



# Pomperaug Elementary School Theresa Forish, Principal

## Pencil Point

September 2010



### Welcome to the 2010—11 School Year

Dear PES Families,  
Welcome to the 2010-11 school year. I am very pleased to be joining the PES family and look forward to many years working together with you to ensure your children all receive the best possible educational experience. In addition to myself, there are several new additions to the PES faculty and staff. We have two new teachers



joining the 3rd grade team; Jennifer Mac-Callum and Elizabeth Szondy. In addition, we have two teachers out on maternity leave this year and are fortunate to have two former PES staff members returning to take over; Ann Lachmann and Christine Allegretto. In addition, there are several additions to our special area staff. Kim Saginario is our new art teacher, Lisa Calabro will be our new half time PE teacher, and Connie Labbe will

be filling in for the first few months as our music teacher. Our special education department also has several new faces; Megan Porto and Carol Spaulding are additions to our Speech and Language staff and Meghan Andreo is a new Resource Room Teacher. Last, but not least, Nicole Rocci joins us as an intern. The entire staff, old and new, is looking forward to an exciting year!

Sincerely,  
Theresa Forish

### Important Dates

- ♦ **September 13, 2010: Board of Education Meeting @ PHS 7:30 in Room #103**
- ♦ **September 14, 2010: PES PTO Picnic @ Ballantine Park 4:30—7:00 Rain-date: 9/15/10**
- ♦ **September 21, 2010: Parent Night; Grade 3 6:15—7:00 and Grade 1 7:00—7:45**
- ♦ **September 27, 2010: Board of Education Meeting @ PHS 7:30 Room #103**
- ♦ **September 30, 2010: September Birthday Celebration in the cafeteria during all lunch waves.**
- ♦ **September 30, 2010: Parent Night; Grade 2 6:15—7:00 and Grade K 7:00—7:45.**
- ♦ **October 3, 2010: PES PTO Family Portraits**
- ♦ **October 5, 2010: PTO Meeting @ 7:00 in the cafeteria.**

### Launching a New Language Arts Curriculum

A main focus this school year will be the full implementation of the Region's new language arts curriculum. This balanced literacy approach has been several years

in the making. Many district teachers and the language arts consultants have worked tirelessly with Dr. Lois Lanning, Assistant Superintendent, to de-

velop a concept-based curriculum that would increase the rigor and relevance of what students should understand, know and be able to do in language



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## The new language arts curriculum—immersing children in reading

arts. The intent was to allow students more time to practice authentic reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing tasks, to offer more choice in text selection, to organize the curriculum around units of study (genre studies, author studies, thematic studies) and to provide instruction through a **workshop framework**.

A **workshop framework** emphasizes the social and collaborative nature of learning and provides students with a lot of practice at their level applying skills and strategies. It begins with a whole class mini lesson with a specific teaching point. Students then practice the skill or strategy the teacher has modeled while the teacher conducts small group instruction and confers individually with children around text they are reading at their level. Learning is concluded with students briefly sharing their learning.

Teacher writing teams worked for the past few summers reviewing, redefining and revising the work to create units that support deep process instruc-

tion. The content of each unit serves as the vehicle for teaching students the essential skills, knowledge and understandings of English-language arts.

My goal as an educator has always been to develop life long readers. With so many factors in today's society competing with reading, what goes on inside the classroom is of paramount importance.

**“Children can read,  
they simply don’t.”**

**Author—Kelly Gallagher**

“To Read or Not to Read 2007” reported that the alliteracy rate, people that can read but do not, has surpassed our illiteracy rate and that less than 1/3 of 13 year olds read daily.

Ask any kindergarten teacher to describe their students during read-aloud and they will report enthusiasm. Ask most 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers the same question and they will report indifference at best. What causes the shift



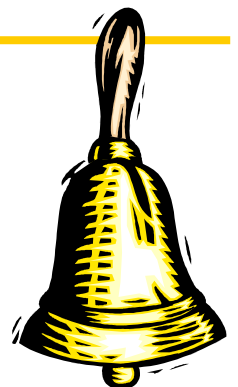
from enthusiasm to indifference in five short years? Many researchers believe that schools themselves kill the love of reading in children; “readicide” is a new term coined by author Kelly Gallagher. Children must be able to engage with books intellectually and emotionally. Reading should be an experience that surprises, intrigues, and captures a child’s imagination.

Our new LA curriculum meets state and national standard while meeting the ultimate goal of creating literate and productive citizens. I am especially excited about this curriculum because it has the potential to make reading magical again for children, while at the same time improving their academic achievement. The staff and I look forward to the implementation of this exciting new curriculum.

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## Attendance

A reminder that attendance is very important to your child's success in school. In addition to attending school each day, it is important that your child arrive on time and attend for the entire day. Instruction lost in school cannot be replaced. The school day has been extended by ten minutes this year because of the region's belief that every minute counts. Instruction ends at 3:40. Please try your best to make appointments outside of school hours. Working together we can ensure your child meets his or her highest potential.



## Recycling Update



As many of you remember we have been collecting bottle caps for the Aveda bottle cap recycling program. Just a reminder to everyone of the guidelines for the caps and to let you know that we will also be recycling juice pouches. There will be collection boxes for juice pouches and bottle caps in the cafeteria and in the front entrance of the school. The pouches should be empty with the straws removed. There will also be cap collection boxes next to the green water bottle collection containers in the hallways. Thanks for your help.

What type of caps do we collect?

The program accepts caps that are rigid plastic, sometimes noted with a 5 in the chasing arrows recycling symbol.

This includes caps that twist on with a threaded neck such as caps on shampoo, water, soda, milk and other beverage bottles and pharmaceutical lids, flip top caps on tubes and food product bottles (such as ketchup and mayonnaise), laundry detergents, and some jar lids such as peanut butter.

Excluded from collection are non rigid lids such as yogurt lids, tub lids (margarine, cottage cheese), and screw on lids that are not rigid. Please do not include any metal lids or plastic pumps or sprayers. Unfortunately, too much of the wrong types of materials can contaminate the recycling process.

