

June 19, 2008

THE PINK LINK

A Near-Weekly Publication of the Peirce PTO

Absent/Tardy: (617) 559-9650

Peirce Office: (617) 559-9630

<http://www.k12.newton.ma.us/Peirce/>

Patience Equality Inclusion Responsibility Cooperation Effort

Calendar

June

- 19 Last Day of School for Students – 12Noon Dismissal
20 Last Day of School for Teachers

September

- 2 First Day of School for Teachers
4 First Day of School for Students & Group A Kindergartners
4 Parent Coffee for New & Kindergarten Families, 8:30AM Library
5 First Day of School for Group B Kindergartners
5 Parent Coffee for New & Kindergarten Families, 8:30AM Library
8 Day Middle School Back to School Picnic
10 Back to School Picnic
16 Curriculum Night K – 5th, 7:00 - 9:00PM – Auditorium
24 Day Middle School Curriculum Night
29 Long Days begins for Kindergartners
30 Rosh Hashanah – No School

Principal's Letter

Dear Peirce Families,

Celebrating Student Learning:

With summer vacation just days away, I pause to reflect on the wonderful year we have had at Peirce School. Our faculty has worked closely together to offer your children an enriching, supportive school experience. We have all tremendously enjoyed working with your children and were so glad to see most of you at our Progressfolio Sharing celebrations this week. The teachers engaged children in reviewing and thoughtfully reflecting on their year's work. We hope you enjoyed reading your children's reflections on their own learning and growth. The children thoughtfully participated in choosing work samples that they felt offered evidence of their learning. We do hope you were as proud of their efforts as we were!

Congratulations to Lisa Erdekian for her skill in helping your children express their artistic talents. The *Art Show* exhibited a variety of pieces reflecting the range of media experiences your children engage in. What fun it was to examine the 'bottle people' as we tried to match students and staff to figures. There was a tremendous amount of creativity displayed from clay figures to self-portraits to still life and more!

As was evident through the inspiring vocal and instrumental music concerts K - 5, the Art Show, and from the excitement and enthusiasm displayed on Color Day, the Physical, Health & Wellness and Fine Arts programs are very strong at Peirce. In addition to our gifted classroom and special education teachers, our specialist teachers bring out talents and skills that supplant and augment our academic program. I am honored to work with colleagues who bring out the best in our children!

Our Parent Community:

The faculty, staff, and I want you to know how appreciative we are of all the incredible support we have had from you throughout the year. We thank you for making time in your very busy lives to help out in so many ways whether in school or from home. From volunteering in classrooms and library, to chaperoning on field trips to serving on the many PTO committees, parents offer so much energy, enthusiasm, and financial support to our school. Peirce would not be the rich and vibrant community that it is without all of the parents, teachers, and staff who work together to make this school the very special place that it is. We are fortunate indeed!

PTO Members and Leadership:

On behalf of the school, I offer special thanks to our fearless PTO Tri-Presidents Robin Davis, Janice Copley and Karen O'Reilly who have done an outstanding job, along with PTO Board members, in leading the many PTO efforts. Their on-going dedication, genuine kindness and interest in engaging all members of our community make them a special group.

It is time to bid a very fond adieu to Robin as she has finished her term as PTO President. Robin has served selflessly these last two years, working tirelessly to benefit the good of the community. From her assistance in bringing the modulars with landscaping to Peirce to ensuring that the school has its needs met for technology, creative arts, classroom materials and more, Robin has been so completely caring and attentive. Thank you so very much, Robin, for all your dedicated work and support!

Next year, we welcome Jody Klein who will join Janice Copley and Karen O'Reilly as the PTO Tri-Presidents. I am sure they will be a great team as they forge on to enhance our playgrounds and to carry on with the efforts and vision in place for our school.

