

# PIERCE

P O I N T E R

GARY BUSLEPP PRINCIPAL

JUDITH GAFFREY, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

FEBRUARY 2008

VIEW  
from the  
OFFICE

*"The color of one's skin offers no clue to the character or the quality of the person underneath."*

-Marian Anderson  
*Operatic Contralto* (1897-1993)

Dear Pierce Parents,

*Some refer to it as the mystery of mysteries-especially to parents- the unpredictable and sometimes incomprehensible moods and behaviors of the teenager. Generations of adults have pondered its cause. Hormones? Boredom? The latest music?*

Such was the introduction I read in a recent e-mail from a Pierce parent. I was encouraged to view the attachment. I did and walked away with a better appreciation and reminders of the facts and the unknown. The fact is-roughly occurring between ages 10 and 13 the human brain begins *pruning*. Pruning is a period of brain development, the organization of neural pathways. The unknown is-be careful when jumping to conclusions regarding the relationship between desired behaviors and brain structure.

You can view *Inside the Teenage Brain* at [www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/teenbrain/view/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/teenbrain/view/). This full 60 minute program can be viewed in *Windows Media* and *RealPlayer*. These discoveries could change the way we parent, teach or perhaps even understand our teenagers.

One of the more powerful assertions is that *sleep debt* plagues many teens. On average most teens get 7 ½ hours of sleep and more is suggested to retain new material- especially abstract concepts like math.

Despite all the new scientific research, "Inside the Teenage Brain" suggests "the most beneficial thing is what our grandmother could have told us generations ago: to spend loving, quality time with our children."

***A Week of Caring and Respect:*** During the weeks of February 4<sup>th</sup> thru the 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be focusing our A<sup>2</sup> activities and Guided Studies on *Respect* and *Caring* as we head in to mid-winter break. A school wide project is undertaken to assist a family in need as sponsored by our Student Council. The results of that effort will be shared in next month's *Pierce Pointer*.

***Honors Science and Honors Social Studies Placements:*** The enrollment criteria for these two 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade course offerings were contained in the last edition of the *Pierce Pointer*. We will continue to keep the criteria posted on the Pierce website for our students and parents as we lead up to actual placement. Students who meet the criteria for these classes will be notified by mail in late April. Eligible students will be placed in these honors courses unless the form is returned signed by both student and parents choosing to opt out.

***Student Safety:*** A reminder that parents are asked not to use the Pierce parking lot to drop-off/pick-up students to/from school. Please refrain from this practice. This rule has been in effect for many years. Nearly all parents drop their students off curbside or on the Balfour/Nottingham corners. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

***Mid-Winter Break:*** Whether this break (February 18-22) takes you to a different climate or you stay close to home, may it be a safe and enjoyable one for you and your family.

Sincerely,

Gary Buslepp  
Principal

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Friday, February 2**  
Super Fun Night  
7:00 PM

**Saturday, February 9**  
Euchre Night  
Tompkins Center  
7:00 PM

**Monday, February 11**  
7th Grade Parent Meeting  
Washington DC Trip info  
for Fall Trip  
Pierce Auditorium  
7:00 PM

**Wednesday, February 13**  
Student Count Day

**Friday, February 15**  
Mid Winter Break  
Begins at end of day

**Monday, February 25**  
Classes Resume  
9:10 AM

## MARCH

**Parent Teacher  
Conferences**  
Thursday, March 6  
5:00-7:30 PM  
Thursday, March 13  
1:00-3:30 &  
5:00-7:30 PM

## *From the Assistant Principal's Desk*

As we begin the new semester, I'd like to address an issue of great concern to all of us here at Pierce. In an effort to help our students learn how to respond to those who are different from themselves, and rise to the challenge of developing compassion towards others, we will be holding a Week of Caring & Respect during our A2 period. For the Week of Caring & Respect, students will be participating in a variety of activities including week long dialogue about eliminating name-calling and "dissing" at our school.

Despite our best efforts to raise awareness through school wide activities such as the Week of Caring, we still see students treating others inappropriately. Here at Pierce we define bullying as "***any written, verbal expression, physical act, gesture, or a pattern thereof that is intended to cause distress upon one of more students in the school, on school grounds, to and from school, at school activities or at sanctioned events.***" Our Code of Conduct allows a variety of consequences for bullying ranging from detention to out-of-school separation.

While incidents of bullying here at Pierce are decreasing, and physical bullying is rare, we still have occasional reports of students who have been victims of name calling and rumor spreading. This hurtful behavior must stop and we need your help to put an end to it. Please spend a moment this month discussing bullying with your student. If your student feels that he/she has been a victim of bullying, or has witnessed an incident of bullying, please encourage him/her to report the incident to any adult in the building. We will follow up. If your student is unclear about what behaviors are considered bullying, please take a moment to review the descriptions below.

With your help, we can make Pierce a safe, caring place for all students.

