

**FRANCIS W. PARKER CHARTER ESSENTIAL SCHOOL**  
**& THEODORE R. SIZER TEACHERS CENTER**  
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**Friday Announcements**

**Friday, December 2, 2005**

Dear Parker Families,

As winter approaches, it seems right to highlight our procedures for school closings, delayed openings, and other weather related situations. Unlike district schools where decisions are made by coordinating and considering the capacity of the schools to transport students safely and responsibly on buses, we face a decidedly more complicated set of factors because our students travel by car to school. The first and most pressing factor is the safety of our students. When a storm hits the region and it is clearly inadvisable to drive to school, we will cancel. More often however, the situation is less obvious; there may be a range of weather conditions that prevail throughout the over 40 communities that comprise Parker's population, or worse still, the severity of a storm may be missed until it is upon us and school is in session. No doubt, unless we get very, very lucky this year, and have all our snow on weekends, or better yet (with apologies to skiers), we have no snow at all, decisions regarding inclement weather will be judgment calls based on our best available information and our commitment to safety. For this reason, please read the information below carefully and discuss with your students and carpool buddies some contingency plans based on the school's procedures. Note that once a decision has been made to hold classes, we will not decide to close the school early. Families are always free to pick students up from school at any time, but the school will never require students to leave before 3:30 p.m. (or scheduled dismissal), as we have no way to provide for their transport. I hope the procedures outlined below are helpful as you think through the particulars of winter travel within a carpooling community.

In each scenario, one principle is central: please use your best judgment when making the decision to let your student drive to school or travel with others when we have snow and ice.

***Parker School Policy on School Closing Due to Inclement Weather***

We announce school closings and two-hour delayed openings on WCVB TV5, WBZ (Radio AM1030 and TV4) and WHDH TV7. Please use your own common sense and good judgment when deciding whether or not to drive to school. It is difficult for us to be aware of weather conditions in all the 40+ communities where our students reside. We try to make the decision before 6:00 a.m., after consulting with various faculty "snow experts." We also put our announcement on the Parker web site, [www.parker.org](http://www.parker.org).

***When bad weather develops during the school day***, you should always feel free to come to school early to pick up students. Make sure you come to the office and sign out all the students you take home. Parker School does not close early for weather events. A faculty member or administrator will stay at the school until all students are picked up.

***Special Information for Students Who Drive to Parker:*** Student drivers and their parents are responsible for making all decisions about whether or not a student should drive in inclement weather. Please discuss this now, before the first flakes fall. Remember that, when a sudden snowfall begins, our school telephones become very, very busy. We will give student drivers priority in making calls, but there may still be difficulty in reaching you. Student drivers may not leave school early unless we get permission from a parent.

***Student telephone use on "bad weather" days*** will be very limited. Student drivers will have first priority for contacting their parents. We need to keep our telephone lines available for incoming calls and for emergencies.

Here's to the beginning of a meteorological winter,

Teri Schrader

## Homework Workshop with John Mohrbacher M.Ed., LICSW

John Mohrbacher M.Ed., LICSW, the “therapeutic tutor” who spoke to parents on November 8<sup>th</sup> about ways to help students keep up with the homework at Parker, was asked to consider offering a private, group course for students that would focus on improving student attention, personal organization and written work production. He has agreed to offer a five week program meeting on Saturdays at noon at Parker on January 7, 21, 28, as well as February 4, and 11. Two evening meetings will be arranged, one to meet each potential participant before the first group session and one to meet with each family to help them develop a weekly schedule for homework routines. The cost of each session will be \$60. If interested please contact John at 781-729-5050 or [jo.mohrbacher@comcast.net](mailto:jo.mohrbacher@comcast.net). The focus of the workshops is described below:

### Help Your Student Keep Up at Parker

**What:** A five week course designed for students who are lagging behind in homework! The course will directly teach strategies for training one’s attention, identifying one’s priorities, working consistently on one’s priorities, managing materials, and writing efficiently. The course will also use the “group therapy” modality to help students overcome some of the emotional obstacles to faithful homework production. Each of the students also will be asked to meet with John for an evening appointment on two different occasions: once in advance of the course to determine if the group is right for him and once during the course to develop a family agreement around homework production.

Each student will leave the course with a document detailing the strategies covered in the course, a cassette tape featuring relaxation/concentration techniques, and a “homework agreement.”

