

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 22, 2006

Dear Parker Families,

How wonderful to see so many parents and guardians at our Back to School Night on Tuesday! We began as we always do, with some of us hurrying in to take a seat, a little road weary from dense commutes or from semi-dinners pulled together quickly and early. We sat together in our gym to remember together our common goals of rallying around our children to provide the very best support we can for them by building and sustaining the relationships between home and school. And within minutes it seemed we gathered our collective energies and rallied for classes, inspired by Bill Allen, our newest parent representative to the Board of Trustees, who spoke of “winning the lottery” when his son was offered enrollment at Parker!

And then we were off! All of us at the school hope the evening was helpful in creating a snapshot of your child’s day at Parker. In addition to putting faces with names and getting a sense of what’s happening in these early weeks of classes, we hope that Back to School Night set in motion a few important details that will come to the forefront as we make our way toward October 19 and the Personal Learning Plan conferences that will happen then.

As many of you know, the PLP conference is an extended conversation among each student, his or her parent(s) or guardian(s), and advisor. While classes are not in session on PLP Day, it is considered an important school day in that we set aside time to make real our commitment to providing an education that is personalized and relevant to each and every student we serve. And this takes time. The conference itself is preceded by some “pre-thinking” and preparation that families will be asked to complete prior to the conference. Look for communication from your child’s advisor to initiate that exchange. The conference is followed by the “rendering” of the notes and goals and hopes for the year expressed in the meeting. This rendering becomes the draft of the PLP, and it is presented to students and sent home to parents for approval before being adopted as the working PLP for the year. Meanwhile, if you haven’t yet scheduled your PLP with your child’s advisor, this is precisely the right time to contact him or her!

Though days this week felt more like summer as the temperatures rose (especially in some of our less spacious rooms!), it seems we are settling into the new rhythms fall brings. We’re in full swing now with important, and in many cases, new material and new ideas circulating in classes and in our students’ minds. It’s wonderful to see the transition of those students whose hard work brought them to a new division this year, and the growing awareness of those who find themselves “the big kids” in their old division. Some revelations about ourselves and where we’ve gotten to seem just right for this time of year!

So welcome back, really, to school.

Have a terrific weekend!

Teri Schrader
Principal

Subscribe to Parker community email lists!

We use the Parker Listserv to post announcements and reminders about life at Parker. Subscribe for late breaking news and weather cancellations which will be delivered by email list as well as other media.

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/>

COMING SOON

September, 2006

Monday, 25 – Wrapping paper sale ends

Tuesday, 26 – Trustees Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, 27 – Parker International Gala & Auction meeting at 7:00 p.m.

CALENDAR

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

October, 2006

Monday, 2 – Parker Road Race Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Room 1

Monday, 9 – Columbus Day (no school)

Tuesday, 10 through Friday, 19 – Loaves and Fishes Food Drive - Please donate non-perishables.

Friday, 13 – Division 2 Rafting Trip

Thursday, 19 – PLP Conference Day (no classes)

Saturday, 21 – PSAT Testing at Parker

Tuesday, 24 – Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

November, 2006

Friday, 10 – Veterans' Day observed (no school)

Wednesday, 22 – Early Release (noon dismissal)

Thursday, 23 – Friday, 24 - Thanksgiving Break

THE GENEVIEVE'S FALL FUNDRAISER

Have you remembered to hand in your Genevieve's wrapping paper/candle order? Please make sure to return your packet no later than this coming Monday, September 25, 2006.

50% OF ALL SALES FROM THE MAIN CATALOG GOES TO PARKER.

40% OF ALL CANDLE AND CALENDAR SALES GOES TO PARKER.

DIVISION II FALL RAFTING TRIP

When: Friday, October 13th
Where: Charlemont MA, Zoar Outdoor, The Deerfield River
Cost: \$75
Deadline: September 29th
Alternative: Hiking (the cost will be different)

Extra permission slips and waiver forms can be obtained in the front office.

We strongly encourage all students to participate on this bonding trip. Students who do not attend the trip will be expected to come to school. Any questions? Please Email dchamberlain@parker.org

Thank you!

