

# Pat's Update

## April – June, 2008

***Pat's Update is a publication that comes out periodically throughout the school year; usually we mail it, but because we have the opportunity to communicate electronically, we will try this version. All you will need to do is to go on to the the Warwick School Department website- [www.warwickschools.org](http://www.warwickschools.org), click into District Schools, click into Pilgrim High School and then go into the links to the left- Principal's Message and Newsletter. Shortly, additional information will be posted about our school community. I hope you find this informative.***

### **BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**

The Pilgrim Chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) under the direction of a strong officer team and Advisor, Mrs. Mockler, continues to demonstrate that they are fulfilling this year's national theme—Leadership in Action!

Plans are now underway to assist a local Girl Scout Troop complete the requirements for the Computers are Fun Badge and to visit the Greenwich Farms at Warwick during April vacation to play board games with the elderly. The Chapter will once again participate in the March of Dimes March for Babies (formerly known as WalkAmerica) at Colt State Park on April 27 and the MS Walk at Roger Williams Park on April 13. Anyone interested in participating may contact FBLA for more information.

The School Store is currently creating new student positions for an inventory clerk, sales persons, management and maintenance. Any interested student should see Mrs. Mockler or an FBLA member for more information.

On February 11, the officer team attended the State Leadership Meeting at the Radisson Hotel. Students made presentations informing the members from other schools the community service projects that were completed this year, and the keynote speaker was an Executive Officer of Fidelity who informed the students how wise money decisions made today can greatly impact their future. He also discussed the ways the “baby boomers” will impact the types of careers that will be plentiful in the next ten years.

At the Rhode Island FBLA Awards Banquet on March 20, the following members of the Pilgrim Chapter of FBLA received awards for their achievements at the State Leadership Competition Events on Friday, February 29, Skills Competitions on March 11, and Presentation Competitions on March 17.

Accounting I, Taylor McDermott, Grade 12, First Place, and John Dao, Grade 12, Second Place. Accounting II, Derryck Hesford, Grade 12, First Place. Community Service Project, Taylor McDermott and Rebecca Mancini, Grade 12, First Place. Entrepreneurship Team Event, Derryck Hesford and Carissa Schneider, Grade 12, Third Place. FBLA Principles and Procedures, Jacqueline Steinkamp, Grade 10, First Place. Local Chapter Newsletter, Derryck Hesford, Grade 12, Fourth Place. Local Chapter Scrapbook, Pamela Maldonado, Grade 10, Fourth Place. Marketing, Rebecca Mancini, Grade 12, Fifth Place. Personal Finance, Carissa Schneider, Grade 12, Second Place, and Rebecca Mancini, Grade 12, Fourth Place. Public Speaking II, Svet Lasnier, Grade 11, Fourth Place, and Beverly Gantt, Grade 11, Fifth Place. Word Processing I, Jacqueline Steinkamp, Grade 10, Fourth Place. Word Processing II, Beverly Gantt, Grade 11, First Place, and Allison Mockler, Grade 12, Third Place. Jacqueline Steinkamp, Grade 10, also received Who's Who in Rhode Island FBLA.

Johnson and Wales University issued scholarships to students placing in the top three positions in Accounting II, Personal Finance, and Entrepreneurship events. Additionally, members receiving first and second place awards may represent the state at the National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, in June. Congratulations to all the FBLA members for their outstanding accomplishments!

Mrs. Mockler's FBLA members and accounting students are now making plans to attend a Financial Education Day on April 29 at the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston.

In Mrs. Brennan's Career Exploration class, students will be volunteering at Exchange City, located in the Paramount Building at Johnson & Wales University, in May. These students spent time last semester working at Exchange City's bank and business center. Now these same students will be assisting elementary and/or middle school students in the job positions they once held. They are very excited about experiencing this opportunity.

Also, Mrs. Brennan's College and Career Planning class will be interviewed by business community members as part of their final examination. This interview and the advice given has been a positive experience for students who have participated in this process in the past.

