



Panther Press

February 13, 2026

District Website: www.oess.org

[Click here to view the 2025-2026 School Calendar](#)

[2026-2027 School Calendar](#)
[2026-2027 Holidays](#)

(Not all Holidays are a day off)



Click [HERE](#) for a List of Events

- 2/16 ~ NO SCHOOL
- 2/17 ~ NO SCHOOL
- 2/18 ~ Gr. 2 Project Teach
- 2/23 - 2/27 ~ Spring Book Fair
- 2/24 ~ Parent/Teacher Evening Conferences - Dismissal 1:00 pm
- 2/26 ~ Parent/Teacher Afternoon Conferences - Dismissal 1:00 pm

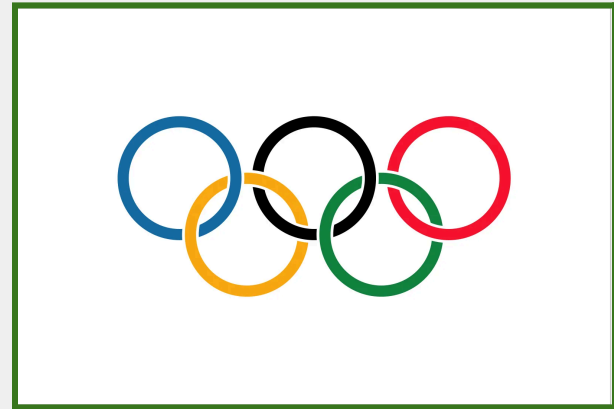
****Click the link above for more dates**

Contact Email Addresses:

Tricia Lasto- Principal
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Amy Ruggiero - Administrative Assistant
aruggiero@orange-ed.org

Amy Kinton - Nurse
akinton@orange-ed.org



Olympic Fun at The Peck Place School

In honor of this year's Winter Olympics, some of our specialists created lessons centered on teamwork, artistic creativity, and building background knowledge to build excitement and interest in the Games. Our school-hosted Olympics was fun and exciting with a full week of events that brought students together for days full of teamwork, friendly competition, and school spirit.

Art and PE Combined Classes and Collaborated: Students participated in a variety of games such as: hockey, luge, curling, and torch lighting. It was wonderful to see everyone having fun, showing sportsmanship, and making great memories together. Click [HERE](#) to view some of the fun pictures from this collaborative event.

Library Media Classes: Some library classes read articles and practiced taking notes on facts they learned about the many 2026 Winter Olympic events. Others felt the competition aspect of the Olympics as they participated in Winter Olympics Trivia.

Thank you Mr. Dydyn, Dr. Jalil, and Mrs. Fitzpatrick for going above and beyond to create a fun learning environment!

School Information...



Happy President's Day

Presidents Day falls on the third Monday in February each year, and is now seen by many as a day to honor all past presidents. Reminder: **There is no school on Monday or Tuesday next week.**



Holy Month of Ramadan

Ramadan will begin on the evening of February 17 and end on March 19th. Ramadan is a special and holy month for Muslims all around the world. It is a time for people to focus on being their best selves, showing kindness, and spending time with family and friends.



Lunar New Year 2026

This year's Lunar New Year falls on February 17th, marking the start of the Year of the Fire Horse. Celebrations last 16 days, culminating with the Lantern Festival on March 3, 2026. As a Fire Horse year, it symbolizes energy, independence, bravery, and rapid progress.



This Week's Daily Positive Thoughts & Affirmations

- I've got what it takes
- Big things start with small steps
- I am growing and learning every day
- My confidence is soaring
- I'm ready to take up positive habits



Panther Pass Winners

(In order by grade level):

Shan Z., Colin Z., Henry L., Henry S., Cooper O., and Melvin S.



School Climate - Learn all about it in this presentation!

During this month's PTO meeting, I shared [my presentation on the school climate at The Peck Place School](#). The presentation is based on our school climate plan which is also linked on our website. Thank you to our School Climate Committee for the work they have done and will continue to do as we modify and adjust based on data and feedback. PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR A NEW SURVEY.



