

PYC Panther Press

PCY Arts and Tech High School, 2210 Oliver Avenue North
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Spring is Here!

By John Peterson, Director of Education

As I sit in my office and look out the window I see trees starting to bud, grass beginning to grow and best of all, no snow! Spring Break, which we observed last week, marks a momentous occasion: 75% of the school year is completed. We've made it through the cold, dark winter, and are on to warmer, brighter, sunnier days ahead!



This doesn't mean, however, that the school year is finished. We still have a quarter of the school year left. There's important MCA testing to be done, more learning to be completed and social pressures to navigate.

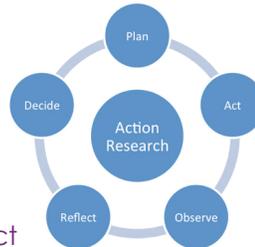
My hope is that we can enjoy this time of renewal and warmer weather, and keep focused on learning as teachers and staff members help all of our scholars obtain the financial and social stability that only a high school degree from PYC can bring.

Questions? John Peterson, jpeterson@pcyc-mpls.org 612-643-2025.

PYC Teachers Engage in Action Research

By Sarah Wehrenberg, Dean of Instruction

PYC teachers have been busy becoming better teachers. Every quarter, teachers complete something called action research, which is a project that helps them focus on and improve one small part of their instruction methods. When teachers improve their instruction, students learn more and improve their credit earning ability.



Some of the action research topics from this quarter included:

- Increasing attendance.
- Lowering test anxiety.
- Using think-pair-share to increase student dialogue.
- Teaching for a growth mindset.
- Project based learning, and more!

Action research projects have been a fun way to improve what we do, and to model the "learning loop" (perform, reflect, revise) to the Panther Community.

Questions? Sarah Wehrenberg, sarahw@pcyc-mpls.org.



4TH QUARTER CALENDAR

Monday, 4/4	Start of Quarter 4
Monday, 4/11	Student Conferences
Thursday, 4/14	Family Night, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Monday, 5/30	Memorial Day, No School
Friday, 5/27	Graduation Ceremony 7:30 p.m., Capri Theater
Tuesday, 6/7	Last Day of School



Comedy comes to the Capri!

Capri After School Theater
presents:

The Colored Museum

by George C. Wolfe
 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 20
 Capri Theater
 FREE

"I invite everyone to come see and support the work of our CAST scholars – and enjoy a very funny show!"

- Kevin West, CAST Artistic Director



Testing Update

This spring PYC Arts & Tech scholars will be taking Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) tests in Math, Reading and Science as well as the MAP, or Measurement of Academic Progress test.

For test dates and more information, please contact David Tarleton, dtarleton@pcyc-mpls.org or 612-643-2097.

Our Amazing Trip to the Wilderness

By Michael Reynolds, Dean of Students

Over the first weekend in March, Nate Christen and I had the opportunity to take nine of our students up to the Wilderness Camp on the Gunflint Trail. This trip was a great opportunity for both our students and staff to disconnect (literally) from the outside world and to immerse ourselves in northern Minnesota's wilderness.



The Wilderness Camp is located about 60 miles west of Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail, approximately a six-hour drive from Minneapolis. Despite some minor grumblings about cell phone service, our students had a great time and were able to experience activities and adventures that they've never experienced before.

Our first night was the first time some of our students had seen the stars in their true form without all the glare from city lights. This was great for the students, but also fun for me to watch their excitement. The rest of our weekend was spent cross-country skiing, playing broomball and snowshoeing, capped off with a bonfire and sauna. Three of our students made the five-mile round-trip trek to what is known to the Wilderness Staff as the Palisades. This is a large rock formation that, from the top, overlooks the 4,000-acre Seagull Lake. The views from here were fantastic and the kids really appreciated the beauty from above.



I hope to continue this PYC tradition by taking more of our students up to the Wilderness Camp. The opportunity to engage with our students in a nonacademic setting was truly one of the most memorable experiences of the year.

Questions? Michael Reynolds, mreynolds@pcyc-mpls.org

College and Careers

By Crystal Ruiz, College/Career Manager

What's going on with the college and career team? Right now we're focused on:

- College Tours.
- Meeting with the Graduating Senior Focus Group to help plan senior events.
- The D3 Program. Your Scholar can attend college and high school at the same time, earning credit in both areas.
- Financial Aid Applications. Apply now for Fall Semester (August 2016).
- The College/Job Readiness Programs – Apply now.
- Graduation – May 27th at the Capri Theatre.



If you have any questions or would like to know more please contact us:
Kiana Batteau (kbatteau@pcyc-mpls.org/612-643-2061)
Crystal Ruiz (cruiz@pcyc-mpls.org/612-643-2045)



PYC Graduation Ceremony

Friday, May 27, 7:30 p.m.

Capri Theater

Questions? 612-643-2025



PACER Center Assistance Available

PACER Center is a parent training and information center for families of children and youth (age birth to 21 years) with all disabilities.

Parents can find publications, workshops and other resources to help make decisions about education, vocational training, employment, and other services for their children with disabilities. PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center provides resources designed to benefit all students, including those with disabilities.

No other organization in Minnesota offers this broad range of service to families. PACER also works in coalition with 18 other disability organizations.

Their mission is to expand opportunities and enhance the quality of life of children and young adults with disabilities, and their families, based on the concept of parents helping parents.

Information on PACER is available on the PCYC website, www.pcy-mpls.org, or call Crystal Ruiz, 612-643-2045.