Each group meeting will dedicate some time to identifying and practicing the strategies mentioned above, as well as dedicating some time to discussing the personal and emotional obstacles to homework production.

**Who:** Six boys, grades 8 thru 10. Students admitted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Each student will be interviewed before the first class to determine if the course is likely to help him.

John Mohrbacher is a “therapeutic tutor” who is familiar with the Parker academic philosophy and has worked with several Parker students through the years. As a therapeutic tutor, John uses three different avenues to help his clients:

1. Directly “remediate” information processing difficulties (i.e. improve reading, memory, attention, comprehension, planning ability, etc.);
2. Diminish the emotional problems that tend to develop around learning difficulties (i.e. deal with anxiety, despair, anger, etc.);
3. Teach effective learning strategies to deal with current schoolwork (help clients study for tests, write papers, develop projects, etc.).

**When:** Personal interviews with students in advance of the class will be arranged during December on Thursday and Friday evenings (at Life Management, 257 Ayer Rd., Harvard). The classes will meet on Saturdays at 12 noon for one hour and fifteen minutes on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, as well as February 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Cost:** Each group meeting will cost \$60. Fees for the two individual sessions (also \$60 each) are payable at the end of those sessions. The fee for the five group sessions is payable in-full at the beginning of the first session.

### ***A REMINDER MESSAGE TO HELP CATHY with Attendance***

**Attendance in the morning is often a challenge especially during the holiday season.**

Please don’t forget to call in to the office each day before 9:00 a.m. and let us know if your child or children is/are going to be late or absent for that day. Please remember that any time we have not heard from you a telephone call has to be made to your work or your house or your cell phone. A message to the advisor does not always reach the office. It would save much valuable time in the morning if these telephone calls did not have to be made. Thank you in advance for your help and support.

## **Applications for Enrollment at Parker for September, 2006**

We have begun to accept applications for enrollment at Parker in September, 2006! There are several ways that you can help our school with the enrollment process:

\* We need parents to help out at the Enrollment Information Sessions. You would be here from about 12:30 until 4:00 p.m. greeting visitors, answering questions, helping with snacks, etc.

Sunday, January 8

Sunday, January 22

Sunday, January 29 -- snow date if earlier session is postponed

\* We need parents to donate snacks and drinks for the Information Sessions.

\* We need parents to post flyers in your town--in the library, Town Hall, stores, other public places. Just stop at the office window to pick up flyers.

Parents of Parker students of any age are encouraged to help with these tasks. The Information Sessions are especially good opportunities for our newest families to volunteer their help for the school. Teachers will also be asking students, especially 7th graders, for their help on the days of the Info Sessions.

**One other important note -- if you have another child at home who will be applying to Parker, you do need to fill out an application form by the February 1 deadline. Please call the main office or stop by and ask for an application packet. The Information Session is not required for siblings although they are definitely welcome to attend if you wish.**

If you can help please email, telephone or stop by the office and speak to Deborah Merriam, Academic Dean, [deb@parker.org](mailto:deb@parker.org) or (978) 772-3293. Thank you.

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

**Reminder:** the PLAN test for sophomores will be held this Saturday at Parker. Arrive at 8:15 a.m. Test will begin exactly at 8:30 a.m. Students will be dismissed at 12:00 noon. Bring two # 2 pencils and a calculator that works.

## **Scholarship Opportunities**

### **Essay Contest**

Write an essay on a theme in which the seriousness of the alcohol program in our society is evaluated, with special attention to its effect on teenagers and/or families. The main thrust should highlight the value of a personal decision not to drink alcoholic beverages. Prizes: First \$225, Second \$175, Third \$125

Mail entries to:

Mass Council on Alcohol Concerns

c/o Mr. Edwin T. Hobart

179 Green Street, Suite #2

Melrose, MA 02176

### **Worcester County Women's Golf Association**

The Worcester County Women's Golf Association is offering a \$500.00 award to a senior female golfer who are participated on her high school's golf team/ or has been an active member of the Worcester County Women's Golf Association.

Application and essay should be sent to:

Miss Beatrice Tosi

58 Barnard Street

Shrewsbury, MA. 01545

### **The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Offer scholarships to students with financial need who display academic excellence, strong citizenship and character, and a desire to make a meaningful contribution to society.

