



Home > Giving > Back to the Point

page tools:    

Support

Annual Fund

Make a Gift to Pine Point

Back to the Point

Clothing & Accessories

Campaign for Pine Point

Golf Tournament

Back to the Point

December 2009

In this issue:

[SPRING BENEFIT AND DINNER DANCE](#)

[LAUREN EDELSTEIN PARK '81](#)

[MORAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM](#)

[NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL](#)

[BOSTON ALUMNI EVENT](#)

[APPEAL FOR ALUMNI SURVEY](#)

[ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT PINE POINT](#)

[BEST WISHES!](#)

SPRING BENEFIT AND DINNER DANCE



Our first Gala since 1999 to benefit Pine Point will take place on Friday, April 30, 2010 at The Branford House at Avery Point in Groton! This exciting event will be open to all members of the Pine Point family and the community at large. While we are busy in the planning stages, we would ask everyone to be thinking about live and silent auction donations. We encourage you to think out of the box when securing, or donating, items. Do you or someone you know have a great home, or second home, that could be donated for a weekend/week? Can you give a great dinner party for 6-10 people? Are you friendly with local merchants who might be willing to donate a gift certificate or item? Can you offer tutoring, music or sports lessons? Do you have access to coveted tickets for cultural or sports events?

Please send any thoughts or donations to ppa@pinepoint.org. More updates will follow after the break.

LAUREN EDELSTEIN PARK '81

Lauren Edelstein Park '81 has been Class Agent for her class since 2003, and always does a great job getting the word out about the School and the Annual Fund. In fact, she does such a good job that we're sharing this year's letter with you.

Time is just cruising by. I know this because I attended a PPS reunion in August and I do believe it was my first visit to the school in 25 years!! Yikes!! I had a blast hanging out with Niffy Powers and Hugh Marshall, and seeing teachers like Mr. Salsich, Mr. Royle, and Sally Wilson. Mr. Jason was there, too! Some of the school looked exactly the same - like the science lab in the basement, and that main entry into the Upper School hallway. Some was really different - the old gymnasium and stage were gone. Just think about all of the performances, gym classes, science fairs, and school dances that went on in that old gymnasium. And I must say that the new additions to the school are really amazing - the current PPS students are pretty lucky.

Which, of course, leads right into my pitch. Last year PPS raised \$226,000. The goal for the 2010 Annual Fund is \$250,000. Last year, 15% of alumni made a gift to the Annual Fund, 184 donors altogether. Pine Point recognizes that alumni participation is crucial to maintaining the strength of the school, and has set a goal for 250 alumni donors for this year. To this end, 12 former students, including our very own classmates Ron Helbig and Bob Petrocelli, have agreed to join an Alumni Challenge [to learn more about this effort click [here](#)] to encourage 250 people to give in 2009-10. We all hope we can count on your support this year; every gift is important and appreciated!

Not much news to report from Colorado. I had a busy year doing autism-related legislative lobbying and fundraising. My kids are enjoying Kindergarten and 1st grade, and have started rock climbing classes. These days, every spare moment of our family life is devoted to Star Wars, my son's



latest obsession. We build Star Wars Lego battle ships and go to Star Wars conferences. My head was once filled with legal knowledge, but now holds only Star Wars trivia. My whole family can play "The Imperial March" on the piano. The good news is that my daughter has swapped the Disney Princesses for Princess Leia and Padme, who I consider to be much stronger role models.

What is going on with all of you? I would love to hear from you. I hope your holidays this year are great!

May the force be with you,

Lauren Park

Lauren's letter captures the crux of the Annual Fund and its importance to Pine Point. Whether you're an alumna/us, parent, past parent, grandparent or friend, if Lauren's letter resonates with you, please consider a generous gift to the Annual Fund, which you can make by clicking [here](#).

While there's no doubt that people are principally motivated in their giving by the good they seek to accomplish, it's also true that one's philanthropy is an important part of tax planning. In that spirit, this is a reminder that to be eligible for a tax deduction for this tax year your gift must be made by December 31st.

MORAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The 9th Grade recently met with John Fixx, Headmaster of Chase Collegiate School (Waterbury, CT) as part of the Moral Leadership Program. Previous to his visit, Mr. Fixx sent a series of moral dilemmas for the students to ponder. He asked the students, "How do we make difficult choices among two or more 'right answers' when they all have some benefits and all might do some harm?" The situations posed generated good debate among the students and Mr. Fixx.



Pine Point's Moral Leadership Program, now in its second year, seeks to generate discourse and personal reflection among the 9th Grade. Consistent with our [mission and core values](#), the purpose of this program is to explore the essential question: "What difference will you be making in the years to come?" Classes meet once each month. Guest facilitators are invited to teach a class, bringing with him/her a question to ponder. Within and following the class, there is an opportunity to discuss the student's reflective writing about the topic. Past speakers have included Stonington First Selectman Ed Habarek, Fr. Emmett Jarrett, anti-apartheid activist (and PPS past parent) Manju Soni, and Scott Bates of the Center for National Policy.

NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL

Both the Teddy Bears and Dinosaurs send their families monthly newsletters with what's been going on in their classes. We're happy to share some of their news with you!



Teddy Bears - Happy December! The children have been busy with various holiday celebrations. They made Santa Lucia crowns. In Sweden, to honor Santa Lucia the "Saint of Light" who brings brightness and hope during the dark winter, the oldest daughter in each house, wearing a white robe, red sash, and crown of candles to light the darkness, presents coffee or cocoa and a breakfast treat to mom and dad on the morning of December 13th.

Dinosaurs - This week we began learning about the winter holidays. We also studied the letter "S". We made snowflakes in our cooking class and sewed stockings using a real sewing machine! The class also learned how to sew a button. We decorated gingerbread cookies with Cindy's Grandma and made icicles with Harvey's mom.

BOSTON ALUMNI EVENT

Please join us for our first-ever Boston event! We'll gather at the Union Oyster House on February 11, 2010 (5:30-7:30 PM). The cocktail reception is open to alumni in the Classes of 1952-2004 as well as current and former faculty. Pine Point will be joined by alumni of The Williams School.



Please contact Associate Director of Development [David Cruthers](#) if you would be interested in helping to generate a good turnout of alumni, or if you want to R.S.V.P. Those attending are welcome to bring their spouse or a special guest. Check their website for information and directions by clicking [here](#).

APPEAL FOR ALUMNI SURVEY

If you haven't filled out the Alumni Survey yet, there's still time. The deadline has been extended to December 31st! Click [here](#) to complete the

survey. Your input is greatly appreciated and will be beneficial in moving the School forward. Thanks!

ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT PINE POINT

As you do your holiday shopping (and shopping throughout the year for that matter), please consider conducting your online shopping utilizing GoodShop, an online shopping mall of well-known merchants (Aeropostale, Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Barnes & Noble, L.L. Bean, Staples, Expedia, etc.) dedicated to funding worthy causes across the country.



Each purchase made via GoodShop results in a donation to the user's designated charity or school – in this case, Pine Point. (You must go through the GoodShop site and not the individual stores in order to have your purchase credited to Pine Point.) Click [here](#) to get started.

BEST WISHES TO YOU AND YOURS FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!

2006-2009 Archive

[Volume 9, Issue III, November 2009](#)

[Volume 9, Issue II, October 2009](#)

[Volume 9, Issue I, September 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue XII, August 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue XI, July 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue X, June 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue IX, May 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue VIII, April 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue VII, March 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue VI, February 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue V, January 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue IV, December 2008](#)

[Volume 8, Issue III, November 2008](#)

[Volume 8, Issue I, September 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue X, August 2008](#)

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

[Volume 7, Issue VIII, June 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue VII, May 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue VI, April 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue V, March 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue III, January 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue II, December 2007](#)

[Volume 7, Issue I, November 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue X, June 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue IX, May 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue VIII, May 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue VII, March 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue VI, February 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue V, January 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue IV, December 2006](#)

[Volume 6, Issue III, November 2006](#)

[Volume 6, Issue II, October 2006](#)

[Volume 6, Issue I, September 2006](#)



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Strong Minds, Caring Hearts

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