



POINT WEBSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Point Webster Middle School

Volume 1, Issue 1

January/February/March

Notes from the Principal James P. McGuire

Now that winter is upon us we are settling in for a comfy, cozy couple of months at Point Webster. Our **parent teacher conferences are January 13th and 27th**. I hope that many of you will be able to schedule appointments to meet with your child's teachers. I always feel this opportunity is both informative and helpful for our parents. We are also making plans for our second session of after school programs beginning soon (look for upcoming details).

Marks close on Friday, March 13th, the end of our second trimester and report cards will follow shortly thereafter. I hope all of our students will do their best to achieve their maximum potential and take advantage of the remaining time before the term ends to strive for success.

MCAS testing is again just around the corner. This year testing includes ELA and Reading Comprehension for all students in grades 5 through 8. This will take place March 31st through April 3rd. Testing will resume in May and all our students

will be testing between May 11 and May 22 this year. A testing schedule will be sent home with students as we get closer to the actual testing dates.

Drama is alive and well at Point Webster. The Point Webster players will perform the musical "Honk Junior" this spring. Performances will be held in April. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. Also going on in the arts is "Staying Alive" and "Abbamania" and an "Evening at Pops" both events are sponsored by the Quincy School-Community Partnership and will take place at the Quincy Marriott. "Staying Alive" and "Abbamania" is scheduled for March 20th at 8:00 PM and "Evening at Pop's" is on May 7th. Tickets may be purchased at Point and we will keep you updated as the events get closer.

Congratulations to Ms. Rogers, music teacher and Mr. Carroll, band instructor and all the students who participated in our wonderful holiday concert we had on December 3rd. It really put

everyone in the holiday mood.

21st Century—The first session of 21st Century (after school) programs has wrapped up. The second session will be starting on January 29th. This fall, we had some energetic programs in which many students participated. Many of these programs will be continuing into the second session.

"Holiday Cards for Soldiers"

This holiday season the students and staff sent get well cards to recuperating soldiers in hospitals. Thanks to all who participated in this effort. There truly is no place like Point.



Business Partners

Please don't forget to patronize our wonderful business partners who generously support our school efforts when ever asked. Roche Brothers Supermarkets Quincy Municipal Credit Union Dependable Cleaners



Message from the Nurse

Mrs. Campbell

Guidelines for When to Keep Your Child Home

A fever of 100 degrees or more. They should remain fever free for 24 hours. If they have vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours

Severe cold symptoms

*Strep throat- *Stay at home until the child has been treated for 24 hours*

*Conjunctivitis- *Stay at home until the child has been treated for 24 hours*

Getting a Good Start

Come to school well rested

Children who get at least 8 hours sleep will be more alert and will function better in school.

Have a healthy break

We offer breakfast every day between 7:30 and 8:10 AM.

Just a reminder: As you are bringing your children in for annual physical exams, students entering 7th grade need to have an updated copy of their physical exam as well as a Tetanus Booster for 7th grade entry. Please drop off a copy to the main office or the nurse's office at your convenience.

Ms. Bucci, Assistant Principal

School is a wonderful place. It offers both academic and social experiences for students. Overall, students come to school motivated and engaged to learn, while also having opportunities to interact socially with their peers. However, at times social situations arise which interfere with the academic experience. Developing better communication skills, decision making skills and conflict resolution skills could benefit us all, but they are especially well suited to teach teenage students. At Point Webster Middle School we work hard to teach teenagers more effective ways to handle the social issues which may arise.

Basically, our students learn that conflict is part of life and is caused in a variety of manners.



