

FRANCIS W. PARKER CHARTER ESSENTIAL SCHOOL

& REGIONAL TEACHERS CENTER

49 ANTIETAM STREET DEVENS, MA **01434-5231**

TELEPHONE (978) 772-3293 FAX (978) 772-3295 PARKERSCHOOL@PARKER.ORG

Friday Announcements

Date: October 15, 2004

Dear Parker Families,

As Mr. Eddie Daniels made his way to the podium to address our community this past Wednesday morning, there was little in his outward appearance to foretell the impact and power of his words. He presented himself, even described himself as “an ordinary man.” He began his hour-long talk by thanking us for allowing him the opportunity to come to Parker and share his story. He told us that our school was a beautiful place and that he could see we were beautiful people, and he said he felt honored to be with us.

And then this “ordinary man” stood before Parker students and staff, and without benefit of a script or even notes began to weave together strands of his experiences, some snapshots of his life and times in a land where access to life’s essentials were doled out and distributed on the basis of skin tone. Without lecturing or imposing his conclusions or interpretations, this man who seemed in many ways to be a kind of universal grandfather, painted pictures with his words. He spoke of his country as it struggled to find a way toward equality. He spoke from memory, he spoke in memories. He told us of the old man he still remembers from many years ago now, who clung to his little baggies of food, his hard-won provisions, and the jeering thugs who taunted the old man, played catch with his food, and later left the crumbs on the high concrete window ledges for the birds to take and the wind to blow. He saw the man’s last hope for justice dissolve as the police refused to help. He spoke of his fifteen years at Robben Island, where he was imprisoned for speaking out and acting on his beliefs that the prevailing system of Apartheid must give way to freedom for all in South Africa. He spoke of the unthinkable degradation endured by his fellow inmates, and of the dignity and strength he witnessed there. He spoke about Mr. Nelson Mandela, who was “supposed to die at Robben Island” and of his release, where Mandela spoke about forgiving without ever forgetting, and urging remembrance and reconciliation.

When Mr. Eddie Daniels spoke on Wednesday morning, he seemed to hold our school in his hand. For one hour, we went someplace different with a remarkable guide.

He spoke of the possibility that was open to him, of passing for white, and of his refusal to deny his family origins, “the African and colonial roots” of his identity. He spoke of his early job as a photographer, and of the constant pleas from the people he served, “please, make me look lighter in the photo.” He spoke of the hierarchy of skin tone and the very different realities of being dark, light, colored, and white.

Throughout the hour, Mr. Eddie Daniels spoke mindfully, thoughtfully, deliberately and directly to his audience of young people. And in this way, he did something quite extraordinary: he seemed not only to hold that room in his hand, but to lift it up. He said, “Through you, children, I thank your parents, your grandparents, your families and your great country for helping us.” He told us that he represented “the fortunate few” who saw the end of Apartheid, who had been carried on the shoulders of their ancestors. Mr. Daniels, without reading dates or facts from a history book, pulled the strands to connect centuries of strife in distant South Africa with American life, with each of us sitting in that hall. He connected our nations, our generations, and made real the obligations we have to one another, the power we have to shape our world.

Eddie Daniels stood for an hour before the Parker community without ever leaning on the podium, without ever losing his way, without ever skipping a beat. He told simple stories that forged an indelible image of the face of struggle and the face of courage. At the end of his talk, he was surrounded by students who wanted just five more minutes, five more minutes...

Leaving the gym, I overheard a Division Two student who had studied South Africa two years ago remark to his teacher, "I don't know if there are other examples in human history where the persecuted ones have shown such a capacity for forgiveness do you know?"

I find it remarkable that Mr. Daniels was still thanking us for the opportunity to visit as he left the building and the sound of that student's question was resonating through the halls.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Teri Schrader

PS- A few copies of Eddie Daniels' book, *There and Back*, an account of his experience at Robben Island, are still available through the school.

