

THE PIERCE SCHOOL BROADSHEET

Issue 10 - November 10, 2009

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

DID YOU KNOW?

"Supporting the development of teacher websites has been especially helpful as more and more teachers and families use the internet to make timely connections. The PTO provided funding for the creation of teacher websites this past summer, and for a school website program that works for all grades. These funds also helped to move forward our school improvement goal to increase school and home communication."

- Pipier Smith-Mumford, Principal

November 2009

Dear Pierce Families,

This year's fund drive will be the only major fundraising event of the '09/'10 school year at Pierce.

As usual, we will have many events throughout the year to increase school spirit and build community. However, the fund drive will be our only direct appeal campaign to fund PTO budgeted items including subsidizing field trips, reimbursing teachers for classroom supplies, investing in technology, arts and math enrichment programs, before and after school enrichment and homework centers.

Our school year started off with a bang at the wildly successful FitFest. We have Skate Night to look forward to on January 8, 2010, as well as a new fitness event called March Madness. While our FUNraisers are essential to build our community, the direct appeal FUNdraiser is critical to our fiscal success.

We are asking every family to give at whatever level they can to support your child's experience at Pierce. The PTO's annual budget is approximately \$50,000. Although the PTO spends approximately \$96 per student, we do not expect every family to donate at that level.

Your donation makes a difference, no matter how big or small.

Please consider donating what you can so that Pierce can continue to offer our children a well-rounded educational experience. You don't have to buy anything and all funds go directly to Pierce. Although donations are welcome at any time of the year, your participation during the annual drive is very much appreciated.

Please make your check out to "Pierce PTO" and return to the PTO mailbox by the main office by 12/8. Your contribution is tax deductible: the tax ID number is 35-2197562.

If your employer has a program for matching charitable gifts, please file for that grant. All contribution records are maintained by the treasurer and are kept confidential. If you have any questions email Eileen Regis ser-andz@msn.com, Deborah Heffan heffan@verizon.net, or Chuck Silverston csilverston@prudentialunlimited.com.

Thank you in advance for choosing to support Pierce!

In Honor of Marie Lavelle

Last January, the Pierce community was bereaved by the passing of Marie Lavelle. Marie was a second grade teacher at Pierce for many years and an active member of the Brookline community. She was a co-worker, friend, mentor and teacher to many in our community. Donations came to Pierce from all over the country to honor her commitment to education and learning. As a second grade teacher, Marie was passionate about developing readers and promoting a love of literature. Some of the money was used to create a scholarship fund for Project Discovery, a summer reading program. Additionally, a bookshelf has been placed in the Pierce library, on the second floor near guidance, with a plaque in her memory. We hope to honor her memory by continuing to encourage and support literacy for all students at Pierce.

Pajamas Wanted! The set design crew for the grade 7/8 production of The Pajama Game would like to borrow your gently worn cotton pajamas for the show (adult or larger children's sizes), particularly those in bright colors, with stripes or polka dots. Note that these will be hung above the stage, and will therefore not be subject to significant wear and tear. Contributions should be left by Friday, November 20 (labeled with your name) in the marked bin in the Pierce School main lobby. Your pajamas will be returned to you in this same bin once the play is over. Thank you!



NEWS FROM THE Brookline Education Foundation

Still need your raffle ticket? We'll be selling at school this Friday morning, Nov 13th, starting at 7:45am. Or e mail us and we'll get a ticket to you! Thanks for your support -

Cherie Gaehde cgaehde@gmail.com

Ian Roffman IRoffman@nutter.com

Julie Leitman julie.leitman@academicintl.com

Proceeds benefit educators at all Brookline Schools, from preschool through grade 12. For more information, go to www.BrooklineEducation.org and click the smart car icon.

Math League Starting Week of November 16 for Grades 4-6

Math League is starting the week of November 16 for grades 4-6, with practices running from 7:20-7:55am in Math Specialist Darrielle Sullivan's room behind the pit. There will be a different topic covered each day of the week:

Monday - Bases
Tuesday - Geometry
Wednesday - Operations
Thursday - Problem Solving
Friday - Patterns

Interested students in grades 4-6 are invited to come any of the days the first week (Nov. 16-20) to try the different topics to see what they might be interested in. After the first week, students will be asked to select one or more days. Students will have the option of attending meets against the other Brookline schools in January, February, and March. Math League practices run through March 9.

Pierce Math League is also participating in Math Olympiads this year. Interested Math League participants in grades 4-6 are invited to try Math Olympiads on Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009 at 2:30pm - 3pm, also in Darrielle's room by the pit.

Please contact Darrielle Sullivan (Darrielle_Sullivan@brookline.k12.ma.us) and Ira Heffan (heffan@yahoo.com) with any questions.

Save The Date

Seventh Sense

The first meeting of Seventh Sense (a parent networking group for Pierce School 7th grade parents and guardians) will be held on Tuesday, December 1st at 7pm in the Teachers Room.

Enrichment Instructors Needed

Do you have one hour of free time this upcoming winter? Are you interested in teaching a class to a small group of children? Do you have a hobby or talent that you would like to share?

