## **New faces to PAUS**

Hello, my name is Stephen Alexandre.

I am the new Administrative Paraprofessional of Putnam Ave. Upper School. I previously worked at Lilla G. Frederick Pilot Middle School and Randolph High School. I live in Boston and went to school at Regis College where my buddy and I started the lacrosse program.

Thank you,

Stephen Alexandre



We are pleased to announce that, in addition to Fergie Wheeler, we have hired another school adjustment counselor, Ricky Lawson. A native of Boston, Mr. Lawson brings his experience of mentoring inner-city adolescents and a love of football, team sports, and music to our PAUS team. Mr. Lawson is a graduate of Boston College and most recently worked with Boston Public School students as a school-based clinician. We are excited to welcome Mr. Lawson to our school community.



# School Council

The Putnam Ave School Council was formally established in December and will meet the 4th Thursday of each month for the rest of the school year. The purpose of the council is to work on improving the school. Currently, the council is making a plan for next year for how to spend Putnam's School Improvement funds.

The council is lead by Principal Mirko Chardin and Family Co-Chair Marie Singh. Other staff members of the council are School Counselor Fergie Wheeler and the three grade Team Leaders: Blaine Yesselman 6th, Andrea Armstrong 7th and Michelle Calioro 8th. Other family members are Melinda Camara, Steven Iammarino, John Delancey and Mary Devlin. There will also be 2-3 student members from the Student Council, not yet named. Please talk to any council members with questions. All members of our community are invited to come join monthly meetings. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 28 at 6:30pm in the school's Library Media Center on the 3rd floor.

By: Betsey Chace (Gr. 6 Parent)