Special Note regarding PLPs

Over the course of the past few weeks, students and teachers have been preparing for PLP conferences, to be held next Wednesday, October 20. As you read this week's Friday Announcements, you have already received, or will be receiving in the mail, some important correspondence from your child's advisor intended to help parents prepare for the conference ahead. In addition to materials directly related to the PLP conference itself, a brief academic check-in, designed to provide families with a sense of how the year has begun in each academic area, is enclosed. While it is a little early in the academic year for formal assessments to be written, we hope that this newly-designed update is a useful tool in developing a common starting point for conversations about how students are entering the academic year. It is our hope that communicating clearly and early on, about the ways in which students are approaching their studies, adapting to the routines and demands they face in school, and developing habits for future success will only help inform the discussions to be held on PLP day. We hope that you will read thoroughly the materials sent home by your student's advisor as a way to prepare for conferences. See you next week!

COMING SOON

October, 2004

- Saturday, 16 - PSAT testing, please arrive at 8:00 a.m.**
- Monday, 18 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Room 26
- Tuesday, 19 - Health Advisory Council (HAC) at 7:00 p.m. in Room 21
- Wednesday, 20 - PLP Conference Day (no classes)
- Wednesday, 27 - Early Awareness Financial Aid Night for parents of all divisions presented by M.E.F.A. at 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, 28 - Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting at 7:00 p.m.

CALENDAR

PLEASE MARK THESE DATES! *(Subject to change)*

November, 2004

Thursday, 11 - Veterans' Day – no school
Monday, 15 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 24 - Early Release (noon dismissal)
Thursday, 25 - Friday, 26 - Thanksgiving Break

December, 2005

Saturday, 4 - PLAN testing
Wednesday, 22 - Early Release (1:30 p.m.)
Thursday, 23 - Friday, 31 - Holiday Recess

January, 2005

Monday, 3 - Tuesday, 4 - Faculty Planning
Wednesday, 5 - Classes resume
Sunday, 9 - Enrollment Information Session (1-4 pm)
Monday, 10 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, 17 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday - no school
Sunday, 23 - Enrollment Information Session (1-4 pm)
Sunday, 30 - Snow date for Enrollment Information. Session (1-4 pm)

Special Education Parent's Rights Training

Thursday, October 28, 2004
7:00PM Room TBA

Join us for the annual workshop on Parent's Rights for parents and guardians of children with special needs. In addition, we will again offer parents the opportunity to form a Parent's Advisory Council (PAC). A PAC is a parent-run organization that provides education, support and a forum for the discussion of Special Education trends and concerns.

If you have questions about the upcoming meeting, please contact Joan Shulman, School Counselor, joan@parker.org or (978) 772-3293.

Thank you

I would like to thank the Parker parents for electing me to the Board of Trustees. I have no doubt that whomever you had chosen, the other candidate or me, you would have received dedicated service. That's the beauty of the Parker community. As your parent representative, I am interested in your thoughts. I can be reached by phone at (978) 422-3106 or by email at amind5@aol.com. - Kathy Singh

Thank you! Thank you!

The members of Jim's advisory wish to thank the Parker community for the wonderful outpouring of generosity in our recent Loaves and Fishes Food Drive. The 250+ families who rely on goods from Loaves and Fishes will be well supplied with food and household necessities. The Pantry Supervisor also extends her special thanks for helping stock the cupboard at a time when it is unusually low. Thank you again!

Many thanks to the family of Kyle Jacques for boxes of pencils and folders and to the family of Abby and Rebecca Lindamood for their donation of Spanish books, beads for the Jewelry making choice block, and knitting wool for the knitting choice block.

Many thanks to the families of: Garth Griffin, Abigail and Rebecca Lindamood and anonymous benefactors for their generous donation of snacks and tissues to the Nurse's Office this past week.

FROM THE TRANSITION OFFICE

PSAT

This year Parker will be administering the **PSAT** to Juniors and interested Sophomores tomorrow (**Saturday, October 16**). **Remember to bring two #2 pencils and a calculator. Please be here at 8:00 a.m. Walk-ins are welcome, bring \$20.**

Information and registration forms were distributed at registration. To learn more, you may check out the website, www.collegeboard.com, or call/email me with your questions.

The following program is offered only once every three years.

Don't Miss It!

Early Awareness Financial Aid Night

for Parents of All Divisions

Wednesday, October 27th 7:00 p.m.

