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WELCOME BACK

Like much of the country, Pine Point and southeastern Connecticut have been in the grip of Old Man Winter. This photo, showing the DeMovick Early Childhood Center, was taken in mid-January when the School was closed after receiving some six inches. (For those Pine Pointers living in warmer climes, do you miss New England?) But while the air is frigid, the School pulses with life. In the next month, Pine Point will host an enrichment assembly by the a cappella group "Blue Jupiter," the sixth grade will make its annual trip to Alton Jones, lots of basketball will be played, the eighth grade assessments will be taking place, and the ninth grade is preparing for its trip to England through the International Studies Program. But what else would you expect?



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THE INAUGURATION AND PINE POINT

At Morning Meeting on January 26, Mr. and Mrs. Williams presented a slide show of their experience at the Inauguration, backed by a lovely rendition by James Taylor singing his classic, "Shower the People." The images of people of all ages and colors walking across the bridge from Arlington into the District of Columbia and crowding onto the Mall, the huge TV screens set up to watch the new President and all speeches via closed captions, and the sense of joy from all who were there is readily apparent. In remarks before the slide show, Mrs. Williams told the entire student body, in part, "I don't like crowds. I purposely avoid crowds. But this was different. Some folks said to me that they couldn't have done it because of the cold or because of all the people. But the cold didn't matter and the crowds didn't matter. There was heat rising off the bodies, there was the



sunlight and there was the energy. And all those people...that was the essence of it all. The day wasn't about us and yet, it was all about us. Everyone around us, without exception, was so happy, so accepting, so open, so giving." Mr. Williams described the atmosphere as a combination of "a rock concert, Disneyland, and a Baptist revival meeting, all in one!" You can watch the slide show by clicking [here](#).



Also, former Assistant Head of School Tony Featherston (current Head of School at Elmwood Franklin School in Buffalo) and his wife, Helen Roy, and daughters Lucy '08 and Riley '13, wrote about the event on a blog called "In Search of Barack" (you can read it by clicking [here](#)). Tony wrote, in part, "It was an amazing experience to be part of such a large crowd all there to celebrate the country's tradition of a peaceful and orderly transfer of power and its first African-American president. I feel honored to be able to represent many in my family who endured the ugliness of racism over many generations but who nevertheless believed that someday the United States would live up to its promise that all things are possible. It was a very emotional, uplifting experience, and to be able to share it with my family and a couple million of my closest friends made it very special."

The person with one of the best views, however, was seventh grader Simone City Kronholm '11. Her uncle, Justin Kronholm, was CT Campaign Manager for candidate Obama. "We sat in the purple section, three rows away from the front. Afterwards, we went to the Neighborhood Ball, heard Beyonce, and saw President and Mrs. Obama dance their first dance as First Couple!"

Finally, Tucker Walsh '05 supplied us with these great photos. Tucker is a freshman at Corcoran College of Art/Design in D.C. You can see more of his work at www.tuckerwalsh.com.



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No doubt there were other Pine Pointers in our nation's capital for the Inauguration festivities. If so, we would love to hear about what you saw. Please [e-mail](#) Associate Director of Development David Cruthers with your recollections.

OUR NINTH GRADE AND THE ANNUAL FUND

Caroline Burlingham, Gabe Campbell, Scarlet Caruso, Zach Dameron, Olivia Denison, Wendell Frink, Kimo Gray, Eleanor Hilton, Anna Holt, Ty LeVarge, Ceilie Moore, Timmy O'Brien, Julie Philippe, Teddy Purnell, Lydia Schulz, Kate Scott, Kyle Sebastian, Sarah Shourds, Hannah Staley, Parker Verhoeff, Tristan Yerkes, and Rashad Young.

What do these students have in common? Yes, they're all part of our wonderful 9th grade, and they're all great kids. Further, they are all making their mark in different ways. In addition to their academic work, some are terrific athletes; others have important roles in the middle school musical; a few have made GIVE a

priority in their lives. All have talents, and they are using them to make a difference at Pine Point and in their communities.

What's also true is that each and every one of them made a gift to the Annual Fund! Imagine that. 100% of our soon-to-be graduating 9th graders have lent a hand in maintaining and strengthening their school. Now that's a nice story to tell. Throughout the fall and early winter, the Parents Association and the Development Office worked with the Class of 2009 to get to this point. The process was one not unlike that in working with major donors. There was a group meeting, individual conversations, personal notes, and food. In this case, the lure of doughnuts was employed over the course of several weeks to seal the deal. Dubbed "Donuts for Donors," or as President of the Parents Association Debbie O'Brien put it, the Major Donut Reception, the thought of passing on a tasty morsel was too much for some of the students.

Our thanks and congratulations go out to the 9th graders for leading the way and showing that they understand the importance of "strong minds and a caring hearts." We hope all members of the Pine Point community will be inspired by the 9th grade and lend a hand by making a generous gift to the Annual Fund.

Online giving link:

<http://www.pinepoint.org/annualfund.html>

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ALUMNI – THERE'S STILL TIME FOR YOUR NEWS!!

The Development Office is working on the next issue of ViewPoints, which we expect to have to the printer in April. That means you still have time to get us your news for Class Notes. Let your former classmates and teachers what you've been up to. Please [e-mail](#) any information to David Cruthers, Associate Director of Development, or, if you're a Facebook member, go to the [Pine Point School page](#) (which you should join, if you haven't already), and leave a message there. Please do so by February 17th. Thanks!

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PINE POINT SCHOOL FORUM ON TEACHING

The first in a series of lectures/discussions "On the Craft of Teaching" was offered last week, featuring third grade teacher Mary Raftery. Her presentation was entitled "Teacher Woman: Methods and Madness in Third Grade." "Ms. Raf," as she is known to her students and alumni, inspired by authors Frank McCourt and Rafe Esquith, reflected on her 25 years in the classroom and shared her "TIPS" for successful and joyful teaching. ("TIPS" stands for Teamwork, Inspiration, Planning, and Students.) Her remarks were a wonderful mix of a well-rooted philosophy of teaching children laced with her well-known and infectious humor.



The 9th grade and some of their parents gathered in the L/TC on Monday immediately following Scarlet Caruso's 9th grade speech to celebrate this great accomplishment.



April 2 will bring "Walking the Tightrope: A Balancing Act" by David Smith '69, a seventh grade teacher and the Chair of the School's Service Learning Department. Dr. Smith has been teaching at the School since 1978. Of his talk, he says "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 final lecture in this series is entitled "I Love a Man in an Apron: The Plight of the Male Kindergarten Teacher," and will be delivered by kindergarten teacher Lou Toscano on May 7. "I am going to talk about my own elementary school experience, which was wonderful, leading to my desire to become a teacher," says Mr. Toscano. "I will also talk about my experience as a male elementary teacher, a rarity in this day." Mr. Toscano, or Mr. T. to so many, began teaching at Pine Point in 1989.

These lectures are held on Thursday nights, at 7 PM in the School's Library/Technology Center. All are encouraged to attend.



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SAVE THE DATE!

Grandparents/Grandpersons' Day is on the horizon, and we want to make sure you don't miss the opportunity to join us on what is one of the most enjoyable days of the School year. It will take place on Friday, April 24th. Invitations will go out in early March. (Please [e-mail](#) the Development Office if your address has changed in recent months.) A big part of the event every year is the raffle that accompanies the drawing for the K-1 quilt. This year's quilt theme, based on the studies of the K-1, is "Colors of New England."

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Strong Minds, Caring H

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