

FRANCIS W. PARKER CHARTER ESSENTIAL SCHOOL
& THEODORE R. SIZER TEACHERS CENTER
49 ANTIETAM ST DEVENS, MA 01434
TELEPHONE (978) 772-3293 FAX (978) 772-3295 www.parker.org

Friday Announcements

Date: September 9, 2005

Dear Parker families,

...“what we value is seldom on the surface...”

...“I want hungry students...”

... “too few rewards for being inquisitive...”

“Initiative” “engaged” “questers” “hungry, hungry, hungry...”

As we gathered in the gym for the final minutes of our very first day of school last Thursday, the voices of our students and teachers filled the space. The walls were filled with giant paper that charted our exploration of this year’s all-school reading, a collection of chapters, articles, and short writings about education, about Parker School’s early years, and about the promise of what school can be if we really focus on what matters most.

Each and every advisory spent time in small group discussion about the ideas expressed in the writings, and students shared their perspectives and experiences about what school has been for them thus far. A text-based activity then allowed us to lift key ideas and resonant themes and document our sense of the material. These ideas provided a basis for discussion about Parker School as a deliberate place, a place committed to providing a safe and challenging environment for students to explore and grow, to confront complex problems and situations, and practice working through them.

“The hungry student is active”

“not afraid”

“ these students have critical radar...”

“ self-styled”

Inspired by the writings of Theodore and Nancy Sizer, and the Ten Common Principles of the Coalition of Essential Schools, our small conversations merged as the entire school looked at the work generated in advisories, then debriefed the exercise. Sitting together on the gym floor, we asked ourselves what struck us about the writings or the discussions in advisory. And while we were initially reticent to share in the group of four hundred, eventually over twenty-five students spoke their minds, sharing their thoughts about school, about what school was for them, or about their hopes for themselves for the upcoming year. By the end of our day, this was clear: many of our students are willing to sit quietly in one room and talk together seriously, take risks, and make their thoughts and feelings public. This was our first all school gathering of the New Year.

As the new school year begins, we are filled with hope that every Parker student will find space to grapple, to become comfortable with the discomfort that accompanies real learning, and be well supported by their teachers, friends, and parents. The year promises academic challenges, to be sure, but equally important is our commitment to supporting our children as they confront the challenges of growing and growing up.

Welcome back to school, everyone.

Teri Schrader

WHAT IS THE PARKER SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES?

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the Parker School. The trustees are responsible for making sure Parker is academically successful, organizationally viable, and faithful to the terms of its charter. It is the Board of Trustees that holds the charter from the state, and whom the state holds accountable for the success of the school.

WHAT DOES THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DO?

Among the specific responsibilities of the trustees are determining Parker's mission and direction, assessing the school's practice in relation to that mission, developing the school's annual operating and capital budgets, hiring and evaluating the principal, and overseeing the purchase or lease of any buildings or land. The Board is in the midst of deciding upon its 2005-06 leadership goals, but one priority will be obtaining a permanent home for Parker (we've worked so far on five-year leases)--a school building that is large enough for us to run our education program.

WHO IS ON THE BOARD?

The Board includes the Principal, 3 teacher trustees, 3 parent trustees, 2 student trustees, and 6 community trustees, the latter including a number of the school's founders. A number of 2005-06 school year slots will be filled during September, but currently the Board members include:

Eve Callahan, Student Trustee
Kathleen Cushman, Community Trustee
Jack Donahue, Community Trustee
Chet Gapinski, Parent Trustee, Clerk
Diane Kruse, Teacher Trustee
Bob Moran, Community Trustee
Andy Perkins, Community Trustee, Chair
Laura Rogers, Community Trustee, Vice-Chair
Teri Schrader, Principal
Kathy Singh, Parent Trustee, Treasurer
Nancy Sizer, Community Trustee

WHEN DOES IT MEET? CAN I COME AND WATCH?

The board meets ten times a year; the schedule is posted at Parker and printed in the Friday Announcements. Meetings are at Parker, generally on Monday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. All are welcome to come observe. Minutes are also available.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PARENT REPRESENTATIVE?

