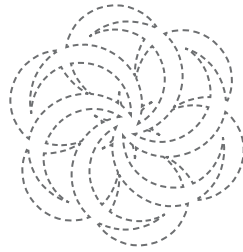


PEIRCE

Elementary School Guide for Parents

2008-2009

85 Park Avenue Extension * Arlington, MA 02474 * 781-316-3736



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Welcome to Peirce Elementary

Dear Parents and Members of the Peirce Community:

We are happy to provide you with an updated Peirce School Parent Guide. A committee of parents worked all summer to update the most necessary information about Peirce School. We know that you will find it useful when you need a quick answer about some of the policies and procedures of our school.

Please plan to keep the Peirce Guide in an obvious location, as we will be sending periodic updates and new information. The binder format will permit you to easily keep the handbook current, and we hope that you maintain it throughout your child's Peirce School years.

This guidebook was a truly cooperative effort to increase communication between Peirce School and its families, and we hope that you find it to be useful. As the Peirce Guide may not answer every question, you may, as always, feel free to contact the Peirce School office for any additional information.

Let me extend my hopes and wishes for a productive, safe, and healthy year for our Peirce School community.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Penta
Principal

Perseverance

To keep at it despite difficulties

Effort

To try your hardest in all you do

Integrity

To behave in a truthful and thoughtful way

Responsibility

To be accountable for your actions

Cooperation

To work together in a considerate manner

Excellence

To be the best you can be

Peirce School Mission Statement

The Peirce School works to provide a safe and nurturing environment in which students strive for academic excellence. It is our goal that staff, parents and students treat each other with mutual respect and feel a sense of community. By working together, we aim to prepare students to be capable, caring, responsible, and industrious citizens in a diverse, multicultural world.

In order to achieve the school's mission, it is essential that parents, teachers and school staff work together to help students develop academic and social skills that foster confidence and build self-esteem. We expect that students will be active participants in realizing the school's mission by striving for academic achievement and by being accountable for their actions.

» **We, as the Peirce community of staff, parents and students will:**

- » respect ourselves and the rights, feelings and property of others
- » cooperate and be considerate of others in words and actions
- » be honest and responsible for our actions
- » be caring, courteous and helpful to others
- » act as positive role models for students and our peers
- » support each other in our efforts to learn and teach

» **We, as teachers, staff and parents, will teach students to:**

- » honor and celebrate each other's individuality
- » show respect for others regardless of our differences
- » take responsibility for our actions and learning
- » develop and maintain positive interpersonal relationships
- » develop positive ways to resolve conflicts
- » support one another to accomplish the school mission

Communication

At Peirce School, we realize that communication between parents and teachers is crucial to providing children with a positive educational experience. We keep parents informed about school events through notices, a bi-weekly newsletter, and monthly PTO meetings.

Peirce's Curriculum Afternoon, which takes place during the first month of school, gives parents a chance to meet their children's teachers and gives teachers an opportunity to open the lines of communication.

Good communication also requires that parents have information about what happens in the classroom. It is important for children to discuss their school experience with their parents. Parents can help by asking questions, looking over schoolwork, and making sure homework is done properly. Parents may set up special conferences at any time to discuss their children's progress with their teachers.

SAFE PHONE 781-316-3298

» What is Safe Phone?

Safe Phone is a volunteer system staffed by parents/guardians designed to verify that each student has gotten to school. Families call in absences (and known tardiness) by leaving a message on the Safe Phone answering service. Volunteers check discrepancies between actual absences recorded on the official attendance list and messages left.

» How to use Safe Phone:

Call in the child's absence by **8:30 a.m.** State your name, the child's name, the child's grade and teacher, the reason for the absence, and when the child may return to school.

» Safe Phone exists for you, by you:

Without volunteers, there is no Safe Phone. Though each elementary school has a Safe Phone, they are not the school's responsibility. Volunteers are needed to keep this service possible.

A volunteer spends approximately 30 minutes, starting at 8:30 a.m. (or when the attendance is complete).

The volunteer checks messages against the attendance list. If there are discrepancies, the volunteer calls on absent students by phoning their family at home, work, and cell phone.

Most volunteers serve once per week or choose to share a day with another parent.

The School Day

Schedule

The school day begins at 8:10 a.m., when the first bell rings, and ends at 2:15 p.m. Students should plan to arrive at school at 8:00 a.m.

