

PIERCE

P O I N T E R

GARY BUSLEPP, Principal

JUDITH GAFFREY Assistant Principal

MAY 2008



"You cannot solve the problem with the same kind of thinking that created the problem."

**-Albert Einstein
Physicist (1879-1955)**

Dear Pierce Parents,

Early last year, Mrs. Gaffrey made reference to *Relational Aggression/Bullying* in one of her letters to Pierce parents. She made reference to rumors, gossip, and the "Silent Treatment." All of these covertly manipulate how others view a particular individual by isolating them and spreading (or posting) rumors. Both boys and girls are capable of participating in these acts of victimization. Statistically, however, girls who are approved to be "nice" have resorted to this type of behavior.

What's it mean?

During adolescence our students are involved in developmental processes which include the emergence of their identity, independence from family and fitting into their peer group. Torments from peers can damage these processes. The foundation of a student's sense of self may be "not good enough." This can result in feelings of insecurity that can persist throughout life. Research shows that the ability to trust as an adult- and to open one self up to close relationships – can be affected.

What can we do?

Involvement in groups in and outside of school (athletics, clubs, scouts, etc.) can create diverse friendship circles. When students expand on interests, passions are cultivated and can buoy their sense of identity.

We know people gossip. Acknowledge the pervasiveness of gossip and challenge your child to see how long they can go without engaging in gossip.

One of the most effective initiatives to prevent bullying, Committee for Children (www.cfchildren.org), cites that 85% of those involved in bullying are the "bystanders." It's hard to think of a bystander as being involved. However, it is their lack of response that empowers bullies with this false sense of superiority.

DATES TO REMEMBER

MONDAY, MAY 5

GP Writing Assessment thru
Wednesday, May 15th

THURSDAY, MAY 15

Spring Vocal Concert
7:00 PM
Pierce Auditorium

FRIDAY, MAY 16

**NO CLASSES FOR
STUDENTS**
Staff Development Day

TUESDAY, MAY 20

PTO Meeting
7:00 PM Room #129

THURSDAY, MAY 22

6th Grade Field Day PM

FRIDAY, MAY 23

No Classes for Students
or Staff

MONDAY, MAY 26

NO SCHOOL
Memorial Day

TUESDAY, MAY 27

Spring Instrumental Concert
7:00 PM
Pierce Auditorium

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Sports Award Ceremony
7:00 PM
Pierce Auditorium

Please join us in encouraging your adolescent to stand up for victims by not jumping on the bandwagon. They can refuse to be an audience to bullying. This strips the bully of the attention that he or she needs. Do not participate in on-line bullying....which means *delete* or *do not respond* to hurtful comments electronically.

The most powerful step is to stand outside the tide of such aggression-by being too busy on what really counts. The dynamics change immediately once others stop their participation...even if it's just being an observer.

Don't minimize your child's discomfort. Phrases like "you'll get over it" and "why do you let this bother you," miss the point. Empathize and keep the conversation going. By trivializing this aspect of their life encourages them to shut down.

Monitor the situations. Your child does need to learn to handle things. Strategize with them, empathize with them and only intervene as a last resort. If your child has been victimized or observed bullying, please encourage them to share their feelings with our Pierce teachers, their counselor, and/or administrators.

If they can't or won't, feel free to call your counselor, Mrs. Rocheleau our social worker, and/or an administrator to alert us to the specific concern. Despite what we may have been told, to "just deal with it" is not a solution. These tips and "what not to do" are found at www.relatinalagression.com.

Adolescent Health Education: Pierce 8th graders who opted in will receive their AHE instruction during the academic days of May 27,28,29,30 and June 3. Students who opted out will have an alternate academic setting during that time. Parents who still wish to review the 8th grade curriculum in AHE can do so by contacting the main office at (313) 432-4713 to schedule an appointment. Ms. Marianne Vukas is our instructor.

Honors Science and Honors Social Studies: Pierce 6th and 7th grade students, who are eligible to take these honors courses, will receive a letter by Wednesday, May 14th. To register for these courses you are required to return the opt-in form by Wednesday, May 21st to the main office.

