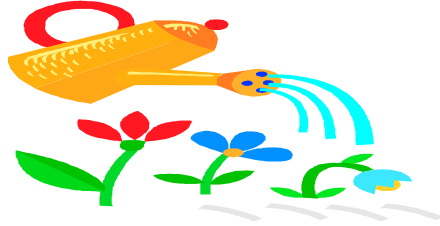


**Point Webster
Middle School
Newsletter**



April/May/June

Principal: James P. McGuire
Asst. Principal: Stacey E. Bucci
Telephone: 617-984-6600
FAX: 617-984-6609

Message from Mr. McGuire, Principal

**MCAS * ALERT MCAS * ALERT
The Massachusetts Comprehensive
Assessment System (MCAS) test will be**

**restarting on May 13th for all of our
students.** Our March testing for ELA
went very smoothly and we would like
to thank you for your help.

Our May testing will focus on Math,
Science and Technology, History and
Social Science depending on your
child's grade in school. Testing will
begin on May 13th and we hope to
complete our efforts by May 20th.

Thank you in advance for your help with
the following.

Please encourage your child to get a
good nights rest before each test. Please
see that your child gets a good breakfast.
Also be sure that your child comes to
school and arrives on time. It would
also be helpful if you would provide
your child with a nutritious snack to eat
during our testing breaks.

**Message from Ms. Bucci,
Assistant Principal**

Academics and Attendance

There is a large group of Point Webster
students who achieve distinction in
academics and attendance each term.
Students who earn High Honor Roll,
Honor Roll and/or Perfect Attendance
have their names posted on bulletin
boards outside the Main Office to
highlight their wonderful achievements.
Visitors to the school are welcomed to
browse and enjoy the list of students
posted in order to offer their own
congratulations to any of the students
who worked so hard to earn this
recognition. Students are encouraged to
keep up the good work as we have begun
the final term of the school year.

Appropriate School Attire

As we change seasons with spring and
summer bringing warming temperatures
it seems that student's choice of clothing
changes also! With this in mind we
would like to ask for your help and
remind you that there are parameters for
appropriate dress for school. Students
should be coming to school dressed to
learn and not wearing clothing which is
more suitable for the beach or a pool.
The QPS dress code states "each
student's hairstyle, appearance and
manner of dress are determined by the
student and his/her parents unless these
present a danger to the students health or
safety, interfere with school work or
create a classroom or school disruption."
Students are prohibited from wearing
short shorts, midriff tops, sunglasses,
hats and/or T-shirts with inappropriate
messages. Students who are
inappropriately dressed will be asked to
change if they have other clothes in
school. If not, they may be sent home to
change their clothing or have more
appropriate clothing brought to the

school. We thank all of our families in advance for ensuring that we have well dressed and focused students until the last day of the school year.

School Safety Procedures

School and student safety is of utmost concern to the Quincy Public Schools and Point Webster M.S.. Therefore we will be practicing our second Lockdown, Evacuation and Reverse Evacuation drills on one day in May. These drills are overseen by the QPS Safety and Security Director- Kenneth McPhee in conjunction with the Quincy Police Department and Quincy Fire Department. Also in May, we will have school wide Bus Evacuation Drills. Students and staff have been practicing all of these drills for many years and are very familiar with these procedures. Both the staff and students continue to do a fabulous job with following school safety procedures and we look forward to our upcoming practices.



PTO News

The PTO continues with fund raising efforts to support school programs and activities. They are selling Point Webster Middle School magnets for \$2.00 at all special school events or you can purchase magnets from the main office daily.

There is a Grade 8 and Student Council Car Wash scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Central Middle School parking lot on Hancock Street. The PTO would like to invite any parents who are interested in overseeing a 2 hour block of time to sign up in the Main Office at the school. Students who choose to sell tickets for the car wash and also wash cars for two hours will earn half of their ticket proceeds for either the Grade 8 New York Trip or for the end of the year Student Council event. Each car wash ticket is \$5.00 and can be purchased from grade 8 students or Student Council members from April 18th- May 1st. The PTO will be sponsoring a Staff Appreciation Breakfast on May 8th or 9th. The final date will be determined very soon. All parents who would like to bring in breakfast items recognize the staff's efforts and contribute to this event may do so by contacting Mrs. Smith (PTO President) or the PWMS main office. Items will need to be delivered to the school by 7:30 a.m. on the date of the event.



