

# putnam avenue upper school

OWNERSHIP

October 25, 2012

## PAUS visits Camp Becket

### Special points of interest:

- Introduction to each grade
- Advisory
- New faces here at PAUS
- What's happening

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On the first week of October, Putnam Avenue's 7<sup>th</sup> grade took a bus out to beautiful Camp Becket in western Massachusetts. We had been working hard in the classroom for the first month of school, and now it was time to exercise our bodies and minds in a different way. Our two days were filled with activities and new experiences.



Students enjoying the high rope activity

When we arrived, students had a choice between building team and sportsmanship skills in large group games, or challenging their personal limits and cheering on classmates at the high ropes course. While watching and photographing students on the high ropes, I saw students scramble up a Giant's Ladder, pause, unsure of the next step, and then (with much encouragement from classmates below) find their footing and continue up another 20 feet. Proud when they met their goals, many beamed and struck poses as the

excellent Becket staff lowered them to the ground on belay ropes.

Later, students formed into small groups to work on teambuilding exercises, hike through the beautiful fall foliage, and canoe across Rudd Pond. We learned the importance of working together as we paddled and played. We all got wet in the rain, but students remained in high spirits. Our fun and laughter continued into the evening with a campfire, and we were all glad to see the sun come out the next morning. As we completed our activities and packed up the bus, it was evident from all of the conversations that students had pushed themselves, tried something new, and bonded with their classmates and teachers. We have enjoyed seeing the results of these connections back in the classroom as we pursue our academics with a refreshed spirit.

PASSION

## PAUS Welcomes the Mayor



**On October 23, 2012 PAUS was pleased to have been visited by Mayor Henrietta Davis of Cambridge. During her visit she was able to tour the school as well as sit in some of the classes that were in session at the time. The mayor was very pleased with her visit and we look forward to having her back real soon!**

BALANCE

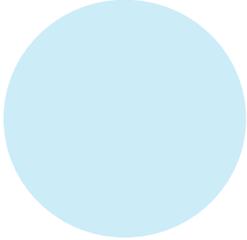
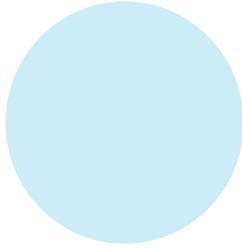
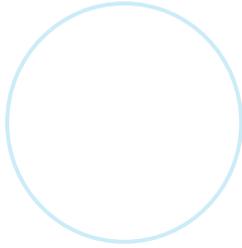
## New faces in the PAUS building

**David Thompson is our building substitute and is new to Cambridge, coming from tours in Los Angeles and Boston, bringing his experience and energy to the Putnam Upper Middle School. He won the Sam's Club Teacher of the Year in 2004 and loves his cars, guitars, Donald Trump ties & accessories, and especially all of his new students!**



**Jania Bell is our new school clerk. Not only is she here to assist the school staff she is here to bring in a positive and friendly vibe to the school. She also will be a voice most of you will hear fairly often when contacting the school and the face you will see once you step into the PAUS main office. Along with her clerk duties she is also in charge of the new up and coming PAUS after school learning center where students can be tutored by Cambridge School Volunteers. Looking forward to hearing and seeing from the parents/guardians.**

putnam avenue



## Who said Middle School wouldn't be fun??

*Rules are vital at home and at school. But before creating a new rule for your child, ask yourself whether the rule is :*

- Necessary
- Clear
- Reasonable
- Age– appropriate
- Enforceable

*If it isn't , you may need to rethink things. After all, if you cant define the what and why of a certain rule, how can you expect your child to understand it?*



**Things in the world of the Putnam Avenue sixth grade community have gotten off to a thrilling start! From analyzing the elements of fiction in English Language Arts, to exploring maps of the world in Social Studies, and exploring properties of whole numbers in Math, to writing about the Moon in Science, sixth graders have been engaged in a challenging and thought provoking course of study in these early months of the school year.**

**The sixth grade team knows that a rigorous academic experience relies on the balance amongst clear structures, the social/emotional curriculum, and the academic curriculum. To that end, we've been focusing on structures such as: set locker times, a binder organization system, which enables students to keep the materials necessary for all of their core academic classes in one place. In our advisories and in our classes, we've been focusing on building safe communities for learning through group discussions, written reflections, and group work.**

**We encourage you to check in with your children on a nightly basis regarding homework and updates about all that's been happening in their classes. Each sixth grader was given a light blue Putnam Ave. agenda, and the expectation is that they are writing down homework and project assignments in their agendas each night. Further, a reminder that all sixth graders have at least two homework assignments each night, from Math and English Language Arts, and several nights per week will also have homework from Social Studies and Science. Here is exactly what to look for: Math-a few problems per night, directly related to what was worked on in class that day, ELA-1/2 hour of reading per night, and a reading log book mark on which students are expected to fill out basic information about that night's reading, Science and Social Studies-a written reflection or set of problems connected to that day's class work.**

