

FRANCIS W. PARKER CHARTER ESSENTIAL SCHOOL
& REGIONAL TEACHERS CENTER

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Friday Announcements

Date: September 24, 2004

Dear Parker Families,

I have been asked by the PEF to write this week's letter as a kind of launch to a series of statements from some of us whose work at the school has benefited from the PEF and the grants provided every year to support our program. In all honesty, I'm torn. On the one hand, this is a letter that could almost write itself; the Parker Essential Fund has not only supported, but in many cases *made possible* some of the most interesting, compelling, and amazing things that have happened in our school's first nine years. I could fill this page, this packet, with words that go far beyond lists, of the kinds of initiatives, equipment, and experiences our students and staff have been granted, and the impact of each and every item. As the Principal of the school, and before that, as a teacher here, I have witnessed a kind of wonderful process of the school growing itself, almost learning to inhale and exhale as we have become accustomed to cycles where ideas turn to proposals, and proposals turn to reality, and the signs of that reality are made manifest in our science labs, on our athletics fields, in the hands of drummers, and in the feet of dancers. The grants provided by the PEF have helped to assure and convince teachers at this school that we are not doing this work of striving for a particular kind of discipline-based integrity to infuse our work with students alone. The PEF has been a consistent core of support, affirmation, and encouragement for innovative teaching and learning, and has provided a constant partnership with the school as a facilitator of hopes. I could write about all that and more.

At the same time, there's a part of me that wants to be a little more selfish than a Principal perhaps ought to be. There's a part of me that wants to use my moment to talk about the ways in which the PEF has functioned in a very real way, as part producer, part silent partner in the development of theatre at Parker.

Before I came to Parker School, I had established a teaching and theatre directing practice that was characterized by "doing theatre wherever". My former school, though completely committed to the arts and known regionally for its terrific programs in the arts, struggled with facilities and despite its admiration for the kind of theatre that was happening, had virtually no space for a play to be performed. And so a lot of my shows with students were touring shows, performed in prisons and homeless shelters and hospitals and facilities where audiences were unaccustomed to, but grateful for opportunities to experience live theatre. Perhaps this is partially why, when I first heard Parker people talk about "the vault" as a possibility for an actual on-site "theatre space", I was ecstatic. At the time, it seemed like a real step up!

We began theatre at Parker with our shows in the vault, the lead-lined room with the door twenty inches thick. The Parker Essential Fund has demonstrated its commitment to helping theatre find a place at this school since our *Antigone*, in 1996. The PEF has helped us to look at our less than perfect spaces and find ways to execute scenic designs that transcend the obvious realities of vault walls and cafetorium floors. The PEF has supported the construction of scenic environments as distinct as Anne Frank's attic apartment to the dismal, raked structure where Gregor Samsa discovered his *Metamorphosis*. A Grant to support theatre at Parker enabled professional musicians to work in residence with student actors to develop and perform an original arrangement for *Our Town*. The PEF helped to support our original adaptation of Karen Hesse's *Out of the Dust*, a production described by Ms. Hesse as "one of the most important events of her life". The PEF has provided a means for expression, and a way to help reflect the extraordinary interest and commitment Parker students have for acting and for learning the actor's craft. I cannot think of a single request for help that has gone unanswered. From assisting with funding to improve our various and strange theatre venues, to helping with the costs associated directly with production, the Parker Essential Fund has made an essential difference in creating and sustaining our theatre program.

It may be quite a while till we have the ideal performance space, but our next production is just around the corner. A new adaptation of Sophocles' *Antigone*, will be developed early winter, and we will need Well, who knows? As the

design emerges, so too will the production's needs. One thing seems assured, though, and that's the readiness of the PEF to assist with whatever it will take to bring another *Antigone* to another Parker opening.

I could go on, but I know I'm just one voice in a pretty large chorus. A few others will speak over these next few weeks about what it means to be in a community where parental support for good schooling takes the form of labors of love, (auctions and Spring Fests, and Road Races, and events that take hundreds of people hundreds of hours) and also take the form of direct support for the work we do with students every day in classrooms and on special occasions on the "stage".

I have been asked to write today about the PEF, but this job hasn't for one moment felt like work. It's just saying out loud what's true, even on those days when the theatre is dark.

Teri Schrader
Principal
Theatre Director!

Congratulations

Parker parent Kathy Singh, joins Phil Campbell and Chet Gapinski in serving as a Parent Representative to the Parker Board of Trustees.