Departing Families:

Several of our families will or have left Peirce School this year as students graduate or move on to other schools or communities. Thank you to the following families for all you have contributed to the Peirce community and best wishes as you venture forth! A fond farewell to these students and their families:

Abers, Abraham, Abrams, Abramson, Barrow, Bilotta, Carlen, Daniels, Jacks, deBairos, Derby, Edge, Gandhi, Hamann-Larner, Heilbron, Hoffman, McLennan-Mayanja, Lundberg, Nanduri, Resnick, Reuman, Riley, Sawhney, Seaward, Smith, Taylor, Wei, Wing, and Zimmerman.

A reminder: class placement lists and information will be e-mailed home the last week of August.

I wish you a most relaxing, safe, and enjoyable summer vacation. I look forward to seeing you again in September!

My best,

Eva Thompson

School News

PEIRCE SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

The election process for the two School Council vacancies has come to a close. On behalf of the school community I offer thanks to each of the four candidates for considering this important role. Any of the four would have been a welcome addition. Earlier this week and in the midst of voting, Aprel McCabe withdrew her name as she reevaluated the time she could devote to this position.

I am pleased to share that we are fortunate to have **Jen Goldstein and Laurie Palepu** joining the School Council next year. We did have strong participation with 148 ballots submitted. Thank you to all who took the time to cast your ballot, especially at such a busy time of year. Jen and Laurie join Jen Shore as parent representatives. Gennie Bain and Martha Mitchell are currently serving as teacher members with Joanne Malouf, from EDP, serving as the community representative.

This year, the School Council conducted a survey to gain feedback from the school community regarding their thoughts and perceptions of the school. The Council is in the process of analyzing the survey results and is preparing both a comprehensive synopsis of the results as well as a straightforward version.

There are some clear themes that have surfaced: concerns about math, bullying/teasing behaviors during recess, and supervision during lunch recess, to name the prominent ones. We are anxious to share our findings and are still in the process of summarizing the results. We will send results along to you as soon as they are ready (in a week or two) via e-mail.

The work of the Council next year will be to:

- address the themes that emerged from the survey: we have begun to think about some different ways to work with the lunch attendants and students together to build common expectations and protocols for functioning during the less structured time of lunch and recess.
- review and update the School Improvement Plan (SIP): we are in our final year of a three year plan. The SIP will reflect how we address the survey results such as concerns about math.
- address any other areas of import

Parental participation is vital as the Council tries to represent the interests of the school community and concerns on behalf of the student body. We will continue to publish the summary of the minutes in the Pink Link, as we have in the past.

Have a great summer!

The Peirce School Council

LIBRARY NEWS - The K - 5 recommended summer reading list is now available at http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Technology/library_media/index.html. Print copies are also available to guide you as you browse at the Newton Free Library Children's room and local bookstores. The summer reading list contains titles of fiction and nonfiction books. Each title has a recommended grade level range to address reading interests as well as reading abilities. Happy summer reading! - Lisa Vancans

PEIRCE EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM - Applications for the 2008 - 09 school year are available. Is your child looking for something fun to do after school next year? If you are not familiar with Peirce EDP, you may think it's only for children whose parents are working. Actually, many of the children who attend do so for the enrichment and social benefits. Did you know that you can do just one day a week if you want? The Program offers many activities both indoors and out. Thematic units, field trips, special events, a musical, and classes like skiing, woodworking, and martial arts all make PEDP a great place for kids to be! For information, stop in or call (617) 332-5881.

PTO DINING OUT FUND RAISER - Enjoy delicious food and support the Peirce School! Ariadne Restaurant, located at 344 Walnut St in Newtonville, has started the Ariadne PTO Partners Program. Five Percent of every purchase you make at Ariadne all year (even summer months) will be donated to the Peirce PTO. There is no limit to the amount that can be raised and is good on any purchase, lunch, dinner, cocktails, private parties, even take-out and gift cards. You simply write "Peirce School" on your receipt and give it to your server. Anyone can participate, so please tell family, neighbors and friends about this program. All contributions from Ariadne will go towards the Peirce playground renovations. Please check out Ariadne menus at www.ariadnerestaurant.com and happy dining!

NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ONE MILLION DOLLAR TEACHING GRANT – A million dollar grant has been awarded to the Newton Public Schools from the U.S. Department of Education under the Teaching American History Program (CFDA #84.215X). Newton is one of 121 districts in the U.S. to receive a grant award. The grant is to provide professional development to American History teachers. Margaret Spellings, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education said, "The Teaching American History grant program offers educators opportunities to work with colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, libraries or museums to learn more about our country's history, culture and democratic tradition. By providing professional development for teachers, we can help them support young people in becoming informed citizens." Newton led a collaborative of area school districts in developing the winning grant proposal. "Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness: Narrative as a Lens on History" is a 3-year professional development program for 138 teachers in Newton and 164

teachers in partnering districts and schools. These teachers serve a total of 25,692 students. The collaborative includes Brookline High School, Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, Sudbury Public Schools, Waltham Public Schools, and Watertown Public Schools. This is Newton's second federal Teaching American History award. Those providing professional development include: Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Boston University, the Education Development Center, the National Archives and Records Administration (Waltham), Museum of Fine Arts (Boston), Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University, Plimoth Plantation, the Tsongas Industrial History Center, Discovering Justice, and the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. Under the No Child Left Behind Act, history is a core subject. The Class of 2012 will be required to pass the History/Social Sciences MCAS test to graduate. The Newton Collaborative is one of 75 grantees to be conditionally awarded a 4th and 5th year of funding. If the partnership makes substantial progress in reaching its goals and Congress appropriates funding for the program in FY12 and FY13, the partnership will be able to continue for the 4th and 5th years. Ms. Adrienne Stang, a History Teacher in Newton for 13 years, has been appointed Project Director. She holds a Masters in Teaching from Brown University and received her Bachelor's from Princeton University.

For more info: Susan Linn, Newton Public Schools Grants Coordinator at (617) 559-9038 or susan_linn@newton.k12.ma.us.

5th GRADE FAMILIES - IS YOUR CHILD MOVING ON TO F.A. DAY NEXT YEAR? - If so, welcome to our community! Please visit www.daypto.org to:

- **Join our email list** and receive important school information throughout the year
- **Provide contact information** to be included in the school directory, and
- **Become a member of the PTO!**

Contact the Day PTO Co-Presidents, Benita Danzing, Marion Golin and Suzanne Barrow, with any questions at copresidents@daypto.org.

Community News

HONOR THY TEACHER ... OR PRINCIPAL, OR CROSSING GUARD, OR ??? - Are you looking for a meaningful way to show your gratitude to the teacher who spent the extra time, the administrator who went the extra mile, or the support staff member who encouraged and inspired your child? Take part in the Newton Schools Foundation's 11th annual 'Honor Thy Teacher' campaign. This year the Foundation distributed approximately \$200,000, and over \$2.5 million since inception, in grants to teachers and others who work with your children. These grants provide programs and materials not covered in the budget. Over the years, over 450 grants have impacted all students in all schools through all curriculum areas. As a result, our schools have piloted innovative initiatives including: interactive technology such as SmartBoards, cutting edge curriculum such as SIMMS, advanced professional development in the use of technology in curriculum delivery and the training of over 150 volunteer math tutors for the elementary schools. Without Newton School Foundation's grants, these things simply would not happen. Each spring families are invited to pause and think about school personnel who have made a difference in their child's life. Honor that special teacher or educator by making a donation to the Newton Schools Foundation. Honored teachers receive a card of thanks in the donor's name. Also your child and the community sees the honored teacher celebrated in the annual "Honor Thy Teacher" spread in the Newton TAB. Checks may be made out to "Newton Schools Foundation" and mailed, with name, school and teacher to be honored, to: Newton Schools Foundation, 100 Walnut Street, Newton, MA 02460 www.newtonschoolsfoundation.org (617) 559-6120 or nsinfo@newton.k12.ma.us.

