

Friday Announcements

Date: May 25, 2007

Each year the bounty from our gardens decorates our school as we celebrate the graduation of our seniors.

Please contribute with greens and blooms from your garden!

We need to decorate the stage and the reception area.

We will have buckets of water and helping hands in front of the school at morning drop off on Wednesday, June 6.

Thank you



**A BIG THANK YOU
FROM THE 12th
ANNUAL PARKER
ROAD RACE AND
SPRINGFEST!**

The Road Race was a big success in spite of the weather again this year! As the chairperson of the Committee this year, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their hard work and diligence for the past six months. There are many pieces to the Road Race puzzle and they made sure that at the finish line every piece fit beautifully! The Parker Road Race and Springfest Committee for 2007 is as follows:

- Jennifer Ablard
- Pat Tymon Anderson
- Caio de Freitas
- Tony Dolph
- Mary Feeley
- Maryann Gapiński
- Joe Glannon
- Karen Hannifin
- Steve Kessler
- Heidi Kulik
- Carol Mearn
- Joanna Olsen
- Fran Purcell
- Bruce Ringwall
- Kurt Staven
- Susan Tremblay

- Wanda Andersen
- Dawn Crane
- Linda DiPalma
- Kim Draper
- Kasey Fletcher
- Richard Gibbons
- David Grigglestone
- Jim Kane
- Jennifer Krieger
- Nancy Lundy
- Shirley Nelson
- Stanley Pozerski
- Nancy Rines
- Martha Shethar
- Carolyn Sullivan
- Joe Vendetti

The Committee could not pull off race day without the help of adult and student volunteers. The service students who were assigned on race day were fantastic! There were also some underclassmen who volunteered just because, and we are extremely grateful to them also. The following is a list of adult volunteers who helped out on race day:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Chris Gagnon | David Carmen | Andrea Carmen |
| Ann Walsh | Tom Callahan | Fred Shoemaker |
| Sue Coney | Judith Formanack | William Anderson |
| Ellen Brandt | Gregory Mendes | Shari Bennett |
| Melissa Ford | Cindylee Gee | Susan Farr |
| Jim Giard | Dr. Michael Shear | Andrea Cava |
| Henry Schrader | | |

To anyone I may have overlooked, thank you, thank you, thank you. We couldn't have done it without you!

Come One, Come All!

Spring Jazz Band and Choral Concert

Thursday, May 31, 2007
7:00 p.m.

**Please save the date and join us
for an evening of jazz and choral music!**

Junior Retreat (June 12-14)

On Tuesday, June 12 through Thursday, June 14, we will be taking the Parker Junior Advisories on a three-day, two-night retreat to the Vermont Academy (VA) Campus in Saxtons River, Vermont (about an hour and forty-five minutes from Parker). This will be an opportunity for these students, who next year will be seniors and the oldest students in the school, to spend some time together as a group away from the inherent distractions of the school environment. The activities we will engage in while there are intended to provide natural opportunities for students to come together as a group and begin to form a sense of community within the soon-to-be senior class.

We will be looking for parent volunteers to drive students to and from Vermont, as well as people who can lend us camping gear for the trip (especially tents).

Students in junior advisories have received a packet of information about the trip from their advisor. Parents/Guardians, if you do not receive this packet, please ask your child about it.

There will be a mandatory informational meeting for parents/guardians about this trip on Thursday, May 31st at 8:00 pm in Room 27.

COMING SOON

May, 2007

Friday, 25 - Senior/Junior Prom at Union Station in Worcester at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, 28 – Memorial Day (no school)

Wednesday, 30 – PEF Board Meeting

Thursday, 31 – Chorus and Band Concert at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 31 – Mandatory informational meeting for Junior Retreat parents - 8:00 p.m. - Room 27

CALENDAR

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

June, 2007

Tuesday, 5 - MCAS testing for 10th graders

Tuesday, 6 – MCAS testing for 10th graders

Wednesday, 6 – Noon dismissal - Graduation (6:00 p.m.)