Presented by the

Massachusetts Educational Finance Authority

(a non-profit group approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts)

The content of this informational evening will apply mostly to parents of students in Divisions 1 and 2. All are welcome to attend. Parents of Juniors and Seniors will find more timely information available at Financial Aid Night planned for early December.

PLAN

Sophomores will have the opportunity to take the **PLAN**, practice test for the ACT (sister test of the SAT accepted at almost all colleges) on **Saturday, December 4**. Information was distributed at registration. More can be learned at their website www.act.org. Late applicants will be accepted on a space-available basis.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT PARKER

Looking for Parent Volunteers with IT experience willing to help with support of the Parker IT environment of Windows, Linux, and Macintosh computers. If interested please email Harry Jacobson at harry@parker.org

Help Wanted: Janet Glenn really needs help distributing the Genevieve's Fund Raiser on Friday, November 12. It will only be for a couple of hours on Friday morning and won't take long. If you can help her please call Janet at (978) 433-5266.

Wanted: I would like to collect magazines for a Junior Advisory activity. I am seeking only unique magazines that are subject specific such as *Architectural Digest*, *Nature*, *Smithsonian*, etc. (Please, no *Cosmo* or *People!*). I want about 20 different subject areas to begin conversations about career endeavors with my advisees. If you have a couple of issues cluttering your coffee table, could you send them in, attention: Heidi Kulik. Thanks!

The Jewelry Making Choice Block has taken off with great success. If anyone has beads, earring wires or any other material usable for jewelry making, Terry W. and her Jewelry Making students would be most appreciative! Needle-nosed pliers are always in demand!! THANKS!!

DIVISION III UPDATE

This week's course updates are from Diane Kruse's MST classes.

Advanced Algebra

Students are up to their ears in logarithms! We just finished the logarithmic function lab, the first major assessment of the semester. Now we are in the midst of learning about applications of logarithms, including solving equations and making logarithmic scales. Ask your student how a slide rule works--and WHY it works!

Statistics

After completing some introductory work on exploratory data analysis, students are now learning how to design and carry out a scientifically valid poll. We have discussed sampling methods and learned why we can never be random, despite our best intentions! After learning how to conduct simulations, we are ready to investigate the answer to a pressing question: how can pollsters make reliable predictions about populations when they are gathering relatively small samples? (How can Gallup predict how the United States population is planning to vote, when they didn't ask ME?)

ARTS AND HUMANITIES UPDATE

Division I A/H

In Division I A/H, we are working towards the dramatic conclusion of *Romeo & Juliet*. Students should have finished reading the play, and we are wrapping up discussions in class. Over the next week and a half, students will begin to turn their attention towards preparing for one of our major assessments for this unit—the passage presentation. Students will be provided with detailed “process step” sheets, but a general overview of the assignment given to students follows:

As a final exhibition of:

- (1) your understanding and interpretation of *Romeo and Juliet*;
- (2) your ability to critically analyze Shakespeare;
- (3) your theater skills

you will present a passage from the play. Your presentation will be assessed for **Oral Presentation and Artistic Expression**.

You can choose any passage in the play, but it needs to be at least 14 lines long. You need to memorize the passage. You will be assessed on whether you have memorized it and can recite it without interruptions, hesitations, filler words, and the like.

You will perform the lines in character. This means you need to use Voice, Body Language, Movement, and Props/Costume/Setting. You should also build upon all the theater activities we do in class to help your performance.

After you perform the passage, you will then analyze it. You will step out of your character and present the analysis as yourself. In the analysis, you need to:

- (1) explain the context and importance of the passage;
- (2) translate it into understandable, modern English;
- (3) talk about the literary techniques that Shakespeare used.

Division II A/H

This week in Division II A/H we have been continuing our work on murals, linking themes from *Antigone* to our personal lives and practicing their representation in art. We have spent time learning the techniques of mural-making,

including imagery and scale. We have also started writing artist statements to explain our processes. Our mural work will culminate next week with oral presentations and a gallery walk to see the entire division's pieces. Feel free to drop by the school and browse the hallway! In addition to our mural focus, we have also begun a listening assessment that coincides with presidential election issues.