The Pierce School Enrichment Program is looking for some new creative classes for children in grades K-6. These classes are one afternoon a week from 2:20-3:15 p.m. and sometimes from 3:20 -4:15 p.m. The winter session is eight weeks and begins the third week in January 2010.

Pay is \$40 an hour

If interested contact Abbie at piercenrichment@gmail.com

Gently Used Magazines Needed

Dear Pierce School Community,

The Pierce School Extended Day (PSED) program is collecting gently used magazines for Magazineharvest (www.kinderharvest.org), which is a non-profit organization that collects used magazines and distributes them to early learning & low-income after-school centers, homeless & domestic violence shelters, and disaster relief programs.

Popular kids magazines that we would love to receive include: Highlights, High Five, Ranger Rick, Baby Bug, Sports Illustrated for Kids, National Geographic for Kids, Cricket, Jack and Jill, Ladybug, Nick Jr. and Boys Life. We will also accept some Women's magazines like Oprah, Self, Prevention, Women's Day and other similar types of magazines.

All magazines will be sorted and privacy labels will be placed on them so there is no need to be concerned about your name or address on the magazines. There are two places you can leave your used magazines. One is outside the main office and the other place is on the second floor of the Historical Building near the PSED main office. Both boxes will be marked Magazineharvest. you can drop the magazines off at any time, as we will have this is an ongoing project.

So, get your fall cleaning started and bring us your used magazines. We thank you for your help with this very worthwhile Community Service Project.

Thanks,
The PSED Staff and Students
epierce@brookline.k12.ma.us

Positive Press for Pierce

Understanding Disabilities Program

The 2009-2010 edition of the Understanding Disabilities Program (UDP) for fourth-graders at Pierce is off to a terrific start! Last Thursday, after a preview of the program (and some homework), students participated in a morning session where they learned about visual impairments. There was a video, much discussion and many interesting activities; students were fully engaged in the session and later demonstrated to their teachers a heightened awareness and greater understanding of the challenges of the visually impaired.

Thanks to the parent volunteers, led by Ms. Silvia Lee, our guest speaker, Ms. Barbara Ceconi, accompanied by her seeing-eye dog, Bo, town-wide coordinator, Ms. Marianne Hessner, and 4th grade teacher coordinator, Joe Luongo, this meaningful, important program was able to take place. We also appreciate the assistance of volunteer eighth graders who attend an UDP training before assisting on the day of the program. Future sessions will focus on hearing, physical and intellectual impairments. We know these sessions will be just as successful because of the collaborative efforts of all involved!

International Potluck Supper

Last Thursday night, the Pierce community gathered for our annual International Pot Luck Supper, our 29th! Attendees brought a dish to share with others, and everyone was treated to a delicious variety of international and American cuisine. Families were able to spend time with old friends, and make new ones while enjoying dinner. Following dinner, there were three wonderful international performances in the auditorium.

The audience saw wonderful performances from the Triveni School of Indian Dance, the Tsai-Fong Chinese Dancers, and West African and Cape Verdean drummer, Tony Fonseca. The evening was a great success due to the hard work of the International Pot Luck Supper Committee coordinators, Deborah Levine, Annemarie Marcus, Sytske Humphrey, Gretchen Adams and Kim Manasevit, the Pierce custodial staff, and Anne Sheridan, Billy Harris, and all the teachers and staff members who volunteered their time to set up, serve, clean up and generally support the evening. Special thanks to our gracious 8th grade volunteers.

Freedom Trail

On Friday, November 6th, the entire 7th grade, accompanied by eight chaperones, took the Green Line into Boston to explore the historic Freedom Trail. Students walked the length of the route from the Boston Common to Copp's Hill in the North End, stopping at historic sites along the way. This field trip is a preview of the American Revolution unit in 7th grade social studies, and gives students a real image to hold on to as the unit begins. Despite the winter chill, students enjoyed their firsthand experience of learning of our country's history through walking Boston's historic streets.

Pierce Problem of the Week No. 5

Four Sum

*Fill in the boxes with the numbers 1-5.

*Each full row and column contains the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

*Each shaded number is the sum of all the numbers touching it.

5		3	1	
4	33	5	21	3
3	5		2	
1	21	2	24	5
2		1		4

Answer to the Pierce Problem of the Week No. 4

Magic Square

4	9	2
3	5	7
8	1	6

This is a possible answer.

There are a few different ways of doing it.

As long as the 5 is in the middle and the two numbers on the other side of the 5 add up to 10.

Basically each row, column and diagonal has to add up to 15.

Community Announcements

Parent education

The Brookline Community Mental Health Center's Connecting with Families program is sponsoring two wonderful parent education events next Thursday, November 12th from 7-8:30pm. I hope that you will help spread the word to parents at your school. Everyone in the Brookline Community is welcome.

Setting Limits with Love: Tips for Navigating "Hot Spots" in our Children's Daily Routines

Devotion School

Thursday, November 12th 2009

7-8:30pm

A presentation for parents of children in grades 5-8:

Approaching Adolescence: How to manage the increased demands from school, friends and society as our children become young adults.

