



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

October 2013

“Be The Best You You Can Be!”



Inside

- Fall is in the Air: Gr.6
- And this is Jeopardy: Gr.7
- Doing Great Things: Gr.8
- Celtics Day
- Announcements
- Achieve3000
- 7 Habits
- Creativity Commons

Project Adventure at Putnam Ave!

On Friday, October 4th, Putnam Ave. staff and students participated in a series of team-building exercises with Project Adventure (PA). Our very own PE teacher, David Richardson, himself a trained PA facilitator, helped to coordinate and make this day possible. From seeing which group could make the longest, unbroken line using only themselves and their belongings (who knew shoelaces could come in so handy?) to games such as Tarp Flip and Blanket Down, the Putnam Ave. spirit was definitely out in full force that day. Many thanks go out to Mr. Richardson, PA, and the rest of Putnam Ave. for making this truly an “adventure” worth taking!

Advisories Focus on PRIDE

What are you proud of? Do you know what your students are proud of? Are we creating opportunities for our students to feel proud? These are just a few of the questions that our advisors have been pondering with their advisees as they focus on this month’s core value theme of pride. Students have had the opportunity to share their accomplishments and discuss their thoughts on pride and humility during advisory, while also celebrating their peers during town halls. As October comes to a close and November brings a new theme, the idea of pride will not end. Rather, it will continue to be woven throughout all that we do in our advisories this year.



Grade 6

By:
Ms. Yesselman

Fall is in the Air

Hello Putnam Avenue Sixth Grade Community! Can you believe that we are already well into the month of October?! The changing of the seasons is a great metaphor for this time of year in our community. While the middle school experience is still quite new for all of the sixth graders, they are starting to settle into class and school-wide routines and expectations, and to get a hang of what it means to be a Putnam Avenue student.

With that said, we feel it is important to share a few reminders with you: 1) Please check your sixth grader's agenda book! Homework should be recorded for two core classes each and every day, and "no homework," should be written if there is, in fact, no homework for a given class. Please also check to see that your sixth grader's agenda book has been stamped, and let his/her advisor know if you do not see the stamps! 2) Sixth graders are expected to read every, single night for at least 30 minutes. This works best when you are helping him/her to create a routine for when/where this reading happens. It's also a great idea to ask him/her to share with you about their reading! 3) District progress reports will be sent home in the next few weeks. We will send out an email letting you know when exactly to expect this information. Our sixth grade progress reports will be sent home on the last Thursday of October, along with our community email update.

From studying the phases of the moon, to tackling factors and multiples, and learning about the physical terrain of our planet to examining the elements of fiction, classes are alive with discussion, reading, writing, and problem solving. We are also maintaining our focus on community building, developing habits that will lead to success in middle school and beyond, and addressing conflicts in a proactive and healthy way.

While it is still early in the year, it's been exciting to watch as fifth graders hailing from three different schools transition into being Putnam Avenue sixth graders, using our core values of passion, pride, ownership, perseverance and balance to guide them through the adventures and challenges of their sixth grade year.



Grade 7

By:
Ms. Bates & Ms. Carhart

And This Is Jeopardy

Seventh grade students consulted with their advisories for answers to submit from their group for this month's game of jeopardy. During October's Town Hall Meeting, students were able to select questions from academic categories, and used teamwork in an effort to get the correct answer as quickly as they could. All five advisories worked hard and at one point during Jeopardy, each advisory had a chance to be in the lead. They were neck and neck trying to claim ...The Stanley Cup!

It was important that we revisit the seventh grade's overarching theme this school year about "decision-making." The seventh grade teachers are constantly honing our students' skills by focusing on valuable lessons we can teach our students academically and socially whether they are in or out of school. The monumental Stanley Cup is symbolic of positive decisions that were made in the moment by a group of students using various strategies. The Cup also echoes evidence of our students being held accountable by peers, striving through obstacles, utilizing and building on prior knowledge inside and outside the classroom and representing their advisory. All of our seventh grade students demonstrated these attributes. It was a powerful moment that will never be forgotten. Congratulations to the Minutemen Advisory in the "This Is Jeopardy" Town Hall!

An inspirational quotation stated by Michael Jordan says, "Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships." Michael Jordan's words truthfully resonates with the 7th grade in general.

Question: "Which of the Core Values do 7th Grade uphold?"

Answer: "What is Pride, Passion, Balance, Ownership and Perseverance!"

7th Grade Advisory Update

The seventh grade advisories are off to a fantastic start! Advisory is a daily class that meets in small groups to build social, emotional and academic skills. It also is a program proven to build relationships and a better community. Students have spent the first couple of weeks getting to know each other and their teachers in advisory. To begin the year, advisories have been focusing on setting academic and social goals that they want to complete throughout the first trimester. Students will have weekly check-ins to make sure that they are on track. Students have also spent time creating a school wide social contract. They worked together in small groups in their advisories to come up with ideas that they believed were needed to have a successful school year. Certain students then met at a grade level summit and then at a whole school summit to create the Putnam Ave Upper School Social Contract. Congrats 7th graders for bringing



Grade 8

By:
The Eighth Grade Team

Doing Great Things

Eighth Graders in the News!

