



The Bantam Pride

PETALUMA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Principal, *Renée Semik*

rsemik@petk12.org

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Asst. Principal, *Nancy Emanuele*

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•The entire newsletter can be found online at petalumajuniorhigh.org•

Principal's Note

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I cannot believe we just completed our first six weeks of the second semester! This newsletter is full of information about what the different departments and areas of the school are doing currently. I would like to call to your attention page seven which is the calendar of events. We have tried to provide an inclusive list of important dates and times through the end of the year, so you can make sure you get them on your calendar and plan accordingly. I will also be working to ensure you keep up to date via email and on Twitter. If you are on Twitter, make sure you are following us @PetalumaJrHigh.

Your students are doing an exceptional job this year, and I want to take a minute to brag about them a little bit. Recently, we acknowledged our students who earned gold (4.00 grade point average) and silver (3.00-3.99 grade point average) Renaissance Awards for first semester. In seventh grade, 145 students earned a silver award and 56 earned a gold award. In eighth grade, 165 students earned a silver award and 41 earned a gold award. Job well done! Keep up the good work!!

Finally, we are really looking forward to a great end of our school year. If you are interested in getting involved with end of the year activities, please do not hesitate to call or email me (rsemik@petk12.org). It is some of the most fun we will have all year. Hopefully, you can join us!!

~Renée

PI DAY DANCE FUNDRAISER

Friday, March 13th (3.14) from 3-5pm!

****All profits will go toward
the 7th grade science field trip to the
California Academy of Sciences!****

We will have pie and ice cream for sale. Ice Cream is being donated by Strauss Creamery and the Petaluma Pie Company is donating 4 pies! Costco has donated \$25 to the cost! Thank you to all families who are donating supplies, help, & yummy pies!



Counseling Corner

The second semester is underway and report cards with final first semester grades were sent out in January. The current grading period ended on February 26th, with progress reports being mailed home by March 6th. Now is a good time to remember our promotion policy. Students are required to earn 110 credits during their two years at PJHS. This means students can only get two semester F's their entire time with us. Students who do not earn 110 credits by the end of their 8th grade year will not be able to go through the promotion ceremony, participate in the 8th grade promotion trip, or attend the 8th grade promotion dance.

Please continue to monitor and encourage your students to use their planner and have them regularly login to their student portal account to

check homework and track grades. Visiting teachers' websites and calling the homework hotline are important as well.

There are several opportunities for students to receive extra support.

1. All teachers are available to assist students when needed.
2. **Homework Help is offered on Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2:45 – 4:00 in E-3.**
3. The library is open to students from 8:00am until at least thirty minutes after school, at break and at lunch.

If you have any questions regarding your student's credits, please contact their counselor, Ms. Horwitz (A-K), at 778-4730 or Mrs. Wood (L-Z), at 778-4729.

7th Grade Students and Parents:

On February 10th and 11th, Ms. Horwitz and Mrs. Wood visited all 7th grade math classrooms to talk about 8th grade electives. Students filled out an 8th grade elective sign up sheet and returned it back to their math teachers after it was signed by their parent or guardian. If your student still has his/her form, please have them bring it to their counselor.

8th Grade Students and Parents:

Representatives from Petaluma High School came to talk to our 8th graders in their Science classes on January 22nd and 23rd. Students made course requests on-line, using their Chromebooks, and parents had a window of time to update or approve their student's choices. Students were required to bring back a signed paper form. Students can turn in any leftover PHS forms to the PJHS counselors or take it directly to PHS.

If your student is planning on going to Casa Grande High School, please contact the registrar at Casa for enrollment forms.

◆ IMPORTANT DATES &
THE ATTENDANCE POLICY
ARE LISTED ON THE LAST PAGES ◆



English Department

In English, students have been busy reading both fiction and non-fiction texts and continuing to work on our department wide goal of writing from evidence. Seventh grade students in Ms. Miller's and Ms. Mantoani's classes have just finished autobiographical essays, and almost all seventh grade English classes are now moving on to argument writing. This is a challenge, as seventh graders are required for the first time, to include a counter-argument in their essays. For better or for worse, students will be expert arguers by the end of these units. Ms. Miller's advanced English classes have just finished reading and presenting summaries of their non-fiction books.

