

# THE PIERCE SCHOOL BROADSHEET

Issue 9 - November 3, 2009

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

## The Annual Pierce International Pot Luck Supper

**When:** Thursday, November 5th

**Time:** 5:30-7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Pierce Cafeteria & Auditorium

\*Please bring enough food for your family and others to share. Food will be set up on tables--buffet style.

\*Label your dishes and serving utensils.

\*Children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult, no childcare will be provided, and parents are responsible for supervising the children that accompany them.

\*Food will not be allowed in the Auditorium.

\*International Entertainment will begin at 6:15 p.m.

## 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](mailto:piercenrichment@gmail.com)

## Last Chance to Sign up for Early Release Day Special Performances for Grades 1-5

12:30 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

sponsored by the Pierce School Extended Day

Please print out this registration form <http://www.pierceschoolbrookline.org/Enrichment.shtml> and return it with your payment. Paper copies are available near the main office and PSED office. **Deadline for enrollment is Wednesday, November 4th.**

You do not need to fill out the form and pay if your child attend PSED (extended day) on these days.

## Pierce Community Potluck Breakfast

Friday, November 6th

from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. in the cafeteria.

Sonya Elder, Ph.D., Brookline's new Food Service Director, will be here to talk with parents about food and nutrition in the schools. Come hear what she has to say, ask questions and give feedback.



Stay for the whole hour or just stop by for a few minutes. Coffee and tea will be served. Bring a friend and some food to share. Come even if you don't have time to bring food. Infants and young children are welcome.

Mark your calendars for our next breakfast on Friday, December 4th.

# Building Number Sense and Problem Solving

## THROUGH MATH GAMES

By Leslie Fagen, ECS Resource Teacher, Brookline Public Schools

Many families have a great interest in mathematics and want to do more math at home. Math activities at home can be a wonderful way to promote the enjoyment of math. Practicing math facts is great, but activities that promote problem solving are even better!! If you are interested in games and websites that provide engaging math activities for you and your child, continue reading...

### GAMES

Games are excellent vehicles for developing mathematical ability because they require holding rules and relationships in mind while strategizing. They also help develop social skills – taking turns, sharing, learning how to win and lose – and most importantly, promoting a sense of humor. Here I have highlighted a few of my favorite games for group play.

SET – game involves visual perceptual skills and reasoning, about attributes and sets.

BLINK – the world's fastest game.

24 GAME – the perfect game to develop number sense. The goal is to get 24 using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

### MATH WEBSITES

[www.figurethis.org](http://www.figurethis.org) is a website that is part of National Council of Teachers of Mathematics website. The problems are challenging and Open-ended.

Aunty Math at [www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org/Aunty/index.html](http://www.dupagechildrensmuseum.org/Aunty/index.html) is managed by the DuPage Children's Museum. This website posts challenges to be solved; solutions can be emailed to the staff.

SET & XACTIKA at [www.xactika.com](http://www.xactika.com) puts up daily games of SET online with prizes.

[www.Mathforum.com](http://www.Mathforum.com) is part of the Drexel University School of Education Elementary and Secondary Math site. Fee required, but worth it.

### GAME VENDORS

New England Mobile Bookfair  
Newton, MA 617-964-7440  
Compleat Gamester  
Waltham, MA 781-893-9505  
Lakeshore Learning Store  
Newton, MA 617-9691171  
Eureka  
Brookline, MA 617-738-7352

### GAMES to add to your collection:

24 Game	Hi Q
Backgammon	Hoppers
Battleship	Moncala
Blink	Mastermind
Block by block	Othello
Blockus	Rack O
Card Games	Rummikub
Checkers	Rush Hour
Chess	7 Safari
Coda	SET
Connect Four	Solitaire
Continuo	Square Off
Cribbage	Stratego
Gobblet	Uno
Dominoes	Yahtzee
Guess Who?	Xactika
Rumis	Roll It
Set Cubed	Syzygy
Perudo	Snatch It

Some families have a tradition of Movie Night. May I suggest alternating with a Game Night! Get Pizza, play a game with the family ---- and laugh!

