February Thoughts
By Bert Lictus, Superintendent

I would like to thank the Panama community for their positive support during this difficult year of Covid-19. Your support of the school and the students of the district is appreciated. Together we can achieve anything!

Thank you for your support of the building maintenance project on our building that started in February 2020. The work that was done was primarily meant to maintain the facility that we have. We have replaced roofs, updated the high school science labs, resurfaced the front parking lot, resurfaced the north gym lot and associated driveways, utilized the milled pavement to resurface roadways to the baseball/softball fields, resurfaced the old tennis courts and installed fencing, upgraded the pool mechanicals and lights, and updated some minor HVAC issues. Like a house, our school needs regular maintenance as well. We are confident you’ll be happy with the results. The expected completion date is the summer of 2022.

As always, we are now beginning to build the spending plan for next year. As the budget process unfolds, please do not hesitate to speak to your elected board members or myself about your concerns. I believe that together we can develop a spending plan that meets the needs of our students. I’ll see you at the school.

Save the Date!
Panama Players Present
Roald Dahl’s Matilda
THE MUSICAL

March 25th
7:00 PM
March 26th
7:00 PM

*Senior Citizen Night & Dress Rehearsal
March 24th, 6:00 PM

2022-2023 Budget
Public Hearing
May 9th at 7 PM
in the Auditorium

Annual Vote & Election
May 19th, Noon – 8 PM in the N. Gym Lobby
Absentee Ballots may be requested at the District Office beginning May 1st.
School Board candidate nominating petitions may be requested beginning March 1st.
Universal Pre-Kindergarten Registration

Children living in the Panama district who will be four years old by December 1, 2022 are eligible to attend the UPK Program.
There will be a morning class and an afternoon class – each class will be 2 ½ hours.
Transportation will be provided for all students.

A registration packet containing more information will be mailed to parents known to be in the district in late April 2022.

If you are NEW to the Panama Central School District, or have lived in the district and have a preschool child, please contact Mrs. Sperry in the Elementary office at (716)782-4414. The district does not take a census every year and we need this information for our Universal Pre-Kindergarten class, our Kindergarten class for September and also for our projected enrollments. Thank you and we greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Please call Mrs. Sperry in the UPK-6 Office at (716)782-4414 or email msperry@pancent.org, if you have any questions.

Middle School ROAR Program
Kaitlin Ring and Pam Warner

We are excited to announce a new opportunity for 7th and 8th graders that will be taking place throughout the remainder of the school year. As we all know, the pandemic has taken a toll on everyone, including students. Therefore, the middle school teachers have created a new program called ROAR for all middle school students. ROAR stands for: R- Responsible, O- Open-minded, A- Accountable, and R- Relationships. This program aims to help students be responsible decision-makers, promote open-mindedness, be accountable for their actions, and develop healthy and supportive relationships. Teachers will provide your child with support and instruction related to the skills previously mentioned to help combat some of the effects of the pandemic. The Middle School team is excited to have this opportunity to work with your child by supporting them and being a positive role model leading into high school.

PANTHER CLAW
Afterschool Program at PCS

Monday – Thursday
For Students in Grades 3 – 12
3pm – 4pm
Transportation available for those who attend.

Registration forms available in the office/website

Jennifer Fisher
Accounts Payable Clerk
What’s Happening in Mrs. Keefe’s Classes!

Seniors in Mrs. Keefe’s class have started their “Crime Unit.” They are currently reading Stephen King’s *The Body* and will do a film comparison with the film adaption of the book titled *Stand by Me*. Students have also been listening to *Serial: Season One*, the case against Adnan Syed. Students are acting as “jury” members while listening to the real-life case of Adnan and are really getting the experience of what it would be like to fulfill their civic duty as a jury member in a real situation. Students will soon be studying various cases on “The Innocence Project” website. In addition, students will select a true-crime docuseries, write a research-based paper on the event, and then present the case to their classmates as either a prosecuting attorney or a defending attorney.

Juniors have just finished reading *Of Mice and Men*. During the unit, students watched a video called *Riding the Rails* and learned about teenagers who were forced to leave their homes and make a living on their own. Students also watched “The Men of Atalissa” and learned about the poor working conditions of men who were mentally disabled and how they were taken advantage of so easily. Soon, students will begin to read *The Great Gatsby* and learn how “the other side lived” during the 1930s.

The freshman are reading Romeo and Juliet right now, but prior to starting the play, they learned about the life of Shakespeare and the living conditions in the 15th and 16th centuries, including clothing styles, sanitation habits, and entertainment. Currently, students are using PIXTON, a website that allows them to create their own comic strips, to “re-tell” Acts 1 and 2 of the play. Students are certainly using their creativity to modernize the play.