P.O. Box 870

Salem, Massachusetts 01970

[www.phillips-scholarship.org](http://www.phillips-scholarship.org)

### **DeSales University Talent Scholarships in Theatre, Dance, and TV/Film**

Awards from \$500-\$5000

Theatre: [theatre@desales.edu](mailto:theatre@desales.edu)

Dance: [dance@desales.edu](mailto:dance@desales.edu)

TV/Film: [tvfilm@desales.edu](mailto:tvfilm@desales.edu)

## **Upcoming Programs**

### **Summer Science and Engineering Program for High School Girls July 2-29, 2006 - Smith College**

“SSEP is a four—week residential program for exceptional young woman with strong interests in science, engineering and medicine. Each summer, select high school students from across the country and abroad come to Smith College to do hands-on research with Smith faculty in the life and physical sciences and in engineering.

Girls who will be in high school (grades 9-12) in fall 2006 are eligible to apply for the summer 2006 program. For a brochure, application and financial aid information, write or call the SSEP.” [www.smith.edu/summerprograms/ssep](http://www.smith.edu/summerprograms/ssep)

### **Science Teacher Scholarship: Up to \$1500 each year for four years - Westfield State College**

“The intent of this scholarship is to encourage young people to teacher general science and chemistry. Scholarship winners will be chosen on the basis of academic record and their interest in teaching science. The must maintain a GPA of 3.00 and be enrolled in a teacher certification program with a General Science major at Westfield State College to retain the scholarship each year.” <http://www.physci.wsc.ma.edu/dept>

### **High School Health Careers Program (HSHCP) - University of Massachusetts Medical School**

“The High School Health Careers Program (HSHCP) is a six-week summer, tuition-free, residential program that offers sophomore and junior year high school students unique opportunities to learn about the broad spectrum of healthcare and science professions. It is designed to improve the academic study and communication skills of the participants. Upon successful completion of the program, each participant receives a stipend and is awarded a **Certificate of Achievement**.” [www.umassmed.edu/outreach/hshcp.cfm](http://www.umassmed.edu/outreach/hshcp.cfm)

### **Adventures in Veterinary Medicine - Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine**

“Adventures in Veterinary Medicine is a unique career-exploration program that provides a realistic and comprehensive look at what being a veterinarian and attending veterinary school is like. By spending time on the campus of one of the finest veterinary schools in the country, students get first-hand experience of what it is like to attend vet school and what it takes to become a veterinarian. Students have lectures from the clinical faculty, engage in hands-on activities with animals, and are assigned to clinical rotations where they shadow 4<sup>th</sup> year students in the hospital. If you know someone who is excited by science, enjoys working with animals, and would like to find out more about what it takes to be a veterinarian, then this program might be right for them!” [www.tufts.edu/vet/avm](http://www.tufts.edu/vet/avm)

### **Henry David Thoreau Foundation**

“The mission of the Henry David Thoreau Foundation is to encourage highly talented and academically successful young women and men to pursue undergraduate studies preparing them for leadership in advancing the quality of life for all individuals, protecting the environment, and ensuring equitable and sustainable use of the world’s natural resources... The mission of the Henry David Thoreau Foundation is dedicated to providing tuition assistance to quality graduates of Massachusetts high schools who demonstrate strong interest in environmental fields of study and clear potential for leadership.” [www.thoreauscholar.org](http://www.thoreauscholar.org)

### **Park Scholar Awards - Ithaca College**

“Consider applying for a prestigious Park Scholar Award at Ithaca College’s Roy H. Park School of Communications. Up to 20 merit-based scholarships, each covering the full cost of attendance at Ithaca College, are given to outstanding high school seniors each year. The successful applicants will join existing Park scholars in a vibrant learning community dedicated to leadership in communications, academic excellence, and service.” [www.ithaca.edu/parkscholars](http://www.ithaca.edu/parkscholars)

### **Study Abroad with AFS Intercultural Programs USA**

“AFS is a worldwide, nonprofit organization that exchanges more than 11,000 students each year—students like you who want to have an international experience...If you are in high school, you can choose from a broad range of year and semester programs offered in more than 40 countries where you’ll gain firsthand knowledge of life as a member of a family, school, and community in another country.”

[www.afs.org/usa](http://www.afs.org/usa)

### **The Putney School Summer Programs**

“The Putney School Summer Programs offer students a rare opportunity to pursue areas of special interest to them in visual and performing arts, creative writing and English as a Second Language (ESL). Students are encouraged to set and accomplish their own goals in these areas with the guidance of experienced teachers.”