## **Plenty Positive Press for Pierce!**

### **7th Grade Farm School Trip**

Our annual seventh grade Farm School trip was an enriching experience for our students. Two groups of seventh graders stayed for two days and an overnight. One group went from Monday to Tuesday and the other from Tuesday to Wednesday at the Farm School in Athol, Mass. They learned firsthand about farm life. They milked cows, feed chicken and gathered eggs, helped split wood, assisted in woodworking projects and helped prepare the meals for everyone from farm grown vegetables. This field trip opportunity compliments their social studies unit on colonial times and agrarian life and in science it supports their study of ecology and the ecosystem. Farm School staff always praise Pierce students on their participation and cooperation. This year was no different. Chaperones also reported that they were a great group to be with. Students returned with interesting stories of hay rides, feeding animals and walking around the farm avoiding cow pies! Thank you to our chaperones, John Badger, Amanda Grindstaff, Kim Manasevit, Reed Rathgeber, Chris Smith, Gayle Van Hatten and Jake Walker. Farm School was another successful trip for our students!

### **"Avoiding the Power Struggle with Your Child: Parent Networks Across the K-8 Grades."**

Last Wednesday's PTO/Principal's Forum with the focus on the above title was well received and well attended! This program was an open invitation for all of the school's parents/guardians to come together as a community and help cultivate a "unified adult voice" in addressing some of the typical developmental milestones facing children today. Despite the windy and rainy weather about sixty people were in attendance.

After the introduction, Brookline Mental Health Center psychologist, Mitch Pomerantz gave a brief talk about parent/child "Power Struggles" across the grades, urging parent flexibility for each individual child's needs and stressing the importance of consistency, predictability, humor, and firm limits. He encouraged parents to respond with the caveat that there are times when they need to know how to avoid hot button situations and when it is simply best to "walk away." The good news is that kids will almost always want to re-engage with their parents after a struggle.

Karen Campbell, co-coordinator of Brookline Parent Education Network (B-PEN), introduced the idea of Parent Networks, informal grade-gear get-togethers for parents to discuss some of their concerns regarding their children's social/emotional/developmental progress. One of the evening's handouts was the B-PEN Tip Sheet "How to Start a Parent Network."

The meeting then broke into smaller grade-level parent groups for discussion. At the end of the evening several parents expressed interest in starting a grade level parent group and plan to follow up with B-PEN. If you missed this event, ask PTO co-chairs, Deborah Heffan or Chuck Silverston for more information.

Special thanks to Dr. Pomerantz and Raye Feller from the Brookline Mental Health Center, Karen Campbell and June Harris from B-PEN, Mary Minot and Doreen Gallagher from Brookline High School and Community Policing and Gene Thompson Grove, Brookline's Director for Professional Development. In addition to sharing helpful and insightful information, these folks also facilitated the small discussion groups.

Thank you parents/guardians for attending this important event!

### **Summer Reading and Math Halloween Assemblies**

Students in grades 1-6 had a great time in our two assemblies recognizing those who completed their reading and math summer work. Both assemblies showcased our talented students and teachers with Halloween themed songs and performances. Our assembly with our 1st-3rd grade (3C and 3N) sang songs and played instruments led by new music teacher, Rachael Ziering. In our grades 3 (3G and 3GC) to 6 assembly, Anne Sheridan led her students through Halloween songs and instruments which everyone enjoyed. Our captivating and very talented storyteller, librarian, Joan Hamilton presided over both assemblies capturing the attention of everyone as she shared poems and stories to set the mood for the rest of the day. Our student witches who reenacted William Shakespeare's poem, "Witches Cauldron" were Abbie???,???, ??? and 7th grader, Shirley Hecht. All our student performers did a great job! I also must thank our staff who were great sports in joining me and others who donned a costume of some sort. Our students really enjoy seeing us step outside our usual selves to show them our sense of humor and sense of play. The Halloween assembly is a perfect vehicle to highlight student accomplishment while having some fun at Halloween.

Finally, the numbers are really good and steadily increasing each year for those who participate in completing the summer work. This past summer, 310 out of roughly 450 students in grades one to six, were recognized for completing their summer work. We thank families for supporting their child and our efforts to help keep literacy and math skills as sharp as possible during the summer. Research supports the engagement of students in fun and appropriate summer activities that reinforce and challenge students' skills in reading and math. We certainly want to help students maintain high levels or increase their skill levels so that they start the school year ready to build on their knowledge base.

