

# PANDAMONIUM!

**John J. Pershing Middle School  
3838 Bluebonnet St.  
Houston, TX 77025**

**December/January 2011**

## Art News

Several Pershing art students are to be congratulated for their accomplishments this year in the Scholastic Art Contest. Ariana Galvan received a Gold Key for a color reduction print. Apu Apurba and Christine Njoku both won Silver Keys. Shangyi Fu,

Kimani Hogan, Kevin Koy, and Agnes Perez all won Honorable Mentions. Ariana Galvan also won an Honorable Mention for an oil painting. The Gold Key work will be exhibited from Saturday, Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> through Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at the Art League of Houston. Winners will

be honored at a special exhibit and ceremony held at the Harris County Department of Education on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 till 8:30pm. Silver Key work will be shown from Sat, January 7<sup>th</sup> through Thurs, Jan 29<sup>th</sup> at Texas Art Supply. The awards ceremony honoring their

students will take place on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> and Jan 29<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 till 3:00. This contest is regional and is very competitive. Winning is a very great accomplishment. Congratulations to our excellent students!!!!

## Officer Graveline Thanks the Teachers and Staff for the Toys for Tots Success

I want to personally thank Belinda Shufelt for being the greatest Santa Elf in the world. Every year Mrs Shufelt tells me that she is not collecting toys, but when this special season rolls around, she changes her mind....I would be lost without you...We have been a team for many years...We are like Chip and Dale, the "cute and talented chipmunks."...Thank you from my heart....The Toys for Tots was the biggest toy drive ever. Words cannot express the love and gratitude that I have in my heart for the students, staff and parents that participated in our yearly toy drive. A special thanks to two more elves "Ms Brants and Mr Shide". Also a big thank you, to Mr Buis, Mr Taft, Ms Faulk, Ms Tinker and Ms Aguilar and all the the students from this great cluster. Your giving spirit provided toys and monetary help for the Houston Independent School District Police Officer Manuel Moctezuma who passed away on Thanksgiving night from a heart attack. He left behind a six year old daughter and his wife. On Friday, December 16th, 2011 a private Christmas party was given by his fellow officers at our police department. His wife and daughter said to be sure to tell you "thank you so very much". The giving spirit here at Pershing is overwhelming. Happy New Year to each of you.

With love your Campus Officer, Officer P. Graveline

# 6TH GRADE NEWS

## CLUSTER 6-1

The students have hit the ground running after the holiday break in Cluster 6-1 Math Classes (Malkowsky & Davison). What's the probability of a successful 4<sup>th</sup> sixth weeks? Ask a 6<sup>th</sup> grader since that's what we're working on! It "figures" that we'll be working on Geometry as well. World Cultures classes (O'Connor) are learning about Asia, particularly India, China, the Koreas and Japan. We are also writing and presenting summaries of current events to stay aware of the world around us. In Science (Ford) we are doing work in the areas of Energy, Matter, Forces and Motion to prepare for the upcoming tests in those areas. Speaking of tests, the mid-term tests generally came

out very well. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Science are learning a new word: STUDYING. The new grading policy also seems to be working as most are getting their work in on time, and grades are improving in those areas. So go little Pandas, and make those good grades that everyone likes to see! ELA classes (Goodson & Frankovich) are embarking on our narrative unit. Students have been reading their class novels, and we are discussing concepts such as inferencing, character analysis, and figurative language in our class conversations. Through reading these novels, students will learn what elements make a winning narrative and how to emulate those same elements in their own writing.

## CLUSTER 6-2

### THANK YOU PARENTS!!!!

Because of you, your child's Fall Auction was a huge success! They had an awesome time bidding on cool items, playing the Minute To Win It game, racing in the balloon relays and participating in musical chairs. Thank you for supporting our efforts to reward your child for all the great things they do. Our students look forward to the Spring Auction in May.

Cluster 6-2 Teachers

## CLUSTER 6-3

Cluster 6-3 has returned from the holidays, and we are hard at work. In World Cultures we have begun our journey to the fabulous continent of Asia. We are beginning in the southwest and working our way east where students will be comparing their daily life to a day in the life of a child in India and celebrating Chinese New Year. We look forward to an interesting journey!