Ms. Calioro and some of our eighth graders were featured in the October 6th edition of *Boston Globe Magazine*! The article is about the change to the Common Core standards in Massachusetts and the impact on teaching and learning. The article highlights some of the changes in the classroom, including the push for math discussions, reasoning about math, defending math arguments and making sense of challenging problems. If you haven't seen the article you can find it at <http://b.globe.com/15Q55Rx>.

Websites

All of the eighth grade websites are up and running! You can find the link on the Putnam Ave. page under *Academics, 8th Grade*. You can also access the site at <https://sites.google.com/a/cpsd.us/putnam-ave-8th-grade/>. From that page you can find links to individual class pages under *Academic Information*.

Before and After School Academic Support

At least two eighth grade core teachers are available before (from 7:00 a.m.) and after school (until 4:30 p.m.) to assist students with academic support. Many students are taking advantage of this extra time to get caught up on work and

to clarify understanding. Late buses are available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 4:30 p.m.

After school clubs run in room 303 by Ms. Chung are: Model United Nations (Tuesday), Student Government (Wednesday), and Debate Club (Thursday).

Portfolio Launch Party

Eighth graders and families celebrated the launch of portfolios on Monday, October 21st. Students have completed the first assignment of the 8th grade portfolio, Identity Diagrams and Rationales. Students displayed their portfolio binders, goals, and identity projects in the Activity Room.

Shamrocks Sprout at Putnam Avenue

Passion. Pride. Ownership. Balance. Perseverance. The Putnam Avenue Upper School's core values were alive and readily present on October 17th, 2013, as volunteers from the Boston Celtics, Optum, and City Year descended upon Putnam Avenue Upper School and Kennedy-Longfellow in a burst of energy!

Exemplifying this was none other than the Boston Celtics mascot, Lucky! Ever the crowd pleaser, he wowed the audience with flips and acrobatics, taking the time to talk with students and exhibiting his athletic prowess. Joining Lucky was former Celtics player and three-point record holder, Dana Barros, as well as the president of the Celtics organization, Rich Gotham and the Chief Growth Officer of Optum, Mike Matteo.

While Lucky led the way aerially, it was Dana Barros' message that left a lasting impact on the audience. A room full of elementary and middle school students, teachers, school leaders, and professionals listened, rapt, as Barros recounted a story of being a high school basketball star whose dreams were temporarily deferred. One day during his freshman year, his mother show up at his school to tell him and his coaches that Dana was no longer allowed to play basketball because he was not earning grades that reflected his intelligence. She was adamant about this, and didn't back down despite his coach's pleas for his return. Barros openly shared the lesson he took away from this experience: no matter what, working hard in school comes first. Along with thrilling performances and important life lessons, the Celtics, Optum and City Year were visiting Putnam Avenue and Kennedy-Longfellow for a day of service.

Once bare walls were painted in bright colors, boasting words of encouragement and wisdom. Celtics players Jeff Green, Kris Humphries and Brandon Bass painted with the best of them, using their eye-hand coordination to beautify the Putnam Avenue and Kennedy-Longfellow facility. The day was full of laughter, cheers, reflection and pride. From the Celtics to the Optum and City Year volunteers, it was an amazing opportunity for elementary and middle school students to see what a group of dedicated people from a wide range of backgrounds can accomplish when they exercise passion, pride, ownership, balance, and perseverance through community service and hard work!



Announcements



Putnam Ave. School Council

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

- Thursday, 11/14/13
- Thursday, 12/12/13
- Thursday, 1/30/14
- Thursday, 2/27/14
- Thursday, 3/27/14
- Thursday, 4/17/14
- Thursday, 5/29/14
- Thursday, 6/12/14

Meetings are held 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, 11/13/13
- Wednesday, 12/11/13
- Wednesday, 1/8/14
- Wednesday, 2/12/14
- Wednesday, 3/12/14
- Wednesday, 4/9/14
- Wednesday, 5/14/14
- Wednesday, 6/11/14

Meetings are held 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.

Putnam Ave. School Pride

Fridays are school pride day. Please show your school pride by purchasing your son/daughter a Putnam Ave. Panthers t-shirt. They will be available for sale in early November.

More information on how to order will follow!

Achieve 3000

WHAT IT IS

Research suggests that there is a strong correlation between literacy (reading and writing) and success in and out of school. To support students' goals for success and to increase their literacy skills, all Putnam Avenue students are working with Achieve3000. Achieve3000 is a web-based Lexile reading program with a goal to improve students' nonfiction literacy skills.

