

Business Department

Mrs. Kristin Rojas of the Pawtucket Credit Union visited our Personal Finance classes several times during this past year and introduced the National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) Program as a reinforcement to our Personal Finance curriculum. Some of the topics discussed were setting financial goals, creating a budget, using credit wisely, saving and investing, and insurance.

On April 7, 2011 our Personal Finance classes attended REAL WORLD DAY at Bryant University. The students assumed the role of a young adult with a job and various financial responsibilities. Utilizing the financial information provided, their task was to create a balanced budget which included renting an apartment, purchasing furniture and groceries, paying for utilities, deciding whether or not to purchase an automobile, and providing for emergency expenses. If their funds were dwindling they had to make the decision as to whether or not to acquire a second job. The students were required to present a balanced budget at the end of the event.

Those who were successful in this endeavor were placed in a drawing to receive various prizes. All Pilgrim High School students were placed in the drawing; Mikayla Harris, Grade 12, won a \$30 gas card. The final activity of the day consisted of lunch at Subway located on the campus of Bryant College. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience of REAL WORLD DAY, and were able to put the knowledge garnered in Personal Finance to successfully complete their balanced budgets.

Our school store is now open during lunch, and at the end of the school day. We would like to thank Mrs. Kathleen Brennan from our department for all the effort she has contributed to this endeavor.

On Thursday, April 14, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Rhode Island gave our Personal Finance students a one-hour financial literacy presentation. This program is trying to reach juniors and seniors who will soon be managing financial matters as they exit secondary school. The teams of court staff and volunteer attorneys spoke to our students on the dangers of credit card abuse, how to establish good credit, and how to maintain a budget. The presentation was the perfect supplement to our Personal Finance program.

English Department

The English department would like to congratulate our principal, Mr. Dennis Mullen, as this year's recipient of the Rhode Island Principal of the Year award. Our department, along with other faculty, students, and members of the Pilgrim community, helped provide supporting details to the selection committee. We find Mr. Mullen to be a visionary leader who always puts our students first, and, therefore, to be most deserving of this outstanding recognition.

In March, the English department cloned a NECAP-style test for our school's PIL-CAP initiative this year to give students practice answering constructed response-type questions found in state assessments. These short essay questions require the students to pack important information about a reading selection concisely into one or two paragraphs. Unfortunately, students who perform poorly on such questions may not organize first to be sure they will answer the prompts with all the details necessary. An analysis of the answers given for PIL-CAP helps the teachers see where the students have weaknesses to inform their future instruction. Our present Grade 10 students will take the NECAP Reading, Writing and Math assessments in October. It is never too soon to begin preparing them for the expectations in these tests.

Also in March, GRADE diagnostic reading tests were given to all grade 9-11 students to check again to see if they are reading on grade level. Students having scores one year or more behind grade level will receive careful consideration for placement in a literacy class in the fall. Another reading test will be given if there are any questions regarding the results' accuracy. This is the second GRADE diagnostic reading test this year. The state department of education requires frequent checks to ascertain our students read on level and that we provide support if this is not the case.

Common Tasks. Grades 9 & 10 students will be completing a common task this month. This item is designed to provide a valid measure of a student's success with reading and writing; therefore, the scoring rubric may be uploaded into a student's portfolio. Grades 11 & 12 will complete their spring common task items for their final exams.

Mr. Carlson's AP Honors Grade 12 class is working on its Munny Project. The students take a small plastic sculpture and create a tribute to an author, character, or any facet of inspirational literature studied this year. An evening presentation at the Warwick Public Library Sandy Lane Branch will be on Thursday, June 2. Also, Mr. Carlson's students created new Literary Maps on the English wing's walls. A map of the US has the names of authors listed by state and a map of Europe, by country. Many thanks to Mr. Carlson's students who gave time during April vacation to complete this work. Also, in progress, are murals being painted by Mrs. Dwyer's, Mr. Huddon's, and Mrs. Merdink's students. We will report more on this in June.