Craft Club students created and sent Christmas and Hanukkah cards to military men and women. 75 holiday cards were sent to the Red Cross' Holiday Mail for Heroes Program. Another 10 cards were included in a care package being sent to an active unit in Afghanistan.

In Mrs. Hart's math class, students are beginning to work with geometry, probability, ratios, and proportions.

In Ms. Pipes' math class, students are moving into an exciting new year by working on probability and statistics, while entering the wonderful world of geography.

In Mr. Darden's ELA classroom, students are learning about characterization through class novels. His students are reading [A Wrinkle in Time](#) and [Holes](#). In Mrs. Ford-Castille's ELA classroom, students are finishing up their projects for Windows on the World. Her students will be starting [The Watsons Go to Birmingham](#), [The Giver](#), and [Number the Stars](#).

In Mrs. Salinas' science class, students are currently working on force and motion. They are learning to calculate and graph speed, and are measuring distance and time in a lab.

## ITALY, SWITZERLAND AND PARIS TOUR MEETING

Want to have fun while learning about other countries and cultures?

Ms. Aguilar is having an informational meeting for the March 2013 (Spring-Break) tour to Italy, Switzerland and Paris!

Come by to learn more about the tour destinations and enrollment process.

The meeting is on Thursday, January 26, 2012. We will meet at 5:30 PM, room 206 at Pershing.

Ms. Aguilar, Room 206

# 7TH GRADE NEWS

## CLUSTER 7-2

### In Ms. Steffek's Texas

History classes, students have spent the past two months studying Texas in the 1820s and 1830s – It is rather amazing to see how far we've come in nearly two centuries! We've seen Texas under the rule of Mexico and its struggle to gain independence from this political power. The Texas Revolution is the key to so much of our history, from the "Come and Take It" Battle to the Fall of the Alamo to Sam Houston's triumph over Santa Anna at San Jacinto, we truly see how hard Texans of the past fought for the life of freedom we have today! Look for an end-of-unit project at the end of this month.

### Science - Ms. Harper

Hey 7-2 Pandas and Parents!!! I hope everyone had a great winter break and is ready for

the spring semester. During the 4<sup>th</sup> 6-weeks, our focuses in science will be Natural Selection, Selective Breeding, Animal Adaptations and ALL ABOUT PLANTS!!! Please make sure you aren't missing any classes because this material is NOT IN THE TEXTBOOK, and it is very important that you are here to get the information. **My new TUTORIAL TIMES for the spring semester will be Tuesday mornings at 8:00am and Wednesday afternoon until 5:00pm.**

### Language - Mr. Hill

In Mr. Hill's class, students will begin an expository writing unit in preparation for the upcoming STARR Test. The students will also be working on word parts to improve vocabulary and grammar to help improve

writing skills. There will be a project towards the end of the month that will be over a book of the students choosing.

### Math – Ms. Olinde

2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> period classes will be studying line and angle relationships and geometry. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> periods are studying the order of operations, solving and modeling 2-step equations, then moving into our geometry unit.. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> period classes will be taking the 8<sup>th</sup> grade STAAR test March 27<sup>th</sup>. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> period classes will take the 7<sup>th</sup> grade STAAR test on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Tutorials are Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 8am and Wednesday after school until 4:30 pm.

**The Cluster 7-2 Teachers would like to extend a BIG**

**CONGRATS to the following students for their success this 3<sup>RD</sup> six weeks:**

### Honor Roll – All A's

Harrison Burks  
Carlo Giannoni  
Jacob Nygaard  
Deborah Odebunmi

### Honor Roll – All A's and B's

Matthew Brack  
Jessica Deboe  
Kristine Mazziotti  
Jada Sanders  
Daejah Smith  
Mary Sommer

### Honor Roll – All A's and no more than 2 B's

Cynthia Arellano  
Zavia Boyd  
Jason Bugg  
Genesis Diaz  
Salma Garcia  
Brooklyn Jackson  
John Labador  
Joshua Lockhart  
Grace Phelps  
Drayton Prator  
Kiara Staton  
Micah Yoram

## CLUSTER 7-3

**We are currently learning about natural selection and selective breeding in animals. The students will be participating in a lab activity that simulates them eating as birds do with different types of "beaks." In the weeks to come we will be looking at the different parts that make up a plant as well as internal and external stimuli.**

## CLUSTER 7-4

Welcome back!

