



The Lion's Roar

Thursday / February 1 / 2007

Important Dates

Thursday, February 1

Parents Committee Mtg. /8:30
Technology Cmte. Mtg./3:30
Board Meeting/5:30 pm

Monday-Friday, February 5-9

Math Breakfasts

Wednesday, February 7

Sharing 1,2,5,6

Thursday, February 8

Marketing Cmte. Mtg./8:30 am

Saturday, February 10

ECC Admissions Day/8:-3:00

Thursday, February 15

Development Cmte./8:30 am

Friday, February 16

February Break begins at 12:30

Monday, February 26

School Resumes

Wednesday, February 28

Sharing: ECC, 2,3,6
Parent Ed. Collaborative-
Faculty Grant Recipient
(India)/8:30 am

Thursday, March 1

Parents Cmte. / 8:30 am
Technology Cmte./8:30 am
Board Mtg. / 5:30

Wednesday, March 7

Sharing K, 1, 4, 5

Thursday, March 8

Marketing Cmte./ 8:30 am

Friday, March 9

Family Skating

Monday/Friday 12-16

Spanish Week

Thursday, March 15

Reception for Families Offered
Places/ 8:30-9:30 am

Friday, March 23

Parent Conferences/No School/
Adventures Available

Saturday, March 24

Spring Benefit

Friday, March 30

Parent Conferences in the afternoon/
1:00-4:00 pm

From the Chair of the Board of Trustees / Erich Schumann

Dear Parents,

We are very excited to offer an additional Emilia Reggio early childhood class in the next school year. As you know from previous communications, the Board of Trustees decided to expand the program due to the outcome of the positive experiences the children gained during the first years. We are very proud to be one of the few schools in New England that offer a program other than the norm for parents to choose for their children.

This initiative is completely in line with the Advent School's tradition of being one of the best independent elementary schools in the region -thanks to our committed and dedicated faculty and administration under the leadership of Nancy Harris-Frohlich.

We all know that parents have choices where to send their children and the New England region houses many outstanding elementary schools; the Board is very committed to ensure that the Advent will stay competitive and continue being one of the best. We also hope you and your children continue to enjoy and learn from our programs. Stay tuned for other exciting initiatives being planned in the future.

From the Head of School / Nancy Harris Frohlich

Dear Families,

So much is on the horizon for us at The Advent School. We have just completed our Kindergarten and First Grade admission day and are pleased to say that we have an outstanding pool of applicants and families this year. Jaime Bard has taken Advent's message out into the community, and we have the largest number of applicants in recent years. I am unduly impressed by the work she has done and grateful to our tour guides and parent volunteers, who have given their time on the School's behalf.

With our Sixth Grade in the midst of their Sustainability study, I am reminded that just three years ago, the initiation of this theme propelled our school wide environmental effort. During that first year, the class of 2005 experienced Science from new perspectives. They became naturalists who composted and recycled. They became architects, who designed sustainable homes. They became proponents of energy conservation and leaders who modeled good values and clear decision making skills for their peers. Their teachers and I agreed that there could be no more important goal than for *Advent students to graduate as stewards of the Earth.*

That first Sixth Grade study led to new understanding, not only for children, but for our teachers. One teacher's growing passion for the environment became another's. Classroom curricula took bold new directions. Teachers began asking questions about the School environment, urging the community to make it more sustainable.

As we look to the summer of 2007 we revel in the changes to come:

- We are addressing energy issues in our building, which include new front windows, new heating, ventilation systems, and a possible green roof.
- We are designing a Science and Mathematics Laboratory so that we can fulfill our promise to all children who will explore, invest in long term projects, and solve problems together as part of our commitment to a more responsible way of living.

News from the Specialists

Science / Susan Coolidge and Toey Rogers

Grade 1: First Graders are very busy in Science right now. They have navigated with compasses, explored their personal environment with small collages – and now they are exploring the formation of islands and the Galapagos Islands in particular. Look to hear stories about pudding islands and volcanic islands in February.

Grade 2- Teeth! The Second Graders studied their teeth to determine the number, shape, and function of them all. They learned that flat, chunky teeth are best for grinding up vegetation and sharp, pointed teeth work well on meat. Using this information, the Second graders then categorized animals' skulls as either herbivores or carnivores. Once these two skull groups are classified, omnivore skulls will be introduced as we continue our study of mammals.