HOW IT WORKS

Each day, TeenBiz3000 sends students a current events, nonfiction article. Every student in the class gets the same basic article, but the content is customized to match each student's own reading level based on the results of the level set. The article comes with a variety of fun comprehension activities to improve students' comprehension, vocabulary, and writing skills. As their nonfiction reading level (Lexile score) improves, TeenBiz will increase the level of difficulty of the readings so that students remain challenged and interested.

Achieve3000 can be accessed at home (or anywhere students have access to the internet) and in class. Only activities completed at school will contribute to any adjustment to students' Lexile score at the end of each month, provided that students complete at least four activities.

Students are strongly encouraged to also read and complete Achieve3000 activities at home. The more practice students have with the program, the quicker they will grow as readers of nonfiction.

WHAT LEXILE MEASURE IS

- The Lexile measure is based on the semantic and syntactic elements of a text.
- Lexile measures help readers identify their reading level so that they can find books and articles at an appropriate level of difficulty and determine how well they are likely to understand a text that they read.
- In using Achieve3000, the goal is to monitor students' growth in reading nonfiction / informational texts over the course of the year as they complete the reading activities.

By Ms. Pierre-Louis

Grade 6 Learns 7 Habits

Habit 1 Be Proactive

Now that the foundation for the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens has been set, the 6th graders have moved on to the first habit: Be Proactive! Students have learned that being proactive versus reactive is a choice that they make every day. Here is an overview of the qualities students learned that proactive and reactive people have:

	Reactive People	Proactive People
Language they use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I'll try - That's just the way I am - There's nothing I can do - I have to - I can't - You ruined my day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I'll do it - I can do better than that - Let's look at all our options - I choose to - There's got to be a way - I'm not going to let your bad mood rub off on me
Qualities they develop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are easily offended - Blame others - Get angry and say things they later regret - Whine and complain - Wait for things to happen to them - Change only when they have to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are not easily offended - Take responsibility for their choices - Think before they act - Bounce back when something bad happens - Always find a way to make it happen - Focus on things they can do something about.

There are four human "tools" that the students learned to use in order to be proactive. First, they learned about self-awareness and that they can stand apart from themselves in order to observe their thoughts and feelings. Next, came using their conscience by listening to their inner voices about what is right or wrong. Then came using their imagination in order to envision new possibilities. Finally, they learned about willpower and their power to choose. As the students wrap up their lessons on being proactive, they will move on to the second habit: Begin With The End In Mind.



PAUS Mural

Mass Cultural Council just awarded a STARS Residency grant for PAUS to partner with the Cambridge Creativity Commons (CCC), in the creation of a school-wide mural! CCC aims to engage students and teachers in Cambridge in the exploration of meaningful ideas and creation of interdisciplinary projects through the arts and has been collaborating with PAUS teachers over the last year in various subjects. The mural will be collaboration between CCC Director and teaching artist, Kyle Browne and PAUS art teacher, Basil ElHalwagy who will work with parents, teachers and students to design and create a mural that visually represents the core values of PAUS. The residency will begin over the winter with a projected completion in the spring. We hope you will join us in the planning process and at the opening reception! STARS Residencies (Students and Teachers Working with Artists, Scientists, and Scholars) from the Mass Cultural Council provide grants to schools to support creative learning residencies in the arts sciences and humanities.

By: Kyle Browne (CCC)

Moon Phase Stop-Motion Animation, sixth grade science

In September the Putnam Avenue Upper School sixth grade science class put on their hats as scientists and animators to learn the moon phases! The learning goals were to demonstrate the sequencing of 8 different moon phases and the moons relationship to the earth in each phase through stop-motion animation. Collaborating with the Ms. Tolles, the science teacher and Ms. G, the technology specialist we developed a lesson that combined rigorous hands-on learning and exploring new skills in media arts. Students began with a storyboard to show correct order, labeling and moon to earth relationship. They directly used this storyboard as reference to take photographs of moon models in the different phases. Teams of two students, one acting as director of photography, one as the 'prop' manager used a professional camera set-up to document each phase. They then transferred their images to the computer and scaled, edited and animated them with timings in iMovie. Some students even added sound effects, titles and extra graphics. I was very excited at the outcomes and the dedicated collaboration of the other two teachers to make this a success. The students participated enthusiastically and even the seventh graders poked their heads in saying, "Hey! We never got to do this last year!". Ms. Tolles, the sixth grade science teacher comments, "I am just amazed at the synthesis of knowledge that went on to integrate both perspectives of the sun, moon, and Earth. Kids really enjoyed the project, and they showed incredible mastery of the content in a very short time period. In short, I am super excited for our next stop motion project!"



By: Kyle Browne
Cambridge Creativity Commons
www.cambridgecreativitycommons.org

Putnam Avenue Upper School

Issue 2:: October 2013

Family Newsletter

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



158 Spring St.
Cambridge, MA