Thursday, 7 – Gateways begin

Tuesday, 12, Wednesday, 13 and Thursday, 14 – Junior Retreat

Friday, 15 – Division 2 Semi-Formal

Friday, 15 The Big End, Noon release

Monday, 18 – All school clean-up (8:30 – 10:30 a.m.)

Tuesday, 19 – Trustees Meeting at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

SEASIDE COTTAGE IN MAINE FOR RENT June 30 – July 7
To benefit the building fund

The seaside cottage in Maine that belonged to the author Rachel Carson (*Silent Spring*) has been offered for the week of July 4th (6/30 - 7/7) to raise money for the classroom campaign. The cottage overlooks Sheepscot Bay from the western shore of Southport Island. It sleeps 6-8 in four bedrooms with 2 BRs and a bath at each end of the house so two families can be accommodated. Nearby Boothbay Harbor offers restaurants, boat tours, and great fireworks. Walk to the general store for newspapers, breakfast or lunch, stop at the town beach on the way back, go kayaking, or bike around the island to discover the colorful harbors. Or, stay at home to watch the boats and wildlife go by at the edge of the sea.

\$1500 for one week; inquiries may call Wendy or Roger at 978-456-2385.

Thank you

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Dawn de Freitas and all her Parker Road Race and Springfest crew who pulled together in so many different ways to bring about another fun event last Sunday. This is a huge undertaking and a great deal of work goes into all the planning. Many, many thanks to you all.

The Parker Cookbook Fundraiser

Many thanks to all those parents who have given us recipes for the cookbook.

Please keep those recipes coming in, we are almost there.

We still need about 50 more recipes for the Parker cookbook to raise money for the Classroom Campaign Fundraiser and we really need your help. You could email (bridgit@parker.org), fax (978) 772-3295 or drop your recipe off at the front office, whichever is easiest for you. Please take a minute to send something to us it would be such a big help and it won't take long! The deadline is fast approaching!

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Arts and Humanities – Division I

The end of the year in Division I AH can be an exciting time, but it is also one of the busiest times of year. As students finish up their reading assessments, they are embarking on a research project to apply what they have learned about South Africa to another conflict somewhere else in the world. Students should double check with parents to make sure they are on track with their project, which includes having three sources of different types and taking notes. For more information, see the homework website.

Gateway students should be working on final revisions, putting together their portfolios, writing cover letters, and thinking about their gateway presentation. The time at the end of the year flies by and students can really use support at home to stay on top of everything they're doing for their gateway.

To end the year well, we'll also be doing a little painting in class. If you have extra paper plates and paper or plastic cups, they would be a big help as we get messy mixing paints together.

Arts and Humanities – Division II

This week in Division II AH, students worked on their Literature Circles projects, reading further into their books, writing, discussing, and otherwise responding to what they've read. Students also had some opportunity to catch up on their revision; the end of school is coming up fast, so students should be busily finishing up whatever changes are needed to their Murals and Thesis Papers. Students who are working on gateway projects should have scheduled an Oral Review this week, and should be nearly done with their projects by the end of Memorial Day weekend.

MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Math, Science and Technology – Division I

This week we continue to investigate the cell in science. Students will be researching a specific organelle within the cell, as part of the Challenge of the Week, "Cell Job Fair" (COW #16). In math we continue to investigate numbers and their identity, which will aid students in making revisions to their COW #15, "What's in a Number?". Those revisions are due Friday, May 25th.

Following our Unit on Weather and Climate Change, Nancy Griffin, MST teacher, applied for recognition of our program's *Idling Reduction Pledge* with the Department of Environmental Protection of Massachusetts. Well, congratulations are in order because Division 1 MST was the Grand Prize Winner of a contest as part of that agency's "Green Team Initiative." Students should look forward to a nationally-recognized program called "Garbage is My Bag" that will present to our school as a prize for our efforts in understanding and making change around climate science. Thanks, Nancy!