ELA is beginning Unit 2: What influences my choices. We will be spending time this 6 weeks on sentences, expository writing, and timed reading. Our cluster is busy both reading and practicing writing. Ask your children what they have going on right now and to talk about their reading books!

Math will be beginning our geometry unit. Please keep up to date on my website. [Jjpmisslewis.weebly.com](http://Jjpmisslewis.weebly.com)

We are studying the Texas Revolution and the Republic of Texas this six weeks. Please tell parents to visit my website for more detailed information.

# 8TH GRADE NEWS

## CLUSTER 8-2

### One Semester Down.....One Final Semester to go!

The students of Cluster 8-2 are back a school and ready to tackle their last semester as middle school students.

A lot has happened since we last reported about what was going on in Cluster 8-2. Everyone seems to have had a restful two weeks on break and both the teachers and the students are working to get back into the swing of things.

Our students have completed their first semester and again we had large number of students make honor roll. There was a cluster celebration for these students with movies and snacks in Mr. Ortiz's classroom. We are proud to not that a number of the attendees have been part of the honor roll all year. Great job to all of these students.

Before winter break students completed mid-terms, the Toys for Tots drive and did a little bowling for fun. The students did beat some of the teachers in their bowling challenge so we must recognize them as the bowling champions. Our students completed their community service projects for the year raising over 1,000 toys for those in need. Recognition goes out to Mrs. Shufelt's homeroom who spear headed the gathering of the toys and the issuance of the coveted dress passes. Every year we are very proud of the kindness that our students show to others in need.

To the students keep working hard. Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Southard, Mr. Ortiz, Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Shufelt are very proud of each of you and the hard work you have been putting in. We are looking forward to the second semester! Go 8<sup>th</sup> graders!

## CLUSTER 8-3

Students of Cluster 8-3 have embraced the spirit of the New Year. During 2012 they are preparing to make the shift from middle school students to mature, high school scholars.

Some of Ms. Meldrum's students began the new year by making resolutions to make improvements in all areas of their lives. They reflected on what they would like to change in their personal and academic lives and they have kept those resolutions in a place where they can be reminded of their commitments. Mr. Mata's classes are rang in the new year by beginning to read the classic novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. In Science class, Ms. Oliphant's students were hard at work designing and launching rockets. Students were involved in designing and creating the rockets during each phase of creation. Though they launched the rockets on a rainy day, they still had amazing results!

### Yearbooks!

**Pre order your all color 2011-2012 yearbook today!**

**Get them while you still can. There is a limited supply.**

**Order Online**

**at [www.jostensyearbook.com](http://www.jostensyearbook.com) or**

**Go to room 501 and fill out an order form.**

**And don't forget to purchase your own page or partial page**

**for your child or for a group of friends.**

**[www.yearbookadservices.com](http://www.yearbookadservices.com)**

**The deadline to order your own page and/or a yearbook is January 30, 2012**

## CLUSTER 8-4

In Ms. Bigelow's math classes students have been working on algebraic patterns and sequences. Students enjoyed analyzing numbers in a sequence to create algebraic expressions. The week after the holiday's students awoke to the opportunity to visit Café Espresso. A caffeine charged math experience to enjoy the process of determining rules based on input/output table. We will be taking another district benchmark at the beginning of February, and we are expecting our students to outperform Pin Oak, Johnston, Lanier and West Briar. Go PANDAS! The Smith Panda Reading

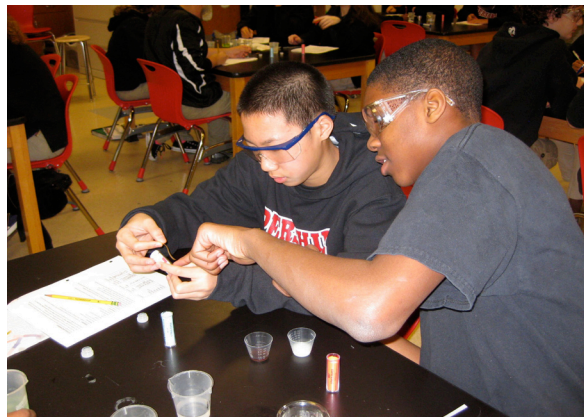
Cave has been occupied with students diligently working on the elements of persuasion, how commercialism impacts daily life, and how research enhances the ability to persuade. The students worked hard and did a great job in showcasing their Media projects that included a debate, news broadcast, and advertisement. In addition, they have also been working on their persuasive essays that will demonstrate what they have learned in regards to persuading an audience to support your opinion about a particular issue, while using evidence that they found in their research

to enhance their ability to persuade. Great job Pandas!!