Our Book Fair will begin Tuesday, May 20th ending Thursday evening May 29th. Students and parents are invited to stop by the media center to review and purchase items.

2008 Literature Contest

A group of 5th grade students will be participating in the 2008 Quincy Public Schools Literature Contest on May 7th at the Thomas Crane Library. Students will answer questions about approximately 45 different books. Wish them luck!

Marshall Fly Up - On Tuesday morning, June 3rd we look forward to meeting grade 4 students from Clifford Marshall who will visit grade 5 teachers and students in preparation for coming to Point in September.

Point Webster Middle School will hold its **Academic Achievement Celebration** on Thursday, May 29th at 6:00 PM in the school auditorium. Following the awards ceremony, light refreshments will be served in the school cafeteria. Parents are invited to browse the book fair in the Media Center before and after the ceremony. Congratulations to those students who met the academic achievements to qualify for this celebration.

Please join us for **Point Webster's Art/Music Program** on Wednesday, June 11th at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium.



Special dates of interest:

April

16- Grade 8 Class Photo
Youth Leadership Conference
18-Camfel Production
"Charting Your Course"
Student/Faculty Basketball Game
21-25- Vacation
29- PTO Meeting 6:30 PM Rm. 105

May

3- Car Wash at Central
4- Rain Date
6- Bus Evacuation
7-Literature Contest
8-QPS Arts Festivals Begins
9- PTO - Staff Appreciation
Breakfast
13-21- MCAS Testing
All Grades
20-PTO Meeting
6:30 PM Rm. 105
20-29- Book Fair
29- Honors Program

June

3-Marshall Fly Up/Wild Kingdom
4,5,6- Grade 8 Trip to New York
10- This is Life Assembly
11-Art/Music Celebration 7:00 PM
17- Last Day of School 12:15 Dismissal

Early Release Days

April 8 & 29
May 13 & 27
June 10 & 17

Student of the Month

Each month two students from each grade are selected ***Student of the Month***. As a reward for their hard work and achievement these students are treated to a pizza lunch with Mr. McGuire. We would like to recognize the following:

January Student of the Month

5th Grade – Suhail Purkar, Anna Nguyen

6th Grade – Brett Cullen, Micaela Maloof

7th Grade – Megan Lieu, Scifo Campbell

8th Grade- Heather Spargo, Neil Banoey

February Student of the Month

5th Grade-Noreen Plabutong, Zachariah Marhamo

6th Grade-Jessica Wong, Antonio Agcaoili

7th Grade-Zara Khan, Fady Asaad

8th Grade-Hope Spargo, Peter Lieu

March Student of the Month

5th Grade-Noemi Monterroso, Coleman Maloney

6th Grade-Adelajda Mullahi, Adam Tran

7th Grade- Jay Newman, Megan Welliver

8th Grade- Waleed Alrifai, Joanna McGroarty

“QUINCY ON THE GO”

Poster Contest

Congratulations to Lily Gu, grade six student for being a finalist in the QPS Dept. of Physical Education and Health 2008 poster contest. Lily’s picture was related to this years theme “QUINCY ON THE GO”. Lily will be honored at the Festival of the Arts on May 8th at the Thomas Crane Library.

Thanks to Ms. Murphy, our physical education teacher for organizing the effort here at Point Webster.

