

PIERCE

POINTER

GARY BUSLEPP, Principal

JUDITH GAFFREY Assistant Principal

OCTOBER 2008

DATES TO REMEMBER

PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY

Tuesday, October 7
1:00 PM Pierce Auditorium

MEAP TESTING

See Schedule inside
NOTE:

October 13, October 20
& October 27
ARE NOT LATE START MONDAY'S

PTO MEETING

Tuesday, October 21
7:00 PM Room #129

FALL FUN NIGHT

Friday, October 24
7:00 –9:00 PM

HALF DAY

Friday, October 31
Students in school
8:25-11:33 AM

POINSETTIA SALE KICKOFF

Monday, November 3



Washington

8TH GRADE PARENT MEETING WASHINGTON DC

Monday,
November 3
7:00 PM
Pierce Auditorium

VIEW
from the
OFFICE

"There are chords in every human heart that may be touched, and vibrate as they are touched. And it is the business of the teachers to do it."

-John D. Pierce

First Michigan State Superintendent (1791-1882)

Dear Pierce Parents,

Thank you for attending Back-to-School Night last month. By now all parents should have received their family password to review the on-line gradebook and their child's grades. If you were unable to attend BTSN, your password was mailed to your home.

Pierce teachers also provide parents with a "week in preview" of upcoming classwork in every class. Just logon to www.gpschools.org/pierce and click on the Homework Tab and the grade (6, 7 or 8) of your student and you will find up to date activity in every class. Just look for their respective teacher's name. The site is updated every Monday by 5:00 PM.

Promoting Safety First: A great number of Pierce students are enjoying the great fall weather by riding their bikes to school. In addition to being good exercise, I would like to draw your attention to a safety concern. There is always a lot of traffic surrounding our school each morning and at dismissal. I am amazed at the number of students who do not wear a bike helmet. I realize that some may think it is not "cool" to wear a helmet. However, accidents and head injuries are a reality for cyclists and that's not "cool" either! There is plenty of room in your child's locker for a bike helmet. Thanks for your attention to this matter and your insistence that your child ride to school with appropriate protection. This would also include a bike lock for the security of their bike.

8th Grade/Washington DC Parent Meeting: On Monday, November 3rd, Pierce 8th grade parents who will be sending their student to our nation's capitol will meet in the auditorium at 7:00PM. Corporate Travel, Mr. Benz and I will be available to review the itinerary and answer questions before the departure date of Wednesday, November 5th.

Congratulations: We are proud to announce the induction of 80 plus new members to the John D. Pierce National Junior Honor Society. Their names can be found in this edition of the Pierce Pointer.

"Hooray for Hollywood:" In addition to the Clint Eastwood sightings around the area, two Pierce students have launched their film careers. Sixth grader **Mary Margaret Bryant** will be in the children's made for TV movie *Whip It*. Seventh grader **Matthew Webb** is currently on set and will play the son of famed neuro-surgeon and Detroit native Dr. Benjamin Carson (played by Cuba Gooding, Jr.) in a TNT original released later this year. We'll keep you posted.

MEAP News: The dates for this state assessment are posted in this bulletin. Please note that there will be no late start on Mondays, October 13th, 20th and 27th. Thanks to our PTO for providing some MEAP treats on the mornings of the testing days for students.

Welcome: Pierce welcomes **Barry Novak** as one of our hall monitors. Mr. Novak also coaches girls/boys basketball and track at Pierce.

Wanted: Lunch time recess usually features some spirited soccer, basketball and touch football games. During the fall and spring months we can sure use a volunteer to assist in "officiating" some of these games. Games are informal but an extra pair of eyes go a long way in providing safe play. Please contact **Mrs. Gaffrey** if you are available.

Thank you Pierce parents and families for your continued support of our annual Magazine Sale. Your generosity continues to provide Pierce with the means to purchase and upgrade technology (ELMO's and laptops) for many classrooms.

Sincerely ,

Gary Buslepp

From the Assistant Principal's Desk

Chilly mornings, turning leaves, Halloween and MEAP testing; it's October! MEAP testing will officially begin on October 14th. All Pierce students will be tested in Language Arts and Math. Our sixth graders will be tested in Social Studies and our eighth graders will be taking the Science test.

