

**FRANCIS W. PARKER CHARTER ESSENTIAL SCHOOL**  
**& REGIONAL TEACHERS CENTER**

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

**Date: September 17, 2004**

Dear Parker Families,

Now that we've remembered what it feels like to come to school every day, mastered (for the most part) our schedules and adjusted again to the patterns of being back at school, it's time for our annual 'Back to School Night!'

As has become the tradition, we'll gather in the Parker gymnasium at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening, September 21, for a couple of purposes. The centerpiece of the evening will be the opportunity for parents to walk through the schedules of their students and spend some time "in class." 'Back to School Night' is an evening designed to provide parents with a real sense of a day in the life of their student, and a way to become acquainted with the particulars of the academic program. Teachers will present overviews of the fall curriculum in each of their classes, and provide a sense of the work our students are tackling in each division and domain. 'Back to School Night' provides parents the opportunity to meet other Parker parents, as well as an early chance to think about scheduling PLP conferences, to be held on Wednesday, October 20, with advisors.

'Back to School Night' serves another important purpose in the life of our school community, as it is also our annual meeting. All parents are encouraged to attend and participate in electing a parent representative to Parker's Board of Trustees. In addition to the official business of the Board, Chairman Robert Moran will speak about our progress as we seek a permanent home for the school. Finally, 'Back to School Night' will serve as a kick-off to the Parker Essential Fund's fall fundraising season.

I hope you will mark your calendars and make plans to join us at the school on Tuesday evening. All of the teachers will be here to answer questions about the coursework they have designed for students, and to provide a glimpse into the work that is happening in classes. For some parents, 'Back to School Night' is a way to match names and faces, to make sense of some of the stories about school that may permeate a carpool or a dinnertime conversation. For others, 'Back to School Night' is a kind of antidote for a lack of conversation about school! What we hope is that 'Back to School Night' is a kind of homecoming: a chance for us to rally around our students as the adults who care so much about them, a chance to be in conversation about teaching and learning, and a real opportunity to begin another year of meeting together on behalf of our students.

See you on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

Teri Schrader  
Principal

# Save the Date!!!

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## Annual Meeting, Back To School Night/Open House

### Tuesday, September 21

6:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting/Back to School Night/Open House in the Gym  
for all Parker Parents. Extra parking in the DPW and P5 lots on Antietam Street. Please do  
not park on Auman Street or in the residents' driveways!

### ***BOARD OF TRUSTEES***

The Parker School Charter stipulates that three members of the Board of Trustees shall be parent representatives elected by the community. The primary responsibilities of the Board of Trustees are to support the Principal and staff in realizing the school's mission; establish and review school policies; oversee financial management of the school; and take a leadership role in planning for the future needs of the school.

All members of the Board of Trustees are expected to play an active role in fulfilling these responsibilities. The Board meets regularly every six weeks; additional meetings and committee work are scheduled as needed. Parent Trustees are elected for a term of three years. We will be electing a parent representative for a three year term at the annual meeting on Tuesday, September 21, at 6:30 p.m. Each parent running for election will be introduced to the community at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, September 21 prior to the balloting. If you have any questions please contact Nicky Dudensing in the Principal's office.

Candidates for parent representative to the Board of Trustees:

#### **Kathy Singh**

A good friend of mine suggested that I run for the parent representative seat on the Board of Trustees. There are few things I consider more worthy of my time. In the past two years of my involvement with Parker, I have become an ardent supporter of the charter school movement especially as practiced by the Coalition of Essential Schools. I have two children at Parker and another who will join them in a few years. My commitment is for the long term. I would like to do my part to help preserve the free and innovative teaching styles that characterize Parker and that have helped shape my children into the thinkers they are. Additionally, I would work to solidify the place of charter schools in the Massachusetts public school system by encouraging parental political activism at the state level. My experience as an accounting manager and MBA will be of value to the school particularly in these times of budgetary constraint.

#### **Jeff Burnett**

I am Jeff Burnett, parent of a Division I student, and I am asking you to consider me to be a parent representative to the Francis W. Parker Board of Trustees.

I seek the opportunity to serve the Parker community because I believe in what Parker is doing, and because I want to support what my children, their schoolmates, and those who will follow them, experience at Parker.