SPANISH UPDATE

Spanish 1.3 – 9th Grade

As gateway week nears students are finishing up assessments for the fourth unit of study. We have looked at how elements of culture can be traced through baseball and soccer. For example, some students have looked at the relationship between the sugar industry and baseball, the racism that Latino players face in the major leagues, the influence of certain soccer teams in the World Cup, etc.

Students who are gatewaying have completed a cover letter, are compiling portfolios, and will practice their presentations next week.

Because of the large number of students who will gateway, we have scheduled **two** presentations per hour and will have **one** celebration with food at the end of that hour. Your child knows with whom s/he shares the hour. Please feel free to coordinate your celebration efforts with the other family.

We look forward to celebrating our growth and hard work with you in June!

WELLNESS

Alan's Wellness Class:

In Alan's classes, students ran for 5 minutes, played manhunt, played capture the flag, and threw the javelin. Division I health class viewed a video on puberty and talked about the importance of good hygiene. Next week, they will consider the meaning of sexual orientation and understand how homophobic remarks can be hurtful. Division II students looked at anatomy and physiology as well as slang sexual language that can be disrespectful and dehumanizing. Division II students will complete an in class content assessment next week.

Deborah's Wellness Class:

This week in Deborah's classes we mixed it up with kickball and lawn games, this was a nice interface with MCAS testing week. Our guest speaker was unable to come last Friday and is rescheduled for next Tuesday. Students will also engage in a class on homophobia and heterosexism next week. The final assessment, an in class content assessment, will be given on Monday, June, 4th. Students will also complete the year end one mile run on Thursday, May 31st.

Laura's Wellness Class:

This week in Wellness we played ultimate team handball, capture the flag and we also went for a walk around Devens in preparation for the upcoming one mile run. In health class we discussed the physical and emotional changes of puberty and watched a movie which detailed these changes. Next week in health we will cover reproductive anatomy.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL DIVISION I AND II PARKER PARENTS

In all Division I and II Health classes we have started the sexuality education unit. Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 32A, sometimes referred to as the Parental Notification Law, states that we must afford parents or guardians the flexibility to exempt their children from any portion of any curriculum that involves human sexuality through written notification to the school principal. No student will be penalized by reason of such exemption.

The weekly FRIDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS continue to be the means by which we ensure parental/guardian notification. It is imperative that parents/guardians read the information contributed each week by their child's Wellness teacher to be informed of the curriculum to be taught in the following week's classes.

Instruction materials for our sexuality education curricula were presented at the last Health Advisory Council (HAC) meeting, on March 13 at 7:00 p.m. (Room 1). Wellness faculty were present at this meeting and discussed the curriculum. An important outline of all classes is available for review.

Parents or guardians with questions or concerns should contact their child's Wellness teacher for further information. Options for alternative class materials, if desired, will be approved by the Wellness faculty and the school principal, Teri Schrader.

FROM THE NURSE

Once again the Nurse's office is out of ginger ale and crackers. Donations would be much appreciated. Students that don't eat breakfast often come in looking for food. Healthy food donations such as: packages of flavored instant oatmeal, or apples, would also be greatly appreciated. Please put your name on donations, so, I can recognize you in Friday announcements. Shirley Nelson-School Nurse

UPDATE FROM THE LIBRARY – OVERDUE BOOKS

This past winter, some of you may have read or heard about the gentleman who recently returned a library book that he had checked out in 1960 to use for a 9th grade assignment. He also paid a \$171 fine to the public library in Michigan. The good news is that the Parker School Library doesn't charge overdue fines when library books are returned late. We do, however, expect that books be returned in a timely manner. As a community, it is our responsibility to respect the materials held by the library, and make sure that we return them as soon as we have finished using them so that they are

available to be borrowed by others. The end of the school year is quickly approaching so now is the time to start returning all those library books that you have borrowed this year (or in previous years) and are finished using. Overdue notices were distributed this week. If you are still using any books that are overdue, please stop by the library and ask either Art or me to renew them for you. You can continue checking out new books until June 4.

