



**Principally Speaking...
A letter from Mr. Penta**

A Great Opening of School

We had a smooth opening of school. The students (most of them!) seemed ready to get back to school and a renewing friendships and making new friends. Teachers are assessing the students in reading, writing, and math and will plan the program according to the needs of each student.

Please join us next **Tuesday, September 23 for our Curriculum Afternoon.** The teachers will present the curriculum overview for the year as well as provide you with the opportunity to ask questions. The identical presentations will be repeated twice at 2:45 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. This is a parent only event. Many parents have found it helpful to share childcare so that each may attend a presentation. We hope to see as many of you as possible next Tuesday.

School Council Parent Representative Needed

The Peirce School Council is an advisory board that meets monthly on Monday afternoons from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The Council is comprised of the Principal, two teacher representatives, and three parent representatives. The Council is responsible for developing a school improvement plan, approving school policies, and advising the principal on the budget.

This year, in addition to academic goals, the Council plans to address issues related to school safety, culture, and climate. If you are interested in serving on this important school council, please inform the principal, or either PTO President as soon as possible.

The first school council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6.

Arlington Public Schools Policies

All of Arlington's elementary schools have a "no wheels" to school policy. Elementary school students are not permitted to bike, skateboard, roller blade, or scooter to school. All elementary schools also restrict dogs on the playground. Families are welcome to walk their dogs to the school property. However, dogs are restricted from entering the kindergarten fenced in play area and the large playground and

structure area. The Peirce School Council reaffirmed this policy as well.

Arrival/Dismissal/Other Issues

So far arrival and dismissal times have gone as smoothly as possible. Thank you for following the suggested traffic flow guidelines and observing the parking restrictions. Peirce is lucky to have a large number of families who can and choose to walk. A Peirce Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) has been meeting regularly since April and is reporting recommendations to the Arlington Selectman on improving sidewalks and signage to assist those that can walk to school.

REMINDER - Lunch Fees

School lunch (with milk) costs 3.00 and Milk costs .60

****URGENT**URGENT****

NOTICE TO PEIRCE FAMILIES.

Any and all volunteers MUST be CORIed!!!!

If you plan on volunteering in a classroom, in the library or art room, anywhere in the school building, or if you plan on going on a field trip you must fill out a CORI form (which is available in the front office). There will be no exceptions! The CORI takes a while to be approved so if you plan on doing any of the above... please fill one out ASAP! If you have any questions please feel free to contact our school secretary, Mrs. Dunton.

Locked Door Policy

School has begun and the front and back doors are now locked during school hours for added safety of our children.

People may enter the front door ONLY, after being buzzed in, from 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM. Entrance to the school after 3:30 PM will be in the rear of the building near the cafeteria. Again, all other doors will be locked after 3:30 PM.

Mrs. Dunton, our secretary, is asking that all remember to stand in front of the camera which is in a little box located to the right of the doors. This is the same box to which you buzz her to enter the building.

After you are identified, you will be buzzed in and you are required to "sign in" in the office area and obtain a visitor's identification badge.

Please remember that Mrs. Dunton is usually at

her desk, but she at times may be away from her desk for a moment or two. As always, New England weather can be cold, rainy and even snowy at times. A minute or two under the overhang, waiting to be buzzed in, is a small price to pay for the added safety of your children. Therefore, we ask that you be patient. Mrs. Dunton will buzz you in as soon as possible. Thank you.

Drop-off/Pick-up Traffic Circulation Safe Route

Please follow the safe route and instructions, (which was sent home previously - should you need another copy please see Mrs. Dunton), when you drop off and/or pick up your children from Peirce. Thank you for helping to make this a safe community for all of our families.

Any questions, please contact Bob Penta.

Show your Peirce Pride by Visiting the PTO Booth at Arlington Town Day

Arlington Town Day is September 20, 2008 from 10:00AM until 3:00PM

Town Day takes place on Massachusetts Ave. from Pleasant Street to Mill Street.

Every year, the Peirce PTO participates in Town Day by having a booth where you can get your face painted and hair sprayed crazy colors. You can purchase baked goods as well as raffle tickets for a fabulous Arlington Family Prize Basket filled with toys, games, and gift certificates worth over \$350!! The drawing will be at school on Monday, September 29th.

Thanks to all of our volunteers who are baking and working the booth - we could not do it without you! Many thanks - See you Saturday, Carrie Coutre and Jen Murphy
Peirce PTO Town Day Co-Chairs

Pass it on; Help a Child-in-need

Cradles to Crayons Drive is Sat., September 27th

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 27th, 2008 between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can bring your donations to Peirce Elementary School, 85 Park Ave Ext. in Arlington.

Cradles to Crayons provides Massachusetts children-in-need from infancy to age 12 with everyday essentials. Through distribution partnerships with shelters, health centers, schools, parenting programs

and day cares, they donate directly to those at-risk and in-need, free of charge.