Three experts spoke to Mr. Cooper's Personal Finance classes this month. Shirley McMillian of the Consumer Counting Services talked about credit use and abuse. Mrs. McMillian showed a video on how credit card companies target college students and sometimes mislead new credit users. She also talked about warning signs that indicate you are getting into credit trouble.

Ms. McMillian was followed by Special Agent Caroline O'Brien of the United States Secret Service. She spoke on how to avoid identity theft and warning signs that your identity has been stolen. Rounding out the month was Christine Rojas of the Pawtucket Credit Union who brought the budget project that students had been working on to a conclusion. This is the key element to preparing for Real World Day, which our students will attend on April 3, 2008 at Bryant University. The Pawtucket Credit Union will also sponsor this event.

## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

### **APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH—GET THE FEVER!**

Spring fever strikes and love and poetry are in the air. Students, teachers, and the Pilgrim community are encouraged to observe national poetry month by enjoying a poem each day. You may find excellent examples of poetry online at the National Poetry website: [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org)

### **SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY**

William Shakespeare's birthday is celebrated on April 23rd—a great time to recognize all he has done for the entertainment industry over the centuries!

### **PILGRIM PLAYERS**

Mr. Richard Denningham of the English department is the adviser for the Pilgrim Players who are proud to present The Curious Savage, on the weekend of April 4th. Drama Club member, Jessica Montecalvo wrote a press release describing the play as “A dramatic play about a family's greed and one mother's want to find true happiness in a world of chaos.” Jessica explains that as the mother's friends “band together to rescue Mrs. Savage from her children's greed, we as observers watch their mysterious stories unfold and their fears are put behind them in exchange for a true friend.”

“For this extraordinary performance,” Jessica tells us, “Kayla Quirk, a freshman and a first timer with The Pilgrim Players, will play the lead role of Mrs. Ethel Savage, a smart and witty mother in her early 50's awaiting a new beginning.”

Jessica noted, “In the Pilgrim Players' last performance of the year, there is but one senior, Emily O'Donnell, who will be stage manager for her last time with The Pilgrim Players. Emily has been a technical worker for The Pilgrim Players for many years but she has just recently acquired the position as stage manager.” Jessica wrote, “Her talent and humor have made her irreplaceable but she will never be forgotten.”

The English department hopes Mr. Denningham, Emily, and all the Players “break a leg” in their production.

## STUDENT TEACHERS

The Pilgrim English Department is fortunate to have five dedicated student teachers within its ranks this spring. Four students are from Rhode Island College. Working with Mr. Callahan is Reid Jagger; with Mr. Markey, Mr. Paul Semenkow; with Ms. Muto, Ms. Caitlyn Noury; and with Ms. Noble, Mr. Timothy Stewart. Mr. Timothy Farrell, from Providence College, recently finished his student teaching at Pilgrim. He worked with Ms. Merdink. We wish all our student teachers well as they strive to meet the challenges of effective teaching.

## WRITING CONTESTS

Pilgrim students are encouraged to enter writing contests to showcase their exemplary work. The English department keeps a display of current writing contests in the display case near the English office door. Aspiring writers are urged to check often for new contests. See Mrs. Place, department head, for entry forms.

## SENIOR PAPERS

Congratulations to those seniors who successfully completed their senior papers in English class by deadline time. Good luck in your upcoming presentations!

## **FAMILY/CONSUMER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

Pilgrim's Service Learning Class has successfully completed the "Exchange City" Project by bringing Hoxsie and Sherman 6th graders to the "city" housed on the Johnson and Wales Campus on March 17. Prior to this date, Pilgrim students instructed the elementary school students in the Exchange City Curriculum, prepared them for job interviews, city elections and setting up various businesses for the day. The day proved to be an outstanding success and everyone had a great time. We were pleased that Dr. Horoshack and Dr. Siesel were able to take time from their busy schedules to spend time with us and experience the program first hand. As a result, this program will expand to include other district schools in the fall.

Child Development students are in the process of training to become reading mentors for students at Holliman. The students have been working with Claire Flaherty, Executive Director of Volunteers of Warwick Schools, to prepare for the program which will begin in April.

