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## Back to the Point

**October 2009**

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### OPEN HOUSE

Pine Point will hold an open house for prospective students and their families on Saturday, November 7th. The day will be in two components. The Young Children's Festival and DeMovick Early Childhood Center Open House will take place from 10:00-11:30 am, with projects and activities for children ages 2-6. An open house for students entering grades 1-9 will be held from 1:00-3:00 PM. For more information, please e-mail Director of Admissions Julie Abbiati by clicking [here](#).

### SOUTH AFRICAN VISITORS

Since Columbus Day, Pine Point has been hosting three students and the co-founders from the Thanya Institute of Learning (Rustenburg, South Africa). Michael and Thandi Pelle established the school in 1999, and it was visited by Head of School Paul Geise last March. Connection between the two schools was facilitated by former parent Manju Soni, mother of Diptesh '03 and Sejal '05. In addition to attending classes, our guests have visited New York, attended a dress rehearsal of the Salt Marsh Opera's *Der Fledermaus* in Old Saybrook, and enjoyed the hospitality of many Pine Point families, as well as amazing support from countless faculty members. The students – Karabo Magolego, Masebotsa Mofokeng, and Boitumelo Thobejane – have been staying with the Schwindt, Perry, and Seidel families, respectively, and will be with us through November 6.



*Thandi and Michael Pelle, seated, with Karabo in between, and Boitumelo and Masebotsa standing behind.*

### SEVENTH GRADE TRIP TO THE WHITE MOUNTAINS

In early October, the 7th grade ventured to New Hampshire for a four-day, off-campus experience in the White Mountains. In addition to lots of hiking, there was still classroom work, as the students utilized topographic mapping skills, learned about glacier formations and how glaciers changed the land, and studied alpine zones, including the types of vegetation that grows there. They also learned that they could climb a mountain in a thunderstorm, that polyester clothing does keep you warm and that, in the words of 7th grade teacher Erin Call, "it's always smart to pack an extra pair of wool socks and hand warmers." Skits were performed, there were many teambuilding activities, and the students learned how to LNT (leave no trace). Summing up the experience, Kara



Falck '12 wrote: "Our trip to the White Mountains was perfect even though it rained most of the time. There were beautiful, crystal-clear streams running through the forest, and bright yellow, orange, and red leaves covered the forest floor. I really felt like I was home. It was the best four days of my life!" Click [here](#) for a slideshow of their time up north.

### PINE POINTERS BEAT FEET FOR PENGUINS

As part of Pine Point's long partnership with the Mystic Aquarium, almost 20 Pine Point students, family members and teachers took part in the Aquarium's 2K Walk or 5K Run for the Penguins. The participants raised \$343 for the Aquarium's



penguin program. Any student who walked or ran was presented with a medal at Morning Meeting by fifth grade teacher Gay Long, who organized Pine Point's involvement in the event. Click [here](#) for photos of the event.

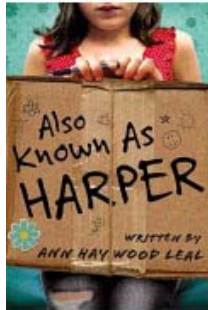
### A COMMUNITY THAT ALL SCHOOLS STRIVE TO BE

During the course of the year a number of unsolicited testimonials arrive at the School – sometimes via letter, other times by email – articulating the individual's feelings for the School. Last week, we received a marvelous note from parents whose child entered the School as a new 8th grader. They wrote, "As newcomers last year, we were awed by the truth. Pine Point is the community that all schools strive to be. Care for the students and their success is sincere. Leadership is wise and compassionate. Challenge is presented in a manner that empowers rather than intimidates. When people speak, we hear a humble confidence and a love for the vocation of teaching. We could not be more grateful to have found Pine Point!"

When you make a gift to the Annual Fund, you are signaling your support of the School's mission and honoring a talented faculty, many of whom have devoted their lives to Pine Point. The easiest way to make a gift? [Make an online contribution](#). You'll have the satisfaction knowing that your gift will be immediately put to good use by the School.

[And we would love to hear what you think about Pine Point!](#)

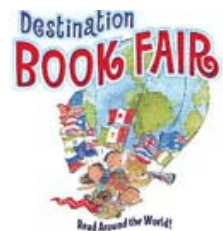
### LOCAL AUTHORS TO SPEAK AT PINE POINT



Ann Haywood Leal, an elementary teacher from Waterford, CT, will be speaking at Pine Point as part of our Speaker Series about her first book, *Also Known As Harper*. Leal volunteers at a local soup kitchen, and this book grew out of her concerns about the growing homeless problem in our area. The book concerns Harper Lee Morgan, named after her mother's favorite author. After her father leaves the family and they are evicted from their home, Harper turns to poetry as a way of coping with her family's upheaval. Leal will speak on Thursday, November 19, at 7 PM, in the Library/Technology Center. Copies of the book will be for sale and signing the night of the talk. Child care will be available. Also, hold the date of December 17, as Jake Halperin and Peter Kujawinski, co-authors of the children's book *Dormia*, will be here as part of the Parents Association Enrichment Program. The *Dormia* event is targeted at third through eighth graders.

### BOOK FAIR

The Parents Association will be holding its annual Book Fair from November 5-7. While you are there on the 7th, enjoy delicious soups, breads, and desserts for sale during the Barber Sports Tournament. Read a message from Librarian Carol Ansel by clicking [here](#).



### ALUMNI FIELD HOCKEY AND SOCCER GAMES



Even with inclement weather, more than 35 current students and alumni descended upon Pine Point for the 13th annual event. With new shirts designed by Kathy Coss '01, some of the stalwarts, led by Dr. Smith, still managed to go outside and play soccer, which was finally called due to the heavy rain and wind. Inside, Ms. Raf quickly organized a floor hockey game. The teams quickly swelled in size when the wet soccer stars came in. A great time was had by all. Click [here](#) for a slideshow.

### SAVE THE DATE

Another Pine Point dinner out will be held on Thursday, December 10, at The Up River Café and Cocktail Bar in Westerly. Stay tuned for more information! Check out their site [here](#).



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#### 2006-2009 Archive

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Strong Minds, Caring Heart

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