

PIERCE

P O I N T E R

GARY BUSLEPP, PRINCIPAL

JUDITH GAFFREY, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MARCH /APRIL 2008

VIEW
from the
OFFICE

Dear Pierce Parents:

With mid-winter and spring break so close together, we have combined our March and April newsletters into one issue. Please note the many calendar notations in the margin to the right of this letter.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Three sessions are scheduled for the Thursday dates of March 6th and March 13th. Please join us from 5:00 till 7:30 pm on either date for evening conferences and/or on Thursday, March 13th from 1:00 to 3:30 pm. As we pass the half-way point of the third quarter, teachers will update parents on student progress, assessment results and future projects and deadlines. Thank you in advance for joining us as we get ready for the “home stretch” in the academic year.

MEAP and MAP Results: At our March Parent-Teacher Conferences, parents will receive their child’s MEAP scores. The results of our new standardized assessment the district has adopted, the Measures of Academic Performance (MAP) will also be distributed. Students often refer to it as the “NWEA tests” (an acronym for the company – Northwest Evaluation Assessment- that produces the assessment). Additional information about these tests is provided on the school website (www.pierce@gpschools.org). An information sheet concerning the MAP is included in this newsletter.

Adolescent Health Education: Instruction for students in grades 6 and 7 will take place during the week of April 14th thru the 18th. An adjusted schedule will be run on Tuesday thru Friday from 8:25 – 9:30 am. Instruction will occur from 9:10 – 10:15 am on Monday, April 14th. 8th graders will report to first period on these days for attendance, followed by assemblies in the auditorium. 8th grade Adolescent Health Education will be taught the week of May 27th and conclude on Tuesday, June 3rd.

DATES TO REMEMBER

THURSDAY, MARCH 6
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
5:00-7:30 PM

MONDAY, MARCH 10
An Evening of Choral Music
Pierce Auditorium
7:00 PM Free Admission

THURSDAY, MARCH 13
HALF DAY
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
1:00-3:30 PM & 5:00-7:30 PM
School ends for students 11:33 AM

TUESDAY, MARCH 18
PTO Meeting
7:00 PM Room #129

THURSDAY, MARCH 20
Spring Break begins at end of day

MONDAY, MARCH 31
Classes Resume

FRIDAY, APRIL 11
Pierce Fun Night 7:00 PM

MONDAY, APRIL 14-17
Pierce Book Fair /Pierce Library

TUESDAY, APRIL 15
PTO Meeting
7:00 PM Room #129

SATURDAY, APRIL 19
PTO Progressive Dinner
(see inside for further info)

TUESDAY, APRIL 22
Report cards sent home

Pierce parents received and signed an opt-in form from their registration packets when school began in September. Students who have been opted out of instruction will be offered an alternative educational setting in the library. Parents who wish to preview the materials and videos may do so by contacting our office in advance at 313-432-4700.

Secure and Safe: Prior to mid-winter break, I sent a letter home with your student regarding an incident in our cafeteria during B lunch. Although rare, public displays of inappropriate behavior that can compromise the safety of students must be shared with our Pierce community. Thank you to the parents who wrote and shared their respect and understanding of that delicate balance that exists between the “need to know” and the confidentiality of “consequences.”

By the time you receive this edition of the Pierce Pointer, our long awaited door entry system (doorbell, monitor and buzzer) should be installed. Thank you for your patience during the previous inconveniences of waiting for the door to be opened. As we transition with this new system, please remember to use the front entrance or southeast rear door during school hours to gain admittance.

High School Credit for Middle School Courses: Beginning with the high school class of 2011, high school courses successfully completed by a middle school student will appear on the student’s high school transcript. At Pierce, we currently have two courses that meet this criterion, Algebra 1 and Spanish 1. In addition, some of our students take morning classes at South in French. Students who have completed these year long courses have two options: 1) Have the grade reflected on their high school transcripts and computed in their cumulative high school GPA, or 2) Have the graduation credit reflected on their high school transcript with no grade recorded. If you have any questions, please contact our counselors or Pierce administration.

Sincerely,

Gary Buslepp
Principal



A Special *Thank You to* Pierce Students, Parents and Staff for their efforts in donating nearly \$400 in *Our Week of Caring* to the Connor Desmond Fund, a local middle school student who is fighting leukemia!

REMINDER: SODEXHO FOOD SERVICE SURVEY

On the District Website is a survey for Sodexho Food Service directed to staff, students and parents.

Please take a minute to review

From the Assistant Principal's Desk

Dear Pierce Parents:

As we head into the final stretch of the school year, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of some important information.

