

FRANCIS W. PARKER CHARTER ESSENTIAL SCHOOL
& THEODORE R. SIZER TEACHERS CENTER
49 ANTIETAM ST, DEVENS, MA 01434
TELEPHONE (978) 772-3293 FAX (978) 772-3295 www.parker.org

Friday Announcements

Date: February 2, 2007

Dear Parker Families,

We have news, very good news.

When Parker moved to 49 Antietam Street in September, 2000, we were excited about the improvements over our original building: an old military spy training facility that lacked a gym, cafeteria, and even windows. But we also knew from the start that trying to squeeze a 370 student middle/high school into an old elementary school building would leave us short of space.

In the ensuing years, Parker's faculty has been enormously resourceful. Offices were turned to classrooms, storage closets into offices, and storage moved to the hallways or teachers' cars and homes. Hallway floors and the parking lot are used as breakout classroom space. Some rooms are triple booked—holding at the same time a regular class, a second class using the computers, and teachers working at their desks during their planning time.

None of these solutions, however, are appropriate or viable on a permanent basis, and for the past six years, Parker's administration and Board of Trustees has been searching for an affordable solution to our pressing need for classroom space. Today we are delighted to announce that we have found one.

The Wachusett Regional School District is selling Parker a two-story classroom addition containing 13 classrooms. The modular construction of the unit enables it to be disassembled at Wachusett, transported to Parker, and reassembled here. The addition is just a few years old and has some large science labs. The quality of the classroom space is superior to that in our current building.

Our preliminary cost estimates call for a total budget of about \$2 million, less than a third of what these classrooms would have cost to build new. If all goes as planned, they should be ready for occupancy by December of 2007. Construction work will begin at Parker in June, once the students have left for summer vacation.

Over the next few months, we will be communicating in a variety of ways to keep you abreast of this wonderful opportunity and the ways you can help. In the meantime, enjoy the good news.

Sincerely,

Anne G. Perkins, Chair
For the Parker Board of Trustees:

William Allen, Deborah Chamberlain, Kathleen Cushman, Jack Donahue, Chet Gapinski, Ann Glannon, Diane Kruse, Brenton Kulik, Heidi Kulik, Peter MacDonald, Andy Perkins, Patricia Underwood, Laura Rogers, Teri Schrader, Daphne Shethar, Kathy Singh

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January 23, 2007

Teriann Schrader of the Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School was recently informed by the Commissioner of Education of an upcoming Department of Education Coordinated Program Review. As part of this Coordinated Program Review, Department staff will visit Parker School during the week of February 26 through March 2nd 2007. Such visits are routinely conducted by the Department to satisfy federal and state requirements for the periodic review of specific education programs and services in schools throughout the Commonwealth. The Department is reviewing several programs during a single visit in order to use Department and school staff's time most efficiently and to encourage strong connections among the programs.

The Department's Coordinated Program Review will address the following programs: Special Education and Civil Rights. After reviewing the school's procedures for these programs, a Department of Education team will make its onsite visit, during which it will review individual student records, interview administrators, teachers and parents, and observe instructional sites. After the onsite visit it will prepare a report for the Charter School Leader and Board of Trustees, with detailed findings for each program and an Executive Summary.

Using a scale of ratings ranging from "Commendable" to "Not Implemented," the report will rate the implementation of each requirement reviewed by the Department of Education. Where requirements are found less than substantially implemented, the charter school must propose to the Department of Education corrective action to bring those areas into compliance with statutes and regulations. Districts and schools are encouraged to incorporate the corrective action into their district and school improvement plans and professional development plan. The charter school may request technical assistance from the Department of Education in developing a corrective action plan. Both the Department's report and the corrective action plan are public information and will be available to the public upon request. Program Review Final Reports are also available on the Department's Internet website at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/pqa/review/cpr/reports/>.

Any member of the public may request to be interviewed by telephone by a member of the Department's visiting team. Those wishing to be interviewed should call the Principal's office at (978) 772 3293 no later than Thursday February 15, 2007 to leave their name and phone number, or they may call the Department of Education at (781) 338-3747. A member of the visiting team will contact each person desiring an interview within two weeks after the completion of the onsite visit. If an individual is not comfortable communicating in English or requires some other accommodation, the Department will make arrangements to communicate appropriately with the individual.

