

Pat's Update

First Semester/September '07- January '08

Principal's Message

The first semester at Pilgrim High School has flown by with a great deal of activity. The school year began with a number of guest speakers who spoke to our students about making sound life choices. Our speakers ranged from Attorney General Patrick Lynch to motivational speaker, Mark Mainella. Spirit Week, which culminated in a pep rally for all of our fall sports teams, was fun-filled for the entire school community. As usual, our annual Open House was well attended by a number of parents/guardians who learned a great deal about their child's course work and teachers' expectations.

The month of October saw the annual state testing for our juniors. We are confident that, once again, Pilgrim will attain AYP (adequate yearly progress) status for the fifth year in a row. Our sophomores and juniors took the PSATs in mid October. The month also saw a number of extra-curricular activities take place. The annual Halloween Assembly for our seniors went very well. The costumes were awesome! There were also a number of dances and athletic contests. Our Boys' Soccer team is in the state playoffs, and, hopefully, they can bring home a class championship. Our most recent Blood Drive in October saw Pilgrim finishing second in its division in the state for quantity of pints donated. We anticipate that our Pilgrim Players drama presentation of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" will be a great success.

The SATs will be held at Pilgrim on Saturday, December 1. Our Chorus Winter Concert will be on December 13.

Our seniors continue to be busy working on their senior projects. If there are any questions regarding the project and/or the timetable as we progress further into the school year, students, parents/guardians should contact Mrs. Marilyn Massey at masseym@warwickschools.org. With all the mandates that presently exist on the state level, No Child Left Behind on the federal level continues. On the local level, we are continuing to implement our school action plans: literacy, numeracy/problem solving, personalization and graduation by proficiency.

I would encourage you to call our guidance office to set up an appointment with your child's teacher(s) if you find the recent first quarter report card to be "problematic." First quarter report cards were mailed the second week of November.

Please remind your child that there are a number of programs that have been developed that can prove to be rewarding for them. We have "Student of the Week", which rewards students who have exhibited substantial effort, submitted all homework and/or behaved as a model citizen. Literacy "Word of the Day" allows students to write a clear, concise paragraph, submit it to me on Friday, using all the "words of the week" properly to receive a reward. We also have SAT "Question of the Day." There will be an English or mathematics question that is based on the SAT assessment. Students answer the question correctly with a written explanation on how they got their answer and they will receive a reward. Finally, in an attempt to increase positive communication, we have continued a "Positive Call from the Principal" program. Parents/guardians will receive a phone call from me during the course of a week (or weekend) if a teacher feels that a student has exhibited exceptional effort, behavior or improvement during a given week.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of our Pilgrim family-- our students, parents, faculty and staff-- the happiest of holiday seasons.

Sincerely,
Dennis T. Mullen
Principal

Business Department

The Business Department is pleased to welcome back the following teachers: Mrs. Catherine Thibaudeau, Dept. Chair., Mrs. Anne Baynes, Mrs. Kathleen Brennan, Mr. Bryan Cooper, and Mrs. Laurie Mockler. We are looking forward to a very productive and exciting year.

Our department will be attending the QUEST 2007 Conference on November 2-3, 2007 in Providence. We will be participating in numerous workshops throughout the weekend learning, discussing and debating the latest research and exemplary practices.

Our Personal Finance classes are again working in conjunction with the Pawtucket Credit Union's Financial Literacy Program. The Credit Union will make presentations to our students on financial planning, the relationship between education and income, budgeting, savings and investments, and credit and insurance. These presentations are interwoven with our curriculum, and are aligned with the National Institute for Financial Education Standards as well as our local standards. This relationship will culminate with a field trip to Bryant University for Real World Day next spring. On that day the students will be presented with their fictitious life story and budget. They will then work with real car dealers, apartment managers, insurance agents, real estate brokers, etc. in order to finance the life style they would like. Mr. Bryan Cooper feels that it is a great learning and motivating experience for his students, and they are quite surprised to find out what things really cost.

