

Point Webster Middle School

Fall Newsletter



News from the Principal James P. McGuire

The school year is off to a great start and in fact has been absolutely flying by this year. With the addition of new staff and new programs one might expect a bump or two in the road but it has been all smooth sailing in 2008-2009.

The following new staff have joined Point Webster's veterans and each and every one has fit right in to the program.

Cheryl Brown/Aide BGD Gr. 6/7

David Carroll/Instrumental Band

Michelle Cunniff/ Science Gr. 8

Jill Geden/Social Studies Gr.6

Stephanie Hunt LDC Gr. 8

Mike Maguire/Science Gr. 7

Michael Notarangelo/Health

Mark Nutley/Social Studies Gr. 8

Tim Smith/BGD Gr. 6/7

Kate Walpole/Reading Gr. 5

In addition to new staff we have added a new program as students in the grade 6 and grade 7 behavioral strand are now attending Point Webster. All is going well.

It has been a busy start and a highlight was the visit of Commissioner of Education Mitchell Chester who visited both Point Webster and Clifford Marshall. He let all know how impressed he was with both visits and your children certainly left a good impression on him.

On Wednesday, November 12, 2008, the Quincy School Committee will meet at Point Webster.

Their visits are always fun and I would invite you to come to this open meeting if you are interested. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM.

Our grading system has changed this year and I want to remind you that your child will only be getting a report card three times as we have gone to a trimester grading plan. Marks close for the first trimester on November 26th and you were sent an interim report on October 16th. Please be sure your child returns this form signed, to their homeroom teacher. If you have any questions regarding grade reporting, don't hesitate to call.

Please be aware that there are two "NO SCHOOL" Tuesdays in November. No school Tuesday, Nov. 4th for Election Day and Tuesday, Nov. 12th for Veteran's Day. I will be calling you using our Instant Alert system to remind you about these dates. In addition, your children will be casting their votes for President on 11/3/08 as part of our Kid's Vote effort at Point Webster.

I hope you all feel comfortable calling with any questions or concerns. We can easily be reached at 617-984-6600.

Best regards,

James P. McGuire, Principal

Administrative Staff

Mr. McGuire, Principal

Mrs. Bucci, Asst. Principal

Mr. Bogan, Gr. 5-7Counselor

Mrs. Markarian, Gr. 6-8Counselor

Mr. Boss, BGD Counselor

Mrs. Campbell, R.N., Nurse

Mrs. Graney, Secretary

Mrs. Potter, Attendance Aide

Team Leaders

Mrs. Gilbert/Grade 5

Mrs. Driscoll/Grade 6

Mr. Fisher/Grade 7

Mr. DeLisle/Grade 8

SpEd

Mrs. MacFarlane/Chairperson



Positive School Atmosphere

Ms. Bucci, Asst. Principal

Attendance

Attending school and being on time on a regular basis are a foundation to build a good education upon. Students are encouraged to be at school and on time daily unless there is an illness or extenuating circumstances. Students who have perfect attendance each term should be proud of this accomplishment. As recognition for being in school daily, there is a Perfect Attendance bulletin board in the hallway outside of the main office. Students and families can find the honored students name or the names of friends who achieved this recognition. Take a look at the bulletin board the next time you are at the main office.

Honor Roll

Academic achievements are a source of pride for students, their

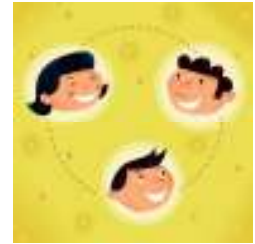
families, the school staff and the community. For that reason, each term both the High Honor Roll and the Honor Roll are posted on a bulletin board outside of the Main Office. Please stop by to see who our academic achievers are and congratulate them on their accomplishments the next time you see them. They work hard and would appreciate some positive reinforcement for a job well done.

Appropriate and Respectful Behavior

Creating and providing a school environment which is conducive to learning is of the utmost importance and a major priority at Point Webster. Students are continually reminded that when they come to school, they are here "to learn". Respect is a key factor in that effort and students are asked to focus on respecting themselves, other people, the building and their ability to learn. When students are learning and re-

spect is given the school has a very positive environment and our goal is being met.

