

NEWS

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

May 2013
Volume 1 Issue 2

www.PenfieldPACE.org

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Updated District
Budget Information:

For complete 2013-14
Budget Information,
including informational
videos and notes from
past meetings, look
under the “News & Info”
tab at:

www.penfield.edu

PACE Committee

Questions or ideas for
PACE? Interested in
joining in? Planning
programming for the
next school year?

Reach out to members of
the PACE Committee,
listed on the PACE
website at:

www.penfieldpace.org

Get Out the VOTE on May 21!

A Message from the PACE President

Hello friends,

The good news is: the two lost enrichment staff positions at our elementary schools *have been restored* in Penfield’s 2013-14 proposed school budget.

The next news is: the proposed budget must pass on May 21st.

The staffing reinstatements are not quite a done deal. The District’s enrichment and gifted programs are still being redesigned, so staffing numbers are not yet finalized. But the first and necessary step is having those positions in the budget, and thankfully, they are there.

Now the budget must pass on May 21st. Not only must YOU vote on May 21st, our programs need you to reach out to as many Penfield district residents as you can to get them to vote, too. That includes spouses, parents, children 18 and older, neighbors, friends, coworkers who live in the district – anyone and everyone you know. Send emails, make phone calls, put notes in mailboxes, tweet, post on Facebook, put it in your digital calendar, talk at the bus stop, on your walks and during neighborhood get togethers – any and all personal outreach. On May 21st, keep reminding people to vote. It’s a little work but with a tax increase included in the budget, it is all necessary, and there is not much time.

The 2013-14 budget is student-centered in many other ways beyond enrichment staffing. I believe the district has been a responsible steward of our money and that the budget shortfall was caused by factors outside Penfield, outside of our control.

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A Message from the PACE President, continued:

If this budget does not pass on May 21st, there WILL be program cuts – possibly to the programs we fought so hard for this year and years prior. It is that simple.

Please keep up the good work by doing some more good work to get this budget passed.

Thank you for all you do,

Sincerely,

Dee Langsenkamp
President, Penfield PACE

Student Opportunities

2013-2014 PTA “Reflections”

PTA celebrates the arts by inviting students to participate in the 2013-14 PTA Reflections program.

Students may submit entries in six arts areas:

- dance choreography
- film production
- literature
- musical composition
- photography
- visual arts



PTA REFLECTIONS

Entries are due **November 4, 2013**. Students can start work on their entries to the 2013-14 Reflections contest *now!*

2013-14 Theme - "Believe. Dream. Inspire."

See <http://pta.org/programs/ArtsinEducation.cfm?navItemNumber=510> for information about the national Reflections program.

Contact your grade level Penfield PTA for additional entry information. And congratulations to the 2012-13 Penfield participants - especially to those advancing in the competition!!

Student Opportunities in the Community

Fun Puzzle Night

Presented by Mathnasium and Math Circle Partners Dr. Tony Harkin, RIT, and Dr. Jonathan Farley, University of Maine.

Have you ever tried to solve a geometric or mechanical puzzle and got hopelessly stuck? Want to learn the ins and outs of solving puzzles? Join RIT professor Matt Coppenbarger and learn the mathematical connections that will help you begin solving these puzzles. Generally appropriate for ages 8+. Pizza and drinks included for \$6 per person; \$12 per family.

- Saturday, May 18, 6pm-8pm
- Mathnasium of Penfield – 1802 Penfield Road

Register by May 17 at penfield@mathnasium.com or call 203-1717. Walk-ins welcome.

Advocacy Opportunities

The “PACE APPR”

As you might know, APPR usually stands for “Annual Professional Performance Review.” Districts like Penfield use APPR to evaluate the performance of teachers and principals. Penfield PACE has its own APPR: **Appreciative Parents’ Positive Recognition**. PACE has always urged you to write to your students’ teachers, principals, and other educators to let them know what they are doing right for your children. From now on, in every newsletter we’ll highlight a topic about which you can express your appreciation.

Make sure to copy in principals when writing about building staff. Go to the Staff Directory at http://www.penfield.edu/staff_directory.cfm for email addresses. When writing about principals and other administrators, copy in Superintendent Grimm (sgrimm@penfield.edu). When thanking Dr. Grimm, copy in the School Board via mbarrett@penfield.edu. A benefit to teachers, principals, etc., is that when you copy in their supervisors, YOUR LETTER can become an official part of their APPR – a real way to support what’s right about Penfield schools.

This month, the suggested topic is **classroom pages** and **web sites**.

Do you find classroom pages and web sites helpful? They take a LOT of work. Write or email any and all teachers and others whose classroom pages and web sites help you and/or your children. You can even use one email to thank multiple teachers. Don’t forget to copy in the principal! Thank you!!

Have a suggestion for a future PACE APPR? Email it to PenfieldPACE@rochester.rr.com.

more Advocacy Opportunities

“Don’t Penalize High-Performing School Districts”

A group of moms in Pittsford wrote a letter to the Messenger Post that beautifully sums up why the APPR (Annual Professional Performance Review) is hurting districts like ours. The APPR is taking money AWAY from the classroom, is taking our principals' and teachers' time AWAY from our children - and in places like Pittsford – and Penfield – it is not at all necessary. We parents need to let our politicians know THEY are causing financial shortfalls with measures like APPR - and what's worse, they are hurting our students.

Here's the link to "Don't penalize high-performing school districts"

www.mpnnow.com/archive/x766861145/GUEST-ESSAY-Dont-penalize-high-performing-school-districts-like-Pittsford

Find contact info for your NYS Senator at: <http://www.nysenate.gov/senators>

Find contact info for your NYS member of the Assembly at:
<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/?sh=search>

College Admissions Information

A video for the past PACE program about college admissions is available on DVD from PACE.

A panel of college admissions officers, a psychologist/admissions consultant, a PHS graduate and PHS' Counseling Chair provide great information. Email PenfieldPACE@rochester.rr.com if you'd like a copy of the DVD.

The Penfield High School Counseling Department also has several fine videos about college admissions at <http://www.penfield.edu/videos.cfm?vID=4805>

Of course, PHS Counseling has a wealth of college admissions information at <http://www.penfield.edu/highschool.cfm?subpage=36268>

Your Naviance account is a great resource, and parents have our own accounts. If you lost your Parent Account info, call the Counseling Office at 249-6720.

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.