The Parker School Charter stipulates that three members of the Board of Trustees shall be parent representatives nominated by the community. Parent Trustees serve a term of three years. Parker families will be nominating a parent representative for a three-year term at the annual meeting on Tuesday, September 20, at 6:30 p.m. Any parents who are interested in standing should submit a short paragraph describing their interest in running and their background. Please send your paragraphs to Nicky via the main office or by email at nicola@parker.org. These will be printed in next week's Friday Announcements and each parent standing will be introduced to the community at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, September 20 prior to the balloting. If you have any questions please contact Nicky Dudensing in the Principal's office.

COMING SOON

September, 2005

Tuesday, 20 - Divisional Meetings followed by vote for Parent Trustees at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 20 - Back to School Night at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 21 - Division 3 College Fair 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Monday, 26 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 28 - Becket Trip for Division I back on Friday, September 30

CALENDAR

PLEASE MARK THESE DATES! (Subject to change)

October, 2005

Saturday, 8 - SAT testing (NOT administered at Parker)

Monday, 10 - Columbus Day (no school)

Friday, 15 - PSAT's at Parker 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Thursday, 20 - PLP Conference Day (no classes)

Saturday, 22 - ACT testing (NOT administered at Parker)

Monday, 24 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 27 - Division 2 trip back on Friday, October 28

November, 2005

Friday, 4 - Fall Forum (no school)

Friday, 11 - Veterans' Day (no school)

Wednesday, 23 - Early Release (noon dismissal)

Thursday, 24 - Friday, 25 - Thanksgiving Break

December, 2005

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

Friday, 23 - Early Release (noon dismissal)

Monday, 26 - Friday, 30 - Holiday Recess

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/>

Thank you!

Many thanks to the family of Matthew Kelley for their donation of CDs and CD cases, to the family of Tom Wheeler for their donation of boxes of Kleenex, to the family of Alex Williamson for their donation of boxes of pens, pencils and paper clips, to the family of Atticus White for their donation of pocket file folders, to the family of Blaise and Olin Jenner for their donation of CD-Rs and CD/DVD sleeves, to the family of Eric Providakes for their donation of 3-ring binders, diskettes and CDs, to the family of Jessie Cass for their donation of crackers and Kleenex, to the family of Gale Stafford for their donation of paper towels, Kleenex and pencils, to the family of Kyle and Matt Haley for their donation of peanut butter and boxes of pens, to the family of Matthew and Kyle Haley for their donation of boxes of Kleenex and to the family of Ryan and Jamie Tremblay for their donation of ice packs, tissues and crackers. A big thank you to you all for your generosity whether we know who you are or whether you are an anonymous donor!

Many thanks from Student Services for the generous donation of CD's from the Helwig Family. We'd also like to thank the anonymous donor of school supplies (binders, accordion folders, notebooks and pencil bags). All donations are greatly appreciated!
Student Services

CAN YOU HELP?

Dear Parker community.

Hello, this is Clay Hobart, Division 3 A/H teacher. Perhaps I have been or am your child's teacher/advisor. I am writing you to ask a favor.

This school year, I am taking over the responsibility of coordinating the Division 3 speaker series. For those of you who do not know what the speaker series is, it is a Wednesday speaker program where Division 3 students get exposed to new information that they may not get exposed to otherwise. The format of the program is "lecture style" where community members come in and share their expertise or experiences for roughly 45 minutes give or take and then entertain questions from the students for 10 minutes.

My favor is to ask you to consider being a speaker if you have knowledge that you would gladly share with our young people. We are open to any topic.

There is an extra incentive, and that is you can use your speaking engagement as one of your yearly service hours to the school.

If you think that you might be interested, then please e-mail me here at Parker at claytonh@parker.org. I will promptly get back to you.

Thank you very much,

Clay Hobart

Gardening Help Needed

If you would be interested in fulfilling your volunteer hours by gardening, please call Wendy Johnson at (978) 952-6849 for more information.

