

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: January 5, 2007

Dear Parker Families,

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year!

As we move into the next few weeks we also move into a period of intensity and activity at our school. Veteran families will recall this “busy season” as the pace of school work quickens for many students who are preparing for a January gateway, and as we simultaneously turn our attention to the enrollment open houses that will take place on January 7 and 21. Though they do so in different ways and for different audiences, these two happenings in the life of our school characterize the school community and help to define through action, the deep commitment to the welfare of our children that we share. The gateway season focuses on the ways in which individual students are coached and supported as they focus on the very tangible goal of moving from one division to the next. Our enrollment sessions are carefully crafted to provide an accurate portrayal of Parker School so that students and parents searching for a new school that will be a real fit can make informed decisions and proceed with a sense of who we are and what happens at Parker.

At the same time that these important and extraordinary events take place and demand our energy and attention, school keeps. Daily life, with its own complexity and uniqueness, keeps on happening.

As we all know, adolescence is a time of significant experimentation. And that reality is part of the context in which we do our teaching, our coaching, our supporting, and of course, our parenting. Hopefully, we do our very best for our children in the context of their reality, where we can be honest and available to them as they grow.

Some of you may have heard about recent events at school concerning our oldest students and the use of illegal substances. In fact, we are engaged in active educational efforts to address the issue of substance use, the decision making process all young people face, the consequences for decisions made, and the social context in which they are becoming adults. As a school, we are working openly with our oldest students and their families to open the space necessary for candid conversation and honest dialogue about the challenges our students face as they grow up.

As a school and as a collection of families, we know well that children do things we wish they wouldn't do. We wish they would take our word for what's good for them, what's harmful, what causes us fear and what we believe endangers them. It is difficult and sometimes painful to remember and recognize the impossibility of this as an ongoing model for learning. What we can do, though, is to acknowledge the state of our community in a straightforward way that allows us to embrace our responsibility to take into account some of the learning our kids most need, even when it is not on the topic of our coursework.

We as a school are always committed to the ideals of intellectual, physical, and emotional safety as they are balanced thoughtfully with the notion of challenge and appropriate risk. We remain determined to be excellent and thoughtful teachers to them, and partners with parents on behalf of the young people we serve.

Have a wonderful weekend with your children!

Teri Schrader
Principal

Subscribe to Parker community email lists!

We use the Parker Listserv to post announcements and reminders about life at Parker.

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/>

Applications for Enrollment at Parker for September, 2007

We have begun to accept applications for enrollment at Parker in September, 2007! 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 7

Sunday, January 21

Sunday, January 28 -- 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. There is a flyer on the back of these Friday Announcements. Should you need more please stop by the main office to pick them up.

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.

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

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.

COMING SOON

Sunday, 7 – Enrollment Information Session (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, 9 – HAC Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 11 – Parker/Wachusett Mountain Ski Program begins

Friday, 12 – Division I & 9th Grade Semi Formal Dance at Bull Run Restaurant, 7:00–10:00 p.m. (\$16 a ticket)

Monday, 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (no school)

CALENDAR

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

January Gateways

A note to Parents: If your child is doing a January gateway, you will receive a letter over vacation week that will say when your child will 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.

January, 2007

Tuesday, 16 – Trustees Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, 21 – Enrollment Information Session (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
Sunday, 28 – Snow date for Enrollment Information Session (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
Monday, 29 – Faculty Planning (no classes)
Tuesday, 30 – New semester begins
Tuesday, 30 – Jazz Band and Chorus Concert at 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 31 – Blood Drive for the American Red Cross from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (JohnBo's advisory)

February, 2007

Tuesday, 6 – Trustees Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 7 – Junior Parents College Night at 7:00 p.m. for Anthony's Tom's and Clay's advisories
Thursday, February 15 – Junior Parents College Night at 7:00 p.m. for Josie's or March's advisories
Friday, 16 – Early Release (noon dismissal)
Monday, 19 – President's Day (no school)
Tuesday, 20 – Friday, 23 - Winter Recess

March, 2007

6 – Trustees Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
7 - Spring Conference Day (no classes)
11 – Daylight Savings Time begins
14 – Noon Dismissal - Faculty Planning

Can You Help?

