I was able to add five minutes to both the first and second grade lunch waves, which has really seemed to contribute to a calmer lunch time.

Once again, the entire **Region 15 events calendar** is available on the district website at www.region15.org. Also calendar updates and changes will be sent home on the other side of the monthly lunch menu and our newsletters, so stay tuned!

As a district we continue our work revising the district **Language Arts Curriculum,** which is a very exciting endeavor. We continue our work together looking at instructional practice, viewing lessons, and having rich discussions about what we see happening in classrooms and what students are doing. We are building **Professional Learning Communities** in each school, with teams of educators meeting consistently to look at achievement data, student work, and designing effective lessons to meet student needs. This initiative is to help us become more reflective regarding the instructional practices that are most effective for our students and their needs.

The Connecticut Mastery Test information regarding each student from last year's grades 3-5 was **mailed home to parents on September 18th**. An analysis of these results has been done and provided for the PES staff.

You should have received **a letter from your child's teacher** inviting you to tell us about your child, his/her strengths and your goals for your child this year. I have visited all classrooms grades 1 - 5, and have discussed PES expectations for behavior and effort. A booklet which contains all of our rules has been distributed to every student in grades K-5. Please review these with your child, sign the little white form, and have your child return it to us. Many thanks!

We have a **new phone system** in place at PES, with every certified staff member having voice mail. Please be sure to use the prompts to the directory to find the voice mail of the person to whom you would like to speak. We will get back to you within 24 hours.

Please be aware of the **new Strategic Plan for Region 15**, which can be viewed in our Pomperaug Pathfinder handbook and the district website. Best of all, the staff at PES is very proud of our new **Pomperaug Elementary Mission Statement** that was developed last year and finalized in June 2009. After looking at research and reviewing several examples of mission statements, we wanted ours to truly reflect what we strive to be, and not be just an accumulation of "buzz words" to fill up space. We are deeply connected to this new mission statement, and hope that you are as inspired by it as we are! To view it please see attached.

We look forward to another excellent year and thank you for your wonderful children and your support every day.

In Partnership,

Carissa S. Keepin
Principal

Congratulations Stacie Broden!
We are thrilled to announce that 2nd grade teacher Stacie Broden has been selected to receive the **2008 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**. The PAEMST program is administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology. The award recognizes outstanding teachers for their contribution to the teaching and learning of mathematics and science. Each awardee will receive a citation signed by President Obama and a cash award from NSF. In addition, teachers will receive their awards at a White House ceremony in the fall. **We are extremely proud of Ms. Broden and feel she is a most deserving award winner!**

Lead Teacher

On those days Mrs. Keepin is not in the district, Special Ed and Lead Teacher Anne Johnson will act as administrator.

Safety Drills

During the course of the school year we practice a variety of safety drills including fire and lock down drills. If you have any questions regarding these, please contact Mrs. Keepin.

New Staff Members

Lynsey Conner – Grade 3 Teacher

I am very excited to be back at PES this school year! I enjoyed teaching Kindergarten last year and look forward to another great experience in third grade. I received my teaching credential from Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. I have experience as a Pre K and Literacy Teacher grades K – 5 in the Bristol Public Schools. It is my hope that children will enjoy learning and be successful in our classroom.

Ann Lachmann – Grade 3 Teacher

I completed my Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at Oakland University in Michigan. I have taught second, fifth, and sixth grades in Texas schools. I obtained additional certification in technology and Gifted and Talented. I also was a school trainer for A.I.M.S. (Activities Integrating Math and Science). I took time off to raise my three children as my husband's company moved us around the United States. We have made stops in Arizona, Idaho, and Georgia before settling in Southbury. During that time, I have been PTO President and sat on the school board. I also volunteered to teach Physical Education/ Health and created a Discovery Science Lab. Last year I was a long term substitute at Pomperaug Elementary as the SIP teacher, working on reading comprehension strategies, writing, and math skills with third, fourth, and fifth graders. I am very happy to be teaching 3rd grade at PES!

Katie Kloss – Grade 1 Teacher

I am very excited to be back at PES! Last year I was at GES as a Grade 2 teacher, and the year before was a long term substitute in Grade 1 here at PES. I recieved my teaching degree from Western New England College in Massachusetts and am currently working towards my Masters in Reading at Southern Connecticut State University. I am looking forward to a great year with the young readers and writers of PES.

Cathy Crowdis – Special Ed. Aide

I have been an LPN for 28 years and also received a B.S. in Animal Science at UConn before getting my nursing degree. I started working at LMES as an LPN/instructional aide last January and moved to PES this year. I live in Southbury with my husband and two children. I like to read and work in my garden in my spare time.

Melissa Eisenbach – Special Ed. Aide

I live in Southbury and have three children. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Special Ed. from Southern Connecticut State University and have earned 30 credits at Western Connecticut State University in special and regular ed.

I taught in Monroe for 10 years and then took some time off to raise my children. I am ABA certified and have been an instructional assistant with Region #15 since 2006. I'm looking forward to working again at PES!

Susan Tuttle -Paraprofessional

I have been a resident of Southbury for 18 years and have two children. My daughter is a senior at PHS and my son is a 4th grader at GES. I have enjoyed numerous opportunities throughout the years to volunteer in my children's classrooms. For the past three years I have been a substitute at PES working as a general aide as well as a special education aide. I am looking forward to my first year at PES as a permanent aide and am happy to be working with the dedicated teachers and staff at PES.

Patty Shea – Special Ed. Paraprofessional

I have lived in Southbury for 14 years with my husband and four children. My daughter and son attend Memorial Middle School and other two children attend Long Meadow. I have a BA from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. Before starting my family I worked for the Newtown School System for five years. Last year I began working for Region 15 at Long Meadow Elementary and I am very excited join the wonderful staff and families at PES this year. In my spare time I love to play tennis, read and spend time with my family.

Sue DeWitt – School Nurse

I'm Sue DeWitt the new school nurse. I'm thrilled to return to PES full time after spending three years here part-time a few years ago. In between I worked as a nurse at a private boarding high school and dealt with big kid problems. I have three "big kids" of my own, two are in college and one is in middle school. In my free time I like to hike, garden, and visit with friends.

Jonelle Munroe – Intern

I come to PES from Sacred Heart University where I am in the Teacher Certification and Masters Program, expecting to graduate in July 2010. I also have a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences Interdisciplinary with a concentration in Early Childhood Education from the University of Buffalo. I am very excited to be at PES and will be student teaching with Stacie Broden.