We urge parents to join us in our goal of creating a positive school environment where learning is the focus. Having conversations with your children about responsible and respectful behavior will support the school's mission and goal. We thank you for sending us your children who are ready to learn each day and look forward to many positive connections with you as the school year proceeds.

**Grade Five News**

The students in fifth grade have had to make many changes in order to adjust to middle school. Students MUST remember to bring all their materials to class EVERY day. The students have been very busy in all their classes.

Students in Language Arts have completed a descriptive paragraph on their favorite food or place that they have visited. Students also completed "Want" ads for a new student at Point Webster! Students are beginning to work on a realistic piece about a field trip gone bad! In science students are working on a new unit called "Life Processes".

In math students have been learning about place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Students are

beginning new packets in Algebra.

In Social Studies students have reviewed maps and geography. Students are now in the middle of a unit on ancient civilizations. What fascinating things they have learned about the Aztecs, Mayas, and Incas! Students are reminded to study vocabulary and facts before the day of the test. In reading students have learned numerous vocabulary words and applied them in writing, as well as using context clues to determine meanings of their new words. They are starting nonfiction texts, beginning with a story about Rosa Parks. Students have been assigned a book report due at the end of October. Students and parents/guardians are reminded that a teacher is after school every

day, except Friday and early release Tuesday, for homework help.



Grade Six News

Language Arts-

Mrs. Green's Language Arts students have begun this academic year by reviewing the different kinds of sentences and the different types of sentences. They will continue to incorporate these styles into their writings. Students are also working on improving their grammar, mechanic, and spelling skills. Additionally, every month students will reuse their Social Studies/ Science vocabulary words or their Math/ Reading vocabulary words as part of their spelling and writing program. Students have recently completed a descriptive writing and will soon begin a persuasive essay.

As part of American Education Week, students will be writing an essay on "How Education Can Help My Generation Influence Changes in the World". American Education Week is held during the week of November 16-22, 2008. Students will also be involved, on a volunteer basis, to enter an essay contest sponsored by the *Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the USA*. The topic for the essay contest is "What Freedom Means to Me".

Reading-

Come join with us in making this year in reading class something special. Parents there's no doubt that you can make a difference! I need you to encourage your child to participate in class, complete all assignments, and carry over to their other subjects the skills they have mastered in reading.

Students will be learning about the "Fabulous Fifties" when they read the novel, *My Louisiana Sky*. So if your attics/cellars are filled with memorabilia from this era please send it in.



Mrs. Bernick's and Mrs. Driscoll's class is stepping back in time when they read the novel *Sign of the Beaver*. They are able to draw on their fifth grade knowledge of colonial times to understand this piece of literature.

RIDDLE: WHAT NEEDS DAILY WORK BUT IS NEVER COMPLETE? A CHILDS VOCABULARY

Social Studies—

This Term in 6th grade Geography, we started off with a background of the five themes of Geography. The students also discussed their cultural backgrounds and pinpointed them on a map creating our classroom bulletin board. "Where in the world are the Point kids from???" They also did projects based on these themes where they made connections to different places around the world filling in maps and pinpointing locations. Now, we have started on a tour of the continent of Europe stopping in most of the countries and picking up interesting facts along the way!



Math— Grade 6 math students have been studying place value and powers of ten. At the end of the chapter they demonstrated their skills on a poster of their favorite sports team. Students listed player's salaries in standard form, word form, expanded form and using powers of ten. The students also analyzed Red Sox batting averages using their knowledge of decimal place values. We are now studying operations with whole numbers and will be working with number theory and decimal concepts in the next month. Once a

week students are using the CCC Lab to strengthen and improve their math skills at an independent level.

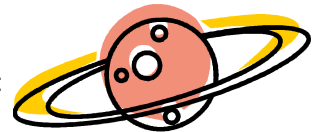
They will be keeping a journal to assess their understanding of daily math concepts. The journal will also help them to develop strategies they can use to be successful with MCAS testing in the spring.

Many students have visited [eduplace .com](http://eduplace.com) to earn extra credit. It is a great resource for parents and kids. The students have earned many math bucks for their hard work effort. Thank you for your support at home. Mrs. O'Brien

Science-

Sixth grade science students are spending Term 1 studying astronomy. Currently we are looking at the Earth, Moon, Sun system and how the position of these bodies creates the cycles of day and night, seasons, moon phases, eclipses, and tides. To gather evidence of these phenomena, students are taking sunstick readings, graphing sun and moon rise and set times, viewing daily moon phases, modeling solar and lunar eclipses in the classroom, and creating tide tables. The ISN and and text should be going home nightly.

