

# PIERCE

P O I N T E R

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NOVEMBER 2008

VIEW  
from the  
OFFICE

**Dear Pierce Parents,**

**“Active Ingredient:”** Parents can add an important extra ingredient that can boost their children’s success. Parents’ active involvement with their child’s education at home and in school brings great rewards and has a significant impact on their children’s lives.

Research shows that a home environment that encourages learning is even more important than parents’ income, education level, or cultural background. By actively participating in your child’s education at home and in school, parents send critical messages to their children.

- 1) You demonstrate your interest in their activities.
- 2) You reinforce the idea that school is important.

**“Take a Stand;”** The middle school years are often referred to as “the growth years.” Students change physically, mentally and socially. These changes can often be accompanied by feelings of uncertainty. Experts agree that during adolescence some students resort to exercising control or power over others instead of dealing with their own uncertainty. Unfortunately, this focuses on the person and not the problem.

The traditional image of “bullying,” the big student picking on a smaller student, does not offer a complete picture of what occurs for some adolescents. As a result, victims of bullying are left with more uncertainty as they struggle with social shunning or ridicule. Feeling socially excluded can make anyone’s journey uncertain.

In a school wide effort to address concerns associated with bullying, Pierce students will meet periodically by grade level as we introduce “Take A Stand” vs. Bullying. Our initiative is designed to educate students about the roles played by a victim, a bystander, and a bully and what we can do to erase the uncertainty.

**“Keeping Them Safe:”** “Cyberbullying” occurs when someone sends hurtful messages on line or by cell phone. From writing a rude comment, to spreading a rumor or posting embarrassing pictures, cyberbullying can take various forms. Your student can discourage cyberbullying by guarding personal information (name, e-mail address, cell phone numbers). If receiving an inappropriate e-mail or text message, students should not respond. By replying, that person gets satisfaction from having upset your student. Simply log off the computer or turn off the cell phone. Let your student know that they should tell an adult if they’re experiencing cyberbullying. You can report problems to a Pierce administrator or counselor, to your internet provider or even the police.

November provides parents with a natural opportunity to learn more about what is occurring in every class. Please join us for one or more Parent-Teacher conferences held this month. Dates and times are found in this edition of the Pierce Pointer. We look forward to welcoming you.

On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration of Pierce Middle School we extend to you a Happy Thanksgiving Holiday!

Gary Buslepp  
Principal

# *From the Assistant Principal's Desk*

## HALLWAY BEHAVIOR

Pierce hallways are an extension of the classroom and students are expected to behave appropriately at all times while in the hallway.

1. When walking in the hallway, students are required to **“Stay to the Right”** of the hallway. The hallways have been taped to establish lanes of traffic.
2. No Bodily Contact (**NBC rule**) – students may not touch each other for any reason while they are in the hallway. The following behaviors are prohibited: horseplay, wrestling, “high-fiving”, grabbing, and physical displays of affection.
3. Yelling and shouting are prohibited. Students are expected to use language that is appropriate for a school environment and speak in a normal tone of voice.
4. Running and chasing are not allowed in the hallways.
5. Students must carry a planner at all times when in the hallway during the school day, except on the way to and from lunch.

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## STUDENT DRESS AT PIERCE

The Pierce Middle School community believes that standards of neatness, modesty, and appropriateness in clothing and accessories encourage an atmosphere conducive to learning, work, and discipline. Adherence to the dress code is expected of all students. Parents should assist the school in enforcing these standards by sending students to school each day in proper attire.

Determination of appropriate dress is made by the administration. However, any faculty member may question whether attire is acceptable and direct a student to the office.

1. Clothing should be clean and in good repair; clothing should be the correct size (neither too small or too large) and undergarments may not be visible.
2. Students may wear slacks, jeans, skirts or shorts to school.
  - a) Waistbands of pants or skirts may not be rolled down so midriff is showing.
  - b) Shorts may be no shorter than fingertip length.
  - c) Pants must be worn so that underwear cannot be seen
  - d) No pajama pants
  - e) Skirts and dresses cannot be shorter than 5” above the knee  
\*\*Slits in skirts or dresses may not be too revealing
  - f) Tight skirts and shorts are not allowed
3. Shirts and blouses must be the appropriate size; undershirts, low-cut, see-through or bare midriff blouses are not permitted.
  - a) Sleeveless shirts must be at least 3 fingers in width at the shoulders
4. T-shirts with alcohol, cigarette, drug, violence, hate, sexual or other inappropriate messages or symbols are not allowed.
5. Shoes are to be worn at all times in school. Bedroom slippers are not allowed. As safety is the primary concern regarding footwear, if accidents occur with any particular type of footwear, changes may be made.
6. Outerwear such as jackets and hats should be removed prior to class; rollerblades must be removed before entering the building.
7. To reduce distractions in school, hairstyle, jewelry and make-up should be worn in moderation. No chains are allowed.
8. For safety reasons, backpacks/book bags may be carried to and from school but must be stored in lockers during the school day.