Many thanks to the family of Sydney Bennett for their donation of CDs and CD cases, to the family of Zack Allen for a box of 1 subject notebooks and to the anonymous donor of five 3-ring binders. All these items are greatly appreciated.

From Student Services: Many thanks to the Hayward and McDougall families for their generous donations of binders and notebooks. We also want to thank the anonymous donor of binders and folders. Another big thank you goes to the PEF for their generous donation of notebooks and school supplies which Student Services will help distribute. It's great having those supplies to help organize our students early in the year!

CAN YOU HELP?

Parker seeks qualified tutors in all domains

Do you tutor students or can you recommend someone who does? Deb Merriam, Academic Dean, is currently compiling a database of tutors whom we might recommend when parents request a reference during the school year. Tutors can be volunteers or paid professionals who work with students outside of school hours via individual arrangements with families.

If you know someone we should add to our list, please email Matt Underwood at munderwood@parker.org. Thank you!

Be a speaker and earn parent volunteer hours!!!

From Clay, Division 3 Arts and Humanities Teacher

I am writing on behalf of the Division 3 Speaker Series. The series is designed to provide Parker's oldest students with opportunities to expand their notion of the world beyond the walls of the school through contact with individuals who visit and share with us a multitude of experiences and perspectives. Anyone is welcome to be a speaker and I am always looking for community members who might be willing to give of their time by sharing their experiences with our students. We conduct the series from 11:00-12:00 on Wednesdays. If you would be interested in being a speaker, please contact me at claytonh@parker.org. Thank you very much and I look forward to hearing from you.

PEF Road Race and Springfest

Parker Road Race and Springfest Committee is looking for volunteers! If you need more information or would like to help out, please call Dawn de Freitas (Parker Road Race chair) at (978) 842-2605 or e-mail basketdealer@gmail.com. This is a great way to get your volunteer hours taken care of. Our first meeting will be at the end of September, specifics to be announced.

Youth Venture and the United Way of North Central Massachusetts help to provide resources-- including a national network of like-minded young people, media opportunities and up to \$1,000 in start-up funds-- for students who develop organizations, clubs, or businesses that benefit their school, neighborhood, or larger community.

If you are interested in finding out more about Youth Venture at Parker, talking to a Venture team that launched last year, or if you'd like an application to start your own Venture team, please see Matt Underwood. Dream it, do it!

ADVISORY HELP NEEDED

Community Service

Every year advisories take on a variety of community service projects. If you have an idea for a project or a contact at a local organization, please send me more details at debbie@parker.org. Thanks, Debbie Osofsky, Advisory Coordinator.

FROM THE TRANSITION OFFICE

Many college representatives are visiting Parker over the next two months. Juniors and Seniors are encouraged to sign up to meet with them on the bulletin board outside Sue's office.

School	Date	Time			
			Beloit College	10/17	2:00
Trinity College	9/25	11:00	Salve Regina	10/17	8:45
C. W. Post	9/25	11:00	Bennington College	10/19	8:45
U Mass Lowell	9/25	12:00	College of the Atlantic	10/30	9:00
Hampshire College	9/26	8:45	Emmanuel College	10/30	1:00
Dartmouth College	9/26	1:20	Merrimack College	10/31	2:00
University of Vermont	9/26	12:15	Bay Path College	11/2	1:30
Unity College	9/28	8:45	Wheelock College	11/6	8:45
Fitchburg State	10/3	8:45			
Green Mountain College	10/3	8:45			
Lasell College	10/4	11:30			
Worcester State College	10/11	11:00			

Lunchtime Q and A about College with Parker Teachers

Students of all divisions are invited to bring a brown bag lunch and hear about the schools our teachers know best. All meetings will take place in Room 19.

Monday: Judy Gibson will talk about Colgate University, a liberal arts school in New York State.

Tuesday: Kris will talk about MIT a technical institute and Oberlin College a liberal arts college in Ohio with a strong music department.

