

THE PIERCE SCHOOL BROADSHEET

Issue 5 - October 6, 2009

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

Pierce School Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 7th @ 6PM (formerly Oct. 15th). No child care will be provided for this meeting.

This meeting is open to all community members but is intended primarily for the elected parent body and staff members. This meeting should not be confused with the upcoming **PTO/ Principal's Forum** being held on Wednesday October 28th. Please see the SAVE THE DATE section further down in this issue.

We hope this clarifies some of the confusion.

Supporting 1st Graders': Reading & Writing at Home

A Presentation by Mary Gabriel Literacy Specialist at Pierce School

Date: Friday, October 9th
Time: 7:30 am - 8:30 am
Location: Pierce School Auditorium



Coffee will be served - Hope you can make it!

Positive Press for Pierce

This corner will be highlighting the activities or accomplishments of our students or special events that showcase the many positive educational experiences students have at Pierce.

Please submit any appropriate information to [Dr. Pipier Smith-Mumford](#).

Large Turnout at Open Houses

Thank you to the parents, guardians and family members for attending this year's Open Houses. We had 95% of all Pierce students represented during the K-6 and the 7-8 Open House events. This is an unprecedented number of families and we are thrilled with this turnout. I wanted to share this information as the goal is 100% representation. Yet, this large attendance percentage is to be celebrated. I know the earlier start to the Open Houses was a challenge for some while others were happy to have the earlier time. A more formal survey will be sent to families and staff to get more input about the start time and the format. Please know every consideration will be given as we plan for next year. Thanks again for the support!

Pipier Smith-Mumford
Principal
Pierce School

Early Morning Math and Reading Has Returned for 1st - 6th Graders

Early Morning Math will meet every Monday and Wednesday morning starting October 5th and October 7th. Early Morning Reading will meet every Tuesday and Thursday morning starting October 6th and 8th.

Both programs will run from 7:30 am til the start of school and will meet in the Pit.

Where does the money go?: Your PTO Dollars at Work

The Pierce PTO's budget funds several projects to support your children's education and overall experience.

Last year Pierce achieved a successful year of fundraising via our annual fund drive and the Simply Pierce auction. We wanted to recap some of the ways these PTO dollars were spent this summer. The PTO board, teachers and Dr. Smith-Mumford collaborated to commit \$20,000 to special funding, or one time expenditures, that would benefit ALL students at Pierce. Our biggest focus was on technology. We purchased 14 laptops, an airport and a lockable cart for the computer lab. We continued to support our school improvement goals by purchasing supplemental math games to support ThinkMath. Practical and functional items were needed throughout the school as space gets tighter. Lockable containers and equipment were purchased for PE and Guidance.

On-going PTO expenses include funding for field trips, after school enrichment activities, homework club, arts council productions, and additional professional development workshops for teachers. A new after school enrichment program for grades 6-8 was introduced, as well as a new mentoring project that is underway.

As you can see, Pierce is a growing community striving to meet a wide range of needs. We all appreciate the value of the "extras" that enhance our children's school day. Our goal is to spend funds thoughtfully and responsibly. We thank you for your ongoing support and specifically to our fundraising efforts. In the next couple of weeks, look for our annual fund drive letter. This will be the only major fundraiser of the '09/'10 school year.

The auction team will take a break and we will rely on funds raised during this year's annual drive to support next year's budget.

If you have any questions/concerns about the Pierce school budget and/or spending, please contact any of the PTO co-chairs.

Thank you.

Eileen Regis serandz@msn.com

Deborah Heffan heffan@verizon.net

Chuck Silverston csilverston@prudentialunlimited.com

Pierce Problem of the Week:

Problem #: 2 Ocean Legs

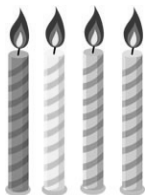


As I was scuba diving, I looked down on the ocean floor and saw crabs and starfish. I counted 30 legs. How many crabs and starfish could I have seen?

(Hint: You need to figure out how many legs on one crab.)

Show your work using pictures, numbers or symbols.

Solutions are due on Wednesday, October 7th.



Answer to the Pierce Problem of the Week:

Problem #: 1 Birthday Candles

The answer is: 35 Candles

Pierce Lost & Found

Lost Jacket

On Thursday, September 24, during 7/8th the Open House, a blue denim (jean) jacket with an anchor pin on the collar was left in one of the classrooms or auditorium. Please call Sofia at 617-738 5269 if found or bring it to the office.

Thank you! (REWARD - JP Licks Gift Card!)

Welcome to the Pierce GREEN Corner:

GREEN Awareness

Exciting green news for the Pierce and Brookline communities! The newly-formed Climate Change Action Brookline has been hard at work creating initiatives to help Brookline enhance its green awareness. One such program is the creation of "Green Teams" at each of our grade schools. These teams work to lower their school's carbon footprint, integrate an energy conservation program into the curriculum, encourage students and parents to cut carbon at home and carry out special events. If you're interested in finding out more information please contact Pierce's team leader Kate Risse by email: Katherine.Risse@tufts.edu.

There are lots of other events going on, highlighted by the upcoming Green Film Festival. The Green Guild, a local energy audit and weatherization company, is proud to be presenting the 1st Annual Green Film Festival, being held at 7pm on October 21, 2009 at the Coolidge Corner Theatre. Friends of the Pierce PTO can receive discount tickets at www.greenguild.com by clicking on the Green Film Festival link and selecting "Green Guild Friend" as their organization during checkout. Tickets are only \$5 each for the Pierce community!