Standing Room Only: Finding a seat in our auditorium on the evening of the 8th grade promotion ceremony has always been a challenge. Our 8th graders take up one third of the seats, and there is little room on stage. Each 8th grader will be given two tickets for family seating on June 6th to this end of year event. That will leave approximately 75 additional seats. Students who are not going to use their quota of two can return them to the office. If you are looking for an additional ticket for a relative, please contact our office on Tuesday, June 10th for an extra seat.

Pierce Pride: This month's edition contains numerous awards and accolades won by many Pierce students. They range from Academic Olympiads & Competitions to Writing Awards!

Spring NWEA: Pierce students will take their last on-line assessment to Measure Academic Progress/Growth in math skills and Reading. The spring window of the NWEA is from April 28th to May 9th. Students will take their assessment in the computer lab during a math and English class period.

"Play Ball": The construction of a GP Park little league diamond is near completion on the Pierce Field. The field will still be in use for PE classes and by the Neighborhood Club sports and GP South athletic teams. The increase in the number of little league teams necessitated this expansion and we are proud to be a host site.

June Pointer: Our June edition will wrap up what has been an exciting year with a preview of next year's calendar.

Sincerely,

Gary Buslepp

PIERCE STUDENTS

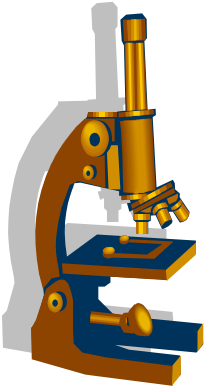


On Saturday, March 8th at Warren Woods Tower High School, the **Pierce Middle School 7/8 Grade Orchestra** participated in the 2008 MSBOA District XVI Band & Orchestra Festival.

The Pierce 7/8 Orchestra earned straight First Division (Excellent) ratings from three judges in performance with a program that included: *Bach Country Fiddles* (Richard Meyer), *Rondeau* (Jean Mouret), and *Sinfonia in D* (Elliot Del Borgo).

The orchestra also earned a First Division (Excellent) rating in the sight reading category. In so doing, the group qualified for MSBOA State Festival.

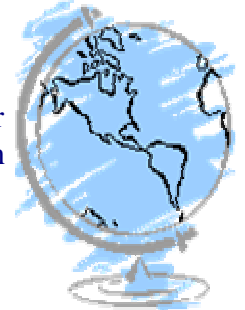
Pierce Middle School 7/8 Orchestra: Erika Arora, Claire Boyle, Rebecca Brewster, Mocha Brown, Jacob Carolan, Elizabeth Clevenger, William Cornille, Olivia Culver, Patrick Deitz, Anastasia Diamond, Connor Fannon, Chloe Gellert, Brian Hall, Celeste Hamre, DeMarco Havard, Mary Hennessy, Kallyn Hieftje – Conley, Nate Jones, Ruth Karcher, Charlotte Koelsch, Jacob Malbouef, Jared Martin, Kyle Matheson, Ben Moss, Rachel Pellerito, Mia Perkins, Abby Reimer, Tannia Rodriguez, Jacob Rowland, Cody Shrader, Zachary Sparrow, Abigail Stapleton, Harriet Steinke, Alexis Thompson.



YOU BE THE CHEMIST

Congratulations to 8th grader Macen Stuehser who took first place in the third annual *You Be the Chemist* Challenge which was held at Wayne RESA. The Challenge began with 32 qualified students from the county. Students answered chemistry questions throughout multiple rounds, and were eliminated when they answered too many questions incorrectly in a round. Macen said his parents quizzed him at odd times for a week leading up to the challenge, even waking him up at night to ask him questions. Apparently it worked! Macen will continue on to compete at the State Challenge the end of April in Midland, Michigan

The off-site events for the Michigan Social Studies Olympiad were judged the first week in April. Congratulations to 8th Grader Charlotte Koelsch who won the **gold** medal in the essay category by writing about economics. Charlotte is also competing as a Quizbowl team member at the on-site competition on Saturday, April 26th. Pierce is sending 14 Olympians competing in 4 different categories. Our students will showcase their social studies knowledge, speed, performance skills, critical thinking, and research skills. We are very proud of Charlotte's win and hope to bring home even more hardware for Pierce. Wish us luck.