Thursday: Mit will be on hand to discuss St. John's College

Local Event: Concord-Carlisle High School Thursday, October 5 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
 Call Center for Parents and Teachers, (978) 202-1146 to enroll. FREE.
Less Stress, More Success: Negotiating the College Admissions Process in the Era of Spin
 Speaker: Marilee Jones, Dean of Admissions at MIT.
 The college admissions process has become so multi-layered now and its accompanying pressure can be intense. This presentation will cover the realities of college admissions and explain how to approach the college process with clarity and sanity.

Weekend College Fair at Assumption College:

For parents who would like to attend a college fair with their students, Assumption College in Worcester is hosting an event on Sunday, October 22 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. Two hundred and fifty colleges will be stationed in the Plourde Recreation Center. If you'd like to see the list of colleges, please call Sue Whalley.

Sue Whalley will be available every **Monday at 3:30 in room 2**. Seniors are encouraged to use this time to work on college applications and essays if they need help. Bring drafts, outlines, questions.

DIVISION III UPDATE

It was great to see all the parents of Division 3 students who came for 'Back to School' night. We hope the opportunity to follow your students' schedules and to meet the teachers who will be working with your children this semester was valuable. If you have questions about anything, please don't hesitate to contact us. If you were not able to come on Tuesday and are curious about the Division 3 courses, please refer to the Division 3 section of the Parker website, where you will find brief descriptions of all of them. Finally, many advisors used 'Back to School' night to start signing up families for PLP conference times for PLP day on Thursday, October 19th. Your student's advisor will be contacting you if you were not here on Tuesday. Or, you should feel free to contact us to sign up as well.

Seniors are working with their classmates and Senior Seminar teachers to develop their senior project plans. They are turning in a draft proposal today for feedback from their teacher and will be turning in a formal proposal on Monday, October 2nd that will be reviewed by all the senior seminar teachers. The formal proposals will either be approved or sent back for revisions, additions, or clarifications.

This week's course updates are from Clay Hobart's AH classes: *History of Colonization* and *Globalization, the Wal-Mart Effect and Outsourcing*.

In the *History of Colonization*, we are creating themes about what we think is true about colonies of exploitation. Our themes center around archetypes, economics, and resistance. Students are reading articles and will be watching films about colonization in order to flesh out themes already generated or to create new ones. Next week, they will be watching *Mister Johnson* by Brice Beresford about the British colonial experience in Nigeria. We are all looking forward to that!

In *Globalization*, students are beginning to wrestle with both positive and negative views of globalization. They are starting to critically examine the effectiveness of the international financial institutions of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Next week, they will be applying what they have been learning and discoveries they have been making to the case of Jamaica as they watch *Life and Debt*, a film documentary about that country's experience with structural adjustment programs prescribed by the IMF. It should be great!

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Arts and Humanities – Division I

This week in AH we've continued our stories and culture unit, by wrapping up our work with *The Odyssey*, and continuing with *Hansel and Gretel* and *Baba Yaga*. We explored narrative structure, and characteristics of many of these stories, and we have also briefly looked at the cultures the story comes from. In addition, we continued our work with understanding how to be good anthropologists, and how to objectively look and evaluate other cultures.

As the work increases, often students need to check in with their teachers after school. Students come after school for a variety of reasons; some come for help organizing their time or materials, to clarify an assignment, to ask questions about class, to make a plan when they feel overwhelmed, or just to feel supported as they do their homework. Below, please find the days that your student's teaching pair will be offering after school help.

AH After School Help runs from 3:35-4:15 on the following days:

Amanda and Tassia: Monday and Tuesday

Matt and Erin: Monday and Thursday

Laura and James: Tuesday **afternoon** and Friday **morning** (7:45-8:20 a.m.)

Students should be picked up between 4:15 and 4:30 p.m. when attending after school help.

- Please note that coaches at Parker understand that academics come first. Students should attend after school help before practice whenever it is needed. Just let the coach know.
- **After school help will begin the week of September 25th**

Arts and Humanities – Division II

This week in Division II AH we began working on section 2 of our reading assessment (chapters 2, 3 and 4). Students are continuing to read *The Journey of Ibn Fattouma* and are working on vocabulary, journals and connections, artifacts, and preparing for their text based seminars. The final reading assessment with revisions is due on Tuesday, October 10. Students are also working on their content assessment, completing a reading and a primary source lesson next week, culminating in an in-class quiz.

MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Math, Science and Technology – Division I

This week we enjoyed a nice stretch of weather and were able to go outside often to visit a few natural haunts around the campus out front and outback. We are beginning to study decomposition and have placed an apple core in an exposed or buried location to be retrieved later for "analysis" - YUCK!

In math we have just finished a focused look on base two functions. The Challenge Of the Week #1 was due today. We will study more exponents over the next week in COW #2. It is called "The Humongous Fungus" and is due 9/29/06.

Math, Science and Technology – Division II

This week the students took what they had learned about the lab equipment and used it to look at the relationship between the mass, volume and density of an object and liquids. They used the real life example of a scuba diver in two different bodies of water to look at this relationship. They have also been learning about significant figures, conversions and accuracy and precision of their measurements. The students will be given the measurement assessment, which is an in-class lab, by next Tuesday.

Please check in with your students to make sure they have the necessary supplies needed to be prepared for class (many are still without calculators). Financial Aid is available through Student Services.

MST Transition Class – Division II

This week students finished up their first Problem of the Week focusing on linear equations. On Thursday and Friday, they completed a density lab and need to produce a lab report for assessment. The lab report is due on Friday, September 29. We will spend some time organizing lab reports in class next week. In math we will explore the standard form of a linear equation and the relationship between parallel and perpendicular lines.

SPANISH

Español División I Year 1

This week we've been learning classroom expressions, like "Can I go to the bathroom?" and "Hey, a fuzzy bug!" Next week we'll be working on salutations.

Español División I Year 2

This week we've been learning about how to ask questions in the second person. For our second assessment on Tuesday we'll play a game of musical chairs where students will have to make up questions to given answers. After that we'll be talking about family and creating representations of them to assist in oral presentations.

Español División I Year 3

This week and next we're exploring the experiences of two Latino immigrants through biographical articles. We're working on reading skills in Spanish and how to make the most of contextual clues. We'll also be working with the simple past tense.

Esta semana exploremos las experiencias de unos inmigrantes por la escritura. Nos enfocamos en las pistas contextuales como apoyo en la lectura. También empezamos a trabajar con los verbos en el pretérito

Español División II

Esta semana nosotros hicimos un proyecto de escuchar. Navegamos por la ciudad. La próxima semana empezaremos nuestro proyecto de hablar espontáneamente.

This week we completed our first listening Project. We navigated our way through a city. Next week we will begin preparing for our first spontaneous speaking project.

Division III Spanish

In Division 3 this week, students have begun to read *San Manuel Bueno, Mártir* a novella by the great Spanish writer and philosopher Miguel de Unamuno. The novella was the last piece of writing Unamuno did and represents perhaps his most compact and beautiful statement of his personal religious crisis and the philosophy that emerged from it. Students are also beginning to work on building their comprehension and analysis as a class, through written participation through e-mail and participation in class activities. Over the next weeks, students will engage in debate over the moral and religious questions presented by the novel and read extracts from Unamuno's diaries to get a better understanding of the connection between Unamuno's spiritual crisis at the turn of the century and the novel he wrote 30 years later at the end of his life.

WELLNESS

Alan's Wellness Class:

In Alan's classes, students have started the unit on Violence Prevention by considering what girls are expected to look like, act like and be like and what boys are expected to have for characteristics for gaining respect. Questions were asked about bullying, cliques, and violence as a way to begin to understand some of the reasons for so much violence in the U. S. Next week we will watch part one of *Tough Guise* which will show how the media often portrays certain tough guy images of boys and men. Students continue to work on fitness as well as participate in soccer, touch football and ultimate Frisbee.

Deborah's Wellness Class:

This week in Deborah's Wellness classes, we completed our touch football module, next week the kickball module will be introduced. A general reminder that physical activity classes are on Monday and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, (excluding early release days) will be our Health class day. Please have your children bring or wear appropriate footwear on those days. In this week's Health class we began our journey into teen violence prevention. Students developed class norms, created webs of violence and started an activity looking at exclusion. Next week we will complete the "inside and outside of the box" activity and start the movie *Tough Guise*, a movie examining violence in relationship to masculinity and manhood. Later in the curriculum we will be viewing *Killing Us Softly 3, Advertising's Image of Woman*. In this film Jill Kilbourne uses over 160 ads and commercials to critique advertising's image of women.

