

Business

As part of the final examination for Mr. Cooper's 9th grade Introduction to Careers class, the students were interviewed by officers from the Coastway Bank on Warwick Avenue. The interviewers included Andy Capozzi and the manager Christine Wilson.

Over the course of the first semester students in this class completed numerous interest inventories and researched two careers. In preparation for the exam they developed resumes and wrote cover letters. The Coastway staff received each resume and cover letter, and then called each student in for their interview.

The students admitted that they were scared when they first went into the interview, but said at the end that it was not as bad as they had thought. The interviewer, Mrs. Wilson, said "There were a couple of students that interviewed so well I wanted to hire them today."

As the students returned from the interviews they were excited as they chatted with each other. They asked other students about the questions that were asked, and they discussed the responses. The following day the class wrote Thank You Letters to wrap up this learning experience. This event is another example of how the Business Department is having our students apply skills learned in this department to "Real World" experiences.

Mrs. Kristin Rojas, our school representative from the Pawtucket Credit Union, has visited our Personal Finance classes three times since November. She has made presentations to our classes on both banking and savings skills. We are very thankful to her and the Pawtucket Credit Union for these visits.

Thanks to the leadership of Mrs. Kathleen Brennan our school store will be opening soon. It will be open in the morning from 6:50 a.m. to 7:05 a.m., and also in the afternoon from 2:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. The plan for our store is to also have it open during all lunch periods to accommodate our students.

Mrs. Brennan, the Career Exploration class, and the Business Department would especially like to thank Mr. Edward Serowik, a Pilgrim teacher from our Science Department, for offering and helping us as we prepare to open the school store.

Also, we are looking forward to becoming involved this spring in the C.A.R.E. (Credit Abuse Resistance Education) Student Outreach Program. This program was created by the U. S. Bankruptcy Court. This program involves three components—a presentation, handouts and a web site. We are now in the process of setting up these visits for our Personal Finance classes.

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English

The Pilgrim High English Department Welcomes Student Teachers for the Spring Semester 2011:

Ms. Mary Arruda with Mrs. Kim Parente
Mr. Andrew Biernacki with Mrs. Joanne Muto
Mr. Chad Fournier with Mr. Jason Huddon
Ms. Regina Gambardella with Mr. Erik Carlson
Ms. Jessica Le May with Mr. Brian Callahan.
Amy Sullo with Ms. Christine Beltrami

PILGRIM FILM SOCIETY

Pilgrim's Talent Comes Together for a Film and Fundraiser Rolled into One!

The Pilgrim Film Society is proud to announce the creation of its first major motion picture! So far, more than 20 of Pilgrim's faculty and staff (past and present) have signed on to take part in what is sure to be the film of the year!

This upcoming blockbuster, *The Courageous Ones*, is a hilarious send-up of the James Bond and Indiana Jones movies. Filming is set to start this month and a gala world premiere is scheduled for later this spring here at Pilgrim!



Best of all, all proceeds from this project will benefit the MS Society of Rhode Island and the Pilgrim Auditorium Fund (for repairs and improvements).



Foreign Language

Please join our department in welcoming our student teachers from RI College. Lessly Gonzales will be working with Ms. Fontes and Yamel Santana will be working with Ms. Bennett's classes. In addition to the interns, we would also like to welcome Miss Marlaina Mancini, who is substituting in Italian for Mrs. Fava during her leave of absence. We wish all three of these young teachers a positive learning experience and a successful semester.

The third quarter will be a very busy one indeed for foreign language teachers and students. During the month of March, students will participate in the National Spanish and French examinations. Also in March, our AFS Club members will hold a reception to greet exchange students from around the world. These students are staying with host families from around New England for the year, but will spend the weekend with families from the Pilgrim community, and attend classes at our school all day on March 4. If you are interested in attending the reception, please contact Ms. Bennett at our department's extension (125) for further details. Ms. Bennett is leading a field trip to several museums in New York City on March 11. Students have the information and permission slips are forthcoming. Again, please contact the department extension if you would like to find out more about the field trip. Finally, at the end of the third/beginning of fourth quarter we will hold our annual International Food Festival. Your son/daughter will have further information about that celebration during the month of March.