Morning Attendance help needed

Would you be able to help Cathy in the front office every other Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. until approximately 9:45 a.m. No experience necessary.

Advisory

Are you interested in being an Advisory Parent Representatives this year? If so, please contact Debbie Osofsky, Advisory Coordinator, at debbieo@parker.org. The role is primarily twofold: support the advisor and advisory throughout the year; and facilitate communication among advisory families primarily through e-mail.

Have any ideas for meaningful community service an advisory could undertake this year? Please e-mail Debbie at debbieo@parker.org with ideas, agencies, and/or contact information. Thanks.

We specifically need advisory parent reps for the following advisors:

Laura & Tassia

Liz

Patricia

Clay

Attention Parents! Junior Varsity girls' soccer team needs your help!

We need a parent volunteer to assist at soccer practice **one day per week**, preferably Tuesday or Thursday. We would need your help on this one day from 3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m., September - November 1st, and NO prior knowledge of soccer is needed. Please contact Janice at janiceg@parker.org or (978) 486-8239 if you would be interested. Thanks!

DIVISION III

Hello, this is Clay Hobart, and it's my turn this week to tell you about the courses I am teaching in Division 3. Just so you know, Division 3 teachers rotate that responsibility every week. My courses this semester are entitled Foreign Policy of the 20th Century and Beyond and The American Culture War: History of Red and Blue. Students affectionately call the foreign policy course FoPo and the culture war course is being called PoPo. I'm not really sure why.....ask George LeVines. I encourage you to read my and other Division 3 course descriptions on the Parker website.

For the next two weeks in FoPo, students will be learning how foreign policy is made and conducted in this country. They will also be taking a quiz regarding hypothetical foreign policy situations to determine if their sprouting world views presently lean isolationist, liberal, realist, or neoconservative. If time allows, we will be starting the geography/United Nations unit.

As for PoPo, in the next two weeks, students will be reviewing how the U.S. government functions through its various branches; studying the differences between liberals and conservatives; and critically examining the life work of Karl Rove, the modern architect of red/blue politics.

DIVISION III NICARAGUA TRIP

Division Three students interested in going on a service trip to Nicaragua during February break must complete their application essay by Monday, September 19. Questions? Please see Janice or Alyssa.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Arts and Humanities – Division I

In Division I Arts and Humanities, we've experienced a busy first few days of classes by getting to know one another through personal art projects, setting norms for the work we will do together this year, and looking ahead to topics we will study. You can find out more about what we have done (and what we will be doing) by visiting the Division I A/H page at <http://www.parker.org/DivisionI/ahhomework.htm>.

We also jumped right into the first unit of the year by beginning the book *The Outsiders*. We encourage active reading, so if students wish to purchase a copy of the novel, they should bring \$7.00 to their teachers next week. An overview of our work with the novel is featured below:

The Outsiders By S.E Hinton

What influences your identity?

How do people or events change your identity?

Who is on the outside in society? Who is overlooked?

We get jumped by the Socs. I'm not sure how you spell it, but it's an abbreviation for the Socials, the jet set, the West-side rich kids. It's like the term "greaser", which is used to class all us boys on the East Side. We're poorer than the Socs and the middle class. I reckon we're wilder, too. Not like the Socs, who jump greasers and wreck houses and throw beer blasts for kicks, and get editorials in the paper for being a public disgrace one day and an asset to society the next. Greasers are almost like hoods; we steal things and drive souped up cars p. 3

S.E. Hinton wrote her first book, The Outsiders, when she was sixteen years old. She wrote it because she grew up watching the class wars in her town. The Outsiders is a story about these class wars between “The Greasers”, (the poor kids from the East Side) and the “Socials” (the rich kids from the West Side). It’s about identity; what it means to be unwanted, angry, young and in pain. However, it is also about hope and the things and people that remind you to love life, each dawn and each sunset, no matter which side of the city you come from.