JCC Leadership Engagement students have finished their course for the year. For their “Community Service” project, students decorated the school hallways as a surprise to their classmates. Students spent 8 hours on a Saturday secretly decorating the hallways for their classmates to see as they entered the building on Monday 12-20. The purpose behind the project was to add holiday cheer and spirit to the building right before the winter break. For another assignment, students interviewed a leader in the community and wrote a paper that detailed how their chosen leader utilizes the 5 Leadership Practices in their line of work. Lastly, students had to watch and listen to a webinar and detail, in a written response, the aspects of leadership they witnessed by explaining how those practices played out in the webinar.

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Attention Class of 2022
Advisors: Carolina Delahoy & Kaitlin Ring

We want to thank all of our Seniors and their Parents & Guardians for the hard work and dedication through fundraising and other events. We ask that you continue to support the Class for the upcoming fundraisers of the Musical Basket Raffle that will be run by Tashara Rhoades, the Mother’s Day flower sale, and a Pennant Sale. These fundraisers will help pay for graduation and go towards the senior trip in June.

The senior trip will be to Lake George, June 12-14th. Students will have the opportunity to take a dinner cruise, go whitewater rafting, participate in an adventure course, and so much more. If you are interested in attending, please be sure to have your $100 deposit returned to either of your advisors by **February 28th** to reserve your spot. We hope you can participate, and we appreciate the opportunity to share this exciting year with you!
Panama Students Help Design New Technology Tool
By Pamela Warner

How do one’s ideas come to fruition? How do dreams become reality? Last year, many Panama students found the answer to that question as they worked with a global technology company, Logitech, to help design a new stylus for students.

In February of 2021, a connection was made between Panama Central School and Logitech, with Mrs. Warner acting as a liaison between the two. The technology company was interested in designing a new stylus for students to use but needed to get feedback on what the size and shape should look like. The school was sent multiple sets with three different 3D-printed prototypes to test.

Students were asked to draw with each of the three shapes (oval, circle, and triangle) and then answer questions about which one felt more natural, was most comfortable, and provide their rationale for their answers. They were given one specific shape of the stylus to write with for 5-10 minutes. As they were writing or drawing, the teachers acted as evaluators and recorded their observations. Close to 100 students acted as beta testers in this small focus group. Little did they know that their feedback would have such a huge impact on the global technology market!

Just a couple of weeks ago, Logitech released the new Logitech Pen to the whole world. In the picture to the right, 8th grader Brooke Warner holds the triangle prototype and newly released triangle Logitech Pen. Logitech’s design team used the data collected from the students to decide on the new triangle shape, as that was the shape that was recommended the most. Our Panama students were the only students used in the technology design process. Their thoughts and suggestions were included with the design team to create this new technology tool. As a thank you for their work in the process, Logitech outfitted our technology department with a $7,500 gift of 150 Logitech crayons for students to have as part of their district-supplied technology.
Students of the First Quarter

The Panama 7th grade Student of the First Quarter is Jessica Lyon. Jessica is the daughter of Joseph and Darcy Lyon of Panama. Jessica is an Honor Roll student. She is a member of the Panama swim team, basketball team and enjoys softball. She plays Amherst Lightning softball and Chautauqua Fusion basketball. Jessica enjoys sports, writing, spending time with family and friends, and fishing. Her favorite subject in school is social studies, favorite TV show is *Friends* and favorite music group is Chicken Tendies by Clinton Kane.

The 8th grade Student of the First Quarter is Lincoln Gibbs. Lincoln is the son of Tom and Kara Gibbs of Ashville. Lincoln is an Honor Roll student. He plays the trombone in the Panama Band. Lincoln enjoys football, video games and hunting. He is a member of Student Council and is a Boy Scout. His favorite subject in school is Technology, favorite music group is Beastie Boys and favorite TV show is *The Simpsons*.

The Panama freshman Student of the First Quarter is Reese McGaffick. Reese is the son of Casey McGaffick and Daniel McGaffick of Ashville. Reese plays percussion in the PCS Band and a member of his Church Worship band. Reese is an Honor Roll student. He is a member of SADD and Student Council and enjoys basketball. Reese enjoys skateboarding, running track, riding horses and taking care of his animals. His favorite subjects in school are Art and English, his favorite music singer is Toby Mac and favorite TV show is *White Collar*.

The Panama sophomore Student of the First Quarter for the 2021-2022 school year is Sharayah Fuller. Sharayah is the daughter of Paul and Darlene Fuller of Ashville. Sharayah is on the Merit Roll. She is a member of the Panama Volleyball and Softball teams. Sharayah enjoys riding horses and belongs to the Revive Youth group. Her favorite subject in school is Math and her favorite TV show is *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D*.

