



Principally Speaking

Pelham Memorial High School

November - December 2017

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Newsletter from PMHS

Upcoming Dates:

Upcoming Events:

January 8:
PTA Meeting
7:00 pm

January 11:
2 Hour Delay
10:15 am - School starts

January 11:
Grade 11 College Night
7:00 pm

January 15:
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No School

January 22:
Grade 8 Parent/Student Info
Night
7:00 pm

January 22:
Midterm & Regents Exams

January 23:
Midterm & Regents Exams

January 24:
Midterm & Regents Exams

January 24:
Science Research Poster
Symposium
5:30 pm

January 25:
Midterm & Regents Exams

January 26:

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You may have noticed on our District calendar that semester exams will now be administered over four days with 3rd quarter beginning on Friday, January 26. Midterm and Regents Exams will begin on January 22 and conclude on January 25. Students only need to report to school 15 minutes prior to each exam. A schedule of exams will be mailed home in mid-January.

Shortly after midterm exams, students in Grades 9-11 will meet with their counselors to choose courses for the 2018-2019 school year. As you discuss various course offerings with your child, remember to review our Advanced Placement/College Course Booklet under Academics on our website for essential information on requirements and prerequisites for course enrollment. An updated AP booklet will be available on our site in mid-January. For some families choosing courses can be very challenging and stressful. Finding a balance in terms of requirements, rigor, choice and time for studying, as well as extra-curricular activities are all important when making these decisions. On Tuesday, February 6 at 7:00 pm, as well as on February 7, 9:00 am, the administration and counseling departments will host informal sessions to answer your course selection questions with a focus on finding a healthy balance and the best fit for your child. I will send out an email reminder closer to the date.

Our PMHS PTA has invited **Dr. Thomas Callahan**, Director of Mathematics and Science to participate in their meeting scheduled for January 8. Important topics of discussion will center on the high school's programs of study and updates on the Standards in Mathematics and Science. Everyone is invited.

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff at PMHS, I wish everyone in the Pelham community a restful, relaxing and joyous time with family and friends.

Sincerely,
Jeannine Clark

Department News

English Department

Third Quarter Begins

January 26:

Battle of the Bands

7:00 pm

January 31:

Tri M Honor Society

Induction

7:00 pm

February 2:

Senior Talent Show

7:00 pm

February 3:

Senior Talent Show

7:00 pm

February 5:

2 Hour Delay

10:15 am - School starts

February 6:

Choosing Courses: A Healthy Balance

7:00 pm

February 7:

Choosing Courses: A Healthy Balance

9:00 am

February 7:

Math/Science Honor Society

Induction

7:00 pm

February 8:

Grade 10 College Night

7:00 pm

February 13:

Chorus Fundraising Concert

7:00 pm

February 17 - 25:

Winter Recess

No School

Congratulations to the following students for their induction into the Knight & Lamp chapter of the National Honor Society:

Juniors

Elise Aronson, Jennifer Bell, Daniel Bernstein, Gabriella Bhiro, Lucy

The PMHS English Department hosted an in-store book fair at Barnes and Noble in Eastchester on December 17 with student performances and book readings to encourage a community of readers. A portion of the sales was donated to the PMHS PTA to promote future reading-themed events.

Math & Science Departments

Students from our Science Research program participated in Pelham Reads Oz, sponsored by the Pelham Public Library during the month of November. This community event culminated in a celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) in literature facilitated by our high school students. Workshops and booths ranged from making storm clouds to investigating wavelengths of light using prisms.

The high school MakerSpace has also been utilized over the last two months in a number of ways. Most recently, **Mr. Jason Lindley** collaborated with students from Hutchinson School to make wooden signs on our new Xcarve machine. **Mr. Leo Pena's** classes have been visiting the space to create models of cells for Biology class using science and engineering process skills. Related to design thinking, **Mr. Robert Stellabotte** recently attended a workshop at Stevens Institute of Technology on the future of teaching and learning Calculus using a 21st century skills-based approach. **Ms. Lisa DiCeglio** is also attending a professional learning experience focused on using science and engineering to teach critical concepts in mathematics.

Performing Arts Department

Thank you to the Pelham Education Foundation for providing funding for a consultant to assist at the outset of our launching of the ACAPelican A Cappella group. This consultant conducted auditions, arranged songs, ran rehearsals and assisted with the transition into a self-directed ensemble. **Mrs. Maria Abeshouse** is the advisor to the group.

