



# PANTHER PRESS

Isabelle M. Pearson Middle School



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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

- Clay Krevolin

The Connecticut Association of Schools and Dr. Mark K. McQuillan, the Commissioner of Education for the State of Connecticut have proclaimed October as the *Month of the Young Adolescent in Connecticut*. The Official Proclamation states the following:

- Whereas, the period of early adolescence (10 – 15 years old) is a distinct, developmental period between childhood and full adolescence; and
- Whereas, this period needs to be better understood and its importance recognized; and
- Whereas, young adolescents between the ages of approximately 10 -15 years old undergo more extensive physical, mental, social, moral, and emotional changes than at any other time of life, with the possible exception of infancy; and
- Whereas, the attitudes and values young adolescents develop during these formative years largely determine their later behavior; and
- Whereas, middle level educators possess a unique set of skill for nurturing and educating young adolescents; and
- Whereas, parents continue as primary role models and guides, even as young adolescents give increased attention to peer groups; and
- Whereas, the community itself is also a “classroom” in which young adolescents learn many lessons; and
- Whereas, much valuable information and research about this important age group now exists and should be circulated;

- Therefore, be it resolved that October be declared the *Month of the Young Adolescent in Connecticut*

Be it further resolved that middle level leaders in State of Connecticut join their colleagues from around the world by extending their knowledge about these critical years and undertaking actions that will support the healthy development of young adolescents.

The administration, faculty and staff at Pearson Middle School are committed to supporting the needs of the early adolescent and helping each individual student reach their full potential. As with other middle schools across the nation, we are working diligently to implement an initiative referred to as SRBI (Scientific Research-Based Interventions) that will help us better addresses the needs of all students.

A child’s progress is studied and findings are used to make decisions about teaching and other learning supports. SRBI is most commonly used in addressing student needs in the areas of reading, math, and behavior. A “continuum of support” is developed by school districts and the programs to meet the needs of the children they serve.

The key component to SRBI is that all children receive high quality curriculum and instruction in the general education classroom or program (Tier I). Another component of SRBI is that the school or program conducts “universal common assessments.” Universal common assessments review the progress of all children through the use of grade/age level assessments. These assessments help schools identify children who may need more support or other types of instruction. As a result, students may be identified as needing help in addition to the high quality instruction they are receiving in Tier I. Additional teaching strategies or methods that have been proven to be effective in helping

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children learn are used (Tier II). These teaching methods can happen in large or small groups, in or outside the classroom.

Another key component to SRBI is “progress monitoring.” Progress monitoring is a way for teachers to better understand a child’s needs and demonstrate the growth children are making in a specific area. It shows how well the teaching strategy is working. It includes observations and other types of assessment. Progress monitoring helps determine whether a strategy is successful or needs to be changed. When progress monitoring shows that a child is not responding to the additional help, another approach or strategy is utilized to improve student success. However, when a higher level of support is needed, children are given the individualized instruction they need to be successful learners (Tier III).

For more information about the SRBI initiative I recommend:

- [www.rtinetwork.org](http://www.rtinetwork.org) National Center for Response to Intervention
- [www.rtinetwork.org](http://www.rtinetwork.org) RTI Action Network
- [www.ct.gov](http://www.ct.gov) Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), Bureau of School and District Improvement and Bureau of Special Education

## **GUIDANCE NEWS**

### **Important Dates for Parents:**

Grades close for first marking Period –

**Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>**

Report cards issued – **Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**

### **Conference Times and Dates:**

Monday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> (5:30pm – 8:30)

Tuesday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> (5:30pm – 8:30)

Wednesday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> (1pm - 4:00)

Sign up forms for conferences will be sent out with report cards on November 6th.

Please have your child return the forms as soon as possible. Conference times are on a first come, first serve basis.

### **8th Grade Assemblies:**

Informational assemblies about Oliver Wolcott Technical School and the Region #7 Vocational Agriculture Program will be held for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders in early November. The Gilbert School will provide an assembly in December.

### **Homework Club:**



The *Homework Club* is available to all Pearson Middle School students. The goal of the program is to provide extra help and offer an opportunity for students to get caught up with their assignments. The program is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 2:10 to 3:10 in room 304 for 7<sup>th</sup> graders and room 301B for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. A teacher supervises the program and is available to help the students. Students who participate are expected to bring their work and any other necessary materials with them. Appropriate behavior is expected.

Any student may participate in the program, but parental permission is required. Students may volunteer to participate or be referred by their teachers. If your child is referred, you will be notified by phone and/or by letter to discuss the program. It is advisable to have your child attend if they have been recommended by his/her teachers. Parents/guardians may also request that their child participate in *Homework Club*. Permission slips can be obtained from your child’s teachers or from Mr. Czaja in Guidance. Students may attend one or both days each week. Attendance is taken and parents are

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notified if their child does not show up for *Homework Club*.

How long students participate varies. Some students find it helpful to stay involved on a regular basis over the course of a marking period or even longer. Others may just need to spend several weeks or half a marking period to get back on track with their assignments. Occasionally students may drop in for a day to finish a major assignment or project (in these cases a call home by the student getting parental permission to stay is all that is required).

