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**Friday Announcements**

**Friday, December 16, 2005**

Dear Parker Families,

The front page of last Thursday's Boston Globe (12/8) caught my attention: "Website's Power to Overexpose Teens Stirs Warning" (reprinted on the other side of this page). The article focuses on the dangers of sites such as MySpace.com, where teens post photos and other personal information about themselves. The inherent dangers of a site like this seem overtly obvious to me, but the bigger question for many parents is...How do we address these and other parental anxieties without shutting our children down?

Just as we're catching on to concepts such as MySpace.com, our kids are most likely dabbling in an even more sophisticated world somewhere on the Internet. So here's the conundrum: If we're constantly playing catch-up to the adolescent world, then aren't we wasting precious time? Instead of spending time thinking about *how* to communicate with our children, why not spend the time fumbling, making mistakes and embarrassing ourselves *trying* to communicate with our children? The only thing we have to lose is our pride, as we struggle to figure out how to do this well. If we keep up the struggle however, we may actually find our way; both into their world and into their trust.

If you haven't already discussed the article with your child, use it as an opportunity. Try asking some questions, without judgment or intrusion and without a pre-planned response: "Do you and your friends ever visit MySpace.com? What kinds of stuff do kids post on that site? I really want to see what's going on; can you show me the site?" If your child chooses to engage in this conversation, then you've created the opening for a great dialogue about issues of safety and exposure. If your child does not engage, then leave it for now and try an alternative approach at some later date. This is not to say that parents shouldn't be vigilant about their children's exposure to the media, but if you're looking for an on-going relationship of open communication, a less intrusive approach may be more affective.

The PEF funded Parker Matters Parenting Workshops has attempted to address the issue of parent/adolescent communication in its various workshops. I am delighted to announce that on Thursday, March 2 we will welcome Assistant District Attorney Nora Mann, who will address the issue of internet safety. In the meantime however, I hope you will join me in making a fool of myself...in love and in the best interest of our children.

Have a great weekend,

Joan M. Shulman  
School Counselor

## WEBSITE'S POWER TO OVEREXPOSE TEENS STIRS A WARNING

**Author(s):** Matt Viser GLOBE STAFF **Date:** December 8, 2005 **Page:** A1 **Section:** National/Foreign  
Principals of several Boston area middle and high schools are warning parents to rein in teenagers who are posting intensely personal information and, in some cases, provocative photos of themselves on a free **Internet** site.

The students, principals have said in letters and even in calls to parents, could become victims of predators. One 17-year-old from the area posted photos of herself in her under wear on the website MySpace.com. Several high school students in Newton included poses of themselves holding beer cans, while some Newton middle school students lied about their age, principals said.

The creation of MySpace.com in 2003 and other similar sites in recent years has added another challenge for adults struggling to juggle **safety** concerns with teenagers' desire to explore the **Internet**. **Internet safety** specialists emphasized that parents should monitor teens' **Internet** use, but respect their space and warn them before checking their postings.

Parents and educators already worry about strangers preying on teenagers in online chat rooms and unearthing personal information through online questions. But now, teens are making it easier for predators by posting photos and feelings on easily-accessed sites.

Educators are highlighting MySpace.com because, they say, it has become the most popular of such sites among teenagers. The site, now owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., says it has nearly 42 million users and began initially as a place for independent musicians to market their music. Xanga.com and Livejournal.com also attract teens, but have about one-fifth the users of MySpace.

"It's just another more formal example of kids going on sites and not knowing who they're talking to," said Thomas Scott, executive director for the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents. "In this case, they're posting pictures and thoughts and taking it to another level. In the hands of the wrong people, it creates a bad situation."

To become a MySpace member, users must check a box on an online form saying they are 14 years or older. They can join a group, and converse with members within that group via instant messaging. Groups have different rules on who can join, and many are set up under a particular high school's name.

Spokesmen for MySpace.com did not return several e-mail messages seeking comment; the site doesn't list a phone number.

The terms of agreement that users sign before joining say that users of MySpace.com may not include telephone numbers, street addresses, or last names. The agreement also says that photos cannot contain "nudity, violence, or offensive subject matter."

MySpace lists 319 members in a Framingham High School group, 206 in a Marlborough High group, and 431 from Waltham High. Newton's two high schools have nearly 350 members, including 15 people in a group called "Newton South's Hottest."

Teenagers from area schools who use MySpace say it is as compelling as television reality shows. Through the website, they can gain insight into other people's lives, learning what they look like, what music they listen to, and what they like to do in their free time.