CLASSIC MOVIES UNDER THE STARS - This summer's film series kicks off Friday June 20th at 8:15PM with the classic "Casablanca" on the Hyde Playground, 90 Lincoln Street, Newton Highlands. Before the screening, at 7:30PM, Boston Globe Film Critic Ty Burr will speak about "Casablanca" and other movie classics. Bring your film questions, beach chairs and appetite because Citrio of Newton Highlands will be providing free ice cream to all. "Dr. Strangelove" is waiting in the wings, and will be screened July 25th at 8PM. Questions? Contact John at (617) 201-7088 or director@hydecenter.org

ROCK CLIMBING LESSONS FOR EVERYONE - Experience the thrills and techniques of rock climbing with a certified American Mountain Guide Association climbing guide. David Ettlinger, a 2nd grade teacher in Newton, has 9 years of climbing experience and offers single or multiple lessons for beginners or experienced climbers

alike on real outdoor rock. Sign up for private or group lessons. Great for families. Age minimum is 7 years old. All gear is provided. Call for more details: (617) 254-6993 or david_ettlinger@newton.k12.ma.us

NEWTON COMMUNITY ED SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR KIDS - Newton Community Ed has openings left in many of our summer programs. We have **Clay Workshop** the weeks of June 30, July 7 and July 14; **Club Invention** the weeks of July 28 and August 4, **Wicked Cool Science** the weeks of July 7 and 14, **Domino Physics** the weeks of July 14 and 21, **Marble Machine Madness** the week of July 28, **NewKids Cabaret** July 7 - 18, **Origami Intensive** the week of July 21, **Game Creators** the week of July 28, and **Archery** the week of August 18. If you're entering grade 6 we have **Architecture Studio** the week of June 23, a great new program that is new this summer. There is **Soccer** and **Multi Sports** all summer long. Last but not least we are still taking registrations for **Camp Innovations**, the weeks of August 11 and 14. For more information or to register, visit our website at www.newtoncommunityed.org, or call us at (617) 559-6999.

THE NEWTON-BEIJING SCHOOL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH NNHS AND NSHS - Since 1979, the oldest Chinese High School exchange program in the U.S. Please host a Beijing Student or teacher in the fall. Info: Donna_Fong@newton.k12.ma.us or (617) 559-6731.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE NEWTON HISTORY MUSEUM - *Thursday, June 19, 5 – 7PM:* "Peeking into Newton's Toy Chest, opening reception. What do toys teach us? What are the values and lessons that toy-makers and gift-givers seek to instill in youngsters? This exhibit highlights items from the museum's collection that evoke these questions, as it asks visitors to consider possible answers. Light refreshments served. *Sunday June 22, 2PM:* A Family Program: History Scavenger Hunt. Bring your family to Newton Centre to test and expand your knowledge of Newton. Use old maps and photos to find important sites, learn about their historic significance and claim your prize at the end. Call (617) 796-1450 for the meeting place and to register. Free. *Thurs. June 24, 7PM:* Inaugural Meeting of the History Book Club, focusing on social history titles. Come to this informational meeting, when the title of the first book will be announced and a date set for the first discussion meeting in September. Free. Unless otherwise noted, all events at 527 Washington Street (617) 796-1450.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Newton's Child Assault Prevention (CAP) program is seeking volunteers. Each year CAP volunteer Prevention Specialists working in teams of 3, present 125 workshops to students in Newton's K, second and fifth grade classrooms. CAP volunteers include parents, grandparents, retirees and other community members who are interested in child safety, and who can contribute 6 hours per month for one school year, October - May. For more information, please call Gail Sommer, (617) 969-5906, ext. 143 or email, gsommer@ncscweb.org or visit the CAP page on our website at www.ncscweb.org

SUZUKI SCHOOL OF NEWTON - Come try our introductory level courses for ages 6 - 9 at the Suzuki School of Newton. Our **Introduction to Suzuki** (4-day morning classes) is available for the aspiring violin, piano or cello players during the month of July. For our youngest students, try our **Introduction to Early Beginners** (Aug 25 - 27) course available in violin, piano, cello and pennywhistle for ages 4 - 6. Private lessons on all Suzuki instruments are available for all ages by appointment. A **Parent Information night** will be held June 18th from 7:30 to 8:30PM. For more information visit www.suzukinewton.org or call (617) 964-4522.