We will read The Outsiders as a class. We will explore the text through scene re-enactments, discussions, text based seminars, vocabulary and written work. You will keep a reading journal that will be due twice a week, and which will be evidence of your comprehension and analysis of the novel. You will be asked for your opinion and for your questions about the themes within the book, the characters and your own personal responses to the text. **You will be assessed for Reading.**

The Outsiders is a work of fiction, meaning that the characters are not real, that the circumstances and plot of the story are made up. The story is based on truth in that there really were class wars between the Socials and the Greasers during the 1960’s in America. S.E. Hinton wrote this story because she knew it; she lived it. What stories do you know about what it means to grow up in your family, in your town, in your country? Together, we will work on our writing in workshops in order for each of us to create a short story about a change in your life. **You will be assessed for Writing.**

At the end of the book you will get the opportunity to create a multi-media art piece called a “Living Snapshot” to be **assessed for Artistic Expression.**

One final item for returning students: if you have any revisions you completed over the summer, please turn those in to your teacher by next Friday.

Arts and Humanities – Division II

Division II Arts and Humanities began the 2005-2006 school year by welcoming new ninth graders, and welcoming back our tenth graders. We would also like to welcome Ryan and Liz our two new teachers. This past week in Division II A/H we introduced the Colonial period, as this will be our first unit. We will be reading "The Scarlet Letter" and focusing on the question "what is meant by tolerance?" (book prices are on their way). We also gave our students an overview on the writing workshop which we will be conducting on Wednesdays and Fridays. Students first OP is coming up fast, this will be due on September 29 and 30th and will focus on researching a colony. Just a reminder that parents night is Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m.

MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Math, Science and Technology – Division I

We're off and running! Classes have been getting to know each other and have begun to create their own classroom culture. Tanya and Nancy's class solved "The Eternal Flame" while Ann and Judy's class debated solid or liquid using silly putty and slimy, white stuff. Mit and Dewi's class tackled "Crossmatics" and by the way, have you seen their very cool homework website? Next week we'll be starting our first science unit, Geology, as we continue to promote a positive learning environment in each of the three classrooms.

Math, Science and Technology – Division II

Division 2 MST has jumped right into things this week, beginning our integrated measurement unit. Students are being introduced to laboratory glassware and what their intended purposes are. We have also begun looking at significant figures and how to accurately measure in the laboratory.

At this point, all students should have their MST supplies. Those who don't should get stocked up this weekend.

Geometer’s Sketchpad Orders

Many students have not turned in order forms for Geometer’s Sketchpad. We will be using this software quite a bit this semester and highly recommend each student have a copy for home. The last day to turn in order forms is Monday.

Division 2 MST Supply List - Math, Science and Technology – Division II

- Graphing calculator – TI83 Plus
- Pencils, pens, ruler, protractor, compass, mini stapler
- Lined loose-leaf filler paper
- 8 1/2" x 11" graphing paper. (Buy 3-4 pads since they will be used all year.)
- Two inch 3-ring binder for MST only. (D-ring, locking clip recommended with pocket dividers)
- One 2-pocket folder
- One graph paper journal (Bound Composition Book with grids or Spiral Bound)
- USB Flashdrive (64-256 MB)
- Lined loose-leaf filler paper

SPANISH

Division I Spanish classes

Uno :

This week we have learned and practiced classroom expressions.

Esta semana hemos estudiado las expresiones de la clase.

Dos

This week we have reviewed classroom expressions and practiced personal introductions which will be the content for first PODER assessment for next week.

Este semana hemos repasado las expresiones de la clase y hemos practicado preguntas y respuestas para introducciones personales para PODER I.

Tres

We learned about the new program for 9th grade Spanish. We established norms for the class. Before beginning the first unit, we reviewed vocabulary and grammar.

Esta semana, hemos aprendido sobre el nuevo programa de español. Hablamos sobre las normas de la clase. Antes de comenzar la nueva unidad, repasamos vocabulario y gramática.