Principals at several area schools recently sent notes to parents warning that provocative photos can tempt a sexual predator, who could then use personal information on the site, such as what high school a student attends, to track a teenager down. They are also concerned that teenagers posting their inner thoughts could be used by anyone from a cyber bully to a college recruiter.

In September, a 16-year-old girl in Port Washington, N.Y., was molested after a man she met on MySpace tracked her down because she had listed her workplace on her online profile, according to a USA Today article.

Newton North High School's principal, Jennifer Huntington, said she doesn't think students fully understand the dangers of the sites.

"It can be a wonderful tool, but it also has its pitfalls," Huntington said. "And that's what parents should know about."

She said she also has concerns about the use of such sites re shaping school culture, with exchanges at night influencing what happens the next day in school. Several fights at school have broken out because of exchanges that began online, she said.

Hank Van Putten, principal at Oak Hill Middle School in Newton, recently sent letters home, telephoned parents of children using the site, and met with the entire eighth grade to warn students about some of the things they were posting.

"Although not a pornographic site, students were listing their ages falsely, and some included very provocative poses in less than full attire," he wrote.

Stacy DeBroff, who has an eighth-grade daughter at Oak Hill, said that the letter helped educate her about the site and spurred a family discussion about what is appropriate to post online. Her daughter did not have a site, but several of her friends did. Public school principals, in some cases, have advised parents to have their children remove certain photos and material, but they have stopped short of ordering students to remove postings.

Peg Mongiello, principal at Blake Middle School in Medfield, sent an e-mail to parents about the site last week.

"It concerns me when a child's picture, name, and address are so easily accessible to anyone searching the **Internet**," the e-mail said.

"Most kids at my school, contrary to popular belief, won't leave comments on their page that they're not comfortable with," said Joe Mann, a junior at Newton North. "We have our common sense to use our best judgment on MySpace. At the same time, we're just kids, and we want to put pictures up."

Mann, 16, has a site that is laced with profanity, but also reveals that his favorite number is 22 and that his favorite food is "whatever my grandparents make." His mother, Roberta Mann Driscoll, said she was comfortable with the things her son posted, including a photo of Patriots **safety** Eugene Wilson as the backdrop.

Mike Greene said he used the site to search for all girls in his age group within a 5-mile radius. As a result, the junior at Newton North ended up dating a girl from Cambridge for six months.

Several students said they believe some teens provide too much identifying information, but students said they didn't object to the posting of provocative photos. One of the best parts about MySpace.com, they said, is that it lets users do as they choose.

"Potentially it can be dangerous," Greene said of the site. "But it's up to the user."

Ellie Benner, a 16-year-old junior at Newton North, said she felt uncomfortable when people messaged her and said she was attractive.

She said she was "creeped out" and did not respond.

"If you're considered attractive or you have lots of photos," she said, "a lot of people want to be your friends." Matt Viser can be reached at [maviser@globe.com](mailto:maviser@globe.com).

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## 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.

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

We will be hosting our Alumni students and teachers at Parker on Wednesday, December 21. 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

## **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,** (you may count any time that you spend on any of the possibilities below as part of your Volunteer Hours):

**\* We need parents to help out at the Enrollment Information Sessions.** You would be here from about 12:30 p.m. 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.

## ***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).

**\*\* If you do keep your child at home please remember to call the school and let the office know that your child/children will not be attending.**

***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.

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

For Scholarship and other opportunities for students, please go to the December 2 Friday Announcements which you will find at our website – [www.parker.org](http://www.parker.org) – click the Table of Contents and then look for Friday Announcements.

### **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/>

## ***VOLUNTEER UPDATE***

### **A reminder to all of our Parker Volunteers:**

Please would you remember to log in your hours on the website under the Volunteer section. We believe that there are some volunteers who have forgotten to log in their hours. If you would prefer to just call the office we will enter the information into the computer for you.

## COMING SOON

### December, 2005

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

**\*\*\* NOTE: Dismissal on Friday, December 23, will be at NOON \*\*\***  
**Please make arrangements to pick up your child on time so that faculty can leave for the holiday break - Thanks!**

\* \* \* \* \*

### January Gateways

**A note to Parents:** Your children's teachers will be contacting you to give you the date and time of your child's January gateway. Our gateway schedule is very tight and we hope that the time scheduled will be acceptable to you. However, if you cannot make that date please call Deb Merriam at (978) 772-3293 or send an email to [deb@parker.org](mailto:deb@parker.org).