Quizbowl Team: Captain: Nathan Trocinski, Members: Rachel Brieden, Charlotte Koelsch, Kevin Cassidy, James O'Donnell.

All- Star Team: Lexi Robinson, Lauren Phillips, Langston Bowens, Emily Muhich

Historical Biography: Molly Kaiser, Juliet Harvey

Rap: NaShawn Cunningham, Zuri Ntlabati

PIERCE STUDENTS

We have some great news to share from Pierce. We have had 6 students win 7 regional level Gold Key Awards from The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for their *personal essay/memoirs* and we have had one student (CJ Ryder) win the prestigious national Gold Award which places her writing into the top 1% of the 100,000 nationally submitted works! The regional Gold Key winners were reviewed by literary art professionals in early March. Notable past jurors for these awards have included: Robert Frost, Judy Blume, George Plimpton, Faith Ringgold and Billy Collins. These panelists look for works that best exemplify originality, technical proficiency and emergence of an authentic voice and vision.



The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program is celebrating its 85th year and its premise is that young people who demonstrate creativity and originality have the potential to make important contributions to the future and should be identified, encouraged and rewarded.

Pierce 8th grader CJ Ryder joins a prestigious group of alumni of this award including Richard Avedon, Mel Bochner, Truman Capote, Bernard Malamund, Joyce Carol Oates, Tom Otterness, Zac Posen, Sylvia Plath, Robert Redford, and Andy Warhol.

CJ, her family and I have been invited to the National Awards Ceremony at Carnegie Hall and The Scholastic National Exhibition in New York City, June 4-6th. This will be an opportunity to have CJ, Pierce, and the Grosse Pointe Public Schools recognized on a national level.



The award winners from Pierce are:

Ellen Aretakis	<i>Final Farewell</i>	Gold Key
Ted Berkowski	<i>My Mouth is in Jail</i>	Gold Key
	<i>Shining Moments</i>	Gold Key
Nick Robinson	<i>Spray Painting the Basement Wall</i>	Gold Key
CJ Ryder	<i>A Life Cut Short</i>	Gold Key AND Gold Award ***
Abby Stapleton	<i>Lynnie</i>	Gold Key
Nathan Troscinski	<i>Spectacular Ski Vacation</i>	Gold Key

More information on the awards and contest can be found at www.artandwriting.org. Please join me in congratulating these students on this remarkable achievement.

Susan Quinn
8th Grade English

Congratulations to Ted Berkowski on receiving an Award of Excellence for his essay submitted to the Detroit Free Press Writing Contest . This is in addition to his 2 Gold Key Awards.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION!!!

Three teams of Pierce Middle School students competed in *Destination Imagination* (Science Olympiad) at Utica High School and have earned berths in the State Tournament on April 19th on the campus of Central Michigan University.

Finishing first in the middle school level of the "*Chorific!*" challenge were 6th graders Kelly Beardslee, Rachel Griffin, Grace Henning, Jack McCoy, Ben Schneider and Neal Trocinski. The team was managed by Bonnie McCoy.

Also capturing a first place honor were a combined team of 6th and 7th grade students from Pierce. Capturing first place, in an engineering and design challenge called "Switch!", were Hannah Ayrault, Lisa Conley, Jackie Francis, Carly Hampton, Sally Ottenhoff, Katie Savinov and Annie Siwak. Their team manager was Annette Law-Siwak.

Also, advancing to the state competition were a team of Pierce 8th graders also in the "Switch!" competition. The team of Nathan Erickson, Mackenzie Feringa, Kelsey Khoury, Spencer Sullivan and Elizabeth Winter were managed by Dan Sullivan.