Parker School's Annual Report 2003 – 2004

The Parker School's Annual Report for the 2003-2004 school year is complete and available to any parent or community member interested in reading it. Although the report is compiled in response to specific criteria outlined by the Mass Department of Education, it contains information that may be of interest to anyone. The easiest and most environmentally friendly way to access the report is to read it on-line. You can find it in the 'Learn More about Parker' section of the Parker web site (www.parker.org). If you would like a paper copy of the annual report, they are available from the school office upon request.

COMING SOON

September, 2004

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
Wednesday, 29 - Friday, 1 - Division II White Water Rafting Trip to Maine

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.
- 19 - Health Advisory Council (HAC) at 7:00 p.m. in Room 21
- 20 - PLP Conference Day (no classes)
- 27 - Early Awareness Financial Aid Night for parents of all divisions presented by M.E.F.A.
- 28 - Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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.

Thank you!

Many thanks go to the family of Tamara Verhyen for some delicious deserts provided for the faculty when they stayed late on "Back to School" night.

Many thanks to the families of Paul Spanagel and Addison Van Auken for their very generous donation of beads and tools for the Jewelry Making Choice Block.

Student Services would like to thank the family of Carl Tappan for their very generous donation of CD's for Student Support. We'd also like to thank the anonymous donor of lined paper and pencils - THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the families of: Alex and Ben Dube, Fletcher, Gwen and Leeann Fernau, Hannah Gale, Kyle and Matthew Haley, Niels Mattison, Evan and Jared Osofsky, Rich and Stephen Rines, Andrew Silva, Sasha White and many others including anonymous donors, for their generous donations 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 on Saturday, October 16th. 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.

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 4th. Information was distributed at registration. More can be learned at their website www.act.org.

Registration forms for the PSAT and PLAN tests has been extended until Monday, October 4. Late applicants will be accepted on a space-available basis."

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 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.

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.

* * * * *

Jewelry Making choice block has begun and we are still hopeful people may have hidden stashes of long forgotten beads, earring wires, or any other material usable for jewelry making. All donations are greatly appreciated and should be sent to Terry W. We do need needle-nosed pliers! THANKS!!

Yarn Wanted! The knitting choice block is looking for donations of yarn and knitting needles. We are beginners, so thick yarn and large needles (size 8 or larger) are preferable. Contact Diane (dkruse@parker.org) with questions. Thank you!

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 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 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, noting the name of your child's advisor.

Becky
David L

Deb
Jim

John
Tassia & Curtis

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

**** Thanks** to everyone who attended Back to School Night; it was nice to see so many parents here. **** If** the weather cooperates, Seniors will be on the alpine tower this coming Wednesday. Please look for the permission slip/release form your student will bring home for your signature in order to participate. ******

This week's course updates are from John Bohannon's MST courses.

Physics:

This course starts with the definition of terms and derivation of formulas related to kinematics. We began the year with a lab in which we learned how to use the equipment we will be using all year and practiced with the measurement of velocity. We are now formally defining the quantities of displacement, velocity, and acceleration and developing the formulas we will need as we move forward into the study of free-fall and projectile motion. Next week we will be doing a lab in which we experimentally determine the rate of acceleration due to gravity.

Calculus:

Our study of Calculus begins with exploring how to find the slope of non-linear functions. We started out by approximating values using the difference quotient to find the average rate of change between two points. We did an investigation in which students looked at graphing the approximate slope of a function along with the function and made guesses as to the formula that would give the exact rate of change at each point of the function. From that we learned about the concept of limits in order to enable us to define the function that gives the exact rate of change of another function. We are now working with this limit definition of the derivative and will be progressing quickly into work on developing techniques of differentiation.

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 a.m. and returning for 1:30 p.m. dismissal. Permission slips have been sent home by advisors. **Signed permission slips were due by Tuesday, September 21 along with a check for \$18 to cover bus and food costs.**

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Division I A/H

Another week has quickly flown by in Division I A/H, and we continued to explore the twists and turns of *Romeo & Juliet* in class and in our journals. We “kitchen sink”-ed different parts of the play, discussed characters’ views of love, and analyzed film versions of the Capulet’s Ball where the two “star-crossed lovers” first meet. (In fact, we will be hosting our own Capulet’s Ball at Parker in a few weeks, so look out for more information and ways you can help in future editions of the Friday Announcements!).