Students in Mrs. Brennan's Career Exploration and Introduction to Careers classes will participate in an Exchange City simulation on December 4, 2007. Exchange City is located at the Harborside Campus of Johnson & Wales University. This simulation will teach and reinforce democratic, economic and entrepreneurial concepts for our students. Our Pilgrim students will learn ahead of time all that encompasses their participation as citizens in this community.

At Exchange City our students will keep their very own city operating and thriving, from the mayor's office and police department to the news media and the business community. Students learn about different career options, personal finance skills and how their roles as consumers and producers are important to our economy. During their stay students become owners and operators of a multitude of businesses.

Pilgrim Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is living this year's FBLA National theme—Leadership in Action! FBLA is the largest extra-curricular business activity with over 250,000 members nationwide.

After earning top awards in the State, five members attended the National Leadership Conference in Chicago in June. Students competed in accounting, desktop publishing, word processing, and open events. In addition, the students attended workshops on such topics as developing community service projects, leadership topics, and helped a member from Barrington campaign for the National Treasurer position.

Congratulations to Pilgrim FBLA for receiving recognition in Chicago as second in the Eastern Region for total community service hours, and to Mrs. Mockler for being recognized as Rhode Island's Outstanding Advisor for 2007!

At Freshmen Orientation in August and Open House in September, the FBLA set up a table to display the Pilgrim clothing products being offered through the FBLA School Store. Thank you to those students who purchased products!

On October 12, a group of FBLA students were invited by members of the Ocean State Center for Independent Living to attend a presentation for members of the Americans with Disabilities Association at the State House. The FBLA members were asked to assist vision and hearing impaired people with such things as reading banners, helping people obtain refreshments, and helping them to elevators and on the staircases. The FBLA members really enjoyed working at this event and some were even more thrilled at the opportunity to visit Ms. Stenhouse's office! At the end of the event, the FBLA members were given a small guided tour of the State House. All of them requested that they be allowed to attend a full tour at a future time.

On October 21, members walked in the ALS Association's Walk to D'Feet ALS in honor of Warwick resident, Peter Cate. The members raised \$330 in donations for this worthwhile cause.

Although the FBLA has sold products from the School Store at special events, the official opening of the store was on October 22. The store is open from 7:00 to 7:20 a.m. and from 1:50 to 2:30 p.m. School supplies, personal products, and Pilgrim clothing are currently being offered. People wishing to purchase Pilgrim clothing for students for gifts may contact Ms. Osterman or Mrs. Mockler to place orders. Holiday orders should be placed soon in order to ensure delivery in time for the holidays.

The Festival of Giving is an annual event in which the Pilgrim FBLA participates. FBLA is currently selling tickets for \$5 which permits the holder to attend an after-hours shopping event on Sunday, November 18, at the Providence Place Mall. Special discounts and prizes are offered at this event. A portion of each ticket sold will be donated to the March of Dimes.

Next, the members will be beginning to decide which competitive events they would like to enter this year.

New student members are welcome as well as adult members may join as professional members or mentors.

Yes, the Leadership in Action theme is definitely evident with this year's Pilgrim Future Business Leaders of America!

English Department

The English department would like to thank the parents and guardians of our students for their great turnout on Open House night. The teachers enjoyed meeting you and sharing information about their classes to help you provide support at home.

Also, we would like to remind our parents and guardians that many English teachers require outside reading for their classes. Please check to see that your children are reading three times a week or more. Also, many students have been given other English assignments. Please do not accept, "I don't have any homework" as a comment from your high school student!

On December 4th, the two twelfth grade service learning classes under the guidance of Linda Noble and Evelyn Sherry, and the tenth grade careers classes, with teachers Linda Noble, Peter San Giovanni, and Kathy Brennan, are going to Exchange City in Providence. Throughout the day, they will learn about government, running businesses, and personal finances. The service learning classes will then take their expertise to teach students in the elementary schools.

Family & Consumer Science Department

The Family and Consumer Science Department has some exciting new projects and programs being implemented this year.

Now in its third year the Service Learning Project, team taught by Linda Nobel (ELA) and Evelyn Sherry (F&CS), has expanded to two groups of senior students.

This year's major endeavor is a partnership with "Exchange City" and the Hoxie and Sherman Elementary Schools.