Parents and guardians are reminded that they may contact Mrs. Griffith in the Foreign Language Office at extension 125 if a student is need of extra support in foreign language classes. There is peer tutoring available after school on department nights; many students are standing by, ready and willing to help their classmates. Any student interested in serving as a peer tutor and earning community service credits should speak to Mrs. Griffith.

Finally, please note that Foreign Language Honor Societies Induction Ceremonies will take place on Wednesday, April 13, at 7:00 PM in the high school auditorium.

Graduation by Proficiency

Senior Exhibition Projects:

Senior exhibition projects are at the midway point. The majority of seniors have completed proficient research papers as part of the English 4 curriculum. Please remind seniors that they need to share their research paper with the mentor. Students should also be wrapping up the minimum of 15 fieldwork hours. The completed fieldwork forms will be collected during advisory on March 16th. Please remind students to send their mentor a thank you letter during the first week of March. The instructions for the mentor thank you letter can be found on page 9 of the senior project handbook. Mentors also need to send in the mentor evaluation form as soon as the fieldwork hours have been completed. The evaluation is located on pages 18 & 19 of the handbook. There are very specific instructions for the mentor to follow when sending in the evaluation. Please have students remind the mentor of this process as outlined on the bottom of page 19 on the evaluation

form. In many cases students will be continuing on with the mentor past the March fieldwork deadline to work on the product. These additional hours do not need to be documented but can be tracked and recorded to recognize the students additional time on the project. The senior project binder will be collected on April 14th. The items needed in the binder are listed on page 21 of the handbook. A proficient binder is required as a "ticket" to presentation day on May 19th.

Early project approval process for the class of 2012 will begin after April vacation. Juniors should be planning projects, securing mentors and drafting their proposals for submission.

Graduation Portfolios:

Seniors should also be finalizing their graduation portfolios. Graduation portfolios should be completed before the end of third quarter in early April. Seniors need to complete the 2011 portfolio track sheet then schedule an appointment with any teacher in the building to have the portfolio reviewed for graduation approval. Teachers are verifying that the correct number of required portfolio entries is present, the appropriate artifacts are attached and the reflections are complete. Once the portfolio is approved by a teacher, students submit the completed and approved track sheet to Mrs. Bernardi. Students may also attend GBP department night on Monday's with Mrs. Bernardi to have the portfolio reviewed.

All underclassmen should be working on portfolio entries. In order to stay on top of this graduation requirement, portfolio assignments and reflections should be completed on a weekly basis. Parents can review the status of a student's portfolio by reviewing the Richer Picture website. Parents have a unique user id and password for their student's portfolio account. To obtain that information, please contact Mrs. Bernardi at bernardip@warwickschools.org or Mrs. Wilkinson at wilkinsonr@warwickschools.org. Parent portfolio training sessions will be scheduled in April and May.

For more information on graduation requirements, please visit the Warwick Public Schools web site at www.warwickschools.org. Be sure to select the "Graduation Requirements" link on the left hand side.

Guidance

As you may know, the school department is in the process of switching over from the current computer system (Star Base) to a new system (Aspen). Because of this transition, the guidance department has spent several hours learning this new system. We have already entered all of the requests for next year, and we are looking forward to utilizing this more advanced system. We should be mailing home course requests to each student soon. If there is a problem with those requests, please see your counselor right away.

Counselors have been very busy submitting college applications and recommendations for seniors. Parents of seniors are reminded that it is now time to fill out the FAFSA. If you have

any questions or need help filling this out, be sure to set up an appointment with the College Planning Center located at the Warwick Mall. The people there are very knowledgeable and helpful. Keep in mind that some colleges require additional financial aid forms such as the Profile or the IDOC. Be sure to check with the financial aid office at your child's college to be sure you have all required paper work completed.

REMEMBER: We have a variety of scholarships available for our seniors. All scholarships are available on the Pilgrim web site, or ask a guidance counselor.