Sincerely,

Judith Gaffrey  
Assistant Principal

**Verbal Bullying:** Taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name-calling or making threats

**Physical Bullying:** Hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student movement, or unwelcome student contact

**Relational Bullying:** Spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation



PIERCE  
GEO BEE  
*January 7, 2008*

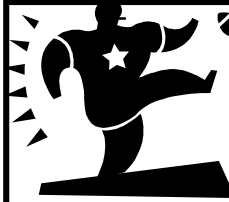
Thanks to everyone for their help and cooperation with the Geo Bee!

Congratulations to:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Andrew Barbish** 6th grade

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Nick Feringa** 6th grade

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: **Phillip Reik** 8th grade



GROSSE POINTE  
SOUTH FRESHMEN  
FOOTBALL

8th grade Pierce Students interested in playing freshmen football at GPS there will be a

**INFORMATIONAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 6th**

*Student Meeting: 3:20-4:20 PM Room #105*

*Parent Meeting: 7:00-8:00 PM Pierce Library*

The GPS football coaches will present an overview of the program. Topics will include overall philosophy, cost, weight room, and review of the football calendar

**Channel 20 moves to digital  
Cable station 902 on 1/15**

January 15, all public, education and government (PEG) programming will move to a digital format across Michigan. Local programming 12 will move to 900, Educational Access 20 to 902, Educational Access 22 to 903, and Government Access 5 to 911. According to a Comcast release, "Current basic and preferred basic Comcast customers can continue to receive PEG programming by acquiring a digital converter, digital service or compatible equipment." Comcast urges those with questions to call 1-877-824-2984. In addition to announcements such as school closings and community education programming, Channel 20 (902) is used to broadcast board meetings for GPPSS and Harper Woods, graduation ceremonies, drama and musical productions, and sporting events.

**-SODEXHO FOOD SERVICE SURVEY-**

On the District website is a survey for Sodexo Food Service directed to staff, students as well as parents.

It will be publicized on Channel 20, to PTO Council members and at Board meetings. Please take a minute to review.

**SUPER FUN NIGHT**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2008

7:00 -9:30 PM

\$6.00 advance \$8.00 at door



(Price of admission includes: 1 slice of pizza,

1 sno cone, 1 cotton candy, 1 popcorn & 1 pop

Additional pizza & pop 50 cents each.

**DON'T MISS OUT!!!!**

**Turbo Slide, Giant Obstacle Course,**

**Temporary Tattoos, Pizza, Sno Cones, Cotton Candy and More !!!!**

# =====PTO POINTS=====

## DATES TO REMEMBER

February 1-Winter Fun Night

February 9-Euchre Night at the Tompkins Center

NO FEBRUARY PTO MEETING!



**THANK YOU** to **Trish Cozad** and **Lynn Jones** for chairing this year's **Coney Island Night**. Our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders had a lot of fun attending the event and learning about all that Pierce had to offer.

**Kelee Teodecki** and **Tony Zak** are planning the first Pierce **Euchre Night**. This adult only event will be held on Saturday, February 9 at the Tompkins Center located at the Windmill Pointe Park. Food, beverages, and prizes will be included in the cost for the evening. An invitation was mailed to every home. Plan on attending this event.

**The Staff Appreciation Luncheon** is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>. **Cindy Aboukasm** and her committee will be contacting individuals for contributions. Everyone's help is needed to make this event a success. Please help in any way you can.

**The Progressive Dinner** committee is busy making plans for the dinner that is scheduled for Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Chairpersons **Donna Satterfield**, **Donna Weiss-Davenport** and **Peggy Shine** will need volunteers to be host homes. More information will follow in an invitation to be mailed to your home. This evening has been well attended in the past and is a great way to meet other parents at Pierce. Have a wonderful winter break!

Patty Groezinger PTO President

## Pierce Spirit Wear News

**Attention all 8<sup>th</sup>** grade Pierce students....we have a few extra 8<sup>th</sup> grade tee shirts for sale for anyone who did not order the first time around or anyone who would like to have an extra 8<sup>th</sup> grade tee....the sizes are as follows:

Size Small:	3 shirts available	
Size Medium:	3 shirts available	
Size Large:	3 shirts available	
Size XLarge:	1 shirt available	
Size 2XLarge:	1 shirt available	The price of the 8 <sup>th</sup> grade tee shirt is \$10.00 each.

Please bring cash to Linda Lockwood in the Pierce office if you are interested in buying a shirt. Also, we still have sweatshirts, short and long sleeve tee shirts, and some flannel pants and shorts left for purchase. I will also be placing a new order for flannel pants and shorts if anyone would like to place an order for a size that we do not have (call me directly for this at 881-7854 by Friday, Feb 15th). Please ask Linda Lockwood for a Spirit Wear form in the Pierce office to purchase all other items.

Thank you to Cathie Schneider for assisting me with all of the Spirit Wear orders and 8<sup>th</sup> grade tee shirts delivered in November and thank you to Patty Groezinger for assisting me with sales of Spirit Wear at the Coney Night on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Show your Pierce Pride....buy Pierce Spirit Wear!