As you know, the state requires that all MEAP testing be completed during the MEAP window. Additionally, the state has mandated the testing schedule for this year. This new schedule is printed below. Please refrain from pulling your child out of school during testing times. Participation rates play a major role in the state's assessment of our school.

Additionally, please remind your child that it is important to give the MEAP tests their full effort and attention. These scores will be used to assess your student's strengths and weaknesses and may play a role in future placement decisions. Help your student prepare for these tests by making sure he/she gets a good night sleep and eats a healthy breakfast in the morning.

On October 23rd, seventh graders will be participating in a disability awareness program and taking the district's computer competency test. **Finally, please note that October 13th, 20th and 27th will not be late start Mondays. School will open at 8:15.**

Thanks,
Judith Gaffrey
Assistant Principal

MEAP TESTING

The MEAP test window is from Tuesday, October 14th - Thursday, October 30th, 2008. Testing will take place throughout the day on those days specified below. **Please avoid pulling your child out of school on testing days.** All missed tests are made up before the close of the testing window on Thursday, October 30th. There are four different MEAP tests this year - English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Below is a tentative schedule for this testing period. All school days, including testing days will begin at 8:25AM.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>October 13</u> No Late Start Regular Bell Schedule	<u>October 14</u> MEAP Math Adjusted Bell Schedule	<u>October 15</u> Regular Bell Schedule	<u>October 16</u> MEAP ELA I Adjusted Bell Schedule	<u>October 17</u> Regular Bell Schedule
<u>October 20</u> No Late Start MEAP MATH MAKE-UP Regular Bell Schedule	<u>October 21</u> MEAP ELA II Adjusted Bell Schedule	<u>October 22</u> MEAP ELA I MAKE-UP Regular Bell Schedule	<u>October 23</u> MEAP Sci/ SocStud 7 th grade activities Adjusted Bell Schedule	<u>October 24</u> Regular Bell Schedule
<u>October 27</u> No Late Start MEAP ELA II MAKE-UP Regular	<u>October 28</u> MEAP SCI MAKE-UP MEAP SOC	<u>October 29</u> Regular Bell Schedule	<u>October 30</u> MEAP WINDOW <u>CLOSES</u>	<u>October 31</u> Regular Bell Schedule

==PTO POINTS==

I hope the school year has started well for all Pierce students and families. The PTO is already working, planning events and activities to improve the educational and social opportunities for all Pierce students.

If you have not joined the PTO or volunteered to help with our many activities, it is not too late. You can return your membership form or your volunteer form to the Pierce office. If you have misplaced those forms, I will be happy to get you another set – please just call or e-mail me. Your membership fee is 100% tax deductible as the Pierce PTO is a 501(c)(3) organization. We need your support, and we appreciate it.

PTO meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 in room 129. I encourage all parents to come to these meetings, which generally last about an hour. These meetings are a wonderful way to find out what is going on in the school and to meet the principal and other Pierce parents.

Mark Your Calendar: Our first school-wide fun night is scheduled for Friday, October 24, from 7:00-9:00 PM. We hope all students are able to attend. Please remember this event is for Pierce students only.

Thank you!

Thank you to Katie Melville and Kelee Teodecki, who have taken on the task of selling Pierce Spirit Wear this year. If you missed the opportunity to buy some spirit wear, they will be selling Spirit Wear at the Ethnic Dinner in November.

Thank you to Susan Ames, who organized the volunteers for the registration in August. Thank you as well to all who worked the registration, including Annabel Ames, Stephanie Clement, Grace Henning, Emily Jackman, Erin Melville, Kylie Rose, Ben Schneider, Sydney Srebernak, Maggie Teodecki, Mimi Teodecki, Penny Carolan, Mary Jane Cullen, Karen Phillips, Mary Weiland, Nancy Fabry, Helen Srebernak, Peri Craig, Cathie Schneider, Kiana Rose, Carol Jackman, Fran Degnan, Lynda Mlynarek, Hans Hummer, Heather Simonit, Kate Aretakis, Ann Ottenhoff, Kelee Teodecki, Lynne Roby, Katy Forcillo. Kim Corbin, Bridgit Calhoun, Cindy Aboukasm, Jenny Semansion, Allison Baker, Miriam Engstrom, Erika Baker, Tammy Ivers, Lynn Jones, Tina Simon, Kelly Fannon, Kim Bristol, Janet Ventimiglia and John Smith. As you can see, it takes a village to register Pierce students!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Karen Henning, President