My family and I have lived in Littleton since 1993. I work as vice president operations and finance and serve as a member of the board of directors of the Open Geospatial Consortium, a non-profit industry trade association. My prior

work experience includes 30-years managing teams and organizations, fiscal planning and goal setting, consensus building, and results measurement and evaluation, in computer hardware, software, and services companies, and as a surface line officer in the US Navy during the Vietnam era.

Volunteer Positions:

- Chair of the Standing Committee of First Church Unitarian.
- Assistant Scoutmaster with Littleton Boy Scout Troop 20.
- Member and secretary, Littleton Finance Committee (2 years).
- Assistant coach and secretary of Littleton Soccer Club (4 years).
- Den leader and cub master Littleton Cub Scout Pack 2 (4 years).

I hold a BA in English Literature from Dartmouth College and an MBA from Harvard University.

## **COMING SOON**

### **September, 2004**

- Monday, 20 - Genevieve Wrapping Paper - Orders due  
Tuesday, 21 - Annual Meeting and Back to School Night at 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, 22 - College Fair for Division 3 students at Mount Wachusett  
Friday, 24 - Early Release (**Noon** dismissal)  
Wednesday, 29 - Division I Trip to Mount Wachusett Ski Area  
Wednesday, 29 - Road Race and Springfest Planning Meeting, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 2

## **CALENDAR**

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

### **October, 2004**

- 5 - PEF Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
11 - Columbus Day – no school  
16 - PSAT testing  
18 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
20 - PLP Conference Day (no classes)  
27 - Early Awareness Financial Aid Night for parents of all divisions presented by M.E.F.A.

### **November, 2004**

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

### **December, 2005**

- 4 - PLAN testing  
22 - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. dismissal  
23 - 31 - Holiday Recess

## The Parker Listserve

We use the Parker Listserve to post announcements and reminders about life at Parker. It is now possible for members of the Parker community to sign themselves on to the Parker Listserve. To do so please go to <http://lists.parker.org/mailman/listinfo/fwpaaa> and register. If you wish to unsubscribe, return to the above link and follow directions.

## For our Parents, Students, and Visitors

The State Police are the local police department for Devens. They vigorously enforce all traffic laws and parking regulations, even in the Parker parking lot. We know that you all strive to drive safely. Please park safely, and lawfully, too.

Next Tuesday, for Back to School Night, it is especially important that no one parks on Auman Street or on the driveways behind Auman Street. These are private property. Extra parking is available for Parker parents in the two large lots on Antietam Street. The DPW lot is located to the rear of our building, on the other side of Antietam Street. The P5 lot is located across Jackson Road. Bring a flashlight!

*Please note that MassDevelopment is changing some street names in Devens. The name "MacArthur Avenue" has been replaced by "Jackson Road." Most street signs have been changed to reflect this. Parker School is now located on the corner of Jackson and Antietam Streets.*

## GENEVIEVE'S FUNDRAISER ORDERS DUE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Thank you for supporting the Parker Faculty Study and Travel

**Thank you!**

Many thanks to Maryann Kane, alumnae parent of Rebecca and Jessica Kane, for school supplies and books, to the family of Evan Hayward for a large supply of pens and pencils and for a vase of beautiful flowers for the front office, to the family of Tai Sassen-Liang for the generous donation of science lab glassware and to the family of Bethany Kaye for ruled 3-ring binder paper, greatly appreciated by all. Many thanks also go to the family of Alex and Ben Dube for three geography games and several chess books for choice block.

Many thanks to the families of: Kyle and Matthew Haley, Niels Mattison, Rich and Stephen Rines, Andrew Silvia, Sasha White and many others including anonymous donors for their generous donations to the Nurse's Office this past week. Donations of ice packs, saltines, and tissues are always graciously accepted. Thank you all!

## ***FROM THE TRANSITION OFFICE***

The following program is offered only once every three years. Don't Miss It!

### **Early Awareness Financial Aid Night**

for Parents of All Divisions:

October 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **PSAT**

This year Parker will be administering the **PSAT** to Juniors and interested Sophomores on Saturday, October 16th. Information and registration forms were distributed at registration. To learn more, you may check out the website, [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), or call/email me with your questions.