Laura's Wellness Class:

This week in Health class we started the unit on violence prevention. Each class worked in gender specific groups and identified what characteristics were associated with girls/boys that are accepted and what characteristics were associated with boys/girls who don't fit in with their peers. Stereotypes were discussed. Next week in Health we will have more discussion on how stereotypes have a negative impact on others. In Wellness we played soccer golf, manhunt and ultimate frisbee. Next week we will continue going outside weather permitting to engage in a variety of activities.

SPORTS UPDATE

Fall Sports

Fall Game schedules are being distributed to the coaches and players. Please be aware that there are likely to be some scheduling changes throughout the season. Please also 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.

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

Sports Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Parker Team</u>	<u>Practice/Game</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dismissal from class</u>	<u>Bus Leaves</u>	<u>Game Time</u>	<u>Pick-up</u>
Mon., 9/25	Boys Varsity	Home vs. N.C. Charter	Rogers	2:35		3:30	5:30 at field
	Girls Varsity	Practice	Antietam			3:30	5:30 at field
	Boys MS/JV	Away vs. Carlisle	See website	2:20	2:30	4:30	6:30 at school
	Girls JV	Home vs. Tahanto	Rogers	2:35		3:30	5:15 at field
	Girls MS	Away vs. Carlisle	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	6:30 at school
	Cross Country	Practice	School			3:30	5:00 at school
Tues., 9/26	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	P5			3:30	5:15 at field
	Girls MS	Away vs. St. Marys	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	6:00 at school
	Cross Country	Away vs. Keefe Tech.	See website	2:05	2:15	3:30	6:00 at school
Weds., 9/27	Boys Varsity	Away vs. St. Bernards	See website		2:30	3:30	6:00 at school
	Girls Varsity	Home vs. St. Bernards	Rogers			3:30	5:30 at field
	Boys MS/JV	No practice					
	Girls JV	Home vs. St. Bernards	Rogers			3:30	5:30 at field
	Girls MS	No practice					
	Cross Country	No practice					
Thurs., 9/28	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	P5			3:30	5:15 at field
	Girls MS	Practice	School			3:30	5:00 at school
	Cross Country	Away vs. Tahanto	See website			3:30	5:45 at school
Fri., 9/29	Boys Varsity	Away vs. St. Marys	See website	2:20	2:30	3:30	6:15 at school
	Girls Varsity	Home vs. Bromfield	Rogers	2:35		3:30	5:30 at field
	Boys MS/JV	Home vs. Tahanto	Rogers	2:35		3:30	5:15 at field
	Girls JV	Home vs. Bromfield	Rogers	2:35		3:30	5:15 at field
	Girls MS	Home vs. Tahanto	Rogers	2:35		3:30	5:15 at field
	Cross Country	Practice	School			3:30	5:00 at school

PARKER MODEL ROCKET CLUB

Interested in aerodynamics? Math? Physics? Electronics? Competition? Team-work? Smoke, flame and the smell of burnt gunpowder? Pumpkin-lofting? Barbies in Space? Check out the Parker Model Rocket Club.

Our meetings are on Thursdays from 3:40 to 4:50 p.m. in Room 27.

Our activities include learning enough rocket science to design and build your own rockets, model-building sessions, and the TARC contest. We also hope to hold monthly launches pending permission to use the launch field. You're welcome to participate in any or all of these activities – it's your choice. You're welcome to only attend the launches if you like.

This year we are hoping to have two or three teams competing in the TARC (Team America Model Rocket) Competition. A flyer describing the details of the competition is included in these announcements, and more information is available at the meetings.

If you are interested but haven't been able to attend a meeting yet, please contact Steve Byan at stevebyan@mac.com and let him know of your interest.

It is rocket science, after all...