### Consequences for inappropriate dress:

1. Student will be asked to change into other clothing
  - a) If suitable clothing is not available at school
    - i.) Student may call home and have parents bring different clothing or
    - ii.) Students will wear clothing provided by administration

## HOMWORK ASSIGNMENTS DURING ABSENCES



Concerted Effort: Pierce teachers, in their efforts to enhance the school-home connection, have posted their day-to-day lessons/assignments on the Pierce web-site. If your child has been absent from school or you just wish to keep tabs of what's happening in their academic classes, feel free to log on to [www.gpschools.org/pierce](http://www.gpschools.org/pierce) and click on the "Homework" tab in the upper right hand corner. Click on your child's grade level and find their teacher's name and class. You will be able to view a brief summary of the day-to-day activity or homework in each academic class. The site is updated each Monday evening. You can also view your child's Student Planner. Your student makes use of their planner daily in every class.

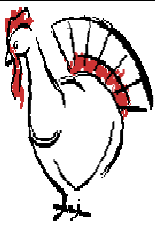
## Report Cards

The first quarter marking period will end on Friday, October 31st  
Report cards will be distributed to students on Tuesday, November 11th

## Parent Teacher Conferences

Thursday, November 20th 5:00-7:30 PM

Tuesday, November 25th 1:00-3:30 & 5:00-7:30 PM



### **PIERCE TURKEY TROT** Thursday, November 20th 2:00-2:55 PM

This activity is sponsored by the Physical Education Department and is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th graders. Participation is strictly voluntary. The trot includes six 1/2 mile runs, in which students compete against others in their own grade. There are separate races for boys and girls. The top two finishers in each event will be given a turkey for their family to enjoy. Students will sign up during Advisory the week of Monday, November 10th.



### **PARCELLS 33rd ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAR**

Saturday, December 6, 2008  
9:00 AM-4:00 PM

All admissions at the Door!

\$4.00 at 9:00 a.m.—Beat the crowd!

\$3.00 at 10:00 a.m.

All ages pay same price.

Visit over 130 juried Artisans,

Find Unique Treasures

Lunch & Snacks available in our

Upstairs Café

## Thanks to all Pierce Students, Families and Subscribers

Your efforts to support Pierce in our recent  
Magazine Sale is greatly appreciated!  
Funds collected will continue to enhance our  
curriculum and student activities.

## **ANNUAL POINSETTIA SALE**

The Annual Poinsettia Sale has been a successful tradition in years past, and we hope that this year will be no exception.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a flyer/order form.



## ==PTO POINTS==

November 3 - Poinsettia Sale Kick-off  
November 13 – Ethnic Dinner, 6-8 p.m.  
November 18 – PTO Meeting, 7 p.m.  
November 20 – 25 Pierce Book Fair

November brings a number of opportunities to support the Pierce PTO and our students. The Ethnic Dinner is one of our biggest fundraisers, and a great way to feed the family! I hope you can make it to this very enjoyable evening. If you are interested in helping, please e-mail Tina Burns at [alacart2005@aol.com](mailto:alacart2005@aol.com) or Janet Ventimiglia at [bventimiglia@comcast.net](mailto:bventimiglia@comcast.net). I also hope you are able to visit the Book Fair. It will be open during parent-teacher conferences. The Book Fair is a great way to get some of the holiday shopping done, while supporting the PTO at the same time. Finally, the annual Poinsettia Sale starts this month. These beautiful plants are offered at a very reasonable price, and are a wonderful addition to everyone's home.

The Pierce PTO has already sponsored a number of events, and I appreciate everyone who has volunteered their time. I would like to thank Sue Sattelmeier and Renee Grobbel for compiling the Pierce Directory. In addition, thank you to Peggy Shine and Donna Satterfield for organizing this month's Fun Night and to those who chaperoned the event. Thank you to Katie Melville and Kelee Teodecki for organizing the sale of Pierce Spirit wear – the clothing will be on sale during parent-teacher conferences. Finally, thank you to Helen Srebernak and her volunteers for providing morning treats during MEAP testing. The treats certainly were appreciated by all of our students.

