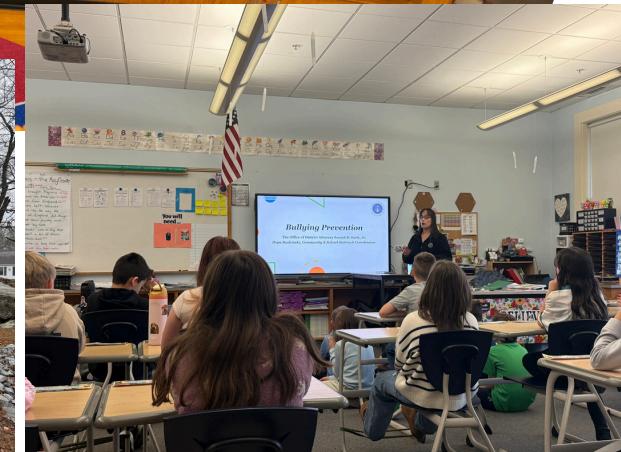


THE FOX GAZETTE

Petersham Center School Community

We are past our 100th day of school already (not sure how that happened), and in the midst of February break. We have been busy here at PCS since our last newsletter. We recognized another group of students for always showing the traits we pride ourselves on here at PCS. We also had another round of Rock, Paper, Scissors. We held our annual Turkey Trot (thank you to all of our volunteers and the Mahar Cross Country Team for always coming in huge numbers to support us). To celebrate heading off for Winter Break, we had our traditional whole school read-aloud and pajama day. We were also lucky enough to host a representative from the Worcester County DA's Office to talk with our students in grades 3 through 6 about the dangers of online interactions and possible cyberbullying. Our PTG held a very successful "Tinsel and Tunes" school dance, with all proceeds going to fund our end-of-year field trip.



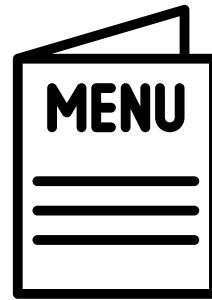


Rock, Paper, Scissors (RSP)

Rock, Paper, Scissors went as well as I could have hoped during our second round (3rd is coming soon). Every time someone lost, all we kept hearing was positivity from other students and praise for a good match. They cheered each other on and supported each other as they accumulated necklaces. This month I finally met my match with a tenacious 3rd grader who was able to temporarily secure the crown of champion. She won a very fancy medal and the bragging rights to say she beat the Champion of the Universe.



**Click below for the
25/26 Academic
Calendar or the
February Lunch Menu**



- **Important Dates:**
 - 2/16-2/20-Feb Break
 - 3/11 - 1/2 Day: Teacher PD
 - 3/25 - No School: Teacher PD
 - 3/31-4/3 - ELA MCAS
 - 4/15 - ½ Day
 - 4/20-4/24 - Spring Break
 - 5/5-5/9 - Math MCAS

As always, if anyone has any questions please feel free to contact us. Please call Ms. Rachel in the main office at 978-724-3363 or email office@petershamcenterschool.org. You can also email Mr. O'Connor directly at aaron.oconnor@petershamcenterschool.org.

Click  for bus routes for 2025-2026

FOLLOW US ON:



The Counselor's Corner

In SEL classes, grades K-2 have really been focusing on identifying feelings like happy, sad, mad, worried, and disappointment. Classes are able to recognize these feelings in others and to start to work on some skills to calm their bodies down if they should feel these feelings. In SEL, the message is always that all feelings are okay to feel but it's how we respond to our feelings that is most important. This is an awareness that we all need to have so that we are handling our emotions in a safe and respectful way.

3rd grade has been discussing why we have emotions and how they come in different intensities. We have learned how lots of feelings, like anger, can grow, and we have discussed how taking breaks in different ways can be helpful.

4th grade has talked about seeing things in a different way. Learning what point of view is and perspective. How getting more information about a situation is helpful before reacting to something. In classes to come, they will start understanding the STEPs to solving a problem and how exploring consequences and perspectives will be helpful to pick the best solution.

5th grade continues to work on empathy and finding problems within the community that they can help to solve. They also continue to work on learning about having different points of view on whether the problems are small or large, and which are more important to address. Also, learning how others view the intensity of their problems can vary, and it's important to hear all points of view.

6th grade has been diving into how the brain is affected when we have strong emotions. Ask your 6th grader what the amygdala and the cortex are and what they do in the brain. Also, we have discussed how making decisions when we have strong emotions is never a good idea, and finding ways to calm down so that our thinking is clearer is so important.

Colby the therapy dog continues to be a big hit with students, and it's been such a nice treat every Friday.

Coming Soon

The American Heart Association comes to PCS to educate students on heart health and offer a school-wide challenge

My Door is Always Open

Mrs. Costello :)