Juniors, now is the time that you should be thinking about next year. You want to be sure that you are aware of all of the graduation requirements, and know that you have requested all required subjects for next year. Also, juniors who are planning on attending a 4 year college need to register to take the SAT's in either May or June. The deadline to register for the May SAT's is April 8, 2011. To register, you must go to sat.collegeboard.com and sign up. You will need a credit card to register. If your child receives free or reduced lunch, be sure to have them see their guidance counselor about a fee reduction for the SAT.

Physical Education and Health

The momentum of the first quarter carried forward into the second quarter.

Seniors were given the opportunity to earn Red Cross certification in Adult CPR which included the AED component. The certificate is valid for one year. This certificate bridges our school to the community and workforce since many high school students find employment which requires CPR with AED. For example, students gain summer employment at the city pool or city recreation programs where CPR is a job requirement.

Regarding our fitness program, the P.E. Department promoted health fitness to a higher level. Students had the option to select cardiovascular workouts in conjunction with strength training. Knowledge and skill of cardiovascular fitness must include discussion of obesity, a major challenge for our department to address. Society doesn't grasp the enormous consequences of obesity. As educators, we need to seize every opportunity to increase students' awareness and knowledge of the lifelong risks associated with obesity.

Ms. S invited Liz Ruiz, a finalist on The Biggest Loser TV show to speak to our students. Liz was trained by Lisa, who is a personal fitness trainer at an East side sports club. Ms. Ruiz started her weight loss challenge at 244 pounds and dropped her weight to 173 pounds. The students empathized with her challenge and shared the excitement of her success.

Through the Speakers Bureau, we engaged speakers from the National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI). The speakers, all of whom suffer from mental illness, spoke of their very personal experiences, the meaning of mental illness; how it is perceived on our culture and the treatments they received in order to become normally functioning individuals. The students' interest was evidenced by their focused attention and the many questions they posed to the speakers.

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Mathematics

Students have been busy completing common tasks for their digital portfolios. These tasks were graded with a rubric and assessed in each student's digital portfolio in Richer Picture. As part of their graduation by proficiency requirement, the students will also write reflections for their portfolio pieces.

Pilgrim High School has five student teachers this semester. We have four from Rhode Island College: Ms. Lapointe who is working with Ms. Bianco, Mr. Bartlett, who is working with Mrs. Szymkowicz, Mr. Beaudreault, who is working with Mrs. DiFilippo and Mr. Irving, who is with Mrs. Benoit. Mr. Dempsey from URI is working with Mr. Fitzpatrick. Pilgrim High School offers student teachers the setting for practicing skills under the guidance of our excellent teaching staff. We welcome all of the student teachers who are with us this semester and wish them the best of luck.

With more than half of the year completed it is necessary for all students who are in danger of failing to do all of their homework attend math department night every Thursday and to put forth the effort needed to pass. June will be here before you know it. Encourage your son/daughter to keep up with his/her work. Sometimes fifteen minutes at department night can make all the difference toward understanding the skills necessary to do an assignment. Please call the guidance office to set up an appointment to meet with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Science

Pilgrim held its annual Science Fair on December 21, 2010. Congratulations go out to all students who participated. Special commendations go out to the six students who will represent Pilgrim at the Rhode Island State Science and Engineering Fair, which will be held at CCRI in March:

- Casey Adams, for her inquiry into "Fiber Flammability".
- Emily Degnan, for her answering "Does going green really clean"?
- Denver Cherms, for his research into Air-Rifle Ammunition accuracy.

Congratulations again to all participants. You have brought great pride to Pilgrim, your teachers and your families.

The Science Department would also like to welcome two student teachers for the Spring Semester. Samantha Taylor from Rhode Island College is working with Mr. Lobdell and Will James from Providence College is working with Mr. Colvin. Doug Stabile, a Pilgrim graduate, will be completing his practicum with Mrs. Reynolds.

Social Studies

Members: Andrea Atturio, Arthur Bennett, Kathy Buckley, Nick DiFilippo, Jim Ginolfi, John McDonnell, Al Palazzo, Nisa SanGiovanni, Peter SanGiovanni, Chad Tvenstrup, Alison Wallace, Mike Xiarhos

The social studies department district-wide has adopted two Common Tasks for 9th and 10th grade. They will be given in the fall and spring. Teachers will determine the exact dates according to where they are related to content. The scores will be entered into the digital portfolio system. In addition all 9th and 10th grade classes district-wide will be given common mid-year and final exams. All full year classes will enter four pieces into the portfolio system and half year classes will enter two. All honor level classes will participate in National History Day. All other students will be encouraged to participate as well.