Division II Spanish classes

This week students participated in their first three speaking drills. At beginning of each Division II Spanish class, students participate in a Spanish-only speaking drill in which they respond to impromptu questions. The drill activities are designed to require students to speak as much Spanish as possible in the ten minute segment. All classes have demonstrated an amazingly strong start to the year through these drill activities. We also kicked off our first unit: *The War Against Drugs* through the examination of anti-drug commercials in Spanish. Next week's students will begin the first reading project of the unit.

Division III Spanish classes

En Division III hemos empezado el curso sobre inmigrantes hispano hablantes: "El otro idioma nacional."

"The other national language:" This course will explore the diversity of voices, rhythms and cultures within the Latino communities in the United States and study the influence of Spanish speakers on American political, cultural and economic life. In addition to studying Spanish texts, music and films, students will interact with members of local Latino communities and will have opportunities for exchange and service with native Spanish-speakers.

I am sure we will have a great semester together!.
Feliz fin de semana!

WELLNESS

Alan's Wellness class

In Alan's Wellness classes, students introduced themselves through ice breaking games and started the process of developing group norms. Some of the games we tried were; transformer tag, blob tag, How do you do?, giants elves, wizards. With our first Health class, we tried an activity called challenge circles which allows students to think what their comfort, stretch, and panic zones are. We also did an activity call speculations which shows how stereotypes can start. Next week, we will begin to talk more about fitness and survey students about activities they would like to try this fall.

Deborah's Wellness class

This week in Deborah's Wellness classes, we are getting to know each other through tag games and problem solving initiatives. We will continue tone setting next week covering topics such as bullying, harassment and creating safe learning and playing environments. Our first Health Unit will start the week of September 19th. Students will be learning first aid through hands on activities and first aid scenarios.

Laura's Wellness class

This week in Laura's classes, we played a variety of games to begin to learn about each other, cooperate and develop a sense of community within our class. Next week we will continue these games, and will begin to think about student's responsibilities to help to keep Wellness a safe place to be. Reminder **Students should wear sneakers to class, and may also bring a t-shirt to change into, sunscreen and a water bottle.

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Thank you for your donations to the health office, the Stramm, Champine, Antul, Waterhouse and Kristl families.

Many thanks also go out to all who sent anonymous donations to the nurse's office.

We are still in need of ice packs and granola bars at this time. We have also received soup which is greatly appreciated.

For Your Information:

The soup *Maruchan Instant* lunch is very, very high in fat 14 grams and sodium 1250 mg per cup. An alternative brand is *Thai Kitchen* 1.5gram fat and 627 mg of sodium.

The beginning of the year is hectic in making sure all necessary forms are signed and updated. We are still missing pieces.

Many of the students have sign up for sports and per MIAA we need updated physicals for them to play games. If your child's physical is expired they WILL NOT be playing at games, we can use physicals up to 30 days from expiration. Please help us to let all students play soccer. If yours will expire soon make the appointment now for basketball season. Feel free to call Lisa Binder RN at ext. 135 for any questions.

SPORTS UPDATE

Attention Parents! Junior Varsity girls' soccer team needs your help!

We need a parent volunteer to assist at soccer practice **one day per week**, preferably Tuesday or Thursday. We would need your help on this one day from 3:45 - 4:15, September - November 1st, and NO prior knowledge of soccer is needed. Please contact Janice at janiceg@parker.org, or (978) 486-8239 if you would be interested. Thanks!

