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**December 2007**

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### THE HAMLET

Long-time faculty member Hamilton Salsich has been keeping track of his school year on his blog, "The Hamlet," which you can check out at [www.hsalsich.blogspot.com](http://www.hsalsich.blogspot.com). "One Year with an English Teacher" tracks each day of school, with Mr. Salsich's insight on students (whose names have been changed) and teaching.

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### THE MUSICAL ADVENTURES OF FLAT STANLEY

On Sunday, May 18, 2008 *The Musical Adventures of Flat Stanley* finishes its nationwide tour with two performances at Stonington High School. The popular *Flat Stanley* books were written by the late Jeff Brown, long-time resident of Stonington and father of Duncan Brown '08. The performances at Stonington High School are generously underwritten by friends of Jeff Brown. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children and will be available to the public in mid-February. Proceeds benefit the Stonington Education Fund, Stonington Free Library, and Pine Point.

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### COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER ANNOUNCED

Head of School Paul Geise is delighted to announce that Aaron McBride '89, Visual Effects Art Director at Industrial Light and Magic, and the designer of the many fantastic images in the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies, will be this year's commencement speaker. Please join us on June 7, 2008 to honor the Class of 2008 and to welcome Aaron back to campus. (Aaron is *not* pictured at right!)

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### HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE?

Go to [www.pinepoint.org](http://www.pinepoint.org) to check out the new features, including a new Alumni section where former

students can update their profiles. You will be able to input information to add to Class Notes, find ways to contact your classmates, and lots more! Alumni, you need to register and you need a specific number to get into your profile. An e-mail was sent to each alumnus/na for whom we have a current address with their specific number. If you never received the information, please e-mail David Cruthers ([dcruthers@pinepoint.org](mailto:dcruthers@pinepoint.org)) and he will show you how to get started!

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### SEUSSICAL, JR.

The annual Middle School musical was held on December 14 and 15, and featured appearances by Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, Lazy Mayzie, and – of course – the Cat in the Hat. The show, which grew out of the original Seussical musical, melds components from *Horton Hears a Who* and *Horton Hatches the Egg*, among other Dr. Seuss books.

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### VISITORS TO PINE POINT

Recently, three former faculty/staff members returned to the School for lunch and some spirited reminiscences. Head of School Paul Geise welcomed (from left) former teacher and librarian, Anna Coit; former business manager, Mimi (Corwin) Borden; and former teacher, Dorothy Bailey. Mimi is the baby at 80, Dorothy is 94, and Anna is 99! The teachers were able to go into their former rooms in the Main Building and greet some of today's students. It was great to see them back at Pine Point.

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### SAVE THE DATE - AUGUST 9, 2008!

If you are an alumnus/alumna of Pine Point in the Classes of 1952-2002, you'll want to circle that date on your calendar, as that's the date for our next Alumni Reunion. Come to the School's Library/Technology Center at 6:00 PM, and renew ties with old friends. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date.

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### ANNUAL FUND UNDERWAY

While there is no doubt that people are principally motivated in their giving by the good they seek to accomplish, it is also true that one's philanthropy is an important part of tax planning. The great news is, as of December 19, 275 donors have made gifts and pledges totaling \$130,000! This is a reminder that to be eligible for a deduction for this tax year your gift must be made by December 31.

#### By Check

If a check is received after December 31 the date of the gift is determined by the postmark on the envelope and not by the date written on the check.

#### With Stock

Making a gift of stock benefits both the School and the donor. If you sell appreciated stock you are likely to incur capital gains. However, when you give the stock to Pine Point you avoid all capital gains tax, and you receive a charitable income tax deduction based on the stock's fair market value when it comes to Pine Point. Securities must be held for at least one year to secure the full tax benefits of a stock gift. In order to avoid capital gains you must first transfer ownership of the stock to Pine Point. The date of a gift of stock is determined by the date on which it *enters* Pine Point's account. Even in this day of electronic transfers, gifts of stock have been known to take several days to reach their destination. This can be particularly problematic when you're trying to transfer stock in the closing days of December. As always, please consult your financial adviser if there is the least bit of confusion in undertaking such a gift.

#### By Credit Card

Online giving is not only easy and secure, but it's cost effective and environmentally friendly. Online gifts are deductible for 2007 tax purposes if they are entered and authorized online by 11:59 pm Eastern Standard Time (EST) on December 31, 2007. Online giving link: <http://www.pinepoint.org/page.cfm?p=37>

In this season of giving, please consider making Pine Point an important part of your philanthropy.

Please contact Director of Development David Hannon [development@pinepoint.org](mailto:development@pinepoint.org) if you have any questions about making a gift.

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#### **PINE POINT SINGERS SERENADE WESTERLY**

The Lower School Chorus and Middle School singing group "Stained Glass" entertained holiday revelers in the old Industrial National Trust building in downtown Westerly on Wednesday, December 12. The colorful event was sponsored by the Dante Society, in conjunction with the Westerly Land Trust.

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#### **MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ALICE WILLS**

A service for former faculty member Alice Wills will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the Westerly Friends Meeting House at 57 Elm Street in Westerly, RI. The service will be followed by a lunch.

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**Strong Minds, Caring Hearts**

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