

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 29, 2004

Dear Parker Families,

If this week were a meal, it would be a feast. It would be arranged on an impressive, enormous round table, a thing as beautiful to look at, as it would be to dig into. There would be more stuff to taste than any one person could sample in one sitting, and everything would be too inviting and nourishing to resist. If this week were a meal, we'd leave the table exhausted and filled up, and maybe a little overwhelmed at our own good fortune.

Within the past week, our school has hosted not one, but two versions of Capulet's Ball, as Division 1 students transformed the courtyard into the Shakespearean realm to enact their combined renditions of the inciting incident of Romeo and Juliet. For the better part of the day last Friday, there was dancing, music, and performances of scenes from the play amidst role plays in which students took on specific characteristics and objectives of characters from the play. And since a picture is worth a thousand words, please look at our website and click on "Division 1," and take a look at our slide show of the occasion.

On Tuesday Night, we held our first Red Sox Pot Luck Dinner and World Series Watching since 1918. Over sixty students and their parents gathered in the cafeteria, covered dishes, Thai Chicken, and cupcakes in hand, and shared a meal, a robust game of wiffle ball, a heated game of Jeopardy, and finally watched a few innings of the game together. There are no photos of this event that we know of, but perhaps you can imagine the sights: blankets spread out on the floor, paper plates filled and refilled, the atmospheric lights of the auditorium, and tables crowded with groups of kids dressed in the regalia of Red Sox nation, and Dan Noel refereeing a wiffle ball game with about thirty kids to a team. See it?

And then there was the notification that Parker has been selected to be part of a nation-wide film series focusing on showcasing exemplary schools and classroom practices that illustrate the meanings of each of the Ten Common Principles of the Coalition of Essential Schools. Faculty members Diane Kruse and Lise Brody, and their students will represent our school as part of a video focused on an exploration of the principle of "less is more," or a focus on depth over superficial coverage of topics goes into production next week. The project, sponsored by the CES National office, will lead to the development of a series of videos, to be used by educators around the country. The videos are intended to offer schools and school people specific examples of the 10 Common Principles in action and to provide the educational community with some excellent tools to use in order to improve teaching. The production crew will begin taping classes next week, and will be at Parker throughout November and December as they interview students, teachers, school leaders, and eventually, parents. (See Division 3's announcement for more specific information regarding releases, etc.)

Finally, after a year of preparation and almost five months of reviewing, editing, and waiting, I am happy to report that the Parker Charter Essential School was, on October 26, 2004, unanimously approved by the State Board of Education for a renewal of charter for five more years.

There's more, of course. There are three or four more letters in this week. There's the cool stuff the students are seeing when they look through the microscopes in Division 2 MST. There's the thinking and writing they are doing as they work on their policy papers, prepare their monologues, their listening assessments, and try to explain the quadratic equation. There are the postcards being created in Spanish

classes, illustrated on one side and painstakingly composed in Spanish on the reverse. There are the hundreds of murals and the giant scale conceptual art pieces in the hallways, and the running of the mile in Wellness. There are the architectural drawings that represent progress in understanding our current space as a step toward determining our future space needs. There are the three hundred and sixty-eight photographs of our students that are going up in the principal's office- the best photo essay going. But maybe we should save some room for dessert; maybe we can save some of these stories for the weeks to come.

Have a terrific weekend, and please consider taking your children with you when you vote on Tuesday. We have a chance to show them how democracy is done at the same time we practice it ourselves!

Teri Schrader
Principal

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Cross-Country Teams

The Girls Team are the League Cross Country Champions!

The Boys Team placed third overall in the League!

****Cara Whalen**** was the First Place runner and Champion winner yesterday.

****Justin Spring**** was the Boys First Place runner and Champion winner

* * * * *

Oh, Boston is the favored land; the sun is shining bright.
The band will play in Boston, in Boston hearts are light.
In Boston men are laughing, in Boston children shout.
There is great joy in Boston.
'Cause our Red Sox pulled it out!

-- with due respect to Ernest Lawrence Thayer, "Casey at the Bat"

We Need You!!

