



WHAT'S HAPPENING

MECDHH at PHS
Portland, ME

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Portland High School Newsletter

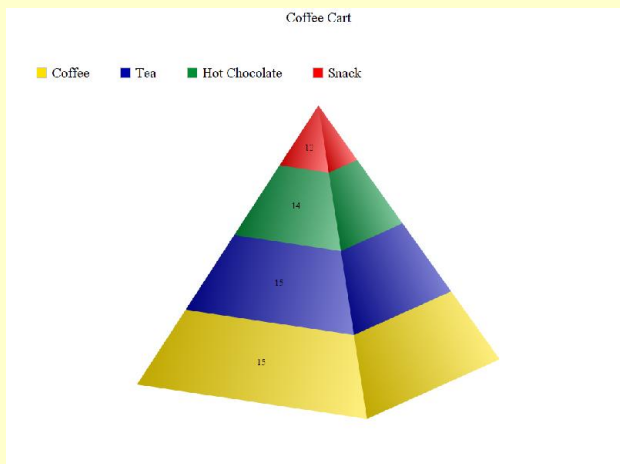
Overview

It's the month of April. The end of the year is quickly approaching.

We have been working hard and learning tons!!

Oh, yeah, it's almost vacation time!

From Denise Adams



Coffee Cart: The students have learned about supply and demand. When they run out of items they need they are responsible to writing an order form that allows the teacher to know what is needed. This month they have had to predict how much of an item they should buy and how long it will last. They have also learned about the impact snow days and cancelations have on running a business. They are aware that the money they earn goes towards an end of the year fun outing.

From Jonathan Connick

American Sign Language (ASL):

The students recently completed a British Sign Language/American Sign Language poster project. The poster consists of the differences of signs in both countries. The students picked up BSL quite quickly and they thought it was neat learning more about a different language. A student said that it was hard but knowing ASL made it possible for them to learn the second language.

Social Studies:

In our Social Studies class, we are focusing on Westward Expansion, the Louisiana Purchase and The Lewis and Clark Expedition which would have profound impact for many years to come. Several movies were shown to show and demonstrate the incredible hardships the people moving west had to endure. A map was drawn in the class showing what it was like back in 1804 and present. The students did amazing work teaming up and getting all the facts incorporated into the poster.

From Rob Gilles



The students are using Google Classroom on their iPads. Google Classroom is a really handy way for teachers and students to collaborate on reading, writing and vocabulary assignments. There are a number of ways that we can make interactive assignments that the students enjoy working with.

One group recently finished Graham Greene's *The Third Man* screenplay. This reading activity meant we were able to work on essential literacy skills of course, but also to consider and discuss the script as very fine literature. The characters in the story are varied and interesting, and the themes around loyalty, friendship, good and evil are brilliantly presented. It was a real treat to conclude the unit by watching the movie on a real 'silver screen' in the PHS projection room - just the way it should be seen. In the survey afterwards, the students gave the old black and white movie from another century 5 stars!

Transition Corner

Exciting news from the Transition Corner!

Tuesday, April 12 will be an opportunity for sophomores at PHS to have a job shadow. We currently have visits scheduled with a welder, an information technology program, and a hotel. This is a great opportunity to get out in the community and to have a more visual and hands on experience of what a workplace looks like and to possibly consider a future in a specific career.

On Tuesday, April 5, two of our sophomores went on college visits and tours at Southern Maine Community College and St Joseph's College. These visits were coordinated for the sophomore class at PHS by the guidance department. We encourage families to visit college campuses and other postsecondary training programs of interest with your students. If there is a particular school you would like to visit and would like assistance in setting that up, please contact Shana. She would be happy to assist you!

During the month of March, several students participated in the first Transition-age Career Exploration Workshop (TCEW) for Deaf students. The goal is to help them with job readiness skills and to feel more confident and ready to make decisions about their future. The CEW (for adults) and TCEW are programs facilitated by the Department of Labor for adults and youth throughout the state of Maine.

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Transition Cont.

A very dedicated group of Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf are working to revise some of the curriculum to fit the needs of Deaf workers. Our students participated in a few modules of the TCEW at the South Portland Career Center near the Portland Jetport. We are fortunate to have this partnership with VR!

In February, Shana attended the national conference in Atlanta, Georgia for pepnet 2, a foundation focused on improving successful transitions for Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth in all 50 states. Shana is a member of the Maine Summit Team for Deaf and Hard of Hearing postsecondary transitions. Currently the team is finalizing the Maine Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students' Guide to Transition, which will include a checklist, resources, and some suggestions for successful transitions. We hope to have these resources available for distribution by the end of this school year. For more information related to pepnet 2 and to access some wonderful transition resources, you can look online at www.pepnet.org

PATHS- Please mark your calendar for May 20th for the graduation. If your child attends in the morning session the graduation will be at 8:30AM. If your child attends the second session the graduation will be at 11:30AM. Please keep an eye out for more information to come.

Highlights for April

4/18/16-4/22/16- April Vacation

Wednesday 4/27/16- PHS dismissal @ 11:30 and GBSD dismissal @ 1:30

Upcoming Events

May

- 5/20/16- PATHS Graduation
- 5/30/16- No school



The photos above are examples of the difference in ASL and BSL. ASL is on the left and BSL is on the right.

Please check out the Portland High School website. The homepage features a picture of Asad Deqow and his amazing art work.