

# THE PIERCE SCHOOL BROADSHEET

Issue 12 - 2/19/09

PTO NEWS is also available online at <http://www.pierceschoolbrookline.org>

## The Pierce School Broadsheet

Welcome to the current issue of the Pierce School Broadsheet, published every other Thursday by the Pierce PTO. There is a Firm Deadline for submissions of Monday at 2:00 p.m. Please drop

notices in the Broadsheet box in the PTO/Outreach Office; mail to PTO Newsletter, Pierce School, 50 School St., Brookline 02446; or email (preferred!) to: [Piercebroadsheet@gmail.com](mailto:Piercebroadsheet@gmail.com).

\_\*PAPERLESS\*\_

We hope that you will continue to enjoy our Paperless issues. If you know families who would like to be on our e-mail list, please mention that they can sign up on the Pierce web site at <http://www.pierceschoolbrookline.org>.

Paper versions of the Broadsheet will be available outside the main office.

[www.pierceschoolbrookline.org](http://www.pierceschoolbrookline.org) - Main # 617-730-2580 Please Recycle!

### In This Issue

Save the Date	Pg. 1
Ginny Carroll is a Winner!	Pg. 2
Pierce GREEN Corner	Pg. 2-3
Try The Low Carbon Diet at the Carbon Café!	Pg. 3
Paws to Read	Pg. 3
Middle School Science Fair	Pg. 4
Brookline SEPAC	Pg. 4
School Menu	Pg. 4
Printing Current and Past Issues of the Broadsheet	Pg. 4

### **Save The Date**

Thursday, February 19, 2009 *February vacation* (no school)  
Friday, February 20, 2009 *February vacation* (no school)  
Thursday, February 26, 2009 *Community Pot Luck Breakfast* (8:00am)  
Sunday, March 8, 2009 *Spelling Bee* (12:00pm)  
Tuesday, March 10, 2009 *Math league meet #3* (1:15pm)  
Wednesday, March 11, 2009 *PTO/Principal's Forum* (6:30pm)  
Thursday, March 12, 2009 *Early dismissal, Grades K-12* (12:30pm)  
Tuesday, March 17, 2009 *Reading MCAS for Grade 3*  
Wednesday, March 18, 2009 *Reading MCAS for Grade 3*  
Thursday, March 19, 2009 *Early dismissal, Grades K-6* (12:30pm)  
Thursday, March 19, 2009 *Reading MCAS for Grade 3*  
Thursday, March 19, 2009 *Community Pot Luck Breakfast* (8:00am)  
Friday, March 20, 2009 *Reading MCAS for Grade 3*

## Latest News

**Parent/Community Input Night Cancelled** After much discussion, the Pierce School Council has decided that it would be more beneficial for Parent/Community Input Night to occur every other year rather than yearly. We have therefore cancelled Input Night for this March. We will, however, be sending out teacher, student, and parent surveys around the week of March 9th, and use the results to inform and craft the goals for the upcoming School Improvement Plan (SIP). Many of our current goals are long-term and may take an additional 2-3 years to implement. In light of this, much of the SIP content will look similar even as we integrate suggestions from the surveys. We plan to use an online survey as well as send hard copies home. When the survey is ready, we ask that families utilize one format either the online or the hard copy.

Thank you.

Pierce School Council Co-Chairs, Mindy Taylor and Pipier Smith-Mumford

Pipier Smith-Mumford, Ph. D.  
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## Ginny Carroll is a Winner!

Congratulations to our very own 3rd grade teacher, Ginny Carroll! Ginny has been selected to receive the Goldin Foundation for Excellence in Education Award. Please see the information below about the Foundation and the awards criteria. I'm sure those who know Ginny will all agree that Ginny not only meets the criteria she far exceeds it.

Please join me in congratulating Ginny for this recognition and thanking her for her tireless work on behalf of Pierce students. She is a great example of the high caliber of staff at Pierce!

*Pipier Smith-Mumford, Principal*

The Goldin Foundation for Excellence in Education recognizes and rewards educators who have made outstanding contributions in their classrooms, schools and communities. - The Foundation seeks to foster the respect for and appreciation of educators. It also seeks to retain quality educators and attract others to the profession. Goldin Foundation for Excellence in Education Award Criteria

The award is designed to recognize excellence, expertise, and demonstrable achievement in education. Criteria for this award correspond closely to the Foundation's belief that educators play a vital role in society supporting young people's growth and preparing them to be adaptable, flexible, creative, and responsive to future societal changes.

*Criteria used in the selection process are:*

- 1.~ Demonstrated excellence in education with a tangible product, process, and/or project that has had a successful impact on others.
2. ~ Evidence of commitment to the growth of young people: respecting individual needs and talents, fostering self esteem, and encouraging realization of individual potential.
- 3.~ Evidence of outstanding personal and character attributes: setting high expectations for personal achievements and students' achievements, demonstrating leadership, and acting as a catalyst for others.
4. Implementation of a creative and innovative approach that has made a difference in one's classroom and school.
- 5.~ Service as an exemplary model for students, peers, and/or parents and the community.

## The Pierce GREEN Corner

The next GREEN Team Meeting will be held on Friday, February 27, 2009 at 8:00 am in the small conference room at Pierce School.

## Limit vampire power (also called phantom or parasitic loads) in your home:

Many home appliances use electricity even when turned "off" or not in use (televisions, DVD and CD players, dishwashers, coffee machines, washers and dryers, electrical gadgets, etc.). This unnecessary use of energy is called "vampire" or "phantom" power. Invest in a power strip for these appliances and gadgets. Plug them in and turn on the power strip only when you use the appliance. And be diligent about turning it off. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that standby power may account for 5% (or \$4 billion per year) of electricity used in US homes.