Community Feedback Night Thursday, Nov. 4 7-8:30pm

Are you a:

- Accountant
- Animal Rescue & Rehab Volunteer
- Equine Appraiser
- Archeologist
- Art Therapist
- Artist
- Astronomer
- Automotive Engineer
- Biographer
- Biologist
- Camp Director
- Car or Motorcycle Mechanic
- Child Psychologist
- Choreographer
- Coach
- Computer animator
- Doctor
- Early Ed. Teacher
- Educator
- Electrical Engineer
- EMT
- Filmmaker
- Historian
- Inventor
- Journalist
- Marine Biologist
- Marketing Analyst
- Naturalist
- Neurologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Oceanographer
- Oral Historian
- Physicist
- Playwright
- Professor
- Psychologist
- Public Relation Rep
- Recording Artist
- Research Scientist
- Sociologist
- Sound Engineer
- Special Ed. Teacher
- Veterinarian
- Writer
- Zoologist

Are you interested in or do you know something about:

- Appalachian Trail
- Aquariums
- Art or Painting
- At-risk kids
- Autism
- Community Service
- Costume design
- Cultural Studies
- Cycling
- Dance
- Directing or Acting
- Down's syndrome
- Eating disorders
- Environment
- Film
- Gardening
- Germany
- Graphic Design
- Hiking
- Horses
- Hunger & homelessness
- Immigration
- Mentoring
- Motorcycles
- Personal training/fitness
- Pet therapy
- Photography
- Prisons
- Radio
- Rehabilitation
- Road Trips
- Stroke patients
- Theatre
- Tinkering
- Travel Writing
- Traveling
- Wildlife
- Woodworking

We need people with these areas of expertise and many, many more!!! Please join us to hear about and give feedback on the Senior Project plans of our seniors. We need people with all kinds of backgrounds, professions, hobbies, interests, and connections.

Please join us at 7pm on November 4th!

COMING SOON

November, 2004

Tuesday, 2 - Road Race and Springfest Planning meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Room 2

Thursday, 4 - Community Feedback Night – Senior Projects

Thursday, 11 - Veterans' Day – no school

CALENDAR

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

November, 2004

Monday, 15 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 24 - Early Release (noon dismissal)

Thursday, 25 - Friday, 26 - Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday, 30 - Road Race and Springfest Planning meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Room 2

December, 2005

Wednesday, 1 - Financial Aid Night for Seniors at 7:00 p.m. (Snow date 12/8)

Saturday, 4 - PLAN testing

Wednesday, 8 - Snow date for Financial Aid Night for Seniors at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 15 - Road Race and Springfest Planning meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Room 2

Wednesday, 22 - Alumni Day and 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.

Tuesday, 11 - HAC meeting at 7:00 pm. In Room 21 (Snow date 1/12)

Wednesday, 12 - Snow date for HAC meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Room 21

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)

2005 Parker Road Race and Springfest

The Parker Road Race and Springfest committee will hold its next planning meeting on Tuesday, November 2 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 2. Please join us.

If you can't attend Tuesday's meeting but would like to share your ideas and expertise about making this a fun and profitable day, please contact Mary Feeley at mefeeley@charter.net or Lori Wilkins at ldwilkins@charter.net.

Attention Parker Community:

The PEF is currently accepting applications for grant requests. Please pick up your new application form along with an instruction page in the Parker Office. Requests must be received by Friday, November 12. Grants will be awarded at the PEF meeting on Wednesday, November 17. Thank you.

Thank you

Many thanks to the family of Nichola Chrisner for donating some great magazines to Heidi and to the family of Abby and Julia Stevens for donating a huge bag of knitting wool to Diane.

Many thanks to the families of: Samantha Binder, Alex, Max and Philip Bridges, Sarah Chodorow, James and Kayla Coburn and Matt and Mindy Harvey for their generous donation of snacks and tissues to the Nurse's Office this past week.

Can you Help?

Does anyone have a booster child car seat for sale/loan/to give? I need to locate a seat for my 4 year old who has outgrown his car seat. If you are able to assist me please call (978) 772-2687 or nkayondo@parker.org. Thanks in advance, Nampeera Kayondo

PUBLIC RELATIONS AT PARKER

Welcome to another year of our Parker community. We, the Public Relations committee in an attempt to close the gap between the student body and the CC, would like to inform you of the CC's activities and intentions for our community in the next few months.

Committee Descriptions-

STAF (Student Teacher Activity Fund) - The Student Teacher Activity Fund committee was established to distribute money fairly to students/advisories. Advisories should be encouraged to request funding from the STAF through an application that can be found in the office.

Spirit Committee - The spirit committee's main role in the community congress as well as the school is to plan dances and raise school spirit. Another role of the spirit committee is mainly fundraising through alternative methods.

Cell Phone Committee - This new committee was created this year to deal with the present problem with cell phones. The goal of this committee will be to develop a policy so that students use their cell phones appropriately.