8TH GRADE JUNE CALENDAR

10th Tuesday	8th Grade Trip to Cedar Point (rain or shine)
11th Wednesday	8th Grade Promotion Ceremony 7:00 PM
12th Thursday	Last Student Day



March 10th Pierce hosted the first joint concert between the choirs from Pierce, Defer, Maire and Trombly. The event "An Evening of Choral Music" was a success thanks in part to the parent volunteers who helped feed the 300+ children between their after school rehearsal and 7:00 PM performance. Special thanks go to: Liz Parthum, Carol and Ed Jackman, Rachel Walpole, Diana Miller, Cindy Aboukasm, Diane MacConnachie, Becky Dean, Lisa Mager, Gina Safadi, Paulette Lavins, Mary Dice and Marte Langton.

Book Fair Thank You



Thank you to all who participated in this year's Book Fair. Your enthusiastic participation will enable the Pierce library to purchase many new books for our students. The Book Fair would not have been possible without the assistance of many volunteers. Thank you to all who helped, including: Renee Grobbel, Laura Kennedy, Ann Ottenhoff, Cyndi Gilbert, Helen Srebernak, Julie Erickson, Michele Yinger, Fran Biaglow, Maureen Martinez, Gail Halliday, Kate Aretakis, Dulce Elbadawi, Tina Burns, Trish Cozad, Liz Cornillie, Fran Degnan, Karen Yoo, Stephanie Clement, Marte Langton, June Lane, Maura McKeever, Cindy Aboukasm, Patty Groezinger, Susan Griffin, Peri Craig, Donna Carnago, Khristi Zimmeth, Nancy Wildern, June Lane, Tammy Ivers, Kiana Rose, Bob Rose, Jenny Semanision, Soozy Hampton, Sue Sattelmeier and April Anthony.

Karen Henning and Cathie Schneider

===PTO POINTS===

DATES TO REMEMBER

PTO Meeting May 20th 7:00 PM

President Elect Karen Henning is still looking for individuals to fill some of 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. In particular, we need people to serve as the creative fundraising chair (or co-chair) and as the field day chair. 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** and **Peggy Shine** for organizing another great **Progressive Dinner** and for hosting the appetizer and dessert portions of the evening. The event was enjoyed and well attended by our parents. Many thanks to Pierce parents Amer and Cindy Aboukasm, Ed and Beth Carpenter, Tom and Moira DiJulio, Mike and Beth Donovan, Keith and Pam Dziedzic, Mark Gosselin and Mimi Chen, and Ed and Carol Jackman who were dinner hosts. In addition, special thanks to the Carpenters and the Kennedys for donating the wonderful Grosse Pointe South Jazz Quartet who played while we enjoyed dessert. The committee and the Pierce PTO wish to thank Paul Stavale for all he did to make for a wonderful evening!

THANK YOU to **Karen Henning** and **Cathie Schneider** for chairing this year's **Book Fair**. All the funds raised go directly to the library for the purchase of new books. We appreciate all the parents, students, teachers, and staff who made purchases to help endow our school library.

Patty Groezinger, PTO President

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank the following Pierce parents who donated wonderful, home-cooked food for our staff appreciation lunch. We are hearing from staff how awesome everything was.

Peggy Shine-Berkowski, Teri Brown, Mary Ann Bury, Jill Capps, Penny Carolan, Beth Carpenter, Trish Cozad, Jane Deitz, Cristina Caceres-Garberding, Rebecca Golus, Patty Groezinger, Karen Henning, Carol Jackman, Dona Johnson-Beach, Mary Jo Kaminski, Carol Kern, Marte Langton, Robin Maghielse, Patti Matheson, Kellie McCline, Kathy Mestdagh, Chris Mollison, Ann Ottenhoff, Liz Parthum, Kathy Powell, Donna Satterfield, Nancy Tuuri .

Thank you,
Cindy Aboukasm, Helen Srebernak & Sue Sattelmeier
Staff Appreciation Lunch Coordinators

Physical Education



The 6th Grade "Fun and Funky Field Day" will be held on Thursday, May 22. This event is sponsored by the Physical Education Department and will involve all Pierce 6th grader students. The afternoon will consist of challenging games and contests. Emphasis will be on fun and cooperation rather than winning!

Volunteers are needed to run the many events! If you can help, please contact: Beth.Allan@gpschools.org or 313-432-5795. A volunteer meeting will be held in the gym at 12:45, on that date, and the Field Day will run from approximately 1:15 to 3:15. After their 4th hour class, 6th graders will proceed to the locker rooms to change and then meet in the auditorium for Field Day directions.