### **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<sup>th</sup>. Information was distributed at registration. More can be learned at their website [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

### **College Representatives**

A number of **colleges' representatives** will be stopping by to speak with our students. All Division 3 students are welcome to attend these small group meetings, sign up sheets are outside Sue's office, Room 31. Schools are listed below:

Evergreen College	9/20	10:00
Wheaton College	9/21	8:30
University of Vermont	9/21	11:30
Worcester Polytech	10/12	8:30
Mount Holyoke	10/14	11:45
Salve Regina University	10/14	8:45
Smith College	9/24	1:00
Beloit College	10/11	9:45

Registration forms for the PSAT and PLAN tests are due by Wednesday, September 15. Late payments and forms will be gladly accepted as space permits.

# Volunteer Opportunities at Parker

The success of this Charter School depends heavily on the commitment and volunteer effort of the entire community: administration, faculty, support personnel, PARENTS, GUARDIANS, and students. We have put together this request form as a foundation for coordinating and maximizing your contributions of time and talent toward the continued operation of the Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School. This will also be printed in Friday Announcements each week.

The following people have requested volunteer assistance. If any of the days and times listed below work for you please contact the teacher or staff member directly by email or voice mail.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Supervision after School:** We are looking for parents who would be available to help Parker staff with supervision from 3:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.. If this suits your schedule please contact us.

**Looking for Parent Volunteers with IT experience** willing to help with support of the Parker IT environment of Windows, Linux, and Macintosh computers.

**Frank's is looking for a few parent Volunteers** who would be able to help in the kitchen between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Thursdays, once a month or so. Please email Karen, [karenh@parker.org](mailto:karenh@parker.org) or call the school and ask for the Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Thanks

## Advisory Community Service

Do you know of a community service project (one time or on-going) that a Parker advisory could complete during the school year? E-mail Debbie Osofsky, Advisory Coordinator, at [debbieo@parker.org](mailto:debbieo@parker.org) with ideas and contact information.

## Advisory Parent Representatives Needed!

The following advisories are still in need of volunteers to serve as Advisory Parent Representatives. Advisory Parent Representatives aid advisors in meeting the four purposes of the advisory program (academic advising, community service, community conversations, and recreation) and facilitate communication among the families of advisory members. If you are interested, please e-mail Debbie Osofsky, Advisory Coordinator, at [debbieo@parker.org](mailto:debbieo@parker.org), noting the name of your child's advisor.

Amy	Eric	Laura & Chris
Becky	Gena	Sarah
David L	Jim	Tassia & Curtis
Deb	John	

**Choice Block:** There will be a jewelry making choice block where students will learn basic wire techniques. Tools are an integral part of this choice block so we are looking for donations/loans of any flat-nose pliers, round-nose pliers and wire cutters. Any extra beads or wire is also greatly appreciated! All donations can be sent to Terry W. - THANKS!

**Lowell Community Charter School is looking for used copies of the book, *House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros for use in their Language Art classes.** This book was the all-school summer reading last year and many Parker families may have copies available to donate. If you're willing to make such a donation, please put your used copy in the box provided in the school lobby. Thanks from Martha and her students!

**Gardening Help Needed:** If you would be interested in fulfilling your volunteer hours gardening, please see the gardening box on the registration form, found on the back side of the registration form or you may call Wendy Johnson at (978) 952-6849 for more information.

## ***DIVISION III UPDATE***

We are looking forward to seeing parents at Back to School Night on Tuesday. This evening provides us with a great (though short!) opportunity to let you in on what students in Division Three are working on in their classes, including the requirements of the senior project. We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Seniors received the Senior Project Handbook this week, which marks the official launch of this year-long experience. We hope families are talking at home about the opportunities and ideas that students have. The handbook is also available online at the Division Three section of the Parker website.

Please return permission slips and \$8 for the Division Three college fair trip on Wednesday. Also, we are looking for a few parents who might be willing to help us chaperone an Alpine Tower adventure for seniors on Wednesday, September 29. Those with rock climbing experience would be particularly useful. Please contact Deb at [deb@parker.org](mailto:deb@parker.org) if you are interested in helping out.

This week's course summaries are from Becky Wilusz's A/H classes.