Scheduled holidays and vacations are listed on the Arlington Public Schools calendar, as well as on the Peirce Events calendar.

For safety reasons, students are not allowed to leave school unaccompanied during school hours. If your child must leave school early, please notify the school staff and pick your child up in the office.

Snow Days & Delayed Start

"Snow days" (days with no school due to inclement weather) and "delayed start" days (days with a later starting time) are broadcast on local radio and television stations, as well as on the Arlington Public Schools' Web site at:

www.arlington.k12.ma.us/home/

Four blasts on the horn in Arlington Center at 7:45 a.m. is the "no school" signal for the local elementary schools.

Early Dismissal

There are several "early dismissal" days throughout the school year. Parents will be notified of these days in advance via notices sent home.

Student Illness or Emergency

If a student needs medical attention during school hours, someone from the school will contact the child's parents and request that the child be picked up in the office. No medications, other than first aid, will be given to a student unless the school nurse or principal is present.

Absences

If a student is going to be absent or tardy, we ask that a parent call the school's **Safe Phone** number as early as possible. If a child does not arrive at school, the staff will make every attempt to contact a parent or guardian to make sure the student is safe.

When a student returns to school after an absence, a note from the child's parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence is required.

Families are strongly discouraged from taking vacations (other than during regularly scheduled school vacation and holidays) for the simple reason that the absences might cause a child to fall behind in school.

If you know that your child will be absent for more than one day, please notify your child's teacher so that arrangements may be made for the child to complete any missed schoolwork.

Tardiness

If a student arrives at school after the second bell rings, he or she is considered tardy. If possible, we ask that a parent accompany the student to the office for a tardy slip. If a parent cannot accompany the student to the office, the student should check in at the office before proceeding to class.

If it is known in advance that the child will be tardy on a particular day, please call this in to the **Safe Phone**.

ALLERGY POLICY

We strive to make Peirce a healthy, safe place for all students. At lunch, we offer a "nut-free" table, where any child whose lunch is nut-free may eat. All lunches sold in the cafeteria are nut-free.

Peirce adheres to the Arlington Public Schools' allergy policy, which can be found at:

www.arlington.k12.ma.us/departments/nursing/allergypolicy.pdf

Lunch & Snacks

Peirce students have a 30-minute lunch and play period, which is supervised by lunch aides. Lunch aides help at lunchtime and supervise (or even participate in) playground activities, such as baseball and kickball.

A hot lunch is available at a set cost, or children may bring lunch from home. A lunch menu is sent home monthly. Students can decide on a daily basis whether to buy lunch, based on the menu.

Most classes also have a designated snack time during the day (this varies by grade). At Peirce School, we ask that parents send their children to school with nutritional snacks only.

Extended Day Program at Peirce

The Peirce Playcare and Extended Day program is open from 7:15 - 8:15 a.m. and 2:00 - 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

A privately owned company, this program known throughout the school as "Mrs. T's", meets in Room #126 in the Peirce School building. It is operated by Jane Torregrossa, who has over 20 years of experience working with children. For more information about the program, please contact Mrs. T. at: 781-316-3742.

Other, off-site options for after-school care are available to Peirce students. For more information, please see Mrs. Dunton in the front office.

Academics

Report Cards & Progress Reports

Progress reports for Grades 1-5 are issued three times a year: November, March, and June (on the last day of school).

Progress reports for Kindergartners are issued twice a year and are shared during fall and spring parent-teacher conferences.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are held each fall to discuss students' progress. Teachers share their thoughts on each child's strengths and weaknesses, and invite parents to ask questions and share their insights.

A second spring conference is also scheduled for Kindergarten parents. If further conferences are needed, parents may contact their child's teacher to schedule additional meetings.

Field Trips

Each grade takes at least one field trip. Parents give permission for field trips by signing the back of the emergency card that comes home in the fall. Parents are also asked to complete and sign a separate permission slip for each trip.

Teachers may ask for parent volunteers to chaperone field trips. Please let your child's teacher know if you would like to accompany the students on any of the class field trips.

Classroom Placement

Each spring, teachers meet to discuss classroom placement. They take into account each child's academic performance, social development, need for special services, and learning style.

Class lists are composed with the goal of creating well-balanced classes in which each child will thrive. All final placement decisions are made by the school principal.