If you have not already done so, you can still join the Pierce PTO. Envelopes are available at the office.

Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Karen Henning  
PTO President



## ***CHECK OUT THE PIERCE BOOK FAIR***

*Parents: Book Fair open during Parent Teacher Conferences*

***Wednesday, November 19th Noon-3:30 PM***

***Thursday, November 20th***

***8:00 AM-4:00 PM & 4:45-7:45 PM***

***Friday, November 21***

***8:00 AM-4:00 PM***

***Monday, November 24th***

***8:00 AM-4:00 PM***

***Tuesday, November 25th***

***8:00 AM– Noon 1:00-4:00 PM & 4:45-7:45 PM***



## ANNUAL PIERCE ETHNIC DINNER

Featuring foods from around the world!  
Mexico, US, Middle East, Greece & Europe

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH 6:00-8:00 PM

**\*\*Passes will be sold at the door\*\***

\$5.00 per pass (includes choice of 6 items) \$1.00 charge for each additional item.

*FAMILIES ARE STILL NEEDED TO PROVIDE A DISH FOR DINNER TO MAKE THIS EVENING A SUCCESS*

**Please contact: Janet Ventimiglia at: [bventimiglia@comcast.net](mailto:bventimiglia@comcast.net)  
or Tina Burns at: [alacart2005@aol.com](mailto:alacart2005@aol.com)**

### ETHNIC DINNER REMINDER

Dear Parents:

We are excited about the upcoming Ethnic Dinner and would like to pass along a friendly reminder.

This is a **parent participation event** and we ask that you **do not “drop off” your student without adult supervision.** We also ask that you remind your child that no student will be allowed to exit the building during the event without a parent. Thank you for your help and we look forward to seeing you and your family at the 2008 Ethnic Dinner.



### COUNSELOR CORNER 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Education

During the month of November, the counselors will be working with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the computer labs to explore their talents, academic/personal strengths, and career interests (Nov 12<sup>th</sup> for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and Nov 19<sup>th</sup> for 7<sup>th</sup>). This will begin an ongoing process (continuing throughout high school) whereby students can identify general career pathways that may interest them. These plans will be reviewed and modified periodically as students mature and refine their plans. As parts of this initial process, students will be going to the computer labs to complete some self-assessment inventories and begin work on their EDPs (Educational Development Plans). At the middle school level, our purpose is not to identify and commit to specific careers, but rather to start students thinking about their strengths and how they relate to general career paths that might best suit them. Another purpose is to help students understand the importance of advanced skills and education, as well as how current school subjects are relevant in the pursuit of a satisfying career. If you would like more information about the career unit and the Michigan Career Pathways, please go to the Pierce website and look under 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Pathways.

**Parents can monitor their child's email account.** If you click on the For Students tab on the Pierce homepage, and go to web e-mail access, you can log onto their account using the same login and password that you use for the online gradebook.

# ***NJHS Notables***

## ***Holiday Gift Bag Sale:***

NJHS members are making holiday gift bags that will be on sale during the ethnic dinner. Plan to purchase several to help this non profit group make ends meet. Large bags will be available for \$1.50 and small bags for \$1.00. Profits will be used to help defray the cost of the Induction Ceremony and Pierce Spirit Day prizes and supplies.

## ***Induction Ceremony DVD's***

DVD's are available for purchase(\$15.00) from each of our induction ceremonies. Have a copy to show friends and family of your NJHS member walking across the stage, receiving their certificate and signing the official membership book as well as the speeches given by the officers and guest dignitaries from within the district. Fill out the order form today to reserve a copy of this valuable keepsake. Forms along with a check or cash can be turned in to the main office. DVD's will be sent within 2 weeks.

NJHS Members Name \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 DVD's available from:

Fall 2007 \_\_\_\_\_ Winter 2008 \_\_\_\_\_ Fall 2008 \_\_\_\_\_

## ***NJHS Spring New York City Trip***

Registration forms are past due for the New York City Spring Trip. Members wishing to go should get their forms mailed to Corporate Travel in the next day or two. Forms are available in the main office; mail yours today if you plan to attend. *At this time we still do not have enough members to run the trip and may cancel or seek an alternative trip*

## ***NJHS Spirit Wear Available for purchase (NJHS colors are Blue and White)***

Light Blue Tee shirts and Hoodies with a Pierce Trojan on horseback carrying the NJHS torch are available for purchase; order forms are in the main office. The first order will be going out next week so if you are interested in purchasing a tee shirt or hoodie please get your form to Mrs. Middelorf in the next day or two.