News from Grade Six

Reading, Mrs. Driscoll

Grade 6 experienced a real treat when the class visited the Wheelock Theater on February 28, 2008 to see the play Peter Pan. Peter Pan is one of the most popular children’s play of all time. It is one literary work that is made up of Pirates, Native Americans, fairies, crocodiles, and a very clever, courageous, conceited elf/boy. The students were prepared for the live theater production by participating in a Drama Workshop on February 10th. Students in Grade 6 are wrapping up a unit on the Great Depression. They have read the novels- *Out of the Dust* and *A Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt*. At the same time they have been preparing for the MCAS in ELA/Reading which will measure students performance. The 6th grade is also looking forward to a field trip to the Quincy Credit Union, one of our business partners, in May. The students will tour the financial institution to see how it works and how important math is in every day life.



Language Arts/Mrs. Gurwitch

April is national poetry month. Students will be reading and writing various types of poems in his/her packet and be ready for some special activities.

Grade 6 will visit Planet Health. We will research those “Special” foods that are good for us and then we will create our own healthy snacks and advertise them.



Science/Mr. DiTullio

Next on the horizon for our sixth grade Science classes is the study of comets, asteroids, meteors and the stars. After learning about those topics, our study of astronomy will be finished.

We will close out the year with an indepth study of weather and climate – the atmosphere, weather instruments, the three types of heat transfer – radiation, conduction, convection, winds, clouds, storms, etc. Before you know it those “lazy and hazy days of summer” will be upon us.

Social Studies/Mrs. Green

Students in Mrs. Green’s Geography classes have been exploring the diverse countries of Asia. During this term, they had a visitor from the Japanese Consulate in Boston, Mr. Joshua Wilber. From Mr. Wilber, the students enjoyed learning more about the country and culture of Japan, as well as, the interesting toys used by the children of Japan.

Currently, students are learning about the many countries of Africa. As a culminating activity, each student will complete a fact sheet about one of the countries of Africa and present the information to the class.



Math, Mrs. O’Brien

Grade six students in math are finishing up a unit in measurement and statistics. Students will be studying geometry and probability in the next few weeks. Our Pi Day celebration was a big success. Pi digit contest winners were:

First Place: Michelle Kung
(memorized the first 72 digits of pi)

Second Place: Niharika Kareddy
(memorized the first 67 digits of pi)

Third place: Jonathan Aiken
(memorized the first 57 digits of pi)

MCAS MATH MANIA has begun! Students are earning points on a daily basis as they prepare and review for the test. The test will be administered in May. Homework is extremely important! Thank you for your continued support in seeing to it that it gets completed.



News from Specialist Class

Technology Engineering, Mr. Cheney



On Wednesday, April 9, The Quincy Public Schools Technology Engineering Department sponsored a “Bridges to the Future” interactive half day seminar for approximately seventy five Quincy middle school students. The interactive portion of the seminar was primarily delivered by the middle school students at the C.T.E.. The students met after school with their Technology Engineering Teachers and researched the manifold aspects of bridge design e.g., modern composite materials, vocabulary, computer simulations,

bridge prototypes, materials strength testing and the effects of internal and external stresses on bridges, to mention but a few. The second portion of the seminar involved a rather unique hands on bridge building competition, of which the Engineering Teachers were trained on last summer during their three day work shop at the Boston Museum of Science. The idea is to try and think outside the box by using nontraditional materials for a given project or design. In this particular case the students were given balloons and various sundries to span a distance of three feet in length. As part of the balloon bridge challenge the bridges had to support approximately five pounds of weight and not sag down more than ten inches in length (known as the modulus of elasticity). The morning concluded with an awards ceremony at The Three Seasons Restaurant where an excellent All American barbeque lunch was served by the Culinary Arts Students. If you happen to see the following six grade technology students in or around the Point Webster Community please congratulate them for their awesome expertise and cooperative attitude Kevin Truong, Jessica Wong, Jacki Portillo, Shamus Hill-Torres, Matt Kozlowski, Kathryn McGroarty, Thomas Hanrahan, Joanne Tsang, Aaheli Chattopadhyay, Steven Simons, Taylor Johnson, Lindsey Lo, Andy Luong, Iqrah Tauhid, Dan Emery. A special thank you goes out to our newest member of the Quincy Technology Engineering Team Ms. Casey Tate for keeping us on track and organized as the seventy five students advanced from one learning station to the next.