Visual Arts

Congratulations to PMHS Photography student, **Audrey Lee**. She has been selected as a finalist in the Drexel University College of Media Arts & Design 2017 High School Photography Contest. For this highly competitive contest, the college received images from all over the U.S. and chose 120 finalists. Audrey's photograph, "Old Friends", will be on exhibit at the college with the other finalists from February 10-March 5, 2018.

Social Studies Department

On December 12, the annual PMHS History Bowl was held, in which student groups of 4-6 participated in a history trivia competition. A standard game included three periods of questioning with 125 students participating, along with 16 volunteers from our Rho Kappa Honor Society who sponsored the event. The winning team members received a "History Channel: This Day in History" 2018 Tabletop calendar with daily history trivia. The winning team members were

Bischof, Rachel Brewer,
 Madeline Bryce, Adam
 Bukowski, Lily Burns,
 Manon Bushong, Richard
 Che, Ian Childs, Andrew
 Clausen, Erin Cohen, Kevin
 Coleman, Lucy Conway,
 Samuel Cork, Francesca
 Di Cristofano, Emma
 Dickson, Claudia Dodge,
 Katherine Douglass,
 Madelyn Dunbar, Charlotte
 Edmunds, Nahian
 Ehtesham, Sarah
 Ellenbogen, Alison Emery,
 Connor Evans, Jonathan
 Girolamo, Benjamin
 Glickman, Dylan Gurl,
 Katherine Hart, John
 Hopkins, James Hupprich,
 Brenna Judge, Isabel
 Kenny, Erin Knapp, Lauren
 Kuster, Meredith Kuster,
 Emma Lauria, Jenna
 Letizia, Zara Levy, Julia
 Loughman, Violet Massie-
 Vereker, Tara Matz, Lindsay
 McNamara, Sophia
 McSpedon, Charles Miske,
 Grace Miske, Christian
 Morfit, John Morrell,
 Madeleine Mullany, Hailey
 Nelson, Arden Neu, Abigail
 O'Halloran, Allison
 Palmisciano, Jashwa
 Peralta, Madelyn Ploch,
 Julia Plourde, Kristina
 Pompilio, Peyton Rees,
 Luca Rivera, Samuel Rodd,
 Hana Rogatsky, Kristina
 Roksvold, Liam Ronan,
 Kimberly Rosell, Kaitlyn
 Rubbo, Leana Rutt, Michael
 Salama, Elias Salmeron,
 Joseph Silva, Sidney Skop,
 Margaret Solimine,
 Elizabeth Sotolongo, Ella
 Stern, Meghan Stevens,
 Sadie Sussman, Eleanor
 Tahbaz, Emily Talamas,
 Olivia Ting, Ariana
 Vazquez, Sara Veteri,
 Helena White, Alyssa
 Wong, Caitlin Wong

Seniors

Madison DiFrisco, Quinn
 Humphrey, Brianna Klein,
 Conor McNulty, Nicholas
 Milanese, Alexis Teller,
 Anna Weiss

Chad Mobile (**Flavio Darini, John Hernandez, James Hupprich, Daniel Walsh, Ian Childs and Julian Wisdom**). A special thanks to the PMHS PTA for providing financial resources to purchase pizza and drinks for all participants and volunteers.

On December 8, **Mr. Gregory Kopstein** presented a workshop at the Westchester Lower Hudson Council for the Social Studies annual conference. This conference was attended by over 200 social studies educators from three counties. Mr. Kopstein's workshop focused on using film in Social Studies classes and the PMHS elective, Hollywood Spotlight on History.

World Languages Department

International Dinner

On November 2 over 100 students participated in the World Language Department's annual International Dinner. Students from all high school language classes brought in dishes from all over the world, filling the tables with unique appetizers, dinners and desserts. The Mandarin, French, Italian, Spanish and Latin clubs all performed for the audience, making it a night to remember.

SUPA French

On Tuesday, November 14, the SUPA French class had the opportunity to go to the French Institute: Alliance Francaise in New York City. There they had a French guided tour of a photography art exhibit entitled *Vulnerable* by Alain Willaume. Students then watched a newly released documentary "Strangers at Home" (Les Francais, c'est les autres) and participated in a Q & A with the director, Isabelle Wekstein-Steg, who also introduced the movie. The theme of the movie was identity, as the two directors interviewed and filmed French students who do not feel French. The purpose of the movie was to deconstruct stereotypes and build tolerance and acceptance. The movie highlighted a real issue of racism among the French youth. Pelham students shared in a lively debate and discussion post film. Afterwards, students shared lunch at Au Bon Pain before heading back to PMHS.