Ms. Miller and Ms. Kneeland's seventh grade classes are preparing to begin the classic novel *The Pearl*, while Ms. Mantoani's seventh grade class continues to read *Never Cry Wolf*, a non-fiction novel supporting science standards in natural selection. Ms. Jimenez's class has recently completed a unit on the writings of Dr. Martin Luther King. In eighth grade, Ms. Mantoani's advanced class has just completed their study of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, where students ultimately wrote argument letters to Ms. Semik either supporting or arguing against the Holocaust education for eighth graders (English 8 will participate in the same unit at the end of the year).

Ms. Mantoani and Ms. Sullivan's English classes will soon read *Flowers for Algernon* and study such concepts as the nature of intelligence, the balance between innocence and knowledge, and ethics of scientific research. Ms. Mantoani's English 8 classes are currently reading *The Hunger Games* and analyzing the text for examples of Pierre Bourdieu's three types of capital: economic, social and cultural. In Mr. Day's 8th grade classes, students are studying

literary elements through classic short stories such as “The Monkey’s Paw”, “Mother in Manville”, and “Tell-tale Heart”, while 8A students are reading the non-fiction novel *Into the Wild*.

Overall, the students continue to strive daily to meet the rigorous intellectual challenges presented in English at PJHS.

TIME TO SCHEDULE THOSE HAIRCUTS. . .

**8TH GRADE CAP & GOWN/
PANORAMIC PORTRAITS**

6TH & 7TH GRADE SPRING PORTRAITS

- INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS ON MARCH 2ND
- PHOTOS TAKEN ON MARCH 11TH & 12TH IN MATH CLASSES
- 8TH GRADE PANORAMIC PHOTO TAKEN AT LUNCH ON MARCH 12TH (ORDER FORM & \$18 DUE TO PHOTOGRAPHER AT THAT TIME)
- BE SURE TO SELECT BACKGROUND AND RETURN FORM TO PHOTOGRAPHER
- ONCE PHOTOS VIEWED, SEND IN MONEY WITH ORDER FORM TO MATH TEACHER

-- SPONSORED BY THE MATH DEPARTMENT
THANK-YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



History Department

Students in Mrs. Abate’s, Mrs. Nelson’s and Mr. Anderson’s classes have started taking notes for their History Day project. Students will write sixty note cards on the “Leadership and Legacy” of an individual, group, or civilization within the 7th grade curriculum. In order to ensure the accuracy of the notes, Mrs. Andresen, our librarian, prepared a unit on internet source evaluation. Students learned about the different types of internet sites and how to determine if a source is an expert and a good choice.

Parents can help their child evaluate a site by asking:

1. Who is the author of the document (the part of the site you are using)?
2. Is the author an expert (author should not be a student of any kind, someone who just likes the topic or a sales person)? What education and experience does the author have on this subject? Read *About Me* or *Bio*.
3. If there is no author (look carefully), does the organization state where they get their information? Can you contact them?
4. Certain organizations allow the public to post information on topics and are not allowed. Wikipedia is one such source, but there are many more.

Students only need one internet source for this project. The other two sources are books. We require the *World Book Encyclopedia* or their *History Alive!* textbook as well as a monograph (single subject book). These sources have been checked for accuracy!

Independent Living/Culinary Arts

Now that the Foods/Cooking unit has been completed, Independent Living classes are now busy working in other units.

Students in Independent Living classes enjoyed making breakfast burritos, black bean pizza and pasta primavera. They observed how to make kale chips, fruit smoothies, kale, cucumber, and avocado smoothies, Moroccan Mint Tea, and Sweet and Spicy Wonton Crisps. They studied identifying utensils, knife and kitchen safety skills, sanitation in the kitchen, and dishwashing techniques. Thanks go to Clover and Sun Farms for donating 300 eggs for our cooking unit!

We have now begun the Interior Design Unit, and are busy designing “Dream Bedrooms” in the 7th and 8th grade classes. Students are eagerly adding “shark tanks” to walls and floors, pools, hot tubs, skate parks, dance floors, and foam pits into their bedroom plans. During this unit, materials are in short supply. ***We can always use furniture catalogs (with prices included), such as IKEA, Pottery Barn, and Scandinavian Designs;***

paint samples, miniature tile samples, like ones used in mosaics (2"x 2" or smaller); and Formica samples in black, white, faux granite, or faux marble.