Teriann Schrader, Principal of Francis Parker Charter School indicated that she is confident that the Program Review will be a useful and positive experience for staff members and that the report will be useful in planning for the continued improvement of educational services for all students.

Attention Junior Parents

Parker has a wonderful tradition in which the parents of the students in the Junior class plan and host the reception following Graduation. This year, Graduation is on **Wednesday, June 6th**. Although it's cold out now and June seems a long way off, it is time to begin the preparations. We will be having our first planning meeting on Thursday morning, February 8th at 8:00 a.m. at the school. Please come! If you have any questions, please contact Isabel Geller at Isgell@aol.com.

Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School
& Theodore R. Sizer Teachers Center

AGENDA: BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 6, 2007, 6pm, Room 27, Parker School

- 6:00 I. **Greetings, introductions, approval of minutes--Andy**
Board Action: Vote on 1/16/07 minutes
- 6:05 II. **FY07 Budget Update – Michelle, Kathy**
- 6:15 III. **Parker Way/Classroom Campaign – Ann, Andy, Kathleen**
Board Action: Vote on naming opportunities for classroom campaign
- 6:45 IV. **Data on Parker Teacher Turnover--Teri**
- 7:15 V. **Principal’s Report – Teri (including 2006-07 principal goals)**
- 7:30 VI. **Classroom Addition – Rick, Bill**
- 7:45 VII. **Executive Session**
Board Action: Roll-call vote on whether or not to go into executive session
“To consider real estate transactions since an open meeting would undermine the school’s negotiating position”
- 8:00 **MEETING ADJOURNED**

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6.

COMING SOON

February, 2007

- Friday, 2 – Parker Literary Magazine launch at 4:30 in the Auditorium
Tuesday, February 6 – Lottery drawing at 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, 6 – Trustees Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 7 – Junior Parents College Night at 7:00 p.m. for Anthony’s Tom’s and Clay’s advisories
Thursday, 8 – Graduation Reception meeting for Junior class parents at 8:00 a.m.

CALENDAR

PLEASE MARK THESE DATES! (Subject to change)

February, 2007 (Cont.)

- Thursday, February 15 – Junior Parents College Night at 7:00 p.m. for Josie’s or March’s advisories
Friday, 16 – Gateway celebration
Friday, 16 – Early Release (noon dismissal)
Monday, 19 – President’s Day (no school)
Tuesday, 20 – Friday, 23 - Winter Recess

March, 2007

Tuesday, 6 – Trustees Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 7 - Spring Conference Day (no classes)
Sunday, 11 – Daylight Savings Time begins
Wednesday, 14 – Noon Dismissal - Faculty Planning

Subscribe to Parker community email lists!

We use the Parker Listserv to post announcements and reminders about life at Parker.

FWPaaa is the Parker community email list for general announcements.

FWPsports is Parker's email list for sports-related announcements.

Subscribe at <http://lists.parker.org/mailman/listinfo/>

VOLUNTEER HOURS – 1028.75 hours and counting

A very big thank you to all our volunteer helpers who give so much of their time to the Parker School in so many different ways. Please make sure to log in your volunteer hours on to the Parker website or send to Bridgit so that she may log them on for you.. We need this information for our Annual Report. Thank you.

***‘BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION’ AND ‘CARTRIDGES FOR KIDS’
FUND RAISER***

Parents, please help our school raise money, we are collecting boxtops for education and cartridges for kids. There will be boxes in the lobby where you can deposit these items. Cartridges for kids accepts ink cartridges, laser cartridges, used cell phones and accessories, lap tops with power cords, and PDA's. You can find boxtops on products that most of us already buy. If you could clip them and send them into the school that would be a great way for us to raise money. For more information on either of these programs, please go to www.cartridgesforkids.com or www.boxtops4education.com.