## CALENDAR

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

### \*\*\*\*\* Please Note Calendar Change \*\*\*\*\*

Students will return to school after the winter vacation on Thursday, January 5, 2006. This means the last day of school will be June 23rd, 2006 (or earlier depending on the number of snow days). Please mark your calendars accordingly.

### January, 2006

Tuesday, 3 and Wednesday, 4 - Faculty Planning, no classes  
**Thursday, 5 - Classes resume (Please note change of date)**  
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

### March, 2006

Thursday, 2 – Parker Matters Parenting Workshop – Assistant District Attorney Nora Mann – Internet Safety  
Monday, 13 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, 15 - Noon dismissal - Faculty Planning  
TBA - Spring Conference Day (no classes)

# Thank you!

Thank you to the family of Michael Cicchetti for their donation of a large box of binders, to the family of Ryan Lekstrom for their donation of six boxes of mailing labels and to the family of Zach Allen for their donation of a box of colored paper. Many thanks to you all.

We would like to thank the Parker community for their generous donations to the NOW College Prep School in Baton Rouge that educates displaced students from Hurricane Katrina. We have sent the check of \$108 along with an extra \$217 from the money raised by the 7-9<sup>th</sup> grade dance by the Division One Spirit Committee. This money will be used to buy sports equipment for the NOW College Prep School. Thank you again for your donations to students in need!  
Parker Outreach Committee

Many thanks to the parents who have picked up Admission flyers to advertise the Admissions process and upcoming Information Sessions. We still have quite a few towns that could be distributed if you would be interested in helping out.

## ***CAN YOU HELP?***

### **Dear Parker Community--Senior Project Mentor Wanted**

I am currently a senior in the midst of exploring stop motion animation (think Wallace and Grommit). I am in need of a mentor who has experience in the field of stop motion animation or the use of video editing software. If you can help, or if you have a contact, PLEASE contact Ricky Yennaco at [Rjay1818@yahoo.com](mailto:Rjay1818@yahoo.com). Any help or leads would be greatly appreciated!

## ***TEACHER'S WISH LIST***

Pencils!

### **WANTED**

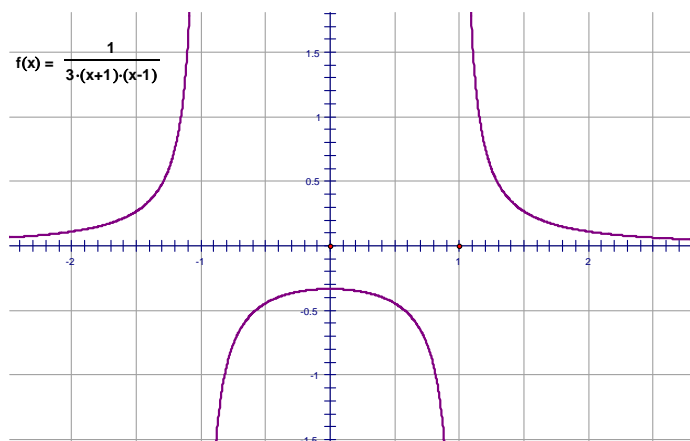
Dear Parker Community members with connections to science equipment! I am seeking a vacuum pump, bell jar, and vacuum plate for gas law demonstrations. If you have any connections, please let me know! Thanks,  
Heidi ([heidik@parker.org](mailto:heidik@parker.org))

## ***DIVISION III***

Many of our Division 3 students went on a field trip to New York City to visit the United Nations this past Wednesday. Students found it very interesting to see the spaces where the General Assembly, the Security Council, and other committees of the UN meet. All of them seem to agree that the trip was well worth the hours spent on the bus going down and back. Seniors should be turning in their first research summary for their senior projects today. Feedback will come by the end of the week and will inform students whether they are progressing well toward the final summary in February, have some things to improve on for that final summary, or need to make revisions to the current summary by early January. Seniors will also be told the specific date and time of their senior project exhibitions before the end of next week; they will all take place on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This week's course updates are from Jon Churchill's MST classes:

In Advanced Algebra, we are combining our knowledge of polynomial functions with fractions, to develop an understanding of rational functions. Below you will see the sketch of a recent homework challenge, the function



$$f(x) = \frac{1}{3(x+1)(x-1)}$$

Students are developing ideas for frameworks so they can better understand how each component of the rational function will affect its graph. Notice that  $f(x)$  happens to be undefined at the points  $x = 1$  and  $x = -1$ . Do you know why?