The community service program is housed in the social studies department. Students will be recognized at Honors Night in May for the following hours:

9th grade 20 hours

10th grade 30 hours

11th grade 40 hours

12th grade 50 hours

Forms to be completed can be picked up in the social studies department. Completed forms should be handed in by March 1, 2011.

The social studies department offers extracurricular opportunities. Mrs. Wallace offers Academic Decathlon, Mr. Tvenstrup offers Model Legislature, and Mr. Xiarhos offers Mock Trial. See them if you are interested. Many of the teachers participate in Law Day and National History Day.

Warwick Mayor, Scott Avedisian, spoke to Mr. Tvenstrup's American Legal class on the anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address. His topic was Civic Responsibility.

National History Day projects, papers, and PowerPoints will be displayed in the ELC all day on March 9th.

Special Education

Our senior resource students continue to work hard and practice their self-advocacy and self-determination skills. While actively preparing for transition from high school, students are focusing their efforts on meeting important deadlines and gaining better understanding of their accommodations. Being organized, asking for support, and using time wisely have been important factors for this class. We are proud of our students for working diligently on their senior projects and using support to read critically and write their research papers.

Students in The Work Activities Program have begun the second semester working at job sites within the community. They are actively learning daily life skills while working in a wide variety of locations: Dave's Market, Savers, Big Lots, Pranzi Catering, Suburban

Pharmacy, Dollar Tree, Bob's Store, The Karate Studio, Ruben's Pet Store, and the Administration Building. Work Activities students participate in community experience trips as part of their on-going E-portfolio and Alternate Assessment requirements.

We are delighted to have 2 student teachers from Rhode Island College, Amanda Lupien and Kayla Verfaillie. They are actively participating in the daily activities and routine of the classrooms. Both student teachers are gaining valuable experience as they develop innovative lessons which meet the needs of our diverse special needs population.

Technology Education

Our Technology Education department has just completed the first semester.

Mr. Goes and Mr. Menard's Tech Gateway classes had several students who completed their Portfolios and many others who just need a few more assignments, which they are currently working at. The focus now is on completing their Senior Projects, in preparation for meeting graduation requirements.

Mr. Menard's Materials Technology classes are progressing well. They are currently working on their fourth project. The Woodworking class, working with Mr. McDevitt, has also completed four projects. They are currently working on a free expression project. All classes have had multiple opportunities to complete at least two portfolio assignments!

Mr. Guadagni's automotive classes are currently advertising and accepting detailing as well as oil changes and tire work. If you need your car washed and detailed or need some other basic maintenance work done, please give us a call.

Art

Art students have been busy creating drawings, paintings, ceramics and photographs. Completion of their E-Portfolio assignments has been a major priority. Eighteen students recently entered their work in the R.I. Scholastic Art Competition. Congratulations to Hannah Pickering for winning a Silver Key. More artwork will be entered in the Jack Reed and James Langevin competitions later this year.

Two art shows are planned for the spring. One will be a student show at Pilgrim in the Auditorium lobby and the other will be held at the Warwick Public Library. Also, approximately eight students from Pilgrim will be exhibiting their work in the PS2011 Art Exhibit at the U.R.I. Providence campus during the month of May.

In Mrs. Murgo's Exploring Art classes, students used the ebony pencil to experiment with cartooning and caricatures. Students worked with acrylic paints, created a color wheel and an abstract painting. Working with three dimensional design, students brainstormed an idea for a kinetic mobile sculpture and worked in groups of four to make twenty-five mobiles. The kinetic mobile sculptures may be found hanging from the ceiling in room 202 at Pilgrim High School. Students participated in a community service project for clients of the Rhode Island Meals on Wheels during the holiday season. We provided the elderly with inspirational poems hand written in calligraphy along with hand crafted cards. Mrs. Murgo's students ended the quarter by making a sculpted ceramic project using the pinching, slab building and coil technique.