Thank you

To all the parents and families who helped out at our Sunday Information Sessions in January – Thank You! We appreciate all the anonymous donors of baked goods and finger foods, as well as the parents who volunteered throughout the afternoon. Thanks to Bob Amici, Beth Stadnicki-Verhyen, Karen Kazanjian, John and Cathy Lindbeck, Karen Kane, Laura Giard, Carol Swanson, Ann Nieva, Paula Turnbull, Denise Carr, Sarah and Tom Lemaire, Amy Emma, Maryellen Grady, Chris Gagnon, Isabel Geller, Ann Walsh, Lori Champine, Louise Knight, Colleen Kelly, Judy Formanek, Susan Dumas, Linda and David Cass, Lisa Noyes, Abigail Jurist-Levy, Shari Bennett, Carrie Juma, Carole Helwig, Gale Rossi, Leslie Brew, Pat Anderson, Bill Ossmann, Sheila Hayward, Jen Ablard, Debbie White, Linda DiPalma, Andrea Carman, Claudia Shoemaker, Dorcas Sefton, and anyone else who helped on Sunday but whose name was accidentally omitted here.

Many thanks to the family of Mitchel Tepe for their donation of batteries and cough drops, to the family of Kayleigh Kane for their donation of 3-ring binders and to the numerous families that have donated food and drink to the Literary Magazine launch.

From the Nurse: I want to thank the Verhulst family for their donation of tissues, to the family of Ian Senge for their donation of crackers and to the unknown family who donated tissues.

Can You Help?

- **Double and triple A batteries for Division II MST**
- **Crackers and tissues for the Nurse's office**
- **Ginger ale for upset stomachs in the Nurse's office.**

FROM THE COLLEGE COUNSELOR

Junior Parent College Admissions Information Night will take place in February.

To keep the groups small:

For parents of students in Anthony's, Tom's and Clay's advisories, the date is **Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m.**
For parents of students in Josie's or March's advisories, the date is **Thursday, February 15, also at 7:00 p.m.**

Thursday, March 8 is the snow date for both. If you can't come on your advisory's date, it is fine to switch.

UPDATE FROM DIVISION III

News of March's Division 3 Classes

Though it has only been a two-day week at the beginning of the new semester, students have been busy and productive. Printmaking has been creating potato prints focusing on positive and negative space. They have been carving designs or images into the flat surface of a split potato. They have been asked to create an image in black and then by carving the potato differently making the same image in white.

The Watercolor class is learning that water is their friend. Allowing paint to blossom, letting the water do the work of spreading the paint. They also have been focusing on extending the paint with water and understanding the translucent nature of the medium.

In World Drama we read Paula Vogel's play 'The Baltimore Waltz' aloud in preparation to see another of Vogel's works 'How I Learned To Drive' in Boston next week. We will soon be starting Ibsen's 'A Dolls House' and students will be asked to create an annotated script of the play for a reading assessment.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Arts and Humanities – Division II

This week, students finished their OPs. Students also handed in their research work. Students should make sure to get revisions of these projects done in the next couple of weeks before Unit III begins. This wrapup of major projects comes as we begin our new Memorial project; donations of Cellophane, Saran Wrap, Tinfoil, and Glue Guns are still very much needed and will be appreciated. Parents should be aware that the next week will involve paint; students should be careful not to wear clothing that can't survive in heavily-crafted environment!

MATH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Math, Science and Technology – Division I

This week we have been starting to look at the carbon cycle and how it ties into the greenhouse effect and global warming. In preparation for COW#10 “CO2 and YOU” we have been trying to understand the greenhouse effect and the carbon cycle as systems and the effects human activities have on those systems. COW#10 goes out today, Friday February 2nd. In it students will be using the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Personal Emissions Calculator to try to obtain an estimate of their family’s CO2 emissions. To do this effectively they will need the support and involvement of parents. Do you know how much CO2 emissions your household is responsible for? This weekend spend some time working with your Division 1 student to find out. Then see what changes you can make that will reduce the CO2 emissions. During the week students will be working on the math to calculate percentage decreases and effective use of pie charts. They will also be doing labs to actually measure and compare CO2 emissions from different sources including car exhausts. COW #10 is due back Friday, February 9th.