**The sixth grade team is excited to continue working with your children, and to work with you to make this a successful year. We are available over email.**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade team**

**ELA: Ms. Yesselman, [byesselman@cpsd.us](mailto:byesselman@cpsd.us) (Team Leader)**

**Social Studies : Ms. Worsham, [cworsham@cpsd.us](mailto:cworsham@cpsd.us)**

**Math: Mr. Newman, [dnewman@cpsd.us](mailto:dnewman@cpsd.us)**

**Science : Ms. Tolles, [vtolles@cpsd.us](mailto:vtolles@cpsd.us)**

PRIDE

## Stuck in the middle

Happy October from the PAUS seventh grade team! The seventh graders have been hard at work during the first two months of school. With Ms. Webster in science, students have been exploring matter: what is it made of, how substances interact with each other, and how particles move. In lab, they have investigated a mystery mixture, observed and tested a variety of white substance reactions, built thermometers, and experimented with the properties of gases and liquids. They are also becoming adept at drawing and interpreting particle models of matter. In Language Arts with Ms. Bates, students are reading The Misfits. Using the text, they have studied the elements of plot development and practiced character analysis by looking at dialogue, personality, and character traits.

In Ms. Armstrong's Social Studies class, students have been using the five themes of geography to analyze the world around them. ~Some crafted dioramas that defined the five themes with specific examples. ~Others are working on building models that show movement and human environment interaction in a location. ~Meanwhile, a few are combining persuasion and the five themes to create travel brochures for a city or a country. In math, students have been learning lots of new concepts and reviewing some old ones with Ms. Carhart. They have been focusing on the similarity of figures and what it means to be mathematically similar. They have worked with angles and scale factors and have also reviewed percents. Currently, students are practicing with many different shapes and finding areas and perimeters. We are very excited about all of the progress that students have been making in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and are looking forward to all they will achieve in the year ahead.

*Most parents understand that discipline is necessary for school to run smoothly, for teachers to teach and for children to learn. The best way to prevent discipline problems is to show your child you support the school rule's. Get a copy of the policy on discipline and review with your child.*

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

Social Studies: Ms. Armstrong, [Aarmstrong@cpsd.us](mailto:Aarmstrong@cpsd.us) (Team Leader)

ELA: Ms. Bates, [Lbates@cpsd.us](mailto:Lbates@cpsd.us)

Math: Ms. Carhart, [scarhart@cpsd.us](mailto:scarhart@cpsd.us).

Science: Ms. Webster, [cwebster@cpsd.us](mailto:cwebster@cpsd.us)



PERSEVERANCE

## Our final year is moving right along

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and students have spent the first month of school getting to know each other and building routines. Each advisory gave a short presentation to the school on the Putnam Avenue Upper School's Core Values (Passion, Pride and Ownership with Balance and Perseverance). Students and teachers spent a night at Camp Becket where we went canoeing, learned archery and were challenged by a high ropes course.

In math 8<sup>th</sup> graders have learned about linear relationships and functions. We have looked at many real world applications and students completed activities to demonstrate their knowledge. We are now moving on to study the Pythagorean theorem.

In science students have been looking at different types of genes in organisms and how they are inherited. We are also beginning to understand how to calculate the probability of those genes being inherited by the offspring. We went to Biogen-Idec and performed an electrophoresis lab to diagnose and patient's blood to see if the sickle cell gene has been inherited.

We have been following the Presidential election in social studies and each 8<sup>th</sup> grader gave a presentation on one of the candidates. Each student has also researched some hot topics and done some analysis on campaign strategies.

In English students have been working to improve their grammar skills and looking at ways in which writers craft stories to create a specific impact. Students have also been very busy readers.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade team is very excited about this year and the many opportunities for learning!



### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team

Math – Ms. Michelle Calioro, [mcalioro@cpsd.us](mailto:mcalioro@cpsd.us) (Team Leader)

Science – Mr. William McDonald, [wmcDonald@cpsd.us](mailto:wmcDonald@cpsd.us)

English Language Arts – Ms. Woodyly Pierre-Louis, [wpierre-louis@cpsd.us](mailto:wpierre-louis@cpsd.us)

Social Studies – Ms. Jenny Chung, [jchung@cpsd.us](mailto:jchung@cpsd.us)

Are you doing all that it takes ?