Exchange City is a real life simulation of a city housed at the Johnson & Wales Harbourside Campus. At Exchange City, students keep their very own city operating and thriving. Through classroom preparation and the full day simulation experience, students learn democratic, economic and entrepreneurial concepts that are the cornerstone of the free enterprise system.

Pilgrim students will teach the Exchange City curriculum to 4th and 5th graders at the Sherman and Hoxie Schools and then guide them through the real life simulation.

Interior and Architectural Design students Melissa Bernard and Nathan Rougier are designing a tile mosaic depicting the various areas of the Family & Consumer Science Department. Melissa's father, Paul, is generously donating his time, materials and expertise to this project.

Students in Mrs. Norton's Regional and International Foods classes are preparing healthy ethnic main courses and desserts in preparation for the Johnson and Wales High School Recipe contest. This is a wonderful scholarship opportunity for students considering careers in culinary arts.

Textile Arts and Fashion classes are exploring fabric manipulation using a variety of textures colors and mediums. Students completing individual projects are encouraged to complete a quilt to be donated to the Linus Project.

Foreign Language Department

The Foreign Language Department is pleased to welcome Miss Courtney DeSousa as our newest faculty member. Miss DeSousa is a graduate of RI College and is teaching Spanish. We are very happy to have her join our ranks.

There are two other new faces in our department this fall. Ms Amy Hubertus and Ms Rae Ann Hanlon are completing a practicum internship as part of the secondary education program at RI College. Ms Hubertus is working with Ms Maria Fontes in French classes, and Ms Hanlon is working with Ms Heidi Bennett in Spanish. As practicum students they observe classes and teach short lessons throughout the fall. They will return to us in January to do their student teaching.

Students in the department have been working diligently to complete the assignments for the first quarter. Spanish I classes have been studying the traditions and customs of Mexico. Ms. Radcliffe's Spanish classes will present their quarter projects this week. Mrs. Griffith's French classes are completing a unit on poetry, and will give their final presentations this week as well. In Ms. Fontes and Mrs. Taft's Spanish 3 Honors classes, students are beginning to read a novel about Frida Kahlo, a Mexican artist. Ms Bennett has invited some guest speakers to the department; one, an exchange student from Spain who speaks several languages, spoke to the students about her life in Madrid. The others were teachers from Sweden who teach Spanish and English there.

Parents are reminded of the many opportunities students have to use their language skills beyond the school day. For example, there is the chance for students to earn community service credit through peer tutoring. Students interested in helping others succeed in language classes, or students in need of extra support in their French, Italian or Spanish classes should contact Mrs. Griffith in the foreign language office, or at griffithc@warwickschools.org for more information.

The French, Spanish and Italian Clubs meet once a week and they plan many fun activities for students. Right now the clubs are busy planning an international dance. But it is not just an ordinary

dance! Included will be food from all three of the cultures, music from many countries, decorations that celebrate the cultures, and information about the cultures. By having this dance, the club members hope to broaden students' minds to different cultures from around the world. They will also be encouraging students to join the clubs and to spread the love of language, culture and diversity throughout the school. Save the date—November 16.

The French Club is preparing to celebrate La Semaine du Français, November 5-11. They will sponsor the "Word of the Day"—each word a common English word derived from French. They are also planning a chocolate-tasting for students and a cheese-tasting for faculty. In addition to their social activities, the club is sponsoring "Fun with French", an after-school enrichment program at the elementary school level. The program is free of charge. For more information about "Fun with French", or to attend the cheese-tasting, please contact Ms Fontes at fontesm@warwickschools.org And the Spanish Club has recently sponsored a bake sale in honor of the Mexican custom of Día de los muertos. One of the special foods students prepared for this event was Mexican hot chocolate, flavored with cinnamon. For more information about the Spanish Club, please contact Miss DeSousa at desousac@warwickschools.org

Graduation by Proficiency

Graduation by Proficiency has spent the first quarter working solely with the Class of 2008 as these students embark on their journey of meeting all the responsibilities, commitments, and requirements for a successful senior year. With our collective help, students will reach the ultimate achievement of receiving a diploma as they look toward walking across that big stage in June.