Some upcoming astronomical happenings:



- Orionid Meteor Showers 10/20-10/22
- Saturn and Mercury in eastern pre-dawn sky (October)
- New Moon 10/28
- Full Moon 11/12
- Leonid Meteor Showers 11/17
- Venus and Jupiter in western sky after sunset (late Nov.)

News from Grade Seven

Reading—We've been reading non-fiction works including articles, letters, journals, interviews etc. We've been using primary and secondary sources to find out about the lives of people who lived before as well as those still living. We also know that using our

pre-reading strategies help us to better understand the material we've reading. Mrs. Davis-Myers



Math—We are moving on through the curriculum. The first chapter and first test have already been completed. The students are excitedly participating in class and becoming young mathematicians. We have even been doing some work with organizational strategies using binders, agenda books, and folders. Of course this year we will continue to learn math through our collection of pennies. We currently have over 100,000. Our goal is to collect 1,00,000.00 and break a Guinness World Record while we're at it! A tremendous year has begun. Mr. Angell



Language Arts—Students in seventh grade are working hard to perfect their writing! They have written biographies about their classmates and are currently in the process of writing their own personal narratives. Watch out in the next few weeks, as they create their own scary stories for Halloween.



Social Studies -

This year is off to an exciting start. The 7th grade world travelers have began their journey looking at some of the earliest humans to exist in East Africa. They have gone on to discover how the earth became populated and how humans moved from a hunting and gathering society to an agricultural society and eventually the rise of cities. We are currently in Mesopotamia, part of the Fertile Crescent, where the first true civilization began. We have seen the rise and fall of the very first cities in Sumer and have seen the

rise and fall of the: Babylonian Empire, Assyrian Empire and New Babylonian Empire. From here we will discover the first set of written laws created by Hammurabi and the first signs of writing. How extraordinary!! Then we will look at the Phoenicians and the rise of the Israelites, and after, our next stop.....Ancient Egypt! More to come later!

Science -

Our 7th Grade Science classes have kicked off the 2008-2009 school year in great fashion. We have been talking about environmental issues including; pollution, endangered species and alternative forms of energy. We have also done projects that include creating food webs and designing our own hybrid automobiles. The class also has contributed to a few class pets, including a gold fish and a red eared slider turtle.



News from Grade Eight

Social Studies

The summer is over and school is back in full swing and so is 8th Grade Social Studies. We kicked off the school year jumping right into the local discovery of the Abigail Adams time capsule, it was something that the 8th grade students had a ton of knowledge and a ton of questions about because it was something that happened so close to home. Then we picked up with the 13 colonies, the kids really enjoyed discussing the Salem Witch Trials along with King Philip's War, which again were two locally historical happenings. Things are starting to really heat up as we are heading full steam into covering the Revolutionary War.

Science

It has been an amazing start to Grade 8 Science. Students have done phenomenal work on their Famous Scientists Projects. We recently completed our Scientific Method and Measurement lessons and are now heading full speed into Chemistry. Students will be balanc-

ing chemical equations, learning about the periodic table, making polymer models and of course experimenting! Watch out MIT!

Math

The 8th grade math classes have cleaned off their summer rust and are back in learning mode. In algebra they have covered topics from Expressions, Equations, and Functions to Solving Equations and Finding Solutions. With two quizzes under their belt already they can look forward to another one Friday October 3rd. Taking a glimpse into the near future in algebra they will be studying Multi-Step Equations. Pre-Algebra has also been working at an unyielding pace. With the same quiz scenario as the Algebra class, the Pre-Algebra class has covered Variables, Equations, and Integer Operations. These topics will be followed with Solving Equations and Inequalities. Overall, the entire 8th grade is off to a great start, and should strive for consistent hard work for the course of the school year.

ELA

We started the year off by focusing on the five steps to the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading and publishing. We have begun, and will continue to apply the writing process to a variety of types of writing, such as, persuasive essays, compare and contrast essays, expository essays, and personal narratives to name a few. In addition to our writing, we are learning 20 new spelling words per week, and we are writing weekly journal entries. We will continue to fine tune our writing skills through out the year.