MCAS 2009 SCHEDULE

MARCH 30-APRIL 10, 2009

- » English Language Art/Reading: Gr 3, 4, 5

MARCH 31 (APRIL 7 MAKEUP)

- » ELA/Long Composition: Gr 4

MAY 11-MAY 28, 2009

- » Math: Gr 3, 4, 5;
- » Science & Technology/Engineering: Gr 5
- » History & social Science: Gr 5

Achievement Tests (MCAS)

Statewide MCAS tests are given during the spring for grades 3, 4, and 5. These tests are designed to help the school department assess curriculum effectiveness.

Parents will be informed of scheduled tests, and can help children perform at their best by making sure they get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast.

Parents receive the results of third-grade testing with their child's final reports cards in June, while parents of fourth- and fifth-grade students receive the results of the prior year's tests in the fall.

Special Services & Programs

Peirce students have access to all of the Arlington school system's educational services, including the following:

- » Academic Challenge and Enrichment (ACE) program
- » Art enrichment
- » English Language Learners (ELL) program
- » Instrumental music instruction
- » Reading resources teacher
- » Special Education specialists
- » Speech/Language pathologist
- » Title1 assistance

There are several programs that are available to Peirce students and are not found at every elementary school in Arlington. These include METCO and Open Circle.

For more information about any of these programs, please contact your child's teacher or visit the Arlington Public Schools' Web site at: www.arlington.k12.ma.us/home/

Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO)

Peirce School participates in the METCO program, which is run by a nonprofit organization to place minority children from metropolitan Boston schools in suburban schools. The purpose of METCO is to attempt to racially balance suburban schools, while enriching the host community by providing exposure to other cultures.

METCO seeks to break down commonly held stereotypes while providing a quality education to Boston children. There is no cost to Boston families, and parents of METCO children are encouraged to participate in any and all Peirce School functions.

Open Circle

At Peirce, the Open Circle program is a central component of the social and emotional learning that happens at school. Geared towards helping children develop positive relationships with their peers, Open Circle provides a framework for fostering a nurturing school community.

Open Circle is a year-long part of the Peirce curriculum, with lessons generally taught for 15-30 minutes a week in a special class meeting known as Open Circle — a name that describes how students and teacher arrange their chairs to include an extra seat for anyone who wishes to join.

» You can find out more about Open Circle at: www.open-circle.org

Key themes of Open Circle include:

- » listening
- » calming down
- » speaking up
- » dealing with teasing
- » recognizing discrimination
- » expressing anger appropriately
- » problem solving

In-School Volunteering

Peirce School gladly welcomes parent participation in the classroom. Many in-school volunteer opportunities are available, from assisting students with arts & crafts projects to reading aloud. Please check with your child's teacher to see how your skills could be put to use in your child's classroom!

For the safety of our students, all volunteers must complete a CORI form prior to volunteering at Peirce School. Please see Mrs. Dunton in the main office for more details.

Safety

Driving to School

When driving your children to and from school, please use caution and follow the Peirce traffic flow map called "Stop Drop & Roll" whenever possible. There is no parking or waiting on Park Ave. Extension.

Walking to School

Peirce School encourages its students to walk to school as often as possible. Parents should walk with children, at least initially, to point out traffic signals and crosswalks and introduce children to the traffic supervisors (also known as crossing guards). Peirce has two dedicated traffic supervisors whose job is to help children cross streets safely.