### **Becky's Classes**

**Art of the Essay**--Students have finished reading the thoughts of several different professional writers about the writing process and what it means to try to express our thoughts and ideas on paper. After reading several sample essays and reviewing the basics of a personal narrative essay, students have begun to write their first piece. Pre-writing and first drafts have been completed. Second drafts are due for peer editing next Thursday and final drafts are due next Friday.

### **Heroes, Archetypes and Icons**

After studying several myths and discussing heroes from Harry Potter to Moses, students read critical articles defining some of the most accepted patterns of literary heroes. We have recently begun to read *The Odyssey* and will begin to see how those patterns do and don't apply to the main characters. Students have also begun their first portfolio eligible assignment--a reading piece. The first installment of that project will be collected on Tuesday, Sept.21. The whole piece will be completed after we finish our epic journey with Odysseus in early to mid-November

## ***DIVISION I TRIP TO MOUNT WACHUSETT SKI AREA***

Division One advisories will be traveling to Mount Wachusett Ski Area for a day of games, hiking, food, and rides on the chairlift.

**Wednesday, September 29, 2004**

Travel will be by school bus, leaving Parker at 8:45 am and returning for 1:30 dismissal.

Permission slips will be sent home by advisors.

Please return signed permission slips by Tuesday, September 21

along with a check for \$18 to cover bus and food costs.

## ***ARTS AND HUMANITIES***

### **Division I A/H**

*"In fair Verona where we lay our scene..."* With swords prepared and "insults" hurling, Div I AH classes thrust themselves into the first act of *Romeo & Juliet* this week (don't worry—they were just duct tape swords!). We reflected in our reading journals about the personal connections we made with the play, as well as analyzing important passages in the first few scenes. Amidst all of this acting, reading, and writing about Shakespeare, we also found time to discover our "inner artist" by exploring new ways to think about drawing. We hope you will take a look at the first few pieces in our sketchbooks when you come in for "Back to School Night!"

## Division II A/H

Students continued this week to read, act, and analyze Antigone. We have also begun to prepare for a Content Assessment on Greek civilization and culture. Students took initial steps towards composing a short story this week in our new Writing Workshop structure.

Reminder: The fee for the Antigone book is \$8.00. Students who have been marking up the text in the book can purchase their books through their teacher.

# MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## Division I MST

The first COW of the year was due today and we're excited to look at all of the many different methods and ideas we've received. Our second Challenge of the Week went out today and will prove to be as equally diverse. This COW challenges students to design, build and provide detailed graphic representations of their mountains. In the coming weeks students will be learning about topographical maps and mapmaking, the similarities and differences between 2D and 3D representations and concepts of scaling. Because this is an ambitious COW with so much hands-on application of knowledge, the COW will not be due until September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Below we're including some helpful hints and tips for students as they work on their COWs. It might be good to go over these with your student before they begin working on this next challenge. Have a great week!

### MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM.

This may seem obvious but it is easy to jump straight into solving a problem before you really understand it. So, play around with it at first, if you like, but then read the problem carefully two or three times if necessary.

If you are still not sure about the problem, try :

☛ Talking it over with someone else; or

☛ Begin by writing out the problem *in your own words* and have someone else check that what you have written is the same as the original problem.

Another way of getting going with problem solving is **MAKING A START**. Don't be scared of jumping in! Draw some sketches, try some possible answers, talk the problem over with a friend.

### MAKING MISTAKES!!

It's true. Good problem solvers make plenty of mistakes.

You may have heard the expression: *learn from your mistakes*.

Well this statement is true. Try things out, make mistakes, then try some other way of attacking the problem.

### TRY NOT TO GET FRUSTRATED.

We know that is easy to say, but problem solving is all about coming up against some thing you don't quite understand. *That is why it is a challenge.*

### KEEP A RECORD.

If you do not keep a record of what you have done (that is all your rough working & notes), you might end up repeating some of your earlier work without realizing it.

This is particularly true if you are going to leave your problem for a while before coming back to it.

Make sure you write down exactly where you are up to, so it will be easy to get back into at that later time.

We know it seems like a real nuisance writing things down sometimes, but it is worth it if you save time and get closer to problem's solution sooner.

### START WITH THE EASIER PARTS OF THE PROBLEM or MAKE THE PROBLEM SIMPLER.

Understanding a simple version of a problem often is the first step to understanding a whole lot more of it.

