

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

Friday, February 17, 2006

Dear Parker families,

I hope you will join us for this important presentation:

SAVE THE DATE!

INTERNET SAFETY & CYBERBULLYING

Thursday, March 2, 2006

7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Have you ever wondered who or what your child is spending time with on the Internet? Are you familiar with *MySpace* and the various teenage-friendly blog sites? The more we know, the easier we can open the lines of communication with our children about their very "private" but in reality, very public Internet lives. We are fortunate to have Nora Mann, ADA join us to address a range of issues concerning Internet safety, AIM, blog sites and their social implications. Nora Mann is an Assistant District Attorney and the Director of the Training and Community Education Divisions of the Middlesex DA's Office. A lawyer since 1987, she works with schools, law enforcement, employers, community and local government groups providing education and training resources in the areas of substance abuse prevention, violence prevention, Internet safety, school and workplace safety. Please join us on Thursday, March 2nd for a presentation no parent should miss. For further information contact Joan Shulman - joan@parker.org

COMING SOON

February, 2006

Monday, 20 - President's Day (no school)
Tuesday, 21 - Friday, 24 - Winter Recess

CALENDAR

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

March, 2006

Wednesday, 1 – Junior Parent Information Night for Jon, Tom and Clay's advisories
Thursday, 2 – Parker Matters Parenting Workshop – Assistant District Attorney Nora Mann – Internet Safety 7:00 -9:00 p.m.
Friday, 3 – Division 2 Black and White semi formal dance
Tuesday, 7 – PEF Auction meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Room 2
Wednesday, 8 – Spring Conference Day – No classes
Thursday, 9 – Junior Parent Information Night for Tricia and Meghan's advisories
Friday, 10 – Advisory flower sale
Friday, 10 – 7th, 8th, 9th grade dance
Monday, 13 – Board of Trustees at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, 14 – Student Visiting Day
Wednesday, 15 – Noon Dismissal - Faculty Planning
Thursday, 16 Division I A/H Field Trip
Thursday, 16 – Snow date for Junior Parent Information Night
Friday, 17 – Advisory flower sale delivery
Tuesday, 21 – Student Visiting Day
Tuesday, 21 – Division I Roll on America
Tuesday, 21 – Café Wednesday
Wednesday, 22 – PEF Grant Requests Due
Thursday, 23 – Student Visiting Day
Tuesday, 28 – MCAS Testing
Wednesday, 29 – MCAS Testing
Wednesday 29 – PEF Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, 30 – MCAS Testing

Thank you!

Many thanks to the family of David Giordano for their donation of cameras to Division I MST.

TEACHER'S WISHLIST

Wanted! Your empty egg cartons! If you have empty egg cartons, I'd love to have them. You can drop them off in Room 20 or in the office. Thanks! Heidi

CAN YOU HELP THE SENIORS?

- **My name is Emma Geller and I'm doing my senior project on how people think about death and dying.** I am looking for people to interview about their thoughts and experiences related to questions about life, death and how they cope with the related difficult emotions and situations. These interviews are meant to be informal and conversational, and I'm interested in finding a huge spectrum of experiences and opinions. I would be more than happy to interview absolutely anyone who is interested in talking to me about this difficult topic, especially if you have had a job or significant experience related to death in any way (for example: estate planners,

funeral home directors, priests/ministers/rabbis/etc, cancer survivors, nurses/doctors, emergency first responders, hospice workers, and more...). If you think you might be interested, please email me at wizbis@aol.com. Thank you!

- **“I am doing a project on the relationship between music and protest during the Vietnam War.”**

I am looking for people who would be willing to meet with me to talk about their experiences with music during the Vietnam War, and especially people who have expertise in this area who might be willing to advise me on this project. I am also looking to locate the following PBS documentary: *'Get Up, Stand Up: The Story of Pop and Protest.'* It is not available for purchase, but was aired in September, so if anyone taped or TiVO'd it, I would love to have a copy! My e-mail is sarahzomorin@hotmail.com, thanks!

FROM THE COLLEGE COUNSELOR - Scholarships

Seniors who live in Worcester County may be eligible for certain scholarships. See Sue Whalley for details. Other scholarship opportunities are coming in the mail each day. Stop in from time to time and see if any might be worth your attention.

DIVISION III

We hope everyone enjoys a much needed break from school next week. First semester assessments should be arriving in the mail sometime during the week, and advisors will begin contacting you to set up a time for the spring PLP conferences, which will take place on Wednesday, March 8th. Have a great vacation!

This week's course updates are from Deb Merriam's AH class, Definition: Woman.