Fire Drills & Safety Procedures

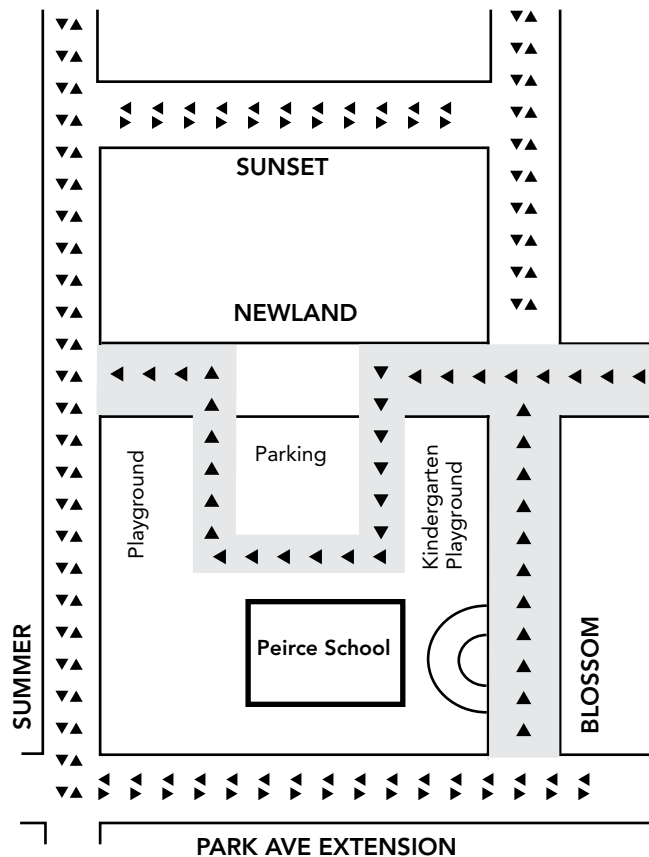
Fire drills are held once a month at Peirce to test the readiness of children and adults to empty the school building as quickly and safely as possible. Teachers instruct their students on safe exit routes.

During the drills, students are expected to exit the building in silence, remain with their teacher and class, and listen for instructions. When the "all clear" bell is sounded, students are allowed to return to the school building.

Additional information regarding safety and evacuation procedures for Peirce School can be obtained by contacting the Arlington Superintendent of Schools.

"STOP, DROP & ROLL"

- » Treat Newland Rd. as a one-way from Bow to Summer Sts.
- » Treat Blossom St. as a one-way from Park Ave. Ext. to Newland Rd.
- » Only enter the drop-off area from the entrance closest to Blossom Rd.
- » Only exit the drop-off area from the exit closest to Summer St.
- » Do not park on the school side of Newland Rd.



The PTO: Parent-Teacher Organization

The Peirce School Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) organizes most of the fundraising and special events at Peirce. Parents and teachers are strongly encouraged to join the PTO and become active members.

Welcome from your 2008-09 PTO Co-Presidents

Dear Peirce Families:

Welcome to a new school year! We hope you enjoyed the summer and are ready for a fun and exciting school year at the Peirce.

Our goal for the school year is to make every family feel part of the Peirce School Community. We are fortunate to be a small school, which makes it easier to get to know your fellow Peirce parents. There will be many opportunities to get together and meet other parents and families, such as the Family Movie Nights, International Celebration, Comedy Night and PTO meetings.

PTO meetings are held once each month. Participation at meetings gives you a voice. You help decide what we do as a group. You decide where the money should go. With your participation and involvement, the educational and social experience of all our children will be greatly enhanced.

We look forward to meeting all of you throughout the year. Please join us in letting our Peirce Pride Shine!

With warm regards,

Kristen Garrigus & Carol Greeley
PTO Co-Presidents

Our wonderful PTO is very supportive of the students and classrooms at Peirce! They fund many experiences for the children – transportation costs for a number of field trips in every grade, Colonial Day in 3rd grade, and graduation costs in 5th grade, to name just a few. Along with that, they provide generous monetary support for each classroom teacher for supplies and projects.

We love our PTO!

–Lanise Jacoby, 2nd grade teacher

All About the Peirce PTO

How does the PTO raise money?

There are 3 ways that the PTO gets funds:

1. Dues/donations

Every school year families are asked to pay annual dues to the PTO; this year we are asking for \$40 from each family. Families are also encouraged to donate above that amount if they can. Remember, these donations are *tax deductible!*

2. Fundraisers

Throughout the year, the PTO sponsors a variety of fundraisers. A list of the planned fundraisers is included on the PTO calendar. We encourage you and your family and friends to support them.

Some families do not wish to participate in particular fundraisers. It is often asked if they may instead donate directly to the PTO and return the fundraising materials. The answer is yes! However, please note: materials for each fundraiser will go home to each family, regardless of desire to participate. The PTO cannot discriminate among families.