In Statistics, our young statisticians are beginning the study of hypothesis testing; making decisions based on data. They continue to impress their teacher with insight into the world around them. Special thanks to all the Parker families who participated with our recent survey exercise. Your

feedback/answers, and in some cases refusal to answer certain questions helped our students discover how difficult it is to generate a survey that will allow them to collect non-biased data.

## ARTS AND HUMANITIES

### Arts and Humanities – Division I

This week, A/H was playing a little catch-up from the snow day last Friday. Most classes were still finishing up their O.P.s, but have finished by now. Most, if not all, students have received their assessments for both research and oral presentation. We are continuing our work with the Lowry trilogy, and actually had three meetings this week to make up for last week. Students have been diving in and tackling tough political statements and questions through chalk talks, discussions and interactive performances. We are now two weeks into our second major unit, focusing on the question: "How do individuals relate to their government?", and we have explored several different forms of governments, and how and why people organize themselves into governmental systems through a number of different activities. Vacation is almost here, and we are pushing to get through a bunch of activities and ideas we want to do!

### Arts and Humanities – Division II

This week in Div II A/H we completed a content assessment on events leading up to the Civil War. We continued listening to music of the Civil War era in preparation for our listening assessment on Tuesday, December 20, and we began a unit on writing fiction in writing workshop. We also introduced a Civil War research project, and are asking students to select a topic before the winter break. Next Thursday, December 22 we will be watching the film "Glory." Because "Glory" is rated R we will be sending home permission slips that we would like returned by Wednesday, December 21. Just a reminder that the memoir revision is due on Wednesday, December 21. Happy winter!

## MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Math, Science and Technology – Division I

Students explored the effects of the angle of light on surface area in COW#7 "Sun and Temperature" this week. Using flashlights and measuring various angles of light and the amount of surface area covered, students were able to discover the relationship between these two factors. A fascinating COW connection was the demonstration of how sunlight bounced off a mirror can actually "toast" a bagel! Ask your student to explain why all that's needed to cook breakfast is a concave mirror and bright sunlight! COW#7 should be completed over the week-end and is due Monday, December 19. Students will also be measuring the altitude and azimuth of at least 2 stars in their constellation and this constellation observation assessment is due Thursday, December 22. Students were given compasses and polar grids to assist them in plotting star azimuth. We encourage parents to bundle up and join their students outside to appreciate the amazing movement of the stars in their constellations!

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

This week students are continuing the study of quadratic equations, learning the skills of multiplying binomials, factoring trinomials and solving application based problems. Each class is focusing different skills right now leading up to an assessment sometime after the winter break. In science, students are working in teams to develop anatomy lessons which they will use to teach the rest of the class in January. Many students dissected hearts, lungs, and spleens this week, as they explore their body system in detail. Students should be working on these projects at home as well.

We still need donations of pencils.

Looking for a holiday gift idea for your student? Division 2 MST teachers recommend a new set of 4-AAA batteries for their calculators and a package of sharpened pencils.

## **WELLNESS**

### **Alan's Wellness class**

In Alan's classes, students walked to the Harvard Teen Center and played pool and ping pong. We also played floor hockey and indoor soccer this week. In Health class, we continue to look at communication and conflict. Students created a web chart and took a communication style inventory and thought about our style of communication as it relates to conflict. We also assigned phase one of the next project for this class.

### **Deborah's Wellness class**

This week in Deborah's Wellness classes, students explored the definition of violence, the color of conflict and distinguishing the differences between conflict and violence. Students were assigned the first phase of their assessment, the behavior change project. Students are to pick a communication style they would like to change or improve upon, as well as a person or group of people to practice with. The assignment is posted on the Parker web site under Division II, Deborah's Wellness class. This is due on the 20th, next Tuesday. In physical activity, students were kept moving with a combination of team hand ball, dodge ball and thunderball. Next week students will learn about responding to conflict through skits and reviewing six conflict resolution styles. In physical activity, students will continue with team hand ball, dodge ball and stress reduction with guided relaxation

### **Laura's Wellness class**

This week in Wellness we are playing floor hockey. We also visited the Harvard Teen Center. In Health class we are continuing our unit on emotional health. The emphasis this week was on identifying the different types of conflict. The behavior change project was also assigned. The students will be writing a letter detailing an aspect of interpersonal communication that they will commit to change and work on. Some examples are improving communication with a specific person or group such as friends or parents. Another aspect they could choose is workign on specific communication blockers such as interrupting, avoiding , judging/moralizing, attacking or blaming. They may also chose to work on becoming more assertive or less aggressive. Next week we in health we will focus on listening skills, using "I" statements and paraphrasing. We will also continue playing floor hockey in physical activity class.