This class investigates women's changing societal roles in American history through three main times periods (1850, 1920, 1970), primarily through investigating primary documents from those eras. We began the course by establishing a background understanding of women and society in early America, studying (among other texts) the Declaration of Independence and John and Abigail Adams' letters to each other about this document. We are currently reading excerpts from Mary Wollstonecraft and working on a definition of the women's sphere circa 1800.

MATH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Division I MST

"An Evening With the Stars" was a huge success; congratulations to all of our students for their hard work and ability to present! Also, thank you to the parent assessors and to the telescope folks who set up shop for our viewing pleasure. Have a great vacation, everybody! Right when we get back it's on to the physics unit. We'll be using motion detectors and trying to determine the speed of a wind up toy.

Division II MST

In Division II Math we finished our quadratic equations unit with a final assessment, and started the unit of geometric proof. Students are working through discovering on their own formulas for calculating the areas of different triangles and 4-sided two-dimensional shapes (quadrilaterals) in order to develop the step-by-step logical process that leads to the derivations of such formulas, both for general triangles and quadrilaterals as well as for their special cases. An assessment is due this Friday, February 17. In Science we are in the midst of studying the structure and function of the DNA molecule, and the methodology developed for using DNA for identification (DNA fingerprinting) for purposes ranging across criminal cases, paternity disputes, inherited diseases and other issues. Students have researched and prepared a short oral presentation about this technology.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

A/H Division II

This week in Division 2 A/H students performed their AEs based on a selection from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. Students should be working on revising their research folders, OPs, AEs, and sections 1-5 of their reading

assessment if necessary. Students are also working on completing a 5-7 page fiction piece for writing workshop. Students are reminded to bring their portfolios to school (if they are not already here) for spring conference preparation. Division 2 A/H would like to give a special thanks to Bill Allen and Joy Cooke for the wonderful donation of Civil War books to our A/H library! Have a fantastic February break!

WELLNESS

Alan's Wellness class

In Alan's classes, students performed mid year Fitness Gram push ups, flexed arm hang, and flexibility testing. They played dodge-ball, team handball, floor hockey and cross-country skiing. Students handed in phase two of their Behavior Change Project and this week, students spent time practicing active listening.

Laura's Wellness class

In Wellness this week we played dodge-ball and team handball, we also completed part of the Fitness Gram. In Health class we discussed calming down techniques. Each class did a 20 minute "powernap" session which emphasized deep breathing and muscle relaxation exercises. After the break we will practice active listening skills.

SPANISH

Spanish Division I

Year I

This week students are learning the verb "ser" plus and adjective (ex: soy guapa!). Last week they finished with the verb "estar" plus an adjective to express emotions.

Year II

We have started our third unit of the year. We will enjoy and talk about food. On Thursday we had our first "PODER", students made smoothies in class.

Year III

Last week we finished the reading assessment and we have started a listening project. We are continue learning about the Quiche-Maya culture in Guatemala, this week we are listening about a fragment from the Popol Vuh, an important book for the Mayan culture. In class we are practicing different vowel sounds that we will help students to identify words. During this assessment, students are expected to listen to audio files at home for homework. We hope they can enjoy it!

Felices vacaciones de febrero!

Spanish Division III

Esta semana hemos estado leyendo cuentos tradicionales en español. En grupos, los estudiantes han modificado y actualizado dichos cuentos y los han representado delante de la clase. El objetivo es que hablemos lo mas que podamos!. A la vuelta de vacaciones, los estudiantes que estan en Nicaragua haran una presentacion y planearan una actividad para el grupo.

FELIZ SEMANA, QUE DISFRUTEIS MUCHO!

WIN FREE SKI PASSES FROM FRANK'S!

Every Wednesday at Gathering for the next few weeks, Frank's Cafeteria will be giving away a FREE pair of day passes to Mount Wachusett Ski Area.

To enter, just purchase and use tickets to buy your breakfast or lunch in the cafeteria. Write your name on the back of your ticket - this is VERY IMPORTANT! The lucky winner will be drawn from the previous week's tickets (Wednesday through Tuesday).

Breakfast tickets cost \$7.50 for 5 and are good for a muffin, bagel, yogurt, (available daily) or a breakfast sandwich, waffles, hot pockets or french toast (selection varies daily), and includes milk and a small orange juice. It's a real bargain for \$1.50!

Lunch tickets cost \$17.50 for 5, or you can buy a single ticket in the cafeteria at break time for \$3.50. A lunch ticket will get you either a hot lunch or a large salad lunch, or you can use them on pizza day to buy 2 slices, a salad, milk, and fruit. Another great bargain!