Grade 3: In February Third Graders will be exploring Rocks and Minerals. They have already brought in some for our classroom museum. The students will be identifying their samples and experimenting with several Geologist techniques for determining the characteristics of different minerals. Look for a trip to the Harvard Museum of Natural History during this month.

Grade 4- The Fourth Graders have become experts on invertebrate animals. Each student presented a report on one invertebrate phyla which gave us a good overview of the vast variety of these life forms. Then we focused in on the arthropods, specifically insects and spiders. Despite the frozen ground outside, we were able to study invertebrates first hand. The mouse tank in the classroom was a fabulous source of many species of invertebrates.

Grade 5: Fifth Graders will start February with a quick view of the amazing Sir Isaac Newton's three laws of motion. Then the students will take a detailed look at simple machines and the Industrial Revolution at the Museum of Science. This continues with our joint trip to the Lowell Mills in early February. The students will begin exploring their own inventions.

Grade 6- The Sixth Graders have moved through the formation and cooling of the Earth to the emergence of first life near the deep sea vents. Over time more complex life appeared in the sea and the first invertebrate animals emerged. The Sixth Graders are now studying the amazing diversity of invertebrates: sponges to lobsters to jellies. The decomposing-mouse tank in the classroom offers us a wealth of invertebrates to study first hand!

Art / George Anastos From the Studio

ECC through Fourth Grade will continue to create their own storybook. They have a choice of making a picture book or a book with writing and Illustrations.

Fifth and Sixth Graders will be working on the sets and props for the up coming spring play.

I hope you had a chance to get to the West End Library to see the self-portrait exhibit.

It was the first of many opportunities to show the students work outside of the school in the Beacon Hill community. Thanks go to Jamie Bard for her wonderful community work and connections.

The Students are finishing up the T-project artwork soon to be hung. We will keep you posted on the date.

The next Thursday Parent Open Studio is February 15 8:30 -9:30. See you there!

CORE Program / Sharon Knox-Hutchinson

CORE is busily involved reading Stardust Series books. We are first reading Laurel, the Wood Fairy, which we are enjoying very much. The book is filled with Laurel's adventure with other fairies, pixies and trolls. There is much excitement and energy in their community. We have created many projects that are displayed in our back hallway. We have been painting with watercolors regularly. Next we will begin work with clay and will create a fairy environment. We will be creating Valentines for our families on Friday, February 9th and would like to have a party. There will be a sign up on the CORE door if you would like to contribute party supplies. ADVENTures is beginning its third session for the year. There are a few spots available in some classes. If you are interested, please be in touch. Winter has arrived! Please send your child warmly dressed and extra mittens in the backpack.

Physical Education/ Anthony Pascetta and Marco Bonilla

K will all be focusing on basketball skill development. They will also be listening to music while performing directional movements. Grades 1-4 will be concentrate on basketball skills and fitness development activities
Grades 5 and 6 will be involved in basketball and volleyball play and skill development.

SKATING FOR THE MONTH : Feb 1, Grade 6 1-3:00; Feb 8, Grade 5, 10:30-noon; Feb. 14, Grade 4, 10:30-noon

Espanol / Maria Acuña

¡Hola! All of us we'll be very busy this month learning about Peru and preparing the presentations for Spanish Week. Spanish Week, a week of special activities and Spanish presentations for parents will be in the week of March 12th -16th. Please come and see a bit of what we do in Spanish on the following schedule:

- Monday 12th: First and Sixth Grade
- Wednesday 14th: Second, Third and Fourth Grade
- Thursday 16th: Kindergarten and Fifth Grade

The presentations for Monday and Wednesday will take place in the music room at 8:30am, the presentation for Thursday will take place in the library at 8:30am. We hope you can make it!

Also I'm looking to hire a musician/s from Peru for a presentation on Friday or that week. If you know of anyone please let me know.

If you know how to make a particular craft from Perú or would like to help out in our projects let me know! Ext #43.

¡Gracias! y ¡Feliz Febrero!

News from the Administrators

Director of Education/Arati Pandit

We return from India with amazing stories, fond memories and the love of all the children we met. As someone said 'You need three lives to really understand India' and I couldn't agree more with that! I am still trying to understand this country of huge contrasts, diverse cultures and interesting traditions. Through our travels, we had the opportunity to get a glimpse of India's 5000-year-old history. We plan to share these moments with you on February 28 at the Parent Education Collaborative. We look forward to seeing you then!

