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**LONDON REUNION**

While visiting England with the 9th grade earlier this month, as part of the ISP, Associate Director of Development David Cruthers hosted a small, but delightful, group of Pine Point alumni and guests who live in the greater London area. Shown in this picture, from left to right, are Philip Ball, husband of Megan Chapman Crawford '71 (seated); Claire Steiner '81; Max Slavin '04; Kate Slavin, former preschool aide and mother of Max and Rose Slavin '05, who is seated next to her mom, and Jillian Dey Maydon, not only a member of the Class of 1987 but a former 5th grade teacher at Pine Point.



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**FORUM ON TEACHING CONTINUES**

Thursday, April 2 brings the second installment in the Pine Point School Forum on Teaching, "Walking the Tightrope: A Balancing Act," presented by 7th grade teacher David Smith '69. Dr. Smith has been teaching at the School since 1978. He says of his talk, "I remember watching Philippe Petit prepare mentally for his historic walk between the Twin Towers in the documentary Man on a Wire and thinking, 'I can feel his excitement and trepidation every time I walk into my classroom at the beginning of the school year.' There is much at stake each year and so little time to meet everyone's needs, and I would like to share some of the strategies I have constructed to make sure that I don't fall off the wire." The talk will be at 7:00 PM in the Library/Technology Center and is open to the public.



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**FRENCH TRIP**

In 2006, the 9th grade, as part of the International Studies Program at Pine Point, traveled to France, where they made a connection with a school in the small town of Richelieu. That connection was strengthened when, two weeks after the Pine Point trip, students from the French school visited Pine Point and stayed in the homes of PPS students and their families. In October 2008 the roles were reversed, when French students from the city of Saint Avertin came to visit the States and Pine Point. Earlier this month, more than half of this year's ISP students, along with Spanish teacher Monica Gallego who was in England, traveled to Heathrow Airport, where they met up with three 8th graders, along with French teachers Michele Snitkin and Catherine Conant, and Monica's husband Andrew Brown, and traveled on to France to meet up with their French friends. Madame Snitkin sent along this description of their adventures.

*After a seamless transition from London to Paris by plane and then a quick descent by TGV (fast train) to Tours in Touraine, our group arrived at Saint-Pierre des Corps station where a warm welcome and warm weather awaited. The families of the College Jules Romains of Saint Avertin took everyone first to a reception at the school where Daniel Durand, Principal, greeted the group and then "home" for the next five days full of visits to chateaux, nearby Tours and Rochecorbon, dances, meals, receptions and, of course, time in French classrooms. The bonds formed or renewed by the visit made for a very difficult departure both at the final evening at the Creperie and the next morning racing for the TGV for Paris.*



*As it turned out, it was pure good fortune to get a functioning train that Thursday since it was the day of a general public services strike throughout France. Not only that, the group actually caught a metro ride to the hotel, rather than having to walk with luggage for a half hour! Once settled in at the Hotel Marignan, it was a non-stop two and a half day tour of the French capital and its many attractions, including a bateau-mouche ride on the Seine, two visits to the Tour Eiffel, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Catacombs, the Louvre, Trocadero for a fabulous view, shopping everywhere including the Champs Elysees, and an excursion to Versailles.*

*From beginning to end, the Pine Point students were an outstanding and responsible team. They were the best possible representatives of American youth and excellent ambassadors in both public and private settings. Bien fait!*

At the above-noted reception on March 16, the students met with the Mayor of Saint Avertin, Jean-Gerard Paumier, who welcomed them to the city. That same day, his American counterpart, Stonington First Selectman Ed Haberek, proclaimed "Saint Avertin, Touraine, France Day" in Stonington. His proclamation read, in part, "I encourage all the residents of Stonington to join me in expressing our thanks and gratitude for the hospitality and friendliness the people of Touraine have shown to our Exchange Group while they stayed in their city."

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## SUMMER AT PINE POINT

Looking for something for your child or grandchild to do this summer? Then look into the many programs available during the summer at Pine Point. A combination of instructional education programs with a broad range of recreational fun-filled activities will once again be offered. There are four different components to Summer at Pine Point. The Summer Day Camp is open to boys and girls ages 5-13, providing a wide variety of educational and recreational programs and extracurricular opportunities. A program called Sprouts is a

preschool program for children ages 3 and 4 offering an intimate, group-learning environment with daily themes and adventures in our new DeMovick Early Childhood Center and our new playground. Summer Solutions, run through Pine Point's Alicia Z. Russell Center for Assessment and Learning, offers private evaluations, tutoring, workshops and programs throughout the summer. And, Pine Point is pleased to once again be hosting two weeks of the nationally recognized Camp Invention program this summer. Camp Invention is a week-long experience offered to children entering grades one through six. For more information, contact Camp Director Greg Brennan at 860-535-0606, ext. 324 or by e-mail at [summer@pinepoint.org](mailto:summer@pinepoint.org), or log on to [www.pinepoint.org/summer](http://www.pinepoint.org/summer).

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### ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

Pine Point staff, alumni class agents, and parent and past parent volunteers have been working since the start of school to raise awareness of the importance of the Annual Fund, and, to that end, have been asking members of the Pine Point family to make a contribution to keep Pine Point headed in the right direction. To the credit of our volunteers and the staff, and in great gratitude to each and every donor, we have raised just over \$186,000.

Every gift makes a difference in the quality of program we can offer to the 247 children who come to Pine Point each day ready to learn, to grow, and to be inspired. A gift to the Annual Fund is also an affirmation of the great work and care offered by our wonderful faculty.

This year's budget demands that we raise at least \$200,000. It's exciting to think that we've achieved 93% of that goal. There's no doubt that a strong response in the coming days and weeks will get us to where we need to be. To date, 425 donors have shown their commitment to Pine Point. Please don't wait. Make your gift now by clicking [here](#) and help us to successfully finish what can only be seen as a heartening effort given what we all have faced as individuals, families, and communities.

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### GRANDPARENTS'/GRANDPERSONS' DAY

This annual event, which is great fun for all concerned, is coming up on April 24th. The mailings to grandparents and grandpersons are out. You can also register by contacting Associate Director of Development David Cruthers either by [e-mail](#) or by calling 860-535-0606, ext. 133. Don't forget to purchase tickets for the K-1 Quilt Raffle at the School, starting on Monday, March 30!

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