



PANTHER PRESS

Isabelle M. Pearson Middle School



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

- Clay Krevolin



In our technological age, students having cell phones have become the largest single source of disruption and distraction. If a student must have a cell phone for safety reasons before or after school, it needs to be turned-off during the day and not used in school. Let me elaborate on what I mean about not being used during the day-- this includes: talking, receiving calls, text messaging, and/or taking pictures. For parents who allow their children to have a cell phone, I urge you to take a few minutes and look at the bill you receive. Pay attention to activity occurring during school hours. The number of instant messages that a middle school student can send is astonishing. Please look at the options that providers have for parent controls. These include blocking use at certain times of the day, controlling received calls, and only being able to call emergency numbers.

Last year, I had to deal with instant messages being sent during the day to "questionable" individuals, students sending instant messages during class, pictures taken and placed on the Internet with student names and inappropriate computer activity outside of the school. Problems caused outside of school sometimes become major issues when students return. In some cases, I have had to involve the Winchester Police Department to assist in resolving them.

Please supervise your child's use of a cell phone and when they are on the Internet. I have asked teachers to confiscate cell phones being used and turn them into one of the building administrators.

NURSE'S ROOM:

REMINDERS:



Sixth Grade - Physicals are due by May 1st 2010. Be aware that the NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR IMMUNIZATIONS FOR ENTRY TO 7TH GRADE proposed by the State will go into effect for the fall of 2010-2011.

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

Parents should be aware that there are still supplies of the HINI Vaccine available from the Torrington Area Health District (TAHD). We are having a clinic run by TAHD on January 26, 2010 at Pearson School. I hope parents and students take advantage of this opportunity since there is still the possibility of another HINI outbreak still to come. Health Officials advise that if you get the regular flu vaccine that you should also get this strain as well. There are still clinics being held in the area and we will post them at Pearson. The Gilbert School is also having an HINI Vaccination Clinic on February 10, 2010 from 12:30-2:30 PM.

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There have also been several students experiencing some gastrointestinal complaints that range from just “bad stomach aches” to fevers with vomiting and diarrhea. It is important to note these symptoms and keep students home until the symptoms subside. The usual standards apply for most viral illnesses:

- 1) Good hand washing helps to prevent the spread of illness.
- 2) Stay home when you are sick.
- 3) Do not return to school until 24 hour after fever has passed.
- 4) Stay well hydrated on clear liquids and advance your diet as tolerated.
- 5) Call the school to excuse your child’s illness.

GUIDANCE NEWS

Northwestern Regional #7 Vocational Agriculture Program

Congratulations to the twelve 8th graders who were recently accepted into the Regional #7 Vocational Agriculture Program for next year. The following students were accepted:

- ❖ Jacob Banholzer
- ❖ Sarah Beadle
- ❖ Taylor Casey
- ❖ Dana Fry
- ❖ Courtney Harris
- ❖ Paige Madsen
- ❖ Jared Renza
- ❖ Alec Royer
- ❖ DJ Sherman
- ❖ Colin Stone
- ❖ Kacey Stone
- ❖ Nick Teeling

Two students, Nicole Duluc and Joe Hanecak are also on the waiting list.

Good luck to everyone!

Oliver Wolcott Technical High School

Forty 8th graders are anxiously waiting to hear if they were accepted into Oliver Wolcott Tech.

Students should hear from the Oliver Wolcott guidance department by the end of January.

Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts

Pearson also has several students who are in the process of applying to the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts, a magnet school that serves fifty school districts, including Winsted. The Academy offers basic and advanced study in seven arts areas – music, theater, dance, visual arts, film and television and creative writing. The educational goals of the program are to develop talent in high school students, thereby developing their self-confidence and self-esteem: to enhance understanding of cultural diversity; to foster creative thinking and imagination; and to expose students to performances by professional artists. Applications are due on February 5th and a lottery will be held in March. If students make it through the lottery, then they will have to participate in auditions at the school. If students are successful with the audition, then they will be accepted to the school.

Gilbert

The eighth grade class participated in a half day orientation program at Gilbert on December 18th and many students returned excited about the many opportunities the school has to offer. The Gilbert guidance counselors will be at Pearson in early February to meet with the 8th graders to discuss course selection for 9th grade.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

EXCITING NEWS FOR SEVENTH GRADE SCIENCE!

After being on the waiting list for three years, the Connecticut BioBus will finally be visiting our school. On February 8th and 9th the BioBus will be stationed in the back parking lot by the band room and the students will be scheduled to visit the bus in groups of 24 for a two hour lab session. The lab they will be doing is called The Mystery of The Crooked Cell and they will be

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using a technique called Gel Electrophoresis to complete the experiment. The process begins with the students making a scientific gel (somewhat like a “jello-jiggler” with small wells or compartments in it). The experiment samples are then loaded into the wells using a micropipette. An electrical current is passed through the gel which acts like a maze for the molecules found in the sample. The molecules are then separated in the gel by charge and size. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students. Please make sure your child eats breakfast the day of his or her lab. Standing for two hours without having eaten anything since the night before will most likely have Mrs. Joy, our school nurse, making unplanned trips out to the bus.