## The Pierce GREEN Corner (cont'd.)

### Interview with Cheryl Klausner

Cheryl Klausner teaches fifth grade, and has taught at Pierce for 20 years. She is a member of Pierce's Parent/Teacher Green Team, a group working to improve the environment in the context of the Pierce community.

A parent member of the Green Team, Ann Abrams, interviewed Cheryl to learn about the history of green efforts at Pierce. This is an excerpt of the interview.

(A=Ann, C=Cheryl)

A: Why are you interested in recycling and other projects to help the environment?

C: I'm interested in being more responsible about how we use our natural resources, and not wasting things. I feel there's a moral and political component to this.

A: What's the first project/event you were involved with at Pierce?

C: The first year I was here, Earth Day did not fall during April vacation. We had a big Earth Day picnic outside of the school, and one of the projects we had, was weighing the garbage. Marie Lavelle and I started paper recycling before the Town was doing this, and our two classes were in charge of it. ... We recycled just white paper. A company came to pick it up, once or twice a year, and the company did a program for our classes on what then happened to the paper.

When Brookline started recycling, we moved right into that (system).

Every few years we had an assembly, and one year we had a guy called "Dr. Trash," who talked about recycling.

A: Why are you a part of Pierce's Green Team?

C: I was excited that parents got interested in this the last few years. It's good to coordinate efforts. ...We'll be most effective if kids hear about the same projects and values at home and at school

A: How are students today similar/different than students 20 years ago, re: the environment.

C: There's more awareness and interest, today. When we started recycling, our classes were excited because it was a class project,.. but it was on a limited basis. It took a while to get more people to remember to recycle. Today, for most kids, recycling is the norm. It seems to them that it's what we all should be doing.

A: Anything else you'd like to say that I haven't asked?

C: I'm excited that parents are working on this, and that this is becoming part of the school,... and that there's more of a concern for taking care of the environment!

### Try The Low Carbon Diet at the Carbon Café!

Learn how you generate carbon dioxide emissions and simple ways to reduce them. Bring your friends and neighbors and be among the first to join the Brookline household campaign to cut carbon and become a part of the "political will" that's needed to prevent climate change.

Thursday April 2nd, 2008 7:00-8:30 PM  
Edward Devotion School Library  
345 Harvard St. Brookline MA 02446

Additional information provided by an NSTAR representative and members of the Brookline Solid Waste Advisory Committee Enjoy free food and live music while you're there!

### Paws to Read

The Brookline Library has a program Paws to Read on Saturday, February 14 and February 28 from 2:00 - 3:30. It is for children grades K - 5 to read one to one with registered service dogs. Each kid gets a 20 minute slot. Call to register 617-730-2340.

## Middle School Science Fair

We are pleased to announce that this year, we will be organizing a science fair for middle school students, grades 6, 7, and 8. It will be held at the Devotion school on Saturday, March 7, 2009. The fair will serve as a qualifier for the regional Massachusetts Middle School Science Fair. The top 10 projects from each school will qualify. This is the first year that Brookline will participate in the state science fair. It is a chance to make history.

The science fair is an opportunity for students to do an independent activity outside of school. It is organized by parents who care about science. Teacher mentoring or involvement is not required. There are plenty of other ways to get help: the organizers are always happy to help and, of course, there is the web.

The middle school fair will be co-located with the Devotion School science fair. To be perfectly clear, there are two science fairs: the Devotion School Fair, which is only for Devotion students, and the Middle School Science Fair which is for all Brookline middle-school students. The rules and registration forms, as well as the time and place, are the same for both and can be found at this site: <http://www.devotionschool.org/>. The deadline is Feb. 20, 2009.

### Details about the MA Science fair:

The official web site that includes all the forms is: <http://sites.google.com/a/regiscollege.edu/region-v-science-fair/Home>. Note that Brookline is part of region V (south-east) and the fair will be held May 2nd at Regis college. Registration deadline is April 1st. Each project can have between 1 and 3 students and must maintain a detailed log book.

For more information contact Ainat Rogel, 617-734-9839, [ainat@rogel.org](mailto:ainat@rogel.org)

**Brookline SEPAC** is sponsoring AN I.E.P. FOR MY CHILD, A Federation for Children with Special Needs Workshop, presented by Clare Vann, Special Education Attorney. This workshop will explain the Individualized Education Program, including how the IEP helps children gain access to the general curriculum, the significance of the various sections of the IEP, writing goals, determining placement, MCAS accommodations, the role of the parents and parent response to the IEP, tracking progress, and other topics. Tuesday, March 3, 2009, 7-9 p.m., Runkle School Library, 50 Druce St. Light refreshments.

*Questions?* Contact David Je, [jedavid@hotmail.com](mailto:jedavid@hotmail.com), or visit <http://www.brooklinesepac.org>. The Brookline Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) is an all-volunteer organization of parents of children with disabilities in the preschool, elementary school, high school, and in private schools who meet to learn more about special education in Brookline. *The Federation for Children with Special Needs is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to empower parents of such children by giving them information and education about their rights and their children's rights.*

## School menu

The school menu will no longer be distributed on paper. Check the website for this month's information:

<http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/NR/ronlyres/F11BCF49-7AC4-4986-A1E8-2F775BDD205A/2610/Feb2009.pdf>

## Printing Current and Past Issues of the Broadsheet

Consider reducing paper and printing a more user friendly version of this broadsheet and any past issue by visiting:

<http://www.pierceschoolbrookline.org/Broadsheet.shtml>

Thank you for thinking GREEN.

Thank you for your interest and support!

Sincerely,

*Felina*

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