## **SPANISH**

### **7th grade Spanish:**

We are completing family trees based on la familia de Jorge El Curioso.

### **División I Año 2**

This week we've been learning how to give and receive directions, as well as how to use street maps. We've also been doing lots of work with prepositional and adverbial phrases that describe location. Next week we'll be starting PODER 6, where we'll work with stem-changing verbs.

Esta semana, hemos aprendido cómo recibir y dar direcciones. También hemos trabajado en la habilidad de leer mapas. La próxima semana comenzaremos aprendiendo sobre verbos de raíces cambios.

### **División I Año 3**

This week, students presented their speaking presentations using Power Point. This has been a challenging project since it is the first time students have had to present from memory in Spanish. All of the projects have been excellent, and it's incredible to see the students speaking in another language for one minute comparing their neighborhood/town with a Latino neighborhood. On Friday we start a short writing project, which we will finish before December break.

Esta semana los estudiantes estan presentando su proyecto de hablar usando su "Power Point". Este proyecto esta siendo un reto ya que es el primero en el que tiene que memorizar en español. Todos han estan haciendo mucho esfuerzo y es increíble verles hablar en otro idioma por un minuto comparando su barrio/pueblo con un barrio latino. El viernes empezamos el proyecto de escribir que sera breve para acabar antes de las vacaciones de diciembre.

### **Division II**

This week, students delved into the story "Bajo la Alambrada," and began preparing for their speaking assessment, which will be next Thursday (and maybe Friday). Students listened to parts of the story being read by an actor, paying close attention to the rhythm of his speech and his pronunciation, and also used the text to review the imperfect and preterit tenses. In order to prepare for this project, students should use their flashcards to review the vocabulary list generated from the story.

### **Division III**

In Division III, we are changing the rhythm of classes. The students are starting presentations about distinct themes involving the local press and immigration. This week, we're talking about the president's reform plan for migration and about the border. We'll continue reviewing vocabulary and grammar.

En Division III estamos cambiando el ritmo de las clases. Los estudiantes estan empezando las presentaciones sobre distintos temas de la prensa local y la inmigracion. Esta semana hablamos de La Reforma Migratoria del presidente y de La Frontera. Seguiremos revisando vocabulario y gramatica.

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

I would like to thank the families that sent in Saltine crackers. Unfortunately, the crackers seem to disappear as soon as they are opened! I would greatly appreciate someone sending in more Saltines and ginger ale. I would also like to thank Matt and Kyle Haley for sending in the packages of 'Cup of Soups,' the students really like them.

### **To parents of students in after school sports...**

I would like to suggest that you send in a healthy snack for your student to eat after school. I understand practices and games run late and there are lots of hungry students here after school.

## ***CAFÉ WEDNESDAY IS BACK AGAIN***

**Café Wednesday will be on Wednesday, December 21 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** All performers must sign-up on the sheet in the lobby AND attend a mandatory lunch meeting on Monday, December 20 in Room 18. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the show! Please bring a snack to share during intermission.

