



November News



From the Principal's Desk:

A message from Mrs. French

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving break and took time to reflect on what they are thankful for.

Some of you may have even ventured out to take part in the Black Friday Sales. There's nothing like a good deal before the holidays.

I took time to think about the important things in my life- my healthy family, my active son, my husband and the work he does as a fire fighter. I am also thankful for the opportunity I have here in Paxton. I have truly enjoyed the past 5 months and look forward to what the months ahead will bring. I wake up to face the

new challenge each day will bring. I have come to know many of the students and their families. All special in their own ways. I am amazed at how much I enjoy the middle school students! What great sense of humors they have!

It is a busy time around here. We had a very successful Holiday Marketplace. I know many of you got some shopping done- or got to buy one of the unique sweets at the bake sale.

The Book Fair is coming- books make great gifts! You can stop by the ice cream social on December 10th to enjoy some ice cream while

you are shopping! We will also hold a TV silent Auction that night. PCS has several 27in. T.V.'s that are no longer being used. All classrooms have smartboards, which double for watching DVD's and other media.

The funds raised from the silent auction will go into our technology account!

As December lurks around the corner- so do memories of the 'Ice Storm! I know many of us are holding our breaths and hoping to get through the winter without another natural disaster!

I wish you and your families a happy (ice storm free) holiday!

Dates to Remember in Dec.

PTO Meeting 7:00 PM Library	3
Book Fair Build a book 8	7-11
Ice Cream Social 10 6-8	
Soles to Soles Collection	7-11
Electrical Safety Programs	7-9
Banking Day	10
Holiday Concert	21
School Improvement Council School	10-19
Geography Bee Club	1
Mathletes	14-16
Winter Recess Dec. 24-Jan 1	

School Activities:

Basketball, Cheering, Mathletes, Yearbook, Student Council

It is time to kick off another sport season. Basketball try-outs for boys and girls will be December 1st and 2nd. Coach Kusz will be coaching both teams this year! Thank You Coach Kusz. I'm sure he'd appreciate any help....

We have some enthusiastic sixth grade cheerleaders desperately in need of a coach. If you think you have time to help them out- please call Mrs. French.

The Yearbook Committee is working hard taking pictures,

collecting 8th grade entries and working on layouts. The yearbook will be like no other. Everyone will want a copy!!! Plan now...

Student Council is sponsoring a Roller Skating trip for grades 5/6 on December 2nd from 6-8 PM at Skylight.



Annual Veteran's Day Program

Eighth grade students recognized Veteran's Day on a personal level during a moving program on November 9th before local veterans, parents and students. Prior to the event, during social studies, students had an overview of all of the wars that the United States has been involved in since its inception. Students worked on their own to interview local veterans, gaining a deeper understand-

ing into the real life experiences the vets faced. Students worked during English classes to turn their interview notes into narrative poems, identifying with the interviewees, often in first person voice. Selected writers were invited to read their poetic interpretations of soldier experiences, while other students read a Roll Call of all Paxton residents that have lost their lives in the service

of this country, dating from the American Revolution to the War on Terror. The American Legion presented a color guard and a local veteran spoke in thanks to all who have served in the Armed Forces. A "Veterans Museum" and reception immediately followed the program, where students displayed their learning about various U.S. involved wars.

www.wrsd.net/Paxton



Become a FAN of Paxton Center School on Facebook.

Get newsfeeds about upcoming events and happenings at PCS. If you're a facebook member- login and search for Paxton Center School under the pages tab...



Check out the Paxton website for the calendar of events, copies of notices and forms and to see what is new and exciting at PCS!



We welcome all of your suggestions to use technology to keep you up to date and informed!

Plans for a mass e-mailing data base is coming soon!!!



Lego Leagues & Destination Imagination



Lego League is up and running! The older students are working on their "Team Challenge" Kit which will be practice for them as they prepare for next year's First Lego Team competition. The younger students have WeDo Lego kits and are doing the Junior First Lego League challenge. A trip to Agawam's Lego competition is scheduled for Dec. 12th. Students will get a first hand look

at what a competition is all about. It supports teamwork and cooperation- so it is called a "coopertition"

Destination Imagination teams are also in full swing and working on instant challenges. The Rising Stars team of younger students is eager to go and still

looking for some parental help... hint, hint...

The 8th grade team is working on a visual art project and thinking of some very creative ideas and representations.

Good Luck to all of our Teams and thank you to the coaches and managers!!!!

Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.*
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are sick with flu-like illness, [CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone](#) except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.) Keep away from others as much as possible to keep from making others sick.



PTO Holiday Marketplace Huge success!!!

Thank you for another successful Holiday Marketplace! We raised Almost \$3000 for Paxton Center School Programs for our kids! The raffle baskets looked great! Thanks to all the students in Grades 1-6 who brought in donations for the baskets. Much thanks to Kathy Pitman who organized the wonderful bake sale!! We appreciated all the yummy donations as well.

