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**LIBRARIAN CAROL ANSEL HONORED**

Clothing &amp; Accessories

Hearty congratulations to Pine Point Librarian Carol Ansel on a couple of fronts. Carol and her blog, which you can read at <http://ppsltc.wordpress.com>, are the 2009 recipients of the Connecticut Library Association Publicity Award for "materials designed by a library to promote a library concept or event." Carol's work was judged to be the very best last year among all libraries in the state including the large public one you might enjoy in your town if you live in the Nutmeg State. It is telling that the Association chose to honor a web resource for its top prize. Carol has always been ahead of the curve. One of her best innovations? Library chairs which are SUPPOSED to tip! So, it is no surprise that Carol was the first teacher page published to our website. Have a look at what she has done (<http://www.pinepoint.org/ansel>). It is a simple, but substantive, beginning to what is an evolving resource, as she has begun to think about how to incorporate some online resources she already maintains (her award-winning blog) with our website's capabilities. This is not the first honor Carol has received, as she was presented a Connecticut Media Association Program Award for her "TV Turnoff Week" program in 2000. This past weekend she even volunteered with the Audubon Society of Rhode Island to help put their holdings online. So if you are in search of inspiration when visiting Pine Point, drop by the Library/Technology Center; great things are happening there!

[Back to top>](#)**ISP TRIP TAKES SHAPE**

The 9th grade will be heading to England on March 5th. Over the course of eight days they will immerse themselves in museums, Shakespeare, markets, castles, and even football, English style! The students and teachers will be traveling to London, Windsor, Eton, and Stratford-upon-Avon for the first six days, and then two nights will be in Stratford, wrapped around a matinee performance of Shakespeare's The Tempest. An extended, behind the scenes tour of the Globe Theatre in London previous to the play will focus on its contents. A multicultural day organized by Spanish teacher Monica Gallego will take everyone through the Brick Lane markets and the Docklands, culminating in Bangladeshi curries for supper! A day in the Windsor/Eton area will feature lunch and a tour of Eton College, a visit to Windsor Castle, and Evensong at St. George's Chapel before dinner on the way back to London. English teacher



*Award-winning librarian Carol Ansel assists Ayanna Burrell '16 with a project.*

Hamilton Salsich, co-teacher Judy Toscano, and Associate Director of Development David Cruthers will be the other educators on the trip. After the group leaves on March 5th, check on the Pine Point website to follow along with the 9th grade!

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### EIGHTH GRADE ASSESSMENTS

Pine Point School created an assessment/service learning project that tests our 8th grade students' mastery of skills and concepts in English and requires them to demonstrate a social conscience. Each student selects a service site, researches issues specific to the site, and reads a novel that is in some way connected to his/her service. The student then conducts a literary analysis, takes photos at the site, and writes an essay that integrates his/her research and experiences. Finally he/she presents his/her project to a panel of judges and responds to questions. One of the 8th grade students involved in this project was Joseph Rosen '10, who, with his Tibetan mastiff Po, recently visited Mary Elizabeth Nursing Center in Mystic to let residents meet and pet the dog, and receive valentines from members of the GIVE Committee. Several 8th graders worked in local nursing homes. Sophie Groton '10 established a strong bond with a woman with Alzheimer's disease, and is continuing her weekly visits beyond the end of the assessment project. Similarly, Thomas Benfield '10 developed a friendship with two elderly nursing home roommates, and even helped them work out some of their relationship issues. Lily Hinkle '10 tutored students at The Boys and Girls Club after-school program in Groton, and learned a considerable amount about what it takes to be a good teacher.



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*In this photo, we see Art Teacher Maria Iacoi (Joseph's mother), Joseph Rosen, Mark Crawford '10, Alexander Schwindt '15, Barbara Millerick, Social Director of Mary Elizabeth, Caroline Burlingham '09, and Eleanor Hilton '09, along with Po.*

### MATHCOUNTS TEAM TAKES 10TH PLACE AT REGIONAL COMPETITION

On February 7, eight Pine Point School students spent the day with pencil in hand working on extremely challenging math problems at the regional MATHCOUNTS competition, held at the US Coast Guard Academy in New London. Amita Bose '10, Maddie Denison '10, Alexander Hawley '12, Rudy Harvey '11, Edward Litvinov '12, Jamie MacKillop '12, Madeline Neff '10 and Matt Owen '11 comprised the hard-working team. This group of dedicated mathematicians scored 10th place out of 32 teams from Eastern Connecticut. Two of the team members, Jamie MacKillop and Matt Owen, qualified for the State level competition, which will be held on March 14 at the University of Hartford. Congratulations to all!

