

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- We go outside for recess every day as weather permits. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.
- If your child is coming into school after the regular start of the day, it is necessary for an adult to come in to sign your student in at the office.
- Please keep us aware of any changes in phone numbers, emergency contacts, etc., so we have up-to-date information in case of emergency.
- School begins at 8:45 am and dismissal is at 3 pm. Parents who drive their children to school must park in the lower playground lot and walk them up to the front door.
- If your child will be dismissed early or is to go home by another means other than what is usually done, please send in a note or give the office a call ahead of time whenever possible.

Paper Mill Elementary School

CYNTHIA KENNEDY, PRINCIPAL
SUSAN BUCHANAN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
JANET BAKER, SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPERVISOR

Office Phone: 413-572-6519

OCT / NOV 2016

Students Make a Big Jump in MCAS

Last year, Paper Mill School students were able to improve by 11 percentile points in growth over the 2015 results from the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests. Each year, students in grade 3 through 5 are tested in English Language Arts and Mathematics, with grade 5 also being assessed in Science/ Technology/ Engineering as well.

Paper Mill School uses data to inform instructional decisions and to determine which students may need more intensive intervention in curricular areas. Scores from these tests also let parents know how their child is progressing in comparison to expectations of what students should know and be able to do in a particular grade. It is very important, however, to understand that tests, like MCAS, are just one snapshot of information about a child's learning. At Paper Mill School, we use this

data, along with many other pieces of information, to monitor student learning outcomes.

In 2017, our state is beginning the shift toward computer-based testing, and away from pencil and paper tests. Grade 4 will be the pioneers at the elementary level for this digital-based testing in spring 2017, with the roll-out for other grades determined by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in subsequent years. To facilitate the shift, Westfield Public Schools will be conducting some of our district-wide benchmarks on computers, starting next month with the GRADE test, a reading comprehension assessment, for grades 2 through 5.

Accommodations for students

who have Section 504 IAPs or Special Education IEPs will be arranged.

Please see the table below to view the progress PMES has made toward state-determined targets in the past few years.

The numbers in the categories of All Students, High Needs, and Students with Disabilities represent percentages of those boys and girls who made adequate progress toward benchmark targets. The last category, Overall Percentile, compares Paper Mill Elementary School with all the other elementary schools in Massachusetts. It is our goal to increase another 11 percentiles to reach that 50th percentile mark in 2017! We can do it!!

<u>MCAS</u>	<u>All students</u>	<u>High Needs</u>	<u>Students w/ Disabilities</u>	<u>Overall Per- centile</u>
2016	75 (met target)	64	63	39th
2015	67	56	53	28th
2014	56	50	35	26th

PMES PTO Has New Board Members

Recently, a meeting was held with parents who indicated they would be interested in helping to run the PTO for the 2016-17 school year. As a result, several volunteers stepped up to take over as Board Members. Many thanks go to Linda Lenston for organizing this.

2016-17 PMES PTO Board

President: Michael Brunelle

Co-Vice Presidents:

Megan Krupienski

Tara Hickey

Treasurer: Linda Lenston

Secretary: Gina Crossetti

There are many fun activities planned for this year, and we always need helping hands for these events. Please volunteer and get involved as you are able.

The next PTO meeting is Dec. 7th at 6:00 pm in the school library. All are welcome!!