

# PIERCE

P O I N T E R

GARY BUSLEPP, PRINCIPAL

JUDITH GAFFREY, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

DECEMBER 2007

VIEW  
from the  
OFFICE

Dear Pierce Parents,

The following is an excerpt from last year's December *Pierce Pointer* letter. I have been asked by several Pierce parents to include it again at this time of year.

**Home Alone:** "Adolescents/teens are going to break rules." That is hardly an enlightening or profound statement. However, many parents don't know that they want their children to break some rules – the ones that don't threaten lives or emotional well-being. Despite our inclination to be disappointed, our children have to do this.

Breaking rules is as much a part of the identity-building process as the cooperative setting of rules. The breaking of rules should be a learning opportunity for our children. By no means is it an indication of failure – on our parts or our children's.

Many of us attended the school of fear-based parenting as children. We may have learned that rules infractions were catastrophes punishable by the fire of parental anger and fury.

Just as many adults need new training in setting rules, it's recommended that we need new training in enforcing them. By now you may have been exposed to "your unreasonable limits have caused me to hate you for ruining my life." However, it's the reverse side that "hating you if you don't set limits" that bears explaining.

Parents often get confused and exhausted by this paradox, and at times tragically leave their teens largely unsupervised, thinking that is what their child needs. Being home alone may be what they say they want, but it's not what they need.

The structure of limits helps teenage life become more predictable, less stressful, and assists in promoting a healthy lifestyle that they will label "dull." Some parents find it hard to accept that a child without limits has uninformed parents that really don't care.

As the holiday season approaches and vacations are in the forefront of many minds, please remember that *Home Alone* was just a movie. As our children rightfully and passionately demand more autonomy from us, we rightfully and dispassionately can request more responsibility from them.

**Washington DC Re-Cap:** Our annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to our nation's capital took place during early November. The decision to go in the fall was based on cost (our first year without a price increase) and less time spent in shorter lines to the memorials and exhibits. The feedback we received from 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their parents was most favorable. Plans surrounding next year's trip will be announced in the February *Pierce Pointer*.

**For Safety Sake:** If you drive your child to Pierce, we appreciate your continued cooperation in not dropping off or picking-up your middle school student in the Pierce parking lot at the beginning or end of the school day. The back parking lot/field area is an arrival/departure point for many students who live south of Pierce. Please continue to let your student off on the Kercheval and Balfour/Nottingham corner drop-off points. As the winter weather arrives, please plan for additional travel time for the safe and punctual arrival of your child.

May this holiday season find you and your family healthy, happy and at peace. On behalf of the Pierce faculty and staff, "we wish you and your family a joyous holiday season and Happy New Year!"

Sincerely,

Gary Buslepp  
Principal

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### POINSETTIA SALE PICKUP

Friday,  
December 7  
8:00 AM-6:00 PM  
Pierce Gym

### INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT

Tuesday,  
December 11  
7:00 PM  
Pierce Auditorium  
(Report time for  
band and orchestra  
students  
6:30 PM)

### WINTER BREAK

Friday,  
December 21  
Begins at end of  
school day

### SCHOOL RESUMES

Wednesday,  
January 2  
Classes begin  
at 8:25 AM

## *From the Assistant Principal's Desk*

As we bid farewell to the fall and head into the rush of the holiday season I'd like to update you on a few of the changes we've made here at Pierce this year.

Although our new hallway behavior plan was controversial, it has been highly effective in increasing the efficiency and safety of our hallways. It's a bit ragged now, but the tape on the floor worked as a powerful signal for our students to "stay to the right" as they move through the halls from class to class. "Staying to the right" is now a habit for our students. As a result, the traffic in our hallways moves more smoothly and the number of tardies accumulated by our students has decreased substantially. Likewise, the number of referrals made for "horseplay" and "roughhousing" has dramatically decreased due to the NBC rule and the implementation of the ticket system.

In addition to the new hallway behavior plan, we have also revamped our Advisory program. Our new A<sup>2</sup> program kicked off in November and was greeted with enthusiasm by staff and students alike. It is our hope that the new A<sup>2</sup> format will accomplish two goals. First, we hope to provide additional time and support to those students who need it. Second, we hope to offer the opportunity to participate in enrichment activities for those students who maintain a specified GPA. We believe that the successful implementation of this program will contribute significantly to both our students' academic achievement and personal growth. As always, if you have suggestions or comments on either of these initiatives, please give us a call.