Thank you for your help in making this a fun day for our students!

Pierce Pacers: Be physically active and earn awards!

Physical Education students have the option of participating in a program called "Pierce Pacers". This program promotes physical activity and acknowledges students who are active outside of the school day. Students who participate will record the distances they complete (i.e. one mile, 3 miles) doing such activities as walking, jogging, riding a bike, using a treadmill, etc.. They may also count practice or game times if they play on a sport's team. In addition to getting themselves in to better shape, they will earn extra credit and be awarded:

1. Bronze Medal Level: 25 miles - Pierce Pacer Pin
2. Silver Medal Level: 50 miles - Pierce Pacer Medal
3. Gold Medal Level: 75 miles - Pierce Pacer T-Shirt

****This program runs from April 19 thru June 6**

Beth Allan

Beth.Allan@gpschools.org

(313) 432-5795 voicemail

(313) 432-4732 P.E. Office



A special thanks to all of our students that turned in lost wallets, money, glasses, etc. during the school year. Many students and parents were relieved when they did come to the office and we had one of their missing items.

Your honesty is greatly appreciated!!!



Counselor Corner Summer School

Summer School Update

Information regarding Summer School offerings is now available on the Grosse Pointe website. The school system no longer mails catalogues to homes, but if you do not have access to the internet, please contact your child's counselor. If you do have internet access, go to www.gpschools.org/summerschool. Course information and everything that is needed to enroll can be found on this site.

For students currently in 6th or 7th grade, school sessions run from July 8 to August 13th, Tuesday through Thursday. For students in 8th grade, sessions run from July 7th to August 13th, Monday through Thu

Counselors at Pierce will be sending letters before the end of May. Two categories of students will receive letters. One category of students needs to attend summer school due to failing during the school year (Board Policy states that any student failing 2 quarters in the same subject should attend). The other category contains students who, though not required, would benefit from strengthening their skills during the summer session.

The recommended courses are usually in the areas of Math, English, or Study Skills. Eighth graders who did not pass the computer proficiency test can satisfy their computer requirement by taking the Keyboarding Class that is listed in the high school section. If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate counselor.

Chris Cramer 432 4717
Angie Niforos 432 4716



SUMMER MATH SKILLS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We would like to encourage you to participate in an exciting program to help your children maintain their math skills through the summer break. The **Summer Math Skills Sharpener** programs have been featured in the *Washington Post* and have been ordered by parents in over 1,000 public school systems and 800 parochial schools in all fifty states.

Educators agree that it is important for children to be exposed to mathematics over the summer months. The **Summer Math Skills sharpener** programs have been designed to fulfill that need.

The **Summer Math Skills Sharpener** programs:

- ◆ Provide a quick **refresher of basic skills already taught** during the preceding year. (A student should utilize the program for the grade most recently completed. Some children may require a higher or lower grade level.)
- ◆ Contain a series of varied and interesting problems on every page.
- ◆ Provide enough pages so students can refresh their skills 3 times per week for 10 weeks. Are presented in an attractive and colorful spiral bound book.
- ◆ Are created for students **reviewing** grades K-8, Pre-algebra and Algebra I.
- ◆ Contain an answer sheet for immediate feedback.
- ◆ Contain solutions for each problem, grades 4-8, Pre-algebra and Algebra I.
- ◆ Are intended to reinforce math skills that will last a lifetime.

Recommended Books:

For a student completing 6th grade math (Course 1) this year, the 6th and 7th grade books are appropriate.

For a student completing 7th grade math (Course 2) this year, the 7th and 8th grade books are appropriate.

For a student completing 8th grade math (Course 3) this year, the 8th and Pre-algebra books are appropriate.

For a student completing Algebra this year, the Algebra book is appropriate.

To Order

1. **Phone** (credit card orders): Monday – Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM EDT **(800) 411-8186**
1. Order by **Internet** at:
www.summerskills.com, a secured site.