The Senior Exhibition Project is a fitting culmination of a high school education. It empowers the students to take responsibility for their learning and to have a powerful voice in their development as individuals. It encourages students to demonstrate their talents and abilities while examining an issue or topic of deep personal interest that sustains their interest for the entire year. By creating an original exhibition relevant to that interest, students will take appropriate risks and stretch their learning so as to grow intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

I would be remiss if I were to state that it has been an easy process. Students have been required to take charge of their own learning. As much as we all work to remind them of this huge responsibility of meeting deadlines through the submission process, there is still trepidation among students. Not all have embraced their role in this process. Students can no longer just pass their courses in order to successfully meet the requirements for graduation. The Class of 2008 must successfully participate in and meet the commitments as set forth on the Senior Project Exhibition Calendar or they will not graduate.

You can help. Be certain that both you and your child are familiar with the Senior Project Exhibition Calendar and Senior Project Exhibition Handbook. You know your child better than anyone. If you are concerned that they may not be meeting the expectations for graduation, do not hesitate to call. There are currently 299 students going through this process at Pilgrim High School. It is our goal to get them all through this process successfully. It can happen if we all work together.

Graduation requirements may be found on the Warwick Schools website, www.warwickschools.org, click on green link entitled "High School Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements".

Please do not hesitate contact me direct with any questions or concerns:

Marilyn Massey
Graduation by Proficiency Coordinator
masseym@warwickschools.org
(401) 734-3273 ext. 117

Guidance Department

The Guidance department has a goal this year of documenting a comprehensive guidance program. To that end we have been meeting with consultants Dr. Karl Squier and Dr. Pat Nailor to assist in the process. Guidance has never before had a written curriculum so the process is informative. Pilgrim has a lot to offer: specialization of counselor assignments, documented lesson plans and the beginnings of a scope and sequence. The benefits to students are numerous. Every student is seen by their counselor several times a year, in the classroom and advisories, and individually for upperclassmen. Targeted groups will also be seen through study skills classes or social skills groups.

Counselors have seen all seniors in their health classes to introduce the college/ career search process. Many college representatives have visited Pilgrim to show case their schools. On Oct 31 CCRI visited to have students fill out applications and the fee was waived for those who brought it back by Nov. 1. Students will have the opportunity to take the Accuplacer test here at Pilgrim High School. There will be a fee for the test. This test determines if a student is eligible to enroll in college math or English without first requiring a remediation course at CCRI (a no credit course that costs the same as a credit course). Taking the test at Pilgrim gives students time to brush up on skills so they can retake the test if necessary before enrolling.

Advisories are new this year. Counselors have seen all students in advisories at least twice and we are starting the third round. If seniors are going to be applying for financial aid for next year, they have been instructed to apply now for a pin number and parents also must apply for their own pin number. Go to www.pin.ed.gov to apply for pin numbers. Guidance has worksheets to help in the process of applying for aid. FAFSA on the web can be filled out after January 1 with estimates and updated later. This is strongly suggested.

Freshman counselors have offered information about transitioning to high school and graduation requirements. Sophomores have been reviewed about graduation requirements and Individual Learning Plans. Sophomores have access to ILP documents through first class. Juniors have been encouraged to begin their college/career search and possibly use ideas from that search for their senior project next year.

The PSAT's were given to all Sophomores and Juniors this year. Juniors who score exceptionally high may be eligible for National Merit scholarships. Sophomores gain extra practice so that they will be more comfortable with the test next year. This test is for the benefit of the student. The scores are not reported anywhere except to the student. It is practice for the SAT. Juniors should take the SAT in the spring of 2008.

We look forward to another very busy year in guidance.

Health and Physical Education Department

In September the physical education department introduced the new city-wide physical education curriculum. This curriculum was developed as a collaborative effort by all three high schools.

During the first quarter the 11th grade physical education classes have been participating in a fitness unit. The 10th grade classes are in an individual sports unit that consists of tennis, pickleball and badminton. The 9th grade students are participating in a team sports unit and have been playing

soccer, football and speed ball. The students have a final exam in each activity. Our seniors are in health class.