From the Nurse - The supply of cough drops, so generously donated to the health office at the beginning of the year, is depleted. I would greatly appreciate donations of cough drops to replenish the supply.
Sincerely, Shirley Nelson

Can you help?

I am looking for 'florist foam' (the material that you use to make dried flower arrangements). We want to use it to store/display our stick puppets in Spanish class in two different classrooms. If anyone has any extra that they don't need any more we would love to use it. Thanks! - Mandy

FROM THE COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Junior Parent College Admissions Information Night will take place in February.

To keep the groups small:

For parents of student in Anthony's, Tom's and Clay's advisories, the date is **Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m.**
For parents of students in Josie's or March's advisories, the date is **Thursday, February 15, also at 7:00 p.m.**

Thursday, March 8 is the snow date for both. If you can't come on your advisory's date, it is fine to switch.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Arts and Humanities – Division II

Welcome back! Students are starting Elie Wiesel's "Night." They should be ready for a short quiz on pages 3-22 on Monday. The Research/AE project is also still going; students should have completed an initial bibliography by Monday.

MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Math, Science and Technology – Division I

Welcome back from vacation! Regrettably, as you skiers and skaters know, December 2006 was the warmest on record for our region. And January is looking to be as warm, so far. The warm weather, although not good for snow and ice, is a great discussion topic for our weather and climate unit, which continues for a few more weeks. Next week we will conduct a lab on the greenhouse effect and begin work on a new challenge of the week around that.

Math, Science and Technology – Division II

This week in Division 2 MST the students are getting back into the swing of things by reviewing some of the concepts from before vacation. In science, the students are reviewing mole conversions and starting to talk about solution chemistry. In math, the students are working with systems of equations and they will be receiving another POW within the next week.

SPANISH

Spanish Division III

In Division III, students will begin studying their final work of the course: "Hable con ella," a film by Pedro Almodóvar. Students will begin watching the film this week and early next. Following that, we will be reading from the script and re-watching and re-interpreting scenes to get a better understanding of the movie. The movie is rated "R" and will be edited to remove one sexually explicit scene.

WELLNESS

Deborah's Wellness Class:

This week Deborah's Wellness classes continued with the second lesson in the substance unit. We reviewed use, misuse, and abuse and began looking at the modes of transmission for drug use. On Thursday students organized their work folders and played DDR.