Have a wonderful, peaceful holiday and a joyous New Year.

Sincerely,

Judith Gaffrey  
Assistant Principal

### **District seeks community input on Chinese program possibility**

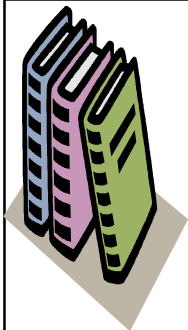
Educational Planning Leadership Council (EPLC) approved a study to look at the feasibility of starting a Chinese program in the Grosse Pointe Public School System. There will be a community forum to report on the committee's work at 7 p.m., Thursday, January 31 in South High School's Wicking Library.

Prior to that, there will be an electronic mailbox for people to share their thoughts and opinions electronically. Comments may be sent directly to [ChineseStudy@gpschools.org](mailto:ChineseStudy@gpschools.org) and that mailbox may also be accessed from the district website [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org). This is open to the entire community and feedback is encouraged.

Additionally, a Zoomerang survey open to parents will be posted on the district website November 26 through December 7. Students in grades 6 through 10 will be surveyed in school.

Questions on this topic should be addressed to Matt Outlaw at Grosse Pointe North High School, 313/432-3211.

## PIERCE LIBRARY BOOK SWAP



Looking for something new to read? Do you have books at home that you've read and no longer want? Then consider taking part in the Pierce Library Book Swap. Age appropriate books (no elementary books or adult books, please) in good condition will be accepted in the library from Monday, November 26 thru Thursday, November 29. For each paperback you turn in, you will receive one coupon. For each hardcover book, you will receive two coupons. Coupons will then be used to purchase books Monday, December 3 until Wednesday, December 5. This is a great way to clean off your bookshelf to make room for all the great new books you can get!

### BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



Collecting Box Tops from many General Mills products is an EASY way to earn money for Pierce Middle School. Our goal this year is to earn over \$500.00 to be used for necessary items and programs for Pierce Students.

CLIP box Tops from all the products you use (be sure not cut off the expiration date) COLLECT them.

TURN them in to 6th hour teachers between January 2nd and 11th. Classes from each grade to collect 500 Box Tops will have a POPCORN PARTY. One class from each grade to reach 1,000 Box Tops will have a PIZZA PARTY.

Yes, it's that easy: just clip, collect and turn them in. We will do the rest. Questions?? Call Teri Brown — 882-3567

### Grosse Pointe South Holiday Walk



The *2007 Holiday Walk* is just around the corner! The Grosse Pointe South Mothers' Club invites you to tour six (6) spectacular Grosse Pointe homes, festively decorated for the holidays. The *Holiday Walk* is on Sunday, December 9, from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

*Holiday Walk* tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 on the day of the tour.

Wonderful items have been donated for the *Holiday Walk* raffle: Karen Didion Standing "Wine Connoisseur" Santa from The League Shop, Six (6) months of fresh flowers from Grosse Pointe Florist, Inc., \$300 Estee Lauder Gift basket from Estee Lauder, Tiffany Round Crystal Vase and Bose headphones.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

## PIERCE PRIDE

6th Grader Ian Engstrom played piano at the grand opening of the DIA  
Maggie Rapai & Amanda Shrader both 6th graders are in *A Christmas Carol* at the Players Theater

### CRICKET MAGAZINE WINNERS

In October, *Cricket* magazine had a contest that involved creating a mask of a character from a story, or anything of a whimsical nature that the student wanted to craft.

Mrs. Carey's drama students were given the opportunity to create a mask that could later be used in a play or skit.

*Cricket* is an award-winning, internationally acclaimed magazine. Winners' names and masks will be included in the January 2008 edition of the magazine. To be honored in this literary piece is quite an accomplishment!

