

Creating a New Renaissance

Playbill

The Newsletter for Public Academy for Performing Arts

Volume 2, Issue 1 August, 2002

Principal's Message

Creating a New Renaissance. What a grand theme! A new year and a rebirth for PAPA. A time to reflect and a time to begin.

This year students can participate in up to ten courses per school year. What an opportunity! (Check out the in-depth look at block scheduling later in this issue of the Playbill.)

Yes, there is a bit of the traditional at PAPA, but it's smack dab in the middle of something new. Students are dancing, singing, playing, acting, drawing, video-taping, fencing, and more—every day in between math, science, social studies and language arts.

In addition, traditional courses are thematically enriched, centered around our theme for 2002/2003, "Creating a New Renaissance." Students are discussing humanities and the sciences, getting involved in service learning, and learning about literacy and numeracy through the arts. This is all happening in a new school building in the midst of a beautiful, serene business complex. *What a rich opportunity for all of us!*

I invite you to be a part of this rebirth. Join the PTA—they need your support to reach their goals on behalf of all our students. Work with the Governing Council. Support the fundraising efforts of our student groups. (French II students are planning to go to Paris, and Theater Arts students are selling t-shirts to fund drama supplies.) Attend Development Committee events. (A fall fundraising gala and auction with a *Casablanca* theme is coming October 19. You don't want to miss it.)

Communicate with your student's teachers on a regular basis. Leave messages at 262-4888 and they'll call you back to talk or make appointments. If you need me, give me a call, or stop by and visit. Wave to me in the parking lot!

Be a vital part of PAPA. *We need you.* We're all in this together.

Danielle Johnston
Principal
262-4888
djohnston@paparts.org

Student I.D.s

Student I.D.s are here. There is a \$5.00 fee to obtain an I.D. for your child. Please send payment in to Karen Shodean, our receptionist (checks payable to PAPA) beginning Monday, September 9 and no later than Friday, September 13. Your child will be issued an I.D. when payment is received. Please note that students are required to have their I.D. on their person at all times.



Pardon Our Technical Difficulties

Some of you may have experienced difficulties contacting the school by phone or e-mail. There have been a few problems and delays in the installation of our telephone system and computer network. We apologize for any inconvenience. Most of the problems have been fixed and we are working as quickly as possible to correct the remainder. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



Join the PTA and make a difference! Next meeting Tuesday, September 17, 6:00 p.m. Call Laura Tapia at 296-5841 for details.



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Albuquerque, NM 87110
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www.paparts.org

“A child’s life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.”

—*Chinese Proverb*

ILPs Launched for All Students

During the week of August 19-23, we began the process of creating Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) for all student at PAPA.

ILPs are a cornerstone of our charter, and were envisioned by the founders as “living documents” that honor each student’s strengths, improve areas of weakness, and lay out a comprehensive learning plan to develop all facets of academic and artistic potential. Designed to endow each student with a sense of ownership in his or her education, they are an ongoing, collaborative project between students, teachers and parents that will continue throughout your child’s educational and artistic career at PAPA.

ILPs are managed during the Tuesday/Thursday third period class. Additionally, each quarter includes a week devoted to ILP maintenance and updates. These weeks are:

- October 28—November 1
- January 13—16
- April 1—4

During this initial phase, we ask that parents supply their children with an expandable accordion file to collect ILP work. These can be purchased inexpensively at any office supply store or discount center, such as Walmart or Target. Ask your student to turn in this folder to his or her Tuesday/Thursday third period teacher.

If you have any questions about your student’s ILP, call our Principal, Danielle Johnston, at 262-4888.

To Your Health From the Nurse and PAPA’s Health and Safety Office

Greetings. I’m Jeannie Fitzpatrick, RN, MSN, of our Health and Safety Office. I’m looking forward to a healthy and safe school year for all our students and families. I hope to meet all of you throughout the year. If you have any health or safety concerns about your student, please feel free to contact me.

Safety Committee

I am asking interested parents and students to serve on our Safety Committee. School safety and the well-being of all students are an important part of PAPA’s vision. In light of the current climate throughout the country concerning school safety, this is a timely and interesting committee on which to serve. If you are interested in spending a couple of hours per month discussing safety issues and participating in policy development, call me at 262-4888, ext. 108.

Allergy Season is Coming

We are fast approaching allergy season. Symptoms of seasonal allergies include a stuffy or runny nose, frequent sneezing, itchiness of the eyes, nose, roof of mouth and throat, which may be accompanied by soreness and a cough. These symptoms are brought on by tiny airborne pollens or certain seasonal plants. Symptomatic children may experience anything from minor to significant inconveniences that interfere with their sense of well-being and general health.