Rachel DeCola organized all the vendors for the grown ups and kids to do their Holiday Shopping, great job Rache!! Donna Parsons organized the kids craft tables. Cornajlin O'Riordan and Sue Wolfenden organized a dried flower arrangement table for kids and adults to make a centerpiece for their families. Thanks Ladies!

Thanks to all the Girl Scout Troops #30002,30474, 30229, 30275, 30299 and Boy Scout Pack 105 and their Leaders for holding activities in the cafeterial! Liz Raultis painted beautiful plates for the Kindergarten Silent Auction, Thanks Liz!

We were lucky to have several local businesses and vendors that donated items for raffle. Thanks to Total Appearance Salon, Home Depot, Jeff Antkowiak Photography, Tupperware, Lia Sophia, Taggies, Jenny Boston, Arbonne, Tastefully Simple, Silpada, Little Green Bag, Heberts Candy, Liz Raultis, Afghans, Jen Carlucci Glass, Pampered Chef, Robin Tasca, Uppercase Living, Finest Accessories, Sean Thackeray, Avon, Wachusett Martial Arts, Rosemary Scala, TMJ Crafts, Cherished

Memories, Imprints Photos.

Please see the PTO Bulletin Board for the list of raffle winners!

Special thanks to some of our volunteers who put in much of their time and effort: Kathy Pitman, Craig Pitman, Summer Glancy, Bobbi Lang, Rachel DeCola, Carrie Wood, Kathy Saart, Leslie Andrioli, Christine Wilder, Bobbie French, Kim Hannigan, Sue Wolfendon, Cornajlin O'Riordan, Nicole-Lawler, Jen Fenner, Julie McDonald, Jane Barnes, Allison Rapa, Jessica Hunt, Linda DeMacedo, Marcia Cote, Karen O'Donoghue, Jen Carlucci, Linda Lemay, Bethany Killeen, Karen O'Donoghue, Louisa Corazzini, Cheryl Buckley, Diane Sobol, and especially Rachel Antkowiak.



District Wide Student Council

Megan Houghton, Emily Lombardi, Connor Murphy and Philip Dombrowski are PCS's 8th grade representatives to the District Wide Student Council. The group meets once per month at the Jefferson School. Last month was their first meeting and they learned about Parliamentary procedures.

The DW student council members are

participating in a service learning project by collecting items the Rose Project. This project helps those who are in an assisted living situation. Each school is collecting a different type of item. PCS is collecting small travel size shampoos and conditioners that will be donated to the Rose Project and then distributed to those in need.

If you would like to donate to the Rose Project- please send in your shampoo and/or conditioners by Friday, December 4th. Our DWSC representatives will bring them to their next meeting on that day.

We appreciate your support.

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The LIBRARY NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We are looking for volunteers to help in the library on days 2 and 6 from 10:00 to 11:00. Mrs. Thackeray is spread thin this year as she spends half of her day in kindergarten.

She would be grateful for someone to help her with re-shelving books during this time.

PCS School Improvement Council

2010 Budget Planning- The Governor is planning to cut regional transportation reimbursements. This could result in a million dollar loss for WRSD- which is translated into educational cuts. See the letter from Dr. Pandiscio on the school's website

- VISION- The council is reviewing the PCS vision. We would like to get the whole community involved. We want to know what all members of Paxton feel are important for THEIR school. We are looking at ways to survey the community.
- Priorities- The current School Improvement Plan has 8 themes and 19 goals. In order to make the work manageable, we have looked at which goals are our priorities: strengthening partnerships, recognizing all abilities and encouraging students to reach their potential, providing programs to enhance the social/emotional well being of students, work cooperatively with town government and improve communication with the community, and to develop a budget that will meet the needs of PCS students.

Next Meeting January 20th 4:00 Library

Attendance is Important

The responsibility of being in school every day possible and being on time is important if a student is to achieve success. Missing a day's worth of lessons because of absence or a lesson or two because of coming to school late or being dismissed early, can impact a student's success. The work becomes difficult to get properly made up, and students miss out on the learning taking place inside the classroom with the teacher and other students. Not making up work or homework usually results in poor grades that can lead to failing in academic subjects.

The development of good attendance habits and being on time to school every day are invaluable to future success in school and later to success

in job performance.

Students MUST be in their homeroom classes prior to the 8:20 bell ringing. If they arrive to their homeroom after that time, they will be marked tardy. Students will receive a detention after three tardies and each one after that per quarter.

Early dismissals also impact student learning, as lessons do not end until 2:45. If a student is dismissed excessively from school, further action may be taken by school officials.

Attendance is the key to academic success and it is mandated by Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 15, Section 1G and Chapter 76, section 4.

Your child needs to come to school

every day. We understand the illnesses that can keep your child home, especially during the H1N1 crisis we are having, however you need to think about the importance of school when you are allowing your child to stay home for minor illness or when they are not sick. It is extremely difficult for students to make up for that lost time in class. Students with excessive absences can be referred for a CHINS, at risk of failing and attending summer school, the school may also refer the family to the District Attorney's office program for school attendance.

Remember that you can not learn and know what is happening in class if you are not there.