Due dates:

Tuesday, October 19 – murals due

Thursday, October 21 – oral presentations

MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Division I MST

Tanya and Gena's Classes.

This week we've been preparing for the COW 3 oral presentations on the microbe experiment. We practiced making data summaries and inferences and we put quantitative data in tables and graphs. On Wednesday, we quickly practiced oral presentation skills (due to a shortened schedule). Students presented their work on Thursday and Friday.

Next week is revision week. Students should spend a half hour each night reflecting on the problem and the rubric to improve their original work.

Division II MST

In science, we are continuing our study of water quality by collecting data from the Nashua River. The parameters being studied are temperature, pH, phosphates, nitrates, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, biological oxygen demand, flow rate, and fecal coliform bacteria. Students will be learning how each of these parameters affects the overall health of the river.

In math, we are using statistics to analyze the data collected in science. This week students are learning how to statistically determine which data points in a set are outliers.

WELLNESS

This week in Alan's classes, students participated in soccer skills and games. We continue to examine our behavior/sportsmanship as we compete. We looked at Influences of the Media and Influences of Technology as they relate to kindness and violence. Students viewed a segment of the local and national news and then responded to questions like:

1. After watching these two segments of local and national news, what do you remember seeing/hearing about kindness?
2. Out of the news that you just watched, what per cent would you say was about kindness?
3. What per cent of the news was about violence?

With technology, we thought about: Thinking about computers, instant messaging and text messages, are you aware of any instances that have been mean and hurtful to someone. Are you aware of any instances of kindness that has been expressed to anyone by e-mail, instant messaging or text message?

Also, the Kindness project was assigned and will be due on Friday, November 12. This involves performing an act of kindness for someone and responding to reflective questions.

This week in Deborah's Health class, students examined qualities of friendships as well as how they contribute to friendships. We finished the class by looking at quandaries/moral dilemmas that may arise in friendships. Would you take a stand and do something about a behavior, do nothing or perhaps re-evaluate their friendship. How do friendships influence our own behavior, especially kindness? In physical activity class, we are reviewing and starting the Fitness Gram, a fitness testing program. Next week we will look at the media's influence toward kindness by looking at local and national news clips as well as technology (instant messaging, live journals and text messages), continue working with the fitness gram and start floor hockey.

SPANISH

Division I Spanish - This week we are practicing “ar” verbs. We are also working on expressing our likes and dislikes with the verb “gustar.” The seventh grade finished its speaking project.

HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The mission of the Parker School Health Advisory Council (HAC) is to examine health, safety and environmental issues within the Parker Community, to provide recommendations to Parker’s faculty and staff including the Board of Trustees and to organize special events within the school that assist in meeting these objectives.

Parents, students and faculty are invited to join us in these efforts. The next meeting of the Health Advisory Council (HAC) is scheduled for this **Tuesday, October 19th at 7 PM in Room 21**. The Wellness Curriculum Overview will be presented as well as a discussion of host liability laws, on-campus cell phone use among other topics of interest to members. If you cannot attend this meeting but wish to become a member of this vital community group, please contact Mary Ann Gapinski, HAC Coordinator, for more information.

PARKER/WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN SKI PROGRAM (Deadline is November 5, 2004)

Parent Volunteer(s) Needed: Jim DiGiorgio, an alumni parent, has volunteered to run the Parker/Wachusett Mountain Ski Program for just one more year. He has asked that we see if there is a current Parker parent who would like to learn the ropes and act as his assistant this year and then take over his job as Ski Program Coordinator for next year. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone who loves to ski on a Thursday evening! Thanks Jim for volunteering again this year.

We are pleased to continue the Parker / Wachusett Mountain Thursday evening ski program. This year’s program is scheduled to run six Thursdays starting **Thursday, January 20, 2005**. Application packets containing all required information can be picked up in the Parker Office. The basic cost for bus transportation and lift tickets will be \$142.00. Equipment rentals and lessons are also available.

To keep our transportation costs reasonable, we will initially contract for one bus. Since it is possible that the number of applications received could exceed bus capacity, applications requiring transportation will be accepted on a first come, first serve, basis with **the first forty-four (44) students guaranteed transportation**. A second bus **may** be added if sufficient applications are received to cover the cost.