The Green Film Festival is just one event taking place as part of Brookline, MA green week that begins on Sunday, October 18 with the Brookline Green Expo. The expo will take place at Brookline High School from 11:00am to 3:00pm and brings together local and national green businesses to highlight sustainable living and a green lifestyle. Additionally, Brookline High School will be holding a series of classes and workshops on the environment on Thursday, October 22.

Introducing the Brookline Green Expo

Sunday, October 18th

11am - 3:00

Brookline High School, Schluntz Gym

Admission is FREE

Fun & informative for everyone Enjoy environmentally friendly products & services, speakers, demonstrations, entertainment & great food.

Also, see what some of the school Green Teams are doing to make a green difference.

Kids, get your picture taken with special guest:

Red Sox own Wally the Green Monster! 12- 2!

Come to the Brookline Green Expo, you'll be so glad you did!

www.brooklinechamber.com

Teaching Math to Students with Learning Disabilities

Brookline Special Education Parents Advisory Council (SEPAC) presents Learning Math: Cognition, Language, and the Acquisition of Math Competency, by Chris Woodin, Landmark School - Wed., October 14, 6-8 p.m., Hunneman Hall, Brookline Public Library.

How do specific cognitive deficits affect a student's ability to learn math with traditional instructional methods?

What kinds of techniques may be used to teach fundamental operations of arithmetic to students with various strengths and weaknesses?

The speaker provides a lively presentation of methods to insure learning of basic math acts, development of cardinality, remediation of numeral and number reversals, and multi-digit whole number operations. He will also demonstrate multi-modal techniques using gross motor, kinesthetic activities and visual processing to teach multiplication and division as well as fractions.

This presentation is geared toward both parents and teachers and is eligible for teacher professional development credit.

Brookline SEPAC is a Brookline 2010 climate action partner: light refreshments will be served; please bring your own cup!

6th Annual Erg-a-thon Fundraiser

On Sunday, October 11th, the Brookline High School Rowing Team will row a total of 60,000 meters (37 miles) in the 6th annual Erg-a-thon fundraiser. Come cheer on these Brookline athletes as they row on stationary "ergo meters" on the front lawn of Devotion School from 1:00 - 3:30 pm. Money raised at this event will help underwrite the purchase of new boats and support the coaching staff.

Brookline High School is one of the few public secondary schools in the state with a Varsity Rowing program. The co-ed team is one of the largest varsity squads at BHS, representing approximately one-sixth of all spring athletes at the school. For 8th graders interested in trying out a new sport when they come to the high school, the Erg-a-thon provides a great opportunity to meet the athletes and coaches, and get a sense of what the training is like.

For more information about the BHS rowing team, or to support the Erg-a-thon fundraiser, please visit the team website at www.brooklinerowing.org

The 7/8 Musical is The Pajama Game. The shows will be on 12/10, 12/11 and 12/12. Auditions are over but rehearsals will start on Tuesday 9/29 (2:30-5pm). We Need Your Help: Please sign up to volunteer for costume Design Coordinator, set design crew, and lighting. Please contact Deborah Dowd at dowdwalsh@rcn.com or 617-277-4651.



Pssst!

Please take note: **Pierce School Skate Night @ Larz Anderson Rink** has a new date:

Friday, January 8th @ 5:15 - 7:30

Previously noted in the PTO calendar & brochure as Saturday, Jan 30th - please edit. More details about Skate Night to come much later.

Want to help with the event? Contact Martha & Steven at Martha@rcn.com

Save the Date

Wednesday, October 7, **School council meeting** (6:00 pm) "REVISED DATE"

Monday, October 12, **Columbus day** (no school)

Tuesday, October 13, **MEPA testing, LEP students, Grades 3-8**

Thursday, October 15, **Cross country, Grades 5-8**

Saturday, October 17, **Car wash, 7th grade** (10:00 am)

Friday, October 23, **Performing arts assembly, "Dancing Wheels", Grades 1-8**

Monday, October 26, **Farm school, Grade 7**

Tuesday, October 27, **Farm school, Grade 7**

Wednesday, October 28, **Farm school, Grade 7**

Wednesday, October 28, **ECS Parent Breakfast** (8-9 am)

Wednesday, October 28, **Principal's Forum** (7 pm)

Friday, October 29, **Summer Reading and Math Assembly, Grades 1-6** (9:15 am)

For the Current School Lunch Menu Visit:

<http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/NR/rdonlyres/F11BCF49-7AC4-4986-A1E8-2F775BDD205A/3003/Oct20091.pdf>

Piano Instruction - Flexible scheduling makes now an ideal time to try piano lessons. Berklee & New England Conservatory graduate with 25+ years teaching experience. Beginners welcome. Build a high quality musical foundation with a patient, caring teacher. Gloria Jasinski, phone: 617.566.9704, email: piano566@comcast.net

Broadsheet Schedule for the 2009-2010 school year

Welcome to another year of a "green" Broadsheet. This year, 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
Pierce School
50 School Street
Brookline, Massachusetts 02446

piercebroadsheet@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
poetsareangels@rcn.com