Driscoll School Theatre

Thursday, November 12th 2009

7-8:30pm

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email me:

Jenny Bender Berz, PhD

Staff Psychologist

Coordinator, Connecting with Families Parent Education Program

Brookline Community Mental Health Center

617-277-8107 x242

Craft Fair



Hand Crafted Jewelry • Pottery • Furniture • Toys • Hats • Holiday Gifts • Bake Sale

Brookline Marketplace
Craft Fair

90 High Quality Artists & Crafters

Saturday, November 14, 2009
10 am - 4 pm

The Park School
171 Goddard Avenue, Brookline
www.parkschool.org

Adults - \$5
Children - Free

Proceeds benefit Park School Parents Association's Programs & Community Service Initiatives

Scenes • Stained Glass • Herbs • Artisanal Foods
Metal • Ornaments • Art • Clothing • Fleece
Wood • Luncheon • Floral • Photography • Paper • Dolls • Bath Products • Raffle

Pre-School Open House: Sunday Nov. 15, 10-noon. Bring the kids...all are welcome! Tours, music, refreshments and fun. The Diane K. Trust Center for Early Education of Temple Ohabei Shalom in Coolidge Corner, 1187 Beacon Street, Brookline, cultivates a love of learning in a cheerful, nurturing setting for children 2.9 to 5 years old. Caring and dedicated professionals encourage Jewish identity and respect for social values. Half and full-day programs with extended care available.

More at <http://www.ohabei.org/learning/preschool.php>

Questions? Contact Director Karen Glansberg LICSW at 617-264-2801 or kglansberg@ohabei.org.

1st Light Festival 2009 on Thursday, December 3rd from 5pm until 8pm to kick off the holiday season. Enjoy live performances, free food, activities for everyone, and more. Come share this night with your family, friends, and community to shop, eat, and discover Brookline's best!

Performers, Sponsors and Business Participants are now being sought for 1st Light Festival 2009; Brookline's Holiday Town-wide Open House. For more information, contact us at 1stlightbrookline@gmail.com or 617-730-2050.

Faculty/Staff Variety Show Moonlighting Shines

On November 20th Wanna see BHS's newest step team strut their stuff? How about an offbeat collaboration between Carolyn Castellano and cooking teacher Judy Saler, or poetry performed beatnik-style by Dr. Weintraub, Mary Burchenal and new assistant headmaster Hal Mason? BHS's wild and wacky faculty/staff variety show, Moonlighting, is just around the corner on Nov. 20th, and it's a can't-miss evening that's fun for the whole family. Come see Brookline High School's most esteemed faculty and staff set their academic priorities aside and let their hair down to perform songs, dances, skits, and routines that are anything but routine. Come support the Performing Arts at BHS in the department's biggest and baddest fundraiser of the year. For more information, contact Lynn Modell, 617-713-5228.

Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

\$10 Adults, \$5 students

Save the Date

Wednesday, November 11, **Veterans day** (no school)

Thursday, November 12, **Early dismissal, Grades K-6** (12:30pm)

Friday, November 13, **First term ends, Grades 6-8**

Tuesday, November 17, **Learning Center Breakfast** (7:30am)

Wednesday, November 18, **Early dismissal, Grades K-8** (12:30pm)

Friday, November 20, **Report cards issued**, Grades 6-8

Wednesday, November 25, **Noon dismissal** (12:00pm)

Thursday, November 26, **Thanksgiving holiday** (no school)

Friday, November 27, **Thanksgiving holiday** (no school)

Tuesday, December 1, **Seventh Sense** (7:00pm)

Thursday, December 3, **Early dismissal, Grades K-8** (12:30pm)

Friday, December 4, **Pot luck community breakfast** (8:00am)

Saturday, December 5, **Henry Bear Park wrapping fundraiser**

Sunday, December 6, **Henry Bear Park wrapping fundraiser**

Wednesday, December 9, **Early dismissal, Grades K-12** (12:30pm)

Thursday, December 10, **Pajama Game (7/8 Musical)** (7:00pm)

For the Current School Lunch Menu Visit:

<http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/NR/ronlyres/F11BCF49-7AC4-4986-A1E8-2F775BDD205A/3074/Nov2009.pdf>

Broadsheet Schedule for the 2009-2010 school year

Thank you for your continued support. The broadsheet will continue another year of "green"! Therefore, the Broadsheet will be e-mailed on Tuesdays to all who have registered for electronic information. If you would like to register, visit <http://www.pierceschoolbrookline.org/> or email poetsareangels@rcn.com. The deadline for submitting articles is Monday at 5pm. Anything not received by that deadline will go in the next broadsheet. Each Thursday a limited number of paper copies will be distributed to the teachers and will be available outside the main office.

Classified ads will run on the last Thursday of each month by email only.

Broadsheet
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Brookline, Massachusetts 02446

piercebroadhsheet@gmail.com

Felina Mucha Cyr's Cell: 617/935-4367
Pierce School Brookline: 617/730-2580

Thank you for your interest and support!

Sincerely,

Felina

Felina-Marie Mucha-Cyr
Editor, The Pierce School Broadsheet
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