

HOME PAGES

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE POCANTICO HILLS SCHOOL

SPRING 2008



PETER RUBEO

Great Performances Our middle school students share the spotlight and the fun. The cast and crew of *Willy Wonka Jr.* (*above*) and the opening night of the Annual Eighth Grade Art Show at the Landmark (*below*). 🏠



JOEL SCHWARTZ

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LETTERS HOME

HEARING FROM OUR COMMUNITY LEADERS

FROM OUR SCHOOL BOARD PRESIDENT

Spring is here and your Board of Education has carefully prepared a budget for 2008-2009, which was approved on May 20. On behalf of the entire Board, I thank you and your thoughtful consideration of our work.

I am also pleased to welcome incumbent Board member Katherine Yu to her second term on the Board and John Conrad as our newest member. Congratulations to both.

As a Board of Education we will announce the appointment of our new Superintendent within a very short period. The new Superintendent will be ready to assume the leadership position on July 1, 2008.

Enjoy the Spring weather.

Robert W. Balog

President, Board of Education

A Note of Thanks As the School community knows, our superintendent Dr. Tom Elliott will retire on June 30, 2008.

Dr. Elliott has served Pocantico Hills with distinction for the last four years. His educational leadership in curriculum review and the advancement and implementation of technology has been significant and has so positively affected the students. Tom has also efficiently managed the increasingly complex financial side of School District operations.

As Tom and Carol look forward to the joys of retirement and the pleasure of the company of their children and grandchildren, we at Pocantico Hills thank him for his many contributions and wish him the very best.

FROM OUR PTA

Dear Families,

The PTA has a great agenda planned for the children and the community this spring. It kicked off with TV Turn off week on April 14. There were many fun activities planned during the evening hours such as sports night in the gym, story time in the library, craft night, yoga and Sundae Serenade, sponsored by the Pocantico Hills School Foundation. A special thank you goes out to Kelly Lynch and Christine VanderEls for organizing and coordinating this fun-filled event. The first annual Spring Carnival will be held on Saturday, May 31 between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The event will be held on the school grounds rain or shine. The school will be brimming with fun and entertainment for the whole family. There will be inflatable rides, a trackless train, a petting zoo, a bake sale, a fifty/fifty raffle, 20 individual raffle baskets created by each class, games, crafts and more. Please save the date and join the fun.

The PTA owes huge thanks to all the people who volunteer their time and energy to make it all happen. Some of these people deserve a special thank you. Brenda Misuraca, Lauren Amsterdam, Maria Sheehan, JoJo Aiken, Kimberly Rockefeller, Gina Downes and Stefanie Zednick who have been extremely instrumental in getting the Spring Carnival out of talk and into action. THANK YOU ALL!!! Lastly I would like to thank my executive committee over and over - Julie Minerva, Jennifer Leahy and Amy Macca. They, too, have worked hard to create a fun and profitable Spring Carnival.

Sincerely,

Rachel P. Gumina

President, PTA

OME

FROM OUR FOUNDATION

Dear Families and Friends,

We are thrilled to announce that the Foundation will host its annual walk around beautiful, idyllic Swan Lake on May 27th, raising funds to support the School's music program. At last year's walk, the children raised approximately \$6,000, which was used to purchase a variety of fitness equipment including new soccer goals (already being actively used on our field by Pocantico Hills students and the greater community), a pitching machine and nets, new tumbling mats for the gymnasium and "Dance Dance Revolution," a music video game that kids dance to partly for exercise but mostly for fun!

We wish to thank all of you who came out to support The Foundation's Evening of Music and Sundaes Serenade! As always, Mr. Lucadamo and Ms. Stanton did a fabulous job of coordinating the evening's musical selections and performers. Thanks also go out to Christine Vander Els, Therese de Chaves and Linda Ruotolo for organizing the event and to the many Foundation board members who volunteered the night of the event. Most of all, we are grateful to our talented musicians and vocalists who made the evening such a pleasure for all. The ice cream sundaes weren't bad either. To those of you who missed the event, please join us next year!

Soon the Foundation will be interviewing and awarding our annual scholarships to high school seniors who have demonstrated academic growth and community commitment in their actions and whose laudable personal values promise continued strong contributions. To qualify, applicants must have attended Pocantico Hills during 6th-8th grade, be attending high school and be entering an accredited educational institution. Qualified seniors from this year's graduating class received letters from the Scholarship Committee in April with detailed information on how to apply and will be invited to interview with the committee prior to *(continued on page 4)*

FROM DR. ELLIOTT

Dear Families,

Our spring edition of *Homepages* is based on the theme of sowing seeds for a future harvest. It's been said that one of the hallmarks of leadership is planting seedlings whose shade you may never enjoy.