An Ounce of Prevention

Prevention of symptoms is best achieved through avoidance of the pollens and plants that cause them to occur. During pollen season, stay indoors—especially on dry, windy days when pollen counts are high. Change pillow cases frequently. Consult your child’s healthcare provider in the case of symptoms that interfere with activities of daily work and play. For children with a known asthmatic condition, be sure to work with your healthcare provider to avoid onset of an asthmatic episode through the use of preventative medications, which, if implemented early on, can potentially lessen the severity of your child’s reaction to allergens.

Help PAPA Prepare for Your Child

It is beneficial for children with prescribed inhalers, antihistamine and/or decongestant medications to leave a few extra labeled doses (and written parental consent) for dispensing at the PAPA Health and Safety Office, just in case they forget their medication at home. The school will then have a back-up supply in the event students develop congestion and/or respiratory problems during the school day.

To your health!

Web site of interest:

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, www.aaaai.org

PAPA Auction Update Save October 19th on Your Calendar!

A gala auction to benefit PAPA will be held at Washburn Piano on Saturday, October 19th from 7:00-10:00 pm. *You won't want to miss this event.*

The evening's theme is "Here's Looking at You, Kid" (recognize this from *Casablanca*?). We'll have delicious Middle Eastern foods and great entertainment by professional artists and our own talented students. We've even lined up a celebrity auctioneer.

Many unique items have been donated for the auction, and each day more are coming. There will certainly be something for everyone, and what better cause to support than our wonderful school and its programs.

The Development Committee is continuing to solicit donations for the auction, and we ask all parents and supporters of PAPA to consider making a contribution. All families should have

received a letter containing a blue donation postcard. If you have not already done so, please consider filling it out with your donation.

Donations can take many forms. Do you own or work for a business that could donate a service or product? Do you frequent a business that you love and would like to see donate their items or service? Are you an artist, or do you know an artist who would be willing to donate a piece of original art? The possibilities are many and limited only by the extent of our creativity.

If you can volunteer to help make solicitation phone calls, send letters, set up on the day of the auction, or pick up donations, please call Linda Brody at 281-4479 or send her an e-mail at jeffbrodyusa@netscape.net.k

THINK BIG! ASK BIG! ACCEPT THANKFULLY!

French II Students: Springtime in Paris

Bonjour tous. Please stop by our French Club tables whenever you see us to buy a snowcone, croissant or espresso, and help support our first trip to Paris!

We plan to take French II students for 9 days sightseeing in Paris, from March 21-31, 2003 (during PAPA's spring break). We are asking French I students to help raise money for the French II students; the process will be repeated the following year. This way, all French II students will have an opportunity to visit France.



To this end, we are organizing an ambitious fundraising program and we need your help. In addition to typical fundraisers such as car washes, selling home made items at school functions, etc., we are also planning larger events such as an elegant winter crepe breakfast, a huge spring garage sale, and other surprises.

We would like to make this a permanent feature of our French program, so please contact Mr. Koller either in person or by e-mail (ckoller@paparts.org) if you have expertise in fundraising, group travel arrangements, can donate food and/or garage sale items, or if you have any connections in Paris.

Merci beaucoup!

Teacher Wish Lists

Each month we'll feature teachers who could use a few "extras" in their classrooms. If you have any of these items sitting in your garage or spare room, please consider giving them as a gift to PAPA!



♥ Katie Besom Chavez, Visual Arts

Art supplies! Do you have artist's brushes with some life left in them? Tempera, acrylic or watercolor paints (that haven't yet petrified)? Pastels, oil or dry? Charcoal? Quality magazines for collage work? (*National Geographic, Architectural Digest, Southwest Art, Ornament*, etc.) Also, books about art are very welcome for the class library.

♥ Amy James, Biology, Chemistry, Science Seminar

Science Videos. Ms. James would like to build a video library of quality science videotapes on physics, biology, chemistry and related topics. Especially welcome are PBS videos from Nova, Scientific American Frontiers and the like. Loaners are also appreciated—good care will be taken.



"A teacher affects eternity;
he can never tell where his
influence stops."

—Henry Brooks Adams

So, What is This “Block Scheduling,” And Why are We Using It at PAPA?

For those of us—students and parents alike—accustomed to a traditional school day, the new approach to class schedules may be a bit bewildering. Questions are natural. Why did we change? What are the benefits to doing things differently? Is there a method to the madness? The answer to these questions is YES. *Welcome to block scheduling!*

Under a traditional system, a typical middle or high school student will be in nine locations pursuing nine different activities in a school day. It is a difficult pace resulting in short class times and multiple passthrough periods.

Short class times prevent teachers and students from exploring subjects in-depth; discourage multiple teaching techniques and learning activities that meet the differing needs of students; and limit the opportunity for sustained, meaningful interaction among all participants in the classroom. Also, less time to work in class usually means more work at home, with textbooks and projects going back and forth.