Many thanks to everyone able to make it out to “Back to School Night” on Tuesday. Remember, you can keep track of your child’s assignments on the Division I A/H homework page at this address:
www.parker.org/DivisionI/ahhomework.htm

Division II A/H

This week Division II A/H continued their reading of *Antigone* and began preparing for Tuesday’s (September 28) ICCA (In Class Content Assessment) on Ancient Greek history and culture. The Division II A/H teachers would like to inform parents and families that there is a modern adaptation of *Antigone* being put on by the Nora Theatre Company at the Boston Playwrights Theater. Call (617) 491-2026 for details; shows run through October 3rd...sounds like a great opportunity to see *Antigone* in action.

MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Division I MST

Whew! The first COW of the year came in yesterday and the second just went out. COW #2 – Exponential Growth continues our exploration of growth patterns and will expand upon the concepts covered in Pascal’s Triangle (COW #1). This COW will be due next Thursday, September 30. We have fully launched our first unit which is covering ‘Decomposition’ and students have begun to investigate the organisms and habitat located in study plots behind the school.

By now you have begun to experience the kind of homework we give in Division 1 MST...we’re including the information below as a (hopefully) helpful guide to really giving them a hand in an effective and productive way:

Parent/Guardian Guide for Helping Your Student in Division 1 MST

Helping Your Child with Homework

One goal in helping students learn is to assist them in figuring out as much as they can do for themselves. You can help by asking questions that guide them without telling them what to do. Good questions and good listening will help students make sense of math and science, build self-confidence, and encourage communication and problem solving skills. A good question expands a problem and supports different ways of thinking about it. Here are some questions you might try; notice that none of them can be answered with a simple “yes” or “no”.

Getting Started

- What do you need to find out?
- What do you need to know?
- How can you get the information?
- Where can you begin?
- What terms do you understand or not understand?
- Have you solved similar problems that would help?

While Working on a Problem

- How can you organize the information?
- Can you make a drawing (model) to explain your thinking?
- Are there other possibilities?
- What would happen if...?
- What do you need to do next?
- Do you see any patterns or relationships that will help solve this?
- How does this relate to...?
- Can you make a prediction about...?

Reflecting About a Solution

- How do you know your solution/conclusion is reasonable?
- How did you arrive at your answer?
- How could you convince me that your answer makes sense?
- What did you try that did not work?
- Have you answered the question(s)?
- Can you make the explanation clearer?

Responding-Helping Your Child Clarify and Extend His or Her Thinking

- Tell me more.
- Can you explain it in a different way?
- Is there another possibility or strategy that might work?
- Help me understand this part.

Helping Your Child Get Organized

An important part of being successful in math and science is taking responsibility for one's own learning. In Division 1 MST, students are expected to use a notebook to record class discussions on problems and reflections about their learning. Students are also asked to maintain a folder for class handouts and problems. These will serve as a resource for the student throughout the year. The following suggestions can help you encourage good organizational and study habits.

- Provide a study place. If possible have materials readily available in that place (calculator, paper, rulers, pencils, dictionary, graph paper, etc.)
- Many kids need assistance in organizing and maintaining a notebook and folder system. Help them develop this system.
- Help your students develop the habit of writing assignments down in a clear and organized way. Check to make sure their system is operating effectively throughout the year.
- Help your child develop a system for taking meaningful notes. This may be just a matter of seeing whether your child is taking and using their notes.
- Encourage your student to identify study buddies or other students that they can call to work on assignments, get clarification, and find out about makeup work.
- Encourage and expect your child to get work done on time, to stay caught up, to get help in a timely manner, and to correct errors in their work. You may want to help your child go over incomplete or incorrect work and talk about how the work could be improved.
- It is generally expected that middle school students know the basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts as well as whole number and fraction computation. If your child is not proficient with these skills, help him or her master the needed skills.

Doing Math and Science At Home with Your Child

The following suggestions provide some practical ways to help your child learn math and science at home:

- Math and science is everywhere, yet many kids don't see it. Look for ways to point it out and reinforce skills at home (how do you use math or science at work, at home, try involving them in tasks which require problem solving or computation)
- Encourage your child to participate in games and activities that teach or reinforce math and science skills.
- Share your problem solving strategies and techniques, mental computation strategies, and estimation strategies. Have your child teach you some. Work on the same problem, then compare strategies as well as answers.
- Invite your child to explain what was learned in math or science and have them teach it to you. This type of interaction provides an opportunity for your child to help clarify his or her thinking, to practice new skills, and to practice communicating.