All donated goods must be new or top quality, and contain all pieces and instructions. Cradles to Crayons cannot accept goods that are missing pieces, broken, dirty, stained, torn, worn out, written on, or clearly out of style. Bring your donations in plastic bags or sealed boxes to keep them clean and organized. Donations are tax-deductible and receipts will be available.

For a wish list and further details on what donations can be accepted, visit www.cradlestocrayons.org and click "Drop Off Kids Items."

5th Grade Science Camp

This year, our 5th graders will be attending the W. Alton Jones Science Camp in R.I. with the Dallin School from Tuesday, October 14 - Friday, October 17th. Please remember that all forms and payment are due in the office by Monday, September 29th. A huge thank you to all of the 5th grade parents who have already volunteered to chaperone at Science Camp! You must fill out a CORI form prior to the trip. Forms are available in the office. Contact Joy Spadafora, camp liaison, at JoySpadafora@Gmail.com or 781-648-6567 for more information. The Camp website is: <http://www.uri.edu/ajc/eec>.

Get Ready for a Book Fair Safari!

Our annual fall Book Fair will be taking place the week of October 20th. Students will have the opportunity to visit the fair during their scheduled library time during the week. In addition, the fair will open at 5:30pm on Thursday, October 23rd for the Peirce School Open House.

We are very excited about the fair this fall, as we have been able to upgrade our fair to a PREMIUM fair, which means many more titles to choose from.

Information on One for Books, Title Selections, Teacher Wish Lists, and more will be coming home to families through individual notices soon! We have a few surprises up our sleeves!

Thank you to all who have already volunteered to work the Book Fair!! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Christina Hurley at ccehurley@rcn.com or 781-643-2066 for more information.

Notes From Our Librarian

The library is off to a great start! I applied for and received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It is Picturing America and has wonderful prints with a teachers resource guide. We started this school year reading Armadillo Rodeo by Jan Brett and having a quiz on Texas trivia. Ask your child about the state flower, pepper, large mammal, small mammal and dance.!!!

The Kindergarten & first grade learned about being a friend and finding a friend with Franklin. This week I had the older grades use the dictionaries and encyclopedias to look up information on horses following the theme of Texas. In the following weeks we will be exploring other states & reading chapter books.

If you have some time to volunteer in the library I would really appreciate it. We need help shelving and scanning books. If you have books that you no longer need and take them to the Book Rack you can donate the credit to the Peirce PTO. We have an account there and all donations are welcome.
Mrs. "T"

Thank you for making the Summer Reading Program such a success at Robbins Library!

The following Peirce students read for a combined total of over 700 hours this summer! Ryan Boyle, Megan Callaghan, Cathleen Chen, Mason Fitzpatrick, Henry Grill, Ivy Johnson, Kaitlin Kalajian,, Erin Madden, Henry Raughley, Noe Romero, Jeremy Ware, Colton Brown, Ciana Clough, Olivia Courte, Maia Drigger, Patrick Greeley, Venice Mountain-Zona, Drew Niles, Lucas Plotkin, Peter Roche, Isabella Scopetski, Henry Walters, Maxime Aranow, Jillian Boyajian, Spencer Callaghan, Jennifer Caruso, Henri Choi, Amy Cunniff, Samuel Edey, Lucia Gnerre, Sarah Lawson, Ashby Loshin, Anna Madden, Roman Maguire, Sophie Plotkin, Andre Scotto, Nathaniel Ware, Sebastian Ware, Isabel Chaney, Gregory Foley, Francesco Gnerre, Clara Hevia, Cadence Johnston, Jamie Kalajian, Michael Natoli, Owen Niles, Andree Remy, Brendan Smith, Sarah Tomilson, Juan Abdon, Ben Boyajian, Vignesh Chockalingam, Erin O'Brien, Sukdeep Singh, Tailia Scotto, Wyatt Caruso, Ava Cunniff, Matthew Fitzpatrick, James Griesmer, Grace Walters, Jamie DiPietro, Zachary Garrigus and Elena Voulgaris.

Fundraising Committee Needs You!

Please consider helping with the PTO's Fundraising Committee. We plan large-scale events and need your ideas and help. Give a few hours over the course of the year, or more. Have an influence on programs offered at Peirce, and as a result, have a greater impact on your child's experience at the school. We're meeting Tuesday, Sept. 23, after drop-off, (815 a.m.) in the main office's conference room. If you can't make that, call or e-mail Carlene Hempel, (781-316-2091; carlenehempel@hotmail.com) and we can meet separately for coffee and a chat.

Peirce Safe Routes to School

Peirce has a Safe Routes to School group, created in part to improve the walking conditions to school as well as develop programs to encourage more walking and easier, safer drop-off and pick-up procedures. As part of that, we are hoping to institute a program that would involve a parent volunteer stationed at each of the playground parking lot entrances during morning drop-off. This volunteer would open car doors and help kids out and onto school grounds so that parents can drive away without having to park. If you're interested in this program, please contact committee chair Carlene Hempel at carlenehempel@hotmail.com.