During the past four years we have planted many seeds at Pocantico Hills that we expect to bear fruit. Particularly in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and technology, we have carefully tilled the soil and are already reaping the benefits of our collective work.

One of the important ways we can feed our emerging crop is by supporting the school's annual proposed finance plan.

The 2008-2009 school budget allows for the continuation of our work as a model school system by maintaining existing programs and services while addressing critical needs in school maintenance and transportation. I sincerely thank our school community for their support of the 2008-2009 School Budget.

Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

Tom Elliott
Superintendent/Principal

FOUNDATION *(continued from page 3)*

graduation. The scholarships will be awarded at the middle school graduation ceremonies held in June.

Finally, the Board looks forward to reviewing mini-grant applications from teachers, administrators and the community, awarding funds to support selected projects and programs. Funding comes from the proceeds of the Foundation's successful Monte Carlo Night, held this past February. We raised nearly \$30,000, thanks to the tremendous generosity of our families and community members!

Hope you are enjoying this Spring season,

Shelly Marchese

President, PHS Foundation

POCANTICO HILLS DAY CAMP READY FOR SUMMER FUN!

It's May and spring is in the air! Do you know where your children will be this summer?

Welcome to summertime at Pocantico Hills Day Camp, where we offer daily swimming, sports, field trips, arts and crafts, drama, dance, nature, cooking, wilderness, and a variety of special events that will make this an exciting summer for both you and your children.

Pocantico Hills Day Camp is the place to be for a fun-filled exciting summer of continuous activity. Groups are filling up rapidly. Make sure your children do not get left out.

The rates will stay the same until June 1st. After this date, there will be an additional charge of \$100 for each camper. Send in your registration as soon as you can and save the extra \$100 for each of your campers. If you like, drop the forms directly in the main office at the school or mail them in. The staff is hired, the buses are ready, and the program is set. Reserve a spot today. Happy Camping!

David Levine

Director, PH Day Camp

POOL NEWS AND SCHEDULES



Welcome to our new Pool and Recreation Director, **Mike Wisniewski**. Mike is a graduate of the College of Mount Saint Vincent with a B.A. in Business. He is currently an Aquatic Supervisor for Club Fit in Briarcliff Manor. You may remember Mike from last year.

He was our Assistant Pool and Recreation Manager. Make sure you stop by to congratulate Mike when you visit the pool. It's going to be another great season.



Also, please welcome our new Assistant Pool and Recreation Director, **Steven Aufiero**. Steven is a graduate of the State University of New York at Cortland with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Adolescent Social Studies Education. He also earned his Masters degree at the

College of New Rochelle for Creative Teaching and Learning. He is currently a 7th and 8th grade Social Studies teacher at Pleasantville Middle School. Be sure to stop by and give Steven a big Pocantico Pride welcome.

Pocantico Hills Pool Hours - Summer 2008

May 27 – June 20

Monday – Friday	3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays	12:00 noon – 8:00 p.m.
Sundays	12:00 noon – 7:00 p.m.

June 21 – June 30

Monday – Sunday	12:00 noon – 8:00 p.m.
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July 1 – August 8

Monday – Friday	3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. <i>(after the Camp day)</i>
Saturdays – Sundays	12:00 noon – 8:00 p.m.

July 4 (no Camp)

	12:00 noon – 8:00 p.m.
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August 9 – September 1

Monday – Sunday	12:00 noon – 8:00 p.m. <i>(or at dusk)</i>
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September 6 and 7

<i>(weekends only)</i>	12:00 noon – 7:00 p.m.
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September 13 and 14

<i>(weekends only)</i>	12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m.
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Please note that the locker rooms will be closing at the times specified above.

Hollywood Goes to School

What started out as a quiet, somewhat serene week at Pocantico Hills was suddenly transformed into a busy, never before seen Hollywood movie set. The hallways were bustling with cast, crew and extras, the cafeteria was buzzing with caterers and tons of food, Adam Brown and Glenn Brigham's classroom was transformed into a first grade classroom, the gym was altered into a graduation scene, the upper lot was filled with trucks and trailers and the car circle was filled with movie equipment, cars, buses and, yes, *Catherine Zeta-Jones*! It started with a phone call from AF Productions and the request to tour the school for a possible site for Director Bart Freundlich's movie, "The Rebound", set to open in May of 2009. AF Productions scouted the school first and then Director Bart Freundlich toured the school. I guess he liked our little hidden treasure because on April 24 Pocantico Hills was turned into a Hollywood movie set right before our eyes. Five of our own community members were asked to be extras in the graduation scene, and one of those members was strategically placed right next to Ms. Zeta Jones during the shooting of that scene. Something I don't think he will ever forget! The hallways are now bustling with our own students, Mr. Brown and Mr. Brigham's classroom has been transformed back to normal, the gym no longer looks like a graduation scene and the trailers, trucks and movie equipment have all been moved to their next location. Our little hidden treasure, nestled in the hamlet of Pocantico Hills, is right back to where it began . . . a quiet, somewhat serene place of learning.



