

Business Department

The Business Department is pleased to welcome back Mrs. Baynes, Mrs. Brennan, Mr. Cooper, Mrs. Mockler, and Mrs. Thibaudeau, Dept. Chair. We would also like to say THANK YOU again to John R. Hess & Company for sponsoring the Newspaper in Education Program from PROVIDENCE BUSINESS NEWS for our Business Department. We receive a weekly edition that gives our students a local source of business news.

We are off to a great beginning this year as we are one of ten selected high schools in the state having signed on with the RI JumpStart Coalition for Personal Finance training. Mr. Bryan Cooper, Personal Finance teacher, Mrs. Janet Tenczar, Special Education teacher, and Mrs. Cathy Thibaudeau, Business Dept. Chair attended a second training session on September 18 at the Navigant Credit Union in Smithfield, RI.

We, along with nine other participating high schools who are trying to increase the quality and quantity of personal financial education for our students, shared current personal finance activities that centered on personal financial education. Guest speakers included a College Planning Counselor and a Certified Public Accountant/Business Consultant. Along with this we have been offered the chance to participate in the 2009 Reserve Cup Challenge that is being offered by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

The JumpStart Coalition proved to be a great success, and General Treasurer Frank Caprio stopped by to share a few words of gratitude and motivation and support for our important work.

Mrs. Jane Montecalvo of Citizens Bank addressed our Personal Finance classes with the steps to open a checking or savings account. She also discussed with our students different types of accounts such as traditional, business or student, and the criteria for judging which would be best. She expanded our students' knowledge of check writing and how to use the check register to discuss what services Citizens offers to its customers who are having trouble with their accounts. The importance of keeping an accurate check register and how to avoid things like overdraft, stop payment and other fees were also stressed. Ms. Montecalvo also handled lots of questions from students about difficulties they had with their accounts, and how they should deal with them.

Health and Physical Education Department

This fall all physical education students participated in the President's Challenge Fitness test. Students had to reach the 85th percentile or above on all test items in order to receive an award. The test consisted of the mile run, sit ups, push ups, sit and reach and shuttle run. The students looked up their scores to see what percentile rank they reached. They then made a goal for themselves from 5% to 10% above their recorded score and tried to reach their goals.

At the completion of the President's Challenge Fitness Test, the 9th grade students participated in a soccer unit. The 10th grade classes participated in a football unit. The 11th grade classes participated in a tennis or archery unit.

The National Guard brought the rock wall to Pilgrim on September 22nd and 23rd for the health and physical education classes to use. Students have been working on leg and arm strength during their fitness unit. This gave them a good chance to try out an activity that used those muscles. Many more students attempted to climb the wall this year.

The Rhode Island Blood Center spoke to the senior health students about blood and organ donation. The first blood drive of the year was held on September 29, 2009, and was a huge success.

Lincoln Tech. sent guest speakers to the health classes. They gave a presentation about “Life after High School” and “Dilemmas”. Their purpose was to motivate students to think about their career choices. The presentation also gave them a set of guidelines to assist them in making good decisions when confronted with the question “What is right and what is wrong?”

For the month of October, Ms. Perfetto had a fundraiser for Breast Cancer awareness. She raised money for “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” and her goal was \$1000.00. She surpassed her goal by raising \$2,743.51. Many students, teachers, family members, and the community participated in this event which was held at Roger Williams Park on October 25th. It was a 4 mile walk. The turnout and fundraiser were very successful.

In physical education classes during the 2nd quarter, the seniors will be participating in a fitness or upper electives unit. The sophomores will be in team activities (basketball, volleyball). The freshmen will be in individual sports (badminton, table tennis).

The junior health classes will be participating in the Red Cross First Aid course at the beginning of the 2nd quarter. The fee for this course is \$10 which goes towards the purchase of the Red Cross Certification Cards and materials. The seniors will be taking CPR/AED during the 3rd quarter. The fee for seniors will also be \$10.

Mathematics Department

The first quarter has ended and what a quick nine weeks that was! The NECAP testing that our juniors recently took for math and English is now complete. Before the NECAP tests were given, the students did a practice test from the previous NECAP released questions. This gave them a chance to see what the questions would be like. We will be eagerly awaiting the test results. Kudos to our juniors for their efforts on the six days of testing!

Many classes have already done a portfolio task that will be used as part of their graduation requirement. The tasks for this first quarter have been assigned by each math teacher. Next quarter, students will be given a task that is a common task from the Skills Commission.

As we finish this first quarter, please remind your student that doing homework is essential to their success in mathematics. Math department night is on **Monday** each week and students are encouraged to seek extra help on the concepts that they are having trouble with in class. Please feel free to set up an appointment through guidance with your child’s teachers if you would like a conference to discuss your child’s progress.

Science Department

We welcome a new member to the Science Department. Mr. Mario Atoyan joins us after serving as a teacher of science at Winman. Before beginning his teaching career, Mr. Atoyan worked in the business world as a computer specialist.