Spreading Holiday Cheer

On Tuesday, December 19 the French, Italian, Spanish and Asian Culture clubs went caroling at the Bayberry Nursing Home in New Rochelle. PMHS students have been bringing holiday cheer to the Bayberry residents for over 20 years. The students joyfully sang Christmas carols in the target languages. After each club performed, the students and audience joined together to sing popular carols in English. The event was a great success. In addition, the World Language Department thanks the PMHS PTA for once again sponsoring the cost of the bus in order for our students to go to this wonderful event.

Spanish 4

On November 16, **Mrs. Anna Brown and Mrs. Angela Calvelli** brought 40 students from their Spanish 4 classes to a performance by the Hispanic Flamenco Ballet at the Tarrytown Music Hall. There the students saw examples of traditional Latin American dance and listened to the different musical contributions that the Hispanic culture has given to the world. A few of our students were even able to get on stage and

dance with the professional dancers. After the performance everyone enjoyed a Mexican lunch at Tequila Sunrise.

Mandarin I

On November 28, **Mrs. Yutong He's** Mandarin I class went on a field trip to H-Mart in Yonkers. After touring the specialty supermarket they participated in a scavenger hunt activity to look for authentic Chinese products and Chinese words learned in class. After the activity, the students enjoyed a Chinese lunch at the food court. Each of them also received Asian snacks as a gift from H-Mart. Before leaving for school, the students had a chance to shop for Chinese specialty products.

The World Languages Department thanks the Pelham Education Foundation for their generous grant for the *Moliere Than Thou* production which will take place on January 12 during 2nd and 3rd period. Timothy Mooney will transport us back in time to 17th Century France. The curricula of upper level French classes (3, 4, 5, SUPA), AP World History, AP European History and Theatre Arts will be enhanced and supported. His one-man show will emphasize court life, the time period and highlight characters in numerous Moliere's plays. Merci!

Extra Curricular and Athletics

Forensics Speech Team

Congratulations to our Forensic Speech Team. Over the final weekend in October, the PMHS Forensic Speech Team traveled to Xavier High School in Manhattan to compete at the Sister Raimonde Memorial Service Tournament.

Thanks to the efforts of extempers **Benjamin Glickman** and **John Morrell**, Declaimer **Emily Kalyvas** and Interper **Nahian Ehtesham**, PMHS won an impressive 10th place over all. Special congratulations go to **Nicholas Lieggi** who placed as a finalist in Congressional Debate.

On Saturday, December 2, the team competed at the Emily Clemente Memorial Tournament at The Ursuline School in New Rochelle. The team won 6th place in the Team Sweepstakes. Special congratulations go to **Sophia Leung** for winning 5th place in Declamation and **Michael Salama** for winning 4th place in Oral Interpretation of Literature.

The team competed at a tournament at Fordham Preparatory School during the first weekend in November. PMHS won an impressive 7th place over all. Congratulations go to our medal winners, **Asia Bertuccioli** in JV Oral Interpretation, **Isaac Blackburn** and **Nicholas Lieggi** in Congressional Debate and **Angelina Rosa** for placing 11th in Congressional Debate.

On December 16, the PMHS Forensics Speech team competed at the Holiday Classic Tournament at Regis High School in Manhattan. Congratulations to **Angelina Rosa** for winning 7th place in Congressional Debate. With this finish Angelina is the first PMHS student to qualify for this year's New York State Championships to be held in April at Hofstra University.

The Pel Mel

Congratulations to the 2016-2017 Pel Mel staff who were named a gold Medalist by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. This year's staff has been working on creating a digital version of this award winning student newspaper. Go to the PMHS website under Need to Know and you can access the Pel Mel online.

Athletics

Congratulations to all of the Fall Sports teams that advanced to compete at the Section I level.

Swimmer **Madison Hartigan** received the prestigious Con Edison Scholastic Sports Award for the week of November 12. An interview with Madison aired on WHUD radio and can be replayed at www.whud.com/con-edison-athlete-of-the-week/. Madison also competed at the State level in Ithaca and placed 5th in the 200 freestyle and 3rd in the 500 free. At the same meet **Jennifer Bell** earned 4th placed in Diving Public and Federation. Both girls won the Section I Championships in the same events. Congratulations to our team for these wonderful accomplishments.

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