[www.putneyschool.org/summer](http://www.putneyschool.org/summer)

### **Youth for Understanding USA**

“Through YFU youth exchange programs, students ages 15-19 from around the world live with a volunteer host family, immerse themselves in the local culture and form friendships that bring countries together. As these young people discover new worlds and become part of a community in another country, they not only learn about another culture and language, they also gain perspective on the world and develop a stronger sense of self.”

[www.yfu-usa.org](http://www.yfu-usa.org)

### **The Bread Loaf School of English - Middlebury College**

“The Bread Loaf School of English offers a rich array of graduate courses in literature, the teaching of writing, creative writing, and theater to students from across the U.S. For six weeks each summer Bread Loaf student, most of them secondary-school teachers, work towards a M.A. or M. Litt. And study with a world-class faculty at one of our five sites: Juneau, Alaska; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Oxford, England.”

[www.middlebury.edu/academics/blse](http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/blse)

## ***ATTENTION: PHOTOGRAPH RE-TAKES – Wednesday, Dec. 7***

**Life-Touch Photography** will be back at Parker to do the photograph re-takes on Wednesday, December 7 beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the lobby.

Please let Bridgit (in the office) know if your son or daughter would like to have his/her picture re-taken by the end of the day on Monday, December 5 so that we can create a schedule for Life-Touch. This will help to make the session go more smoothly.

### **Subscribe to Parker community email lists!**

Subscribe for late breaking news and weather cancellations which will be delivered by email list as well as other media. Returning families, if you're already subscribed, no need to renew!

FWPaaa is the Parker community email list for general announcements

FWPsports is Parker's email list for sports-related announcements

Subscribe at <http://lists.parker.org/mailman/listinfo/>

### **Alumni Day – Wednesday, December 21**

We will be hosting our Alumni students and teachers at Parker on Wednesday, December 21. In the past we have served lunch to this group but as it is the last day of school before the holidays we have decided to be a little less ambitious. So this year we will be serving light refreshments, coffee, juice, and baked goods. Would you be willing to help with this? We need a couple of people to help with the preparation and serving and several people to donate baked goods. If you can help, please call or email me at [nicola@parker.org](mailto:nicola@parker.org). Thank you - Nicky

**PARKER ESSENTIAL FUND**

**Great holiday Gift Idea  
Give a P.A.R.K.E.R. Award!**

Trying to find just the right holiday gift to thank an advisor, teacher, coach or other staff member who has been particularly significant in your child's life? Or maybe you want to acknowledge your child's hard work in a special way. **A PARKER Award** is a meaningful way to bestow a gift that can help make a significant difference in the quality of education provided for Parker students.

**Give the gift that keeps on giving  
P.A.R.K.E.R Award is the perfect solution for a holiday season.**

Simply fill out this form and drop it off with a check to PEF in any amount you desire. A special certificate will be sent to each Parker Award recipient from the Parker Essential Fund.

I would like to give a **P.A.R.K.E.R. Award** to

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Honored For:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation:** \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check out to the Parker Essential Fund and return with this form to the PEF mailbox in the Parker School office. **Your contributions are tax deductible**

**Parker Appreciation and Recognition  
for Keeping the Essential Standards Recipient**

**COMING SOON**

**December, 2005**

Saturday, 3 - PLAN test for Sophomores (8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon)

Monday, 5 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 6 - HAC meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 7 - Photograph Re-takes in the lobby beginning at 8:00 a.m.

**CALENDAR**

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

**December, 2005 (Cont.)**

Wednesday, 21 - Café Wednesday from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Friday, 23 - Early Release (noon dismissal)  
Monday, 26 - Friday, 30 - Holiday Recess

**January, 2006**

Monday, 2 - Tuesday, 3 - Faculty Planning, no classes  
Wednesday, 4 - Classes resume  
Saturday, 7 – Homework Workshop with John Mohrbacher, M.Ed., LICSW at Parker at noon  
Sunday, 8 - Enrollment Information Session (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)  
Monday, 9 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, 11 – Parker Road Race & Springfest meeting  
Monday, 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (no school)  
Saturday, 21 - Homework Workshop with John Mohrbacher, M.Ed., LICSW at Parker at noon  
Sunday, 22 - Enrollment Information Session (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)  
Wednesday, 25 – American Red Cross Community Blood Drive  
Saturday, 28 - Homework Workshop with John Mohrbacher, M.Ed., LICSW at Parker at noon  
Sunday, 29 - Snow date for Enrollment Information Session (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)  
Monday, 30 – Faculty Planning , no classes  
Tuesday, 31 - New semester begins