Foreign Language Department

The foreign language teachers would like to extend our best wishes to the newest members of Pilgrim High's French, Italian, and Spanish Honor Societies. Our ceremony was held on April 13, along with that of the National Honor Society. Special congratulations are extended to junior Lauren Peladeau, this year's recipient of the Middlebury College Language Department Book Award. Lauren, a junior in Spanish 4 Honors, was selected by the department for having demonstrated superior proficiency in both written and oral expression in a foreign language. Lauren also exhibits an understanding and appreciation of the cultures of the Hispanic world. ¡Felicitaciones, Lauren!

Students and teachers in the Foreign Language Department held their successful International Day on April 7. Students prepared recipes from many different countries around the globe, including Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America, Canada, France, the Mid-East and Africa. International Day is one of the most anticipated events in our department, and it is an interesting and fun way to spend lunchtime! Many thanks to all our talented student chefs for providing us with such tasty treats!

After having participated in International Day, Miss DeSousa's Spanish 2 and 3 classes have continued their study of typical foods and drinks from various Spanish speaking countries. They researched the meals' history, country of origin, and ingredients to share with the class. They are learning about how to speak about several foods, drinks, snacks and how to survive in a restaurant or marketplace in Mexico and Spain. Through the interactive

online BBC series *Mi Vida Loca* students are also solving a "mystery" in Madrid while learning Spanish!

In Miss Harrington's classes, Spanish 1 students have been working on asking and answering questions, telling time, describing people and explaining their school day.

Spanish 2 students finished reading the book, *La Familia Miranda* and have been watching the mystery series *Mi Vida Loca*. They have been talking about bargaining while going shopping and they learned about Oaxaca. They are currently learning about food and eating out.

During the third quarter, both Miss DeSousa and Miss Harrington's Spanish 3 Honors classes learned all about the environment and Costa Rica. They created children's books about the importance of taking care of the environment and we will be sending the books to an elementary school in Costa Rica. The students also created and presented public service announcements that reported on several environmental issues and possible solutions.

Also during the third quarter, Miss Harrington and Mrs. Griffith's Spanish 4 and Spanish 5 students studied nature and the environment. They created travel brochures in the form of power point presentations and they presented these to their classes. This quarter, Spanish 4/5 classes will be combining their study of Spanish with learning about jobs and professions. They will practice completing an application, writing a cover letter, and preparing for a job interview. They will also conduct mock job interviews in Spanish in class. In addition, they will continue their study of culture and literature; the topic this quarter is Ecuador.

Mrs. Griffith's Spanish 4 Honors class continues to develop their skills in reading, speaking and writing. This quarter, they will continue reading, discussing, and analyzing short stories from the Hispanic world. They will also complete several on-demand speaking and writing tasks based on certain every day topics, such as ordering/working in a restaurant and going to the doctor's office).

Pilgrim's AFS Club has been very busy this year. During April vacation 25 Pilgrim and international AFS students went on a walking tour of NYC. The following day, 16 of the group participated in a self-directed tour of Boston. Students from China, Malaysia, Japan, Spain, Germany, Brazil, Mexico,

Turkey, Egypt and Italy were hosted by Pilgrim students for three days. The next AFS activity will take place on Saturday April 30; they will be taking part in the "AFS National Day of Service." Along with the Environmental Justice League of RI and international exchange students, they will be sweeping streets, clearing litter and planting tree in the Broad Street area of Providence. Students interested in joining the AFS Club should contact Ms. Bennett in room 701.

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.

Physical Education and Health

THE PE DEPT. HAD A SUCESSFUL THIRD QUARTER CONSIDERING THE LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE. WE WERE ABLE TO IMPROVISE UTILIZING OTHER AREAS OF THE SCHOOL THUS ALLOWING MORE ROOM FOR FITNESS ACTIVITIES. ONE ACTIVITY IN PARTICULAR, INTRODUCED BY LISA SCIACCA, WAS KETTLEBELL TRAINING WHICH DEVELOPS THE CORE ANATOMY OF THE HUMAN BODY NECESSARY FOR EVERYDAY MOVEMENT AND ACTIVITY. IT WAS WELL RECEIVED BY MANY STUDENTS.