The summer was a busy time for many of our teachers; many enjoyed a mixture of professional activities as well as much needed “R ‘n R. Mr. Atoyan took part in the RITTI initiative, the goal being to increase the professionals’ technology expertise and to provide funding for bringing technology such as computers and peripheral equipment into their classrooms. Mrs. Bizragane, Mr. Hall, Mr. Serowik, and several of our Pilgrim students took part in the RI-ITEST (Rhode Island Information Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers) project under the auspices of the East Bay Collaborative and funded by the National Science Foundation. RI-ITEST is a three-year project that includes training for the participants during the school year as well as during the summer and in-class observation by the Concord Consortium. The goals of this program are to bring computer modeling, developed by the Concord Consortium, to the classroom and provide for increased student-centered learning. The aims include preparing students for possible careers in informational technologies. More opportunities for participation in RI-TEST are planned for next summer. For more information about this innovative program, please visit <http://ri-itest.concord.org/> .

Mr. Lobdell, Mr. Dubois, and 6 Pilgrim students were at Rhode Island College under the direction of Drs. Williams and Tiskus (RIC professors), for a two-week, “Small Molecule-Large Molecule Interactions” research initiative funded by a RI Higher Education Partnership grant. This program brought teachers of Biology and students from high schools across the state to work in research teams to determine if small molecules would have an effect on specific properties of DNA. The students presented the results of their investigations to an audience of peers, undergraduate and graduate students, and professors at Rhode Island College. This work has implications for applications to cancer therapy. They will continue their work at Rhode Island College during this school year. Another such program is slated to be offered next summer. For more information about this project, please visit <http://www.ric.edu/faculty/lmsm/> .

During the Professional Day in August, Mrs. Landrie and Mrs. Symkowicz (math) led teachers of science and mathematics through the process of entering assignments into digital portfolios.

Social Studies Department

Andrea Atturio
Arthur Bennett
Kathy Buckley
John Brennan
Nick DiFilippo
*Brendan Friel
*John McDonnell

Al Palazzo
Nisa SanGiovanni
Peter SanGiovanni
Chad Tvenstrup
Alison Wallace
Mike Xiarhos

*We are pleased to welcome John McDonnell in a full time permanent position and Brendan Friel in a three fifths position at Pilgrim this year.

Social studies will continue to increase requirements for the digital portfolio graduation by proficiency requirements. All 9th and 10th graders will input two portfolio-worthy assignments into the Richer Picture program. In addition they will complete two Rhode Skills Commission common tasks as part of the mid-year and final examinations. 11th graders will be responsible for one portfolio-worthy assignment and one common task. Alison Wallace, Chad Tvenstrup, and Andrea Atturio will serve on the district social studies proficiency committee with representatives from the other two high schools in order to determine what it means for our students to be proficient in social studies for graduation purposes.

Social studies teachers were busy gathering portfolio worthy work for the Commissioner's Visit. Each teacher compiled a folder of student work for the visitors to examine. The pieces consisted of work from students of differing abilities. Teachers had to note how they made accommodations and modifications in order for each student to achieve standard on portfolio-worthy pieces.

Our community service program got underway in two different ways this year. Students can receive recognition at Honors Night in May by completing forms documenting community service hours. The following requirements are to be complete and documented for recognition:

9 th grade	20 hours
10 th grade	30 hours
11 th grade	40 hours
12 th grade	50 hours.

Forms can be picked up in the social studies office and should be returned by the end of March, 2010. In addition to this voluntary program, the social studies and English departments have offered a course in Service Learning for our seniors. This collaborative effort is led by Alison Wallace and Linda Noble.

The United States Youth Senate Scholarship Test was administered in October to our 11th and 12th grade class officers and student counselor officers. Students taking the test will have the chance to win a trip to Washington, D.C and a \$5,000 scholarship.

Many of our social studies teachers have undertaken extra-curricular positions. The following positions are being held:

Andrea Atturio RTI coordinator, community service coordinator

John McDonnell 9th grade class advisor
Chad Tvenstrup Model Legislature
Mike Xiarhos 10th grade class advisor, Mock Trial
Alison Wallace Mock Trial, Academic Decathlon

Special Education Department

Many of you are unaware of a new program that has started in our school this year. Pilgrim's Alternative Learning Program was designed to meet the specific needs of students who have had difficulty learning in a traditional high school environment. Students in this program have access to the supports they need throughout their day. Many of our students fully participate in their classes on a daily bases, using the annex to reinforce what they have learned in the classroom. The key to our students' success is the collaboration between the ALP staff and their classroom teachers. The students of the ALP having been calling this program "the best kept secret in Pilgrim." Stop by the annex for more information about our new program.

Technology Education

The Aviation Career Fair was held at T.F. Green Airport on October 28, and was attended by 34 Tech. Ed. students. There was a wide assortment of aircraft and helicopters one could walk through and one could also talk to the ground personnel about their careers. The aviation industry is always looking to hire if one has the necessary training. Some of our students have become pilots, ground crew and joined the Air Force after attending this career fair. With the Robotics course, TE 171, students are working full tilt in developing their prototype for the March, 2010, competition at N.E. Tech. Much work still needs to be done, such as writing the computer program and the testing of the prototype. Knowing the dedication of these students, Pilgrim will be ready. As the first semester draws to a close, just a quick reminder to our students in the Automotive, Graphic, CADD and Material Processing programs to keep up the good work, and Monday Night is our department night.