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March 2010

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HOCKEY REUNITES PPS CLASSMATES



Pine Point alumni regularly run across one another. Sometimes it's planned, as was the Boston alumni event. Other times, it's by happenstance. Last month, Caroline Burlingham '09, playing for Middlesex, faced off against Groton's Lydia Schulz '09 on Lydia's home ice. After Middlesex prevailed by a 5-2 score, the girls posed all smiles for a photo taken by Caroline's mother, Camille.

We asked each of them what they were doing at their new schools. Lydia wrote, "I have been taking a history course called The World and the West, AP environmental science, geometry, English, Spanish,

and Sacred Studies, and starting on the JV hockey team. My spring break will see me going on a lacrosse preseason trip to West Palm Beach, FL."

Caroline said, "Right now I am in the middle of tryouts for JV lax and just finished JV hockey. I am taking geometry and modern European history, medical bioethics (senior elective), Spanish literature, and I'm reading *Macbeth*. I am also in the chapel chorus and everything is going well. I will be staying with a family in Argentina in the summer."

APPRECIATING THE NIGHT SKY

On February 26, Katie Wakefield '08, a junior at Chariho Regional High School, arrived in Santiago, Chile, to participate in a program sponsored by the American Friends Service (AFS). A devastating earthquake, much stronger than the one that wracked Haiti in January, struck early the next morning. Katie is keeping a blog of her Chilean adventures and reported on the experience.

"Everyone has been asking me about the earthquake. I was in orientation with the rest of the students who had arrived in Chile; it was our first night in the country. At about 3 in the morning the earthquake happened. I had been told they were common and I was waiting for one to happen. I didn't find out until later that it was an 8.8 and so many people died from it. I am very grateful we were in the countryside otherwise I don't know what would have happened. I am actually surprised the cabins didn't collapse, but I'm not going to think about that! None of us knew what to do so we all just lay in our bunks until it was over (stupid thing to do; if you are ever in an earthquake DON'T DO THAT). The AFS people came running in and told us to grab warm clothes and get outside where nothing could fall on us. So we did and we slept outside that night all huddled together on the ground. It may sound weird, but I've never appreciated the night sky so much. I remember thinking 'when I get home I'm sleeping under the stars every night!' They kept us there until sunrise. There were maybe six aftershocks through the night that I was aware of. It feels like you are standing on jelly! We slept outside again the next night and then we left. I was horrified at some of the destruction I soon saw."

You can follow along at katiewakefieldschileanadventure.blogspot.com.

FIFTH GRADE AT MYSTIC SEAPORT

Associate Director of
Development David Cruthers
accompanied half of the fifth



grade to Mystic Seaport on one of the six visits they make over the course of the year. (The activities in which the students take part are in small enough settings that the class can go only half at a time.) Fifth grade teacher Gay Long, whose curriculum takes in a large component of the Seaport, was the 2009 recipient of the Seaport's Orion Award for Excellence in Experiential Education, presented to a teacher who uses the opportunities offered by the Museum to create innovative and experiential learning.

Mrs. Long explained the purpose of devising this curriculum. "We get to 'do' math and we get to 'do' science. We didn't get to 'do' history, but with the great resource that is Mystic Seaport, we developed a way to take advantage of it." At the Museum, the students take in every aspect of what Mystic Seaport has to offer, including visiting the Collections Research Center, where they work with primary sources.

On the day Mr. Cruthers visited, Mrs. Long took him to three different activities in which the students were involved. Click [here](#) to read some of his observations.

POTATO OLYMPICS

Last month, the 3rd grade held their own version of the Olympics, in this case, the Potato Olympics. Third grade teacher Lisa Scott explains:

"The Potato Olympics serve many curricular purposes for us. We begin by reading a favorite book, *Edgar Potato*. This book is about the life a potato and the difficulties he encounters being the largest spud! Then the students choose their potatoes (russets this year) keeping in mind the shape and size of their choice. After the selection process, they write a short biography about their potato. The biographies are structured chronologically and tell a good story. When these were written, we had just completed biography book reports in our reading groups so it was a good way to build on those skills.



"The other curricular connection is math. We have been working on measurement concepts – time, temperature, linear, mass, and capacity. The students find the mass, girth, and length of their potatoes. Then, let the games begin! Potatoes compete in one event a day for five days. The events are bobsled, luge, curling, hockey, and bowling. Of course, these events are modified to meet the needs of potato athletes! Students measure distance, or count points, and we track the individual scores.

"We have a potato village where our potato athletes sleep and train (my daughter's old doll house), complete with furniture and accessories! On the last day, medals and certificates are

awarded. Last, but not least, the athletes and trainers enjoy a feast of French fries, sweet and regular, and of course the favorite, tater tots (but not their potatoes)!"

AN EVENING BY THE SEA



Historic Branford House on the University of Connecticut's Avery Point campus in Groton is the site for Pine Point's first benefit dinner dance and auction since the 50th Anniversary Gala in 1999! Proceeds from the evening will benefit the entire program at the School. Members of the Pine Point family are coming together and offering sponsorships, donating auction items, providing music, and volunteering a great deal of time to ensure that it will be a fabulous evening.

To learn more about the event, click on the lamps.



ANNUAL FUND - BE A RECORD SETTER!

As of March 17th, 421 members of the Pine Point family had made gifts and pledges to the Annual Fund totaling just over \$266,000! The success of the Annual Fund is doubly important in an environment that continues to be very challenging. To think that we've set an Annual Fund record is heartening to say the least. Over the last ten days, Sally Cogan, Kate Coggeshall Hammatt '56, Sarah Kelly and Ken Sigel, Gloria Meyers, Casey Morgan Peltier '60, Kate Scott '09, Margaret Shorrocks, Jim and Donna Weeks, and Kassy White '70 respectively were the most recent donors who were able to claim that they had put the Annual Fund at its highest point in the history of our School. *Every* gift is critically important in providing the funds to support this generation of Pine Point students and their

immensely talented, dedicated, and caring teachers. Please consider a generous gift today. Click [here](#), and be a record setter!

PINE POINT GOLF TOURNAMENT

It's that time of year when many people's thoughts turn to golf. One way to celebrate spring, and support Pine Point, is to play in the School's golf tournament. (Over the last decade, the tournament has grossed over \$250,000!) We'll tee it up on May 24, 2010, at Stonington Country Club. Click here to download the [entry form](#) and [brochure](#). Sign up by April 20th to take advantage of the discounted entry fee. Don't delay. Invitations haven't gone out yet and we already have five foursomes in place!



MINDS IN MOTION COMES TO PINE POINT

On Saturday, April 10, the Connecticut Association for the Gifted and Pine Point will host "Minds in Motion," a series of workshops geared to students in grades K-8. In all, 19 workshops will be offered, ranging from astronomy to a three-hour tour of the Pawcatuck River and Little Narragansett Bay aboard the School's 24' research vessel. Parents will also have workshops to attend. To obtain registration materials, click [here](#).

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Strong Minds, Caring Hearts

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