
The Whale

Pierson's Middle School Magazine

November 2021

Pierson's Sixth Graders Fly High With the Board of Education



By Tea' Tracy, Rumi Kaye, and Gigi Papazian

Hope, life, and change are what the majestic butterfly symbolizes and what you feel when you notice the eye catching board of butterflies created by Ms. Finnican's 6th grade art students but the display was not just about showcasing student creativity. It was also about thanking our beloved Board of Education.

We were so inspired by the beauty of this display, we decided to ask Ms. Finnican what inspired her idea for the project. Ms. Finnican commented: "The Board of Education is very important to our school because the members dedicate their free time to making sure the students have the best educational experience possible."

The board certainly contributes in a huge way to the events that take place in our school, for example, Red Ribbon Week and National Coming Out Day. The Board provided materials for the door decorating contest and ribbons for us to wear in support of Coming Out Day. We learned that the school board is incredibly important for our education. We asked Ms. Finnican her opinion and stated, "The Board of Education oversees big decisions related to the school in order to create a positive environment for successful learning." Lastly, we asked Ms. Finnican what inspired her to choose the theme of butterflies for this project. She wanted each student to create a butterfly that expressed their individuality as well as their creativity. This is exactly the goal of education the school board supports!

Class Notes

By Benjamin Ezeir

This fall Mrs. Read's sixth grade Social Studies class learned about Neolithic and Paleolithic eras. Our class created comic books that showed what life was like during the Stone Age.

The prehistoric era occurred roughly from 2.5 million years ago to 10,000 BC. Some of the topics we researched were farming, trade, community, jobs, and shelter.



Get Ready for Winter Fun!

By Shoshana Sobey

Winter may be cool, but winter sports at Pierson Middle School are even cooler. So start warming up for those early winter sports!

Early winter sports include girls volleyball and boys basketball. These sports will run from November 8th to January 14th.

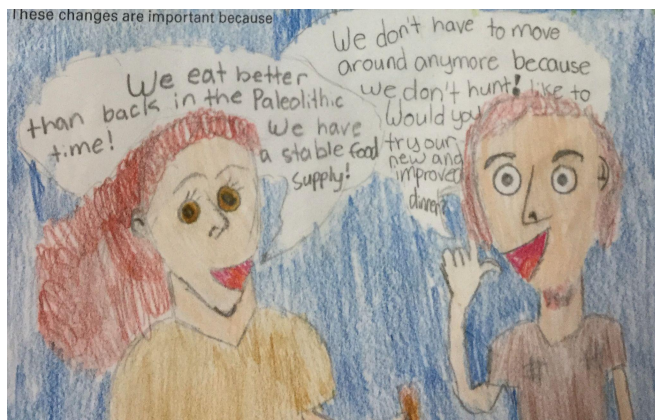
Late winter sports include boys volleyball, girls basketball, and wrestling. These sports will run from January 18th to March 25th.

If you would like to join a team, you can ask your parents to register you with the "Final Forms" located on the Parent Portal. For more information, email Coach McGovern at dmcgovern@sagharborschools.org

Let's Go Whalers

This year the sixth grade conducted a food drive. They collected cans and other nonperishable goods. Did you know that this year 13 million children may face hunger; that's 1 in 6 kids. The problem is big but often hidden. If we all work together, young and old, we can focus on ending hunger. In addition to food drives at schools we can also raise donations. One thing you can do to raise money is to create a family garden and donate the excess produce to your local food bank. You could also volunteer with your family which is a great way to spend time together. These are all a great way to give back to people in need.