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

Students in Foreign Language classes are on the move this semester! There are several field trips planned for late March and early April. The students in Italian classes will be attending An Immersion Day sponsored by RI Teachers of Italian. They will spend the entire morning participating in activities where they will have to speak exclusively in the target language. French classes will attend a concert by Josée Vachon, a Franco-American singer born in Quebec and raised in Canada. The Spanish V honors class will go to RI School of Design Museum to see the work of several Hispanic artists. They are also preparing to put on a play for students at Aldrich. Ms. Bennett's Spanish IV Honors class will attend a Spanish play at RI College.

Many students are working on projects as well. Spanish IV Honors students are studying Argentina, and researching and preparing for an asado—an authentic Argentine meal. Miss DeSousa's Spanish II class recently completed story boards about their daily routine, and her Spanish III class has finished their Cuando era niño (When I was little...) scrapbooks. French I students are working on their journals and preparing a Photo Story project on their ideal vacation get-away. In French II students have been comparing and contrasting French and American customs related to table manners and general proper behavior when one is a guest in someone's home, and will present skits about the topic to their classmates. In Mrs. Taft's Spanish III Honors class, students are writing about their "dream homes" to practice using the subjunctive, and her Spanish III class is preparing for a field trip.

The after-school clubs have been very active this semester also. We are still offering the beginning French classes after school on Tuesdays at JB Francis School. (Please contact Ms. Fontes for details). All three language clubs will hold an international food festival in April, and the French Club is preparing to celebrate la Semaine de la Francophonie. They will have a movie night, and will serve crêpes several afternoons during that week.

## **GRADUATION BY PROFICIENCY**

### Portfolio Requirements

#### For the Classes of 2010 and 2011

For the current academic school year 2007 - 2008, freshmen and sophomores are required to enter a total of six portfolio worthy assignments into the digital portfolio system. These students will be required to upload two English, two mathematic, and one science assignment. Students will have participated in two each common assessment in English and math by the end of April, which will comprise four of the six required submissions. Science classes will also designate the portfolio worthy work to be uploaded by students. These students must also include at least one assignment that showcases their diverse skills and abilities. This assignment may be taken from any course that a student is taking during the current academic year. All assignments require a written reflection for each piece of work indicating at least one district academic expectation that the work

meets. Students will be brought to labs during the 4th quarter to be trained in the uploading of this work electronically.

For the Class of 2009

Our current juniors will submit a paper portfolio in lieu of the digital format. Juniors will complete two teacher generated portfolio assignments in English and two in mathematics. Juniors will also include at least one assignment that they wish to showcase as a demonstration of their diverse skills and abilities from another course taken during the school year. All assignments require a written reflection for each piece of work added to their portfolio indicating at least one district academic expectation the work. This work will be stored in the GBP office.

The following is an excerpt from an e-mail sent to all of our current juniors after a class assembly was held regarding their participation in a journal writing assignment as they begin to explore senior exhibition project topics.

Mrs. Massey's Reflection: Most of you were in the auditorium today when Senior Exhibition was officially introduced. You were handed a black journal. The purpose of this journal is to document the beginning of your journey with Senior Exhibition. Your journal will be collected at the April 24th assembly meeting of the Junior class.

This is your first opportunity to demonstrate your ability to research, critically think, and reflect on your upcoming journey. These concepts are three of the five applied learning areas that all students must demonstrate and be successful with in order to receive a diploma from Warwick Schools. This activity begins your journey. It gives you an opportunity to do preliminary research in potential topic areas. It is what I like to call "pre-search".

Listen to your colleagues from the Class of 2008. When asked what words of wisdom they wished for me to share with the Class of 2009, overwhelmingly, they agreed to tell you to read everything you can about Senior Exhibition, especially the Senior Exhibition Project Guidebook. They also said to tell you to ask questions about what you have read in an effort to deepen your understanding and "to start early and stay on task." All information on Senior Exhibition is located in the Student area of FirstClass or on the Warwick School website.

For the Class of 2008

Senior research packets will be presented to the faculty on April 9th for the school wide faculty read of senior research papers and reflections.

