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September 2009

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[WELCOME BACK!](#)

After the quiet of summer, it's wonderful to have the students and teachers back at the School. Whether it be the 4th grade's incorporation into their curriculum of *The Six Traits of Writing*, a program 4th grade teacher Judy Christoffersen brought with her from Michigan, or the 9th grade's ISP trip to Costa Rica, it promises to be another remarkable year at Pine Point!

DEBBIE O'BRIEN PRESENTED WITH CASTLE AWARD

At its annual reception for donors Pine Point presented the Steven M. Castle Award to 4th grade parent, Trustee, and Co-President of the Pine Point Parents Association Debbie O'Brien. This year's reception, now in its 20th year, was held in the Library/Technology Center and brought together over 75 of Pine Point's most loyal donors. The Castle Award is the highest honor Pine Point bestows on a volunteer and recognizes devotion to the School and long years of service. In addition to her current responsibilities, Debbie has been involved in every area of school life, from the Book Fair to admissions to the Annual Fund. We're grateful for everything she does for Pine Point! Click [here](#) for a slideshow to see who was there!



Debbie O'Brien (seated), winner of this year's Castle Award, with Head of School Paul Geise and former winners Alice Lee Groton and Karen Stone

SCREENING OF PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL



Pine Point will host a screening and follow-up discussion of the award-winning documentary film *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* on Thursday, October 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the Library/Technology Center. This is a free community event and we encourage everyone, ages 14 and up, to share in this call to action for peace. Due to the graphic nature of the film, viewer discretion is advised.

Pray the Devil Back to Hell is a gripping account of a group of brave and visionary women who demanded peace for Liberia, a nation torn by a decades-old civil war. This acclaimed film has won awards at film festivals around the globe! View a trailer and learn more at the [film's website](#).

ALUMNI FIELD HOCKEY AND SOCCER GAMES

Please join us on October 18th at 1:00 PM for the 13th annual event. Besides the camaraderie that's always evident at the games, this year's T-shirt was designed



by Kathy Coss '01! T-shirts will be given to the first 50 to sign up. If you are planning on playing, contact David Cruthers at 860-535-0606, ext. 133 or at dcruthers@pinepoint.org.

COASTAL CLEANUP AND THE FOURTH GRADE



For the ninth year in a row, Pine Point's 4th grade spent the day on Little Narragansett Bay participating in International Coastal Cleanup Day, collecting 56 pounds of trash in the process. They scoured all of Sandy Point (last year, a smaller group of students covered only one mile of beach but still picked up 95 pounds of debris). We're making progress! Head of School Paul Geise says each year that he hopes that one year the students will return empty-handed! Items recovered included a large lobster pot, pieces of Styrofoam, and buoys. The item tallied most? Cigarette butts! The results were sent to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. The 4th grade studies marine life, and this exercise, besides acting as part of their service learning, shows them how pollution affects marine life. Parent volunteers serving as boat drivers included: Josh and Jen Parsons, Keith LaRose, Jim Reid,

and Kevin Bowdler. Joining them were: Karen LaRose, Elizabeth Reid, Anne Fix Bowdler '76, Ana Hoops, Debbie O'Brien and Jennifer Schwindt. Thanks also to former 4th grade teacher Sally Cogan, who hauled all the trash back to her property at Elihu Island in her Boston Whaler! Click [here](#) for a slideshow of the day.

PAST PARENTS, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

ViewPoints is on the way, and our records still have many alumni bearing their parents' addresses. Past parents, if you are receiving mail from us for a former student who is living elsewhere, please contact David Cruthers at 860-535-0606, ext. 133 or at dcruthers@pinepoint.org, and pass along up-to-date postal and e-mail addresses. Thanks!

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Strong Minds, Caring Heart

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