Pierce is enjoying the ongoing and effective collaboration of the home and school partnership! Thank you!

This corner highlights 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 at [pipier\\_smith-mumford@brookline.k12.ma.us](mailto:pipier_smith-mumford@brookline.k12.ma.us).

## Community Announcements

**Brookline Civic Association will meet** on Monday evening, November 9th at 7 pm in the School Committee Meeting Room on the 5th floor in Town Hall, the Brookline Civic Association (BCA) will sponsor a presentation and conversation about the Town's growing public school enrollment. Superintendent of Schools Bill Lupini will speak about the expanding school-age population and possible ways to address the anticipated space needs of the School Community, starting with the plans for the renovation and expansion of the Runkle School. (This week's TAB has an article related to the topic - <http://www.wickedlocal.com/brookline/news/x884492666/With-enrollment-mounting-Brookline-schools-consider-construction-consolidation>).

### Warrior 5K Run November 29th:

Parents, Teachers, Students come run the Sunday after Thanksgiving at 9.30 am in Larz Anderson Park. The race hosted by BHS x-c teams will follow the traditions of Robert's Run. \$10 fee (\$15 raceday) includes a bagel breakfast in the warm skating pavilion, awards in all age groups and ten raffle tickets. Entry forms from Chris McArdle (617) 566-3316 or email [mglennontrack@rcn.com](mailto:mglennontrack@rcn.com)

### 4th Annual Brookline Community Foundation Unsung Hero Awards

Just a quick reminder that the Brookline Community Foundation's Unsung Heroes awards will be presented this Thursday, November 5 from 5:30 - 7pm at Wheelock College's Brookline Campus, 43 Hawes Street. I hope you will join me Tom Mendelsohn, [Tom@mgaconsultants.com](mailto:Tom@mgaconsultants.com).

The youth award will go to Phoebe Anderson-Kline, a BHS student (and Pierce graduate) who coaches girls' soccer and volunteers with Artbarn with passion, skill and affection, providing a wonderful role model and inspiration for younger kids - especially girls.

The adult award will be shared between Roger Grande and Linda Pelhke. Roger created the after-school "Student Action for Justice and Education" club, known as SAJE, and other social justice initiatives at the high school. Roger has encouraged many Brookline teens to identify and address social justice problems locally and globally, and has inspired many to become volunteer leaders on behalf of social justice issues.

Linda is wrote "Exploring the Paths of Brookline" to bring awareness to Brookline's unusual and hidden pedestrian path system, founded and leads the Friends of Minot Rose Garden - who have transformed this public treasure - and has become a resource and leader on many environmental issues in Brookline.

Please RSVP to [contact@brooklinecommunity.org](mailto:contact@brooklinecommunity.org) or call 617/566-4447.

**"Adjusting to life in Brookline"** is a free program oriented to international families in the community. It is sponsored by the English Language Learners (ELL) program from the Brookline Public School system. It consists of a series of interactive meetings that through a combination of information, exercises, and discussions helps newcomers to manage cultural shock and immersion in the new community. The first meeting took place at the Main Brookline Library and the subject was Managing the transition. Our next meeting will be in the same place on Nov 10th from 10AM-11.30AM and we will talk about cultural differences and how they impact our interactions with other people. The presenters are Liliana Busconi, a scientist native from Argentina who has been living in Brookline for more than 13 years and Andy Miser, a psychologist and couples' coach with experience of living abroad. If you have any question please contact [lbusconi@hotmail.com](mailto:lbusconi@hotmail.com) or [almiser@elysianenterprises.net](mailto:almiser@elysianenterprises.net).

### Candy Buy Back

Did you know? Magic Beans offers a Candy Buy Back program. Every year, from November 1-10, you can bring your child's Halloween candy to any [Magic Beans](#) store at 312 Harvard St. in Coolidge Corner and exchange it for a coupon that will give you 25% off of one toy (so your kids will forgive you). Lots of people ask what we do with all that candy. This year, we'll be donating it all to the USO, so it can be shared with troops, both locally and overseas. For more information please call (617) 264-BEAN (2326).