Henn1230@hotmail.com or 885-6859



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

For the 31st ANNUAL
Pierce Ethnic Dinner

Thursday, November 13
6:00-8:00 PM

PARENTS:

The *driveway* and *back parking lot* at Pierce are not drop off areas for students during school hours. Mornings and afternoons are extremely busy with staff arriving and departing. For safety reasons students may be dropped off on the Pierce side of Kercheval or on either side street. Thank you for your cooperation.



P A R E N T I N F O R M A T I O N

ABSENCES FOR ILLNESS, TRIPS, ETC.

Please notify the OFFICE WHEN A STUDENT IS GOING TO BE ABSENT FOR ANY REASON. (ATTENDANCE LINE: 432-4701 IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY.) When a counselor or teacher is made aware of an absence the attendance secretary is not always informed. This results in unnecessary phone calls to your home or office.

EARLY DISMISSALS FROM SCHOOL

When a student needs to be dismissed early from school, the parent must send a signed note identifying the time and date of dismissal. This note is presented to the attendance secretary when the student arrives at school that day. A pass is given to the student, permitting him/her to leave class at the designated time. (Students will only be released to a parent, guardian or person designated on the emergency card -must be 18 years of age- coming to the school office to sign the student out.) PLEASE NOTE: STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE BUILDING WITHOUT PARENT, GUARDIAN, OR DESIGNATED PERSON ACCOMPANYING THE STUDENT.



Counselor Corner

Mrs. Cramer and Mrs. Niforos visited with all the 6th graders during Science class on September 12th. This was a great opportunity to become acquainted with the students and to remind them that counselors are available if they have any questions or concerns. Counselors are usually available from 8:00 AM – 3:50 PM and the best time for students to come is before or after school (so they don't miss class). If they have a more urgent need, they can come between classes or ask their teacher for a pass.

Please contact Mrs. Cramer or Mrs. Niforos if your child has a health concern and you did not turn in a form at registration. It is important for us to know what the concern is and how to address it if there is an incident at school. Similarly, if your child has been diagnosed with ADD, ADHD, or any other condition that might affect their ability to function successfully here and did not turn in a form at registration, please notify the counselor so that we can monitor progress and coordinate accommodations as needed.

Chris Cramer 432 4717
Angie Niforos 432 4716



Congratulations to the following students who have been selected for induction into the John D. Pierce Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society. This is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to a middle school student. The National Junior Honor Society has worked hard to bring the accomplishments of outstanding students to the attention of parents, teachers, peers and the community. Chapters in more than 6,000 middle level schools across the nation strive to give practical meaning to the Society's goals of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character.

These five ideals were considered as the basis for each one of these students selection. No student is inducted simply because of a high academic average. The National Junior Honor Society strives to recognize the total student: one who excels in all of these areas.

The standards used for their selection were:

- ◆ Leadership, Service, Citizenship, and Character—as demonstrated by activities and teacher evaluations
- ◆ Scholarship—3.5 GPA minimum

Parents from Pierce are welcome to join us for our formal induction ceremony in the Pierce Middle School auditorium on September 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. This dignified ceremony requires that gentlemen be dressed in a sport coat and tie and ladies in a dress or skirt and blouse.

It is during this ceremony that our membership will take a pledge to demonstrate those outstanding qualities that resulted in their selection. Their membership also carries a responsibility to the chapter and our school. For our chapter to be effective and meaningful, these members will live up to these responsibilities by participating in all of our chapter meetings and projects both here and within our community. Once again, on behalf of the Administration, Faculty, and Faculty Council we would like to congratulate each one of the students listed below. We are very proud of them and look forward to working with them in making Pierce Middle School a better place for all.