Thanks for your help in maintaining the library's collection! Anne Bate, Librarian

SPORTS UPDATE

Sports Schedule

Date	Parker Team	Practice/Game	Location	Dismissal from class	Bus Leaves	Game Time	Pick-up
Mon., May 28	HS Baseball	NO SCHOOL					
	HS Softball						
	MS Baseball "A"						
	MS Baseball "B"						
	MS Softball						
	Track						
Tues., May 29	HS Baseball	Season over - uniforms due back					
	HS Softball	Season over - uniforms due back					
	MS Baseball "A"	Away vs. Hanscom	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	6:15 at school
	MS Baseball "B"	Season over - uniforms due back					
	MS Softball	Away vs. Hanscom	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	6:15 at school
	Track	Season over - uniforms due back					
Weds., May 30	HS Baseball						
	HS Softball						
	MS Baseball "A"						
	MS Baseball "B"						
	MS Softball						
	Track						
Thurs., May 31	HS Baseball						
	HS Softball						
	MS Baseball "A"	Away vs. Ayer	Ayer Town Park	2:35	2:45	3:30	6:00 at school
	MS Baseball "B"						
	MS Softball	Away vs. Ayer	Ayer Town Park	2:35	2:45	3:30	6:00 at school
	Track						
Fri., June 1	HS Baseball						
	HS Softball						
	MS Baseball "A"	Practice	School			3:30	5:15 at school
	MS Baseball "B"						
	MS Softball	Practice	Willard			3:30	5:00 at school
	Track						

All uniforms must be turned in to your coach immediately after your season is over

Parents, Teachers and Student Drivers:

You are officially invited to a



To support the Parker Building Addition

Sponsored by Clay, Matt and Molly's advisories

When: Wednesday, May 30

12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Where: The Parker Outback

\$5 for a compact/sedan

\$7 for an SUV or van

Please note that all proceeds from this fundraiser will go directly to the Parker School Building addition.

AIDS WALK BOSTON

On June 3rd, 2007, a group of students will be participating in the **AIDS Walk Boston**, a 6.2 mile walk to support the AIDS Action Committee. The AIDS Action Committee is a not-for-profit, community-based health organization whose mission is to stop the HIV/AIDS epidemic by preventing new infections and optimizing the health of those already infected. We are currently raising money for the AIDS Action Committee, and we are looking for community members who would be interested in donating to our cause. Any donation, big or small, would be greatly appreciated.

In Massachusetts, about 1000 people every year are diagnosed with HIV infection. In total, there are about 22,000 to 24,000 people infected with HIV in Massachusetts. Because the money raised by **AIDS Walk Boston** goes towards prevention of HIV/AIDS and improving the lives of those with HIV/AIDS within Massachusetts, any donations will be going back to our own community.

To donate, you can go to www.aidswalkboston.org, click on "pledge," and search for the team "Parker Fights AIDS." We greatly appreciate any donation that is made to this important cause. Also, if you are interested in joining us for the walk on June 3rd, please email anne.dufault@gmail.com to let us know. We'd love to have you!

Weaving loom for sale: All proceeds to be donated to the Parker Classroom Campaign. Large Leclerc brand floor loom, in good weaving condition, \$500/best offer. We can deliver curbside. For more information contact Kathy Tappan at pktwve@bluetoad.org

Are you interested in working in the kitchen? Part-time kitchen helper is needed. Approximate hours are Monday – Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please contact Lee if you are interested at lmcmamus@parker.org or at (978) 772-3293 Ext. 146.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Please would you remember to enter your volunteer hours through the Parker website. If you are not sure how to enter them please call Bridgit in the office instead. The Annual Report is published at the end of the school year and this is where we report how much volunteer help we have had.

Volunteering at Parker is obviously a very important part of the philosophy of the school. If you are not sure how you can help please do not hesitate to call the office and we will find a niche for you! Again, many thanks.