By Benjamin Ezeir



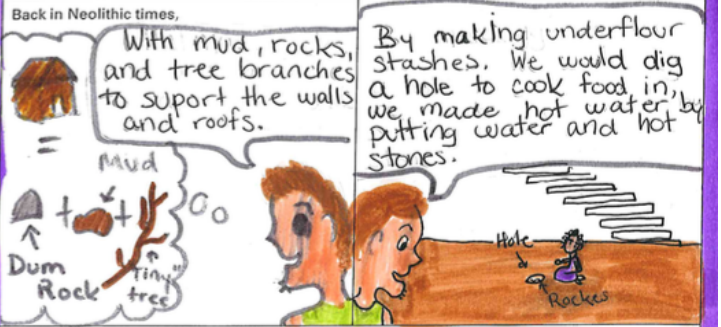
Back in Paleolithic times, people would use whatever resources they had in their area. They only had certain materials nearby, so they couldn't make certain tools. Also, they weren't able to communicate with other tribes.



These changes are important because

The growth of trade was important because it allowed us to get the resources we didn't have in our area. Also, we were able to communicate with other tribes.

Back in Paleolithic times, people used mud bricks, stones, and tree branches to support the walls and roof. They worked together. These were temporary shelters. Hunter-gatherers were nomads, means they had to often move following wild animal herds or find new plants to eat.



These changes are important because

It was important to make them permanent so we can be safe and so we can start gardening, planting, and harvesting.

Back in Paleolithic times, hunting was dangerous back then; it took a long time for people to discover how to produce food with seeds. Then they can harvest crops for food.



These changes are important because

Agriculture is growing crops and taming animals. The neolithic age began the invention of agriculture. For the first time, people had some control over their food supply.

Back in Neolithic times, people lived in rough, tent-like shelters. These shelters were temporary so they could move to find food.



These changes are important because

Developing permanent shelters enabled us to stay in one place for a long time, and not have to be nomads, and forage and hunt.

It also let us grow communities and bonds. Also, it let us work together, and trade for things we need.

Getting to Know You



Mrs. Szychowska has been a math teacher at Pierson Middle High School since 2006. Since she is so loved by her students, investigative reporter **Jack Grzan** decided to interview her as our teacher of the month.

What was the most fun thing you ever did?

Oh, I did a lot of fun things in my life but one of the funnest things I ever did was participating in the triathlon here in Sag Harbor back in the fall of 2009. I was so proud of myself because I am the world's worst swimmer and I wanted to prove to myself that I could do it. But more than this, I wanted to prove to my students that even though you think something is super hard, when you put your mind to it you can do it. I was so proud of myself that the day after finishing the triathlon I came to school to show my winning numbers and my medals.

What inspired you to become a math teacher?

I've always liked math and was very good at it. I didn't always know I was going to be a teacher but growing up everyone I knew told me that I would become a math teacher because I liked helping people and explaining things. It wasn't until I was 28 years old that I decided to get my masters degree in education and become a teacher.

It really sounds like you decided to become a teacher from the very start!

What is the most interesting topic you taught at Pierson Middle School?

This question is hard because I feel all the topics I teach are very interesting. Not that all my students would agree though! But actually one of the subjects I like to teach most are golden ratios. It is so much fun to look at different pieces of art and try to figure out where the golden ratios fit in.



What is one thing that you would like Pierson students to know about you?

I did not learn how to speak English until I was 18 years old. When I came from Poland I did not know how to speak English. I finished 11th grade in Poland but because I didn't speak English I was sent back to repeat 11th grade at East Hampton high school. I only had 11th and 12th grade to learn all the English I needed to be able to go to college.

What do you like about teaching?

What I like most about teaching are my students and my students always end up being my best teachers! They are like my own children and help to be a parent to my children!