Spring brings a wide variety of exciting activities for our departing eighth grade students: the promotion ceremony, the eighth grade promotion celebration and dance, and the Cedar Pointe trip. Participation in these activities is dependant on student behavior. Earlier in the year, all eighth grade students and their parents received a letter in the mail and were asked to sign a statement agreeing to adhere to high disciplinary standards. Please remember, if a student's action results in an out of school separation or suspension, any combination of an in-school separation, and two hours of detention, more than four hours of detention or a total of three or more 4's or 5's in conduct and work habits on the third quarter report card, he/she may be denied the privilege of participating in these activities. If you are the parent of an eighth grade student, please remind your student of these expectations.

The approach of spring also raises many concerns regarding the dress code. The Pierce student dress code can be found in your student's agenda and is printed below for your reference. Please be diligent in helping your student adhere to this code.

Thank you for your continued support,

Judith Gaffrey
Assistant Principal

STUDENT DRESS

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 orderliness. Adherence to the dress code is expected of all students. Parents should assist the school in implementing these standards by sending students to school each appropriately dressed and well groomed for the school setting.

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; undergarments may not be visible. Jeans may not have holes or rips in them.
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 – measured from the middle of kneecap to hem of skirt
3. Slits in skirts or dresses may not be too revealing
4. Shirts and blouses must be the appropriate size; undershirts, low-cut, see-through or bare midriff blouses are not permitted. Sleeveless shirts must be at least 3 fingers in width at the shoulders
5. T-shirts with alcohol, cigarette, drug, violence, hate, sexual or other inappropriate messages or symbols are not allowed.
6. Shoes are to be worn at all times in school. Bedroom slippers are not allowed.
7. Outerwear (such as jackets) should be removed prior to class; hats and caps are not worn in the building.
8. To reduce distractions in school, hairstyle, jewelry and make-up should be worn in moderation. No chains are allowed.
9. For safety reasons, backpacks/book bags may be carried to and from school but must be stored in lockers during the school day.

Students in violation may be required to change clothes or remain in the office until appropriate clothing is brought from home. Repeat offense(s) are assigned detentions or consequences assigned by administration.



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

5:00-7:30 PM

THURSDAY, MARCH, MARCH 13

HALF DAY

Students in class 8:25-11:33 AM

Conferences:

1:00-3:30 PM & 5:00 -7:30 PM

**Parents: As a courtesy to other parents,
please keep conferences to 5-7 minutes.**



The PIERCE BOOK FAIR

DATES: Monday, April 14-April 17

HOURS: Monday: 9:00-4:00 PM

Tuesday: 8:15-4:00 PM

Wednesday: 8:15-6:00 PM

Thursday: 8:15-6:00 PM

PLACE: PIERCE LIBRARY

If you would like to work at the Book Fair or have questions contact Karen Henning at: 885-6859 or henn1230@hotmail.com

Don't miss out! Make your plans to visit the library.



REPORT CARDS
WILL BE SENT
HOME WITH
YOUR STUDENT
ON TUESDAY,
APRIL 22



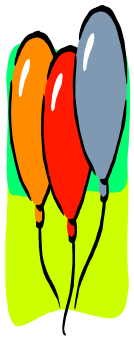
COUNSELOR CORNER

Summer School

Summer school offers exceptional opportunities for both strengthening core academic skills and enrichment. Enrollment in each class is limited to provide many opportunities for personal instruction. Students enroll in classes designed for the grade that they will be entering in the fall. For example, in most cases, our current 8th graders would take high school courses in summer school.

In the beginning of May, counselors will be gathering information from teachers to determine two things. One is which students need to attend summer school (Board Policy states that any student failing two quarters in the same subject should attend). The other is which students who, though not required, would benefit from strengthening their skills during the summer session. Counselors will send out letters to the parents of those two categories of students by the end of May. For students currently in 6th or 7th grade, classes will be held Tuesday through Thursday. For students in 8th grade, sessions will run Monday through Thursday. Please note that some high school courses offer opportunities for earning credit, while others reinforce skills necessary for a successful transition to high school. More detailed information, including location, times, offerings, will be available in the next newsletter.

Chris Cramer 432 4717 Angie Niforos 432 4716



*THINK SPRING
PIERCE*

STUDENTS.....

SPRING FUN NIGHT

Friday, April 11

7:00-9:00 PM

Advance tickets

(school office): \$4.00

At the door: \$6.00

Price of ticket includes:

1 pizza slice, pop & popcorn.

Stay tuned for more details on WPNC

==PTO POINTS==

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 13-Staff Appreciation Luncheon
March 18-PTO Meeting 7 pm
April 11-Fun Night
April 14 through 17-Book Fair in the Pierce Library
April 15-PTO Meeting 7 pm

President Elect **Karen Henning** is looking for individuals to fill the board positions and standing committees for the 2008-2009 school year. There are many levels of commitment and expertise needed. None have too much of a time constraint. Please contact Karen by phone at 885-6859 or by email: henn1230@hotmail.com if you or anyone you know can help at Pierce next year. We would like to have representation from all the feeder elementary schools.