Ms. Bucci, Assistant Principal continued page 1

When a conflict occurs there are some steps to follow which can assist in solving the problem. They are to: calm down, identify the problem clearly (either individually, with the person they are in conflict with, or tell an adult), think of possible solutions, and then choose the best solution to solve the problem. At PWMS the staff does a wonderful job with assisting students in the classroom, lunch/recess time, in the Guidance Department, or in the Administrative Offices to handle social issues. Teachers assist students daily and if necessary conflicts can be mediated in the guidance or main office. If you have a concern about social issues which may arise at school, please work

with your child at home to go through the steps which were previously identified. If you or your child needs our help, or if you would like to contact us about any concerns please feel free to contact us. We will do our best to assist your child in having a successful school day not only academically, but also socially



Academic Report Dates Interim Reports Marks Close

January 23	March 13
May 1	June 17

MCAS Testing Dates

March 30-April 4 Grades 5-8 ELA/Reading
March 31—Grade 7 Long Composition
May 11-22 Grades 5-8 MCAS

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

News from the Guidance Office

Mr. Bogan/Gr. 5/7 &

Mrs. Markarian Gr. 6/8

Welcome to all new students to Point Webster. The next couple months will be a very busy and exciting time for our eighth grade students in the coming weeks. Eighth grade students will participate in the orientation process. The next step will take place in March, when the course selection process for high school scheduling

will begin. High school scheduling involves the teachers, guidance counselors, students and their families. Through this combined effort students should be able to complete their high school schedules to best meet their academic needs and interests.

All students are scheduled to take the ELA portion of the MCAS during the last week of March and other portions during May.

As always the guidance office continues to offer support to all students, through groups, progress reports, mediation, and individual or parental contact. Please call your child's counselor should any issues or concerns arise.

Student of the Month November

5th Grade—Jacob Bennett,
Wilma Samson
6th Grade— Sultan Kokel,
Paul Trubiano
7th Grade—Claudia Barzola,
Joey Jeong
8th Grade— Nina Plabutong,
Robert Demore

Student of the Month December

5th Grade— Karen Chen,
Jay Macaibay
6th Grade— Nicholas Fahey,
Katy Deng
7th Grade— Collin Wilson,
Micaela Maloof,
8th Grade— Kathleen Conroy,
Fady Asaad





Grade 5 News

Mrs. Gilbert, Language Arts

Students in grade 5 Language Arts are reading the amazing book *Because of Winn-Dixie* with Mrs. Walpole and Mrs. Gilbert. As a follow-up activity the students had a Winn-Dixie party in Reading and created their own Littmus Lozenges in Language Arts. Also, students watched the movie Winn-Dixie and compared/contrasted it with the book in Language Arts. Students started the new year by making resolutions for 2009 and also wrote winter haiku poems. Students will begin writing persuasive letters in class and are continuing working on pronouns.

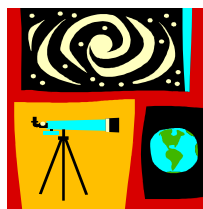


In **Math Ms. Sullivan** is working on fractions. Students are learning to add and subtract fractions and put them on a number line. They are also learning to compare and order fractions. This will lead into adding and subtracting decimals. Each early release Tuesday students are given an open response question from past MCAS tests to practice how to do open response math questions.

In **Social Studies Mrs. Clancy's** class is studying the 13 colonies and colonial America. From there, they will move into the middle colonies and then the southern colonies. Students are given an MCAS type open response question on each test.

In **Science Mrs. Hammerstrom's** class is finishing up our Earth Systems unit and will be moving into the Atmosphere and Solar System unit. Students are given an MCAS open response question, on each test to help prepare them for the MCAS.

In May students will be taking the MCAS this year in English and Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science.



Mrs. Walpole, Reading

Students have been reading nonfiction texts in the Trophies series. Students have been focusing on the difference between fiction and nonfiction texts. We are learning interesting facts about ocean life and the Earth. Students were amazed by the facts and pictures of the Bumphead Parrot fish. It uses its head to grab food from the coral reef. They were also intrigued about the formation of an atoll. An atoll is formed when an inactive volcano sinks. We are also focusing on strategies when dealing with an open response question. Students are focusing on pulling the main idea of an article along with supporting details.