Math, Science and Technology – Division II

This week we have been finishing up our units on Physical/Chemical Properties and Systems of Inequalities. Students completed a lab where they calculated and then tested how dissolving a solute in water changed its boiling point. They are finishing or will soon finish their math assessment, ‘The Cookie Factory,’ where they find a maximum profit based on a system of constraints. We are moving into disease. We are looking at how disease effects the body and how it spreads, and we are modeling it using exponential functions. Specifically, we are looking at the interesting relationship between Malaria and Sickle Cell Anemia, and how it affects populations.

WELLNESS

Deborah’s Wellness Class:

This week in Deborah's Health class we had a slight schedule change, Dr Shear needed to reschedule to next week. In his place, we focused on binge drinking, alcohol poisoning and recognizing the signs and symptoms of substance issues. In physical activity classes we mixed and matched team hand ball and fitness activities focusing on upper body strength.

Laura’s Wellness Class:

This week in Wellness we played wiffle ball and 2-ball soccer. In Health class we discussed the negative health effects of tobacco on the body as well as how tobacco companies target teens to start smoking through deceptive marketing techniques. The students also made posters highlighting the effects of marijuana on the body and the brain.

NEWS FROM FRANK’S CAFE

Monday: Stuffed Shells, Salad, Fruit and Milk

Tuesday: Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Veggie Burgers, Potato Wedges, Fruit and Milk

Wednesday: Pizza Day

Thursday: Broccoli and Cheese Calzones, Salad, Fruit and Milk

Friday: Open Faced Hot Turkey Sandwiches, Vegetarian Turkey Sandwiches, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Fruit & Milk

FROM THE NURSE’S OFFICE

It is time for Postural Screening again!

In the first couple of weeks in February, I will be doing postural screening for those students in grades 7-9. This will be done during Wellness classes. Please have girls bring in a sports bra or a bathing suit top.

SPORTS UPDATE

Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Parker Team</u>	<u>Practice/Game</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dismissal from class</u>	<u>Bus Leaves</u>	<u>Game Time</u>	<u>Pick-up</u>
Mon., Feb. 5	Boys Varsity	Practice	SMS			4:45	6:15 at SMS
	Girls Varsity	Practice	SMS			4:45	6:15 at SMS
	Boys JV	Away vs. Groton School	See web	2:35	2:45	3:30	5:00 at school
	Girls JV	Practice	School			3:30	5:00 at school
	Boys MS	Home vs. Murdock	LW		3:40	5:00	6:00 at LW
	Girls MS	Home vs. Murdock	LW		3:40	4:00	5:00 at LW
Tues., Feb. 6	Boys Varsity	Home vs. Bethany Christian	SMS			4:45	6:15 at SMS
	Girls Varsity	Home vs. Bethany Christian	SMS	2:20		3:15	4:45 at SMS
	Boys JV	Practice	School			6:00	7:30 at school
	Girls JV	Practice	LW			4:00	5:30 at LW
	Boys MS	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school
	Girls MS	Practice	School			4:45	6:00 at school
Weds., Feb. 7	Boys Varsity	Practice	School			2:00	4:00 at school
	Girls Varsity	Practice	OH			2:00	4:00 at OH
	Boys JV	No practice					
	Girls JV	Away vs. Groton School	See web	1:05	1:15	2:00	3:30 at school
	Boys MS	No practice					
	Girls MS	No practice					
Thurs., Feb. 8	Boys Varsity	Practice	SMS			4:45	6:15 at SMS
	Girls Varsity	Away vs. University Park	See web	2:05	2:15	5:00	7:15 at school
	Boys JV	Practice	SMS			4:45	6:15 at SMS
	Girls JV	Away vs. University Park	See web	2:05	2:15	3:30	7:15 at school
	Boys MS	Practice	School			4:45	6:00 at school
	Girls MS	Practice	School			3:30	4:45 at school
Fri., Feb. 9	Boys Varsity	Practice	SMS			4:45	6:15 at SMS
	Girls Varsity	Practice	LW			4:00	6:00 at LW
	Boys JV	Away vs. Groton/Dunstable	Twomey Center	2:50	3:00	4:00	5:45 at school
	Girls JV	Practice	School			3:30	5:00 at school
	Boys MS	Away vs. Ayer	Ayer H. S.	2:35	2:45	3:30	5:45 at school
	Girls MS	Away vs. Ayer	Ayer H. S.	2:35	2:45	4:30	5:45 at school

LW = Lura White School

SMS = Shirley Middle Sch.