Since the program is voluntary, parents/guardians may remove their child from the *Homework Club* at any point. We do require that parents/guardians notify us of your plans to discontinue your child's participation. If a student does not show up on a regular basis, and we have not heard from his/her parent/guardian, we will contact you to determine whether continued participation is appropriate. If students are being disruptive or inappropriate, they will be removed from the program and parents/guardians will be contacted.

If you have any questions or would like to sign your child up, please feel free to contact Mr. Czaja in Guidance.

## **SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

Every month the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teams and the Unified Arts team nominate two students to be recognized as *School Wide Students of the Month*. In addition, each classroom teacher will select one student as *Student of the Month* for that particular class. All students of the month are awarded with a special certificate and a commemorative pen, as well as, a congratulatory luncheon with Mr. Krevolin. *School Wide Students of the Month* also received gift certificates to The Fusion Zone.



## **School Wide Student of the Month** **Winners Are:**

7<sup>th</sup> grade – Alyssa Jamieson & Jared Mongitore  
8<sup>th</sup> grade – Kacey Stone & D.J. Sherman  
Unified Arts – Jordan Palmer & Austin Passini

## **September Classroom Students of the Month**

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

Math – Shanna Shotwell  
Science – Tyler Basso  
History – Clayton Jasmin  
Language Arts – Forrest Neal  
Language Arts – Paxton Lewis Franklin  
Spanish – Julie Vincent  
Mrs. Weeks – Aubrey Blass

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

Math – Ashley Marshall  
Science – Dana Fry  
History – Sarah Martin  
Language Arts – Roger Aiudi  
Language Arts – Jordan Marchand  
Spanish – Sydney Mohr  
Mrs. Ditz – Caleb Andreasen

### **Unified Arts**

I- Tech – Aaron Donovan  
P.E. – Ben Battista  
Band – Ashley Derosiers  
Music – Alec Goulet  
Art – Cassidy Morneau  
Health – Dimitra Anastasopoulos  
Chorus – Dana Fry

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## **SEVENTH GRADE NEWS**

### **Mrs. Snyder – Science**



Science is well underway in the seventh grade. Students have been studying hard and dealing very well with the “jump” from sixth to seventh grade. Since the beginning of the year we have been learning how the Earth changes shape from the cycle of weathering, erosion and deposition. The end of the unit discusses 5 major agents of erosion; gravity, moving water, glaciers, wind and water. Once this is complete we will begin our journey into Human Biology. I recently attended the Bodies Revealed exhibition at the Grand Pequot Tower in Foxwoods. This is an amazing display of real human bodies, dissected and preserved. I found it very tastefully done, extremely informative and it ties in beautifully with our biology unit. I feel, however, that it would be inappropriate to take a large group of 7<sup>th</sup> graders through the exhibit without parental supervision. If you are interested in taking your child, the exhibit will be on display through November 8<sup>th</sup>. It is \$20.00 for an adult ticket and \$15.00 for children 12 and under. Please be aware that the bodies have been preserved in such a manner that they are anatomically correct. Visit the following site for more information:

[www.bodiestheexhibition.com](http://www.bodiestheexhibition.com).

As in the past, if you have any questions regarding the science curriculum at Pearson please do not hesitate to contact me. ([lori.snyder@winchesterschools.org](mailto:lori.snyder@winchesterschools.org))

### **Mrs. Weeks - Resource/LA/Math**

In Language Arts we are reading Sarah, Plain and Tall, a novel by Patricia MacLachlan. This novel is about two young children whose mother died after the birth of her second child. They live on the prairie with their father and are about 6 and 9 years old now. The story takes place in the plains when the country was moving westward. At this point the father puts an advertisement in the paper, asking for a wife, and receives a letter from Sarah Wheaton, of Maine.

In Language Arts II we are having a read aloud using, Among the Hidden, by Margaret Haddix. So far, we have found out that Luke, 6, has never been to school and is no longer allowed to go outside. He was never supposed to be born according to the population police. There is a new community developing next to their farm and Luke has to hide even more, in fear of being noticed. What will happen next? We will need to wait until later this week to see.

As for Math, we have been busy collecting and organizing data to graph. We have learned to make bar graphs, line graphs, tally charts and frequency tables as well as histograms. Currently we are working on finding the mean, median, mode and range of a set of data.

If there is ever any questions about what we are working on please email me at [tweeks@winchesterschools.org](mailto:tweeks@winchesterschools.org)

## **EIGHTH GRADE NEWS**

### **Mr. Harbach – US History**

Your students are off to a great start! We began the year getting to know each other and then worked on some fundamental knowledge needed for the course, including learning how to find information easily in our new textbooks, reviewing primary and secondary sources, and learning how to access our textbooks online. I am sure many of you saw your kids working on these tasks. Ask them the difference between

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primary and secondary sources or ask them to show you their textbook online.