Schedule for the week of September 12, 2005

Date	Parker Team	Practice/Game	Location	Dismissal from class	Bus Leaves	Game Time	Pick-up
Mon., 9/12	Boys Varsity	Home vs. Monty Tech.	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls Varsity	Home vs. Monty Tech.	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:00 at field
	Boys MS/JV	Practice	P5			3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls JV	Practice	School			3:30	5:00 at school
	Girls MS	Practice	P5			3:30	5:00 at field
	Cross Country	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school
Tues., 9/13	Boys Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:30 at field
	Girls Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:30 at field
	Boys MS/JV	Practice	P5			3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls JV	Practice	School			3:30	5:00 at school
	Girls MS	Practice	P5			3:30	5:00 at field
	Cross Country	Away vs. Hudson Cath.	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	5:30 at school
Weds., 9/14	Boys Varsity	Home vs. Abby Kelley	Rogers			3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls Varsity	Home vs. Abby Kelley	Rogers			3:30	5:00 at field
	Boys MS/JV	No practice					
	Girls JV	No practice					
	Girls MS	No practice					
	Cross Country	No practice					
Thurs., 9/15	Boys Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:30 at field
	Girls Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:30 at field
	Boys MS/JV	Away vs. Bromfield	See website	2:35	2:45	4:30	6:00 at school
	Girls JV	Home vs. Shawsheen	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls MS	Away vs. Bromfield	See website	2:35	2:45	3:30	6:00 at school
	Cross Country	Away vs. St. Bernards	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	5:45 at school
Fri., 9/16	Boys Varsity	Home vs. Bromfield	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls Varsity	Away vs. Bromfield	See website	2:35	2:45	3:30	5:45 at school
	Boys MS/JV	Home vs. Bromfield	Rogers	2:45		3:30	5:00 at field
	Girls JV	Away vs. Bromfield	See website	2:35	2:45	3:30	5:45 at school
	Girls MS	Practice	P5			3:30	5:00 at field
	Cross Country	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school

Fall Sports

Fall Game Schedules have been distributed but please be aware that there are likely to be some scheduling changes throughout the season. Please check the Friday Announcements as well as the Parker website for updated information.

Please note that colored mouth-guards, shin guards and soccer cleats are required for participation by MIAA regulations for all student athletes during both practices and games. This rule is strictly enforced. A water bottle and sunscreen are also highly recommended for all practices and games.

The following must be completed prior to the first practice of all Fall Sports to be eligible to participate. (STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE UNTIL ALL HEALTH FORMS ARE COMPLETE):

- 1. Students must have a current (within the past 12 months) physical from their healthcare provider on file with the School Nurse. (copy enclosed in packet)**
- 2. The Sports Health Information/ Release must be completed and signed by a parent and on file with the School Nurse. These are for the coaches' use only.**
- 3. \$175 Sports User Fee (payable to the Parker School) due to the Main Office. Financial support is available – please contact the School Nurse for more information.**

* * * * *

Coaching Opportunities Available for 2005-2006

Parker is looking for coaches for the following sports:

Assistant Girls JV Soccer Coach
Boys Middle School Basketball

Boys Middle School Baseball
Boys Varsity Baseball

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

NEWS FROM FRANK'S CAFE

Welcome back to Frank's! We have made some changes over the summer to improve our service. Most importantly, we are now a member of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). While we have been meeting their nutritional standards ever since we started the lunch program, there are a few changes we had to make in order to comply with federal regulations. The biggest change you will notice is that we are selling our food as full meals, with very little "a la carte." Lunch will still cost \$3.50, but you will have a choice of the hot lunch, a salad alternate (we have a variety of salads every day) and a sandwich lunch alternate (with a choice of several different sandwiches). The only "a la carte" we will have will be peanut butter sandwiches for \$.75, and ham and cheese or turkey and cheese sandwiches for \$1.50, plus snacks. Milk will still be \$.50, and will come with the full meals.

We follow the NSLP guidelines about "offer vs. serve." In the higher grades, students may take 3-5 of the offered components, for the full lunch price. This means if there's something we are serving that you don't like, you don't have to take it. We will try to have a variety of options every day.

Pizza has been changed, as well. On Wednesday, we will serve pizza both as a full meal, with a side salad, fruit and milk, or by the slice for \$1.50. Pizza slices are now 6 to a pizza, instead of 8, and they are extra cheese as well, so they are bigger and cheesier than ever before! When you tell your advisor how many slices you want at lunch count, please keep that in mind. Also on Wednesday, there will be salad meals available as alternates to pizza. Both Pizza and Salad lunches will be \$3.50. Lunch tickets can now be used for Pizza lunch, but it only includes 1 slice. Additional slices are \$1.50.