5th Annual Team America Rocketry Challenge

For more information, visit our website:

www.rocketcontest.org www.rocketcontest.org

2007 Contest Applications available beginning
September 6, 2006

Application Deadline is November 15, 2006

Thousands of students each year compete in the Team America Rocketry Challenge, the world's largest model rocket contest. Your school can compete against other schools and organizations from across the country for its share of \$60,000 in prizes! To win, each team must design, build, and fly a model rocket that carries one raw egg. The goal is to fly to 850 feet and stay aloft for 45 seconds. Whoever is the closest to both and brings the egg back unbroken wins!

TEAM AMERICA ROCKETRY CHALLENGE

\$60,000 in Annual Prizes for Students

- This event is an annual nation-wide rocketry-based aerospace design and flying challenge competition for student teams of 7th - 12th graders.
- It is conducted during each school year starting in September, leading to a competitive face-to-face fly-off for the final prizes among the top 100 teams nationally. This is held in late May at The Plains, VA, near Washington, DC.
- It is sponsored by the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) on behalf of America's aerospace industry, and by the National Association of Rocketry (NAR).

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Challenge is to teach students aerospace science by having them design and build a safe and stable model rocket that lifts a fragile payload (one raw egg) to exactly 850 feet and has a flight duration of exactly 45 seconds, at the end of which it returns this payload to earth safely and undamaged.

- Models must be made of non-metal materials such as balsa, paper and plastic, must weigh no more than 3.3 pounds at liftoff, and must use commercially-made, NAR safety-certified model rocket motors widely available in local hobby stores.
- Altitudes are determined by a small, accurate commercially-made electronic barometric altimeter carried within the rocket, and read after the flight.

ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

- Entry is open to groups of 3 to 15 students (7th - 12th grade) who must enter as a team sponsored by a public or private school, home school association, or non-profit youth group, under the supervision of an adult from that school or group.
- Visit the event website www.rocketcontest.org to register. Entry opens in early September and closes in late November. Visit the NAR website www.nar.org for information about America's largest sport rocketry organization.

LOST AND FOUND

One pair of black Converse sneakers with pink shoe laces size 7
One silver Sony memory stick

NEWS FROM FRANK'S CAFE

IMPORTANT!! - THE PIZZA DAY MENU HAS BEEN ENHANCED FOR THIS YEAR!!

We will now have two lunch options.

- 1) One piece of pizza, milk, fruit, and salad for \$3.50
- 2) Two pieces of pizza, milk, and salad for \$4.50

The per slice price will now be \$2.

Menu for the week of September 25

Monday: Grilled Cheese and Tomato Soup, Tater Tots, Mixed Fruit and Milk

Tuesday: Taco Boats with Lettuce and Tomatoes, Mexican Rice, Baby Carrots with Ranch Dip, Peaches and Milk

Wednesday: Pizza Day - 1 slice with Milk, Fruit and Salad \$3.50 - 2 slices with Salad and Milk \$4.50

Thursday: Breaded Baked Chicken Breasts, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Baked Apples and Milk

Friday: Baked Ziti, Salad, Breadsticks, Pears and Milk

HOMWORK CLINIC

Dear Parents:

If you would like your son or daughter to attend Homework Clinic, the library will be open on Tuesday and Thursdays from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. It will be monitored by myself, a service student, or another teacher. Please Email me at leeg@parker.org and let me know that you are interested. Thanks, Lee Guerette

WEATHER ALERT – SNOW DAYS

At Channel Five Boston's web page, you can sign up to be notified either by Email or cell phone of any weather alert affecting Parker. If you are interested please go to www.thebostonchannel.com and click on weather alerts. Parker always notifies Channel Five along with other local media outlets about school closings or delays.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

March's Advisory will be holding a button sale in the lobby on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday in order to raise money for our Making Strides Against Breast Cancer team. Sales will be held before school and at lunch, and buttons will be \$1 each. Also, if anyone is interested in making a larger donation or joining us in our walk, talk to Alexandra Nichipor.

Loaves and Fishes Food Drive: There will be a Loaves and Fishes Food Drive beginning on Tuesday, October 10 through Friday, October 19. More information to follow.