The above ideas were taken from the *Administrative Notebook for Middle School Mathematics*, Plano Independent School District, Plano Texas and adapted for use at Parker Charter School.

Division II MST

Tuesday of this week we passed in our first assessment of the year. We started our next unit that focuses on water quality and statistics. Science began investigating the world's water resources and asked two questions: What is in water? and would you drink Deven's water? This launched us into exploring water quality parameters. At the end of the week we used microscopes to discover some of the biotic parameters in water. Math spent the week considering ways to display data. We looked at the effect scale can have on how a graph looks and then investigated how the use of the word "average" could be used to mean different things. We learned about the three types of averages and began to explore how to visually display data with the use of Stem and Leaf and Box and Whisker Plots. Early next week we will start learning about the importance of dissolved oxygen in aquatic systems. We look forward to investigating the effect of turbulence, rapids, on the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water, as we raft down the river in Maine!!

SPANISH

In Division I Spanish, this week we practiced the vocabulary for the class. We did a small project about labeling the classroom and the school. The students used the vocabulary to have conversations and describe these places. The students from Spain came on Friday for the second time to sing with us.

In Division II Spanish, students have been working on their speaking skills in class and studying vocabulary at home as they prepare for speaking assessments next week. We also had further conversations with our Spanish exchange students, giving students a chance to delve into informal conversations about everything from food to politics, as well as doing role-plays to prepare for the upcoming assessments.

WELLNESS

In Alan's classes, students walked in the woods to "Secret Rock" and played touch football this week. We continued to watch the movie, "Elephant Man," and consider the relationship between kindness, communication and influences in John Merrick's life.

This week in Laura's classes, students began to think and write about kindness while watching the movie, "Elephant Man." We went for a walk to "Secret Rock," and also participated in an initiative where students had to balance on a log and change places without falling off. We are continuing to get to know one another, and will begin to play Ultimate Frisbee next week. Please remind your child to bring a journal to class on Tuesdays, and to wear sneakers/t-shirt to class the rest of the week.

LIBRARY NEWS

Welcome back to the new school year! We have just put out a list of 7 pages of **AWESOME NEW BOOKS**- our longest list ever! Please stop by the library and check out these new books-- many were purchased through parent contributions during the **Buck\$ for Book\$** fundraiser last Spring, and many were selected by our teachers!

Library Volunteers Needed! Please contact Maura Barstow and let her know if you can help this year! (Maura is in on Tuesday/Thursday). New and returning volunteers are needed and most welcome! We have electronically cataloged over 1500 (that's 1,500!!!) books this summer, and they all need to be processed with new labels! (Thanks, PEF, for the grant for our cataloging program!)

Video Taping Needed. Can you video tape occasional educational programs for Parker Teachers at your home? If so, please contact Laurie Nehring. We are hoping to tape the Presidential debates and some PBS programs in the coming weeks. Thank you!

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 or Terry, 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.

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.

HAC members provide feedback on diverse issues critical to the health and safety of the Parker Community. It was involved with such diverse issues as the environmental review of the building site, safety of the athletic program and internet monitoring. Members also reviewed the Wellness curriculum and were instrumental in establishing a food service program here at the Parker School.

Parents, students and faculty are invited to join us in these efforts. The next meeting of the Health Advisory Council (HAC) is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 19th at 7:00 p.m. in Room 21**. The Wellness Curriculum Overview will be presented as well as a discussion of host liability laws. Please contact Mary Ann Gapinski, HAC Coordinator, for more information.

SPORTS NEWS

Sports Schedule

Date	Parker Team	Practice/Game	Location	Dismissal from class	Bus Leaves	Game Time	Pick-up
Mon., 9/27	Boys Varsity	Home vs. St. Bernards	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:15 at field
	Girls Varsity	Away vs. St. Bernards	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	6:00 at school
	Boys JV/MS	Home vs. St. Bernards	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:15 at field
	Girls JV	Away vs. St. Bernards	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	6:00 at school
	Girls MS	Practice	P5			3:30	5:15 at field
	Track	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school
Tues., 9/28	Boys Varsity	Away vs. North Shore	See website	2:05	2:15	3:30	6:30 at school
	Girls Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:30 at field
	Boys JV/MS	Home vs. Littleton	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:15 at field
	Girls JV	Practice	School			3:30	5:15 at school
	Girls MS	Home vs. Littleton	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:15 at field
	Track	Home vs. Blackstone	Willard	2:45		3:30	5:00 at Willard
Weds., 9/29	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., 9/30	Boys Varsity	Away vs. Bromfield	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	5:45 at school
	Girls Varsity	Home vs. Bromfield	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:15 at field
	Boys JV/MS	Practice	P5			3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls JV	Home vs. Bromfield	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:15 at field
	Girls MS	Practice	P5			3:30	5:15 at field
	Track	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school
Fri., 10/1	Boys Varsity	Away vs. Blackstone	See website	2:05	2:15	3:30	6:15 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