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*Matt, Alexander, Jamie, Amita, Maddie, Edward, and Madeline are joined by Zack Dameron '09 (rear, second from left), who, despite not being in the competition (which only goes through the eighth grade) enjoys spending time with the team. Rudy was absent from the photo.*

### VISITORS TO PINE POINT

It seems that not a day goes by when a member of the Pine Point family (outside of the current parent body) doesn't drop by campus to see old friends and the changes made to the School since their last visit. It was wonderful to welcome back to Pine Point former Head of School

Margie Field (1990-1994). After Pine Point, Margie served as Head of School for St. Margaret's-McTernan School (now Chase Collegiate School) in Waterbury, CT from 1994-2003. Margie toured the new DeMovick Early Childhood Center, took in morning meeting, and received enthusiastic greetings from her former colleagues. Margie was thrilled to find the School in such good shape. Now "retired," she is able to spend more time with grandchildren and to devote herself to those organizations for which she is passionate, two such non-profits being The Forman School and the Connecticut Community Foundation. After the visit, Margie wrote down her thoughts on her visit. Her reflection will be included in the spring magazine. The next time you're in the area, stop in and see what's happening in the lives of this generation of Pine Point students!

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### ADMISSION NEWS

An admission reception for prospective Pine Point parents was held at the home of past parent Ed Russell in Watch Hill on February 19, organized and led by current parents Susan DeMovick, Nicole Catalfimo, and Tamsy Markham. A small but enthusiastic group turned out to hear Head of School Paul Geise and Director of Admissions Julie Abbiati talk about the benefits of a Pine Point education. Thanks to our current parents for their stellar efforts and to Ed Russell for graciously opening his lovely home for the event. A similar reception is planned for the Lyme-Old Lyme area in the spring. While the admissions picture is challenging at many independent schools, we are encouraged that the number of applications remains consistent with previous years. Our admissions efforts are most successful when members of the Pine Point family encourage their neighbors and friends to take a good look at the School. Please call Julie Abbiati if you live in Southeastern Connecticut/Southwestern Rhode Island and have an interest in hosting an admissions event, or simply would like to lend a hand with this all-important work.

On Thursday March 12 at 6:00 pm the School will host an information session for prospective parents about the Preschool program. Parents who are interested in learning about the unique features of Pine Point's Preschool will have the opportunity to hear from our Preschool faculty and administration. Program features and a profile of children's social and emotional development will be addressed. Reservations may be made through the Admission Office, 860-535-0606, ext. 135, or by [e-mailing](#) Julie Abbiati.

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### ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

To date, 399 members of the Pine Point family have made a gift or a pledge to the Annual Fund. Those commitments total over \$179,000. It's heartening to report that our donor numbers are ahead of where we were at this time last year and that we are just \$5,000 behind where we were in terms of dollars. In this environment, those statistics leave us feeling hopeful about bringing the Annual Fund to a successful conclusion. To do so, we need to raise an additional \$51,000. Just think, you could be the 400th donor to make a gift to Pine Point this year!

One of our most loyal supporters is a grandmother living in Dallas. As she often does, she sent along a marvelous note accompanying her gift. She wrote, "I'm grateful for the teachers and their on-going excellence. My grandson is thinking, he is considering, he is taking in vast amounts of information, and he is learning well. His interest in the world grows, as does his confidence and his sense of humor." What more could a grandparent ask for when it comes to the education of someone so precious to them?

More than ever, the students and teachers of Pine Point need your good thoughts, advocacy, and yes, your financial support. Every gift makes a difference. Please make a generous gift to the Annual Fund today. You can even make your gift online by clicking [here](#).

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### ADDRESS UPDATES, GRANDPARENTS'/GRANDPERSONS' DAY, AND MORE

This annual event, which is great fun for all concerned, is coming up on April 24th. The mailings to grandparents and grandpersons will go out on March 2. PLEASE contact Associate Director of Development David Cruthers either by [e-mail](#) or by calling 860-535-0606, ext. 133, with any address changes, so that he can make sure that grandparents and special friends receive their invitation.

It is so important to have up-to-date addresses for all people affiliated with Pine Point. An unhappy occurrence takes place twice a year when we send out our magazine, ViewPoints. If we get a magazine returned with no forwarding address, we are charged over \$5.00 per issue! Contact Mr. Cruthers to help us stay up to date by informing us of any changes. Thank you!

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*Former Head of School Margie Field (second from left) is shown with Lower School Director Susan Kozel, Head of School Paul Geise and President of the Board of Trustees Ardice Perry.*

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