**February, 2006**

Saturday, 4 - Homework Workshop with John Mohrbacher, M.Ed., LICSW at Parker at noon  
Monday, 6 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, 11 - Homework Workshop with John Mohrbacher, M.Ed., LICSW at Parker at noon  
Friday, 17 - Gateway Celebration - Early Release (noon dismissal)  
Monday, 20 - President's Day (no school)  
Tuesday, 21 - Friday, 24 - Winter Recess

**Thank you!**

Dear Parker community,

Thank you for supporting Tanya's advisory's Thanksgiving Basket drive for Ginny's Thrift Shop/Food Pantry in Leominster. We collected 10 turkey's, 4 large baskets of food and 200 dollars in donations for Ginnys. She was able to make 227 Thanksgiving dinners for needy families. Thank you again!...Tanya's Advisory.

Many thanks to the Losso family from the Jewelry Choice Block for their generous donation of basket, beads and a variety of findings. All donations are greatly appreciated.

***DIVISION III***

You should have received your student's progress reports last week. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any of the teachers. With two months remaining in the semester, many classes have major projects in process. This is a good opportunity to get portfolio pieces before the end of the semester crunch in January. Seniors are having their second formal senior project conferences this week. They should be well into their research at this point, and the first research summary is due on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Those seniors who are hoping to do internships during the third quarter need to be working now to set those up. This week's course update is from Deb Merriam's A/H class,

***Character and Personality:***

Students have concluded their reading of The Scarlet Letter and are now working on the reading assessment for that novel. Students are engaging in a process of discovery about a question they have generated about the book. They are answering this question through close passage examination and thesis formation. Projects are due on Tuesday, December 6. Our next novel is Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye, which we will begin before the winter vacation. Students have also been working on a series of informal creative writing exercises over the last two months. We are about to embark upon the major creative writing component of the course which will draw on the skills students have been

developing since the beginning of the year. Students will focus in on one character of their creation and build a portfolio of writing around this character, culminating in a series of vignettes or in a short story.

## **ARTS AND HUMANITIES**

### **Arts and Humanities – Division I**

The past few weeks in Div I A/H have been quite busy! Inspired by our work in the natural world with the art of Andy Goldsworthy, students recently concluded the work of researching either a similar “natural” artist, a naturalist/environmentalist, or an environmental issue. This week they’ve taken their research to begin crafting an oral presentation in which they will teach the class about their topic. With the presentations set to begin next week, students should polish their work this weekend, keeping the rubric below in mind:

### **The Natural World Research Project**

#### ***Oral Presentation Rubric***

##### **Content**

- You provide significant and substantial information on all of the research questions.
- You explain the relevance of your topic and take a position on it.
- You effectively answer questions from the audience.

##### **Presentation**

- You make eye contact with your audience.
- You speak in a voice that is clear, well-paced, and the appropriate volume. You don’t have unnecessary hesitations or many filler words.
- You use appropriate gestures and body language.
- Your visual aides enhance your presentation.
- You teach your audience about your topic in an engaging way.

##### **Process**

- You are prepared and well-rehearsed for your presentation. You complete your process steps and final presentation when they are due.
- You work independently when appropriate and ask for assistance when appropriate. You effectively use feedback from teachers and peers.

Students will also begin meeting in reading groups next week for one of the Lois Lowry books—*The Giver*, *Gathering Blue*, and *Messenger*. Students received a copy of the book they chose in class, and they should be reading for Tuesday’s first meeting.

### **Arts and Humanities – Division II**

This week in Division II A/H we continued our exploration of slavery and events leading up to The Civil War. A content assessment for this unit will be on Monday, December 12. We also began a listening activity in preparation for an assessment that is focused on the sounds of slavery and The Civil War, in which we will listen to, discuss, and analyze music that came out of this time period. In writing workshop we began a fiction unit. A reminder that the [Scarlet Letter](#) reading assessment revisions are due on Monday, December 5.