PR (Public Relation) - The role of the public relations committee is to inform the Parker community of what the CC is doing every week. This bi-weekly report is one of such jobs.

Constitutional Review Committee - The constitutional review committee gathers and works towards the clarification of Parker's Constitution (which may be found in Parker's Handbook).

Our Spirit Committee is working on a 'New Spirit Day' dedicated to the Red Sox. They will also be working on two dances set for November. A Division I dance and a Division II dance. The STAF Committee is finalizing criteria points on the applications for grant money. The Cell Phone Committee will be introducing a cell phone policy dealing with the use of cell phones in school.

*****IMPORTANT***** Parker has recently received hundreds of videos as a donation due to the closing of a local video store. Unfortunately Parker does not have the room to keep them all. If you have any ideas as to what we may do with these videos, please have your student contact their advisory CC member.

FROM THE TRANSITION OFFICE

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

Worthwhile Television!

"In the Mix" is a PBS weekly TV series for teens, by teens dealing with contemporary adolescent issues. Featured presentations this month include "Divorce and Step families: Breaking Apart/Coming Together," airing October 23 - 30; "Smoking: The Truth Unfiltered," airing October 30 - November 6; and "Teen Immigrants," showing November 6 -13. Each program runs 30 minutes. Enjoy.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT PARKER

Please see coaching opportunities in the Sports Section of this Friday Announcements.

DIVISION III UPDATE

Information concerning the *Transitions* program has been sent to parents of Division III students and students over the age of 18 in Division III. **It is essential that permission to participate in the survey related to this program be returned to Mary Ann Gapinski by Monday, November 1st.** If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mary Ann at the school or by email at: maryann@parker.org.

To ALL Parents and Community Members:

Please join us on Thursday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. to give feedback to our seniors on their Senior Projects. We need all sorts of people with all sorts of interests and backgrounds to hear what our seniors are up to and give them some tips, leads, resources and questions to enhance their projects. The evening will be a combination of poster session and roundtables. See the flyer in Friday Announcements for more information.

Students in Diane's 1.1 Advanced Algebra class have release forms for the video project to discuss and sign this weekend. Please contact her (dkruse@parker.org) if you have any questions about the filming of the class session! Students in Deb's Shakespeare class need to bring in their permission slips and money for a trip to see Macbeth on Wednesday. These students need to remember to be at school at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 3.

This week's course updates are from Amy Adams' MST classes:

In Advanced Algebra:

We are wrapping up our unit on Exponential and Logarithmic functions with the first In Class Problem Solving Assessment. Highlights of the unit included the labs for each of the functions. Students investigated the algebraic and graphic properties of the functions and compiled their findings in a formal written report. Students also made logarithmic slide rulers and used them to do calculations much as they were done before the availability of calculators.

In PreCalculus:

We have begun studying Rational Functions as part of our Functions and Rates of Change unit. Students are investigating abstract concepts such as asymptotes and the end behavior of functions as we work toward generalizing behaviors and properties of functions.

In Calculus:

Students have finished the first unit on Derivatives and Limits, and have completed a lab on L'Hopital's Rule as well as a unit exam on the course material so far. We are beginning a new unit on applications of the derivative next week.

MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Division I MST

This week we've been focusing on the relationships between patterns, tables, graphs and equations. For COW 4 (due yesterday) students have explored both linear and non-linear patterns. Apparently, pattern number 5 was quite a stumper, but there seemed to be a lot of breakthroughs on Tuesday. In class we studied slope and y-intercept and their place in the linear equation. We've also begun a new experiment in preparation for COW 5 which went out yesterday

(due next Thursday). Students are trying to determine the conditions that promote decomposition. This COW focuses on setting up a fair test and drawing logical conclusions from data. Students will turn in their own lab reports; they should be working on the introduction this weekend.

Division II MST

Math has begun exploring exponential relationships this week. The theme for the week has been “Alice in Wonderland;” students have been using exponential equations to model Alice’s changes in height as she alternately eats cake (causing her to grow) and drinks beverage (causing her to shrink). Students will be exploring how similar relationships apply to many real-world situations.

