



# PANTHER PRESS

Isabelle M. Pearson Middle School



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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

- Clay Krevolin

### The Connecticut Mastery Test Program:

The Connecticut Mastery Test Program provides an accurate assessment of how well students statewide are reaching the standards of achievement that have been established by the State Board of Education in reading, writing and mathematics. Students in grades 3 through 8 are required to participate in the Connecticut Mastery Test. This year, Connecticut Mastery Testing will be administered in March beginning on March 1, 2010 and ending on March 24, 2010. The results of these tests will show how well your child is achieving compared to the expectation for all Connecticut public school students at your child's grade level.

The skills tested in the CMT are identified in the Connecticut Curriculum Frameworks. Students' reading skills are measured with two tests. The *Degrees of Reading Power (DRP)* test assesses your child's understanding of what has been read. Students read nonfiction text with missing words and then choose the appropriate words to complete the text. The *Reading Comprehension* test assess the student's understanding of both fiction and nonfiction passages through multiple-choice questions and one-ended question that require written responses. Writing skills are also assessed in two ways. The *Direct Assessment of Writing* test requires students to draft a piece of writing in response to a given topic. The *Editing & Revising* test requires students to answer multiple-choice questions to show how well they can compose, revise and edit a written passage. The *Mathematics* test measures students' mastery of basic mathematics skills, their understanding of mathematics concepts, and their ability to use these skills to solve problems. The Mathematics test has multiple-choice, open-ended and grid-in questions. On grid-in questions, the student

must write the correct numeric answer into boxes and then fill in the matching bubble below each box. For the second year, students in Connecticut will also be tested on concepts learned in science in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

The Connecticut Mastery Testing has been designed to:

- Establish high expectation for the education of Connecticut students;
- Identify students who need extra help in reading, writing or mathematics;
- Help schools and teachers identify weaknesses in their curriculum and improve instruction in those areas;
- Help you and your child's teachers monitor your child's achievement from grades 3 through 8;
- Increase the accountability of the state's educational system to Connecticut parents and other citizens.

Prior to the administration of these standardized tests, students will be reviewing the various content areas that will be tested. Great care has been taken to ensure that the curriculum being taught is in alignment with the Connecticut Mastery Testing objectives. Over the years, I have spoken to many students and parents that became apprehensive about taking these tests. It is important for students to be reassured that they are well prepared for testing and that they only need to do the best they can. The results of this testing provides valuable information to teachers about your youngster's needs. This information is also helpful to teachers and administrators in revising and updating curriculum. The following are some suggestion for making the testing experiences as successful as possible for your child:

# ***PANTHER PRESS***

Students should:

1. Arrive to school on time (tests will be administered during the morning)
2. Avoid absences, unless absolutely essential
3. Be well rested and have eaten an adequate breakfast
4. Relax while taking the tests
5. Listen to directions carefully
6. Work within the allotted test time

Once again, thank you for your continued support. Please call the school if you have any questions, concerns, or want to know more about Connecticut Mastery Testing.

## **NURSE'S NEWS**



## **REMINDERS:**

SPRING SPORTS –SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL-TRY OUTS WILL BE STARTING THE END OF MARCH – TENTATIVELY MARCH 23, 24, 25 OR THE FOLLOWING WEEK ON MARCH 30, 31, APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>.

WATCH FOR INFORMATION COMING HOME PRIOR TO THAT TIME.

Sports Physicals – Physicals need to be current within one year of the sport to be played.

## **SCREENINGS:**

\*Scoliosis screenings will be held for 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have not had a physical and therefore, a scoliosis evaluation done by their doctor this year.

PARENTS MAY CALL THE SCHOOL NURSE, ANN JOY, RN, WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS AT 379-7588.

## **GUIDANCE NEWS**

Congratulations to the twenty four eighth graders who were accepted into Oliver Wolcott Technical School for next year. Many of these students have already committed to going to Tech next year and some are in the process of making up their minds. Fifteen others were placed on the waiting list and, depending on where they are on the list, will determine if they have a chance of being officially accepted.

## **Accepted**

Caleb Andreasen  
Bailey Campbell  
Nicole Crossman  
Aaron Donovan  
Nicole Duluc  
Sarah Dunbar  
Angie Gonzalez  
Shelby Goodell  
Hallee Griffin  
Joe Hanecak  
Tim Kurlick  
Dan LaChance  
Kyle Lundy  
Jessica LaMere  
Olivia Messenger  
Jeff Negrón  
Deron Noel  
Jasmine Perrault  
Mike Rodriguez  
Christina Sogliuzzi  
Piper Stetson  
Jessica Tessman  
Chad Winn  
Diana Zhovklyy

# ***PANTHER PRESS***

## **Waiting List**

Bridget Bessette  
Jon Bishop  
Mike Cox  
Jasmin Curry  
Kevin DeLaCruz  
Chelsea DiMauro  
Phillips Garcia  
Jon Gaspar  
Wyatt Habbal  
Alysha Lyman  
Ben Michaud  
PJ Nichols  
Rob Nichols  
Marissa Ranaudo  
Alex Young

## **Gilbert**

All the eighth grade students recently met with the Gilbert School guidance counselors to discuss course selection and electives for next year. The students met in small groups with their assigned counselors and filled out their course registration forms. All students are required to fill out the forms even if they have been accepted into Oliver Wolcott, or are applying to the Vocational Agriculture Program or another school. We do this in case students change their minds about attending another program and decide to go to Gilbert. If this happens, then the students will already have a schedule built for next year. A copy of your child's course selection was recently sent home. A final copy of your child's schedule will be sent home from Gilbert later in the spring. If parents have any questions they can call Mr. Czaja or contact their child's counselor at Gilbert @ 379-8521.