Free to a good home - My wife recently gave birth to our son, and this has not been easy for our lovely parrot we've had for six years. He has not behaved well around Mason, to say the least, and we are, sadly, looking to find a new home for him. If you love birds, and are interested in keeping him temporarily or long term (or know someone who is), please let me know. If you're not up to a long term commitment, but would like to keep him for a few months, that would be good too as we would like to give him another chance to peacefully co-exist. Pan is a Brazilian Caique who is very social. He loves to play, snuggle, be around people, and eat. He is used to cage time, but also gets out alot with us. and though his flying is limited, he's a good climber. He has seen a vet regularly for six years and is in very good health. If you are interested, his cage, toys and starting food are provided. Thanks for your help, David Smith, Division 2 AH (978)368-1863

For Community Theatre Fans - Sterling Community Theatre presents the musical "Children Of Eden" 09/22, 09/23. Show times are 7:30 p.m. with additional 2:00 p.m. shows on Saturdays. Gregory Dumas, a new 7th grader at Parker, will be performing in the chorus. Tickets can be ordered on-line @ www.sterlingtheatre.com/boxoffice or call (978) 422-6657 or (978) 422-9754.

PARKER INTERNATIONAL GALA AND AUCTION

"In order to make the Parker International Gala and Auction a success, we would greatly appreciate it if each Parker family could donate at least one item to the auction. The donation form is attached. We need the donation forms returned as soon as you possibly can. If you are unsure of what to donate, you can contact Carolyn Sullivan at (978) 692-6144 (sullivan.cb@gmail.com) or Pam Gross at (978) 772-9863 rbgross@charter.net . The first drop off date for items will be PLP day which is Tuesday, October 19th, so please try to get your donation forms in a few days before that. The auction committee thanks you!

PARKER ESSENTIAL FUND

What Is The Parker Essential Fund?

We are a non-profit organization consisting of Parker parents, students, and teachers.

What Does the Parker Essential Fund Do?

We raise money and provide grants for programs, activities, and materials that enhance students' experiences at Parker. Our grants encompass academic, artistic, athletic, and administrative needs.

How Can I Support the Parker Essential Fund?

There are many ways you can participate in the PEF and your efforts will count towards your volunteer hours for Parker.

- Become a member of the PEF Board by joining us at our bi-monthly meetings
- Volunteer to help with the exciting Parker International Gala and Auction scheduled for Friday, December 1, 2006
- Help plan the annual Parker Road Race and Springfest scheduled for May 20, 2007
- Join us at these fundraisers as we have fun and raise money for the PEF
- Submit grants for programs, activities, or materials that will enrich students' experiences at Parker

If you would like to stay informed about the PEF or become involved with PEF activities, please fill out the information below and return this form to the office.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Interests _____

Parker Essential Fund Board

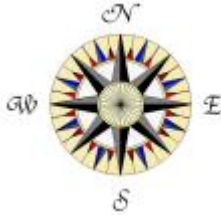
Mary Feeley, Chair
Nancy Rines, Treasurer
Martha Shethar,
Secretary

Maura Barstow
Sam Barstow
Dawn de Freitas
Anastasia Dolph
Tony Dolph
Susan Farr
Mary Ann Gapinski
Maryellen Grady
Clay Hobart
Phil Holman
Jane Matson
Deb Merriam
Fran Purcell
Lori Purcell
Fred Wilkins
Lori Wilkins

Parker Essential Fund Members*

Parker Parents
Parker Students
Parker Teachers
Parker Administrators
Parker Alumni

* *"Any person having an interest in the Parker School may become a member of the organization".*



THE PARKER INTERNATIONAL GALA AND AUCTION

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our table at the Open House on Tuesday. If you have signed up to volunteer, expect a phone call or Email soon. We sincerely appreciate the donation of time and effort in making this a success.