So don't be scared of looking at a simple version of a problem, then gradually extending your investigation to the more complicated parts.

### **CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.**

You might think you've got it but you'd better check, just in case.  
This is the vital and final (*hopefully*) part of solving a problem.  
And if it is not the final part, it is just as well you checked - isn't it?  
So always check your answers and the rubric to make sure you've got it all.

### **FINALLY...**

Best wishes with your problem solving.  
Keep trying different ways of solving the problems and don't get worried if you run into difficulties.  
Be positive. Ask for guidance or support.  
We hope the pointers we have provided here are of some help.

## ***SPANISH***

**Spanish - 7th grade:** We are practicing classroom vocabulary through the use of gestures.

**Spanish - Division I:** This week we are learning school related vocabulary through practice with asking and answering questions. Friday, a group of students from Andalucia, Spain will participate in an interview with students in Spanish.

**In Division 2 this week,** we had the pleasure of having Spanish visitors in class. Our visitors helped students prepare for their upcoming speaking project by assisting them in writing dialogues. Students have begun to think about where they would like to travel in the Spanish speaking world and the scenarios they would likely encounter as tourists.

**In Division 3 this week,** students have begun their study of Latin America during the 1970s and 80s with a case study of Guatemala. Students completed their first readings from "I, Rigoberta Menchú." Students also had the opportunity to converse in Spanish with the visiting Spanish students.

## ***WELLNESS***

The Improbable Players (an acting group from the Boston area) performed an original play about substance abuse and young people for all students this past Wednesday. This performance was funded through a generous grant donated by the Parker Essential Fund (PEF). Thank you to the PEF Board for providing this grant funding and to all parents for their generous donations that made this performance happen. Please ask your student about their response to the program!

**This week in Alan's Wellness classes,** students practiced the skills of communication and internal and external influences as they relate and apply to kindness in the film - The Elephant Man (Movie). Based on the true story of John Merrick, a 19th-century Englishman afflicted with a disfiguring congenital disease. With the help of kindly Dr. Frederick Treves, Merrick attempts to regain the dignity he lost after years spent as a side-show freak.

Follow up questions:

What verbal or non-verbal communication was used by John Merrick in this movie?

What verbal and non-verbal communication was used by Frederick Treves in the movie?

What were some healthy ways that the characters expressed their needs or wants?

What were some unhealthy ways that the characters expressed their needs or wants?

Students continued to work together to solve problems with activities like Disc Jockeys. We have started to take a look at competition and kindness with some Olympic events.

**This week in Deborah's Wellness classes students,** students were slow to start in their physical activity class. We spent the first few classes playing capture the flag, finishing the week with thunder ball. In Health we are finishing the movie *The Man Without a Face*. Next week, we will examine the role of kindness, meanness, communication and internal and external influences.

**This week in Laura's Wellness classes,**

This week in Laura's Wellness classes, we began to play Capture the Flag. Students also participated in an initiative, called "Disc Jockeys," which encouraged teamwork and communication by asking teams to swing over an area with a rope to a series of platforms on the ground. We also began health class this week. Our first unit of the year will focus on kindness--looking at what influences our behaviors, and how we can communicate positively with others. All students need to bring a journal or composition notebook to each health class.

***SPORTS NEWS***

**Sports Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Parker Team</b>	<b>Practice/Game</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Dismissal from class</b>	<b>Bus Leaves</b>	<b>Game Time</b>	<b>Pick-up</b>
Mon., 9/20	Boys Varsity	Away vs. St. Mary	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	6:15 at school
	Girls Varsity	Home vs. St. Mary	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:15 at field
	Boys JV/MS	Home vs. Bromfield	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:15 at field
	Girls JV	Practice	School			3:30	5:15 at school
	Girls MS	Home vs. Bromfield	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:15 at field
	Track	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school
Tues., 9/21	Boys Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:30 at field
	Girls Varsity	Home vs. North High	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:15 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
	Track	Away vs. Nashoba Tech.	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	5:30 at school
Weds., 9/22	Boys Varsity	No practice					
	Girls Varsity	No practice					
	Boys JV/MS	No practice					
	Girls JV	No practice					
	Girls MS	No practice					
	Track	No practice					
Thurs., 9/23	Boys Varsity	Away vs. Murdock	See website		4:00	5:30	8:00 at school
	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
	Track	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school
Fri., 9/24	Boys Varsity	No Practice					
	Girls Varsity	Away vs. Monty Tech.	See website		5:45	7:00	9:00 at school
	Boys JV/MS	No Practice					
	Girls JV	Away vs. Monty Tech.	See website		2:30	3:30	5:45 at school
	Girls MS	No Practice					
	Track	No Practice					