SPORTS UPDATE

Schedule for Week of January 8 through January 12, 2007

| Date | Parker Team | Practice/Game | Location | Dismissal from class | Bus Leaves | Game Time | Pick-up |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Mon., Jan. 8 | Boys Varsity | Home vs. N.C. Charter | SMS | | | 4:45 | 6:15 at SMS |
| | Girls Varsity | Away vs. Hudson Cath. | See website | | 4:15 | 7:00 | 8:45 at school |
| | Boys JV | Practice | School | | | 3:30 | 5:00 at school |
| | Girls JV | Away vs. Hudson Cath. | See website | | 4:15 | 5:30 | 8:45 at school |
| | Boys MS | Home vs. Hanscom | LW | | | 5:00 | 6:00 at LW |
| | Girls MS | Home vs. Hanscom | LW | | | 4:00 | 5:00 at LW |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Tues., Jan. 9 | Boys Varsity | Practice | School | | | 5:00 | 6:30 at school |
| | Girls Varsity | Practice | LW | | | 4:00 | 6:00 at LW |
| | Boys JV | Away vs. Ayer | Ayer H.S. | 2:35 | 2:45 | 3:30 | 5:00 at school |
| | Girls JV | Practice | School | | | 3:30 | 5:00 at school |
| | Boys MS | Away vs. N.C. Charter | OH | 2:35 | 2:45 | 3:30 | 6:00 at school |
| | Girls MS | Away vs. N.C. Charter | OH | 2:35 | 2:45 | 4:30 | 6:00 at school |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Weds., Jan. 10 | Boys Varsity | Practice | School | | | 2:00 | 4:00 at school |
| | 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., Jan. 11 | Boys Varsity | Away vs. Bethany Christian | See website | | 3:45 | 7:00 | 9:15 at school |
| | Girls Varsity | Away vs. Bethany Christian | See website | | 3:45 | 5:30 | 9:15 at school |
| | Boys JV | Home vs. St. Bernards | SMS | | | 4:45 | 6:15 at SMS |
| | Girls JV | Away vs. N.C. Charter | OH | 2:35 | 2:45 | 3:30 | 5:00 at school |
| | Boys MS | Practice | School | | | 4:45 | 6:00 at school |
| | Girls MS | Practice | School | | | 3:30 | 4:45 at school |
| | | | | | | | |
| Fri., Jan. 12 | Boys Varsity | Practice | LW | | | 4:00 | 6:00 at LW |
| | Girls Varsity | Practice | Ayer H.S. | | | 6:00 AM | |
| | Boys JV | Practice | School | | | 5:00 | 6:30 at school |
| | Girls JV | Practice | School | | | 3:30 | 5:00 at school |
| | Boys MS | No practice | | | | | |
| | Girls MS | No practice | | | | | |

LW = Lura White School

SMS = Shirley Middle Sch.

OH = Orchard Hills

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Dear Parker families,

It's flu season again! Dr. Alfred DeMaria, Jr., M.D., at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, shares the following advice to help protect you and your family from the spread of influenza.

- Good hand hygiene: People should wash hands or use alcohol hand rubs or gels after being in public or after contact with anyone with a cold or flu.
- Cough etiquette: When coughing, one should turn the head and cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue and promptly dispose of the used tissue; or cough into the inside of the elbow if a tissue is not available.
- Avoid taking young children or immuno-compromised people into large crowds unnecessarily when flu is in the community.
- Avoid close contact (holding, kissing) between infants and anyone who has a cold or the flu.
- Do not share things that go into the mouth, such as drinking cups, straws, etc.
- If your child has a cough and fever, please have them stay home from school. Influenza (and many other respiratory viruses) are highly contagious, and school attendance while ill is likely to spread the illness to others. Contagiousness is generally greatest at the beginning of the illness, but can last up to a week if the illness is prolonged. If in doubt, please consult your physician before sending your child to school.

As always, please feel free to speak with me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Shirley Nelson, School Nurse

LIBRARY NEWS

HOMEWORK HELP IS ON THE WAY!

The Parker School library is always striving to provide the best educational resources for our students. That is why I am proud to announce that Parker has purchased subscriptions to two electronic databases from the Thomson Gale, a high quality company that has provided information resources to libraries for more than 50 years. Parker families may now use this invaluable resource at home! Please keep the home access information below!

To learn more -- visit the Thomson Gale Web site at: www.galegroup.com/parents



27500 Drake Road Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3535, 248-699-4253 800-877-GALE www.gale.com
Sincerely, Laurie and Art

TO ACCESS THOMSON-GALE DATABASES FROM HOME, PLEASE FOLLOW LINKS:

PRODUCTS: GENERAL REFERENCE CENTER GOLD and OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS

URL: http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/mlin_c_parker

Remote User Name: mlin_c_parker

Remote Password: pantaray

NEWS FROM FRANK'S CAFE

Monday: Cheese Tortellini Casserole (Cheese Tortellini baked in a cheese sauce), Salad, Apple Slices, Milk

Tuesday: BBQ Cheeseburgers, Plain Burgers or Garden Burger, Tater Tots, Fruit and Milk

Wednesday: Pizza Day

Thursday: Baked Breaded Chicken Breasts or "Chick" Pattie Gravy, Mashed Potatoes Roll, Vegetable, Fruit, Milk

Friday: Pepperoni Calzone or Cheese Calzone, Salad, Fruit and Milk

PARKER/WACHUSETT SKI PROGRAM BEGINS THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2007

The ski program will begin Thursday, January 11th 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.

