

# Pine Point School

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**Vol 6 Issue IX, May 2007**

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### **Opportunities and Announcements**

#### **▲ Robert Petrocelli '81 to speak at Pine Point Commencement**

This year's Commencement speaker will be Robert Petrocelli '81, co-founder of Heartlab in Westerly, RI, a medical firm that was founded, according to its website, "to devise a way to eliminate costly, inefficient cine film used in the cath lab to capture images of the heart's coronary arteries." Bob last visited the School in May of 2006 to speak to the seventh grade about his work and his passion for being a life-long learner.



[Read article on Petrocelli from ViewPoints Summer/Fall 2005>](#)

#### **▲ Annual Fund Goal and \$1 Million Challenge Both Within Reach!**

If you read Head of School Paul Geise's article ("Great Expectations") in the most recent issue of *ViewPoints*, it's readily apparent that it has been another remarkable year at Pine Point. Those who haven't received the magazine can access it online. [Go to ViewPoints>](#)

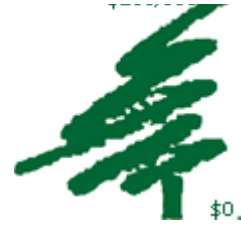


As an independent school, Pine Point relies on the generosity of all members of the Pine Point family to keep the School moving forward. With the close of the school year upon us, we need to successfully close out the Annual Fund and meet the Challenge for the Early Childhood Center.

The Annual Fund supports every aspect of

\$200,000 

The [Annual Fund](#) supports every aspect of the program at Pine Point from classroom instruction to financial aid. We've raised nearly \$194,000 toward our goal of \$200,000. Please help us reach our goal and maintain the strength of the program for this generation of Pine Point students.



[I'd like to make a gift online to the ANNUAL FUND](#)

Pine Point is also focused on building the [Early Childhood Center](#), which will bring together the Preschool through Grade 3 into one defined area of the campus. A family has given Pine Point a tremendous opportunity to help us build the ECC. They will give the School \$500,000 if we can raise \$1,000,000 in gifts and pledges by June 30, 2007. We're a little over \$100,000 away from securing the Challenge! We hope every member of the Pine Point family will see the value in supporting this important project.



[I'd like to make a gift online to the CAMPAIGN](#)

Whether you support the Annual Fund or help to meet the Challenge, please know that you are making a real difference in helping to build Pine Point. Those who have questions regarding giving should contact David Hannon, Director of Development, at 860-535-0606, ext. 132, or [development@pinepoint.org](mailto:development@pinepoint.org).

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## What's Happening at Pine Point?

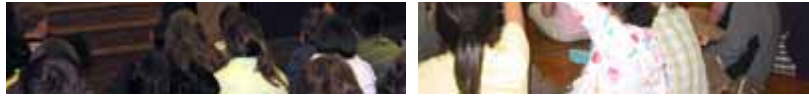
### ▲ National Schools of Character

The [Character Education Partnership](#) (CEP) has named Pine Point School a 2007 National School of Character in its prestigious annual awards program, one of only ten schools in the entire country. As a National School of Character, Pine Point will receive an award, national recognition, and a \$20,000 grant at CEP's 14th National Forum on Character Education, to be held in Arlington, VA this coming November. Having demonstrated the success of its initiative through the rigorous application and screening process, Pine Point will use its grant to serve as a national leader and model for other schools and districts seeking to improve their character education efforts. Thanks to Karen Stone, Ardice Perry, Judith Turnbull, Ben Greenfield, and faculty members Paul Geise, David Smith '69, Carol Roper, and Steve Brown who worked on the successful application!

### ▲ Poetry Madness

The Middle School annually has, for lack of a better term, a poetry playoff, similar to the NCAA Basketball Tournament. Poems are voted upon by students, and the final eight are then read aloud, by Mr. Salsich, at the annual "Poetry Madness," which was held on May 10th in the Mitchell Gym. Mr. Salsich read two poems, and then students and faculty voted on their favorite. The winner, winning overwhelmingly in each round, was *Ballad of Birmingham (On the bombing of a church in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963)* by Dudley Randall (1914-2000).





**Ballad of Birmingham** (On the bombing of a church in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963) —Dudley Randall

“Mother dear, may I go downtown  
Instead of out to play,  
And march the streets of Birmingham  
In a Freedom March today?”

“No, baby, no, you may not go,  
For the dogs are fierce and wild,  
And clubs and hoses, guns and jails  
Aren't good for a little child.”

“But, mother, I won't be alone.  
Other children will go with me,  
And march the streets of Birmingham  
To make our country free.”

“No, baby, no, you may not go,  
For I fear those guns will fire.  
But you may go to church instead  
And sing in the children's choir.”

She has combed and brushed her night-dark hair,  
And bathed rose petal sweet,  
And drawn white gloves on her small brown hands,  
And white shoes on her feet.

The mother smiled to know that her child  
Was in the sacred place,  
But that smile was the last smile  
To come upon her face.

For when she heard the explosion,  
Her eyes grew wet and wild.  
She raced through the streets of Birmingham  
Calling for her child.

She clawed through bits of glass and brick,  
Then lifted out a shoe.  
“O, here's the shoe my baby wore,  
But, baby, where are you?”

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### ▲ Eighth Grade Visits Washington

The annual Washington, DC visit by the eighth grade took place from May 14-17. Highlights included a visit with Congressman Joe Courtney, his second connection with Pine Point in as many months, having been here for the unveiling of the solar panels in April. The students also toured the many memorials on the Mall, as well as the Air and Space and Holocaust Museums.





8Th Grade in Washington, DC...



and at the Vietnam Memorial

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