During the second quarter, the 9th grade will be in health. The 10th grade will be participating in a fitness unit. The 11th grade will be in team (basketball, volleyball) and upper electives. The seniors will be in individual sports (badminton, table tennis) and CPR.

Gibbs College sent their high school presenter to talk about alcohol and drunk driving to all 12th grade health classes. They have been to visit the Pilgrim health classes for the last few years.

New England Tech representatives Jo-Ann Fielding and Elaine Marcus gave a health careers workshop and demonstration to some of the senior health classes on October 24, 2007. They will be coming back to speak to the other senior classes on December 14, 2007.

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 21, 2007 and was a huge success.

Mrs. Tamburini-Sciacca, Ms. Perfetto, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Flanders and Mrs. Leonard will be attending the 2007 QUEST Conference in November. This is a Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals, biennial professional issues conference.

During the summer, Ms. Perfetto and Mr. Flanders attended a Rhode Island Teachers and Technology 2-week workshop which was technology based. It was very helpful in planning new health projects and lessons. They each received \$3,000 worth of equipment for their classrooms.

Library Tech Center

Library hours are 7-3, Mondays-Thursdays and 7-2:30 on Friday. Library Department Night is Wednesday.

Library orientation will be conducted through 9th grade health classes this year.

We thank you for your cooperation in strongly encouraging your children to return their books on time.

We are pleased to announce that video streaming is available for faculty and students through RIPBS (Rhode Island Public Broadcasting System).

Mathematics Department

The Pilgrim Mathematics Department is pleased to welcome back Mr. Masterson as an Introduction to Algebra and Algebra 1 teacher. He is taking the place of Mr. Tompson who retired at the end of the summer. We are happy to have Mr. Masterson as part of the math department. We also wish Mr. Tompson well in his retirement. Mrs. Lytle also retired and is currently teaching in Connecticut. We wish her the best in her new position. Mrs. Lutynski has taken over as the math department head.

The math department has adopted new textbooks for the Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Algebra 2 Honors, Geometry and Geometry Honors courses. The Holt series has many resources for students to obtain online videos and extra practice help. Along with the books, the department was given seven new laptop computers and six infocus projectors to be able to incorporate the resources into the classroom to enhance the teaching of each lesson. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these resources available through the Holt website.

Mr. Fisher, Ms. Rovane and Mrs. Lutynski are going to three workshops on differentiated instruction. The presenter is John Elwell, an ASK group consultant. This workshop is designed to help meet the needs of diverse learners in a standards-based classroom.

The junior class has been put to the test recently with the NECAP testing that challenged them in writing, reading and mathematics. They will also took the PSAT's along with the sophomores this fall.

The end of the first quarter has arrived quickly. Encourage your child to stay for extra help at department night, if needed. Doing homework is also a critical component for success in mathematics. Attaining good grades on tests is a direct correlation to how much effort is put forth on homework and studying. Feel free to call your child's math teacher if you have any questions. The number for the math office is 734-3273 ext. 142.

Science Department

Last year, Ms. Marie Carter, Mr. Steven Miller, and Ms. Mary Stoukides retired from the active ranks of teachers of science at Pilgrim and in the Warwick Public Schools. We applaud the dedication they demonstrated to their students and we will miss them. We welcome three new full-time faculty members to our department. Mr. Hall come to us from Toll Gate and is teaching Biology, Life Science, and Physical Science. Ms. Kashmanian taught last year at Scituate High School and is also teaching Biology, Life Science, and Physical Science. Mr. Serowik taught last year at Warwick Veterans; at Pilgrim, he is teaching Chemistry, Chem Sci, and Physical Science. In addition to these new full-time faculty members, Ms. Carol-Ann Silvestri comes to us from Providence College. She is serving as a student teacher in Biology; Mr. Ed Colvin is her mentor.

This past summer was a very busy time for several teachers. Mr. Lobdell spent two weeks in preparation for his teaching of AP Biology. This was a very intensive program designed to bring on board new AP instructors to the expectations of this very rigorous program. We have recently received word that the syllabus for his AP Biology course has been approved by the College Board; that it meets their standards and demonstrates how this program will provide a college-level learning experience for his students. Mr. Hall took a Computational Chemistry course at R.I.C. Mr. Dubois, Mr. Paquin, and Mr. Serowik took part in the RITTI program this year, and as a result of their participation will soon be receiving much computer hardware which will be used in their classes. Mrs. Landrie took part in the Blackstone Valley's River Project.