Science and Math Enrichment Kick-Off!

Meeting Monday night, Sept. 22, 6:30-8:30 pm. At the Driggers residence, 3 Huntington Rd. Contact Ed Driggers if you are interested or have questions: 781-646-1072 (after 6 pm).

Cultural Enrichment Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 2008 - 6:30 PM at Nancy Shafman's home located at 147 Wright Street.

Original Art Works Fundraiser to begin soon

Join Peirce students in the Café from 2.15-3.00 on Thursday, October 9 as they create drawings for our Original Works fundraiser. With Original Works, students' drawings are turned into a wide variety of items, from calendars to mugs to t-shirts, mouse pads, ceramic tiles, picture frames, and more! These make great gifts for grandparents at the holidays. On October 9 after school we'll provide the paper,

drawing materials, and Original Works packets and the kids will do the rest! If you can volunteer to help out after school and make this fundraiser a winner for Peirce, contact Lori Stokes at 781 648 4178 or lori.stokes@comcast.net.

Thanks for the HOSPITALITY!

The PTO and Peirce families want to thank Lori Pescatore for her hospitality and organization of the First Day of School Coffees.

Safe Phone Volunteers Still Needed. Safe Phone is a system where parents/guardians can report their child's school absence by leaving a message at the designated phone number before school starts. Once attendance is taken, a parent volunteer checks the safe phone messages against the actual attendance from Mrs. Dunton. If a child is not accounted for the volunteer calls the parents/guardians, and the search begins. Volunteers would arrive at the main office at 8:30am and typically stay until 9:15am. The volunteer comes once a week. Ideally, we would like to have 10 parents in order to do a bi-weekly schedule. This would also give us back-up flexibility if a parent is unable to help on a particular day. If you are interested in doing Safe Phone please email Krissie Delaney at kbd9488@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Peirce Calendar

Sept. 20	Arlington Town Day
Sept. 22	SAME Meeting
Sept. 23	Fundraising Committee Meeting
Sept. 23	Curriculum Afternoon
Sept. 24	Cultural Enrichment Meeting
Sept. 27	Cradles to Crayons
Sept. 29	Contact/Liaison Meeting
Oct. 6	Peirce Council Meeting
Oct. 9	Original Works (after school)
Oct. 8	Picture Day
Oct. 13	Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL
Oct. 14	Early Release Day 1:00pm
Oct. 14-17	5 th Grade Science Camp
Oct. 20-24	Fall Book Fair
Oct. 23	Back to School Night 6:30pm-8:00pm
Nov. 4	Professional/Election Day NO SCHOOL

NEXT PTO MEETING ~~██████~~ **OCT. 8TH**
6:30 in the library. Childcare available.

The Peirce Verse is a monthly school newsletter published by the PTO. Email items of interest to Sullivan all@comcast.net or drop item, marked VERSE, in Lisa Sullivan's mailbox located in the school office, no later than the Wednesday before distribution. Thanks

General Information:

- **Safe Phone Number 781-316-3298** Call before 8:15am day of illness.
- Mr. Bob Penta, Peirce Principal 316-3737
- Margy Dunton, Peirce Secty 316-3736
- Lucille Nicholson, Nurse 316-3738
- **METCO HOST FAMILIES CONTACT PERSON IS LAILA MOORE-NILES.**
- Peirce PTO: Forward notes to PTO Mailbox in school office or forward an envelope marked Peirce PTO and to whom it should go to or what it pertains to in your child's take home folder. Your teacher will make sure it gets into the PTO mailbox.
- **Verse Publications:** You may also view the Peirce Verse publications on Peirce School website upon completion of website.
- **Peirce Parent Email:** The office has developed an email for Peirce parents to get things electronically. This is for documents that are needed to get to you as well as hand outs. Go to www.arlington.k12.ma.us Click on "parent Notices" (bottom right-hand side) and then you can sign up for emails from the office.

Classroom Parent Contact/Liaison Listing (by grade and teacher)

Kindergarten

Ms. Galluzzo Contact- Joy Spadafora
Mrs. Langley's Contact- Mimi Griesmer

First Grade

Mrs. Raia's Contact- Maura Ware
Mrs. Wall's Contact- Laura Selfors

Second Grade

Ms. Jacoby's Contact- Laila Moore-Niles
Ms. MacDonald's Contact- Susan Richardson

Third Grade

Ms. McQueeney's Contact- Jessica Callaghan
Ms. Hayes/Mrs. Kennedy Contact- Lisa Carlson -Hill

Fourth Grade

Ms. Karwowski's Contact- Lisa Sullivan
Ms. McManus's Contact- Thea Coleman

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Carter's Contact- Natalie Guillame
Mrs. Perkowski's Contact- Ching-King Chieng

Pathways Classes

Ms. Schulman's Contact- Natalie Guillame
Ms. Griener's Contact- LeeAnna Pallett