Please return your completed applications, along with payments to the School Office, as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Please note: Wachusett Mountain **REQUIRES** applications are signed by the parent or guardian.

For students wishing to ski or board “on their own,” you may take advantage of the school’s discounted rate and purchase a Century Pass for \$189.00 or Super Century Pass for \$239.00 through the Parker Ski Program. Just return the completed application to the School Office with a note that the student is *only purchasing a Century or Super Century Pass*. **Applications will be accepted until Friday, November 5.**

Jim DiGiorgio – Ski Program Coordinator,

Email: digiorgio@charter.net

Coaching Opportunities Available for 2004-2005

Parker is looking for coaches for the following sports:
Girls Middle School Basketball, Varsity Baseball and
Middle School Softball

Please contact Ben Benoit, Parker School Athletic Director, with any questions at bbenoit@parker.org

SPORTS NEWS

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Date	Parker Team	Practice/Game	Location	Dismissal from class	Bus Leaves	Game Time	Pick-up
Mon., 10/18	Boys Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:30 at field
	Girls Varsity	Away vs. South High	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	6:15 at school
	Boys JV/MS	Home vs. St. Bernards	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls JV	Practice	School			3:30	5:15 at school
	Girls MS	Practice	P5			3:30	5:15 at field
	Cross Country	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school
Tues., 10/19	Boys Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:30 at field
	Girls Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:30 at field
	Boys JV/MS	Practice	P5			3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls JV	Practice	School			3:30	5:15 at school
	Girls MS	Practice	P5			3:30	5:15 at field
	Cross Country	Away vs. Assabet	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	6:00 at school
Weds., 10/20	Boys Varsity	Home vs. St. Marys	Rogers			3:30	5:15 at field
	Girls Varsity	Away vs. St. Marys	See website		2:30	3:30	6:15 at school
	Boys JV/MS	No practice					
	Girls JV	No practice					
	Girls MS	No practice					
	Cross Country	No practice					
Thurs., 10/21	Boys Varsity	Away vs. Littleton	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	5:45 at school
	Girls Varsity	Away vs. Shawsheen	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	6:15 at school
	Boys JV/MS	Practice	P5			3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls JV	Practice	School			3:30	5:15 at school
	Girls MS	Practice	P5			3:30	5:15 at field
	Cross Country	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school
Fri., 10/22	Boys Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:30 at field
	Girls Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:30 at field
	Boys JV/MS	Practice	P5			3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls JV	Home vs. Tahanto	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls MS	Practice	P5			3:30	5:15 at field
	Cross Country	Practice at Coggsal Park			3:45	3:30	5:45 at school
Sat., 10/23	Boys Varsity	Home vs. Ayer	Rogers			2:00	3:30 at field
	Girls Varsity	Home vs. Ayer	Rogers			2:00	3:30 at field
	Boys JV/MS	Away vs. Ayer	See website			10:00 AM	11:30 at Ayer
	Girls JV	Away vs. Ayer	See website			10:00 AM	11:30 at Ayer
	Cross Country	Wachusett Invite				TBA	

STEVENS ADVANCED DRIVER TRAINING

Stevens Advanced Driver Training is being offered once again at Devens. This program is for LICENSED drivers to learn critical skills necessary for accident avoidance and emergency situations. Students spend most of the session behind the wheel, working with professional instructors, learning to think faster and drive smarter.

Half-day training sessions are offered spring through fall. **The next trainings on Devens are this Saturday, October 16th from either 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM or 1PM – 5PM; and this Sunday, October 17th from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM or 1PM – 5 PM.** Students must be at least 16 ½ years old with a valid Class D drivers' license of Junior Operators License. Registration fee is \$150. Contact Sandy Stevens at (603) 424-2227 or www.skidschool.com or Mary Ann Gapinski for more information.

FOR THE COMMUNITY

Friday, October 15 from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Indian Hill Music in Littleton presents “Jammin On The Hill,” a coffee house for eighteen year olds and under at the Blackman Concert Hall. The Jammin On The Hill Series was a great success last year so, if you would like more information please call (978) 486-9524, Extension 113.