Karen Bolton

Pierce Spirit Wear Chairperson



## PIERCE SPELLING BEE

Friday, January 11, 2008

6<sup>th</sup> grade winner, **Ellie Zak**, won in a spell-off with **Katie Savinov** by spelling the word "*rhetoric*" correctly in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of spelling.

8<sup>th</sup> grade winner, **Chloe Gellert**, won in a spell-off with **Matt Barnes** by spelling the word "*cache*" correctly in the 5<sup>th</sup> round.

Overall Winner was **Devon Pratt** -7<sup>th</sup> grade who spelled "*colonel*" correctly in the 6<sup>th</sup> Round of spelling.

Devon will now continue on to the Regional Semi-Final to be held at the Detroit Public Library on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Congratulations to All!!



### 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.



## Counselor Corner

### Counselor Corner Graduation Requirements

The State Board of Education for Michigan has approved new graduation requirements. With the exception of the world language requirement, these requirements will go into effect starting with the class of 2011 (the current 9<sup>th</sup> graders). These requirements were taken into consideration when we met with our 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents to select high school courses for next year. Parents who would like to understand more about these requirements can go to the following website:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Parent\\_12.20.06\\_181524\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Parent_12.20.06_181524_7.pdf)

For those who do not have access to the internet, copies of the requirements are available through the Counseling Center.

### Registration

The course selection process for students who will be attending Pierce next is continuing. Counselors and administrators met with our feeder schools the week of January 14<sup>th</sup> and distributed course selection sheets. Counselors will be going to the elementary schools the last week in January to help 5<sup>th</sup> graders input their choices.

Counselors and administrators also met with our current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> to help guide them through the enrollment process. The course selection sheets are due back signed by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Counselors will be meeting with students during their classes in early February to help them input their choices in Zangle.

If parents have any questions regarding the enrollment process, they should contact their child's counselor by phone or email.

Chris Cramer 432/4717     Angie Niforos 432/4716



## Social Studies Olympiad

The Social Studies Olympiad is a state-wide competition sponsored by the State of Michigan and the Michigan Council for

the Social Studies. Just as in the real Olympics, there are many different events including, rap, quiltathon, essay, photojournalism and graphic arts. This year, Pierce will compete for the very first time. We're hoping to train two teams for the premier competitive events, the Quizbowl and Academic All Stars as well as any others that students show interest in. Students from schools around the state compete to win gold, silver, or bronze metals.

Mrs. Brousseau will coach talented Pierce students on various days after school and during lunch hours depending on the events. Competition will be on April 23rd. We all know that Pierce students are as sharp and creative as any other kids in the state. While under Mrs. B's direction at Brownell, students there earned silver and bronze medals and ended up taking both gold medals in the team events.

It will be fun to cheer on our Pierce students as they enter the competition and represent and bring honors to our community along with the other middle schools and high schools.



## PIERCE 2008 VOLLEY BALL TEAMS

### 7th Grade

Chelsea Adams  
Neala Berkowski  
Hannah Buzolits  
Elizabeth Clevenger  
Meredith Gilbert  
Maya Grever  
Molly Kaiser  
Katie Motschall  
Alexis Novak  
Mia Perkins  
Kylie Rose  
Emily Satterfield  
Ann Smith  
Samantha Taylor  
Mimi Teodecki  
Becky Weiland  
Coach: Andrea Koreck

### 8th Grade

Carrie Andersen  
Zita Barnette  
Rebecca Brewster  
Sylvia Bryant  
Shanen Davis-Lemmons  
Clarissa Dettloff  
Margaret Hern  
Maddy Hudock  
Emily Jackman  
Melissa Klinger  
Charlotte Koelsch  
Carolyn Lanza  
Nicole Mannino  
Caitlin Moore  
Sierra Moore  
Christine Naber  
Emma Ottenhoff  
Jordan Redwine  
Ronda Safadi  
Shelby Schulte  
Kaitlin Swanson  
Maggie Teodecki  
Coach: Dan Sullivan



## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Congratulations to everyone who participated by turning in BoxTops. While none of the classes reached the amount needed for popcorn or pizza parties—the entire school wins!!!!

As a result of the effort 2,233 BoxTops were collected. Pierce Middle School will receive a check from General Mills to be used for additional supplies for the students. BoxTops can continue to be turned in—there is a box located near the front entrance to the school. Thank you to everyone who participated!!!!

### GROSSE POINTE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL

Presents

### GUYS & DOLLS

A Musical Fable of Broadway March 6-8th, 2008

7:30 PM at GPN Performing Arts Center

Tickets can be purchased at Wild Birds Unlimited  
or at the Door

### GROSSE POINTE SOUTH CHOIRS

Present

### SPAIN TOUR BENEFIT CONCERT

Featuring choirs from Pierce & Brownell

Saturday, February 9

Pierce Auditorium 7:30 PM

For information email:

trajndjlm@aol.com