After we complete the Interior Design Unit, we will continue on with Child Development. In class, students will learn about infant care and babysitting, SIDS, Shaken Baby Syndrome, and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. They hold high-tech computerized babies that cry throughout the class for several reasons. Students have to decipher the reason for the cry, and react during a certain time frame, while the baby communicates via wifi to the teacher's computer; reporting how well the student responded to the baby. Note: these babies NEVER leave the room, and will NOT go home with them!

EVERY PENNY COUNTS!!!

Fundraising is a part of life in every school and in a materials-intensive, hands-on class, it is especially necessary. The school district allows us less than \$1.65 per student to run our classes. Our current fundraisers are Box Tops for Education, Pampered Chef, Staples Recycle for Education, cookbook sales, 10% Back to Schools, and



Escrip under "PJHS Indep Living Classes". Please save your empty ink and laser cartridges, and drop them off in the main office, or send them in with any Independent Living student, for credit. Staples will give us up to \$3.00 cash for each cartridge.

The Culinary Garden

We continued to harvest tomatoes into December and we have had plenty of kale and chard through the winter. Our garden continues to grow throughout these warm winter days and the herbs are still producing.

Parent volunteers are welcome. The garden constantly needs feeding and deadheading. We currently need "weed-whacking" on the hill. Just come on by and pull some weeds (after you sign-in at the office). We also need about 100 feet of 6' high chain link fencing to enclose our garden, as well as a gate for the entrance from the hallway. If anyone knows of a scout troop, a student who needs community service hours, or just a nice person to help, please let them know. We always need assistance!

There is also NO OUTSIDE FUNDING SOURCE OF ANY KIND for the Culinary Garden. We have raised some money this year in our cookbook fundraiser, but we depend entirely on community volunteers and donations.

Can anyone provide us with some bulbs or other starts? We especially need garlic, leeks, daffodils, narcissus, and pink ladies.

Any help or donations are greatly appreciated!

-Mrs. Nugent: 778-4724 or cnugent@petk12.org



Library News

The library has been busy since students returned from Winter Break. If you are a parent of a student in 6th or 7th grade history, you know about the History Day project these classes are doing on "Legacy and Leadership in History". This project will be taking up most of my time for the next couple of months, and I enjoy being a part of it.

The library tools I teach the students to use are:

- ◆ the library book search
- ◆ Destiny Quest (an approved website that finds books and pre-selected websites for their specific project)
- ◆ The World Book Encyclopedia which is available for check out

I also teach students how to evaluate websites for research and how to use our eBooks. I encourage the students to come to me for help if

they have trouble finding the information they need for this project.

All the library tools listed above are available for student use at home and should be very helpful for this project. The library page of the school website, petalumajuniorhigh.org, has a link to my web page with lots of information the students can use for History Day. The encyclopedia password and user name are both "bantam." Students need to create an account in Destiny Quest to access the eBooks. The 6th and 7th graders are learning a lot about research this semester which will help them all the way through school and beyond.

On a side note, there are websites with helpful information for parents regarding cyber safety. I recommend Common Sense Media, www.commonsensemedia.org/parent-concerns. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about any of these issues.

-Karen Andresen, Teacher Librarian
kandresen@petk12.org



Math Department

The math department is continuing additional training in the new 8th grade curriculum. The 8th Grade teachers have been teaching this material since August and the students have responded well to the way the material is presented and are really taking advantage of the textbook website on their Chromebooks. Go to www.CPM.org if you wish to explore our new program. Our 7th grade math classes will embrace these same changes starting at the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year. Next year's 7th graders will be the first class to have the Common Core Math all the way through their Junior High and High School years!

Seventh grade students are working with setting up and solving proportions, one of the most important and useful math skills. Eighth graders are in the midst of transformational geometry, rotating, reflecting, translating and dilating. Algebra I students are fully consumed with factoring, with solving quadratics close behind.

In Geometry, we have graduated from triangles to quadrilaterals and are exploring the unique properties of trapezoids and kites.

The Math Olympiad team just completed the fourth contest. There is just one more this year. New members are always welcome! Encourage your child to check it out!