## **Coaching Opportunities Available for 2004-2005**

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

Please contact Ben Benoit, Parker School Athletic Director, with any questions at [bbenoit@parker.org](mailto:bbenoit@parker.org)

### **NEW FOR PARENTS OF PARKER ATHLETES!**

[FWPSports@parker.org](mailto:FWPSports@parker.org) is here! Sign up for the Parker Sports List Serve! Receive daily updates of any game or practice schedule changes! Please register to become a member of this list serve at:

<http://lists.parker.org/mailman/listinfo/fwpsports>. Parents and interested others can subscribe, un-subscribe, or change email address for the Parker sports mailing list at this same website. Stay updated with announcements about Parker Sports. Subscribe today! Any questions, please contact Ben or Mary Ann.

- Athletic fees of \$175 per sport for the fall season are due at the time your student is placed on a roster, please pay if you haven't done so already. Thank you.
- Colored mouth-guards must be worn by all soccer players at every practice and every game – this is an MIAA rule and will be strictly enforced.

## ***STUDENT SERVICES REMINDER***

Homework Clinic begins on Thursday, September 23 from 3:40 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Please e-mail Lee, [leeg@parker.org](mailto:leeg@parker.org) or Terry, [terryw@parker.org](mailto:terryw@parker.org), if you would like your child to join us in the library. This is a place for quiet study after school every Tuesday and Thursday and has adult support and supervision.

## ***FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE***

The Multi-Service Center in Leominster is providing a FREE healthcare program for students in our area. A number of pediatricians from the Leominster/ Fitchburg area have agreed to provide well child physicals and office visits to students in the surrounding area at no cost to families.

Parents/ guardians may contact the Parker School Nurse (or the Multi-Service Center in Leominster directly) to receive a voucher for either a well child physical or a diagnostic examination. The parent/ guardian can make the appointment at their convenience. Participating physicians have agreed to accept the voucher as full payment for one visit. Assistance will also be provided to obtain health insurance coverage for all children eighteen years and younger.

If you are interested in receiving a free voucher, contact Mary Ann Gapinski, Parker School Nurse at the school or Barbara Abraham at the Multi-Service Center, Inc. in Leominster at 978-537-7395. These examinations are FREE OF CHARGE and conducted by local pediatricians in their offices.

## ***FOR THE COMMUNITY***

### **Shirley Children's Theater**

On Friday September 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. the Shirley Children's Theater will be sponsoring performances by Joe Sallins who is a Massachusetts Cultural Council Creative Teaching Partner. Joe will perform at the Shirley Middle School at 33 Hospital Road, Devens, for an admission of \$5 per person with a maximum of \$20 per family. Joe's objective is to convey an understanding of musical history and its cultural significance while stressing the value of teamwork. His program explores a varied and eclectic combination of traditional African call and response songs, tribal music, rap, fusion, traditional jazz, and rock and roll.

## **WOODWIND CHOIR** (middle and high school students)

Flutists, clarinetists, oboists, bassoonists, and saxophonists who have played at least two years on their instruments are invited to join Indian Hill Music School's newest chamber ensemble. Players will build ensemble skills and improve their reading, rhythm, and intonation while learning and performing repertoire from a variety of sources.

MONDAYS 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Indian Hill in Littleton. - Instructor is Henry Tervo  
Fall and Spring - 60 minutes/15 sessions/ \$124

**New beginning date of first week in October.** No formal audition required, but please bring a prepared solo piece and scales to the first rehearsal. Any questions, please call Indian Hill Music at (978) 486-9524 or Parker parent Lois Greenbaum at (978) 264-0331

### **Try-outs for a New Reality Competition TV Show**

WGBH, the producers of ZOOM and NOVA, is holding try-outs for Players (high school students grades 9 through 12) for a video test of a new reality competition TV show. It is a volunteer position that promises to be loads of fun.