Celebrating Red Ribbon Week at Pierson

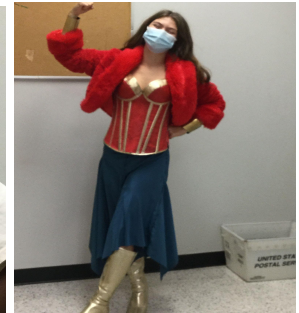
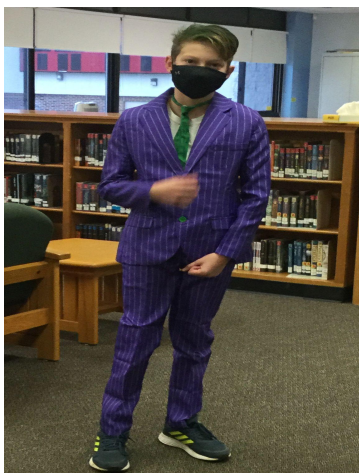
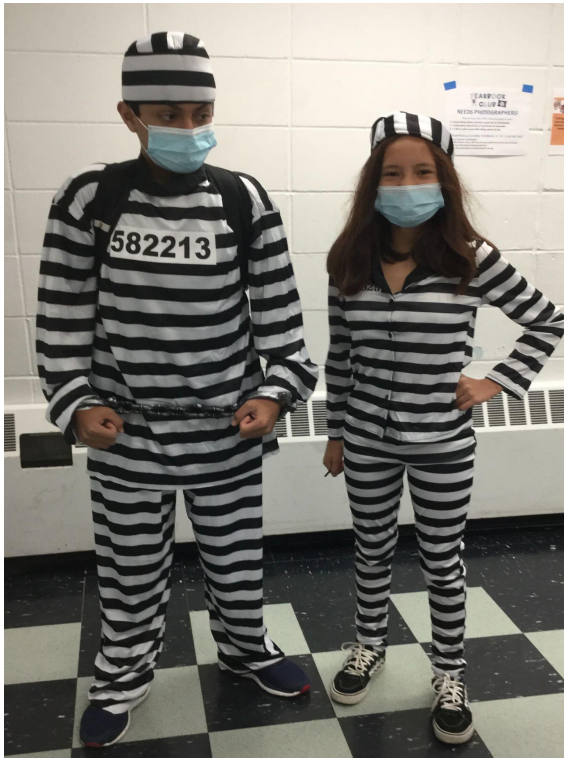
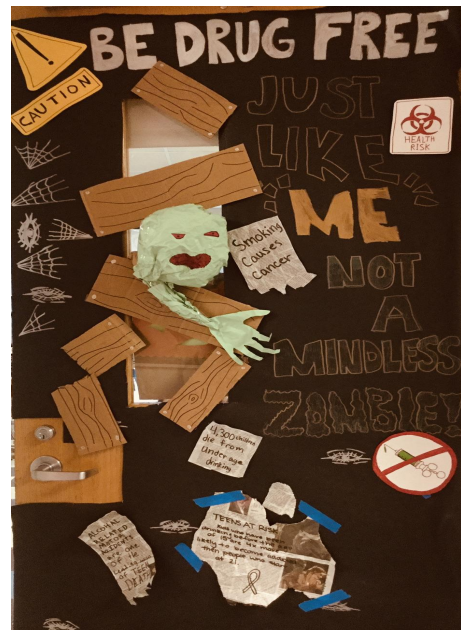


By Islay MacGowan and Lily Caplin

Each year the country commemorates Red Ribbon Week between October 23rd through the 31st. This year's theme was *Drug Free Looks Like Me*. The purpose of the week is to remind kids how to stay drug free and to educate them about the harsh effects drugs have on young students.

At Pierson we celebrated with a week of fun activities to learn of the negative effects of drugs through articles, videos, and classroom activities. We also took time to relax with positive meditation. Our academic support classes participated in a friendly competition with door decorating activities and each pod had some pretty creative ideas! Some added halloween decorations to their door. The theme on an 8th grade door was based on the *Outsiders*, a book they had just finished reading in ELA. We dressed up with a theme everyday. We started the week wearing pajamas and concluded with Halloween costumes such as the greasers, wolverine, witches and hippies to end the week on a positive note.





CREATIVE CORNER



*Forever flying in a place full of beauty,
And of wonder spread your wings
It's time to fly and make a leap
Into the sky!*

By Kayleigh Zhunio Morocho



By Gigi Papazian

Sail Tie

On an ocean day
A cloudy day
When the sea crashes off a boat
You must be strong and a tight rope to stay on board

When the sky clears
You are still stuck
And need someone to loosen you down
So you can be free again

By Lilly Caplin



By Lily Caplin

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