PIERCE MIDDLE SCHOOL 6TH GRADE BASKETBALL TEAM MEMBERS



Coaches: Ann Anderson & Robert Reader

Annabel Ames
Hannah Ayrault
Kylie Capps
Kathy Collins
Arianna DerManulian
Lindsay Fisher
Brianna Harris
Bridget Hennessy
Gracie Henning
Jane Hess

Genevieve Hummer
Erin Ivers
Danielle Manning
Emily Muhich
Camilla Ndocaj
Maggie Rapai
Shivangi Sharma
Meghan Shook
Amanda Shrader
Sydney Srebernak
DreShawana Terrell

Ryan Beal
Kris Bybee
Stewart Chromka
Khaled Elbadawi
Romell Holmes
Patrick Jackman
Austin Jones

Mateo Krasniqui
Jack Martin
Antonia Moore
Demo Thompson
Lee Matthews
Trent Maghielse
Charlie Warren

2007 PIERCE TRACK TEAM MEMBERS Coaches: Brian Benz, Barry Novak

6th grade

Maralina Brown
Sydney Calhoun
Lisa Conley
Taylor Crowley
Janey Degnan
Lisette Demay
Francesca DiJulio
Meghan Dziedzic
Laura Gellert
Carissa Gray
Malvina Hedenberg
Elise Koelsch
Danielle Manning
Blake Prentice
Savannah Schulte
Shivangi Sharma
Gloria Shaw
Kennedy Shortal
Emma Taras
Ellie Zak

Hunter Benz
Joseph Boyle
Zach Hasenbusch
Alexander Hoffmann
Drake Lyon
Alex Manchester
Spencer Sattelmair
7th Grade
Annalise Bissa
Anna Davenport
Anastacia Diamond
Meredith Gilbert
Kaelyn Johnson
Otelia Mabry
Renata Morey Greer
Kaitlyn Moyer
Alexis Novak
Mia Perkins
Lexie Robinson
Chelsea Sanford

Michael Aro
Langston Bowens
Jeff Craig
Nashawn Cunningham
Curtis Davis
John DiJulio
Matt Geist
Charlie Gough
Kevaughn Jackson
Max Liverance
Christian Mackey
Adam Mlynarek
Alex Newell
Keith Newell
James Pye
Zack Raycraft
Kartik Sharma
Curtis Staples
Sal Zuniga
8th grade
Jessica Aboukasam

Carrie Andersen
Zita Barnette
Abby Btown
Mocha Brown
Sylvia Bryant
Brionne Buthia
Briana Chatfield
Irina DiGiovanni
Mackenzie Feringa
Chloe Gellert
Sarah Gennaro
Lauren Graham
Britta Hamre
Mary Hennessy
Margaret Hern
Emily Jackman
Kelsey Khoury
Tai'lor Lacey
Carolyn Lanza
Paige Moore
Nina Piccione

Lily Preston
Jordan Redwine
Abby Reimer
Ursula Robinson
Ronda Safadi
Emma St. Louis
Hannah Wheeler
Adam Bolton
James Dale
Nate Erickson
Nino Genna
Jon Griffin
Kurt Hamel
Ronnie Hasenbusch
Thomas Hoffman
Axel Ivers
Cameron Laney
Zach Langenburg
Eddy Mollison
Josh Rothenbuhler
Cody Shrader

Zach Sparrow
Cyris Wesley

2007 PIERCE SWIM TEAM Coach: Bonnie Middeldorf

6th Grade

Annabel Ames
Jasmine Bishop
Kris Bybee
Molly Clextan
Allison Cornell
Gretchen Cozad
Arianna DerManulian
Caroline Hall
Carly Hampton
Gracie Henning
Jane Hess
Angela Hysenllari

Annie McGraw
Emily Muhich
Zach Moyer
Natalie Pantelis
Meg Phillips
MaggieRapai,
Alexandra Richards
Madison Scillian
Christian Scillian
Shivangi Sharma
Demo Thompson
Nicholas Yoo

7th & 8th Grade

Erin Belanger
Chloe Gellert
Lauren Graham
Jonathan Griffin
Kurt Hammel
Natalie Mannino
Renata Morey-Greer
Ben Moss
Zack Murphy
Charles Paul