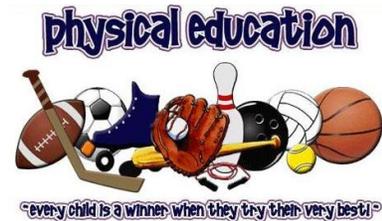
Yearbook News

Attention families ~ If you forgot to order your PJHS 2014 - 2015 yearbook online directly from Jostens, don't fret, you still have time to purchase it for only \$50!

The yearbook order forms are now located in the school office. Simply complete the order form and return it back to the office, along with a check made payable to PJHS.

Yes, it's that easy...

Remember to... "Buy Your Yearbook Today"!



Physical Education Department

www.pjhspe.com

*Mr. Dee, Mr. Gragg, Mrs. McGaughey,
Ms. Mohrman, Mrs. Teeter, and Mr. Tucker*

As we move through the second semester, each of the 7th grade classes have just completed the **Challenge Unit** which explored human pyramids, juggling, combatives, rope climbing, cargo nets and trust falls. Safety and essential spotting techniques were covered and practiced first before each of these "challenge by choice" activities.

All 7th graders should now be working on a **reflective essay**, looking back at the different challenges they faced, which is coordinated between their PE and English classes.

In January all of our 7th grade PE students were trained in a one day class called, **Hands**

Only CPR. This instruction was coordinated by “Save Lives Sonoma” and taught by members of the Petaluma Fire Department, Sonoma Life Support, volunteers from the Red Cross, the Petaluma Chamber of Commerce Class of 2012/13, Healthquest (the training division of the Petaluma Healthcare District), and others. Bystander CPR “stops the clock” and gives first responders a much greater chance for resuscitation. The goal was to empower students with the knowledge that they now have the skills to truly save a life and make a difference. “Anyone can be a hero, learn CPR!”

The 8th graders have swung and do-si-do-ed their way through their square dancing unit which falls right into the 8th grade focus of “Working as a Team to Solve Problems”. Cooperation, teamwork and communication are essential for each square to be successful and help students coordinate group moves through the various dance steps.

In addition to exploring the world of health and skill related fitness, many **8th graders are now being introduced to heart rate monitors.** By using these monitors, students will be learning about the ways heart rate, exercise and fitness training principles go together.

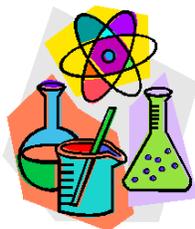
PE Make-Up Schedule:

Tues 3:00 – 3:30 pm
Wed 2:05 – 2:35 pm
Thu 7:45 – 8:15 am
Fri 12:15 – 12:45 pm

Athletics

www.pjhspe.com/Athletics/

Please visit the website link above for more information on PJHS Athletics - GO BANTAMS!



Science Update

Seventh grade students are immersed in genetics. Students are discovering which traits

they have inherited from each of their parents. They are hopefully coming home comparing earlobes, looking for widow's peaks, or checking out freckles. If not, perhaps you can ask them to roll their tongue or if they could taste the PTC paper!

Eighth grade science is learning the secrets of the Periodic Table. In chemistry students have just conducted a Mystery Powder Lab, using chemical properties to try and identify some basic household ingredients. It's elemental, My Dear Bantam...

Parent Education

Energy Drinks Found Unhealthy For Kids and Teens

According to an article by the Associated Press, “Energy drinks are under-studied, overused and can be dangerous for children and teens.” Doctors have warned, “Kids should not use the popular products. The potential harms, caused mostly by too much caffeine or similar ingredients, include heart palpitations, seizures, strokes and even sudden death.”

Authors of the report discourage the consumption of energy drinks by children and teens. “Energy drinks often contain ingredients that can enhance the jittery effects of caffeine or have other side effects including nausea and diarrhea.” It (the report) says they should be regulated as stringently as tobacco, alcohol and prescription medicines. For most children, adolescents, and young adults, safe levels of consumption have not been established. Research is lacking on the risks from long-term use and effects in kids - especially those with medical conditions which may increase the dangers.”

An additional problem is many of our students do not eat breakfast and may not eat lunch either. If they are having these drinks instead of eating, it can be especially unsafe for their health.