SUMMER BASEBALL/NEWTON WEST - Once again it is time for Summer Baseball. Newton West runs an intramural league for children 7 to 9 years old (10 yr olds who are new to baseball). This is a relaxed league for improving and having fun. All games are played weeknights (Mondays – Thursdays) and the season runs from July 7th through August 14th. In order to form balanced teams, evaluations will be held at Lyons field on Saturday, June 21st (rain date: Sunday, June 22nd). Times are staggered, with 7 year olds at 9:00AM, 8 year olds at 10:00, and 9 year olds at 11:00. Additional information and online registration is available at <http://www.newtonwestll.org>

BASKETBALL CLINIC - GWA and Excel Basketball are offering instructional-based basketball clinics for girls ages 9 – 17. Participants will learn proper shooting form, various ball-handling moves, passing techniques, and much more. Players have the option to work with participants based on similar skill level or by age. Coach Roberts, a Sports Hall of Fame inductee of The Ohio State Buckeyes Women's Basketball program and NCAA Division I Final Four MVP will lead the clinics. She is also the Head Basketball Coach at Boston Latin School. Contact Coach Roberts at Robertsgwa@aol.com for questions. Register at www.girlswinacademy.org. Clinics will be held at: Oak Hill Middle School, Newton, August 4 – 7

TWO AUTUMN KINDERGARTEN SOCCER PROGRAMS: (Program #1) Garden City Kindergarten and Pre-K Fall Soccer registration begins June 16th. Pre-K kids (4-5 years old) and those entering Kindergarten in September are invited to join. GCKS introduces kids to the game of soccer, teaching skills in a fun, non-competitive environment. Team sizes limited to 10. League registration limited to 80. Season runs Sept. 6 to Nov. 1. Practice/games on Saturdays 9:30 - 10:30 for the Kindergarten league, 10:45 - 11:45 for the Pre-K league. Games are held at Burr School on Pine Street in Auburndale. Volunteer coaches needed. No experience necessary and will train. Cost: \$60/child. GCKS is a joint venture of Lincoln-Eliot and Franklin Schools' PTO and proceeds benefit both PTOs. Registration deadline is August 15th. To register: email gardencitysoccer@gmail.com. Registration forms also on both schools' websites: www.lepto.org or www.franklinpto.org. For more info call Lincoln-Eliot parent Melanie Varady at (617) 244-5773 or Franklin School parent Deb Rooney at (617) 630-8520. **(Program #2) Kindergarten Soccer** Boys and girls entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2008 are welcome to join the program that has introduced Newton children to soccer since 1993. The focus is on fun, introducing soccer, and developing confidence. Teams are usually organized by elementary school, so it's a great opportunity to meet other families from your school and give your child a chance to make friends. We play Saturday mornings at 9:30AM, September 13 through November 8 (except 10/11), at Zervas School Field and nearby Richardson Field. The \$60 fee includes a team t-shirt as well as an end-of-program medal. Information and registration at www.kindergartensoccer.org Questions? email: ksoccer@kindergartensoccer.org or call (617) 527-9238. Registrations after August 13 are accepted on a space-available basis.

MASTERS OF KARATE SUMMERTIME SPECIALS – Attend July and August group classes and receive September classes for free (\$90.00 savings). **2 for 1 Summer Special:** 2 students pay 1 registration and uniform fee when registering for July and August classes (\$100.00 savings). **Attend 1 week of Summer Camp** (July 7 - 11 or 14 - 18) and receive 1 month (September) group classes with uniform for free ((\$140.00 savings). Contact: Sensei Matt Goodwin, 4th degree black belt, with 15 years experience teaching Kempo Karate to children and adults. 103M Union St. Newton Centre, (617) 527-4482.