Social Studies Department

The social studies department welcomes two new members. Mr. Michael Xiarhos joins us from Warwick Vets High School and Ms. Lindsey McQueeney joins us from Aldrich Junior High. Both are teaching World History and Western Civilization.

Curriculum writing continues. World History was completed in the spring and U.S. History curriculum writing will resume in November followed by Western Civilization in December. Mr. Tvenstrup, Ms. SanGiovanni, Mrs. Wallace, and Mr. Xiarhos will be involved in these endeavors.

Within the school day, a number of exciting programs are being kicked off. Mrs. Buckley has received a sizable grant for a Zen Garden Project to be worked on in the Eastern Civilization courses. Ms. SanGiovanni's class will participate in a videoconferencing event with Holocaust survivor, Gerda Weissman Klein, called "Stand Up. Speak Out. Lend a Hand Project." All social studies classes will participate in National History Day. The topic this year is "Conflict and Compromise in History."

Extra-curricular activities abound in the social studies department also. Mr. Tvenstrup will be coordinating Model Legislature, Mr. Xiarhos will be coordinating Mock Trial, and Mrs. Atturio will be coordinating the Community Service Program.

Special Education

The Special Education Department provides services for over 265 students at Pilgrim High School. Resource teachers provide individual support to their students as well as teaming with teachers from other departments to provide services in the student's regular classroom. Intensive Education teachers instruct students in small class setting in English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. The Work Activities Program provides life skills, community participation and job skills for their students. The entire department worked to provide necessary accommodations for students taking the recent NECAP and PSAT assessments.

Technology Education & Visual Arts Departments

The Technology Education Department is offering a new Engineering Course this year. This Engineering course will introduce the students to methods in problem solving used in the engineering field. Because of the math needed in the engineering field, this course will meet the additional Math+I requirement seniors need for graduation. Robotics will be the centerpiece of the program. Teams of students will design, construct and modify their robotic projects to meet the requirements to enter the statewide high school VEX Robotic competition that will be held in March at the New England Institute of Technology. There are many challenging obstacles within this program that these students must overcome.

The Technical Cadd Program is pleased to announce that 5 of our Cadd Programs meet the Math+I that juniors and seniors can use as the additional math course needed for their graduation requirement. Much hard work was put into these courses by our staff in re-designing these programs which now meet the needs of the students.

The annual Careers in the Aviation Industry Expo was held at T.F. Green Airport in October. It was attended and well received by 45 Technology Ed. Students. Students were able to talk to ground crews, pilots and other support personnel needed to maintain aircraft about employment and requirements needed for the many challenging careers presently available in the field. These careers may include Air Traffic Controllers, crash/rescue, customer service, and maintenance mechanics to name a few.

This past summer, Mr. Dubee and Mr. Menard completed instructor certification for a national recognize construction curriculum. Tech. Ed. students can now participate in a construction program where students will be taught, then tested in the areas of safety, mathematics and tools. Once successful in the completion of these three programs, students will receive certification which will help them in there future endeavors.

The Tech Ed staff is looking forward with working with our students; we wish everyone a successful school year.

Visual Arts

Mrs. Katseff attended a summer training program on how to incorporate technology in the class room. In this 60 hour program, methods and procedures were discussed on how to use technology in teaching art. Upon completion each instructor receives \$3000 in funds to be used for purchasing various technology equipment. This equipment will greatly enhance teaching and learning for the students.

Other Noteworthy Items

Yearbook sales:

Orders for yearbooks made before December 31 are \$65. Orders from January 1 - 23 are \$75. January 23 is the final date for ordering a yearbook. No orders will be taken after that date. There will be no extra yearbooks ordered.

The Drama Club presents:

“How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying.”

NOVEMBER 30 - 7pm

DECEMBER 1 - 7pm

DECEMBER 2 - 2pm