Lunch tickets will be available again this year, sold in strips of 5 for \$17.50. We encourage the use of tickets, as they get kids through the line faster with a minimum of fuss. Tickets will be sold in the cafeteria and the main office. If you haven't completed your application for free/reduced meals, which was in the registration packet on pink paper, please do so and turn it in to the main office.

Thanks for patronizing Frank's!

Karen

Menu for the week of September 12, 2005

Monday, 9/12	Tues., 9/13	Weds., 9/14	Thurs., 9/15	Friday, 9/16
Chicken Fajita Wraps	Cheese Tortellini Casserole**	PIZZA DAY**	Grilled Cheese Sandwich**	Sloppy Joes*
Peppers & Onions	Broccoli	Side Salad	Tomato Soup	Curley Fries
Sour Cream	Bread & Butter	Fruit	Celery Sticks & Ranch	Carrot Sticks & Ranch
Fruit Dessert	Fruit Dessert	Milk	Fruit Dessert	Fruit Dessert
Milk	Milk	Single Slice \$1.50	Milk	Milk

* Vegetarian Option

** Vegetarian

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PLEASE NOTE:

It is impossible to take even a step into the world without confronting the aftermath of hurricane Katrina and its impact on the Gulf shore. The devastation is everywhere as we are struck by the force of nature and struggle to act swiftly and effectively to help those who are suffering. At our school, students and staff have begun to organize efforts for fund raising and toward other relief initiatives and we will publicize those opportunities for members of our community to participate in those efforts through the Parker website and upcoming Friday Announcements.

Yard Sale to benefit American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Efforts

When: Saturday, September 10 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Chez Stoumbelis Family at 10 Emanuel Drive in Boxborough
(Emanuel Drive is off Depot Road which is off Liberty Square
Road/Taylor Street which is off Route 2)

Particulars: the usual potpourri of yard sale items, many of which are new or unused, some furniture, books, remnants of Stephanie's childhood, etc.

Requests: No early birds please or you will either have to sit in time-out or help us set up.

Other benefits: You get to meet Toby, the world's greatest dog, attend the Boxborough Agricultural Fair just down the road, or get an early start on apple picking.

Driver's Education with Mike's Auto School

Ms. Paradise from Mike's Auto School will be starting Driver's Education classes again beginning on Wednesday, September 14, 2005 from 1:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The total cost of the 10-week course is **\$350.00** due on Wednesday, September 14, 2005. Please pay Mike's Auto School by banker's check, money order or cash only, no personal checks will be accepted. There will be no classes on Wednesday, November 24. The sign-up sheet is on the board outside the Main Office. The policy form that needs to be signed by a parent and the student is in the front office.

Telephone Policy

There is a pay telephone in the front lobby of the school. Students must bring change or a telephone card in order to make calls. The telephones in the office will only be available for student use in the case of an emergency or when conducting school business. Please remember that the Answering Machine at Parker is on 24 hours a day. Please do not hesitate to leave a message after office hours and we will return your call as soon as we can.

Parking Lot Concerns – Drop Off and Pick-up Times

We continue to monitor the situation in our parking and driveway areas at drop off and pick up times. Safety is our top priority. We welcome your suggestions, comments, and concerns:

- Cars enter the driveway and bear right. Traffic around the circle is one-way, counterclockwise.
- Drive slowly.
- In the morning, continue to the far end of the sidewalk before stopping to discharge passengers.
- It is OK to stop in the Fire Lane to drop off and pick up students but you must stay with your vehicle.
- If you need to come into the building, please find a parking spot. Do not leave your car in the Fire Lane in front of the building. We are not allowed to park or drive on any of the unpaved areas at the school.
- In the afternoon, continue around the circle as far as you can. Stop on the right side of the circle to await your passengers. As cars ahead of you pull out, please move forward so we can get more cars into the pick up area.
- In the area directly in front of the building, please stop cars only on the right side, by the curb. Do not stop on the crosswalk or on the left side of the drive to pick up students.
- Please speak to your own children and those in your carpool about safe behavior in and around cars. We discuss this issue in advisory time and need your support and reinforcement. Our students who drive have also engaged in this discussion in their Division III meetings.
- Please drive on the pavement, not on the grass. Park on the pavement, not on the grass.