## **MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **Math, Science and Technology – Division I**

We have launched skyward with our next unit, SPACE! We are off to a very exciting start as students begin to explore their universe with the study of the winter constellations. They must choose a winter constellation to research by Monday, December 5. Students will be observing constellations throughout December, so they should choose a visible constellation! Then, they will find a story or myth about their chosen constellation by visiting [www.dibonsmith.com](http://www.dibonsmith.com). This story is due on Thursday, December 8. Please take time to go outside with your student after dark to help them orient themselves to the night sky. Can they locate North, South, East and West? Can they locate the North star? Your student has received a content overview folder (which they have cleverly decorated!) and we encourage parents to review the

material with their student. We would also like to ask students to bring in a flashlight (with batteries) from home (as soon as possible) to use for our Sun and Temperature lab. Thank-you!!!

### **Math, Science and Technology – Division II**

In this post-Thanksgiving era, Division II MST is changing gears and moving forward! In science, we are starting a fresh unit on human anatomy by asking the question “How does your body work?” Students will grapple with this question in groups focused on researching, designing and executing a class on a particular body system. In math, we are continuing to learn about function families, both through exploration of the behavior of quadratics, and through using algebra tiles as a spatial way of thinking about factoring.

## **WELLNESS**

### **Alan’s Wellness class**

In Alan's classes, students have completed measuring their level of strength, flexibility, endurance, and aerobic fitness. They set goals for themselves and we continue to work on fitness during the start of each class. Students played team handball and participated in an obstacle course this week. We also wrapped up our unit on First Aid with an In Class Content Assessment on Friday.

### **Deborah’s Wellness class**

This week in Deborah's Wellness classes, students completed and revised their First Aid in-class content assessment. They also gave suggestions on content for the upcoming emotional health unit. We started a floor hockey module that will go through next week, with a few new games mixed in. We will be starting the next unit, Emotional Health, next week focusing on communication styles inventory as well as introducing common styles of communication and how they link to emotional health.

### **Laura’s Wellness class**

We are playing dodge-ball, ping pong and knock out basketball this week in Wellness. We are also visiting the Harvard Teen Center which is a recreational facility open to Parker students. In Health the students completed the first aid unit. Beginning next week the students will start the Emotional Health unit. We will explore topics such as conflict resolution, using "I" statements, listening and talking skills and stress management.

## **SPANISH**

### **Division I Spanish**

#### **Year 1**

Students are learning about the family in their Rosa #4.

#### **Year 2**

Students just started their Poder #4. They are learning much more about Santiago, the capital of Chile and the stories of a singular character, Miguelin, the little mouse from Aconcagua. This Poder is focus on developing the listening skill.

#### **Year 3**

Students are working on an oral presentation that will be their bi-weekly project. In order to support their oral project, they are making a slide show presentation that they will show as they speak in front of the class. With this speaking project, they are learning much more about general differences and similarities between standard American towns and Latino neighborhoods.

### **Division II Spanish**

In Division II Spanish, we are beginning our immigration unit this week. Students have been reflecting on stories of immigration they know from their own family histories and practicing basic vocabulary of immigration (coming, going, moving, etc.). At the end of this week, students will begin working on "Bajo la alambrada," a story by Francisco Jiménez about a family immigrating from Mexico.

### **Spanish Division III**

Esta semana esta siendo variada. El lunes tuvimos una conversación muy interesante sobre el Dia Internacional contra la Violencia de Genero que fue el pasado 25 de noviembre. Como cada semana, cubrimos un poco de gramatica, específicamente los tiempos verbales y empezamos el siguiente artículo sobre la política y el voto latino en los Estados Unidos. En las próximas semanas los estudiantes empezarán sus presentaciones sobre distintos temas de las noticias locales.

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

I want to thank everyone for sending in crackers and apples these past few weeks. I am in need again of more saltine crackers and ginger ale. Thanks again,  
Shirley Nelson, School Nurse

## ***HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING***

### **Upcoming HAC-Health Advisory Committee meeting - Tuesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m.**

This will be the first meeting of the year. We will be welcoming Shirley Nelson, our new School Nurse. We will be reviewing the following with our Wellness staff: the culminating First Aid unit, the upcoming Emotional Health unit, and the implementation of the Fitness Gram. Shirley will provide an overview of the new Federal requirements for a Wellness policy. We will also discuss if there is a need for an AED-automatic external defibrillator-at Parker. All members of the community are welcome.