THANK YOU to **Donna Satterfield, Donna Weiss-Davenport, and Peggy Shine** for organizing another great **Super Fun Night**. The event was well attended by our students. A huge **THANK YOU** to all the parents who chaperoned the evening, and to **Carol Jackman, Liz Jarboe, Patty Marantette, Tamara Gilbert, Kelly Moore, Julie Brewster** and **Kelee Teodecki** for obtaining the volunteers.

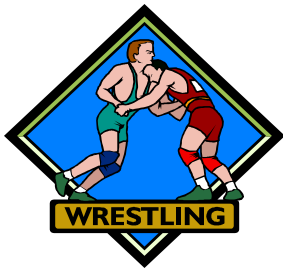
THANK YOU to **Kelee Teodecki** and **Tony Zak** for a wonderful **Euchre Night**. It was great to see so many new parents and alumni parents attend the event. Everyone had a fun time socializing and playing cards for a good cause, our kids.

The Staff Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for March 13th. **Cindy Aboukasm, Sue Sattelmeier** and **Helen Srebernak** are busy contacting individuals for contributions. Everyone's help is needed to make this event a success. Please help in any way you can. It's a great way to let the staff know how much we appreciate their hard work.

The Book Fair, chaired by **Karen Henning** and **Cathie Schneider**, will be held April 14th through the 17th. All the funds raised go directly back to our school library for the purchase of new books. Your help is needed in two ways. We need help manning the fair and we need you and your students to purchase books. All reading levels and genres are represented. Please help make our school library the best it can be.

The Progressive Dinner committee is busy making plans for the dinner that is scheduled for Saturday, April 19th. 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 safe spring break!
Patty Groezinger, PTO President



PIERCE 2008 WRESTLING TEAM

Ian Engstrom
Jacob Esmacher
Jonathan Griffin
Zachary Hasenbusch
Thomas Hoffmann
Axel Ivers
Ryan Jones
Austin Jones
Max Liverance
Alex Manchester
Antonio Moore

Zachary Moyer
Nick Muer
Frankie Pangborn
Chris Peters
Austin Pirrello
Gavin Ploechl
Calvin Pye
Josh Rothenbuhler
Macen Stuehser
Jack Thomas
Martin Voelker
Salvador Zuniga

Coach: Mike Carter



Student Council is now selling "PIERCE PRIDE" bumper stickers. Check them out at the Parent Teacher Conferences. They are bright yellow and maroon, with a Pierce Trojan on them. They will sell for \$3 so buy yours now and celebrate our Pierce Pride!



Congratulations to 6th Elle Keys on her award winning entry to Cricket magazine in the fall on The Origin of the Easter Island Statues. Enjoy her entry below:

The Origin of the Easter Island Statues

Long ago, in the center of the earth, lava boiled and bubbled. The lava was so hot it exploded out of the prehistoric earth into space. In space, the lava hit the asteroid and slowly cooled because of the freezing cold atmosphere.

A few years later, an ancient civilization called the Nunus, had very hot weather, which was destroying their crops. They sent an offering of the last of their ice into the sky so it would reach Toron, the sun god. Instead of hitting Toron, it hit the asteroid which sent it spinning toward Easter Island.

This asteroid had been covered in lava for so long, it finally just crumbled in the atmosphere, but the lava was so frozen, it only separated into big chunks. As these chunks approached Easter Island, the Nunus' leader was the first to spot the potential disaster. He warned all of the Nunus to take cover.

BAM! BAM! BAM! The lava slammed into the island one by one, shaking with every hit. Four minutes later, the ground stopped shaking. All of the Nunus slowly approached one of the many chunks. The leader quickly called his people to the circle of gathering.

"My people," he announced, "these clumps of lava are the reply to all of our wishes from the great god Toron. He wants us to carve them into Torons; he will then give us what we need."

They all darted to their huts to get their carving tools. Each person in the village was assigned to a piece. All of the people had different ideas of what Toron looked like, so every statue was different. This is how the Easter Island Statues came to be.

Spring Sports Starting Dates

6th Grade Boy's and Girl's Basketball	April 2
6th, 7th , 8th Grade Boy's & Girl's Track	April 2

Something Old—Something New—Something Blue!



Fifteen years ago there was a Grosse Pointe Middle School Swim League. It is starting up again, the league will consist of the three Grosse Pointe Public Middle Schools: Brownell, Parcels, and Pierce. The season will be three weeks long beginning March 3rd. The first week will consist of conditioning and a Relay Meet. The second week will contain two dual meets. The third week will contain the final dual meet and a finals meet.