Very Important Dates

April 9                      Faculty read of senior research and reflection.

May 1                      Deadline: Completed Senior Exhibition Portfolios submitted to  
Mrs. Massey                      (all portfolios must include all items reflected on the  
Portfolio Checklist)

May 20                      Senior Exhibition Presentations

June 5                      Graduation

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## **GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT**

The web portal, waytgori.org, will be used to introduce Freshman to an interest inventory and allow them to complete a career search. These are provided by Bridges-Zap. Other tools on the website are Number 2, an SAT preparation program and a connection to RH Higher Education Assistance Authority. Next year there will more tools available that will assist in the college process.

Students will use this information on their Individual Learning Plan, which will be completed in keyboarding class. They will set goals for the end of the year and in May they will write a reflection about the success or partial success in reaching those goals. This will be completed in advisories. Sophomores will also update their ILPs.

ILP's – Individual Learning Plans, are required for the new Graduation by Proficiency regulations put out by the Rhode Island Department of Education. Sophomores will also complete parts of the form this year. Next year there will be much more about this process. Counselors in the district have worked all year to complete a curriculum framed around the ILP. This will be more fully put in place next year.

Counselors are now in the process of finalizing graduation plans and addressing final concerns that seniors may have about next year, whether those concerns may be angst about going away to college or that no plan was finalized. For underclass students, counselors are adjusting course requests for next year. Parents will be receiving letters soon that reflect those adjustments, some of which are based on classes that will not run

next year or based on conflicts of classes that are running. Unfortunately, these adjustments will continue to some extent throughout the summer. Schedules for next year will be mailed the week before school starts.

We are proud to recognize Sharon Rix as one of the top 50 American School Counselors of the Year 2008. She is the only RI counselor to have this honor. Although only one person can be nominated, the Pilgrim High School Guidance team works in collaboration and so to honor one member is to recognize all members.

## **HEALTH/PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

During the winter quarter the 9th grade physical education classes are participating in a fitness unit. The 11th grade classes are in an individual sports unit that consists of table tennis and badminton. The 12th grade students are participating in a basketball and volleyball team sports unit. The 10th grade is in health during the third quarter.

The seniors completed their certification for CPR/AED class during the 2nd quarter. They received their Adult CPR/AED Red Cross certification cards. The juniors will be taking the Red Cross First Aid certification class during the 4th quarter. The fee for cards and supplies for the First Aid class is \$6.

Eight seniors took and passed the Red Cross Lay Responder Instructor Certification Program during the February vacation. They were trained to teach and certify anyone in Adult/child/infant CPR/AED and First Aid. This is the first time this class has been offered to students in any of the Warwick high schools.

During the 4th quarter the freshmen will be taking part in individual sports. The sophomores will be in team sports. The seniors will be in fitness.

## **LIBRARY**

The librarians attended a professional development training program for new electronic databases that will be available for the Pilgrim community next fall. The Pilgrim library will subscribe to four EBSCO research databases to enhance our students' studies:

“Ultra Online”

“Literary Reference Center”

“History Reference Center,

“Science Reference Center.”

These databases can be accessed from all library computers and also remotely from any computer.

## **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

June will be here before you know it. Encourage your son/daughter to keep up with his/her work. During the fourth quarter the students in ninth and tenth grade math courses will be given a common task to complete in class. The task will become part of their portfolio for graduation.

Congratulations to Mr. Fitzpatrick who led our academic decathlon to a great showing at a recent meet held at CCRI on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Our team won the West Bay Collaborative and placed tenth in the state. Special recognition goes out to Matt McDermott who won a bronze medal in the art and math categories. Cassie Mullins won a bronze medal in science and Cat Zuffoletti won a silver medal in interview. Great job!

Also, kudos to Mrs. Cameron and the following top math league scorers for the year. First place was Ashley Greenberg, 2nd place was Matt McDermott and there was a tie for third place, Matt Dickson and Cassie Mullins. Thanks to our teachers and students for their dedication.

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

Our students fared well at the Rhode Island State Science and Engineering Fair.