This new show will test the engineering skills of two teams of players who compete by building different kinds of machines. Each machine will perform everyday tasks or solve problems, like an Automatic Scrambled Egg Cooker, a Reverse Water Slide or a Go Kart Shopping Cart.

Folks who are interested need to be available the weekend of Saturday, October 23 and Sunday, October 24 when the test video will be taped.

Try-outs are by appointment only and will take place Saturday, October 2 at WGBH. To schedule your try-out, please contact Betsy Gartrell by e-mail at: [betsy\\_gartrell@wgbh.org](mailto:betsy_gartrell@wgbh.org)

### ***FROM FRANK'S CAFÉ***

Frank's is looking for a few parent Volunteers who would be able to help in the kitchen between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Thursdays, once a month or so. Please email Karen, [karenh@parker.org](mailto:karenh@parker.org) or call the school and ask for the Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Thanks

### **Menu for Week of 9/20**

**Monday** - Chili & Cornbread, Spanish Rice Corn, Fruit Dessert

**Tuesday** - Sweet & Sour Meatball, Buttered Noodles, Glazed Carrots, Fruit Dessert

**Wednesday** - Pizza Day 1.00/slice Milk, drinks & snacks available

**Thursday** - Sloppy Joes on WW Bun. Curley Fries, Carrot Sticks & Ranch Dip, Fruit  
Cheese Ravioli, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Fruit Dessert

All lunches come with 10 oz milk - whole, 1%, or lowfat chocolate, coffee or strawberry

**Prices will be as follows:** Complete meal \$3.50, milk available, 2%, chocolate and strawberry 10 oz. 50 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.

# Parker Essential Fund

## **What is PEF?**

Parker Essential Fund (PEF) is the nonprofit fundraising organization that provides grants for educationally enriching activities and equipment for the Parker School. PEF typically raises \$50,000 each school year through contributions and special fundraisers like the Annual Parker Auction and the Parker Classic Road Race and Springfest.

## **Annual PEF Meeting**

New PEF Board members will be elected at the meeting scheduled for **October 5<sup>th</sup>**. Please come to learn more about PEF and how to get involved. Parents are key to the success of PEF and fundraisers are a great way for parents to get to involved and meet other parents.

## **PEF 2004 Fall Fundraiser**

Fall in New England – warm sunny days, cool crisp nights, fall foliage colors so vibrant you wish you could paint, apple-picking, biking and hiking, the smell of fall – and at Parker, once again the staff are preparing a curriculum not usually found in public schools, encouraging Parker students to continue to think critically and push the edges of the educational envelope.

Fall in New England for the Parker community has also meant the Annual PEF Fall Auction, THE major fundraising event put on by the PEF each year with all proceeds to benefit the Parker School and our children. The auction has been made possible only through the considerable efforts of a large number of dedicated Parker volunteers devoting many hours to the planning of the auction, including obtaining donations from the Parker community and area businesses, and by the spirited bidding (silent and live) at the auction by the Parker community. The Annual PEF Fall Auction has successfully raised about \$40,000 each year once all the bids and cash contributions were tallied. Not only has the auction been a successful fundraiser but also it has been a great social event with the students, advisories, teachers, administration and parents all pitching in to make it a success. Over the years, the Parker community effort has been substantial, and there is much affection for the Annual PEF Fall Auction. But, we feel that after seven wonderful years there may be some auction burn out in the Parker community, and that is okay.

So, this year the PEF is taking a break from the auction. Instead we are asking the Parker community, this week and in the weeks ahead, to consider what Parker means to you and your child/children and that without the support of the Parker Essential Fund many programs and services offered at Parker would not be possible. In the next few weeks, we'll be reminding you of what it means to be part of the Parker community and explaining to you how the PEF works, what it makes possible at Parker, and how PEF funds have provided benefits for all members of the Parker community – parents, teachers, administration and most of all, students. Information about the PEF will be found on the green sheet at the back of each Friday's announcements, as well as on the Parker website at <http://www.parker.org/PEF/Homepage.html>.

We'll be at the open house on Tuesday, the 21<sup>st</sup>, to tell you more about our fall fundraising plans. Hope to see and talk to you there.

