



November 2010

## High School Newsletter



High school students hard at work in the lab.

Dear Families of the High School,

We are almost a quarter of the way through the school year! First quarter reports will be sent home in mid-November.

Thanks to sophomore Ben Rendich for last Friday's high school bonding activity! He provided after-school snacks and, in the Halloween spirit, treated us to a screening of Hitchcock's *The Birds*.

The film *Race to Nowhere* has sparked important conversations and we look forward to continued dialogue among independent and public schools on the issues highlighted in this documentary. If you missed seeing this film, you have one more chance to see it in this area, at Mount St. Mary College on November 4 at 6:45 p.m. A percentage of the proceeds from [ticket sales](#) will benefit [Kidz4Causes](#), which is led by PDS junior Natasha Vega.

We have several students highly involved in political campaigns. Of note is junior Julia Raphael, who is interning in a local congressional campaign. After the elections, we look forward to hearing as much from her as is confidentially possible about campaigning from the "inside." It's great to see students engaged in the political process and encouraging the adults in their lives to vote!

We look forward to seeing you all this Friday, November 5, at the High School Parent Dinner and again at the Fall Festival on November 20!

*Liz*

Liz Vinogradov  
Head of High School

## High School Calendar

**Tuesday, November 2B** School closed – wrap-up for parent conferences, college conferences.

**Wednesday, November 2:** – End of Quarter 1. First-quarter reports are being written and will be mailed by mid-November.

**Friday, November 5, 6:00 p.m.** (Kenyon Student Center) – High School Parent Dinner, including grade 8 parents. Promises to be a terrific turnout!

**Thursday, November 11:** Veterans' Day. School closed.

**Saturday, November 20** – Fall Festival Re-imagined. High school parent volunteers are needed. Please be in touch with [Catherine Harris](#) for details.

**Wednesday–Friday, November 24–25:** Thanksgiving Recess. School closed

**November Food Service:** Please check out this month's [lunch menu](#) on our website

## High School Highlights

**The Enviro Club** has begun phasing out use of paper cups by the water coolers in Kenyon. One way to contribute to this effort is for each student to bring a water bottle and/or a mug to school every day. The new kitchenette area has a dishwasher, which will be run as needed so students may simply deposit their cups or bottles there for regular washing. We encourage students to bring in plates and silverware, as well as any extra mugs they are willing to donate to the school for general use. We will provide storage for these items and look forward to eventually eliminating disposable items altogether. Also, the middle school is collecting all plastic bottle caps for recycling, so please give them regularly to high school students to bring in for disposal.

**More Rocks!** The geology class broadened its study of local geologic history through visits to outcrops on Noxon Road, Raymond Avenue, Cedar Valley road and at Kaal Rock Park. They also looked at an exposure at the Highland end of the Walkway over the Hudson. Students found that this outcrop was different from what they found up the road at Johnson-Irion Memorial Park, which raises new, intriguing questions. Students opted to extend class into lunch so they could walk to the outcrop from Poughkeepsie. They were joined by PDS alum Chris Gahn, who earned a degree in geology at SUNY New Paltz.

**Sidereal** recently sang at a benefit auction for the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy in Newburgh. The group will also sing at the Fall Festival on Saturday, November 20. Auditions for new members were held in early October and we look forward to the work of this new group!

**Community Arts Exhibit:** Art teacher Wayne Toepp has been working with a group of students to place student art generated in our PDS arts program in unusual venues in the Hudson Valley. The group is currently installing an interactive show in Chi's Heart Street Home, a shelter in Kingston. They are interested in finding venues that would bring the art of PDS high school students to people who don't normally have the opportunity to enjoy original art. If you have suggestions, please let us know.

**Professional Development:** Bernadette Condesso will participate in a workshop at the Bard College Institute for Writing and Thinking in November. The *Writer as Reader* workshop topic is "Teaching the Holocaust through *Maus: A Survivor's Tale* by Art Spiegelman. The workshop will employ images, writing-to-read and writing-to-learn strategies to identify new approaches to Holocaust text study. Other authors addressed in the workshop include Daniel Mendelsohn, Michael Chabon and Jane Yolen. In the spring semester Bernadette will once again teach Holocaust Studies.

**“The Tell-Tale Heart” and other Poe classics:** Ninth and 10th graders read several short stories by Poe over the summer as part of PDS’ participation in the Hudson Valley Big Read project. Brigham Taylor’s English classes presented multimedia projects to 8th graders who took part in this Big Read as well

## Community Service

### Community Service Opportunities in November

The Community Service class continues to visit organizations in the Hudson Valley by lending a hand with full-day commitments. Meanwhile, check out [Hands On! the Hudson Valley](#), a website that lists numerous service opportunities in our area.

If you have questions about a service opportunity, or know of an upcoming opportunity, please e-mail Tanya at: [tvinogradov@poughkeepsieday.org](mailto:tvinogradov@poughkeepsieday.org). High School students are expected to complete a minimum of 20 hours of community service individually per year



Community service course students are pictured above with donated items for River Haven shelter for homeless youth. Our students have been invited to join River Haven and the Peace Sanctuary for a November 12 ceremony to install a peace pole for runaway and homeless youth.

## College-related News

College rep visits will continue through November. To see the schedule of visits, please visit our [website calendar](#). A number of our seniors are completing early decision applications, so this process is well under way.

If you missed the fall college information night, please visit the [College Corner](#) for the handbook and other information. The full list of SAT test dates can be found there, too.