Additionally, since most behavioral problems occur during passthrough or lunch periods, the fewer the passthrough periods, the fewer the opportunities for students to get into trouble.

Is there an alternative?

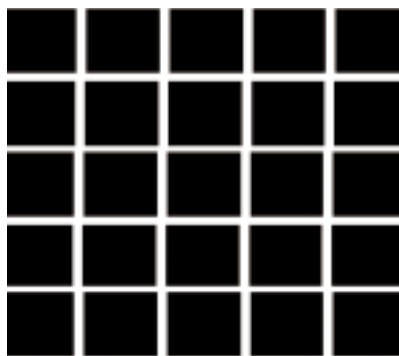
Enter block scheduling. Block scheduling is present when at least part of the daily schedule is organized into larger blocks of time (more than sixty minutes) to allow flexibility for a diversity of instructional activities. What are the advantages?

For one, there is more time in each class to explore and discuss subject matter in a meaningful way. There are endless variations in block scheduling, but here at PAPA our classes are divided into 80 minute blocks (except third

period at 90 minutes). In these extended classes, students and teachers can drill down into particular areas of interest, rather than just skim the surface. Students working in groups or individually can concentrate more fully on tasks and projects without interruption.

If they choose, teachers can rely less on standard lecture-seatwork activities, and more on creative teaching strategies that speak to individual student needs, aptitudes and learning styles.

In many cases, homework and out-of-class time spent on projects and research is reduced.



Researchers say that block scheduling results in more effective use of school time, decreased class size, and an increased number of course offerings (while reducing the number of classes per day).

Also, researchers have found correlations between block scheduling and more course credits completed, equal or better mastery and retention of material, a reduction in suspension and dropout rates, and improved relationships between students and teachers.

What does it mean for PAPA?

Here at PAPA, students are already enjoying the increase in course offerings that allows them to earn up to 10 credits per academic year. In addition to studying the core curriculum (math, science, language arts and social stud-

ies), satisfying their P.E. requirement (dance, martial arts or fencing), and meeting the foreign language requirement (French or Spanish), students are now able to take several electives.

This is especially meaningful at PAPA, because it allows them to participate in multiple visual and performing arts experiences while still satisfying core and graduation requirements. As an added bonus, students who are at the advanced level in a particular discipline can, if they wish, study their chosen subject five days a week.

In fact, block scheduling is part of PAPA's original charter language; our founders foresaw its potential. The combination of block scheduling and PAPA's unique arts focus immerses students in a rich culture where academics and art are fully explored and intertwined. Our students enjoy an unparalleled opportunity.

Change with a purpose

We are confident this new approach will continue to yield benefits. Even though student schedules may have seemed daunting at first, everyone is settling into their routines. Walk the halls of PAPA and you will find pupils in class. Our students have made a wonderful effort to adapt to the new schedule. We applaud them, and you, for your openness to change—change with a purpose.

As always, your thoughts and opinions are welcomed. If you have questions or comments about block scheduling, or specific concerns regarding your child's schedule, please contact Donna Miles, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development, at 262-4888 or dmiles@paparts.org

Coming next issue: “So, What is This ‘Thematic Curriculum,’ and Why are We Using It at PAPA?”

Credit Where It's Due: Honor Roll, Final Quarter 2001—2002

In the rush last June to close out the school year and get ready for our move, final grading information was packed away and the Honor Roll was never printed. Students deserve recognition for their hard work, so forthwith is our tribute.

Students must achieve a 3.0 grade point average or higher to make the Honor Roll. Those with one asterisk after their name achieved at least 3.5 (Honors), and those with two asterisks achieved 4.0 (High Honors).

To everyone involved, *great work*. And to all students—picture your name here in October when the first Honor Roll of 2002/2003 is printed. Never forget: *What the mind of man can conceive, the mind of man can achieve!*

6th Grade

Seth Adkins*
Diana Baron-Moore*
Ian Brody**
Malia Buehler*
Jessy Butler**
Hailey Calderon*
Siobhan Degnan**
Jamie Emms**
Ian Fingado*
Marty Gerlach
Alexandria Goslow**
Hope Harris
Dylan Hawkinson**
Alex Hernandez*
Ben Hooker*
Julian Mathias*
Jade Matsu
Cirri Nicholishen
Demecia Padilla
Grady Reuler
Sara Rhodes*
Eva Schlinger**
Stephanie Sedillo
Whitney Sousa
Abby Trent*
Eric Trope**
Elisabeth Weagel**