Congratulations to the following students:

1<sup>st</sup> place Kiersten Kern (7<sup>th</sup> grade)

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Antonia Bausley/ Abby Grobbel (7<sup>th</sup> graders)

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Erin Ivers/ Evie Wheeler (6<sup>th</sup> graders)

Honorable Mention

Allison Cornell, Rachel Forcillo,  
Zach Hasenbusch, Christina Koehler,  
Grace Metry, Emily Mlynarek, Kaelyn Moceri

## ==PTO POINTS==

### DATES TO REMEMBER

December 7-Poinsettia Sale pick up in the gym 8:00 am to 6:00 pm

December 18-NO PTO MEETING

January 15-PTO Meeting 7 pm

January 24-Coney Island Night 6 to 8 pm

Thank you to **Donna Satterfield, Peggy Shine, and Donna Weiss Davenport** for organizing another great **Fun Night**. Thank you to **Kelee Teodecki** and **Julie Brewster** for getting the chaperones for the evening. Chaperones for the **Fun Nights** are an important part of the events' success. Thanks to all of you who donated an hour or two for the safety of our children!

The **Ethnic Dinner** was a tremendous success, thanks to the chairpersons, **Janet Ventimiglia** and **Tina Burns**. Thank you to all the people who donated food and their time to make this long honored tradition a reality. Janet and Tina want me to extend a special thank you to the committee members who went above and beyond to assist them in the planning, set up and take down of this event:

**Kelee Teodecki for ice/tickets/comrade in arms,**

**Soozi Hampton, The Mexican Grand Master,**

**Jean Weipert, The Dessert Guru,**

**Jill Capps and Susan Graham** who not only set up, but stayed to help until the end,

**Lynn Keys** for overseeing the pizza table,

all the servers and ticket sellers who overstayed their shifts, and those who were not even scheduled who stepped up to the plate, The JNHS members for assisting, and the Student Council members for serving.

Thank you to **Mr. and Mrs. Gaffrey** who drove the leftover food to COTS, and thank you to

**Ed and Carol Jackman** for their generous pizza donation.

When you see **Christine Garberding** and **Vicki Clevenger**, thank them for donating their 50/50 Raffle Ticket winnings back to the Pierce PTO!!!!!! What a wonderful surprise! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Once again, thank you to all the parents and staff members who joined the PTO. Without you, we would not be able to fund all the programs that enrich our children's lives.

My very best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Patty Groezinger  
PTO President



## PIERCE PROFILES YEARBOOK NEWS:

Teachers, school staff, students, parents and friends...now anyone may submit photographs online to be considered for use in the 2008 yearbook!

Have some great photos from a special in-class activity? From a field trip? An away game? A D.I. tournament? A music festival? Other shots of student activities off the Pierce campus? Please share them with us!

You are welcome to submit your best **high-resolution** scanned or digital photographs to the Pierce Profiles community photo site. Photographic prints should be scanned at a resolution of **500 dpi or higher**. Digital images should be taken at a resolution of **3.2 megapixels or higher**.

It's so easy to do: just go to <https://portal.jostens.com/login.asp>  
Our used ID is 1139693 and our password is **profiles**. We will be accepting photos for consideration right up until mid-March.

You must provide some basic contact information for us and you also have the option of describing your photos in more detail. Correct identification of people and events, and correct spelling of their names will be very helpful to us.

Thank you for your participation! We look forward to having even more photos to choose from as we create the 2008 Pierce Profiles yearbook for all

### Yearbook Student Recognition Ads

*Straight from the heart and into the yearbook!*

Our yearbook staff is now offering the opportunity to "personalize" the yearbook in a very special way with a "Student Recognition" ad. Space is available to congratulate any 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> grader! Tell a student how proud you are. Parents, staff, groups of friends and club members may join together and purchase an ad. **To reserve you space, go to the Pierce Website and click on the Pierce MS tab, then Activities, and Yearbook.** On the site you will find the order form, template choices and all the information you need to purchase and create your ad. To reserve your ad space, print the order form from the website or pick up a form in the front office. Prices range from \$35 for 1/8 of a page to \$180 for a full page black and white ad. All submissions and payments are due by January 30, 2008.



## COUNSELOR CORNER

### Attention 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents

It is time for 8<sup>th</sup> graders to start thinking about which courses they will choose for high school. Starting the first week in December, counselors will meet individually with 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents to complete enrollment for 9<sup>th</sup> grade. We will be taking 8<sup>th</sup> graders to computer labs to input course selections in January.