On a different note, I would like to inform you of a new member who will be joining the Advent and the Pandit-Deval family in summer of 2007! Yes, it is true! Shyam and I are expecting a baby in August 2007! I plan to return to Advent sometime in the fall of 2007.

Admission Office / Jaime Bard

It has been a banner year so far in regards to Admissions here at Advent. Applications have increased by about a third from last year – which is great news! Now comes the hard part: choosing which families and children we invite to join our fantastic community. I attribute so much of our success this year to our tour guides, parents and ambassadors; you have done a tremendous job of spreading word about Advent!

Community

Believe it or not, the Charles/MGH Station is going to open in February! We've been communicating with the MBTA and, despite the painstaking lethargy of this process – we are, in fact, moving forward!

Development Office / Noah Hulbert

Spring Benefit Planning is on a Roll

The School has been busy during the past few weeks hammering out the details for our Spring Benefit which will be held in just seven weeks! The Benefit will be on March 24th at the always wonderful Hotel Marlowe. This year's soiree will have an Indian theme with food, music, and special events all contributing to the theme atmosphere.

For the past month we have been busy soliciting and collecting exciting and tantalizing donations for our live and silent auctions. While many of our donations have come from merchants in the Boston area and elsewhere, we have received several very generous donations from current parents for which we are extremely grateful. If you have not already given an auction item, we ask that you take the time to consider donating something. Here is a list of suggested auction items:

*Vacation home * Airline tickets * Hand-made or craft item * Lessons such as knitting, cooking, or music * Hosted birthday party * Event tickets or memberships * Restaurant or food gift certificates*

If you own a business, please consider placing an announcement in the Benefit's program. A full page is \$1,000, a half page is \$500, and a quarter page is \$250. If you donate an item to an auction, announcements are half price!

Donations such as these are the backbone of the Benefit. All proceeds are directed towards financial assistance and other important School initiatives. Your participation at any level is crucial for the event to be successful.

If you would like to donate an item or have an idea you would like to run by us, please feel free to contact Noah Hulbert in the Development Office at 617-742-0520, ext. 32 or nhulbert@adventschool.org. Spring Benefit Donation Forms are available in the Parent's Center.

From the Head (continued from page 1)

At Advent, we continue our investigations into new ways to extend the recycling process, conserve fuel, and limit waste. Our students are committed to changing the school and helping to change the world at large.

The Advent School has made an unwavering promise: *To educate children to plan for their environmental future and to generate new solutions for sustaining our Earth. We teach our children to respect and care for the community of life, to treat human beings with dignity, and to promote peaceable solutions to conflict. Protecting and restoring the Earth's ecological systems is both a sincere expression of our empathy for living things and central to our mission, to "take action consistent with our beliefs."*

Please join us as we begin to look at more nutritious eating habits and school lunch possibilities for the future. We would like to craft a list of healthy foods that families might pack in student lunch boxes. If you have suggestions or an interest in generating a family guide, please let me know. I would like to embark on 2007-2008 with increasingly healthy perspectives.

PILOT ARTS EXPLORATION PROGRAM for the spring term

As a result of feedback I received from the December Needs Assessment Survey, we are kicking off a new after school program to run parallel to CORE. Parents asked for more options for younger students and a smaller teacher-student ration for CORE participants. They also expressed interest in a long-term arts experience. We recognize that with another ECC, we will need more spaces during the CORE time for next year.

We are starting with an art exploration program in mixed mediums, which will run from 3:15-6:00 PM from Monday through Thursdays, with the possibility of a Friday program from 12:30-3:00. Families who are already enrolled in CORE may choose to enroll in ARTS EXPLORATION or stay just where they are. Younger children will have first priority for the pilot program. We will

From the Head (continued from page 4)

have places for a maximum of 12 children, and if more register, names will be drawn out of a hat.

For children enrolled in CORE there will be no additional charge. For those not enrolled, the cost will be the ¼ year CORE fee. No more details are available at the moment, and I will keep you informed as we move forward.

If you are interested in this program for your child, please email me so that I can get an initial sense of numbers. We expect to learn from this pilot program, so that we can make appropriate modifications for the fall.

I remind you to send in your re-enrollment contracts and to make your commitment to the Annual Fund, if you have not already done so. We are headed in important new directions at The Advent School. Everyone's participation is critical, and we look forward to receiving your pledge.