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!

INFORMATION FOR THE COMMUNITY

2007 Honda Civic Hybrid Raffle

The Nashua River Watershed Association is raffling a 2007 Honda Civic Hybrid to benefit the Association's land, water and education programs. This is a great car with EPA mileage estimates of 50 mpg, low emissions, and an estimated value of \$22,700. Chances are \$20, with a maximum of 2,500 to be sold. The drawing will take place February 2, 2007. To purchase a chance or get more information on the raffle, please visit our website www.NashuaRiverWatershed.org, call the NRWA at (978) 448-0299, or stop by the River Resource Center at 592 Main Street, Groton. So take a chance - you might win a cool, new car, and you'll definitely help support the work at the NRWA! The NRWA appreciates the support of our raffle sponsor, Peters Honda of Nashua, New Hampshire.

Littleton Firefighters Relief Association Presents its 4th Annual

WINTER BALL

**Saturday, February 3
Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center, Westford, MA**

**Dinner Buffet 8:00 p.m. - Dancing until 1:00 a.m.
Tickets \$35/person - Dress is Semi-Formal**

Featuring LIVE Music from 'THE USUAL SUSPECTS'

PARKER ESSENTIAL FUND

The Parker Essential Fund has awarded grants for the following:

- Literary Magazine - \$850
- Parker Choir - \$450
- Romeo and Juliet Play Production - \$1,335
- Plaques for Senior Athletes - \$450
- Rape and Aggression Defense Program - \$1,700
- Model Rocket Club - \$705
- Mt. Washington Weather Education Outreach program - \$1,060
- New practice and game balls for Boys and Girls Varsity Soccer Teams - \$426

Grants for the next grant review are due on January 24, 2007.

Plans are underway for the 12th Annual Parker Road Race and Springfest, scheduled for May 20, 2007. Volunteers are still needed. Look for more information in the next few weeks or contact Dawn de Freitas basketdealer@gmail.com

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

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And Theodore R. Sizer Teachers Center

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TELEPHONE (978) 772-3293 FAX (978) 772-3295 www.parker.org

Application and Enrollment Information

The Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School is a public secondary school of choice, open by lottery admissions to all residents of Massachusetts in grades seven through twelve. One of Massachusetts' first charter schools, Parker was started in 1995 by area parents and teachers committed to the principles of the Coalition of Essential Schools, of which it is a fully approved member. The school's mission statement includes principles about student-centered pedagogy, performance-based promotion, public exhibition of work, and a democratic community. Please visit our website (www.parker.org) for more information about the school.

**Parker is accepting applications
for the 2007-2008 school year.**

*Applications for September 2007
are due by February 1, 2007*

Enrollment is by lottery.

All prospective students and their parents must attend
an Information Session:

Sunday, January 7, 2007

or

Sunday, January 21, 2007
(Snow date: Sunday, January 28)

***Please phone us to learn more about this innovative
public charter school, to receive an application,
or to sign up to attend one of the Information Sessions.***

April, 2007

- 3 – Trustees Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 6 – Early Release (noon dismissal)
- 13 – Early Release (noon dismissal)
- 16 – Patriot’s Day (no school)
- 17 – 20 - Spring Recess

May, 2007

- 15 – Trustees Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 25 – Early Release (noon dismissal)
- 25 - Senior/Junior Prom
- 28 – Memorial Day (no school)

June, 2007

- 6 – Noon dismissal - Graduation (6:00 p.m.)**
- 19 – Trustees Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 22 – Last Day of Classes (or earlier if we have fewer than 5 snow days).

*We are required to schedule 185 days of school but we are only required to conduct 180 days of school.
Faculty planning days take place in August, January and June. 25, 26, 27 – Faculty Work Days (or earlier)*
(9/05/06)