PIERCE STUDENTS



SOCIAL STUDIES

This year all Social Studies classes participated in The National Geographic's Geography Bee. Each class submitted one winner who went on to represent their class in the final Geobee. All of the students did a great job. However, a very special congratulation's goes to the following contestants:

1st Place: **Andrew Barbish**

2nd Place: **Nick Feringa**

3rd Place: **Phillip Reik**

Andrew Barbish has gone on to take a written exam that may qualify him for the State finals!

Nice job Andrew! Congratulations to all participants! We are very proud of you.

LANGAUGE ARTS

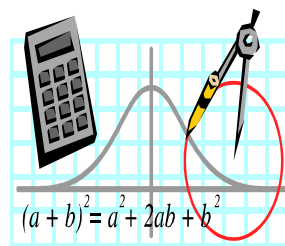
Congratulations to **Abby Grobbel and Kiersten Kern**, who were just awarded a First Place and a Third Place in a *Cricket* Magazine art contest. Their life-like drawings of an animal will be featured in the April 2008 edition. This is the second time Abby and Kiersten have been featured in *Cricket* this school year. They both won for a theatrical mask in November. *Cricket* is an internationally acclaimed, award winning magazine with a monthly contest that features a student's story writing, poetry, photography, or artwork.

Sixth Grade Language Arts teacher Mary Carey teamed up with former student and 1998 Pierce Alum Rachel Basse to bring an exciting pen pal program to her Language Arts classes.

As a Fulbright grantee, Rachel is working at a bilingual primary school in Madrid where her sixth year students are eager to learn English and correspond with American students.

Since one of our goals at Pierce is to help our students become better writers and share our customs with peers of different countries, this project is perfect. Now our Pierce students can help teach Spanish students how to write perfect English just as Mrs. Carey taught Rachel in sixth grade!

ALGEBRA



Four Pierce Honors Algebra Students attended the Detroit Country Day School 32nd Annual Mathematics Invitational on Saturday, February

2nd. **Matt Barnes** and **Luke Hessburg** comprised the eighth grade team while the seventh grade team consisted of **Patrick Dietz** and **Michael Aro**. The four students began the competition by completing a challenging 30 problem test without a calculator.

The second part of the competition was a Rapid Rabbit Relay, with all four team members working collaboratively on problem solving. The last part was a grade level team event. More than 30 schools in the tri-county area attended, and the students did a fine job!

YOU BE THE CHEMIST Challenge

This year, Pierce science students had the opportunity to compete in the You Be the Chemist Challenge, sponsored by the Chemical Education Foundation (www.chemed.org).

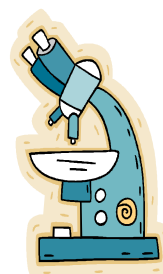
The top three scorers from Pierce will advance to the Regional Competition on March 10th. Top students from the Regionals may advance to State and National competitions. Please join us in congratulating **Charlotte Koelsch, Abby Stapleton, Paige Hackenberger,** and **Macen Stuehser** for scoring the highest on the qualifying exam and advancing to Regionals.

The Chemical Education Foundation (CEF) "is a national non-profit organization that works with the chemical industry to promote the importance of chemicals, chemistry, and chemical safety awareness."

The Foundation's You Be the Chemist Challenge program is designed for middle school students, to enhance their basic chemistry knowledge and to encourage an interest in chemistry as a career.

Students were able to download a study guide at the Chemed website or pick up a copy from their science teacher. The You Be the Chemist Challenge test was administered in students' science classes on Feb. 6th.

Good luck to Pierce's future chemists!





An Evening of Choral Music



Featuring



The Pierce 7th and 8th Grade Choirs

And

Defer, Maire & Trombly



Monday, March 10th



7:00 Pierce Auditorium Open Seating Free Admission



PIERCE PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Mark Your Calendars for the Pierce Progressive Dinner Saturday, April 19. Join other Pierce parents as you travel from house to house enjoying courses of a meal. All guests will be together for appetizers and dessert/afterglow.

Appetizers: 6:00-7:15 PM

Brian and Donna Satterfield's residence
1033 Kensington

Dinner: 7:30-9:30 PM

Dessert/Afterglow:

9:45 PM- Midnight

Larry Berkowski and Peggy Shine's residence
1027 Kensington

Your dinner plans will be provided at the appetizer home.

Cost is \$25 per person payable to Pierce PTO.

**PLEASE WATCH FOR AN INVITATION COMING IN THE
MAIL IN EARLY MARCH!!!**



If you'd like to host the dinner portion of the evening please call:

Donna Davenport - 881-3168; Donna Satterfield - 881-0268 or Peggy Shine - 881-4040.