Physical Education and Cross Country News

Ms. Murphy

The Point Webster Cross Country Team has started their practices to get ready to race against the other middle schools in Quincy. This year's team has over 40 runners and will be lead by Matt Roach, Kathleen Conroy, Megan Welliver, Kathryn McGroarty, Steven Curran, Claudia Barzola, Nicole Welliver, and Noreen Plabutong.

The team is working hard to build up to run the 1.5 mile course through the woods at Pagent Field. The team practices on Mondays and Wednesdays and will race on Fridays starting October 3rd.

Come cheer us on as we race every Friday in October at Pagent Field in Quincy. The races start at 3:00.



Physical Education Classes

For the fall, we are working on our soccer and flag football units as well as preparing for the Presidential Fitness Test. Students excelling with soccer are Dennis Paz, Rachel Papile, Brian Alves and Shane McKenna. Students excelling in flag football are Demetrius Williams, Conor Fitzpatrick, Kyle Enano, and Noreen Plabutong.

Students are running laps around the school in preparation for the mile run which will be happening soon.

A reminder to all students to return their Pond Street permission slip ASAP. Also, classes will be held outside (weather permitted) so please bring a jacket or sweatshirt to class.



Academic Reporting Dates

Please make note this year the Quincy Public Schools middle schools have gone to a 3 term marking period instead of the previous 4. Listed below are the interim report dates and end of term dates for the school year. Interim reports will be mailed home and report cards except for the last one in June will be given to students to bring home. Reports are usually distributed a week after marks close.

Interim Report Dates

Mid Term Ends

- Term 1 October 10
- Term 2 January 23
- Term 3 May 01

Just a reminder you may request homework sent home after 3 days absent. Less than that it is the responsibility of the student to get work missed from their classroom teacher.

Marks Close

Term Ends

- Term 1 November 26
- Term 2 March 13
- Term 3 June 17



Holiday Schedule No School Days

- 9/1/08 Labor Day
- 10/13/08 Columbus Day
- 11/04/08 Election Day
- 11/11/08 Veteran's Day
- 11/27-28/08 Thanksgiving Recess
- 12/24/08-01/02/09 Christmas Vacation
- 01/19/08 Martin Luther King Day
- 02/16-20/09 February Vacation
- 04/10/09 Good Friday
- 04/20-24/09 April Vacation
- 05/25/09 Memorial Day

Vacations—The School System does not condone vacations taken other than those assigned. Prolonged absence from school may result in summer school. If a student is absent over 28 days, retention may result.

Box Tops for Education

We are still collecting labels, as well as the Hannaford register tapes, Campbell labels and Hood Milk Red Sox caps. Keep them coming every little bit helps fund raise for PW.

Point Webster will also receive 8% back for your on-line shopping purchase through Box Tops for Education. Visit the site for healthy recipes, sales, money saving coupons and products. Thanks for all your help. Mrs. Potter



Breakfast/Lunch

Price Increase

- Breakfast 1.00
- Lunch 2.00
- Milk .40



Principal Student of the Month

Every month two students from each grade are chosen for this honor. Students pictures are posted on the bulletin board outside the office and are treated to a pizza lunch with Mr. McGuire and Mrs. Markarian.

We would like to take this time to recognize the following:

April

Grade 5

Jeremy Vuong & Lily Vo

Grade 6—Domonica Fernandes & Michael Guarino

Grade 7—Hanh Vo & Anthony

Russell

Grade 8—Blair Hajjar & Henry Chen

May

Grade 5—Nicole Strauss & Lennie Strauss

Grade 6— Collin Wilson &

Michelle Kung

Grade 7—Michael Aupperlee & Kathleen Conroy

Grade 8—Mikele Thano & Julie Broadbent

September

Grade 5

Eliane Cabral & Chris Brown

Grade 6

Nicole Welliver & Mathew Knights

Grade 7

Jessica Wong & Tommy Hanrahan

Grade 8

Abigail Monterroso & Alex Nguyen

Guidance, Mr. Bogan/Gr. 5/7, Mrs. Markarian/Gr. 6/8 Mr. Boss/BGD

Guidance will be focusing on academic, behavior and social goals for students. In addition, guidance groups will begin for every grade. Feel free to call with questions 617-984-6600.

