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## Back to the Point

**December 2008**

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#### NINTH GRADE SPEECHES UNDERWAY

Anna Holt '09 got things off to a great start last week with this year's 9th grade speeches. Working with a theme that each student must follow, this marks the 12th year that our upcoming graduates have addressed the entire school and guests at Morning Meeting. This year's topic is "My Brown Paper Bag." What makes this annual rite even more special is that the speaker invites a close friend, a loved one, a beloved teacher, a mentor, etc., to introduce them. Adding a nice twist to this aspect of a tradition that has now become one of the hallmarks of the 9th grade program, Anna asked her sister, Darcy Eck '98, to introduce her. (On Monday, Tristan Yerkes '09 was introduced by his oldest sister, Tazetta Yerkes '05.) From now until June 8th (ending with Kimo Gray '09) our 9th graders will be sharing their message with the community. If you get a chance, come to Monday Morning Meeting and hear what the 9th graders have to say. You won't be disappointed.

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#### ANNUAL FUND

In last month's communication we reported that the Annual Fund was doing very well. Amazingly, in this unsettled environment, we are still ahead in donors and dollars compared to where we were at this time last year. Pine Point is blessed to enjoy the support from all of the constituencies that make up the Pine Point family. Indeed, 290 members of the Pine Point faithful have made a pledge or a gift to help maintain the strength of the program. In the next issue we'll report on the great news regarding our 9th graders and their support of the Annual Fund!

During the course of the year we receive quite a number of notes and letters from members of the Pine Point family. Last week, an alumnus, in this case Dan Leech '88, made a terrific gift to the Annual Fund. Asked for his motivation in making such a generous contribution, he wrote, "Our class agent, Erica Eppinger Fox '88, is an old friend and classmate and she wrote a funny note that made me finally take action and give. Like I told her, I was always planning on giving but always got sidetracked. She helped push me in the right direction as I believe in the School and the wonderful teachers there. As a 10 year Pine Pointer, it's great to see the wonderful changes and new facilities. Have a wonderful Holiday and best wishes to everyone at PPS."

In this season of giving, we hope you share Dan's view and will make a generous gift to the Annual Fund. [You can make your gift online today.](#)

#### END OF YEAR TAX CONSIDERATIONS AND GIFTING OF STOCK

Please remember that in order for your gift to qualify for a 2008 contribution it needs to arrive at Pine Point by December 31, 2008 or be sent in an envelope bearing a December 2008 postmark. The IRS is quite clear that there is no room for "flexibility" on this issue.

Those interested in making a gift of stock can contact [Director of Development David Hannon](#) (860-535-0606, Ext. 132) or Pine Point's account executive at Professional Planning Group: Chris Wallace, 401-596-2800, 866-205-3050, or [cWallace@ProfPlan.com](mailto:cWallace@ProfPlan.com). You can also [download all of the necessary numbers](#)



Anna Holt '09 (left) with her sister Darcy Eck '98

[Watch Anna's speech along all 9th grade speeches archived online.](#)

(account, Federal ID, DTC, etc.) you need to make the gift.

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**DEMOVICK THANK YOU**

In early September we celebrated the official opening of the DeMovick Early Childhood Center and we've had nearly four months to see the children and their teachers going about their day in this new resource. There's no doubt that it is a marvelous addition to our program and has helped us to reach a new level of excellence. Like the Library/Technology Center, it has forever changed our campus. In late November the Preschool through 2nd Grade and their teachers invited the DeMovick family to school to thank them for their new classrooms. Within their artwork, the students expressed their gratitude, as only children can, for their new desks, the playground, big windows, brightly painted walls, the carpet to keep things quiet, the whiteboards, HUGE closets, and the meeting space. One of the students has apparently discovered a part of the building that even Mr. Geise doesn't know about! Ayanna Burrell '16 wrote, "I especially appreciate the hot tub for the teachers because it makes them happy! It also helps Mrs. Crawford's leg." The students also sang a song for our special guests while Learning Specialist Diane Corwin Seltzer '67 and Kindergarten teacher Lou Toscano put together a marvelous slide show.

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*"I especially appreciate the white boards because at my old school we had chalk boards which were really hard to clean. Thank you."*

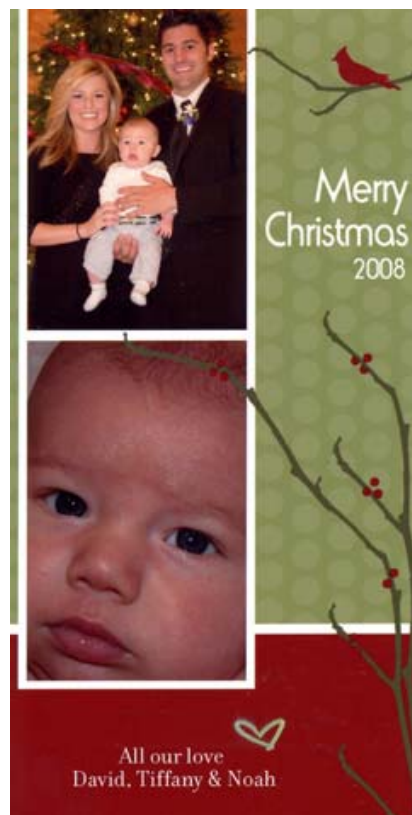


*"I especially appreciate the meeting space because it has enough space for everyone to listen during the assemblies. Thank you also for the colors because they are really good. They make everything stand out. Thank you."*

**HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO THE PINE POINT FAMILY**

Best wishes to the extended Pine Point family for a joyous holiday season. May the coming year bring good health and happiness for you and all those you love.

And a special request to alumni: over the last few days a number of wonderful family photos have come to us here at the School. The teachers take special delight in seeing their former students. Please send us your holiday family photo greeting card or family photos so that we might share them in the spring issue of *ViewPoints*.



**2006-2008 Archive**

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[Volume 7, Issue IX, July 2008](#)

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Strong Minds, Caring Hearts

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