With best wishes to you all,

Nancy Harris Frohlich



Head of School

Community News

Jazz Great, Jimmy Scott, to Visit Advent



As a remarkable culmination of our celebration of jazz this year at the Advent, singer, Jimmy Scott, will visit our school in March. Sharing his songs, as well as his life-story, 81-year-old Jimmy Scott is a living example of true commitment to one's passions.

He will perform on March 8 at the Regatta Bar in Cambridge, and it is my hope that a group of Advent parents might be there to express gratitude.

From the Diversity Committee

We are pleased to announce our first movie night of the year. It will be held **Friday March 2nd at 6pm -8pm**. The film is a documentary called Daddy & Papa. This is the story of four different families including the filmmakers own. Daddy & Papa delves into the particular challenges facing Gay men who decide to become dads. From surrogacy and interracial adoption, to the complexities of Gay divorce, to the battle for full legal status as parents, Daddy & Papa presents a revealing look at some of the Gay fathers who are breaking new ground in the ever-changing landscape of the American family.

The Diversity Concert has been changed to April 27. We will keep you posted.

6th Grade Basket Raffle

As a fund raising event, the Sixth Graders will be selling raffle tickets for gift baskets during the week of February 12th. The gift baskets have various themes including Fun in the Kitchen, Spa, Night at the Movies, Games and more. Tickets will be \$1 each or 12 for \$10. They will be on sale at the beginning and end of the school day with the raffle on February 16th. For those of you who won't have a chance to be at the school to buy tickets, order forms will be sent home in backpack express.



Please support the class of 2007!!

From the Parents Committee

A date for the annual skating party has materialized at last, so please take a look at your calendar and note that on Friday, March 9, at the Steriti Rink in the North End, you and your family are invited for two hours of ice follies. For everyone who has been slyly practicing their Double Axels and Triple Lutz's in anticipation, your time arrives that day. The event is free and open to all members of the Advent community and takes place from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

On February 28, the third of this year's Parent Education Collaborative series will be held in the library at 8:30 a.m. Christine Size, Advent's Travel Grant Recipient for '06-'07, will lead a discussion along with Arati Pandit on the challenges India faces in educating its children in the face of a rapidly changing society. Christine and Arati traveled to India over the holiday break and spent several weeks there.

February 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday / Sunday
29	30	31	1 Parent Committee Meeting/8:30 am Technology Cmte. Meeting/3:30 pm Board Mtg./ 5:30 pm	2 Ground Hog Day 	3/4
5 Math Breakfasts ECC/8:15-9:15	6 Math Breakfasts First Grade/ 8:30-9:30	7 Math Breakfasts 2 nd Grade/8:45-9:30 4 th Grade/8:30-9:30 6 th Grade/8:30-9:30	8 Math Breakfasts Kindergarten/8:15-9:30 3 rd Grade/8:30-9:30 Marketing Cmte./ 8:30	9 Math Breakfasts 5 th Grade/8:45-9:30	10/11 Saturday/ECC Admission's Day 8:00-3:00
12	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15 Development Cmte. 8:30 a.m.	16 February Break Begins at 12:30	17/18
19 Winter Break	20 Winter Break	21 Winter Break	22 Winter Break	23 Winter Break	24/25
26 School Resumes	27	28 Parent Ed. Collaborative-Faculty Travel Grant Recipient (India) 8:30 a.m.	1	2	3/4

March 2007

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday / Sunday
26	27	28	1 Parents Cmte. Meeting 8:30 am Techonology Mtg. 3:30 Board Mtg. 5:30	2	3/4
5	6	7 Sharing, K, 1,4, 5 <i>Jazz Singer, Jimmy Scott, performs at Advent</i>	8 Marketing Cmte. Mtg./ 8:30 am <i>Jimmy Scott performs at the Regatta Bar</i>	9 Family Skating Party at the Steriti Rink in the North End	10/11
12 Spanish Week	13 Spanish Week	14 Spanish Week	15 Spanish Week Development Cmt. 8:30 am Reception for families offered places 8:30-9:30	16 Spanish Week	17/18
19	20	21 Sharing ECC, K, 5, 6	22	23 Parent Conferences School Closed ADVENTures Available	24/25
26	27	28 Sharing 1, 2 ,3, 4	29	30 Parent Conferences afternoon 1-4:00	31/1