7th Grade

Kristen Bell
Max Brewer*
Julie Brodsky*
Kaitlin Cantrell
Monique Casias
Carlene Chavez
Lauren Faber**
Stephanie Fitzgerald
Graham Gentz
Anna Marie Gramer*
Erin Haldane*
Essence Hand**
Natalie Harris*
Emma Hossy*
Alex Kochersperger*
Rachel Langer*
Sabrina Lord-Linde*
Lorianna Marrone
Courtney McCartney
Julianne Montano*
Raisa Montoya
Morgan Moraga*
Paloma Nava
Alexandra Pacheco
Schlarae Padilla
Zach Perls*
Gus Rodriguez*
Stephanie Scott**
Zack Stefanovich
Nate Steinberg
Alyse Stephens
Eric Wagner*
April Weber**
Hannah Wilcox*

8th Grade

Chad Adcox*
Felicia Carrillo
Jamie Cohen-Edmunds
Donnay Ensminger
Shaylee Gonzales*
Natasha Goslow*
Amelia Harvey*
Kate Kennedy**
Brianna Kerwin*
Lea McDuffie*
Arielle Nylander*

Sasha Oomrigar
Ashleigh Reyna*
Tara Smartnick*
Arthur Weagel**

9th Grade

Sara Barr
Caitlin Brody**
Lucy Gilster
Jasmine Haldane*
Jordanne Lackmann**
Justine Lackmann**
Alex Malkoski*
Antoinette Sedillo*
Amber Stephens

New life for old TVs and VCRs

Have you upgraded your entertainment system to DVD or wide-screen TV? Are your old TV and VCR just sitting in the closet or spare room gathering dust? Give them a new life—donate them to PAPA!



Multimedia resources contribute to a rich and varied curriculum, and provide dynamic entry to subject matter that can enhance more traditional methods like research and lectures. But the equipment is expensive and our budget is thin. Can you help?



Please consider donating your old equipment to PAPA. Our teachers and students will put it to good use and give it a valuable second life. All donations are tax deductible. *Thank you for your generosity.*

Council Notes: "Resonance"

On behalf of the entire Governing Council, let me welcome all students, parents and employees to PAPA's second year.

It's been a super-busy summer and we are off to a great start with excellent positive energy. On that note, here's a thought. My friendly online dictionary defines the word "resonance" as follows:

- a vibration of large amplitude produced by a relatively small vibration near the same as the natural frequency of the resonating system
- the capability of returning sound, resounding, echoing back



• richness or significance, especially in evoking an association or strong emotion: "It is home and family that give resonance to life."
(George Gilder)

I truly believe we have a wonderful opportunity at our school. Our collective efforts, though still small and beginning, can grow and resonate to fulfill our vision for our children and our community. We know that our charter, which combines arts and academics, is a winner for a richer, more significant education. Let's keep the momentum growing strong and moving forward. I hope this resonates with you.

One more sentiment to echo: your feedback is always welcome. Visit our school web site at www.paparts.org, send us e-mail, or just drop by one of our meetings (schedule at right).

Best regards,

Jorge Hernandez
Governing Council President
hernandez_family_nm@yahoo.com



Governing Council Meeting Schedule

Your Governing Council is PAPA's equivalent of a school board. We meet once a month on Thursday, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the PAPA TV Room (Performing Arts building). We welcome your attendance. There is a short public forum at the beginning of each meeting when guests may address the council.

Our meeting schedule for 2002/2003 is as follows:

- September 26, 2002
- October 29, 2002 (Tuesday)
- November 21, 2002
- December 19, 2002
- January 16, 2003
- February 20, 2003
- March 20, 2003
- April 17, 2003
- May 15, 2003

PAPA—YMCA Partnership Yields Before and After School Care

Parents needing before and/or after school care for students can sign up for a new program made possible by a partnership between PAPA and our neighborhood YMCA.

Located in Mrs. Sivinski's room on the PAPA campus, program hours are 7:00—8:25 a.m. and 4:00—6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Structured activities include fitness, cooking, games, swimming, volunteering, fieldtrips and more.

Weekly rates per student are \$49.00 for AM/PM, \$40.00 for PM only; and \$28.00 for AM only. In addition, a basic YMCA membership at \$35.00 annually is required for each participant. (Some financial assistance is available through the YMCA.)

Visit the Heights Family YMCA in person to register, or call them at **265-6971** for more information.



Library Committee Gearing Up for Holiday Book Fair

Do you love books and reading? Would you like to see PAPA students enjoy the benefits of a well-stocked library? Are you thinking about volunteering at PAPA but don't know where to start?

The Library Committee could use your help as they lay the groundwork for a PAPA library. An important step toward that goal is our annual Holiday Book Fair and Performance Week, coming November 4-8. This year we are excited to implement a new approach—a local bookstore will provide books for a wide range of ages, tastes and subject matter.



This will be a fun and rewarding project. If you'd like to get involved, contact Linda Brody, Library Committee Chair, at 281-4479 or send an e-mail to jeffbrodyusa@netscape.net