Grade Six News

Mrs. Green, Language Arts

Mrs. Green's Language Arts students have been working to improve their writing skills by becoming "Grammar Detectives". As they write, they are incorporating using specific nouns, vivid verbs, and a variety of sentence structures to enhance their piece of work. They have recently completed persuasive, narrative, and expository writings. As part of the sixth grade interdisciplinary approach to learning, students worked in cooperative groups on an expository writing on a topic from any of their subject disciplines. Once the writing was completed, students used this information to successfully create a desk top teaching presentation. As part of the desk top teaching of their topic, students also created an evaluation tool in order to assess their audience's learning. Topics ranged from learning how to find the coordinates of a country on a map, mathematically creating the Point Webster Middle School symbol, making a board game as a strategy for studying for a test, learning about gravity and inertia, PEMDAS for Math, to learning the basics of playing an electric guitar. As part of a Reading and Language Arts writing assignment, students are currently writing a fable using a personification character they have created. This fable will eventually become a book. As the second term continues, students will be working on their grammar skills, improving their vocabulary, as well as answering a variety of open response question styles in order to be prepared for the MCAS testing in March.

Science, Mrs. Rogers

Sixth grade science students will be wrapping up their unit on Astronomy by February vacation. They will then begin their weather and climate unit where they will be asked to keep a daily weather journal.

Ms. Geden, Social Studies

As Term 2 began the sixth grade students finished their passage across Europe by doing desktop teaching. They were grouped together and given countries of Europe to research. After the research was complete, the students taught each other about the different countries and even got to have another sixth grade class as their students! Since we got back from winter break we have started on our journey through Asia and North Africa and will be studying the different countries that we visit along the way. Students will be doing many hands on projects and maps. To finish off the unit on Asia, students will create a project called A Tour Across Asia where they will be including aspects of the many different countries that they have visited so far. Happy Traveling sixth graders!



Mrs. O'Brien, Math

Grade six math students are finishing up a unit on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions. Students will be taking a mid year assessment test at the end of January. Next we will be working on decimals and percents. In March students will be studying geometry and measurement and will be celebrating Pi Day on March 14th. C2, an after school

Astronomical Happenings:

January 4th—Earth is closet to the sun
January 10th— 1st and largest full moon of the year "Wolf Moon"
After sunset Sirius at the horizon in the E/SE



math program will be sent home with registration information for this activity. Homework is extremely important! Thank you for your continued support in seeing to it that it gets completed.

Mrs. Driscoll, Reading

Grade 6 Reading classes will be addressing new reading skills and how to use these strategies in all content areas. Students will hopefully learn how to organize information while reading, predict what information will be found, revise predictions, and related new information to prior knowledge.

Grade 6 will also be reading the novel, the Watson's Go To Birmingham—1963 by Christopher Curtis. It is a story narrated by young Kenny Watson about his family, the Weird Watson's of Flint, Michigan, and their trip to Birmingham, Alabama, during one of the civil rights movement's most tragic events. Mr. Curtis is one of the suggested authors recommended by MCAS test writers. Grade 6 students will also be exposed to authors Karen Hesse, Washing Irving, Mildred Taylor, Yoshiko Uchida, Jane Yolen and Gary Soto who also appear on the suggested list of MCAS authors.





Grade 7 News

Math, Mr. Angel

The students in 7th grade math class will be making positive progress through the math curriculum. We have been exploring our way through fractions. Your children should now know how to add, subtract, multiply and divide them. As the year continues, the classes will learn more about positive and negative numbers. Ask your children what good and evil have to do with math. Some of the classes will also be moving in probability and ratios. The odds are that math class will continue to challenge each of your children. Keep bringing in those pennies!



Social Studies, Mr. Fisher

It has been a fast moving year! Our tour has taken us to Mesopotamia and now we are well into Egypt. We

will be spending about two more weeks in Egypt and then sail across the Mediterranean Sea into the Greek Peninsula and discover the world of the Ancient Greeks and their struggles with the Persians as well as within Greece. We will also see where the first Olympiad was held in Athens. We will meet up with the world's greatest conqueror Alexander the Great and discuss the Hellenistic period. Next we will make our last stop on our grand tour of the Ancient World in Rome.



Language Arts, Ms. Loftus

Grade 7 Language Arts classes are bearing down as they prepare for the Long Composition MCAS that takes place in March. We are looking at our scores from last year's test to see how we can do even

better this year! Wish us luck!