Students completed the Water Quality unit and are now studying photosynthesis in Science, refreshing their understanding of cellular structures. They particularly enjoyed using the mortar and pestle to crush leaves, then testing for pigmentation and looking for stoma in lettuce leaves. Next week they will tackle photosynthesis lab assessments.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES UPDATE

Division I A/H

After weeks of discussing, writing, reading, and acting, Division I A/H finished work with *Romeo & Juliet* with our passage presentations. There were some phenomenal performances (and captured on video tape, too!). At this point, students have been assessed in reading, listening, artistic expression, and oral presentation—ask them how they feel about their work so far. Next, we turn our attention to Tony and Maria in *West Side Story* and examine the connections with *Romeo & Juliet*.

For your viewing pleasure, pictures from the Capulet’s Ball can be seen on the Parker Division I web page at <http://www.parker.org/DivisionI> by clicking on “Capulet’s Ball.” Thanks to Nicky for setting this slide show up!

Division II A/H

Students shared their murals in an Oral Presentation to their classmates and have posted their work in the corridors of Parker. In various ways, these murals reflected multiple perspectives and opinions on an injustice, and they demonstrate the power of visual images to convey complex messages. Congratulations to all our mural artists! This Artistic Expression and OP concludes the work of Unit I. This week, we are devoting some time to the Presidential Election and conducting a Listening Assessment around some central issues, such as national security & terrorism. We are also beginning Unit 2, World War II and the Holocaust. Please remind your kids to return their text from Unit I, Sophocle's 'Antigone.'

WELLNESS

This week in Alan's classes, students played Capture the Flag, Ultimate Frisbee, and used skate boards, bikes and unicycles. As weather begins to get cooler, students should be prepared with warm clothing up until Thanksgiving. Members from the Parker Justice Committee presented information about the role and function of the JC and how conflicts are resolved at Parker. Students wrote and acted out apologies and practiced listening with the following in mind: Acknowledge the fault. Accept responsibility. Explain the impact. Provide an explanation. Communicate regret. For listening: You listen to and acknowledge other people's thoughts and feelings, rather than showing that you only care about broadcasting your feelings and insisting that others agree with you. You encourage others to express what they are thinking and feeling. You listen and try to understand. You express your own thoughts and feelings openly and directly. If you only listen to what other people are thinking or feeling and you don't express your own thoughts or feelings, you end up feeling shortchanged or "dumped on."

Next week, we will play a game of Jeopardy and include information about communication, influences, The Elephant Man, conflicts and kindness.

This week in Deborah's classes, students worked on Conflict Resolution, looking at the anatomy of conflict and creating I Statements. In Physical Activity classes we focused on ping-pong and indoor Ultimate Team Frisbee. Next week in Health, we will continue to look at conflict resolution, focusing on listening skills and apologies.

This week in Laura's classes, we continued to play Touch Football and ran the mile for a fitness assessment. In Health class, students explored the importance of friendships, and brought in articles from the media that were related to kindness. The kindness project has been assigned, and is due on Monday, November 15. A copy is posted on the Division 1 homework website.

SPANISH

Division I Spanish

This week we started working on the second assessment. It is a speaking assessment based on schools in Spain and Mexico. Students started this project by researching school websites. We have also continued our study of verbs and school vocabulary.

Division II Spanish

This week students presented tourism brochures and discussed with their classmates the impact their planned tours have on members of the communities in which they wish to travel. Students then composed a one page "AVISO" response that addresses the impact their tour has on native members of the host community. All students are expected to turn in all four sections of their writing project today. Early next week we will investigate the presidential elections from the perspective of Latino voters and Latin American citizens. We will explore how Latin Americans have historically responded to governments they felt were unjust.

Division III Spanish

This week the course shifted its focus from Guatemala to Chile. Students began reading Paula by Isabel Allende. Paula is an autobiography written by Allende for her daughter stricken with Porphyria disease. The book explores the life of Allende living in Chile during the political unrest of the 1970s. The book also contains descriptions of Allende's personal relationships therefore contains small sections that are sexually explicit. We have alerted our students to these areas and have obviously made these reading sections optional.

SPORTS NEWS

A reminder to all parents of Basketball athletes! If your child plans to participate in the interscholastic Basketball program, their waiver form (signed by a parent) and a current physical exam (within the past year) signed by their healthcare provider, must be on file with the nurse's office **before practices begin**. Forms are available from Ben Benoit, Mary Ann Gapinski, and the Parker website at:
<http://www.parker.org/Athletics/Athletics%20Home%20Page.htm>.

Athletic fees of \$175 per sport per student (family cap is \$700) for winter sports are due **prior to participation in the first game**. Athletes are not permitted to participate until all requirements to participate are met including having a current physical exam on file, sports health history and permission form signed, and athletic fee paid.