Mrs. Vaclavik's history classes are discovering the New Nation, how our President and Courts got their power and authority. Once we have that down the next topic is Political Parties!! Our current two party system has roots in the first administration!! Next we will get into imaginary wagons and start to move west and take on our given right to own the whole country. Get ready for some walking and moving!!

Students in Mrs. Broz' IPC classes are finishing up the chemistry portion of the class by studying and

experimenting with pH. The students are also making final preparations for their science fair presentations. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade science class is making and launching water rockets this week. This is an extension activity for Newton's Laws of Motions and speed. All students will be observing and charting the moon for the next couple of weeks as we begin our studies of the Earth/Moon system, and students are also preparing to take a field trip to Follett's Island to participate in a dune restoration project. Are we busy or what?



Tyler and James test the pH of a substance.

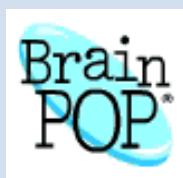
## Online resources provided for students by HISD and state of Texas

To use these resources go to [www.pershinglibrary.org](http://www.pershinglibrary.org) and click on the HISD Resources tab. The logon information is provided below for off campus use.

User Name: houstonisd

Password: astros

For help using these sites, contact the Pershing Librarians.



### Discovery Education (Teachers only)

is a digital video-based learning resource from Discovery Education.

Educators gain on-demand access to 50,000 content-specific segments from 5,000 full-length educational videos. **(Teachers may set up accounts by obtaining logon information from the librarians.)**

### Brain Pop

provides various resources supporting many areas of the curriculum.

Content is aligned to academic standards and easily searchable with the online [Standards Tool](#). BrainPop educator provides training resources and lesson plans.

### Thompson Gale

provides access to 3 products: [Literature Resource Center](#), [Student Resource Center Gold](#) and [Testing and Education Reference Center](#).

[Literature Resource Center](#) provides students with access to traditional literary reference works, critical information on authors and their works, and current journal articles. [Student Reference Center Gold](#) provides biographies, essays, full-text magazines, glossaries, historical overviews, photographs, audio files to answer research needs.

(Provided by the state of Texas with extra databases provided by HISD)

### Ebsco Host

This comprehensive on-line EBSCO package provides students and educators access to multiple databases simultaneously. Searchasaurus, Kids Search, Student Research Center, EBSCO Host, Science Reference and several other subject databases are included.

### World Book Web

provides access to [World Book Kids](#), [World Book Students](#), and [World Book Advanced](#). Other available resources include a Spanish Encyclopedia, [World Book Discover](#), and [Living Green](#).

### netTrekker

A specialized search engine that organizes web sites around the K-12 curricula. All sites are evaluated for academic integrity and age appropriateness before they are considered. Users can search by grade level. Resources are aligned with the state standards.

### Teaching Books

makes available original, in-studio movies of authors and illustrators, audio excerpts of professional book readings, guides to thousands of titles and a wealth of multimedia resources on children's and young adult literature.

### Proquest

provides access to: [E-Curriculum Library](#), [History Study Center](#), [Proquest:Literature](#), and [Historical Newspapers](#). E-Curriculum Library provides answers from more than 2,000 full-text magazines, newspapers, reference books, and transcripts-plus thousands of pictures, maps, educator-approved websites, and audio/video

### Wilson Web

provides professional journals and entire articles on many subjects related to education

## E-books in the Pershing Library

The Pershing Library has acquired a collection of mostly nonfiction e-books for student use. These can be accessed from any computer connected to the Internet by going to the library web site, [www.pershinglibrary.org](http://www.pershinglibrary.org),

and clicking on the Follett E-books web button (top of left column). You will be asked for a user name (**pershing**) and password (**pandas**). You then have access to any of the one-hundred seventy-four books in the collection. These books are meant to be read from any normal laptop or desktop computer, not e-readers such as Kindle or Nook. For more information on using these resources, please contact the librarians.