OH = Orchard Hills

Varsity Baseball Coach Needed:

Anyone interested in coaching the Varsity Baseball Team at Parker this spring should contact Ben at bbenoit@parker.org or (978) 772-3293 X114.

ATTENTION: LOST WOMAN'S COAT

Have you seen a woman's long black wool button down coat, with a velvet lined hood. It was last seen draped over a cardboard box on the table near the door in Room 1, during a Gateway presentation last Thursday. Has anyone taken it home by mistake? Please call the front office if you have seen it.

***PARKER/WACHUSETT SKI PROGRAM
BEGAN ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2007***

The ski program has begun. If school is canceled, skiing is also canceled. In the event of poor weather or other events that require cancellation, notice will be posted at the Parker School Office by 11:00 a.m. on the day in question and an email will be sent to the "Parker School List Server." If a cancellation occurs, it is the responsibility of the parent to arrange pick-up of the student and his/her equipment, at the end of the school day. Makeup sessions will be scheduled later in the season if cancellations occur.

Students purchasing the six-session Parker lift pass and riding the bus will be given their lift pass on the bus each Thursday.

Departure and Return Times

The bus will leave Parker promptly at 3:40 p.m. It will be the students' responsibility to get their equipment and themselves onto the bus quickly after school. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each trip and verified before returning. No notice is required if a student is unable to attend for any reason. Any student who fails to make the bus on time will be assumed to have canceled, and will be required to make his/her own alternative arrangements to get home.

The bus will leave Wachusett Mountain for the return trip to Parker at 8:00 p.m. sharp. The buses will arrive at the Parker School at 8:30 p.m. - John Poikonen, Ski Program Coordinator

The school will not be open, so please - be on time (8:30 p.m.) picking-up your student!



Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Week Feb 7th - 14th 2007

The Awareness Week is sponsored by Parent Project

Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD), a national nonprofit organization that is a key resource for those affected by Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD). Awareness Week purposefully falls around Valentine's Day because PPMD wants to remind the world that YOUR HEART IS A MUSCLE TOO!

Emily Colligan is basing her senior project around Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and as a benefit she is organizing and running the HOPE HEARTS Fundraiser.

People can buy a personally hand decorated heart and write a message of encouragement, hope or love for a friend or loved one. That heart will then be hung up in the front windows of the school for everyone to see. Not sure if someone bought you a HOPE HEART? Just look on the front windows....

HOPE HEARTS will be sold for \$1 and all the money raised goes towards research for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Not sure what D.M.D is? Well.....

- It is an inherited, X-linked recessive disorder characterized by rapidly progressive muscle weakness which starts in the legs and pelvis and later affects the whole body.
- The disorder is caused by mutation in a gene coding for the muscle protein dystrophin. D.M.D is the most common form of muscular dystrophy.
- It usually affects only boys, but in rare cases it can also affect girls.
- Currently there is no cure for D.M.D.
- There is short term treatment like physical therapy and/or surgery.

For more information on donating to the Parent Project or information on D.M.D visit **parentprojectmd.org**

April, 2007

- 3 – Trustees Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 6 – Early Release (noon dismissal)
- 13 – Early Release (noon dismissal)
- 16 – Patriot's Day (no school)
- 17 – 20 - Spring Recess

May, 2007

- 15 – Trustees Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 25 – Early Release (noon dismissal)
- 25 - Senior/Junior Prom
- 28 – Memorial Day (no school)

June, 2007

- 6 – Noon dismissal - Graduation (6:00 p.m.)**
- 19 – Trustees Meeting at 6:00 p.m.
- 22 – Last Day of Classes (or earlier if we have fewer than 5 snow days).

We are required to schedule 185 days of school but we are only required to conduct 180 days of school. Faculty planning days take place in August, January and June. 25, 26, 27 – Faculty Work Days (or earlier)

(9/05/06)