



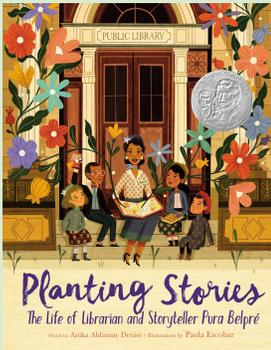
# The Pelham Press



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

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

March 15, 2021 | Volume 1, Issue 14

Upcoming Events	What Students & Staff are Reading This Month
<p>3/16 - Kindergarten Town Hall Event, <a href="#">6:30 PM</a></p> <p>3/17 - No School, Curriculum Day for Staff</p> <p>3/20 - Family Fun Night, 6:00 PM</p> <p>3/24 - Early Release Day, 1:20 PM</p> <p>4/5 - In-person learning begins, Grades K-2</p> <p>4/12 - In-person learning begins, Grades K-6</p>	 

Dear Families,

Yesterday was 3.14, celebrated by many as Pi(e) Day. Whether you recited Pi to the 80th decimal point, calculated the circumference of a circle, or enjoyed a slice of chocolate cream pie, I hope you enjoyed the day. Here are a few updates from the front office.

### **In-Person Learning**

Planning is underway for the return to in-person learning in April. Our priorities continue to be emotional wellbeing and physical safety for all.

In addition to planning the many logistics necessary to safely reopen the building, we are devoting time to planning for an in-person learning environment that feels supportive, connected, and affirming. After a year learning and teaching apart, the thought of returning in April sparks a mix of excitement and nerves for many in our community. We will be sharing resources in the coming days and weeks to ease the transition and answer questions for students and families.

Our staff will be working together and closely with our colleagues in Amherst over the next few weeks to plan. We will spend the afternoons of 3/17 and 3/24 engaged in operational planning, social emotional support planning, and health and safety training. All classes will have one asynchronous day before returning to in-person learning so teachers can set up the learning spaces. These dates are to be determined and will be shared by classroom teachers.

***If your child will be returning to in-person learning in April, please fill out an updated [Emergency Contact Form](#).***

We know not all Pelham students will be returning to in-person learning. Students whose families chose remote learning for the remainder of the year have been assigned to remote-only classrooms and will be

contacted by their new teachers soon. We kept all grade-level cohorts of Pelham remote students together in these classes and the classroom teachers will be collaborating to make the transitions as smooth as we can. We are planning ways for Pelham students to stay connected to one another, such as weekly morning meetings via Google Meet and optional in-person recess meetups after school. Monthly All School Meetings will also continue to take place online and all Pelham students are invited to participate.

### **School Choice**

School Choice recruitment for the 2021-2022 school year is underway and going strong! Thank you to the PTO board, Ms. Giselle, and several members of the family community who answered questions from prospective School Choice families last week during the open PTO meeting.

If you have friends or neighbors who may be interested in School Choice, please feel free to share our [School Choice form](#) and/or my contact information: [whiting-jonesl@arps.org](mailto:whiting-jonesl@arps.org) or (413) 362-1101. I would love to talk with them about our wonderful school!

To aid our School Choice recruitment efforts and to raise the visibility of the school, the PTO is putting together a promotional video. Please consider adding a brief video sharing what you love about our school. The submission deadline is **Saturday, March 20th**. Click on the links below and follow the directions and prompts.

[Students](#) PW: students

[Parents](#) PW: parents

### **Kindergarten Registration**

Kindergarten registration will open on **Tuesday, March 16th**. If you have an incoming Kindergartener, here is the link to find information about registering: <https://www.arps.org/k-registration-online>. This evening, I will be participating in a Town Hall live-streamed event discussing our Kindergarten program at Pelham. [Here is the link](#) to join that event.

### **Happy News!**

I am pleased to announce that Giselle Gonzalez has been selected as one of this year's Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award recipients. An excerpt from her nomination reads:

*"[Giselle] takes the time to get to know each student's individual interests and needs, while fostering a joyful classroom environment where students engage in meaningful learning experiences and build a sense of collective purpose. She infuses her teaching with antiracist practices, weaving in elements of her own cultural identity and creating space for students to explore their intersectional identities. As a result, her students are confident, curious, and engaged with the world around them."*

In this unique year of teaching and learning, this award is so well-deserved! Congratulations, Ms. Giselle!

Please reach out with any questions and share if there is anything I can do to support your family.

All my best,  
Leigh