The PTO manages a number of programs that with a little time and effort provide a lot of revenue for our school without dipping in to your pockets. With products you have already purchased for your home, you can:

- » Clip BoxTops4Education coupons (we earn .10 per coupon)
- » Clip Tyson A+ Labels (we earn .24 per label)
- » Clip Campbell's Labels (we earn valuable equipment for our school)
- » Recycle used ink cartridges and cell phones (we earn cash)
- » Drop Off MA Bottles & Cans on our Monthly Recycling Days (we earn cash)
- » Drop Off Your Unwanted Books to Peirce School's Library (we either use or redeem at the Book Rack for in store credits)
- » Shop using BoxTops4Education website (we earn cash)
- » Shop at Target Stores or online through BoxTops4Education (we earn cash)
- » Join Menotomy Beer & Wine's Wine Club (we earn cash)

3. Grants

Some of the PTO committees seek grant money to support the enrichment activities of the PTO. For the 2007-08 year, parents have already earned grants from the Arlington Educational Enrichment Fund to subsidize some of the science garden activities, and from Cambridge Savings Bank to bring the Mass Audubon Society's science enrichment programs to the school. Other grant writing is also underway.

"My students came back and said Cornell was 'incredible!'. Students who normally have a difficult time participating thoroughly enjoyed the performance and participated! I thought it was very inspiring. My students would love to see him again!"

—4th grade teacher, regarding Cornell Coley's Afro-Latin drumming assembly

The PTO-sponsored social events are a great way to connect to other Peirce families. They help make Peirce a welcoming community.

—Laura Selfors, parent

I was impressed when I found out that the bottle and can drive makes so much money for the PTO. Last year they earned over \$3,000, just from people dropping off recycling! And it's more convenient than returning the bottles to the store!"

—Karen Scopetski, parent

"We study animal adaptations, and the students were very enthusiastic about being able to answer the questions and seeing the birds up close."

—5th grade teacher, regarding Wingmasters' "Birds of Prey" presentation

Where does the money go?

Our money is spent providing things for Peirce students, teachers, and families not covered under the Arlington Schools budget. The PTO budget gets voted on annually, to tailor the funding priorities to best meet the current needs of the school.

Typically, the PTO provides a classroom supplies budget to each teacher and specialist. In 2008-09, we allocated \$300 for each classroom. We also provide the principal, Mr. Penta, with a discretionary fund.

The PTO sponsors a variety of enrichment activities. Last year, we provided theater, live music, and dance performances, animal encounters, and several author visits. For field trips, the PTO usually subsidizes the cost of the bus. PTO sponsors social activities such as Popcorn Fridays, movie nights, and ice-cream socials to bring the Peirce community together.

The library is always in need of new and updated materials. Enhancing the collection is always a priority for the PTO.

Getting all Peirce teachers trained in "Open Circle" has been a focus of the PTO for the last few years. Open Circle provides the school community with a way to encourage positive behavior and a common language and structure for dealing with discipline issues.

For more details on the PTO and its activities, please come to one of our monthly meetings. We'd love to have you as a member!

PTO Meetings

PTO meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30-8:00 pm in the Library and run by the co-presidents. Childcare services are available for a nominal fee.

They include an agenda which has been set during the month. Requests can be made to add an item to the agenda by e-mail or by dropping a note in the PTO mailbox in the main office. Committee heads and teachers report on and evaluate past activities, and discuss current and upcoming activities' needs.

Although members are encouraged to attend as many meetings as possible, attendance is not required for membership.

Peirce School Council

The Peirce School Council is a representative, school-based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers, and community members. School Councils were established by the Massachusetts Education Reform Act to improve and provide support for public schools. The School Council acts under the supervision of the Arlington School Committee.

The School Council members are elected to fixed terms, with members elected by the parents at Peirce school for one- or two-year terms and teachers elected by teachers at Peirce School for one- or two-year terms.

The School Council is charged with planning, goal setting, and budgeting for improvements at Peirce. Specific responsibilities of the Peirce School Council include:

- » adopting educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards
- » identifying the educational needs of students attending the school
- » reviewing the annual school building budget
- » formulating a school improvement plan

Meetings of the Council are public, and all interested members of the Peirce community may attend.

Peirce School Standards

Expectations from Students

- » **Students and parents will ensure that students attend school regularly and consistently.**

It is very important that students attend school regularly to progress academically and developmentally with their class. Students should arrive to school on time. Parents are encouraged to minimize the number of student absences. Excused student absences include those related to illness, medical appointments, and family emergencies.

- » **Students will participate in learning to the best of their ability.**

Effective learning requires student participation on several fronts. Students are expected to take ownership of their work, actively participate in classroom activities and complete assignments to the best of their ability.