About the BioBus (visit www.ctbiobus.org for more information)

Founded in 2001, the Connecticut BioBus is a 40-foot, custom-designed mobile laboratory delivering hands-on bioscience experiments to over 5,000 students throughout Connecticut each year. Outfitted with the latest in bioscience equipment and technology, the BioBus brings an exceptional experience in the life sciences above and beyond the normal classroom curriculum.



The BioBus program is designed for students in 4th through 12th grade. The BioBus accommodates two instructors and up to 24 students at a time. The Connecticut BioBus travels to schools and community events, sparking scientific discovery and igniting interest in scientific careers.

The BioBus visits Connecticut schools free of charge, though each visit requires an investment of time and effort by teachers and the school,

including: 1) participation in teacher training; 2) integrating the BioBus visit into classroom lessons, along with running activities before and after the BioBus visit; and 3) assisting BioBus staff in teaching on board the BioBus. Teachers are eligible to earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for attending a one-day training workshop.

RESOURCE NEWS

7TH Grade – Mrs. Weeks

Right now our Read Aloud is a book titled, “the face on the milk carton”, by Caroline B. Cooney. This is a novel about a girl, Janie Johnson that happened to glance at the picture of a missing child on a school milk carton. The little girl had been kidnapped at the age of three from a shopping mall in New Jersey twelve years prior. Janie recognized the girl on the carton as herself. How could this possibly be, is it true?

The class is also getting ready for the CMT’s by practicing and brushing up on our math skills learned thus far. In language we are doing various cloze activities, comprehension and reading activities and editing and revising activities. For writing our topic is, “A Day as Your Shoes.” These writings are all about what it would be like to be a pair of shoes for a day. How would you feel if someone stepped in you, or used you to kick a ball?

We have also just finished working on the colonial life project for history and studying for a science test. Time will tell what will need working on next or what will be the next project.

It is the policy in my room that if a student comes to class three times unprepared (no homework, class supplies or writing implement) they will be given a one day after school detention. If this detention is skipped a referral will be given to the office. If it is easier, students can bring in a supply of pencils to leave in my room and get on a daily basis before classes start. We are now midway through the year and need to start getting ready for the more demands of the eighth grade. As part of these

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preparations students will need to start taking a more active role in being responsible for their learning. They can do this by being prepared for classes, doing homework (at home) and utilizing their time wisely. We will continue to push for this more independence as the year progresses.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

US History – Mr. Harbach

Spurred by discoveries of gold and silver between 1848 and 1870, your students have finished discussing a shortened chapter on westward movement. Next up for discussion in the unit are chapters on the industrial age and the beginnings of urban society. We will be focusing on the years between 1870 and 1910, discussing in chapter 19 how the railroads helped to expand the economy, new inventions that changed society, the rise of big business, and the beginnings of labor unions. In chapter 20, the discussions will center on the makings of urban society. We will talk about how immigration shaped cities, how cities changed during this era, and how all of this effected American culture.

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.



SPRING PICTURES

Lifetouch will be here February 3rd to take our spring pictures.

COMPUTER NEWS



In computers we just completed a lesson combining internet research and Microsoft Access database software. The students learned how to create a database containing fields and records. This project requires an understanding of what a database is, how to define various fields/data types and how to sort and filter/search a database. Real world applications were discussed.

Seventh graders are currently improving their media literacy skills by learning how to evaluate websites. A hoax website called the Northwest Pacific Tree Octopus which can be found at <http://zapatopi.net/treeoctopus/> and is being used to illustrate how to determine the validity of on-line information. Never trust a website you cannot cross reference!

Eighth graders are using the government's Bureau of Labor Statistics Website to appreciate the critical link among earnings, education and unemployment. Take a look at http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm. After completing a worksheet using the site, they will demonstrate their understanding through an essay on the topic using Microsoft Word.

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YEARBOOK ORDERS

Order your yearbooks now before it's too late. Make checks payable to Pearson Middle School for \$22.00 and give it to your homeroom representative by January 29th.

DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Every month the 7th and 8th 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.



8th Graders celebrate winning Student of the Month honors!!!

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

7th grade – Rosemary Sparrow &
Mason Brennan

8th grade – Jordan Marchand &
Moonis Ansari

Unified Arts – Dana Fry & Nick Teeling

December Classroom Students of the Month

7th Grade

Math – Christian Royer
Science – Xaelia Lauer
History – Melissa Marquis
Language Arts – Aubrey Blass
Language Arts – Demean Wright
Spanish – Jacob Schoenberger
Mrs. Weeks – Willow Fox

8th Grade

Math – Taylor Casey
Science – Roger Aiudi
History – Jack Weber
Language Arts – Kevin Gomez
Language Arts –
Spanish – Alec Royer
Mrs. Ditz – Jon Gaspar

Unified Arts

Computer – Dimitra Anastasopoulos
I Tech – Pearl Gilley
Art – Cassie Peterson
Chorus – Sarah Dunbar
Band – Christian Royer
P.E. – Roger Aiudi
Health – Hallee Griffin