Don't forget to write your name on your tickets! Good luck, and thanks for eating at Franks!

LUNCH MENU: Month of February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27 - Taco Boats	28 - Chicken Tenders	MAR 1 - PIZZA DAY	2 - Cheese Tortellini	3 - Meatball or Eggplant
Salsa & Sour Cream	Rice Pilaf	2 slices, salad, fruit & milk 3.50	Casserole	Subs
Spanish Rice	Peas, Rolls & Butter	\$1.50 a slice A La Carte	Broccoli, Rolls & Butter	Steak Fries, Cole Slaw
Fruit Dessert, Milk	Fruit Dessert, Milk	Drinks & Snacks	Fruit Dessert, Milk	Fruit Dessert, Milk
		Also Available		
		Breakfast - Daily		
		served with OJ and milk		
Muffins, Bagels, Yogurt	Muffins, Bagels, Yogurt		Muffins, Bagels, Yogurt	Muffins, Bagels, Yogurt
Breakfast Hot pockets	EggN Cheese Muffin		Waffles & Syrup	French Toast & Syrup

SPORTS UPDATE

Congratulations to both the Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball teams. Both have qualified for the MIAA state tournament. First round match-ups are TBA, but will be played either on Tuesday, February 28 or Wednesday, March 1.

Basketball uniforms are due back! Please either turn them in to your coach or return them to the office (make sure your name gets checked off the list).

Spring Sports Sign-Ups!

- Track & Field will sign-up in the gym at lunch on Thursday, March 2
- Varsity Softball will sign-up in Room 24 at lunch on Friday, March 3
- Middle School softball players please see Matt U. to sign-up as soon as possible if you missed the February 16 meeting.
- Varsity Baseball and Middle School Baseball sign-ups will be very soon. Please stay tuned.

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

FOR THE COMMUNITY

LEARN HOW NOT TO BECOME A VICTIM

Sign up for a self defense class, no experience necessary. This class will be taught by Masters and Black belts, (including Parker parents, Steve and Gillian Draleau) from the Tae Kwon-Do Karate club. The Tae Kwon-Do Karate Club is a non contact traditional club that has been in existence since 1977. This class will include proven and common sense techniques that we can all use every day. There will also be one on one training on defending yourself should you become a victim. The class is open to all adults and children 14 and older. The class will be held at the Shirley Middle School on Friday April 7th from 6:30 to 9pm. The cost is \$25 per person and all proceeds will benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Space is limited so advance sign up is requested. Don't wait, space will be on a first come basis. To reserve your space please send a check for \$25 made payable to the National MS Society, along with your name and phone number to:

Gillian Draleau, 40 Catacunemaug Rd, Shirley, Ma 01464.

For further information please call Gillian at 978-425-2539 or email athdara@verizon.net. By learning to make your life safer you will be contributing to help save a life of someone else.

Parker Essential Fund

Plans are under way for the 11th Annual Parker Road Race and Springfest, scheduled for Sunday, May 21, 2006. Look for sponsorship information and registration forms in the next few weeks.

The Parker Essential Fund (PEF), is a non-profit organization that coordinates fundraising efforts to support educationally enriching activities at Parker.

Jumbaro's Gifts and Things

A Parker parent and owner of Jumbaro's Gifts & Things, has offered to contribute 20% of all sales received from Parker parents to the Parker Essential Fund. You can purchase very unique gifts and support the PEF by entering Jumbaro's website through the PEF page of the Parker website, www.parker.org.

April, 2006

Tuesday, 4 – HAC meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 5 – Senior Project Exhibition Night
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.
Wednesday, 17 – PEF Grant Requests Due
Sunday, 21 – 11th Annual Parker Road Race and Springfest
Tuesday, 23 – MCAS Testing
Wednesday, 24 – MCAS Testing
Wednesday 24 – PEF Meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, 25 – Graduation Portfolio Due for Seniors
Friday, 26 - Early Release (noon dismissal)
Monday, 29 - Memorial Day (no school)
Tuesday, 30 – MCAS Makeup Testing
Wednesday, 31 – MCAS Testing

June, 2006

Friday, 2 – Last Day for Seniors
Tuesday, 6 – HAC Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 7 - Noon dismissal - Graduation (6:00 p.m.)
Tuesday, 13 - HAC Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, 19 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, 23 - Last Day of Classes (or earlier)
Monday, 26 – Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, 26, Tuesday, 27 and Wednesday, 28 - Faculty Work Days (or earlier)