Please note that mouth guards are required for participation by MIAA regulations for all student athletes during both practices and games. This rule is strictly enforced. Individual water bottles are also recommended for all practices and games.

Coaching Opportunities Available for 2004-2005

Parker is looking for coaches for the following sports:

Girls Middle School Basketball and Varsity Baseball and Middle School Softball

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

Sports Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Parker Team</u>	<u>Practice/Game</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dismissal from class</u>	<u>Bus Leaves</u>	<u>Game Time</u>	<u>Pick-up</u>
Mon., 11/01	Boys Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:00 at field
	Boys JV/MS	Season over					
	Girls JV	Season over					
	Girls MS	Season over					
	Cross Country	Away vs. S. Lancaster	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	5:30 at school
Tues., 11/02	Boys Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:00 at field
	Boys JV/MS						
	Girls JV						
	Girls MS						
	Cross Country	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school
Weds., 11/03	Boys Varsity	No practice					
	Girls Varsity	No practice					
	Boys JV/MS						
	Girls JV						
	Girls MS						
	Cross Country	No practice					
Thurs., 11/04	Boys Varsity	State Tourny	TBA				TBA
	Girls Varsity	State Tourny	TBA				TBA
	Boys JV/MS						
	Girls JV						
	Girls MS						
	Cross Country	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school
Fri., 11/05	Boys Varsity	State Tourny	TBA				TBA
	Girls Varsity		TBA				TBA
	Boys JV/MS						
	Girls JV						
	Girls MS						
	Cross Country	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school

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

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

FOR THE COMMUNITY

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

LOST AND FOUND

If you have lost one of the following, please come to the office:

One brown leather wallet with no ID inside, found in the parking lot

One CD case with 12 CDs inside

FROM FRANK'S CAFÉ

Menu for Week of November 1

MONDAY - Chili & Cornbread, Spanish Rice, Corn, Fruit Dessert
TUESDAY - Sweet & Sour Meatballs, Buttered Noodles, Glazed Carrots, Fruit Dessert
WEDNESDAY - Pizza Day 1.00 slice, Milk drinks & snacks available
THURSDAY - Sloppy Joes, Curley Fries, Carrot sticks & Ranch, Fruit Dessert
FRIDAY - Cheese Ravioli, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Fruit Dessert

PARKER FOOD CONNECTION

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. 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): _____ - _____ - _____ or _____ - _____ - _____

Email address: _____ @ _____ . _____

Student's name: _____

Student's advisor and division: _____

Division I

Division II

Division III



It's a lot of money! ... you need to know where it all goes. Here is another great reason to support the PEF Fall Fundraiser right now!

DEAR PARKER COMMUNITY,

The Parker Essential Fund has provided grants for rich curricular and extracurricular opportunities for all of our MST students, from special equipment, to books, to travel support for the Parker Math Team. Here are just a few examples:

- Digital camera for investigations in Chemistry
- Engineering tool kits for technology education in Division One
- Dynamics Tracks for physics lab investigations
- Books for the Tropical Ecology Travel Group
- Engineering trips for interested students
- Tropical aquarium for the Marine Science Club
- Challenge Problem Library for the Math Team
- Travel funding to attend math team competitions *and*

Thanks to a generous PEF grant, Parker received a site license for 10 copies of *Solidworks* 3D modeling software. On various Engineering trips (also funded by the PEF), we have seen *Solidworks* being used in the Engineering field on every occasion. Currently we are running a choice block for students to dabble in using *Solidworks*, and as we get our feet wet, we hope to broaden the use of this MST application tool.

This year, our Division Two and Division Three students will soon benefit from a PEF grant that provided Vernier CO₂ and O₂ probes, enabling the students to compile a real analysis of photosynthesis and cellular respiration.

We can teach--and we can teach well--on a limited budget. But, the availability of PEF funding has allowed MST to dream a little bit bigger. When we discover a really amazing math, science or technology opportunity, we can count on the financial support of the Parker Essential Fund to help make such rich experiences possible.

Thank you to the Parker community and the Parker Essential Fund for continuing to support the work of our faculty and learning for your children, our students. We couldn't do this work without your generosity and commitment to dreaming big!

Diane, Heidi and Tiffany, MST teachers

“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

Double your gift! Check with your employer to see if they will match your contribution.

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.
- 15 - HAC meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Room 21 (Snow date 3/16)
- 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.
- 10 - HAC meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Room 21
- 15 - 10th Annual Road Race and Springfest meeting
- 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)