There will be a meeting of the Parker Board of Trustees on Monday October 18th at 7:00 p.m. in Room 26 at Parker. This meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend. The agenda for the meeting is posted on the web site under Board of Trustees.

"To Kill A Mockingbird" is celebrated in Groton - Youth invited!

Sponsored by the Groton Public Library
Gregory Peck on Sunday, October 31, 1:30 p.m. at the
Groton School's NEW Marion D. Campbell Performing Arts Center.
Visit www.gpl.org for more information.

Attention all Parker Shoppers!!!!



If you shop online at Amazon please consider entering their website through the PEF page of the Parker website. A small percentage (typically 5%, to a maximum of \$10 per item) of any qualifying purchases you make during that visit to Amazon will be sent to the PEF by Amazon. There is no extra charge on your Amazon order - you pay the same prices as any other visitor. Please support the PEF!

FROM FRANK'S CAFÉ

MONDAY - Taco Boats, lettuce, tomato & cheese, sour cream & salsa, refried beans, Fruit Dessert

TUESDAY - Chicken Tenders, Rice Pilaf, Buttered Peas, Fruit Dessert

WEDNESDAY - PIZZA DAY 1.00/slice, Milk drinks & snacks available

THURSDAY - Tuna or Egg Salad Subs, Cole slaw, Potato Chips, Fruit Dessert

FRIDAY - Spaghetti & Meatballs, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Fruit Dessert

PLEASE REMEMBER: Lunch comes with milk, any flavor. If you want juice instead, it is .50. Thanks
Please return ALL TRAYS back to the kitchen when you are done. Please do not leave trays in the lobby.
Thank you!

Prices will be as follows: Complete meal \$3.50, milk available, 2%, chocolate and strawberry 10 oz., Greek salad, Tuna salad, Chef salad or Hummus & Tabouleh salad \$2.50, peanut butter sandwiches, snacks and drinks also available, muffins, bagels & cream cheese, and cereal with milk available at break and lunch.

* * * * *

What happened to the Parker Food Connection?

Summer might be over, but not the same can be said about your favorite cooperative. Newly renovated, and modified for your ordering pleasure, the Parker Food Connection is back. Beginning now, we will end the hiatus and begin delivering wholesale, organic food and other products to our Parker public.

For returning members, we are excited about our revisions, and know that this year, with your help, the Parker Food Connection will reach it's goals and become a sustainable part of the Parker community. We can't wait until our first delivery on October 21.

Inquiring about joining? Great, we'd love to have you join us! If you would like further information about cooperatives, and what the Parker Food Connection can do for you, please visit our website at www.freewebs.com/theparkerfoodconnection, or click on our link at www.parker.org. If you would like to join us, please fill out this form and bring in to the office by Wednesday, October 20. There is a one-time membership fee of \$25 and no further costs. Checks can be made payable to "Parker School."

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ MA, _____

Home Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Alternative Phone Number (cell phone/work): _____ - _____ - _____

_____ - _____ - _____

Email address: _____ @ _____ . _____

Student's name: _____

Student's advisor and division: _____

Division I

Division II

Division III



THE SOUNDS OF CAFÉ WEDNESDAY

Being entertained is a universal pastime and it can't be argued that Café Wednesday is unique. The concept and philosophy behind it has become essential to the Parker culture. It is a simple, inviting, informal and supportive venue for anyone in the community to share their gifts and talents. I can recall so many of the acts I've enjoyed at Café Wednesday over the years. My favorites are the storytellers and poets, but there have been so many wonderful singers, dancers, musicians, magicians, the Saturday Night Live – like skits, and of course our appreciative, upbeat and humorous masters of ceremonies.

Café Wednesday has grown in size with more and more performers and is quite a popular evening for those of us who want to be entertained in our multi-purpose auditorium turned cozy café. But how is it that we can clearly hear the lone singer with only an acoustic guitar as accompaniment? Have you ever considered what our Café Wednesday evenings would be like if the hosts had to yell at us to introduce each act? What about the bands?

Well, thanks to the monies raised by the Parker Essential fund (PEF), Café Wednesday has a quality sound system. Because of the sound system, each musician can have a few moments in the spotlight performing his/her solo gig. And listeners won't miss a beat as the slam and traditional poets read for us.