Students will be responsible for completing homework assignments.

Homework is integral to a student's ability to learn material taught in school. In the younger years, homework assignments help to establish good study habits. Students are responsible and accountable for completing all homework assignments on time.

- » **Students will treat each other with kindness and respect.**

It is important that the Peirce School create a positive setting for learning. While interacting with peers, teachers and school staff, students are expected to be tolerant and patient.

- » **Students will respect each other's right to learn.**

Students have a variety of learning styles and require different approaches to maximize learning. Students will not interfere with their peers' abilities to learn by being disruptive or disrespectful to others.

- » **Students will conduct themselves and communicate in a safe way in all areas of the school and playground.**

Students play a key role in creating a positive, safe learning environment at Peirce. Students will abide by school rules in all areas of the school and on the playground. Students are expected to follow these rules at all times while on the school premises, even after dismissal. Behavior standards include refraining from physical confrontation (such as hitting, punching, kicking, throwing of objects, etc.) and verbal confrontation (such as swearing, teasing and name-calling).

Expectations from Parents, Teachers and Staff

- » **Parents and teachers will commit to working cooperatively and collaboratively in the best interest of the student.**

In order for students to have a positive and effective school experience, it is essential that parents, teachers and school administration work together to provide the academic and development resources needed for each individual child. To this end, parents should communicate any concerns they may have to the student's teacher(s). Likewise, teachers will communicate any concerns to parents.

- » **Parents will read and, as needed, respond to notices issued by the school.**

Notices sent home in student folders are the primary communication to inform parents of school events, early dismissal, field trips, etc. It is essential that parents read and return notices (as needed) promptly. Parents are encouraged to send notes via their child's folder to communicate with the classroom teacher as well.

- » **Parents will encourage students to complete homework assignments.**

Homework is a critical element of student learning. It enables students to review lessons learned during the day, expand their knowledge base and establish good study habits. Homework also enables teachers to evaluate each student's ability to work independently. It is important that parents check with their child to make sure homework assignments are completed on time. Parents should notify teachers if a student is having particular difficulty completing homework.

- » **Parents, teachers and staff will model positive communication and interactions.**

Communication between parents and teachers is essential to a successful school experience. If parents have any concerns or questions regarding the classroom environment, policies or interactions, they should communicate these concerns directly to the classroom teacher first. Parents and teachers should work cooperatively to address any such concerns. After discussion with the teacher, if parents continue to have concerns, they may address them to the school principal.

Furthermore, parents, teachers and staff have tremendous influence on the behaviors of children. As Peirce parents, teachers and staff, it is important to remember that we are role models for the children at all times. Our ability to communicate courteously and effectively with each other and to treat each other with dignity and respect will have the greatest impact on Peirce student behavior.

- » **Parents and teachers will reinforce the Peirce School Standards.**

The Peirce School Standards will be posted in every classroom within the school. Parents should discuss these standards with their children and sign and return the attached commitment form. Please present any questions or concerns regarding these standards to the school principal.

Faculty & Staff Directory 2008-09

ADMINISTRATION

Peirce Main Number: 781-316-3736

Robert Penta Principal
rpenta@arlington.k12.ma.us
Margy Dunton School Secretary
mdunton@arlington.k12.ma.us

Office Fax 781-316-3748

Safe Phone: 781-316-3298

Nurse 781-316-3738

Lucille Nicholson
lnicholson@arlington.k12.ma.us

School Support Staff

Frank Frankelton Head Custodian
Walter Biddell Custodian
Mary Ann O'Brien Cook
Deb Strelis Kitchen
Rose Murphy Lunch Supervisor
Josephine DiNicola Lunch Supervisor
Barbara Vendice Lunch Supervisor
Barbara DeMore Lunch Supervisor
Doris Tirico Lunch Supervisor
Kathy Roche Lunch Supervisor

Student Support

Rose Konowski Team Chair, K-2
Chris Cronin-Tocci Team Chair, 3-5
Peg Callanan Team Chair, Pathways
Kurt Fusaris Pathways Speech & Language
Therapist
June Smith Special Education
Cheryl Lowenthal Reading Specialist
Evelyn DeRosa Reading Coach
Nancy Kelly Speech & Language Therapist
Tina Beckman Occupational Therapist
Sean Nardeau Physical Therapist
Laura Goldstein English Language Learners
Martha Scott Title 1 Secretary
Judy Britt Title 1 Teacher
Jane Torregrossa Librarian
Donna Quaglieri Psychologist
Jason Moss Counselor Intern AYCC
Maura Kennedy Counselor Intern AYCC
Patricia Ballard METCO Supervisor
pballard@arlington.k12.ma.us

CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Kindergarten Teachers

Diana Galluzzo dgalluzzo@arlington.k12.ma.us
Gail Langley glangley@arlington.k12.ma.us
Assistants: Patricia Costa, Susan Carey, Ashley Johnson

Grade 1 Teachers

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Marybeth Wall mwall@arlington.k12.ma.us
Assistant: Daniella Cannella

Grade 2 Teachers

Lanise Jacoby ljacoby@arlington.k12.ma.us
Carol Macdonald cmacdonald@arlington.k12.ma.us
Assistant: Margaret Aiken

Grade 3 Teachers

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Eva Kennedy ekennedy@arlington.k12.ma.us
Nichole Hayes nhayes@arlington.k12.ma.us
Assisant: Janice Powers

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Grade 5 Teachers

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Pathways

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Lee Delzingo Assistant Teacher
Stephanie Greiner Teacher 3-5
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Danielle Maidrand Assistant Teacher
Svea Van Pathways Inclusion Specialist
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Subject Specialists

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mmorrison@arlington.k12.ma.us
Deborah Chisholm Art
dchisholm@arlington.k12.ma.us
Gina Esile-Sylva Music
gesile-sylva@arlington.k12.ma.us
Paula Piepman Brass & Woodwinds
Jing-Huey Wei Strings
Mies Boet-Whitaker ACE
Kate Cubeta ACE

PTO Contact Information 2008-09

2008-09 PTO Board & Committees

Co-Presidents:

Kristen Garrigus
garrigus14@yahoo.com

Carol Greeley
carol.greeley@gmail.com

Co-Treasurers:

Lori Pescatore
loripescatore@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Nancy Shafman
nshafman@fas.harvard.edu

Hospitality & Social Events Chair:

Lori Pescatore
loripescatore@hotmail.com

Cultural Enrichment

Committee Chair:

Nancy Shafman
nshafman@fas.harvard.edu

Science & Math Enrichment

Committee (SAME) Co-Chairs:

Kristen Garrigus
garrigus14@yahoo.com

Ed Driggers
edriggers@enssemblediscovery.com

Library Committee:

Jane Torregrossa
jtorregrossa@arlington.k12.ma.us

Peirce Event Calendar 2008-09 as of 11/10/08

NOVEMBER

10	School Council Meeting
11	Veteran's Day: No school
14	Movie Night PTO social event
20	Popcorn Thursday
26	Wii Raffle drawing; 12pm dismissal
27-28	Thanksgiving Recess: No school

DECEMBER

2, 3, 4	Report Card Conferences: 11:15 dismissal
3	PTO meeting*
5	Henry Bear's Park In-store Fundraiser
15	Townwide Kindergarten Transition
19	Bottle and can drive PTO fundraiser**
24	December vacation begins (return 1/5/09)

JANUARY

5	Return to school
7	PTO meeting*
13	Early Release: 1pm
19	Martin Luther King Day: No school
26	Incoming Kindergarten Welcome Coffee
30	Bottle and can drive PTO fundraiser**

FEBRUARY

3	Early Release: 1pm
4	PTO meeting*
7	Yard Sale PTO fundraiser
TBD	Valentines for Vets PTO social event
16-20	Presidents Day/Winter Recess
27	International Festival
27	Bottle and can drive PTO fundraiser**

MARCH

2-13	Meadow Farms Coffee Cakes PTO fundraiser
3	Early Release: 1pm
4	Incoming Kindergarten Registration
4	PTO meeting*
21	Comedy Night PTO social event
27	Bottle and can drive PTO fundraiser**
30-April 14	MCAS: ELA/Reading, grades 3-4-5
31	MCAS: ELA/Long Composition, grade 4

(make up April 7)

APRIL

1	PTO meeting*
3	Annual Peirce Community Art Show
10	Good Friday: No School
20-24	Patriot's Day/Spring Recess

MAY

4-8	Teacher Appreciation Week; Spring Book Fair PTO fundraiser
6	PTO meeting*
11-28	MCAS: Math, grades 3-4-5; MCAS: Science & Technology/Engineering, grade 5 MCAS: History & Social Science, grade 5
14	Incoming Kindergarten Visit
25	Memorial Day: No school
29	Bottle and can drive PTO fundraiser**