Physical Education, Ms. Murphy

National PE Week
 May 1st- May 7th is National Physical Education Week. Point Webster PE Students will be participating with some fun activities which will be announced as the date gets closer. Be on the lookout!

Physical Education Poster Contest
 Congratulations to Point Webster Sixth Grader Lily Gu who was a finalist in the “Quincy on the Go” poster contest. Lily will receive a certificate for her accomplishment. Miss Murphy would like to thank all the students that submitted posters to her for the contest that was open to all Quincy Public School Students.



Art Happenings! Mrs. Michaud

It has been a busy and creative year in the art room! 8th graders are currently working on 3-D Surrealistic Rooms in which they are using magazine cutouts and drawn images to create fantasy environments that are clear in detail like a photograph, but strange and fantastic like a dream inspired by the Surrealist artist, Rene Magritte. Their final unit of study will make connections with their studies of American history in social studies as students explore art during America's great westward expansion including wilderness drawings, and Native American pottery. 7th grade students are finishing a series of lessons on Op Art, using techniques to create optical illusions. Students have had great fun exploring one-point perspective, parabollas, visual vibrations, celtic knots, as well as

learning to draw 3-D forms. Next, students make connections with social studies as they explore art of ancient Greece and Rome including architecture, metal embossing inspired by Roman coins, and the ancient art of mosaics. 6th graders are finishing an East meets West series of lessons on landscape painting. Students explored Asian inspired brush and ink landscapes using bamboo brushes and black ink, and then, created "dashes and dots" landscapes inspired by the famous dutch artist, Vincent Van Gogh. It was interesting to compare the similarities and differences of the two styles, and the paintings are terrific!! Now, on to a multicultural unit on 3-D maskmaking inspired by masks from cultures around the world. 5th graders have been busy practicing the art of painting Chinese calligraphy. They went on to create pencil sketches of different animals using their skills of observation. Then, students used their sketches to paint animals inspired by Asian brush and ink painting using black and shades of grey, and color using the color wheel. Now, on to 3-D clay animal pots! These lessons have tied in nicely with the students 5th grade animal research projects.

The Quincy Public Schools Annual Arts Festival begins Thursday, May 8th at the opening event featuring the Quincy Schools Annual Art Exhibit at the Thomas Crane Library at 5:30 P.M. in the reading room. The exhibit continues through the following week. I encourage everyone to go to see the wonderful citywide student art work on display. Also, there will be an exhibit featuring the art work of Point Webster students at our annual spring concert on Thursday, June 12th. Thanks for supporting the arts in Quincy!

Health, Mrs. Fenby

Some exciting health assemblies have been happening at Point Webster! The first was the Improbable Players' "**Hitting Rock Bottom**" for grades 6 – 8. "Hitting Rock Bottom" depicted the role alcohol can play regarding violence. The performers are recovering addicts who shared their history and answered questions in smaller break-out groups. This assembly was funded by a grant through the Blue Hills Community Health Alliance Network Alliance. The second all-school assembly was "**No Butts About It!**" Through mime, juggling and balancing acts, Bill Ross presented some serious tobacco facts. He also touched upon his own past addictive behaviors and the hurtful behavior bullying can cause. "No Butts About It!" was made possible by a 5-2-1-0 grant from the Medical Foundation. **We're adding the zero!** The 5-2-1 grant has been active at Point for the past three years. This year the Medical Foundation offered additional grant money to all Massachusetts schools who participated the last three years to add the 0. Point Webster was one of ten schools in Massachusetts that was awarded the grant! 5-2-1-0 stands for: 5 fruits and veggies, no more than 2 hours of "screening time," at least 1 hour of exercise and **0 tobacco use daily!** On April 18, 2008, the 5-2-1-0 grant will provide funding for the entire school to see three-screen multi-media video entitled "**Chart your Course!**" By using excerpts from the latest songs, TV and movies, the video will send out strong positive character developing messages. On June 10, 2008, the 5-2-1-0 grant funds will be utilized for a play entitled, "**This is Your Life!**" The whole school will be in attendance. This nationally

acclaimed performance covers nutrition, body image, physical fitness, media literacy and harmful effects of tobacco. We are very grateful for the funding made possible by the six grade teachers who are willing to teach two planet health lessons in their various disciplines!

