

NEWS

from **Penfield PACE**
Parents Advocating for Challenge in Education

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Volume 1 Issue 1

www.PenfieldPACE.org

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Upcoming PACE Program: **Growing 21st Century Skills at Home**

Monday, April 29
7:00-8:30 pm
Bay Trail Library

Learn an incredibly simple technique to teach your children to be 21st Century thinkers in this upbeat, interactive program from Penfield PACE. In the process, you will learn to use this technique in your own life - at work, at home, in the classroom and for yourself. Teachers and staff are welcome, as are interested high school students and members of the community.

More information to come.

Welcome!

By Dee Langsenkamp, PACE President

Hello friends,

Welcome to the new Penfield PACE newsletter! Efficient and effective communication is good for any organization. The first exciting announcement of our newsletter is that Penfield PACE also has a web site! Check it out now at www.PenfieldPACE.org and check back often. Both the newsletter and web site are in their infancy and will undoubtedly change as they grow, helped by YOUR suggestions for how best to reach YOU with relevant and useful information.

Penfield PACE strives to serve as many families as possible. While PACE has long existed to support highly able and gifted learners and their families, we realize our service can be very inclusive for the entire family of Penfield learners. We can support students with specific needs AND support challenge and enrichment for all students – it's not an “either/or” situation. Supporting one student does not come at the expense of another. As the PACE vision says – we support “encouraging all and hindering none in the quest for full personal potential.”

I'll close for now by saying “Thank you” and “Keep up the good work, families.” This has been a year of active advocacy. Your participation in so many forms this year is the lifeblood of advocacy. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Dee Langsenkamp
President, Penfield PACE

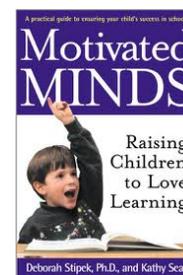
Student Opportunities in the Community

PACE “Road Trips”

PACE “Road Trips” were organized this winter by Thomas Kinsman, so far visiting the Glenn Hammond Curtiss Museum in Hammondsport and the Monroe County Department of Transportation Traffic Signal Operations Division.



Thomas was inspired by the book "Motivated Minds - Raising Children to Love Learning" (Deborah Stipek, Ph.D. and Kathy Seal) which makes the case that it's important to provide kids with rich experiences outside of the classroom so that they know why they are learning things in school.



The Road Trips are organized as a service to Penfield students and families but they aren't official PCS D events, and do require parental participation. Keep an eye out for Penfield PACE emails announcing future trips, and share the information with friends who might not be on the PACE mailing list. If you have ideas for places to visit, please contact Thomas Kinsman at thomas@netacc.net.

36th Annual Teen Poetry Contest

Sponsored by the Friends of Penfield Public Library, a *Spring Into Arts* program running from March 1 through April 30.

The contest is open to everyone in grades 6-12 who lives in or attends school in Monroe County. Each contestant may submit one poem. The poem must be the contestant's original work. Submit your poem via email, regular mail, or in person. Poems must be received by Tuesday, April 30, 2012. Winners will be announced in mid- May.

Cash prizes will be awarded in two divisions: Middle School (Grades 6-8) and High School (Grades 9-12). First Place winners will receive \$50, Second Place winners will receive \$35, and Third Place winners will receive \$25. Five additional poems will be selected from each division to be honorable mentions and will be included in a poetry booklet along with the winners.

More information at http://www3.libraryweb.org/Penfield/teen_page.aspx

more Student Opportunities in the Community

Google Science Fair

The 2013 Google Science Fair is an online science competition open to students between the ages of 13 and 18 from anywhere in the world, working alone or in teams. A Google account is required. Google bills this as a great opportunity for teenagers to explore ideas they're passionate about, learn about science, and maybe produce a world-changing idea.

More information at <https://www.google-science-fair.com>.

Imagine RIT

"Imagine RIT" – Saturday, May 4th from 10:00 am-5:00 pm – is an Innovation and Creativity Festival, free and open to the public, showcasing the creative research that is happening at Rochester Institute of Technology.

In addition to discussing the current research, there are educational opportunities for children of all ages. Come learn about: optics, electronics, mechanical engineering, robotics, biology, LCD displays, photonics, applied mathematics, and a whole lot more.

Previous favorites have been things like: how to make ice cream instantly using liquid nitrogen, a robotic hot dog cooker, a three dimensional face scanner, getting a close-up picture of your eye, and the ever-popular trough of "oobleck."

For more information go to: www.rit.edu/imagine/about_imagine.php

Advocacy Opportunities

Updated District Budget Presentations schedule:

Tuesday, April 30th, 12 Noon at Shadow Lake Golf Club, 1850 Five Mile Line Road. Hosted by Penfield Rotary.

Monday, May 6th, 7pm in the Penfield High School Library.

Saturday, May 11th, 9am-11am, Budget Open House at the Penfield Community Center.

Wednesday, May 15th, 7pm at ****NEW LOCATION**** Bay Trail Middle School.

For complete 2013-14 Budget Information, including informational videos and notes from past meetings, go to: www.penfield.edu/schoolnews.cfm?subpage=1628630

more Advocacy Opportunities

PCSD Budget Vote 2013 Facebook Page

A Penfield parent has created a Facebook page in support of the District's 2013-14 Budget. Check it out at "PCSD Budget Vote 2013" and feel free to Like and Share.

Thinking of running for school board?

You can pick up what you need from District Office on Qualtrough Road and Browncroft Blvd. The deadline for submitting paperwork is April 22, 2013. For more information, go to: www.penfield.edu/schoolnews.cfm?subpage=1666864.

Meet the School Board Candidates Night

You are invited to Meet the School Board Candidates Night, Wednesday, May 1st at 7pm in the Penfield High School Library. It is a question-and-answer panel for all candidates for Penfield School Board. You may also view the event on www.penfield.edu.

Standardized Testing

A petition entitled, "New York State: Our Students Do Not Need a Race to the Top in Education" was drafted by Julie Mitchell, a teacher in Fairport after a recent lobbying session in Albany. The petition advocates against "High-Stakes Testing" in New York. We encourage you to read and sign if you agree.

http://signon.org/sign/new-york-state-our-students?source=s.fwd&r_by=7318888undefined

Another effort is being undertaken by NYSUT, the federation of teachers' unions in New York State, which is offering a petition "Tell New York to get it right" on their website at:

www.nysut.org

Penfield PACE as an organization takes no official position on standardized testing, but does encourage parents to educate themselves on the issues and, as always, advocate on their children's behalf.

PACE Committee

Questions or ideas for PACE? Interested in joining in? Reach out to members of the PACE Committee, listed on the PACE website at www.penfieldpace.org.

News from Penfield PACE is edited by Anne Wells. If you have ideas or information you'd like to see included in a future issue, send them to: rwells@rochester.rr.com. Please include "PACE Newsletter" in the subject line.