BOSTON AREA CULTURAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JUNE:

- Special exhibits from India, New Zealand, Japan, Korea, and Native Americans on display through June at the Peabody Essex Museum.
- If you can't get to China, but would like to see the Yangtze and Three Gorges Dam, "China Today on Film: Up the Yangtze" is playing at the MFA starting June 6, for two weekends.
- The Chinese Historical Society will conduct a walking historical tour of Boston's Chinatown on June 7, July 5, Aug 2, Sept 6 and Oct 4.
- For a family affair - Lantern Festival at Forest Hills Cemetery July 17, 6 – 9PM.
- A special, hands-on exhibit from Hangzhou, China, Children's Museum now through summer.

Classifieds

MARTHA'S VINEYARD SUMMER RENTAL - 30% Off! Katama home with Edgartown Bay / South Beach Ocean Views in beautiful Edgartown Bay Road Neighborhood. Walk to either Edgartown Bay or South Beach. Edgartown Bay Road intersects with bicycle path and beach entrance! Rent this 4 Bedroom/2 Full Bath home. Sleeps 10. Owned by Peirce family. Call Ken at (617) 510-7042. Still available weeks beginning July 5th and July 12th

BOWEN COOPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL - Preschool teacher opening for September 2008 in the 3 - Day Classroom. The 3 - Day Classroom hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00AM to 11:30AM and additional hours for set up are required. The 3 - Day Class is comprised of 16 children, an assistant teacher and a parent helper (all parents rotate). Bowen Cooperative is a non-profit, private preschool serving a diverse range of students ages 2.9 - 5. We provide a warm, nurturing, and stimulating environment where children can grow socially, emotionally, and cognitively. We offer competitive salary as well as professional development opportunities. Preschool teachers with early childhood experience are encouraged to apply by sending a letter of interest, resume, and three references to Barbara Cleary at bac1023@aol.com or to Bowen Cooperative Nursery School, 96 Otis Street, Newtonville, MA 02460. Additional information about Bowen can be found at www.bowencoop.org.

EARLY LITERACY TUTOR - Pre K through grade 2. 45 and 60 minute sessions. Reasonable rates. Currently an Early Literacy Aide in the Newton Public Schools with a Masters in Reading. Please call Joanne Simpson at (617) 244-2812

SUMMER CHILDCARE - Pierce School and Newton North graduate, seeking a full-time summer babysitting job (at least 25 hours per week). References available. Also available for house and/or pet sitting. Call Laura at (617) 943-7121.

GUITAR, DRUMS, AND RECORDING ARTS LESSONS - Syracuse University music industry major and songwriter available now through August to teach drums and guitar (without having to read music) and computer recording arts in my home recording studio. All types of learners welcome! Newton South 2007 graduate lives in Newton Highlands. Call Nate Stein at (617) 803-0993.

SUMMER CHILD CARE - Former camp counselor available for summer childcare. Loves children, has taught horseback riding in the past and has own car. If interested please contact Danielle at (617) 939-7183.

PEIRCE GRADUATE AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER CHILDCARE – Responsible sitter is available for childcare during the months of July and August. Has own transportation and childcare references, loves children, and is very responsible. \$10/hour. Contact Marisa at m.fox@rivers.org.

Submissions may be made by email only to newtonpeirce@yahoo.com

Submission deadlines are Wednesdays, by 5:30pm.

For fairness and reliability, we strictly adhere to this deadline.

Coordinating Editor: Elizabeth Reilly.

Editors: Alexa Dulchinos, Lisa Gianelly, Chris McLennan-Mayanja, Roberta Martone-Pavia, Ursula Steele