There is still a need for volunteers to help solicit donations. In fact, we have a few key towns (*Ayer, Westford, Acton (1), Devens and Leominster*) that have not been chosen. If anyone is willing to step up and help out with these towns, please contact Brenda Panetta at brendapanetta@aol.com, or (978) 772-7413. There are other locations available, so **please come to our solicitation meeting on Thursday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m.** at Parker to find out about these critical positions. If you have already volunteered, please come. We plan to review strategies for solicitation, as well as go over forms and procedures. For those who are interested in finding out more, but may not be able to make this meeting, contact Brenda who will be sure to get you all the information you need.

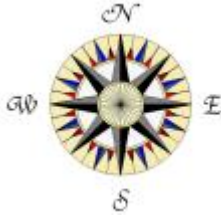
To make this evening shine by transporting us to a setting filled with travel and adventure, we ask one and all to check those closets and storage areas! Our very own miracle worker, Pascale Belin-White Pascale.white.home.@verizon.net would like to borrow the following items:

- *“interesting” luggage, reminiscent of an earlier time;*
- *post cards from international places;*
- *accessories (hats, clothing, etc.) from around the world;*
- *hat boxes;*
- *“steamer” type trunks;*
- *travel posters – international*
- *old maps or atlas (that could be destroyed)*

These will be used on Friday, December 1 to “enhance” the Ballroom and will be well taken care of and returned to their rightful owners.

The Parent Donation form is available now, so please, take the time to think about a donation for the Gala and return it to us as soon as possible. Want suggestions? Have any season tickets to a sports event? Are you good at baking pies? Do you have a cabin in Maine? A cottage on the Cape? Do you have a sister who has her own plane? Do you own a landscape company that could create a garden plan? Think outside the box and have fun!

****** If you know a printer that would be willing to work with us on the auction catalogue, please contact Carolyn Sullivan (Sullivan.cb@gmail.com) or Pam Gross (rbgross@charter.net). ******



PARKER INTERNATIONAL GALA AND AUCTION

(Sponsored by the PEF)

Donation Form

Item Name: _____

Detailed Description: _____

Donating Business Name and Address (if applicable):

Name of Donor(s): _____

Phone #(s): _____

Email: _____

Do you want your name in the catalog with your item? Yes / No

Value: _____ *Minimum Bid:* _____



We would like (really need) a picture of item for the online catalog: Digital pictures (any format) are preferred but we can scan a photograph, or if you bring in your item, we can take its picture at Parker. Contact Susan Farr sudofarr@yahoo.com, (978) 422-6971 for questions about photos.. Please email pictures with item description to: sudofarr@yahoo.com

Item drop off dates will be announced.

Return the form (ASAP – or no later than Friday, October 27) to the Parker office, or mail to:

Parker Essential Fund, Parker School, 49 Antietam Street, Devens, MA 01434

Shirley Arts! and the Shirley Meetinghouse,
will be co-sponsoring a performance by



Rockapella

Thursday October 12, 2006

at the Shirley Middle School, 1 Hospital Road, Shirley.

The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the show starting at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets for Rockapella are \$25 per person.

For more information please call Marcey Jerome at (978) 425-2010

December, 2006

- 1 – Parker International Gala & Auction, Spring Hill Suites, Devens
- 2 – PLAN testing at Parker
- Tuesday, 5 – Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 22 – Early Release (noon dismissal)
- 25 – 31 - Holiday Recess

January, 2007

- 1 – New Year’s Day
- 2 – Holiday
- 3 – Faculty planning (no classes)
- 4 – Classes resume
- 7 – Enrollment Information Session (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
- 15 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (no school)
- 16 – Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 21 – Enrollment Information Session (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
- 28 – Snow date for Enrollment Information Session (1:00 – 4:00 p.m.)
- 29 – Faculty Planning (no classes)
- 30 – New semester begins

February, 2007

- 6 – Trustees Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- 16 – Early Release (noon dismissal)
- 19 – President’s Day (no school)
- 20 – 23 - Winter Recess

March, 2007

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

April, 2007

- 3 – Trustees Meeting at 7:00 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 7:00 p.m.
- 25 – Early Release (noon dismissal)
- 28 – Memorial Day (no school)

June, 2007

- 6 – Noon dismissal - Graduation (6:00 p.m.)**
- 19 – Trustees Meeting at 7:00 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)