

# THE PIERCE SCHOOL BROADSHEET

Issue 8 - 12/18/08

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!

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### Upcoming Events

#### *Winter Sing*

Who: Kindergarten,  
1st and 2nd  
grades

When: December 23 at  
10:30 am

Where: Pierce  
Auditorium

Please contact:  
Dianne Greco at [Dianne\\_greco@brookline.k12.ma.us](mailto:Dianne_greco@brookline.k12.ma.us)  
with any questions.

Hope to see you there!



### Save the Date

Thursday, December 18, 2008 *Pierce Pot Luck Breakfast* (8:00 am)

Monday, December 22, 2008, *There will be No Early Morning Math due to staffing issues* (7:30 am)

Monday, December 22, 2008 *Winter Sing, 3-6* (10:00)

Tuesday, December 23, 2008, *There will be No Early Morning Reading due to staffing issues* (7:30 am)

Tuesday, December 23, 2008 *"Winter Sing", Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades* (10:30 am-11:15 am)

Thursday, January 15, 2009 *Energy Tour of Pierce School **How the Building is Ventilated & Cooled*** (2:45 pm)

Sunday, January 25, 2009 *K.I.D.S. (Kids Involved in Summer) Brookline's Summer Opportunities Fair* (12-3 pm) Tappan Street Gym, BHS

Friday, January 30, 2009 *Skate Night @ Larz Anderson Skating Rink* (5:15 pm - 7:30 pm)

### Winter Sing Date Correction

Please note this correction for the time of the K-2 Winter Sing: Tuesday, December 23rd at 10:30 am in the auditorium. We apologize for the confusion and hope parents/guardians are able to attend.

Pipier Smith-Mumford, Ph. D.  
Principal, Pierce Elementary  
School  
Brookline, MA  
(617) 730-2580  
Fax (617) 264-6468

## Upcoming Events & Latest News

**The Annual 3-6 Winter Sing** will take place on Monday, Dec. 22nd at 10 am in the auditorium. Contact Anne Sheridan at [anne\\_sheridan@brookline.k12.ma.us](mailto:anne_sheridan@brookline.k12.ma.us) for more information.

### **Early Morning Math & Reading is**

**Cancelled for:** Monday, December 22nd and Tuesday, December 23rd due to staffing issues. Children arriving early should go to the cafeteria until the start of school. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Questions? Please contact Susan Leipman at: [susan\\_leipman@Brookline.k12.ma.us](mailto:susan_leipman@Brookline.k12.ma.us). Thank you!

### **Enrichment Winter 2009 Session**

The enrichment brochure was distributed through the K-6 classrooms on Thursdays, December 11th. The registration deadline is Friday, December 19th. Remember enrollment is on a first come first serve basis and many classes fill up quickly. The enrichment program is sponsored by the Pierce School Extended Day.

### **Enrichment Mandarin Instructor Needed - Winter 2009**

The Pierce School Enrichment Program is looking for an instructor to teach a Mandarin and Chinese Culture Class on Mondays from 2:20 p.m.-3:15 p.m. to a small group of children in grades 1-3. Children will learn the language while doing games, listening to stories, and craft projects. Classes will begin in late January 2009 and run for 8 weeks. \$40 per class If interested please contact, Abbie Fennell at [pierceenrichment@gmail.com](mailto:pierceenrichment@gmail.com) or 617-739-1919.

### **Brookline Food**

December 2008

Dear Pierce School Families and Friends,

As the holidays draw near, we are once again delighted to offer you a chance to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate, help strengthen our school community through a common cause and help support a dedicated organization that has been doing charitable work in Brookline for many years. The Pierce School is proud to be collecting non-perishable food items to support the Brookline Food Pantry. A large collection box for donations of non-perishable food has been placed outside the main office for your convenience. The extended day children will be transporting the items to the Brookline Food Pantry. All donations are greatly appreciated and go to help a wonderful organization. Thank you very much for your time!

Sincerely,  
**The PSED Grade 1,2,3,  
Children and Staff**

### **Pierce School Problem of The Week #7 (due January 9, 2009)**

Looking at the playground I saw girls and dogs. Counting heads, I got 22. Counting legs, I got 68. How many girls and how many dogs were there?  
figure with 3 or more sides and none of them overlapping.

### **Answer To the Pierce School Problem of the Week # 6: Polygon Puzzle: and the answer is... a hexagon!**

### **Guys and Dolls**

I remember listening to Frank Sinatra singing, "Luck Be a Lady Tonight" and had no idea that it was from "Guys and Dolls". Having never seen this musical, I was really entertained and, at times, found myself singing along with the Pierce seventh and eighth grade students. This 7/8 version that just concluded this past weekend, brought back lots of memorable songs for quite a few of the adults. This production was so much fun to watch! Our students did a great job bringing back that period in our history. The era of the 50's was a time when some in our society thought that women were successful only if they married the 'right man'. Well, thankfully, we've moved past most of that stereotypical thinking, though it was skillfully depicted in the play. Both casts were absolutely fabulous in bringing this musical to the Pierce stage.