Zachary Blanchard, who studied "Baseballs 'Seam' Different," received a 2nd Grant award. Catherine LaBella was awarded a 3rd Grant for her inquiry into "CSI: Fiber Analysis." Elizabeth Hanke received a 3rd Grant award for her looking into the question, "Does the amount of air pollution vary each week?" Catherine LaBella was awarded a 3rd Grant for her inquiry into "CSI: Fiber Analysis." Tanzeel Rehman received a 2nd Grant award for his project about "Alcohol's effects on Drosophila." Congratulations!

The science teachers have been very busy in addition to their daily teaching duties. The teachers have worked individually and in collaboration with each other to map all Science courses to the state ELA and Mathematics GSE's, giving increased evidence of the inclusion of these standards across the curriculum. Mrs. Landrie, Mrs. LeBlanc, and Mrs. Reynolds attended the National Science Teachers Association convention in Boston. Mr. Serowik will be serving on a NEASC evaluation team in Northbridge, Ma. in May.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

Pilgrim High School participated in National History Day with projects and power point exhibits displayed in the library. Two students were chosen to represent Pilgrim at the state level. They are Kadejah Foster for her Power Point project on Ashcan School of Art and Shannon Williams for her Power Point project on Suffragettes. The state competition will take place at Providence College on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Community Service medals will be given out to students with documented hours at Junior Honors Night on April 10<sup>th</sup>. In order to qualify for commendation, 9<sup>th</sup> graders needed 20 hours of community service, 10<sup>th</sup> needed 30 hours, 11<sup>th</sup> needed 40 hours, and 12<sup>th</sup> needed 50 hours. Congratulations to all who participated.

The Eastern Civilization classes are continuing work on the Zen Garden. Mrs. Katseff's classes have made five large ceramic statues and students from Mr. Dubee's and Mr. Menard's classes have made seven benches. If all goes well, the Zen Garden will open in May. The Eastern Civilization classes will be going to Chinatown on April 10<sup>th</sup> for a guided tour.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

Senior Projects have been in the forefront this quarter. Teachers are supporting students in their effort to meet the new Graduation by Proficiency Requirements (GBP). If the student's IEP provides for accommodations related to the Senior Project they will be allowed. During the March Professional Development day teachers in the department attended workshops in either differentiated instruction or the e-portfolio component of GBP.

Rhode Island Department of Education's Office of Diverse Learners recently mailed a questionnaire to the parents of students with an IEP. They rely on your feedback to help provide the appropriate programs for all students.

## **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

The students in Thomas O'Connor's Engineering Program in the Tech Ed. Department had a very successful day in the annual Robotic Competition which is held at New England Tech. This year there were forty-one competing high schools and Pilgrim High School finished in seventh place. Each year the organizer of the event presents size parameters and challenges each robot needs to accomplish, which include moving through a course on its own guided by an internal computer program designed and modified by the students. Another event is where the robots must secure and store objects in a bin, and the team that scored the most points moves on to the next round.

Pilgrim team consisted of mentor, Robert Pendergast from Pitney Bowes, who volunteered his time for the second year in row. Students, Adam McDermott, Jacob Ferry and Sean Atwood spent many hours engineering and troubleshooting an intricate rotating, lifting and grabbing robotic claw. Jeffrey Conner and John Graves designed and wrote the C++ program which allowed the robot to navigate an obstruction filled course with ease. Corey Confireda, Joshua Morris and Michael Hartington were the competition strategist, who designed strategies by evaluating their opponents' strengths and weakness. The staff of the Technology Education Department wants to congratulate this team for representing Pilgrim at the State competition for a job well done. This course also meets the 1+ math or the computer application requirement our students need to graduate. Students need to register for TE 171 Engineering, a one credit course, to be eligible for next year robotic competition.

The students throughout our department had another outstanding year. There are many talented students who showcase talents by working on the yearbook, creating and maintaining PHS webpage, filming and editing the senior video and building the trails and benches in the new ZEN garden. Working with these students in our Tech Ed. Department is a pleasure and I would like to thank them for their hard work they have shown this school year.