JUNE

3	PTO meeting*
6	Spring Fair PTO fundraiser
TBD	Colonial Day (3rd Grade)
TBD	Graduation Day (5th Grade)

* All PTO meetings are held in the Library 6:30-8pm

** Bottle and can drive PTO fundraiser takes place in front of the school from 7:30-9am.
ONLY MA-REDEEMABLE ITEMS ARE TAKEN.

WWW.PEIRCESCHOOL.INFO

Please complete and return this letter to the PTO Mailbox.

Peirce School Standards

Peirce Elementary School respects the need for a balanced approach towards learning and character development. These standards offers a framework to encourage students, parents and teachers to work together to create an environment that promotes academic progress and social development. As parents, teachers and school staff, we must work together to support our students. It is critical that we celebrate our students when they follow our high standards and that they receive natural consequences when they make mistakes. Please direct any questions regarding the Standards to the school principal.

Students

- Students and parents will ensure that students attend school regularly and consistently.
- Students will participate in learning to the best of their ability.
- Students will be responsible for completing homework assignments.
- Students will treat each other with kindness and respect.
- Students will respect each other's right to learn.
- Students will conduct themselves and communicate in a safe way in all areas of the school and playground.

Parents, Teachers and Staff

- Parents and teachers will commit to working cooperatively and collaboratively in the best interest of the student.
- Parents will read and, as needed, respond to notices issued by the school.
- Parents will commit to encourage students to complete homework assignments.
- Teachers and school staff will use thoughtful and constructive discipline measures to modify student behavior.
- Parents will initially communicate any concerns regarding their child or the classroom environment directly to the teacher.
- Parents, teachers and staff will model positive communication and interactions.
- Parents and teachers will reinforce the Peirce School Standards.

We have read the Peirce School Standards and understand our responsibilities as well as those of the others involved in this effort.

Student _____

Date _____

Parent _____

Parent _____

Classroom Teacher _____

School Principal _____

Please complete and return this letter to the PTO Mailbox.

Get Involved! Volunteering at Peirce 2008-09

YES, I am interested in contributing to Peirce!

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I would like to help with:

(Yes, you may check more than one!)

Safe Phone

Volunteer for 30 minutes one or more mornings per week to make sure that all kids have arrived at school

Fundraising Committee

As a member of the PTO, help plan and run fund-raising events which support the school

Library

Help with library classes regularly, or pick a time to reshelv materials. Help coordinate library themes and displays; research and recommend new library purchases.

Room Parent

Teacher name: _____

Cultural Enrichment Committee

Plan special theater, music, dance, or art events, most of which take place during school hours; attend evening meetings approx. once per month

Science and Math Enrichment Committee (SAME)

Coordinate math- and science-oriented events, with a mix of professional- and parent-run events; attend evening meetings approx. once per month

Science Garden

Gather supplies; help with fall and spring planting

Peirce Landscaping Beautification

Gather supplies; help with fall and spring cleaning, design and planting

Hospitality & Social Events

Help plan or volunteer at welcome breakfasts, ice-cream social, or ice-skating party

Scholastic Book Fairs

Help with set-up, sales, and/or clean up

Popcorn Thursdays

Make popcorn, sell snacks, and/or clean up

Bottle and Can Drives

Collect bottles and cans before school approximately once a month

3rd Grade Colonial Day

Plan activities; help on the day of the event

5th Grade Graduation

Plan ceremony; organize party

Annual Community Art Show

Help plan, run an art activity, set up, or clean up

Please complete and return the lower section to the PTO Mailbox.

PTO Membership 2008-09

Dear Peirce Parents,

We would like to extend PTO membership to all families. A family donation of \$40.00 and a donation of your time is always welcome. We have many opportunities for all to participate in.

Our PTO meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30-8:00 pm in the Library. Childcare services are available for a nominal fee. We hope to see you all there!

With Warm Regards,
Kristen Garrigus & Carol Greeley
PTO Co-Presidents

PTO Membership 2008-09

Name (Please print) _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Amount Enclosed (Please make check out to "Peirce PTO") _____