



May 3, 2026

# *From the Desk of Dr. Xi*

## **Pelham Public Schools (Grades K-6)**

Greetings Pelham Community,

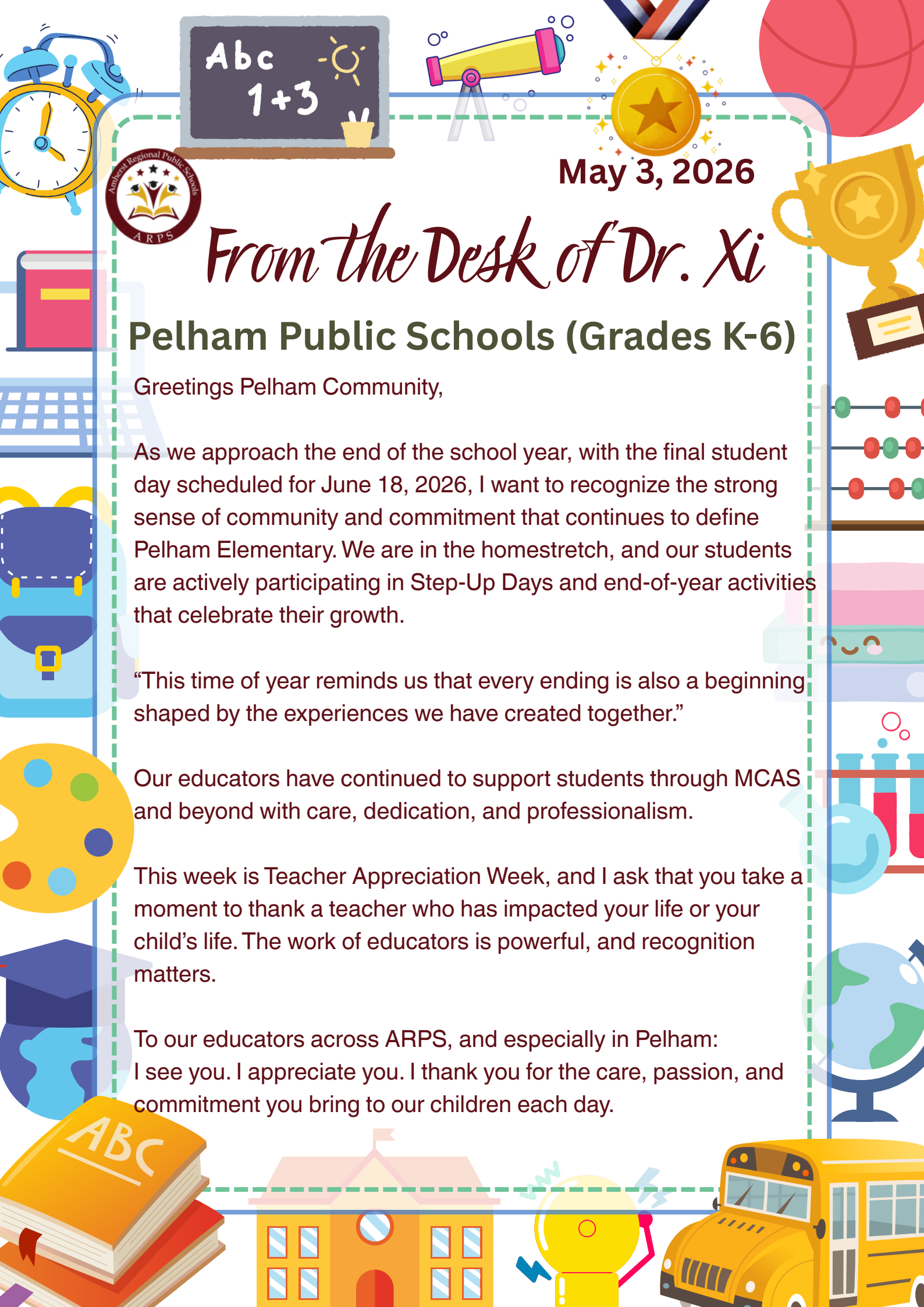
As we approach the end of the school year, with the final student day scheduled for June 18, 2026, I want to recognize the strong sense of community and commitment that continues to define Pelham Elementary. We are in the homestretch, and our students are actively participating in Step-Up Days and end-of-year activities that celebrate their growth.

“This time of year reminds us that every ending is also a beginning shaped by the experiences we have created together.”

Our educators have continued to support students through MCAS and beyond with care, dedication, and professionalism.

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and I ask that you take a moment to thank a teacher who has impacted your life or your child’s life. The work of educators is powerful, and recognition matters.

To our educators across ARPS, and especially in Pelham: I see you. I appreciate you. I thank you for the care, passion, and commitment you bring to our children each day.





## What to Keep a Close Eye On:

- **Pelham Elementary School**

Pelham Elementary will remain open. There are ongoing initiatives, including the Pelham Futures Committee, focused on studying and strengthening the program.

- **Pelham Spring Fair**

Thank you to the PGO for continuing this longstanding tradition. It was a wonderful event, and I encourage everyone to stay involved and support the raffle and future activities.

- **Tea with Dr. Xi**

Join me on ARPSTube at 6:00 p.m. this week for a live discussion with Celia Senockowski about our MLE and Caminantes programs, followed by a Q&A.

- **Budget Updates**

Pelham's Town Meeting will take place on Saturday, May 9 at 9:00 a.m. in the Elementary School gymnasium.

This is where the school budget will be voted on. I strongly encourage residents to attend. Your vote is essential in ensuring we can continue to support our students and school community.

- **School Start and End Time Discussion – What You Should Know**

At this time, no decision has been made regarding changes to school start or end times.

This is not a simple adjustment. It is a complex, system-wide operational analysis that directly impacts all three districts.



Over the past several months, the district has:

- Collected staff and caregiver survey data
- Engaged in transportation efficiency studies
- Reviewed route timing and capacity constraints
- Assessed facility access challenges, particularly with the opening of Amethyst Brook Elementary

One of the most important realities to understand is this:

Our transportation system is fully interconnected across Amherst, Pelham, and the Regional schools. A change in one district directly impacts another.

The upcoming work focuses on evaluating the proposed transportation structure for the 2026–2027 school year, with attention to:

- Access and egress at Amethyst Brook, including traffic flow and timing constraints
- Arrival and dismissal alignment between elementary and regional schools
- Bus tiering and routing efficiency, ensuring students arrive on time and safely
- Instructional time requirements and maintaining compliance with state expectations
- Minimizing delays and maximizing consistency for families

This is why the discussion must occur collectively across all districts.

The district will present a full analysis and next steps at the Joint School Committee Meeting on May 20 at 6:30 p.m.

I encourage our community to stay engaged in this process, as any future decisions will be grounded in data, safety, and the overall student experience.

Thank you for your continued partnership, your engagement, and your trust. Please continue to look out for updates in the coming weeks. It is truly an honor to lead and serve such a committed and caring community.

With gratitude,  
Dr. Xi  
Superintendent

**Thursday, June 18, 2026, is the last day of School for students.**