NEWS FROM FRANK'S CAFE

Lunch Box Program: Students planning to attend a lunch-time meeting can now buy a bag/box lunch. The lunch box consists of a sandwich, milk, carrot sticks and a fruit. Students can sign up for, and pay for, a lunch box the day prior to a meeting, during advisory. Any student with questions should see Lee.

Shirley Nelson, School Nurse

Lunch Menu –

Monday: No school

Tuesday: Macaroni and Cheese, Green Beans, Fruit and Milk

Wednesday: Pizza Day

Thursday: Soft Beef Taco, Vegetarian Soft Taco, Mexican Rice, Lettuce and Tomato, Fruit and Milk

Friday: Cheese Bagel Pizza, Pepperoni Bagel Pizza, Small salad, Fruit and Milk

Parker PLUS is taking off!

Could your place of business benefit from **college student interns** that are Parker grads?

Might your company be interested in tapping the community of Parker college graduates for their **first jobs**?

What is it? Parker Parents give a Leg Up for Students

Once in college, our graduates need meaningful internships to build their skills and prepare for the world of work. When facing college graduation, they face a very big, competitive world. Let's make it a bit smaller for them and also enjoy the advantage of having great individuals raised in the Parker tradition in our workplaces.

If you'd like to learn more and be a part of this initiative, please email Sue Whalley swhalley@parker.org to start the ball rolling. In the message line, write Parker Plus. Thank you!

Division II

Summer Math Course in Algebraic Reasoning

This two-week study of algebraic topics is designed to strengthen students' ability to work with number, variables, and equations. The emphasis of the work will be two-fold, placing equal importance on algebraic skills and problem solving. This is an opportunity for students to strengthen skills they already have, build confidence, make connections among concepts, and gain some new learning. Students will have the opportunity to complete at least one MST portfolio piece by the end of the course.

This course is open to students who have completed at least one semester in Division II MST. Please contact your MST teacher or Diane Kruse (dkruse@parker.org) if you have questions about whether or not to take the course this summer.

Dates: July 9-13 and 16-20

Times: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Location: Francis W Parker Charter Essential School

Cost: \$150

Instructor: Melanie Palma taught mathematics at Parker for 3 years, and was a member of the team that designed the Division 2 program. Currently, she tutors students and consults with curriculum developers to create math activities that encourage students to think deeply about their work.

***** Please fill out the attached form in these Announcements and return to Parker if interested!**

Parker Charter Essential School Math Workshop Summer 2007 Application

Workshop Dates: July 9-13 and July 16-20

Workshop Times: 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Workshop Place: Parker Charter Essential School

Cost: \$150**

I would like to reserve a place for my student in the 2007 Summer Math Workshop at Parker:

Name of student: _____

Current MST teacher: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address (parent) _____

Email address (student) _____

DIVISION 2 SUMMER WRITING WORKSHOP

JULY 16-27

**IF INTERESTED EMAIL RYAN at rroppp@parker.org (preferred)
OR CALL 978-772-3293**

Overview:

We are excited to offer the Summer Writing Workshop for students who have spent at least a semester in Division 2 A/H and who could benefit from a program designed to help them meet Division 2's rigorous standards in writing with more ease in the future. Students who participate will have the opportunity to develop and complete an original essay to include in their Division 2 A/H portfolio. The workshop will support students in a small group setting to engage in the full process of writing: topic brainstorming, planning an appropriate method of development, drafting and editing. We will capitalize on the freedom that summer allows to explore original topics of personal interest, but also use the advantage of a small group setting to structure students' efforts to navigate the writing process with autonomy.

Objectives:

- To imagine and complete an original piece of writing.
- To think and act like an author when approaching reading and writing.
- To make progress in autonomy when approaching writing assignments in the future.