The Student of the First Quarter for the Junior Class is Mackenzie Greene. Mackenzie is the daughter of Megan Maynard and Brian Greene of Panama. Mackenzie is a member of SADD, National Honor Society and is the treasurer for Student Government. Mackenzie plays the flute in the PCS band and is a member of Chorus. She is an Honor Roll student and a member of the morning announcement team. She is on the Panama Volleyball and Basketball teams. Mackenzie enjoys reading and hanging out with her friends. Her favorite subject in school is English, favorite music group is One Direction and favorite TV show is *Criminal Minds*.

The Senior Class at Panama is happy to congratulate Bridgette Rourke for being the Student of the First Quarter for the 2021-2022 school year. Bridgette is the daughter of Jordan Rourke and Eric Smith of Ashville. Bridgette is a member of the Women in Leadership group, SADD, National Honor Society and is the secretary for the Class of 2022. Bridgette is an Honor Roll student. She belongs to IMPACT and Student Council. Bridgette enjoys hiking, traveling, reading and doing volunteer work. Her favorite subject in school is Art, favorite music group is AJR and favorite TV show is *Survivor*. 
Varsity Volleyball
Tammy Hosier, Coach

The Lady Panther’s varsity volleyball team’s season ended earlier than we would have all liked, but instead of dwelling on the loss we are choosing to look at all the positives that came out of this season. The biggest positive is how this group came together and truly became a TEAM in good times and bad times and learned the importance of being GREAT teammates. As a coach, I couldn’t be prouder of this team, and I am excited to see where next season takes us. We ended up 3rd in league and loss early in the playoffs, but the future is bright with this bunch of girls.

This TEAM is an excellent example of what STUDENT-ATHLETES should look like. They are dedicated, hardworking volleyball players but they also excel in the classroom. I am proud to say the girls won the Scholar Athlete TEAM Award with a 98.34 average. Individual players whose average is above 90% are awarded a scholastic pin. Again, I couldn’t be prouder to announce that EVERY player on the 2021 Varsity Volleyball Team was awarded a pin. Way to go girls!

Several individual players were also recognized by our league. Juniors, Josephine Bailey and Mandy Brink were named 1st team league all-stars. Sophomore, Sarah Harvey was named to 2nd team, and senior Madelyn Lisciandro was the league sportsmanship winner. What an honor for so many of our individual players to be recognized! It goes without saying, these individual awards would not be possible without their TEAM. Congratulations to the 2021 Team! Keep working hard in the classroom and be ready to start the new season as GREAT TEAMMATES!

Volleyball Seniors

The volleyball team and coaches would like to thank our seniors, Meadow Meredith and Maddie Lisciandro for all the FUN and the MEMORIES they brought to our volleyball program. We are so THANKFUL you were able to play your senior year and are even more GRATEFUL for your SENIOR LEADERSHIP! We will miss you immensely and wish you the best as you leave Panama. Once a PANTHER, always a PANTHER!
### EXAMINATION SCHEDULE: JUNE 2022

Students must verify with their schools the exact times that they are to report for their State examinations.

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<td>U.S. History &amp; Government (Framework)*</td>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>Algebra I</td>
<td>Global History &amp; Geography II</td>
<td>Geometry</td>
<td>Algebra II</td>
<td>Physical Setting/Physics</td>
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<td>Juneteenth Holiday Observed</td>
<td>Uniform Admission Deadlines Morning Examinations: 8:45 a.m. Afternoon Examinations: 12:15 p.m.</td>
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*The Conversion Chart for this exam will be available no later than June 24, 2022.

DET 504 JUN 2022

**Upcoming Events:**

- **March 6-12**
  World Language Week
- **March 13**
  Daylight Savings Time Begins
- **March 11-17**
  RIF Book Fair
- **March 18**
  UPK-6 Spring Pictures
- **March 29 – April 5**
  NYS Grades 3-8 ELA Exams
- **April 11-15**
  Spring Recess – No School
- **April 26 – May 4**
  NYS Grades 3 – 8 Math Exams
- **May 5**
  6 -12 Chorus Concert
- **May 10**
  Grades 1 – 5 Chorus Concert
Mission Statement
Panama Central School…where we learn and grow together through shared effort and support.

We Believe . . .
- Every individual is important and deserves respect.
- Learning occurs at home, in school, in the community and through many resources.
- Education includes intellectual, emotional, and social learning.
- Learning is a continuing life-long process.
- Every individual is entitled to opportunities to reach his/her potential.
- In a safe, supportive, and productive environment.
- Every individual is responsible for his/her own choices.
- Communication within the educational community is vital to success of the system.

To email a faculty or staff member at Panama:
First initial of first name + last name + @pancent.org
Example: Jane Doe – jdoe@pancent.org

Website: www.pancent.org