Bonnie Middeldorf Pierce NJHS Advisor

8th Grade members

Jacqueline Francis
Emmaline Jorgensen
Cheyenne Tate
Jaya Telang
Alexa Thompson

7th Grade Members

Annabel Ames
Bennett Aretakis
Hannah Ayrault
Christian Baker
Kimberly Barbour
Elyse Beach
Christopher Biernat
Joseph Boyle
Regan Brandt
Kylie Capps
Anthony Carrier
Alexander Cascio
Molly Clextan
Allison Cornell
Elaine Costakis
Jeannin Degnan
Francesca DiJulio
Andrew Eaton
Ian Engstrom
Noah Erickson
Jacob Esmacher

7th Grade members Continued

Nicholas Feringa
Lindsay Fisher
Megan Fleming
Victor Flynn
Rachel Forcillo
Erin Fox
Klaramari Gellci
Devyn Gilbert
Caroline Hampton
Zachary Hasenbusch
Bridget Hennessy
Grace Henning
Jane Hess
Lisa Hieftje-Conley
Ellen High
Alexander Hoffmann
Genevieve Hummer
Erin Ivers
Patrick Jackman
Patrick Jackson
Elizabeth Keys
Richard Kish
Christina Koehler
Elise Koelsch
Spencer Korejwo
Sophia Lianos
Alexander Manchester
Rachel Martinez
Grace Metry

7th Grade members Continued

Emily Mlynarek
Shannon Morris
Emily Muhich
Connor Murphy
Kelsey Newa
Sally Ottenhoff
Athena Petrouleas
Margaret Phillips
Blake Prentice
Margaret Rapai
Emily Richner
Jenna Roby
Katherine Savinov
Benjamin Schneider
Kayla Schulte
Coleman Semanision
Tenley Shield
Meghan Shook
Andrew Simon
Edward Thompson
Joseph Toth
Neal Troscinski
Gabriela Tucker
Charles Warren
Evelyn Wheeler
Ronald Williams
Nicholas Yoo
Claire Zimmeth



PIERCE P.E.

Pierce Pacers:

Students who are currently in Physical Education may earn extra credit and awards by participating in a program called "Pierce Pacers". This program promotes having an active lifestyle. Participants will record the distances or time they are involved in some type of physical activity, outside of school hours. This could include such things as: walking or biking to school, swimming, using a treadmill, rollerblading, and jumping rope. Practice and games times may also be counted if the student plays on a sport's team. All interested Physical Education students can pick up a form from Mrs. Allan.

Turkey Trot:

The annual Turkey Trot run will be Thursday, November 20th. This activity is sponsored by the Physical Education Department and is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. Participation is strictly voluntary.

The "Trot" includes six ½ mile runs, in which students compete against others in their own grade. There are separate races for boys and girls. All participants receive a treat and the top six finishers, in each race, receive an award. Lastly, the top two finishers, in each event, will be given a turkey for their family to enjoy!

Students will sign-up for the Turkey Trot at the end of October.



2008-GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

7th Grade

Annabel Ames
Gretchen Dettlinger
Lindsay Fisher
Fiona Gjata
Bridget Hennessy
Jane Hess
Erin Ivers
Sophia Lianos
Emily Muich
Savannah Schulte
Shivangi Sharma
Meghan Shook

Coach: Tasha Marston

8th Grade

Tatum Bristol
Kelly Cullen
Anastasia Diamond
Alexis Kirkland
Lindsey Mestdagh
Mia Perkins
McKenzie Prader
Tatianna Sanchez
Kim Stavale
Jaya Telang
Anne Urbiel

Coach: Barry Novak



Parent Teacher Conferences

Thursday, November 20
5:00-7:30 PM
Tuesday, November 25
1:00-3:30 PM & 5:00-7:30



PICTURE RETAKE

Tuesday, October 7 1:00 PM

Students wishing retakes **MUST** bring to school on Tuesday 10/7 their first set of photos. All students who did not get their picture taken during registration will also be included in picture re-take day.

REMINDER HALF DAY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31
Students in class 8:25-11:33AM