A student should attend if he/she:

- has had difficulty getting a piece of writing to meet Division 2 standards without extensive comments by his/her assessor;
- works hard on each piece of writing, but makes little progress on the standard;
- avoids writing assignments and therefore makes little progress on the standard;
- has been recommended by an assessor;
- is moving on to Division 3, but has not consistently met Division 2 writing standards with ease;
- needs a piece of writing that meets standards in his/her Division 2 A/H portfolio.

Of course, students who just would like to spend some time this summer writing are encouraged to attend, as well!

Time: 10:15 - 12:30, Monday – Friday, July 16 – July 27

Cost: \$150.00 per student – Confidential financial assistance is available through student services.

*****Please fill out the attached form in these Announcements and return to Parker if interested!**

Parker Charter Essential School Writing Workshop Summer 2007 Application

Workshop Dates: July 16-20 and July 23-27

Workshop Times: 10:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Workshop Place: Parker Charter Essential School

Cost: \$150**

I would like to reserve a place for my student in the 2007 Summer Writing Workshop at Parker:

Name of student: _____

Current A/H teacher: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address (parent) _____

Email address (student) _____

**** Confidential financial assistance is available through Student Services**

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Classroom Campaign News

Milestones and upcoming key dates:

Done!	Parker and Wachusett reach agreement on purchase of two story classroom addition
Done!	Test borings show good soil conditions for classroom addition foundation
Done!	Parker and MassDevelopment reach agreement on purchase of current building and site
Done!	Permits approved by Devens Enterprise Commission
Done!	Terms for purchase of current site approved by Board of Education
Done!	Plans and specifications completed for construction of classroom addition
Done!	Advertisement for bids on construction of classroom addition
Done!	\$650,000 raised for classroom campaign—65% of goal

Current Schedule

June 14	Construction Bids Due
June 25	Loan closing, land purchase, order to proceed
July 2	Construction Commences
January	Occupancy of new classroom wing

Thanks to the Phonathoners: *The school would like to express its gratitude to the individuals who donated an evening (or two!) of their time to make calls for the May 14 alumni parent phonathon and/or the May 21 parent phonathon:* Maura Barstow, Claudia Bell, Kathleen Bernklow, Rick Bernklow, David Cass, Kim Draper, Nancy Enriquez, Chet Gapinski, Mary Ann Gapinski, Ann Glannon, Mary Ellen Gordon, Phil Holman, Becka Kane, Louise Knight, Heidi Kulik, Peter MacDonald, Jane Matson, Lucy McQuilken, Andy Perkins, Ed Shankle, Joan Shankle, Kathy Singh, Barbara Weiss, and Maureen Wojcik

Check out our new website! Just go to the Parker website at www.parker.org and click the classroom campaign button to get up-to-date news on the building project and the classroom campaign. See new photos of our wonderful new space. Check out the list of all the people who have donated to the campaign so far. Learn how to donate if you've not yet gotten a chance to do so. Enormous thanks goes to Kim Draper for creating this informative website.

The Parker School Classroom Campaign Donation Form

I wish to support the Parker Classroom Campaign through a gift of \$_____.

Type of Donation (check one):

I am enclosing my entire donation now.

I am enclosing part of my gift now and pledging to pay the remainder over (circle):

1 year 2 years 3 years

I would like to make my pledge payments:

Annually, by June of each year

Semi-annually, each June and December

Monthly

Donation Information (check all that apply):

I am enclosing a check.

Checks should be made out to: The Sizer Foundation, Inc.

My company has a matching gift program.

I've enclosed the matching gift form.

Please contact me to facilitate this.

I am making a gift of stock or securities. Please contact me to make arrangements.

Your information: *Print your name as you wish it to be listed in acknowledgments.*

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Contributions to the Classroom Campaign should be made to The Sizer Foundation, Inc., a public charity whose purpose is to raise funds for the Parker Charter Essential School and the Theodore R. Sizer Teachers Center.
All donations are fully tax-deductible.

Thank you for your help. Please mail this form to:
The Parker Classroom Campaign, Attn: Becka Kane
49 Antietam Street, Devens, MA 01434