During the week of November 26<sup>th</sup>, **each 8<sup>th</sup> grader household will be sent a letter to parents with the date and time of the enrollment appointment, a student worksheet, and a sheet with information/instructions (on the back of the letter).** Starting the first week in December, counselors will meet individually with each 8<sup>th</sup> grader for 20 minute appointments in order to help them fill out a worksheet with 9<sup>th</sup> grade course selections. We will be gathering input from teachers in Math and Foreign Language to facilitate this process.

Parent input is a very important part of this process and that **letter explains the various ways that parents can participate.** You are welcome to come to the enrollment conference that I have scheduled with your student. If you would like to be present at the conference and can't make the scheduled time, please call us for another date and time. If you would like to provide input by phone, please indicate on the signed worksheet that you would like to be called during the conference and include a phone number. **Please fill out and sign this worksheet before the scheduled conference if you are unable to attend the conference. We cannot complete the registration process without a signed worksheet.** It is important to read the letter carefully and call the appropriate counselor if there are any questions. As we learn more details, they will be posted on the Pierce website.

The Program of Studies can be accessed online this year at [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org). Go to Academics, High School, and then Curriculum. If you do not have access to the internet, you can sign out a paper copy through the Counseling Center.

Chris Cramer 432 4717  
Angie Niforos 432 4716



**ATTENTION  
PARENTS OF  
PIERCE  
8TH GRADERS**

**8TH GRADE PARENT NIGHT  
GROSSE POINTE SOUTH**

**MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 10, 2007  
7:00 PM AUDITORIUM**

Administrators and counselors will highlight South's curriculum with a video followed by a short presentation emphasizing 9th grade scheduling procedures, class selections and the class of 2012 graduation requirements.



**SAVE THE  
DATE!!!**

This year's Pierce Progressive Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 19. Please consider opening up your home for this fun evening. More information will be coming

*A Special Holiday Gift  
Opportunity from the*

**GROSSE POINTE FOUNDATION FOR  
PUBLIC EDUCATION**

This holiday season, honor that special teacher, staff member, retiree, volunteer, student, family member or friend with a special gift that will have lasting impact – a contribution in his or her honor to the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education. The form is posted on the district website at [www.gpschools.org/foundation](http://www.gpschools.org/foundation) or may be obtained by calling 313/432-3058 or emailing [ourfuture@gpfpe.org](mailto:ourfuture@gpfpe.org).



**2007-2008  
BOYS BASKETBALL**

**7TH GRADE**

- Andrew Hartz
- George Fishback
- Kyle Matheson
- Josh Carolan
- David Wittwer
- Alex Peters
- James Pye
- Curtis Staples
- Christian Mackey
- Marcus Maniscalco
- Nick Crandall
- Nate Jones
- NaShawn Cunningham
- Cody Slaughter
- Cooper, Branden
- Handilah, Daniel

Coach: Barry Novak

**8TH GRADE**

- James Dale
- Dillon Fox
- Anthony Genna
- Johnie Gilbert
- Kurt Hamel
- Fadi Handilah
- Robby Kish
- Dan Lozon
- Calvin Pye, Jr.
- Kevin Reck
- Jon-Kyle Searcy
- Cortez Stoudemire
- Chase Walker
- Jimmy Webster

Coach: Robert Reader

**CONEY ISLAND NIGHT**

**MARK YOU CALENDAR!!**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 24th**

**We invite all fifth graders and their families from our feeder schools to join us for their first official Pierce event**

**More information to follow**

## **PIERCE TURKEY TROT – 2007**

*The Physical Education Department, along with Pierce M.S. & the PTO, sponsored the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Turkey Trot on November 14. This year 157 Pierce 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders competed in a series of half mile runs on this beautiful, sunny day. The top 6 in each race earned a commemorative T-Shirt & ribbon while the top 2 also took home a Thanksgiving turkey. Below is a list of the top six finishers in each race. Congratulations to all participants who did an outstanding job. Each received a treat and certificate for their efforts. Forgot to pick up your certificate? See Mrs. Allan. Special thanks to Mr. Benz, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Reader, Mrs. Cramer, Mr. Buslepp, and Mr. Jerry Keith (former Pierce P.E. teacher) who helped make sure the event ran smoothly. Also, thank you to Mr. Zaranek who let Mrs. Allan borrow some of his track equipment.*