OUR JUNIORS WERE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FIRST AID PROCEDURES AND EARN CERTIFICATION FROM THE AMERICAN RED CROSS .

FINALLY, OUR SPECIAL POPULATION STUDENTS ARE RECEIVING HEALTH INSTRUCTION WITH STEVE SPAZIANO. IN THE REGULAR CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT, THESE STUDENTS WERE NOT ABLE TO FOLLOW THE FLOW OF INSTRUCTION. AS A RESULT, A SLOWER PACE AND MODIFICATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY PROVED TO ADDRESS THEIR NEEDS

Library Tech Center

The library continues to use technology to facilitate information literacy, both in the Pilgrim library and by providing virtual library support on our library's website:

<http://www.pilgrimhs.org> (library media center tab)

The newest feature our library tech center is making available to the PHS community is access to *One Search*. *One Search* identifies and provides links to the resources in AskRI.org, the HELIN and Ocean State Libraries catalog, web resources and online database subscriptions. The user searches PHS library's catalog, choosing a keyword search. *One Search* results appear on a separate tab in the upper right hand corner. Thus, the user locates materials PHS has available and additional resources beyond our collection. This tool supports student research in all areas.

Math Department

In order to keep the great progress that we have achieved with our current NECAP scores, the 10th grade math teachers have been making use of a website that will help our students prepare for next year's test. This usatetestprep.com site can be accessed from any computer. Have your student ask his/her math teacher for a login and password if he/she does not have it yet. Encourage your students to use this now and over the summer as a way of preparing for their test next fall. The more familiar they are with the grade level expectations, the more comfortable they will be with the math content.

With less than a quarter of the year left, 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. Department night is a great opportunity for your student to go over problems that he/she might be having. This extra help could 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 Department

The science department has been very busy during third quarter preparing our juniors for the science NECAP given in May. Most teachers gave students a “Problem of the Week” every Friday to expose the students to the various types of questions released by NECAP. In addition, science teachers visited individual junior advisories to give the students a quick refresher course in Physical science and Earth concepts from freshman year, Biology from sophomore year, and Chemistry from junior year. On Friday, April 29th, all juniors reported to the auditorium for a PowerPoint presentation on space science, given by the resident expert on this material, Mr. Marrese.

Our teachers have also been busy with various activities and learning experiences. On Saturday, April 30th, Mr. Serowik and a team of Pilgrim students participated in the Science Olympiad at Rhode Island College. The team members were Elizabeth Hanke (a four year veteran of the Olympiad), Leila Arujo, Melissa Lundin and Leah Wilson. Leah received a Gold Medal in the Science Bowl Trivia Game.

On Saturday, April 9th, three of our teachers attended the RITES spring conference. At the conference, Mrs. Bizragane, Mrs. Reynolds and Mr. Hall had to present an artifact produced through the use of the RITES investigations. These investigations are technology-based lab investigations using probes and web-based simulations. These teachers are committed to a two year program that includes course work over the summer. Mrs. Bizragane and Mr. Hall continue to participate in the RI-ITEST. The RI-ITest offers teachers the opportunity to incorporate web-based simulations and technology into classroom teaching and learning. Mr. Serowik participated in the “Awesome Watershed for Educators” course at URI.

The science department looks forward to next year as we are offering various AP courses, great electives and an additional section of physics.

Social Studies Department

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

The social studies department is in the process of administering the district-wide spring Common Tasks for 9th and 10th grade. 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 have been administering practice writing for the NECAP tests. All full year classes will enter four pieces into the portfolio system and half year classes will enter two. All honors level classes participated in National History Day on March 9th. Posters and papers were on display in the ELC.

