



The Pelham Press



A BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PELHAM OFFICE AND THE PTO

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 | VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

Upcoming Events

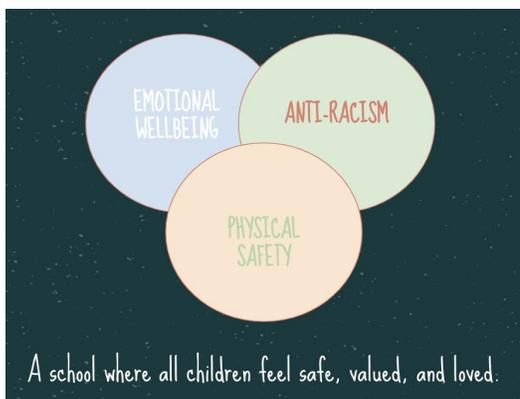
9/2 Joint [School Committee Meeting](#), 6:30 PM
9/16 Remote learning begins for all students, K-6
9/25 [Principal Community Coffee](#)
10/1 In-Person learning begins for grades, K-2

Helpful Resources

[2020-2021 School Calendar \(approved 8/13/20\)](#)
[ARPS Fall 2020 Planning Website](#)
[Distance Learning Resources for Elementary Students](#)

Dear Families,

The mornings are cool, the corn is high, and my calendar is becoming very full... September has arrived! Now that it has, I will be sending you updates on teaching and learning at Pelham twice per month. Be on the lookout in your inboxes around the 1st and the 15th of the month (we'll work around weekends and holidays). We will also share these on [our school website](#).



Our staff began our opening days of professional learning yesterday. Our goals for this week are to connect as a professional community and to deepen our repertoire of online teaching practices and tools. We also discussed our vision for the year: **A school where all children feel safe, valued, and loved.** We will use the guide posts of emotional wellbeing, antiracism, and physical safety to orient our work together. Next week, the focus of our professional learning and meetings will shift to planning, implementing strategies for online teaching, and forging connections with students and families. We are so excited to learn alongside your children this year!

Our next family/staff book discussion will be [online](#) on Wednesday, October 14th at 7:00 PM. The book will be *So You Want to Talk About Race?* By Ijeoma Oluo. We will meet every other month throughout the year to discuss books and other media focused on antiracism. There was a suggestion to make our December discussion about the podcast series "Nice White Parents." Information about our September picture book all-school read is coming soon!

September's Principal Community Coffee will be Friday, September 25th at 10:00 AM, using [Google Meet](#). You are welcome to submit questions beforehand [using this form](#).

In closing, I want to extend gratitude to all who responded to my summer survey, dropped into a June, July, or August Community Coffee, participated in our summer book club, and reached out with questions or to connect. I am grateful for your flexibility, openness, and collaboration during this time of extraordinary uncertainty. It has been a challenge to build community in this time, but I have felt warmly welcomed by the Pelham family.

Thanks also to our PTO leadership; President Jenny Franz has been helpful, organized, and supportive as we prepare for the year ahead. Our staff feel very lucky! Read on for PTO updates.

All the best,
Leigh Whiting-Jones

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PTO UPDATE

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WELCOME BACK – Direct Appeal 2020/2021

The past five months have been different, a bit scary and complicated. As if we weren't aware of this before, we are very lucky to be part of the Pelham School Community. Our staff quickly helped students transition to online learning and not only provided educational support but were able to continue to nurture our students through technology. We are so very grateful for them. Our small but mighty school really shined during this unfortunate pandemic.

This direct appeal takes the place of catalog fundraisers, which would yield limited proceeds for the school and a whole bunch of unwanted items for you and your family. Instead, we would rather see 100% of your proceeds go directly to the school. We want to be able to continue to support our staff, students and school and we need your support in order to do that! Please consider donating online at <https://www.mightycause.com/story/Ptodirectappeal> or by mailing a check to Pelham Elementary PTO, 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002. ***MATCH GRANT FOR THE FIRST \$1,000 RAISED!!!**

WHERE YOUR SUPPORT HAS GONE

Just because school is not in person, does not mean your PTO hasn't been busy this Summer! Your generosity will support::

- \$2,500 worth of staff credits split amongst 22 staff members for the 2020/2021 school year
- \$100 book credit for our 8 classroom teachers to purchase books on diversity and inclusivity for the classrooms
- \$2,100 to send 16 Pelham staff to a workshop on "Dismantling White Supremacy Culture in Schools" with Joe Truss
- Welcome to Kindergarten pencil boxes filled with school supplies and a Pelham T-shirt
- Funding 70 books (10 books/7 classrooms) for the newly created monthly all-school read of a book featuring BIPOC authors and stories.
- A promise to provide school supplies for families in need with remote learning students
- \$2,500 to fund the purchase of a water filler station

QUOTE OF THE MONTH!

"The impact of the PTO on me and my classroom has been wonderful! huge! heartwarming! life changing! Their ability to provide materials, encouragement, and opportunities for everyone at Pelham School makes our school an amazing place. I really am overwhelmed with gratitude by all the PTO does." -Margaret Light, 6th Grade Teacher

EVERYDAY FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES!

- **Florence Bank Customer?** Vote for Pelham Elementary PTO for 2020! All customers can vote once by December 31, 2020. <https://www.florencebank.com/vote>
- **Amazon Smile!** Sign up and select Pelham Elementary PTO. A portion of all your purchases goes to the PTO. Now available on Android and iPhone!
- **BayState Textiles.** Place all unwanted lines, blankets, shoes and clothes (regular, ripped, stained) into the bin located in the back parking lot. All items are recycled and proceeds come back to the PTO!
- **Atkins Farms:** Give Pelham School #318 at check out or connect it to your customer number. Your purchases earn cash for the PTO!
- **Stop & Shop and Big Y:** Purchase a reusable shopping bag and select Pelham PTO (Big Y Cares and Stop & Shop Give bags only)
- **Box Tops:** Download the Box Tops app, select Pelham Elementary PTO and scan your receipt within 14 days of purchase to earn money for our school!

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Our PTO communication from the school will come on the 1st of each month from Principle WJ's office. However, there is a lot that goes on in between so we encourage you to join our brand new mailing list which will be our main source of contact. This email list will provide a lifeline between the classroom teacher and the PTO room parent as well as reduce our carbon footprint as we would love to almost fully eliminate the use of paper.

Sign Up today! ↓

<http://eepurl.com/dwSWZn>



www.pelhampto.org



<https://www.facebook.com/pelhampto>



@pelhampto

PELHAM SCHOOL STORE IS OPEN!

Show your Pelham School spirit by purchasing from the Pelham store open now through September 15th. Not only will you look super but a portion of the proceeds comes to the PTO!

<https://pelhampto.itemorder.com/>



*** Note: All incoming Kindergarteners and new Pelham School students will be gifted one Pelham T-shirt by the PTO.**

SEEKING PTO ROOM PARENTS!

Email pelham.ma.pto@gmail.com to volunteer!