We feel so much excitement watching adolescents perform a classic Broadway show. We feel pride at the accomplishment of not just getting through until the end, but also in capturing moments of magic from the original. Participating in this production will give the students, the actors and tech crew, the "I remember when..." memories of theater at Pierce.

We had the privilege to see great and diverse talents entertain us. We saw a cast that took great pride in a tight and spirited performance. They skillfully presented "Guys and Dolls" to a new generation of children, while reviving warm memories of songs and/or earlier productions for many of the adults present.

So thank you to the entire cast; tech crew and other student volunteers who made this show possible. Thank you to Laura Stillman, Deb Dowd, Shannon Lee-Jones, and all the other adults who put in countless hours to give us all yet another incredible theater experience.

Pipier Smith-Mumford

## Upcoming Events & Latest News

### Spring Programs at Brookline Music School

Spring 2009 Enrollment at The Brookline Music School offers a variety of classes and private instruction. From early childhood and dance classes to ensembles, beginner classes and private lessons, there's something for everyone.

Continuing classes for Spring 2009 include Music and Movement, Music for Little Mozarts, Beginning Piano, Composition, Theory and Ear Training, Suzuki flute, piano and violin, various dance classes, ensembles and choirs, and private instruction on multiple instruments. Spring term runs January 25 to June 8, 2009. Classes fill up fast - call now to sign up! For detailed class descriptions and more information, visit [www.bmsmusic.org](http://www.bmsmusic.org) or call 617.277.4593.

### The Annual Pierce Fund Drive continues...

Thank you to all of the families that have contributed to this year's annual fund drive. We have raised almost \$7000 so far but still have a long way to go to reach our goal.

Remember, Pierce students and teachers benefit directly from every dollar that we raise.

Please consider donating at whatever amount you can before the year ends. Checks should be made out to the "Pierce PTO" and can be put in the PTO mailbox or mailed.

### Help Support the Pierce School

Stop by and visit Artwork for Education at <http://www.artworkforeducation.com/massachusetts-john-pierce-school---fall-2008.html> and purchase some cards. Each box purchased nets us \$8.

For more information contact:  
Jamie Lyons  
7th Grade US History/English  
The Pierce School -- Room 24  
<http://www.mrslyonsonline.com>

### Welcome to the Pierce GREEN

**Corner!** January 15th 2:45 p.m. "Take an Energy Tour of Pierce School, How the Building is Ventilated & Cooled"

If you are interested in attending this fascinating tour, or the next tours of one of Brookline's largest municipal buildings, RSVP to the Climate Change Action Brookline Building Committee Contact: Jim Lockwood at [www.lcci.construction@verizon.net](mailto:www.lcci.construction@verizon.net)

### Paying for School Lunch: Did you know these facts about PAMS?

- You can check your child's balance - Free!
- You can check your child's purchases - Free!
- You can set up automatic emails triggered by a low balance - Free!
- Only on-line deposits incur a cost of \$1.95 per deposit transaction.

It is easy! Go to [www.paypams.com](http://www.paypams.com) and set up an account. You will need to attach your child's name to your account using name and either his/her student ID or birthdate.

You can use the above functionality, yet make deposits directly to the Cafeteria Manager at your school - this does not incur any fee. Do you like the convenience of PayPAMS, but feel you are spending too much on fees? The PayPAMS fee is per transaction, regardless of how much you deposit. We are seeing numerous deposits of less than \$50.00. Why not increase the deposit? If you make 4 \$25.00 deposits (or \$100.00), you incur \$7.80 in fees. If you make a one time deposit of \$100.00, you only incur \$1.95 in transaction fees. If you have two children, rather than depositing \$25 per student each time, stagger the transactions and deposit \$50 per child at a time. This will cut your transaction fees in half, while maintaining the same cash outflow. If you can afford to deposit more at a time - the less you will pay in fees.

Want to get through the lunch line more quickly? Our policy is that we do not take cash/checks at the register during lunch as this significantly slows down the line. Please encourage your child to bring the money to the cafeteria before the start of the school day. This makes the line move more quickly for all students.

We have implemented weekly, automated calls home for students with negative lunch balances. If you receive a call, please bring your child's account into a positive balance.