The social studies department is in the process of developing an assignment to be entered for validation. Once an assignment is validated by the validation committee, it can then be entered into the assignment library for district wide use.

Mock Trial placed 10th in the state out of 40 teams. Kudos to Mr. X and the Mock Trial Team.

Community Service medals were given to 53 students who performed the minimum number of hours for each grade level. These were given out at Junior Honor's Night on April 13th. Hours ranged from 20 to 168. Thanks to all Patriots who served our community voluntarily.

Special Education Department

Students in our Work Activities Program are involved with a variety of projects. As part of their Alternate Assessment, they planted an assortment of seeds and enjoyed great success. The result was a collection of plants! These plants are for sale in room 316.

Many students in the Work Activities Program continue to work hard in completing their Senior Projects. They are focusing on meeting important deadlines, completing their product and rehearsing their final presentations. On May 10th the Annual Work Activities Program Recognition Dinner will be held. Students are busy writing speeches and getting ready for the festivities.

Several students will be attending "Dare to Dream," a statewide youth empowerment and leadership conference on May 24th at URI. This annual

conference provides students with an opportunity to examine concepts of transition and to share experiences with other students. The primary goal of this conference is to help students gain self-determination and leadership skills. Students share their experiences in fun and engaging ways as they present personal stories, role play, make video presentations, have group discussions, and participate in hands-on activities.

Technology Education

Our Technology Education department is well into the last quarter and headed for the end of the year. Mr. Goes and Mr. Menard's Tech Gateway classes had most of their senior students complete their Portfolios and have many juniors who just need a few more assignments, which they are currently working at. The focus now is on seniors preparing for the presentation of their Senior Projects, as they continue on the road to meeting graduation requirements.

Mr. Menard's Materials Technology classes continue to progress well. They are currently working on their final project for the year. The Woodworking class, working with Mr. McDevitt, has also completed many projects. They finished working on a free expression project and are also now working on their final project of the year. All classes have had multiple opportunities to complete at least two portfolio assignments!

Mr. Guadagni's automotive classes continue to accept detailing jobs as well as oil changes, tire work and other minor repairs. If you need your car washed and detailed or need some other basic maintenance work done, please give us a call, 734-3250 x124.

All classes are researching a Career of their choice. They need a minimum of three sources (the Occupational Outlook Handbook is mandatory) of the other two sources one must be a book and the other can be their choice. Students are encouraged to interview someone who is currently working in the career they choose. I believe this will make it easier for them to find a mentor for their senior project. In addition to the research paper they are required to create a Power Point presentation based on their research and present their findings to the class.

Pilgrim Art Department

The Pilgrim Art Department has been busy planning and preparing for the Annual Student Art Exhibition held at the Warwick Public Library on Sandy Lane. Mr. Carosi, Mrs. Katseff, Mr. Planka and Mrs. Murgo will

display eighty works of art created by their students. The public viewing of the art work at the library is from 11am-2pm on May 11th, and on May 24 during the evening 7-9pm.

Twenty students from Pilgrim also had works of art entered into the state wide Scholastics Arts Show at Salve Regina College in Newport this past January. Congratulations go out to Mr. Planka's student Hanna Pickering for earning a silver key for her outstanding monochromatic portrait painting.

Three Pilgrim High School art students entered the Rhode Island Alliance for Arts Education; Melissa Ables, Sarah Kelsall and Samantha LaCombe. Their work will be on display at the URI Providence Campus on May 2nd through May 27th. There will also be an art show of students work at Pilgrim High School the first week of June. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

There was a state wide competition for art educators this past March. The Rhode Island Art Education Association held the 2011 Educators' Exhibit. Teachers were able to enter two of their best works of art. This year at Pilgrim High school has been exciting, busy, and rewarding.

Pilgrim art Teachers have been meeting to work on revising and coordinating the Visual Art and Design curriculum. A Common Task Reflective Writing Assignment has been developed to help students in their understanding of content, intent and meaning in Visual Art works. It will also help students in their writing skills and ability to improve success on NECAP testing.