## ***LUNCH MENU - Week of December 19***

**Monday:** Chicken Quesadillas, Salsa & Sour Cream, Spanish Rice, Fruit Dessert, Milk

**Tuesday:** Meatball or Eggplant Subs, Curley Fries, Glazed Carrots, Fruit Dessert, Milk

**Wednesday:** PIZZA DAY:, \$1.00 a slice, drinks and snacks also available

**Thursday:** Baked Herbed Chicken, Roasted Potatoes, Peas, Roll & Butter, Fruit Dessert, Milk

**Friday:** Noon Dismissal

## ***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.

## SPORTS UPDATE

### Schedule for Week of December 19

<u>Date</u>	<u>Parker Team</u>	<u>Practice/Game</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dismissal from class</u>	<u>Bus Leaves</u>	<u>Game Time</u>	<u>Pick-up</u>
Mon., 12/19	Boys Varsity	Home vs. Blackstone	JC			4:30	5:45 at JC
	Girls Varsity	Away vs. Monty Tech.	See website		4:00	6:30	8:30 at school
	Boys JV	Home vs. Blackstone	SMS		4:30	5:15	6:15 at SMS
	Girls JV	Away vs. Monty Tech.	See website		4:00	5:00	8:30 at school
	Boys MS	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school
	Girls MS	Practice	School			4:45	6:00 at school
Tues., 12/20	Boys Varsity	Practice	TBA				TBA
	Girls Varsity	Practice	LW			4:00	6:00 at LW
	Boys JV	Away vs. Murdock	See website		3:45	5:00	7:15 at school
	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
Weds., 12/21	Boys Varsity	Practice	School			TBA	
	Girls Varsity	Practice	OH			2:00	4:00 at OH
	Boys JV	No practice					
	Girls JV	No practice					
	Boys MS	No practice					
	Girls MS	No practice					
Thurs., 12/22	Boys Varsity	Practice	SMS			5:00	6:30 at SMS
	Girls Varsity	Away vs. Ayer	See website			7:00	8:15 at Ayer
	Boys JV	Practice	SMS			5:00	6:30 at SMS
	Girls JV	Away vs. Ayer	See website			5:30	6:30 at Ayer
	Boys MS	Away vs. Carlisle	See website	2:20		3:30	6:30 at school
	Girls MS	Away vs. Carlisle	See website	2:20		4:30	6:30 at school
Fri., 12/23	Boys Varsity	No practice					
	Girls Varsity	Away vs. Bromfield	See website			2:00	3:30 at Bromfield
	Boys JV	No practice					
	Girls JV	No practice					
	Boys MS	No practice					
	Girls MS	No practice					

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).**

### **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.

## ***PARKER/WACHUSETT SKI PROGRAM BEGINS THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2006!***

The ski program will begin Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> and run for six weeks. If school is canceled, skiing is also canceled. In the event of poor weather or other events that require cancellation, notice will be posted at the Parker School Office by 11:00 a.m. on the day in question and an email will be sent to the "Parker School List Server." If a cancellation occurs, it is the responsibility of the parent to arrange pick-up of the student and his/her equipment, at the end of the school day. Makeup sessions will be scheduled later in the season if cancellations occur.

### **Ski Passes**

**Students purchasing a Century Pass will receive a Confirmation Post Card from Wachusett Mountain in the next week or two. Bring the Post Card to the Customer Service desk at Wachusett before Friday, December 30 for your picture and to obtain your pass.**

Students purchasing the six-session Parker lift pass and riding the bus will be given their lift pass on the bus each Thursday.

### **Departure and Return Times**

The bus will leave Parker promptly at 3:40 p.m. It will be the students' responsibility to get their equipment and themselves onto the bus quickly after school. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each trip and verified before returning. No notice is required if a student is unable to attend for any reason. Any student who fails to make the bus on time will be assumed to have canceled, and will be required to make his/her own alternative arrangements to get home.

The bus will leave Wachusett Mountain for the return trip to Parker at 8:00 p.m. sharp. The buses will arrive at the Parker School at 8:30 p.m. - John Poikonen, Ski Program Coordinator

**The school will not be open, so please - be on time (8:30 p.m.) picking-up your student!**

## 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

## FOR THE COMMUNITY/NOTICE BOARD

### 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!

## LOST AND FOUND

- A disc with Division 2 MST coordinate geometry assessment on it. Please come to the office.
- A silver ring with stone in the middle

# Parker Essential Fund

Thank you for participating in the Parker Essential Fund (PEF) Fall fundraising drive. With your help we raised over \$23,000 to support educationally enriching activities at Parker.

In this school year, the PEF has awarded almost \$22,000 in grants for the following:

- SmartBoard - White board that can record writing and store as a computer file
- Night Skies Program: A traveling planetarium to supplement astronomy unit
- Chemistry Equipment - 13 DVDs to enhance understanding of complex subjects, and a vacuum Pump, bell jar and attachments to study pressure and volume
- Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing software
- Parker Model Rocket Club – Entrance fees for the TARC competition
- Junior Class Mosaic - Junior class community building project resulting in permanent art piece for school
- RAD Self-Defense Program for Seniors
- After Prom Party
- Reusable Dinnerware for Kitchen
- Cassette Voice Recorders
- Powerbook laptop for yearbook staff.
- World Book Encyclopedia 2006
- Parker School Tenth Anniversary Party
- Principal's Sunshine Fund
- Chess materials for choice block
- After school Yoga classes for faculty
- Projector screens for 15 classrooms and the gym
- Student Support Fund to provide financial assistance for field trips, sports fees, etc.

***Thanks to your help, the PEF can continue to enhance the educational experiences of students at Parker.***

**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**

**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)