-Submitted by Karen Andresen, Teacher Librarian

♣ Please print out the next two pages for your reference.♣



DATES TO REMEMBER*

(through the end of the year)

MARCH

- 3rd – Wrestling meet @ Windsor MS, 4:00pm
- 5th – Coffee with the Principal & Jr. High Tour, 9:30- 10:30am
- 10th – Wrestling meet @ Adele Harrison MS, 4:00pm
– Board of Education Meeting, 6:00-8:00pm at District Office
- 11th & 12th – Spring Portraits/8th Grade Promotion Portraits (in math class)
- 12th – 8th Grade Panoramic Photo, 12:00pm
– PTSA, 6:30pm
- 13th – Pi Dance, 3:15-5:30pm in Multi
- 17th – Wrestling meet vs. Altimira MS, PJHS 4:00pm
- 21st – Wrestling League Tournament @ Robert Lewis Stevenson MS
- 23rd thru 27th – Spring Break – NO SCHOOL

APRIL

- 2nd – Coffee with the Principal & Jr. High Tour, 9:30- 10:30am
- 3rd – Spring Dance, 6:30-8:30pm in MPR
- 9th – PTSA, 6:30-8:30pm
- 14th – Board of Education Meeting, 6:00-8:00pm at District Office
- 15th – Westside Band Festival @ PHS, 7:00-8:00pm
- 16th – End of Grading Period
- 17th – 9th Grade Election Forms due for 8th Graders
- 23rd – 9th Grade Election
- 25th – Butter & Eggs Day Parade
- 27th & 28th – 7th Grade Science Field Trips to Calif. Academy of Sciences in SF
- 28th – Board of Education Meeting, 6:00-8:00pm at District Office

MAY

- 1st – 8th Grade Promotion Packet sent home
– 8th Grade Election forms due for 7th Graders
- 7th – BBQ & Open House – BBQ 5:00-6:00pm & Open House, 6:00-7:30pm
- 8th – 8th Grade Promotion Packet forms due
– Shadow Day
– 8th Grade Election for 7th Graders
- 14th – Coffee with the Principal & Jr. High Tour, 9:30- 10:30am
– PTSA, 6:30-8:30pm
- 21st – **Spring Concert** – 6:30-8:00pm, MPR
- 22nd – All textbooks/library fines due
- 25th – **Memorial Day** – NO SCHOOL
- 26th – Board of Education Meeting, 6:00-8:00pm at District Office
- 28th – P.E. Locker Clean-Out (A-day)

JUNE Last Week of School

- 1st – 8th Grade Promotion Trip to Scandia, 9:00-3:00pm
– 7th Grade Awards Assembly & Fun Day
- 2nd – P.E. Locker Clean-Out (B-day)
- 4th – 8th Grade Promotion Dance, 6:30-9:30pm, MPR
- 5th – 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony & Reception - 10:00am in the gym with reception immediately following in MPR

Semester Finals (dismissal at 12:45):

Wednesday, June 3rd – 1^o/2^o

→ No more backpacks

→ No more Zero Hour P.E.

Thursday, June 4th – Periods 4^o/5^o

Friday, June 5th (last day of school) – 3^o/6^o

*dates & times subject to change

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance Line Phone #: 778-4726 (24 Hours)

ABSENCES

Absences due to doctor/dentist appointments, illness, court, family bereavement, and religious holidays are the **ONLY** excused absences by State Law.

1. **ALL ABSENCES MUST BE VERIFIED.** It is necessary for a parent/guardian to send a note, a doctor's verification, call the Attendance line or email the Student Records Clerk, Sue Stockham, at sstockham@petk12.org. The following information **MUST** be included in your absence note:
 - a) Exact number of days and dates absent
 - b) The specific reason for the absence
 - c) Signature of parent/guardian
 - d) Date the note is written
2. Upon returning to school, **students must take the absence notes to the Attendance Desk.**
3. A student who has missed 2 class periods during the school day is not eligible to participate in any student activity that occurs after school on the same day, unless he/she is cleared by the administration.
4. Absences which are not cleared in the office within 3 days will be considered "cuts" and will be referred to the Assistant Principal.
5. On any day of an absence, you can go on-line and refer to your Parent Portal account (located in AERIES) or you can email the teacher directly. After 4 or more days of being absent, you may call or email the office, preferably before 9:00am, to request homework.
6. For an extended absence from school (minimum 5 days), you may request that your student receive Independent Study. This must be requested by the parent, at least 5 school days in advance. Contact Mr. Dee at zdee@petk12.org for more information.