Ann Johnson, MBA, MS, RD  
Director of Food Service  
Public Schools of Brookline  
617-730-2499  
Cell: 617-799-7441  
[ann\\_johnson@brookline.k12.ma.us](mailto:ann_johnson@brookline.k12.ma.us)

### Instrument Petting Zoo Saturday, January 10, 11:00—2:00pm Open House

Does your child have an itch to play a musical instrument, but is unsure which one? We have the answer! At our Instrument Petting Zoo, Brookline Music School faculty will offer children (and adults!) the opportunity to listen to and play a wide range of instruments from woodwind and brass to strings, guitar and percussion. All are welcome. No prior experience necessary!

To register contact the following: e Early Childhood & Dance classes - Teri Boucher (ext 235) [terib@bmsmusic.org](mailto:terib@bmsmusic.org)

e Private Instruction, Ensembles, Instrument & Voice classes - Frank Pesci (ext 233) [pescif@bmsmusic.org](mailto:pescif@bmsmusic.org)

e Piano, Theory, Composition & Honors Program - Margaret Denton (ext 243) [mdenton@bmsmusic.org](mailto:mdenton@bmsmusic.org)

## Latest News

### December 2008

#### Recycling is alive and well at Pierce School.

You may have noticed the new "Slim Jim" recycling receptacles at high traffic areas around the school. They are for bottles and cans (commingled containers) and were purchased by the school department to help with our recycling efforts.

At this time last year all the elementary schools were surveyed by the Brookline Solid Waste Advisory Committee, volunteers appointed by the Board of Selectmen to reduce solid waste and increase recycling in Brookline. Responses from every school indicated the need for more bottle and can recycling receptacles. The school system responded. With PTO support, we hope to get a few more slim jims so that recycling is even more convenient and clean.

In the cafeteria, we have a new large blue barrel to capture bottles, cans, and cartons used during the lunch periods. Students and staff use a "milk dump" to get rid of excess liquids before depositing their containers in the blue barrel. Our custodian regularly empties the blue barrel and the milk dump so the cafeteria is tidy.

As expected, every classroom and work station has a bin for paper and cardboard recycling. More thanks to the taxpayers for providing the blue bins to help in this effort. Student volunteers in grade 5 are in charge of emptying the bins every week.

Just like at home, recyclables are put at the curb on the collection day. Because of the volume, we use 96-gallon totes that can be mechanically lifted to dump into the trucks. Paper and cardboard go into one side. Commingled containers go into the other compartment. Senior custodian, Jackie McCarthy is in charge of the totes.

Cheryl Klausner is the volunteer recycling coordinator at Pierce. She is the "go to" person about recycling. She orients new staff members, arranges for the emptying of the paper and the bottle and can receptacles, coordinates with our senior custodian, checks to be sure every classroom and work station has a blue bin for paper and cardboard, communicates with the town's solid waste manager, helps with the arrangements to handle the unusually large amounts of recyclables generated at the beginning and the end of the school year, and helps me get the recycling message out to the community.

Thank you for supporting Pierce School's recycling efforts.

Dr. Pipier Smith-Mumford

**School menu** The school menu will no longer be distributed on paper. Check the website for this month's information: <http://www.pierceschoolbrookline.org/menus/Dec2008.pdf> or <http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/NR/rdonlyres/F11BCF49-7AC4-4986-A1E8-2F775BDD205A/2578/Jan2009.pdf>

**Thank you** Amie, Annie, Audry, Jenn, Deborah, Susan L, Sandra, Yulia, Mike, Tammy, Patty, Lisa, Susan S, Fred, Sandra, Melanee, Barbara, Julie, Lilli, and Zoe for your help gift wrapping at Henry Bear's. We collected \$250 and Henry Bear's matched the amount with a gift certificate. Thank you Henry Bear's for supporting Pierce! A big thanks to the parents and neighbors who shopped at Henry Bear's this weekend. Thank you for your generosity!

Laurence Mailot  
lmialot@yahoo.com

**Are you looking for a fun Holiday Show to share with your family? Take them to see: A Dancers Christmas.** For more information visit <http://www.adancerschristmas.org/pressrelease2008.html>. Enjoy!

***Wishing all Pierce families a wonderfully, safe and healthy holiday vacation!***

***All the best in the new year!***

Pipier Smith-Mumford, Ph. D.

Principal, Pierce Elementary  
School

Brookline, MA  
(617) 730-2580  
Fax (617) 264-6468

***Wishing you and yours a successful year ahead. May you keep your new years resolutions! ;-)*** I look forward to your continued support and interest in the Pierce School PTO & The Pierce School Broadsheet.

Sincerely,

***Felina Mucha-Cyr***

Editor, The Pierce School Broadsheet  
[piercebroadsheet@gmail.com](mailto:piercebroadsheet@gmail.com)