Science, Mr. Maguire

This term we started a new text book. "Motion, Forces and Energy", and are studying the science of physics. To start off this subject we did a project called "Newton Scooters". This project is based on Isaac Newton's third law of motion, where each group of students created a vehicle that needs to move under the guidelines of Newton's third law of motion. Later in the term we will be talking about other physical topics including; pressure, thermal and heat energy, kinetic energy and other forms of energy.





Grade 8 News

Math, Mr. Marani

The second term is off to a great start for 8th grade math students. The range of topics covered is broad and a blend of review and new content. Such topics are as follows: solving, writing, and graphing linear equations and functions, factors, fractions, exponents and rational number operations. A focal aspect of class will be the mid-year math assessment which helps students focus and prepare for the 8th Grade Math MCAS.

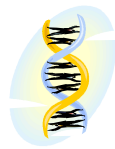
Students are working hard and should be very proud as some of the content covered can be extremely challenging.



Science, Ms. Cunniff

Grade 8 Science is working on the Cells and Heredity Unit. Before our holiday break students completed amazing and creative cell projects: games, power point presentations, travel brochures, songs, poems, children's books, cell models and posters. Some even researched blood cells and the human genome project. I am very proud of them. At the start of the New Year, we will continue learning about DNA and heredity. Students will be creating their own Muppet offspring using different gene combinations. We will also do some fun labs on osmosis, I

looking at our cheek cells, and working on lab reports to prepare for high school science. Of course we will continue preparing for the grade 8 science MCAS in the spring. Happy New Year!



Social Studies, Mr. Nutley

"The British are coming" yelled Paul Revere as he made his historic Mid-night ride from Boston to Lexington. Paul Revere is just one of the many local historical figures that the 8th Graders are discussing in Social Studies. The road to the American Revolution started right here in Boston, and our students are learning the major role that Massachusetts had in American independence. Soon the students will have their first project of the second trimester, it will involve a timeline of the Revolutionary War and the events that led up to the war.



Language Arts, Mrs. DeLisle

MCAS preparation is the name of the game in 8th grade ELA. The 8th graders will be taking the ELA MCAS in March. We are currently focusing on non-fiction as approximately 70% of the 2007 ELA MCAS was non fiction. We will study a variety of types of non fiction including: biographies, magazine and newspaper articles, as well as texts that include topics on science and social studies to name a few. We will also focus on touching base on a wide range of literary genres including poetry, drama and fiction as a means to prepare





Specialist News

Art, Mrs. Michaud

Wow! The school year is flying by and Point Webster's innovative thinkers are busy developing new and creative ideas in the art room. 5th graders recently drew self portraits with an emphasis on accurate proportion using measuring lines, as well as realistic facial details and shading. They are now inventing their own series of trading cards based on a variety of interesting themes. 6th graders have just completed drawings of people in a crowd focusing on overlapping to create depth, and facial details, hairstyles, and clothing designs. They are now beginning a multi-cultural unit and are creating their own paper moles inspired by cloth moles, a popular folk-art from the country of Panama made with layers of colorful cloth and symmetrical designs. Students in 7th grade are finishing stick figure designs in

which the human stick figure is repeated in a variety of ways. The repetition of line, shape, and a limited color palette are emphasized to create bold and colorful patterns in the form of abstract art. They are now starting radial designs based on symmetry and the images one sees when looking through a kaleidoscope using the crayon resist technique and watercolors. 8th grade students completed their wilderness landscapes and learned how to "paint" with soft pastels. They also learned about the artist Albert Bierstadt, one of our country's great landscape painters. Using watercolor pencils, 8th graders are finishing their miniature painted portraits, a popular art form before the invention of photography, along with metal embossed tin frames made by creating designs by pressing into the metal with an embossing tool. Students

in the after school program, Point Painters, continue their world tour and are exploring the paper cutting art of kirigami and the paper folding art of origami from Japan. Congratulations to 7th grader, Michelle Kung, who's winning international peace poster moves on to the next level of competition.



Physical Education,

Ms. Murphy

In my PE classes students have been working on our volleyball unit. Divisions have been practicing their serves playing a knockout game. In order to stay in the game, students must get their serve over the net. If they do not get their serve over the net and the next player does, they are knocked out of the game. Some students that have been very good at this game are: Shane McKenna, Jay Macalbay, Conor Fitzpatrick, Darbi Thomas, Asish Peravali and Stacy Duggan.