With these fundamentals in place, the first unit we will work on is Unit 5, *Civil War and Reconstruction*. The unit consists of three chapters that will focus on the events that caused the Civil War, the war itself, and the Reconstruction (rebuilding) of the South after the war. The next unit is Unit 6, *Reshaping the Nation*, and it focuses on opening the west to settlement, moving into the industrial age, and the rise of big cities.

I look forward with excitement to working with your children this year. If there are any questions about what we are doing in school or about your child's progress, call me at school or email me at [charles.harbach@winchesterschools.org](mailto:charles.harbach@winchesterschools.org).

## **Ms. Brooks - Science**



This year is off to a great start with an outstanding group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders eager to learn more about science. All classes have earned an average of 85% or better!! Right now we are finishing up the book called "The Nature of Science" which takes us on the journey into scientific inquiry and literacy. Their first major project is a report on Sir Isaac Newton, which is due Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>. They have already done their research, their outlining, and their first drafts. All students are learning the 8<sup>th</sup> grade writing requirements that get them ready for High School not only from me but from Language Arts Teachers, Ms. Attela and Mrs. Baker.

## **Mrs. Ditz's - Resource**

Our class is studying mummies from around the world! We are reading books about Egyptian mummies and burial customs. If you go to this website: <http://kids.discovery.com/fansites/tutensitein/mummymaker/mummymaker.html> you can play a game which will show you how the Egyptians made mummies. We're building a pyramid out of sugar cubes. Next, we will be reading about people who were killed and buried in ashes and lava when Mount Vesuvius erupted. They were mummified accidentally! After that, we will look at people who became mummies by being frozen, in Siberia and the Arctic, and some people who mummified themselves before they were even dead! We hope you stop by and visit our pyramid in our room in the Media Center!

## **DRAMA NEWS**



The Pearson Players Drama Club has been selected with 32 students from 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The first play "The Vampire's Bride" AKA "The Perils of Cinderella" by Maureen Exter will be performed on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5.00 adults and \$3.00 for children 7 and older.

The second play will be performed on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> called "Dressed to Kill" By Craig Sodaro.

We are hoping that the stage curtains will be up for the second play, however the first play will be played in the band room.

Nancy Brooks  
Drama Director

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## **BAND & CHORUS NEWS**

Dear 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Parents / Guardians,

We are off to a great and productive start in the Pearson Performing Arts Department. It feels like September just flew right by all of us. We are busy singing and playing away to prepare for our winter concert coming up in December. Along with that we would like to inform you of all the activities and performances we are looking forward to and planning for this wonderful new school year.

**\*Gilbert football kick off game (BAND ONLY):**

Sat. Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 2010 @ Gilbert HS 1pm

**\*Winter Concert:**

Tues. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 2009 @ Gilbert HS 7pm

**\*Regionals Auditions:**

Fri. Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> & Sat. Mar 6<sup>th</sup> 2010@HarBur MS, Burlington

**\*Pet Parade (BAND ONLY)**

Sat. May 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 @TBA, @ 2PM

**\*Laurel City Concert:**

Tues. May 25<sup>th</sup> 2010 @ Gilbert HS

**\*Memorial Day Parade (BAND ONLY):**

Mon. May 31<sup>st</sup> 2010 @ TBA

**\*Music In The Parks:**

Fri. May/June – TBA

**\*Performing Arts Field Trip:**

TBA

We look forward to seeing all your supportive smiling faces at these events. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact Ms. Colosimo or Mrs. Schroeder at the school. Have a joy filled school year!! ☺

Ms. Colosimo & Mrs. Schroeder

“Music... gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.”

\*Plato\*

## **NURSE'S OFFICE NEWS**

### **Practice Good Habits during Cold / Flu Season**



- Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them.
- If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.
- **Children with temperatures of 99 or higher should be kept home until the fever has subsided for 24 hours (no fever with out use of Tylenol or Advil).** Call your child's doctor for fevers of 101.5 or greater, unless you have been instructed otherwise by the Physician.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. The main way that illnesses like colds and flu are spread is from respiratory droplets from coughs and sneezes. These droplets move through the air directly to other people's noses or mouths and surfaces like doorknobs, phones, cafeteria tables and desks. We know viruses and bacteria can live 2 hours or longer on these surfaces.

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- Several “over the counter”, cold medications can help reduce sneezing, coughing and runny noses. Longer acting cold remedies are helpful to get children through their school day more comfortably and without spreading respiratory droplets.
- Teach your children to wash hands often will help protect you from germs. Role model this behavior for them as well and explain why you are doing it. Wash with soap and water for 15-20 seconds. That’s about the time it takes to sing “Happy Birthday Song” twice.
- When soap and water is not available, alcohol based disposable wipes or gel sanitizers are effective. If using gel, rub hands until dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, since germs are often spread when a person touches contaminated items and touches these areas. Use tissues for all secretions and wash hands after discarding tissue.
- Remind children to practice these healthy habits too, because when they do, facts show that they miss fewer days at school.

**Happy Halloween** 