### Brookline High School Special Education Open House

Come hear special ed administrators and BHS staff give an overview of special education and related programming at BHS on Tuesday, Nov. 10th from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the MLK Jr. room at BHS. From 6:30 to 7 p.m., we'll have an informal reception with refreshments. Parents of 8th graders may also find this event very informative and are welcome to attend. The meeting will also:

- \* Help parents know where to turn with questions
- \* Explain how to communicate most effectively
- \* Explain the Enhanced Tutorial program
- \* Answer questions about Learning Center versus Tutorial and more....

If you have questions you know you would like answered, please email them to [lisa.guisbond@verizon.net](mailto:lisa.guisbond@verizon.net) so we can ensure that the most critical questions and issues are addressed.

Don't miss out on important information for your child - high school SEPAC parents would love to meet you!

Note: This will not be an event to address problems and concerns about individual students, but hopefully it will provide information about who to go to and how to address concerns more effectively!

## 25th Holiday Craft Fair!



THE BROOKLINE SENIOR CENTER

93 Winchester Street  
Brookline, MA 02446

Friday, November 13th & Saturday, November 14th  
10:00 am to 3:00 pm

*"Something for everyone in your family"*

Jewelry \* Handmade Knit Goods \* Art Work  
Baked Treats \* Children's Activities  
Performances \* Raffles \* and More ---

*All proceeds benefit Brookline Senior Center*



**GET SMART with the Brookline Education Foundation's ALL NEW RAFFLE!** Tickets now only \$50. First Prize: 2010 "smart fortwo" Passion Coupe or \$10,000. Two Second Prizes: \$500 gift certificates to Landry's Bicycles. Three Third Prizes: \$175 gift certificates to Zipcar.

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

## Macbeth Kicks Off the Performing Arts Season at Brookline High School

Brookline High School kicks off the performing arts season with a brand new production of Shakespeare's Macbeth. But as in Shakespeare shows past, this is the Bard with a twist. Without spoiling the surprise, imagine the brooding Scotsman on Wall Street, where, according to director Mary Mastandrea, "the corporate sharks are out for blood and the witches are MAD wo[MEN] who control advertising." For more information, contact [mary\\_mastandrea@brookline.k12.ma.us](mailto:mary_mastandrea@brookline.k12.ma.us).

November 4, 3:30 p.m.

November 5, 6, & 7 at 7:30

Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

Tickets \$5.00 for students, \$7.00 for adults

## Camerata & Orchestra Concert

On Thursday November 12th, professional harpist Barbara Poeschl-Edrich joins Camerata honors choir, led by Michael Driscoll, and the BHS Orchestra, under the direction of Steven Lipsitt, for a lively evening of music ranging from Ray Charles to familiar classical works. The concert marks the return debut of Steven Lipsitt as the BHS Orchestra's conductor. Music director of the Boston Classical Orchestra, Lipsitt was the orchestra's conductor for 2007-08, but left after a year to focus on pressing professional opportunities. He marks his return to BHS with this collaborative concert.

Thursday, Nov. 12th, 7:30 p.m.

Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

Tickets \$5, elementary students free

## BHS Hosts Improvised Music Festival

Thursday, November 13th

[Creativehighschoolmusic.net](http://Creativehighschoolmusic.net) at Brookline High School is hosting its fifth annual Improvised Music Festival geared towards high school students and the general public. The festival invites all musicians engaged in creating new paths in music and features a group whose music is influenced by a wide variety of genres, the New York City-based Benefit Band. The festival also includes improv activities with some of BHS' adventurous dance students. For more information, contact [Carolyn\\_castellano@brookline.k12.ma.us](mailto:Carolyn_castellano@brookline.k12.ma.us).

Workshops

Brookline High School

Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

1:00 pm

Concert (Benefit Band plus Brookline High improv groups)

Brookline High School

Roberts/Dubbs Auditorium

7:30 p.m., \$10.00

## 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

Tuesday, November 3, **No school for students**  
Thursday, November 5, **Annual International Pot Luck Supper** (6:00pm)  
Friday, November 6, 2009 **Pot luck community breakfast** (8:00am)  
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**  
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)

## 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](mailto: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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Pierce School Brookline: 617/730-2580

Thank you for your interest and support!

Sincerely,

*Felina*

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