Our “traffic jam” lasts for only about 10 minutes each afternoon. Your patience during this time is most appreciated.

School Cancellations

In case of school cancellation due to bad weather, we place a message on our answering machine and broadcast the announcement on WBZ (1030 radio and Channel 4 television), WHDH (Channel 7 TV) and WCVB (Channel 5 TV). We try to make a decision by 6:00 a.m. Since our families come from many different communities it is not always possible to know what the weather is like where you live. Please use your own best judgment about driving in inclement weather.

Please see School Handbook for complete School Cancellation policy.

Procedures for Calling in Absences

School attendance is taken and records are reviewed daily. ***Parents or guardians must notify the school of a student’s known absence, or late arrival to school on a daily basis. Please let the office know of an absence before 9:00 a.m., if no one is able to answer the telephone please leave a message on the answering machine.*** In the case of a prolonged absence the student’s parents should notify the Principal or her designee in a timely manner. It is not appropriate for a student to call him or herself in late or absent. Parents are notified if their child is not present and the school has not received any prior notification regarding the absence. Teachers take attendance in every class and notify the School Office of unaccounted for students.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to several questions from students this week, we would like to clarify that if a student comes in to school after 8:30 a.m. they are considered “tardy.”



Music at Parker



Parker Jazz Band

The Parker Jazz Band is beginning its ninth year under the direction of bandleader, Frank Bonanno. The band is continuing to perform to rave reviews, and is expanding its repertoire of jazz classics and contemporary music. Students have the opportunity to develop their ensemble playing skills as well as improvisational skills.

Band practice will be held after school on Wednesdays, from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. All musicians with at least one to two years' experience on their instrument and a working knowledge of basic scales are welcome to join. We are asking students to make a serious commitment to the band, and to attend band practice on a regular basis, because ensemble music requires the musicians to develop together. Frank also strongly encourages students to continue with individual lessons on their instrument.

The fee for the Jazz Band will be \$100 for the first term (September-January), to cover the costs of music and instruction. Scholarship money is available by request. **The first practice will be Wednesday, September 21.**

If you have any questions about the Jazz Band, please see Laura Rogers.

Jazz Band Sign-up

Student Name: _____ Yes, I want to join the Parker Jazz Band!

Instrument: _____

Years of experience/proficiency: _____

Amount enclosed: (Jazz Band fee: \$100) _____

Scholarship requested: _____

Parent signature

The Parker School needs a choral director

The Parker Chorus is looking for a choral director. Do you know of anyone who would be interested in this position? If so, please see Nicky Dudensing or email her at nicola@parker.org.

FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Lady Pirates of Captian Bree

On a cold winter's night when the wind is just right you can hear the pirate captain of a fair sturdy ship. She sailed all the seas and fought many fights with her crew of lady pirates. They captured any ship they wanted, stole the loot and threw the men overboard. If ever there were a fiercer pirate then she the world would've destroyed.

Come and see the Upside Down Theater's production of the *Lady Pirates of Captian Bree*. You'll experience sword fights, jigs, love, loss and hate in a world were superstition rules and gold is the goal of most.

The performance is on Friday and Saturday, September 16th and 17th. \$8 for kids 13 and under, \$10 ahead of time, \$12 at the door. For more information talk to Ransom Loudermilk. You can also go to the Upside Down Theater web sight <http://www.upsidedowntheater.com/>

January, 2006

Monday, 2 - Tuesday, 3 - Faculty Planning, no classes
Wednesday, 4 - Classes resume
Sunday, 8 - Enrollment Information Session (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
Monday, 9 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Monday, 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (no school)
Sunday, 22 - Enrollment Information Session (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
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

Monday, 6 - Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, 17 - Gateway Celebration - Early Release (noon dismissal)
Monday, 20 - President's Day (no school)
Tuesday, 21 - Friday, 24 - Winter Recess

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.
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)

August 30, 2005

