

Peoples Academy

Middle Level

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March 12, 2010

Dear PAML Students, parents, and families,

We've had a busy week and a half since vacation ended. It is great to have the building buzzing with voices again! It seems hard to imagine, but we are almost finished with the third quarter, which ends on April 2nd. Progress reports will be coming out again next week. We've had lots of conversations with students this week about missing assignments in connection with tonight's dance. I'm hoping that my message that it is better to keep up along the way rather than have to do lots of assignments at the end is getting across. I hate to keep kids from social events that they enjoy as much as they do the dances, but feel it is important to reinforce the idea that they are all students first at PAML. Thanks so much for all you are doing to support them!

NECAP Scores:

Included in this mailing are the NECAP score sheets. This information is for your records and does not need to come back to school. Should you have any questions about the score, please give us a call. The next time students will be tested will be in mid-May when they take the Science test. Those results are generally back in the Fall.

Parent Conferences:

March 26th is an inservice day set aside for parent conferences. Please give Jane Langdell a call to make an appointment to see the home team teacher should you wish to have a conference.

Spring reminders:

As the weather gets warmer, it will be important for kids to revisit the dress code expectations that follow. Short shorts, bra straps, and other undergarments are not generally okay. I have suggested to the kids that if they would object to seeing me in the outfit they have on that they should rethink it! Any help you can offer in this area would be greatly appreciated! Also, it is important for students to remember that they should not bring valuables to school as there are no secure places for them to leave them. Even their lockers have issues as many kids don't lock them. We've had some incidents of students leaving things that are important behind, as middle schoolers sometimes do, and not finding it when they return to check. We'd like to avoid the heartache that results if we possibly can.

Math Professional Development

Our math teachers have been in a workshop all day today learning how to further differentiate their instruction. They have talked about ways to instruct based on students' interests, learning styles, and readiness levels. Although they have been working very hard in this area, they know that it is also an area of growth for them. They are very excited indeed about trying out their new strategies in the upcoming weeks! By the way, don't forget the math program website if you need some resources at home. www.bigideasmath.com is the website; click "Register" in the top, right hand corner of the page and type in the following access code: 3 j t z 9 z b 6 e w 4 p.

(Over)

Middle Level Parent Forum on Thursday, 3/25 at 6:00pm.

We will be discussing the Summer Academy programming and relay some of our discussions about what the 2010-11 school year might look like in terms of opportunities for kids and the way our team structure will be shifting in light of changes in enrollment, staffing, etc. Please come and let us know what you feel is important for us to pay attention to as we work out our plans for the summer and for next year!

And finally....

Thanks for sending us such great kids...really!

Wendy Baker, Principal