GINA DOWNES

The Pick-Up Circle is full of action and Ms. Zeta Jones is at the center of it. (ABOVE) Community members get star treatment. (BELOW)



PAT KRINGAS

**"Pre Kindergarten
and Kindergarten Registration will
take place on Thursday, June 5
by appointment only.
No School for AM and PM
Pre Kindergartners."**

**POCANTICO HILLS
SCHOOL
CARNIVAL**

GAMES! FUN FOODS!
 CRAFTS! Raffles! SLEDGE
 BAKE SALE! INFLATABLES! AND MORE!

SATURDAY, MAY 31
11 A.M. - 3 P.M. RAIN OR SHINE
 599 BEDFORD RD. SLEEPY HOLLOW



Sweet Success!

*The Middle School Play
won hearts and rave reviews.
Congratulations to
a talented cast and crew.*



PHOTOS: Peter Rubco

POCANTICOPRIDE

GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEWS FROM STUDENTS, ALUMNI, AND TEACHERS

🍏 Middle schoolers **Nora C., Caroline D., Noel H., Alex M., Bianca M., John P.,** and **Samantha W.**, attended the Papal Rally for Youth and Seminarians held on April 19th at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers. They were chosen to represent the students of their CCD Program at the Church of the Magdalene. They saw Pope Benedict, heard Kelly Clarkson sing, and had a chance to wave at the Pope-mobile.

🍏 **Amanda Ungco**, a freshman at The Ursuline School is in the Honors Program and made honor roll for the 2nd marking period.

🍏 **Caroline Chang**, currently a senior at The Brearley School, has been named a National Merit Scholar and is in receipt of the National Merit Schweinburg Scholarship. She will be attending Yale University in the fall.

🍏 **William Cember**, a senior at Briarcliff High School, has been accepted to Harvard.

🍏 **Tyler Curran**, a senior at Briarcliff High School, won The United States Army Award for a top science project in environmental science at the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair.

🍏 **Arielle Trapp**, a junior at Pleasantville High School, qualified for the first phase of National Merit Scholarship Program. She is one of 50,000 students selected out of over 1.5 million students.

🍏 **Samantha Heck**, Art History Major at Marist College, made the Dean's List in the Fall of 2007. She will be graduating in May 2008.

🍏 **Jeremy Levine**, Pocantico Hills Class of 2001 has been inducted into Gamma Sigma Alpha, the National Greek Academic Honor Society. In order to become a member he had to have an average of 3.5 or better at the start of his junior year and is an active member of a recognized fraternity. Jeremy is a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity at Colgate University.

🍏 Briarcliff High School senior, **Brian Smith**, has signed a letter of intent to attend Iona College in New Rochelle in the fall and will play football for the Division One school.



AN EARLY START : Pre-K students learned about healthy eating and good food choices..



THE PAPAL RALLY AND CONCERT: Pocantico Hills students stand out in the crowd at St. Joseph Seminary.

upcoming dates MAY

- 28 PTA Annual Meeting
7:30pm Cafeteria
- 31 PTA Spring Fair
11:00am - 3:00pm

JUNE

- 3-4 New York State Social Studies Exam
Grade 8
- 5 PreK and K Registration
No School for PreK
- 5 Foundation Meeting: 8:00pm
Teachers' Room
- 6 Volunteer Recognition Breakfast
Grades PreK-8
- 7 SAT I and II Tests
- 9 School Board Meeting: 8:00 pm
(Business Meeting)
- 12 8th Grade Trip
- 13 8th Grade Trip returns
- 14 ACT Test
- 16-18 7th and 8th Grade Final Exams
- 19 Field Day K-4: 10:00am
- 19 Middle School Orientation
- 20 4th Marking Period ends
- 20 Field Day *raindate* 10:00am
- 20 Middle School Picnic
- 23 School Board Meeting: 8:00 pm
(Discussion Meeting)
- 25 Report Cards home
- 25 8th Grade GRADUATION: 7:00 pm
- 26 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL for students
- Snow Give-Back Day
 - Moving Up Ceremony:
11:30 am dismissal
 - After-School Program ends
 - Briarcliff and Sleepy Hollow
High School Graduations
- 27 Superintendent's Conference Day:
Teachers report
- 27 Pleasantville High School Graduation
- JULY 1 DAY CAMP begins
- AUG. 8 DAY CAMP ends

POCANTICO HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL
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Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591

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LEARNING

ACHIEVEMENT



GROWTH

DIRECTION

For more information please visit our website: www.pocanticohills.org