One grant application, one need met. How fortunate we are to have a fund that can respond to the myriad of requests from the community. The PEF needs the capability to contribute to the large and small things that add up to Parker! You are the PEF. Please give thoughtful consideration this year as you make your contribution to such a vital organization.

Sheila Hayward (parent of Evan, Division 2)

“Shoot for the Stars”

PEF Fall Pledge Drive

Name _____ Student _____ Advisor _____

\$1000 ____ \$500 ____ \$250 ____ \$100 ____ Other amount _____

Please make your check payable to Parker Essential Fund or PEF. Return this form and your check to the Parker School, 49 Antietam St., Devens, MA 01434

As always, your contribution is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law

PEF FALL

PLEDGE

DRIVE

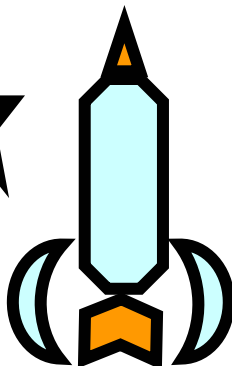
**Fantastic!! As of October 8th (we are always a week behind) we have raised \$12,070 with 29 wonderful Parker families contributing generously!
Thank you! Thank you!**

**We need to raise another \$27,930 before November 15th to get to \$40,000...our Fall Fundraiser goal!
Don't wait until the last minute! Get your check in as soon as possible so we are able to fund this semester's grants!**

SHOOT FOR

THE STARS

!!



**For more about what the PEF funds, take a look at our website!
Go to the Parker School site at <http://www.parker.org> and click on Pledge Drive to read all about it!**

40,000

37,500

35,000

32,500

30,000

27,500

25,000

22,500

20,000

17,500

15,000

12,500

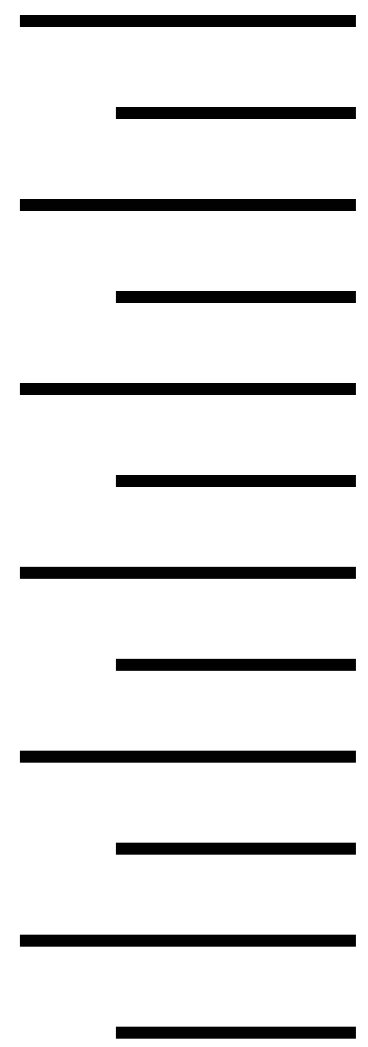
10,000

7,500

5,000

2,500

0



**\$12,070 as of 10/8/04!
Way to Go!!!
We have passed the 25% mark!**

February, 2005

- 18 - Early Release (noon dismissal)
- 21 - President's Day - no school
- 22 - 25 - Winter Recess

March, 2005

- TBA - Faculty Work Day - no school
- 7 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- TBA - Spring Conference Day (no classes)
- 25 - Early Release (noon dismissal)

April, 2005

- 15 - Early Release (noon dismissal)
- 18 - Patriot's Day (no school)
- 19 - 22 - Spring Recess

May, 2005

- 2 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 15 - 10th Annual Road Race and Springfest
- 27 - Early Release (noon dismissal)
- 30 - Memorial Day - no school

June, 2005

- 8 - Noon dismissal – Graduation, 6:00 p.m.**
- 13 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 23 - Last Day of Classes (or earlier)
- 24,27,28 - Faculty Work Days (or earlier)

(9/10/04)