If your child is having difficulties or problems, please contact his or her guidance counselor. We are here to help and would like to be aware of any issues.



Any family finding themselves in need over the holidays may contact the Germantown Neighborhood Center at 617-376-1384.

They are accepting holiday assistance applications until November 5th.



**21st Century After School Programs
Ms. Loftus, Point Webster Coordinator**

Student Council—The following students have been selected for Student Council Officers;

President, Paul Nigro

Vice Pres., Jay Newman

Secretary, Tyler Wayne

Treasurer, Amanda Wong

Congratulations to these 8th grade students and to all the students who ran for office!



Technology Engineering

We are off to a wonderful start this school year. The fifth graders recently completed a pneumatic straw rocket experiment involving that of the protractor with varying air pressure (p.s.i.). They are now creating Micro Soft Excel graphs and charts with the data they collected. The sixth graders just completed a unit involving the Geodesic Dome. The dome was invented by our very own Quincy native Buckminster Fuller. The students built several domes from roles of newspaper and tested them for strength. They did an excellent cooperative job with the pentagon shapes. The seventh graders completed a unit in measuring by making their very own altimeters. They now know the height of Point Webster’s roof and surrounding trees. The eighth graders are presently working on a communications (sign) project which should greatly help them with M.C.A.S. Keep up the great work Point students we are really proud of you. Mr. Cheney

Art Happenings!

We are off to a great start in art this year. Creative minds are at work problem solving and bringing original ideas to life through art. 5th graders are exploring the world around them using their observation skills. They drew their shoes from observation using line and shading. We were amazed at how complicated our shoes are with all those details, and to think someone had to design them! 6th graders are studying a unit on the natural world and they have been drawing shells from observation. Students did a wonderful job capturing the shapes, textures, patterns, and colors of the shells. In grade 7, students are excited about the annual International Peace Poster Contest sponsored by our local Lion’s Club. The theme this year is “Peace begins with me.” Students are learning that art is a powerful visual language that can communicate a message of peace to others around the world.

8th grade students are busy working on a unit on Art and America’s Westward Expansion linking art to social studies. Students are learning that we can learn a lot about history through art. Students are working on drawing and scratchboard engraving inspired by the great American artist, John James Audubon and his famous bird paintings. Students in the after school program, Point Painters, have completed their passports and are now “visiting” the country of Mexico. We looked at an authentic Mexican bark painting and then we made our own paintings on simulated bark made out of brown paper. The finished folk art paintings were bright and colorful and each one was unique!



Tuesday Release Days—12:15 PM Dismissal/PTO Dates

Sept. 16 & Sept. 30	DARE Program—	<u>PTO Meeting Dates</u>
Oct. 14 & Oct. 28	Grade 7	<u>Tuesday's at 6:30 PM</u>
Nov. 25	Officer Grazioso	October 21, 2008
Dec. 9 & Dec. 23	worked with grade 7	November 18, 2008
Jan. 13 & Jan.27	students October 14th	January 27, 2009
Feb. 10 & Feb. 24	until Oct. 27th.	February 24, 2009
March 10 & March 24	He is now working with	March 24, 2009
April 14 & April 28	the fifth grade.	April 28, 2009
May 12 & May 26		May 19, 2009
June TBA at later date.		June TBA

News from the Nurse - Mrs. Campbell



Medicine

Quincy Public Schools has a over-the-counter medicine policy whereby children may receive Tylenol, Advil or Tums through the nurse's office at school. A Parental Consent form needs to be signed and held on file in the health office. It no longer requires the signature of your doctor and will be good for the full school year. Call Mrs. Campbell at 984-6605 if you would like a form or have any questions.

Sports Physicals

Every year students who participate in a sport must have their permission form and up to date physical on file in the health office to be eligible to play.

Attendance/Sickness

Although we would like all our students to have perfect attendance, there are times when home is the place to be.

Please keep your child home when:

- He/she has a fever.
- He/she has uncontrolled diarrhea
- He/she is vomiting within last 24 hours
- He/she has strep-throat (child may return after 24 hours of antibiotics)
- They have conjunctivitis- (child may return after 24 hours of treatment)
- Your child feels ill

Remember students will be screened for vision, hearing and scoliosis throughout the year. Parents will be notified for abnormal results.