Also, some students actively made the health curriculum come alive by reading 5-2-1-0 facts on the morning announcements! It was a requirement of the grant. By doing so, they are eligible to attend a workshop held by Norfolk District Attorney William R. Keating & The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association to be held April 16, 2008.

All health classes have viewed a video, "The Ernest Greene Story" regarding the Little Rock Nine. Seventh grade health classes are continuing with tobacco prevention lessons and will move on to other drugs. The eighth grade has moved on to lessons regarding the reproductive system and sexually transmitted diseases/infections.

Physical Education, Ms. Murphy

During the winter months students played the game "European Wiffleball." This game is a variation of baseball played indoors. The game is similar to baseball because players can hit, pitch and catch. The game is different because players run the bases in the opposite direction can have as many people on the bases as wanted and players can run the bases when they want. Students that excelled with this game were Danilo Lopes, Alex Bottari, Sultan Kokel, and Maryssa Dwyer.



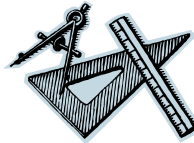
For the past few weeks students in my physical education classes have been enjoying the game of basketball. Point Webster students really love playing basketball! There were many students who stood out in class, but DJ Feliciano, Ashley Daniels, Marli Caslli, Kassandra Dineen, Lauren Lenar, and Dayvon Jones were outstanding.

We are looking forward to the spring and being able to go to Pond Street during PE class.

News from Grade 7

Mr. Angell's 7th Grade Math

Now that the English Language Arts MCAS are completed, the students are gearing up for the math sessions in May. Mr. Angell's classes have been discovering the uses of percents in the world. They learned how to find percent discounts and to pay percent taxes. Along with percents, time has been spent on the use of protractors and other rules about angles. Although some students started off with a fear of protractors, their eyes now brighten up when they are presented with angles to find. As the weeks continue, the classes will move into measurement topics including area, perimeter, circumference, and volume. The pace has increased, and students are working hard!



Mr. Angell has so far collected over 100,000 pennies! After MCAS, be

prepared for a HUGE penny drive. Remember, we are aiming for 1,000,000. We all know that we can do it!

Science, Mr. LaRaia

During the 3rd quarter Mr. LaRaia's classes have continued with the physical science curriculum using the motion, forces and energy text. We began with the concept of forces and fluids and continued with work and simple machines and looked at the many examples of tools we use everyday and the characteristics that classify them as machines. We then went on to energy and power. Students completed two projects, one on simple machines and the other on energy that reinforced their understanding of these topics. We are currently studying energy and heat. The 4th quarter will take a new direction with the focus on chemistry.

Reading, Mrs. Davis-Myers

The Riddle of the Sphinx is easy compared to this one: Who can travel to Greece without a plane ticket or a passport? Answer: The amazing students of Grade 7! We will be transported back to Ancient Greece where we'll meet the gods, goddesses, and heroes of Greek mythology. We'll return via Europe where we'll read about the legendary heroes like Robin Hood and King Arthur. We'll end our journey back in the U.S. with novels that will hopefully whet our appetites to keep reading throughout the summer.

Social Studies, Mr. Fisher

What a year of traveling we have had! We have been all over the Mediterranean World from Sumer to the Greek city-states of Athens and Sparta. Now our final stop on our tour is in the wonderful

city of Rome, before we come home to the MCAS pilot test. Students will be beginning to understand the development of Rome through the story of Romulus and Remus and the advance into the Roman Republic and then the Roman Empire. On our stop we will meet Julius Caesar, his adopted son, Octavian "Augustus" and their influence on modern day society. We will also see the rise of Christianity. After our MCAS, we will be going back to Asia and visit with the Chinese and Ancient China, as well as Ancient India and the rise of Hinduism. Wow, what a year of travel!