## ***LUNCH MENU - Week of December 5***

**Monday:** Chicken Fajita Wraps, Peppers & Onions, Sour Cream, Fruit Dessert, Milk

**Tuesday:** Cheese Tortellini Casserole, Broccoli, Bread & Butter, Fruit Dessert, Milk

**Wednesday:** PIZZA DAY, Side Salad, Fruit, Milk, (Single slice is \$1.50)

**Thursday:** Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Tomato Soup, Celery Sticks & Ranch, Fruit Dessert, Milk

**Friday:** Sloppy Joes, Curley Fries, Carrot Sticks & Ranch, Fruit Dessert, Milk and Vegetarian Option

## ***SPORTS UPDATE***

### **Parent Volunteers Needed!**

Parent supervisors are needed to monitor a study hall for basketball players from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Even one hour per week would be a huge help. To sign up, please contact Ben Benoit at [bbenoit@parker.org](mailto:bbenoit@parker.org) or (978) 772-3293 Ext. 114

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, Shirley Nelson 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 the 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.

## **Schedule for Week of December 5**

				<b>Dismissal</b>	<b>Bus</b>	<b>Game</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Parker Team</b>	<b>Practice/Game</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>from class</b>	<b>Leaves</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Pick-up</b>
Mon., 12/5	Boys Varsity	Practice	SMS			5:00	6:30 @ SMS
	Girls Varsity	Practice	LW			4:00	6:00 @ LW
	Boys JV	Practice	SMS			5:00	6:30 @ SMS
	Girls JV	Practice	School			5:30	6:30 at school
	Boys MS	Practice	School			3:30	4:30 at school
	Girls MS	Practice	School			4:30	5:30 at school
Tues., 12/6	Boys Varsity	Practice	SMS			5:00	6:30 at SMS
	Girls Varsity	Practice	LW			4:00	6:00 at LW
	Boys JV	Practice	SMS			5:00	6:30 @ SMS
	Girls JV	Practice	School			5:30	6:30 @ school
	Boys MS	Practice	School			3:30	4:30 at school
	Girls MS	Practice	School			4:30	5:30 at school
Weds., 12/7	Boys Varsity	Away vs. Fitchburg	See website		4:45	6:00	8:00 at school
	Girls Varsity	Practice	OH			2:00	4:00 at OH
	Boys JV	Practice	JC			<b>6:00 AM</b>	
	Girls JV	No practice					
	Boys MS	No practice					
	Girls MS	No practice					
Thurs., 12/8	Boys Varsity	Practice	SMS			5:00	6:30 @ SMS
	Girls Varsity	Practice	JC			<b>6:00 AM</b>	
	Boys JV	Practice	SMS				6:30 @ SMS
	Girls JV	Practice	LW			4:00	6:00 @ LW
	Boys MS	Practice	School			4:45	6:00 @ school
	Girls MS	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 @ school
Fri., 12/9	Boys Varsity	Practice	SMS			5:00	6:30 @ SMS
	Girls Varsity	Away vs. Assabet	See website		4:00	5:15	7:30 @ school
	Boys JV	Practice	SMS			5:00	6:30 @ SMS
	Girls JV	Practice	LW			4:00	6:00 @ LW
	Boys MS	Practice	School			4:45	6:00 @ school
	Girls MS	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 @ school

School = Parker  
SMS = Shirley Middle School (Devens)  
LW = Lura White School (Shirley)

JC = Job Corps (Devens)  
OH = Orchard Hills (Lancaster)

**Please contact Ben Benoit, Parker School Athletic Director, with any questions at (978) 772-3293 Ext. 114 or at [bbenoit@parker.org](mailto:bbenoit@parker.org).**

***NICARAGUA TRAVEL GROUP - FUNDRAISERS***

## ORGANIC COFFEE FOR SALE

Dear Parker Families,

To raise money for our service trip to Nicaragua, the Nicaragua travel group is selling organic, fair trade coffee. The price is \$10 for a 12 oz. Bag. We have light roast in whole bean form, dark roast and decaf in ground form. The bags will be sent home with your child or can be picked up in the office.

I would like \_\_\_bag(s) of whole bean light roast.

I would like \_\_\_bag(s) of ground dark roast.

I would like \_\_\_bag(s) of ground decaf.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Please drop off forms and money in the box in the front lobby.

Thanks, the Nicaragua Travel Group

## ***PARKER MODEL ROCKET CLUB***

**The Parker Model Rocket Club is looking for a flying field.** If you have access to a clear field (few or no trees) that is at least 800 foot by 800 foot (about 16 acres) in size that you think would be available for the club to use for launching model rockets, please contact Steve Byan at [stevebyan@mac.com](mailto:stevebyan@mac.com) or (978) 486-4241.