Up next in January is European Wiffleball. The QPS PE Department is working on a PE website and division 6-2 was chosen as division of the month. They were chosen because they are good with remembering their gym clothes, are very coachable and are nice to each other. More news to follow.... that way you can check out this website which will have photos and PE news.



Health, Mr. Notrangelo

The goal for the 7th and 8th grade classes for the 2nd term (winter) has been continue to develop a strong foundation for Health. The students are in the process of gathering information on smoking, alcohol and drugs. The goal for Health this term is to educate the children on the effects these products have on our body systems. Ultimately, to have them say "NO" to each of them. Abstinence is the only way to avoid the negative effects of these dangerous substances. The theme for the term/year: ***"The decisions you make create the person you become and your habits guarantee it!"***

Media, Mrs. Neveuex

Book Fair—Our Fall Book Fair went so well that the Point Webster Book Worms will be hosting another Book Fair this Spring. Look for more information!

Book Worms! The Point Webster after school club collected over 3 boxes of gently used books to send to an elementary school in New Orleans! Thank you for your help and support with this project!

Music—Ms. Rogers

Things have been busy in the music department! Our band and chorus had two very successful performances in December including the school committee meeting held here at Point. Both groups are back at work preparing for our spring concert.

Auditions have been held for our upcoming drama production ***Honk Jr.***, a musical retelling of the story of the ugly duckling. Students are excited and working hard. The production will be held sometime in April.

Tech Ed, Mr. Cheney

The second after school robotics club is about to begin. Sign ups will be happening the week of Jan. 20. New members are always welcome. Our first session had an excellent showing at the FLL competition, just prior to the Dec. vacation. The club members were able to work with the latest generation of Lego robot appropriately called NXT (known as next). The students designed robots to overcome challenges, computer programmed given commands and researched ways in which robots could help improve the environment.

Point Webster Middle School

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James P. McGuire, Principal
Stacey E. Bucci, Asst. Principal
David Bogan, Gr. 5/7 Guidance
Leah Markarian, Gr. 6/8 Guidance



**Early Release Days
12:15 PM**

January 13 & 27
February 10 & 24
March 10 & 24

January/February/March Events

- January 13—Parent/Teacher Conferences*
- January 15-volleyball Game Central @ Point*
- January 19-Martin Luther King Day No School*
- January 27- Parent/Teacher Conferences and PTO Meeting 6:30 PM*
- February 12—Valentine Dance*
- February 13—Student/Faculty Volleyball Game*
- February 16-20 Vacation*
- February 24-PTO Meeting 6:30 PM*
- March 24- PTO Meeting 6:30 PM*
- March 30-April 14 ELA Reading Grades 5,6 and 8*
- March 31- ELA Long Composition Grade 7*

Point Webster Sports

Flag Football, Coach Nutley

It was the shot heard around the city”, Said Coach Nutley, what I am referring to is the Point Webster Flag Football All-Star team, which won the first annual Flag Football City Championships. The Point team made up of mostly of 8th graders defeated all the other middle schools in Quincy to capture the city championship. The team showed that they had an explosive offense scoring over 100 points in four games, and a defense that would make the Patriots jealous as they let up 31 points.



Volleyball Schedule

- January 12—Point @ Broad Meadows
- January 13- Girls practice
- January 14- Boys practice
- January 15- Central @ Point
- January 16- Girls practice
- January 20- Boys practice
- January 21-Girls practice
- January 22- Boys practice
- January 23- Girls practice
- January 24- City Championship TBA

Games 3:30 pm —5:30 pm
Practice 2:30 pm—4:00 pm

Basketball

- 2/2 Practice starts
- 2/23 Point @ Sterling
- 2/27 Central @ Point
- 3/4 Atlantic @ Point
- 3/5 Sterling @ Point
- 3/6 John Bogan Fundraiser
- 3/9 Point @ Atlantic
- 3/11 Point @ Broad Meadows
- 3/13 Wild Card Game
- 3/17 Boys Semi Finals
- 3/18 Girls Semi Finals
- 3/20 Finals