

# Principally Speaking . . .

**Pequannock Valley Middle School — Pompton Plains, New Jersey**  
**Main Office Telephone: 973-616-6050**

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May 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As the warmer weather approaches, there are some safety issues that need to be addressed. Please inform your children that when walking to and from school, they need to cross at the crosswalks. Crossing between cars and at other locations is dangerous. Also, students under the age of 17 are required by law to wear a helmet when riding a bike. Students who do not wear helmets when riding their bikes to and from school will receive a warning and will be told not to bring their bikes to school unless they wear a helmet. Skateboards are not permitted on school property. I am asking, too, that parents observe our traffic pattern when dropping off and picking up students (early morning drop off included). Parents must enter at the rear of the school via Burt Avenue and must exit via Newark Pompton Turnpike. Cars are not to be exiting by Burt Avenue. That is considered an entrance only during drop off and pick up times. This includes drop off for morning activities. This traffic pattern is to ensure that students and drivers remain safe. One last note, with the warmer weather comes some issues with dress guidelines. Students must dress appropriately and will be asked to call home for a change of clothing if their dress is not respectable. Please refer to the dress guidelines in the Parent and Student Handbook.

We finished April and began May with NJASK testing for Grades 7 and 8. Students in Grade 7 were tested in the areas of Language Arts and Math and students in Grade 8 were tested in Language Arts, Math, and Science. Make-ups for these tests will be given the week of May 4. The NJASK for Grade 6 will run from Monday, May 11 through Thursday, May 14, with make-ups being administered the week of May 18.

New Jersey schools are ranked based on state standardized test scores. Data can be viewed on PSK12.com. Middle schools are ranked according to performance on state testing in Language Arts and Math in Grades 7 and 8. In the past, these rankings were based only on Grade 8 results. Last year, Pequannock Valley School was ranked 22nd out of 35 middle schools in Morris County and 182nd out of 643 middle schools in the state. This year, PV School moved up in the ranks. We are now 19th in the county and 126th in the state out of 667 middle schools! Though we still have plenty of room to grow, we are proud of the strides the teachers and students have made to improve our school's performance. Thank you, parents and guardians, for your ongoing support!

At our April Home and School Meeting, Dr. Trusheim, Mrs. Winning, and Mr. DiGeronimo presented the district school budget to our parents. We would like to thank all those who came out to vote. We are pleased to say that our budget passed! Thank you for your ongoing support of our schools and programs, and we look forward to continuing to serve our students and community through hard work, pride, and dedication to our district goals.

Sincerely,

Jennifer K. Mildner  
Interim Principal

**PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
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Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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# PEQUANNOCK VALLEY NEWS

MAY 2009

## Art Fest



Erin Campbell

Be sure to visit the Pequannock Library to enjoy work by Mrs. Gormley's Art students on display for Art Fest which will be held on Sunday, May 3 from 1-5PM. Grade 6 studied the Impressionist and their interest in the way objects reflected in water. Student work by Andrew Blahut, Erin Campbell, and Andrew Afflitto creatively demonstrate this technique. Grade 7 also learned about the Impressionists. The technique featured in their work is the use of short brush strokes. Paintings by Bobbi Conklin, Ashley Wang, and Anna Griffith really capture that principle. In Grade 8, Kristin Kowalksi chose to create a "Narrative Self Portrait" in the style of artist Marc Chagall while Merissa LaChance and Alicia Gencarelli chose to illustrate a word and show their expertise in painting.



Andrew Blahut

## Pi Day



Students in Mrs. McElwreath's classes exhibited their creative mathematical talents in celebration of Pi Day. In order to partake of the culinary masterpieces (pies), they were urged to first demonstrate use of their creative talents. Two bands, one trio, video skits, poems, cartoons and stories were successfully presented by the students! Pictured are Samantha Mayer, Alicia Gencarelli and Alexandra Mahasky. They composed and sang "Mathematical Pi" to the tune of "Bye, Bye Miss American Pie".