**The members of the Parker Model Rocket Club** braved the harsh weather for their first launch last week on Tuesday, November 22. The rain slowed to a light mist just in time for our launch at the Moore Army Airfield at Devens, although it was still quite cold and windy. We held a single round restricted class A parachute duration contest (the entries were restricted to the stock Quest Astra kits that we had built over the past month). Ryan Lekstrom placed first with a time of 43.49 seconds. Kenneth Brook placed second with 17.30 seconds, and Dylan Knight placed third with a time of 16.18 seconds.

## ***FOR THE COMMUNITY/NOTICE BOARD***

If you or your child are performing in an artistic endeavor or working at a charitable event over the next few months, we would be happy to print a short description about it in the Friday Announcements. The deadline for Friday Announcements is 12:00 noon on Thursday, the day before we print the final copy. Please send information to Bridgit via email at [bridgit@parker.org](mailto:bridgit@parker.org).

**Village Theatre Project's Young Company will perform a musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic tale, A Christmas Carol.**

December 8 at 7:30 p.m., December 9 at 7:30 p.m. and December 10 at 2:00 p.m. All shows at the Groton-Dunstable Performing Arts Center! Parker Students Shannon Stockwell, Meg Gandle and Anne Dufault will appear in this performance. A fun way to celebrate the holidays with your entire family. For more information, call (978) 456-7898 or visit [www.villagetheaterproject.org](http://www.villagetheaterproject.org)

### **Volunteer for Hospice**

The Hospice of the Nashoba Nursing Service is seeking a volunteer to help in our Shirley Office for 2 or 3 hours a week. The volunteer may be asked to help with copying, stuffing envelopes, hand writing cards, using WORD to customize letters, collating bereavement mailings and other similar tasks. Ability to update an excel database would be helpful. We look for someone who can be very focused and take responsibility for performing these tasks well. We will give some training on the philosophy of Hospice, so the individual will understand the important role they play in the Hospice Team.

**If you are interested please call Margaret Ledger (volunteer coordinator) at 1-800-698-3307 Ext 320.**

### **Help raise funds for Parker while shopping!**

We've discovered a terrific way to raise funds for our school. It's super easy, and all you have to do is use your Target® Visa® or Target® Card. We will receive a percentage of the amount of each purchase in the form of a cash donation from Target through the Take Charge of Education® program. It's easy. Just visit [target.com/tcoe](http://target.com/tcoe), or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school. So if you're going to Target anyway, please consider using your Target Visa or Target Card. A big thanks to those who are already doing their part to make a great school even better.

### **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!



The "Send Up the Balloons" Fall Fund Drive is officially over today and while our \$40,000 goal has not been reached yet, the results are still astounding..

- As of this week, **\$23,876** was received outright or pledged in installments!
- This feat was accomplished by 67 wonderful families, *less than 25%* of the 280 families at Parker!

This suggests an opportunity for those of you who were putting off sending in your pledge! On the back of this sheet is a tear-off form to use if you have lost yours. Send in your check today and help us continue to fund those programs you have read about in the last few weeks.

And remember, you are welcome to join the PEF and help us in our effort to raise money for Parker. Anyone interested in other fundraising projects such as the auction or road race should contact Mary Feeley at [mefeeley@charter.net](mailto:mefeeley@charter.net)

Our Heartfelt thanks to all who participated!!!!  
The Fall Fund Drive Committee

**March, 2006**

Monday, 13 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, 15 - Noon dismissal - Faculty Planning  
TBA - Spring Conference Day (no classes)

**April, 2006**

Monday, 10 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Friday, 14 - Early Release (noon dismissal)  
Monday, 17 - Patriot's Day (no school)  
Tuesday, 18 - Friday, 21- Spring Recess

**May, 2006**

Monday, 15 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 21 - 11th Annual Parker Road Race and Springfest  
Friday, 26 - Early Release (noon dismissal)  
Monday, 29 - Memorial Day (no school)

**June, 2006**

**Wednesday, 7 - Noon dismissal - Graduation (6:00 p.m.)**  
Monday, 19 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, 22 - Last Day of Classes (or earlier)  
Wednesday, 23, Monday, 26, Tuesday, 27 - Faculty Work Days (or earlier)