NEW FOR PARENTS OF PARKER ATHLETES!

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.

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

2005 PARKER ROAD RACE AND SPRINGFEST

The 10th Annual Parker Road Race and Springfest is scheduled for **Sunday, May 15, 2005**. This is the 10th Anniversary of the race and it would be fun to plan some special activities.

Our kickoff meeting is next **Wednesday, September 29 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 2**. Please join us as we brainstorm new ideas and discuss the improvements we identified after last year's race.

We are looking for volunteers for all aspects of the race from sponsorship, to promotion, to set-up. Our goals this year are to double the number of runners and create a fun destination for runners, families, and community members.

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

FOR THE COMMUNITY

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

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

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 or call the school and ask for the Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Thanks

Menu for Week of September 27

Monday - Soft Taco Wraps, Lettuce, Tomato, Salsa & Sour Cream, Fruit Dessert

Tuesday - Lasagna, Garden Salad, Garlic Bread, Fruit Dessert

Wednesday - **NO PIZZA DUE TO FIELD TRIPS!**

Thursday - Chicken Patty on a Bun w/ Honey Mustard Sauce, Roasted Potatoes, Celery Sticks & Ranch Dip, Fruit Dessert

Friday - Chicken Pot Pie, Mashed Potatoes, Garden Salad, 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 **Tuesday, October 5**. 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 involved and to meet other parents.

The title is centered and surrounded by several five-pointed stars of varying sizes. The main title 'PEF PLEDGE DRIVE' is in a large, bold, black serif font. Below it, the subtitle 'Shoot for the Stars!' is in a white serif font, set against a solid black rectangular background.

PEF PLEDGE DRIVE

Shoot for the Stars!

Thanks to each and every one of you in the Parker Community for all your past support, efforts and contributions to the PEF Fall Auction. This year we are taking a break from the Auction. Instead the Parker Essential Fund is running a Pledge Drive whose goal is to raise \$40,000.

All of us have something in common - Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School. Parker offers our children something that is unique and priceless. Many of us were drawn to Parker for its philosophy of education, its small size and the enthusiasm of both staff and students, past and current. As you know, Parker is a public school so we pay no tuition for this exceptional educational opportunity.

Unfortunately, the public school budget does not cover all the enrichment activities that Parker offers. The PEF helps fund these programs/resources that make our children's education fuller. In the past we have funded grants for Model Mugging, drama productions, athletic uniforms and equipment, software for design engineering and much, much more. Visit the PEF pages of the Parker website to see a more complete list of grants.

In order to continue PEF's tradition of providing financial support when it is needed, we must raise \$40,000 this fall. Every dollar you give will directly enhance Parker students' education and expand the choices and educational tools available to them.

The PEF Pledge Drive will run from September 21st to November 19th. We need to end the drive at this time so that we have the money in hand to fund this year's teachers grant requests. Contributions from parents and other Parker friends are essential for continued funding.

Please, think about what you have spent, donated and volunteered in the past. Demonstrate what Parker means to *you* by giving generously so that Parker has the funds needed to do what it does best: nurture and educate our children.

Thank you!!!

The PEF Fall Fundraising Committee

(OVER)

PEF Pledge Drive

Shoot for the Stars!

10 pledges @ \$1,000 –
UNIVERSE - \$10,000

20 pledges @ \$500 –
GALAXY - \$10,000

50 pledges @ \$250 –
SOLAR SYSTEM - \$12,500

100 pledges @ \$100 –
SUPER NOVA - \$10,000

180 families can raise \$42,500!
Together, we can shoot for the stars

**Any amount you give will make a difference*

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 01432

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

Your contribution *could* be doubled! Check if your employer has a matching program! Matching forms can be sent to the PEF at the Parker office, attention Nancy Rines, Treasurer.

January, 2005

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

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)