PERSEVERANCE

## New Parent Opportunities



### **School Council**

#### **Purpose:**

- Adopting educational goals for the school
- Identifying students' educational needs
- Reviewing the annual school building budget
- Formulating a school improvement plan

#### **Structure (proposed):**

- 5 Staff Representatives (Mirko, Fergie, 3 Grade Team Leaders)
- 5 Parent/Guardian Representatives

### **Putnam Ave. Family Association**

#### **Purpose:**

- Fundraising
- Community-building events
- Partnerships & resources

#### **Structure (proposed):**

- Staff Representatives (Mirko, Pam)
- Parent/Guardian Representatives

PAUS

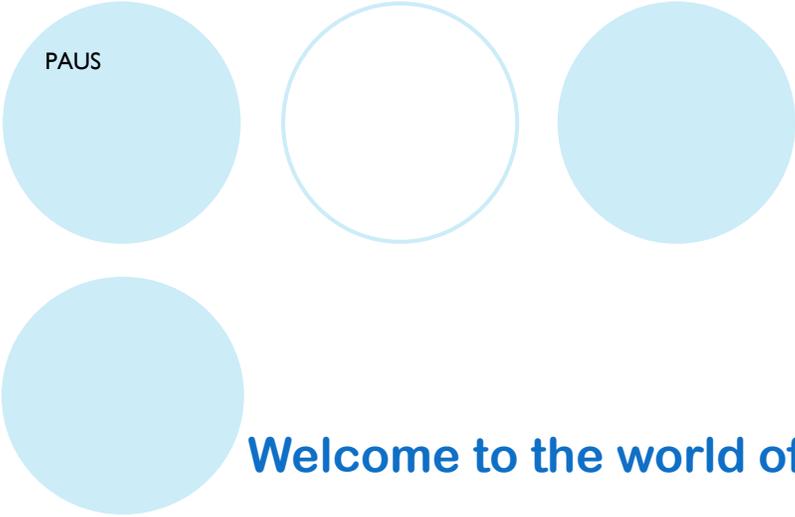
## PAUS takes on after-school activities

**Model UN delegates preparing for middle school conference in November at Northeastern University. Topics that students were discussing were North Korea conflict diamonds, landmines, rights of indigenous people, and rights of prisoners**



**Students had the opportunity to stay and work on a group project with their 8th grade math teacher. The after school session ended up turning into a after school math class and students were able to accomplish so much in so little time.**





PAUS

## Welcome to the world of Advisory

**During the first week of school, the Putnam Avenue Upper School Advisory Program began with four days of intensive community building and culminated with an all school assembly based on our core values of Passion, Pride, and Ownership with Balance and Perseverance. Each advisory group provided a look into how they internalize the vision through skits, songs, and presentations. Since then, 20 minutes of everyday has been dedicated to providing each student with an advisory experience that provides them with a sense of belonging, significance, and fun! Using the Circle of Power and Respect (CPR) method of advisory, teachers and students use the time to develop our adolescents' skills of Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, and Self-Advocacy (CARES). For more information about the Developmental Designs approach to advisory that we use, please visit [www.originsonline.org](http://www.originsonline.org).**

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## Warm welcomes from Assistant Principal

Putnam Ave Upper School  
158 Spring St  
Cambridge, MA 02141

Main office: 617.349.7780

### **Hello Putnam Ave. Families!**

**Having lived in the Cambridge area for about a decade, I am extremely excited to be a part of the Cambridge Public Schools system and am honored to serve the Putnam Ave. community in the role of assistant principal. One of my aims for the year is to create a school culture where we hold ourselves and each other to high expectations yet also strive to reach those goals together.**

**Prior to my start here at Putnam Ave., I carried out similar administrative duties at the Josiah Quincy Upper School, a gr. 6-12 pilot school of the Boston Public Schools, and I received my principal's license through the Greater Boston Principal Residency Network of Northeastern University/Center for Collaborative Education. In addition, I have taught English, Humanities, History, Media Literacy, and Advisory at the middle and high school levels and have also taught as an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program English teacher. Born and raised in Massachusetts, I received a Master's from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a B.A. in Clinical Psychology from Tufts University. I am also passionate about issues of equity and have worked as an anti-racism workshop facilitator and as a board member of a social/racial justice non-profit organization.**

**I have always been interested in building upon structures and systems and in shaping the way for innovation and rigor in the school setting, and I can't think of a better place to do this work than here in Cambridge. I've already been so impressed with the students, staff, and families here, and I look forward to working with all of you in reaching our school community's fullest potential!**

**Warm regards,**

**Pamela Chu**

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# November 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Election Day	7 Parent Con- ference 5p-7p	8 Early Release Day Parent Confer- ence 1:15p-4p	9	10
11	12 Veteran's Day <b>No School</b>	13 World Kind- ness Day	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Early Release Thanksgiving break	22 Thanksgiving <b>No School</b>	23 Thanksgiving Break <b>No School</b>	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	