## Grade 6 Fun Night

The Grade 6 Fun Night was held on March 20 in our Cafetorium and gymnasium. Our students took part in a number of different activities throughout the night. In our gymnasium, students enjoyed sack races and badmitton. Even some of our teachers took part! In the cafetorium, students tried their aim at toss games, and their flexibility in limbo and hula hoop games. They enjoyed some of their favorite music as they had snacks and drinks with their friends. Thanks to all the parents who helped arrange this "Fun Night"!



## Peer Visits



The 7th and 8th Grade PV Peer Leaders visited our three district elementary schools to share their PV experiences with the incoming 6th graders. The peer leaders discussed scheduling, lunches, organizational tips, sports, and activities. They started with an ice breaker in each group as part of a team building exercise. Each fifth grader went home with an informational packet that included sample schedules, a lunch menu, the list of activities offered at PV School, and the course requirements and exploratories for Grade 6. We are very proud of our PV Peer Leaders in helping our future sixth graders to feel more comfortable with the transition to PV School. We are looking forward to making our new sixth graders welcome here at PV School in September!

# PEQUANNOCK VALLEY NEWS

MAY 2009

## ***Eighth Grade News . . .***



During the month of March, 8<sup>th</sup> grade English students participated in the 2009 “Swimmin’ to Study Island” challenge. Each class was given a goal of correctly answering 5,000 questions in Study Island by March 31, 2009. Classes that met this goal would earn an island themed class party. Mrs. Pearsall’s period 5/6 class earned the top spot by answering 7,930 questions correctly. Mrs. Valero’s period 5/6 class took 2<sup>nd</sup> place, answering a total of 6,783 questions correctly. Three additional English sections achieved the goal and will have a class party in May to celebrate. Congratulations to all involved! In the photo are Michael Flood, Catherine Vedovino, Grace Wells, Melissa Manning, and Jenna Pearsall.

## ***Seventh Grade News . . .***

All students on Team 7-White were involved in an interdisciplinary project, that was originally science-based, using our environment as the topic. Students were assigned a science Internet treasure hunt to get their minds wrapped around the environmental issues we face in the world today. After a presentation given by Dr. Kaye on the Exxon Valdez, students applied their knowledge to complete projects in all core disciplines, plus art. Simultaneously, Anna Griffith became interested in the idea of community service and expressed her ideas to her core teachers. Soon, the team of six students was formed who also had the same interests as Anna. Spencer Ochner’s family was already familiar with [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org), so further research was done to see if their funds and programs could fit into the environmental idea. The six students decided upon a “collecting change” plan, but also asked parents to get involved by “matching funds.” They created a PowerPoint presentation for their peers which discussed community service as a whole, and their plan of collecting change. It was presented after Dr. Kaye made his presentation. A goal of \$200 was set, which was basically \$2 per student. Mr. Santini saw the “call to action” for parents and offered his company, The Children’s Place, as a possible opportunity for these six students to present their PowerPoint in a corporate setting. One thing led to another and the students wound up getting \$1000.00 in total contributions — quintupling their goal. The contributions will be sent to [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org) to help the environment in third world countries, which will in turn help the people living in those countries. Pictured are Sarah Troast, Anna Griffith, Stephanie Thomas, Spencer Ochner, Garret Santini, and Kevin Mahon.



## ***Sixth Grade News . . .***

Since April was National Poetry Month, students had been working on creating poetry albums in English classes. Not only will these projects demonstrate students' writing abilities, but also their artistic abilities as well. Students were asked to write a variety of poems such as Cinquains, Haikus, and Acrosotic poems. Students also illustrated their poems. Students enjoyed this experience and are looking forward to displaying their finals works of art!

Students in Mrs. Postman’s Sixth Grade Social Studies classes are embarking upon a webquest which ties into the current unit of study, Immigration. Through this webquest, the students will be expected to complete three tasks: a country board, a research report, and an interview which will culminate into the creation of a family tree. This webquest is designed to assist students in gaining knowledge about how immigrants from multiple nations lived and how and why they traveled to America in order to achieve a “better life”. They will be researching the history and cultural traditions of a multitude of countries. Additionally, through this webquest, students will discover their heritage. In an attempt to help students’ ascertain a deeper understanding and respect for their ancestors and the trials and tribulations they endured, students will conduct interviews and create a family tree.