For students with last names starting with the letters A -I- Contact Ms. Fisher

For students with last names starting with the letters J-Z – Contact Mrs. Fiducia

## **SEVENTH GRADE NEWS**

### **Science – Mrs. Snyder**

We have completed the unit on genetics based on Gregor Mendel's experiments with pea plants. The whole concept of parents passing traits to their offspring lies with the DNA found in the sex cells or gametes. In class we covered the biology of how sex cells are produced through a type of cell division called meiosis and we also studied the anatomy and physiology of the male and female reproductive systems. Since the units in class are science based, this might be a great time to have a conversation with your seventh grader regarding the morals, values, and ethical issues that surround his or her sexuality.

You will be receiving information soon regarding a heart project that will be due in conjunction with our next section which is the human circulatory system. As always, if you have any questions regarding the science curriculum in seventh grade, please do not hesitate to contact me.



## **EIGHTH GRADE NEWS**

### **US History – Mr. Harbach**

Your students have completed the chapter on the Industrial Age, when big business evolved and society changing inventions were plentiful. We discussed the railroad industry and how it affected other industries and also the monopolies developed in the oil and steel businesses. Next up for discussion is the beginnings of urban society and the development of city life, including immigration, the changing face of

# ***PRESS***

cities, city growth problems, and culture changes. As I mentioned before, we will continue to move at a faster pace in order to help better prepare your students for the rigors of high school. This will mean more homework and reading assignments outside of class, which in turn promotes more classroom discussions.

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).

## **SPANISH NEWS**

### **8<sup>TH</sup> Grade – Mrs. Caneschi**

Grade 8 Spanish students have been working very hard on writing and illustrating their own children's book. Using required vocabulary and specific grammar points, they wrote about "A Day in the Life of..." / "Un Dia en la Vida de..." We have Henry the Hippo, Senor Nacho la Pelota de Tenis (a tennis ball!) and Nelly Naranja to name just a few!

Their creativity is amazing! Our goal is to visit younger Hispanic children in the elementary school and the Academy to read their books to these students. We are looking forward to this adventure! I am very proud of the accomplishments of these Spanish I students!



## **DRAMA NEWS**

The Pearson Players Drama Club will be presenting "Dressed to Kill" by Craig Sodaro in the Cafeteria (Barring no more building problems) April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM and April 11<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM

Tickets will be on sale the first week of April. Tickets- Adults \$7.00 students- \$5.00 and under 5 free. See Mrs. Brooks room 306

Or drop off ticket orders in the office mailbox for Mrs. Brooks.

## **ART NEWS**

Cardboard! What a wonderful material! It's bountiful and free and chock full of artistic possibilities. The Pearson Middle School art students have been gathering and modifying cardboard and building magnificent structures for the past few weeks.

The latest cardboard-based project is an abstract sculpture. Abstract art uses a visual language of form, shape, color and line to create a composition which may exist with a degree of independence from visual references in the world. This means, in simple terms, that the sculpture does not have to look like any object. Students begin the project by assembling various little shapes of cardboard (squares, triangles, and polygons, etc.) into freestanding abstract forms. We used hot glue guns in the assembly and oil pastels, glitter, and varnish in the decoration.

Prior to this sculpture, students have been studying watercolor painting. We practiced a particular technique which employs sopping wet color on the brush and a pre-wetted paper surface. This technique is called wet-on-wet of course! It has some pretty exciting effects as the paint runs and spreads throughout the pre-wetted paper area.

# ***PANTHER PRESS***

## **JANUARY 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 Cinerom. Gift certificates are provided by the Pearson PTO.



7<sup>th</sup> graders celebrate winning Student of the Month honors!

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

7<sup>th</sup> grade – Alyssa Jamieson & Kenny Conklin  
8<sup>th</sup> grade – Kaylah Leonard & Luke Snyder  
Unified Arts – Ashley Marshall & Derek Fazioli

## **January Classroom Students of the Month**

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

Math – Paxton Lewis Franklin  
Science – Erika Heller  
History – Tiberius Farnham  
Language Arts – Willow Fox  
Language Arts – Solveig Driscoll

Spanish – Austin Passini  
Mrs. Weeks – Shanna Shotwell

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

Math – Sarah Beadle  
Science – Jordan Marchand  
History – Jasmine Curry  
Language Arts – Dan LaChance  
Language Arts – Kevin DeLaCruz  
Spanish – Chad Winn  
Mrs. Ditz – Joe Hanecak

### **Unified Arts**

Computer – Cody Fisher  
I Tech – Tim Kurlick  
Art – Tim Otis  
Chorus – Rosie Sparrow  
Band – Luke Snyder  
Music – Forrest Neal  
Health – Ty MacBurnie

## **HELPING HANDS FOR HAITI PROJECT**



The eighth grade Peers program has been working long and hard on the ***Helping Hands for Haiti Project***. Students have been purchasing hands since Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. Each hand is only \$. 50. Amazingly, we have already raised over \$250.00, and we are not done yet! We sold hands during conferences, and we will be accepting donations for a couple more weeks. Our goal for the Haiti fundraising Project is \$1,000.00. We are planning several other fundraisers for Haiti, including a Hat Day, and a school dance on March 11<sup>th</sup>. There is a banner displayed outside the school office showing how much we have earned towards our goal.