Language Arts, Ms. Loftus

Grade 7 is starting off their last grading term with the project "Cinderella Around the World". Students are studying some of the many different stories that inspired the classic Disney version of Cinderella. Students will be focusing on class, gender and culture issues from the countries of their stories. Stay tuned!

21st Century

21st Century is quickly coming to an end! After a great year, most clubs will be ending during MCAS week in May. Students have been wonderful participants in these clubs all year! Thank you to all the kids, parents, teachers and everyone else that helped make this great program possible!

News from Grade 8

Math, Mr. Marani

After the completion of the March MCAS, the 8th grade math classes are shifting gears a bit and applying a lot more focus on MCAS preparation. Some of the topics that will be covered are Angles, Angle Pairs, Triangles, and Quadrilaterals. All sorts of number sense topics will be reviewed in the form of

both numerical problems and word problems.



Social Studies, Mr. Donoghue

Eighth grade students in Mr. Donoghue's class have been working on the Revolutionary War. They just completed a group poster project in which they were assigned to write a first person account of different events that occurred during the Revolutionary War. Events that were assigned to them were the Intolerable Acts, Boston Tea Party, and the Boston Massacre. The poster may be viewed on Mr. Donoghue's classroom walls in room 207.



English Arts, Mrs. DeLisle

The ELA MCAS is over for the 8th graders this year! I am very proud of the effort that they showed while taking the assessment. As we close out the school year we will focus on drama, grammar and poetry. I am very excited to see the poetry that our talented PWMS 8th graders will create!

News from Grade 5

***Mrs. Clancy, Mrs. Gilbert,
Mrs. Hammerstrom, Ms. Kilgour,
Ms. Sullivan***

As we enter into the Spring months we are anticipating warm, sunny days and blue skies! Hopefully, this will inspire us to work even more diligently these next

few weeks as we prepare for our second session of MCAS testing. The grade five team is proud of all of our students for doing such a great job on their ELA MCAS this past March. It's important that our students maintain their commitment to their studies as springtime sports, activities and weather start to approach and fill up their schedules.

In language arts and reading classes students will begin writing their research reports for the Wild Kingdom Project! At first students might be overwhelmed at this task but no need to worry, Mrs. Gilbert has planned her lessons accordingly and will put all her student's worries at ease! Most students in the past have felt a sense of accomplishment when these projects were completed. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new reading teacher Mrs. Kilgour. The grade five team and students look forward working with her these next few months. At the end of March, we said "goodbye" to Mr. Conroy as he embarked on a new journey of life! We wish him all the best in the future!

In Math class we are working on ratios, proportions and percentages! Our students will rely upon their prior knowledge of fractions as we begin to compare and contrast products. In science we are currently working with the topic of energy and motion. We will also examine how small machines operate! In social studies we have just finished up our unit on the Thirteen Colonies. We have enjoyed learning about how early colonists lived and worked while establishing a blueprint for the United States government.

Guidance, Mr. Bogan/Gr. 6 & 8

Mrs. Markarian Gr. 5 & 7

All grade eight students should have turned in their course selection sheets for high school by now. We want to wish all our eighth graders moving on to high school good luck as they enter into their high school career.



School Nurse, Mrs. Campbell, R.N.

What's happening in the Health Office?



- Vision, hearing and postural screening continues...a notice will be sent home if further testing needs to be done on your child.
- The nurse's office is a busy place during the day seeing over 30 children per day. Besides the routine cough drop visit we try to throw in a little health education with every visit.
- The Mass Dept. of Health mandates that every child in the 7th grade have a physical and tetanus booster. Please send a copy to the nurse.

Now that spring is here, please remind your children to use sun block when outside, wear helmets while riding a bike or rollerblading and ALWAYS wear their seatbelts in the car!!

Box Tops for Education

Hood Bottle Caps

Campbells Soup labels

Don't forget to collect these over the summer. Mrs. Potter will collect them in September when we return. The cash reimbursement helps support our school activities.



Point Webster staff would like to wish all students and parents a safe and happy summer. See you in September.