Newly Adopted BOE Budget

At the Budget Workshop on Monday, February 9th, the Orange Board of Education approved the [Proposed 2026-2027 Superintendent's Budget](#). The newly adopted budget, now called the 2026-2027 BOE Budget, will be presented to the Orange Board of Finance for approval.



Hats for Hope - The Peck Place Student Council

The Student Council at Peck Place is sponsoring "Hats for Hope" on Friday, February 27th. Please wear your favorite hat (it can be a crazy hat, sports hat, holiday hat or even a homemade hat) and donate to help children with Cancer. All donations are done **ON LINE**. Click [HERE](#) for the link to the flyer & you will see The Peck Place Donation Page there.



Save The Date - Amity Middle School Parent Open House for Incoming 7th Grade Students

Amity Middle School will be holding an open house on Wednesday, March 4th from 6:30 - 8:00 for parents only. This open house will review registration, program of studies, and a meet and greet with administration and guidance counselors. For more information please click [HERE](#).



BOWA Inclement Weather Letter

Please click [HERE](#) to view the letter regarding inclement weather.



Lunch Menu, Changes, and Free Lunches

- If there is a change to the menu, it will be **typed in red** for you to quickly note. Please check in the morning to ensure the most up-to-date options. The link to the webpage is below: Peck Place - [Lunch Menu](#)

- The kitchen will be serving extra entrees to the students again this year. There will be an additional \$1.00 charge.

- Any student who would like to purchase an extra entree or a snack (when that begins) must have a balance on their account to pay for those additional purchases.

See PTO and Virtual Backpack Information Below

Messages from the PTO



Scholastic Book Fair

Monday, February 23 - Friday, February 27

Our Book Fair is coming soon and we are very excited to share the joys of reading a new book with the students. Please [click here](#) to set up your child's eWallet. If you decide to send your child with cash, please have the cash in a sealed Ziploc bag or envelope with their name on it.

Remember that we must now charge sales tax on all purchases, so please plan accordingly with how much money you give your child to spend at the fair.

If you are able to volunteer to help during the fair, please contact Dianna at gatordianna@gmail.com with any questions.

My Guy & I

Our male students and one adult Special Someone are invited to an evening of fun!

Lucky Strike Bowling (formerly Bowlero)

1717 Boston Post Rd, Milford, CT

Friday, March 13, 2026 | 5:30 PM

\$31 per person

[Click here](#) to reserve your tickets now!

The registration period will close on Monday, March 2nd.

Contact Jamie at jamiwright19@gmail.com with any questions!

Wait! Before you go... have you checked everything off of your family's PTO to-do list??

- Join the PTO: bit.ly/joinpeck2526
- Upload any yearbook photos to [this link](#)
- Sign up for Remind text messages (see below)

How to Sign Up for Remind text messages:

If your last name begins with A-M: Text @PECK-am to 81010

If your last name begins with N-Z: Text @PECK-nz to 81010

See What's New in the Virtual Backpack Below

Virtual Backpack

FEBRUARY LUNCH MENU

My Guy & I Bowling (PTO under PTO Virtual Backpack)

https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/My_Guy_I_Bowling_2026.pdf

Gr. 6 Parent Information Session - Save The Date (Virtual Backpack under School News)

https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/Parent_Information_Session_-_Save_the_Date_3-4-26.pdf

Hat For Hope - The Peck Place School Student Council (Virtual Backpack under School News)

https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/Peck_Place_2026.pdf

Author - Doreen Cronin - Visit Grades 1 & 2 (PTO under PTO Virtual Backpack)

[https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/Author_Visit_Flyer_2026_\(Grade_1-2\).pdf](https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/Author_Visit_Flyer_2026_(Grade_1-2).pdf)

Math Wizards Workshop (Virtual Backpack under Parks, Recreation and Community News)

https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/Math_Wizards_Workshop_Flyer.pdf

2026 Spring Registration Tee Ball, Softball & Baseball (Virtual Backpack under Parks, Recreation and Community News)

https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/2026.pdf

BOWA Winter Weather Advisory Letter 2025-2026 (Virtual Backpack under School News)

https://www.oess.org/uploaded/Peck_Place/BOWA_Weather_Advisory_Letter_25-26.pdf