

September, 2010  
Volume 2, Number 1

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF PIERSON MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL & THE PTSA

# PIERSON NEWSLETTER

200 Jermain Avenue Sag Harbor NY 11963 Phone 631-725-5302 FAX 631-725-5314 sagharborschools.org

## WELCOME BACK!

We hope this letter finds you well rested and eagerly looking forward to a new school year. As we look to start the 2010-2011 school year, we are proud of our past accomplishments and look forward to the achievements ahead.

The first day of school for students is Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The **new starting time for Pierson students has changed to 7:25 AM**. Below we have listed important highlights and announcements for the upcoming year:

### Staff

We are excited to introduce and welcome our newest members to the school community. Ms. **Margaret Motto** is our new career and college counselor. Ms. **Kelly Gunn** will be teaching French and Mr. **Chase Mallia** will be working in the special education and math departments. Ms. **Elizabeth Marchisella**, a Pierson alumnus, is joining the art department. (Please see profiles of each on page 2).

### District Email/Phone System

As we did last year, we will be utilizing an email/phone communication system to communicate information about school closures, special events and other relevant news. ***If you did not receive these messages last year, please contact the main office to be added to our list.***

### Transportation

Bus schedules and questions pertaining to transportation are handled in the Central Office. Please contact Maude Stevens—[mstevens@sagharborschools.org](mailto:mstevens@sagharborschools.org) or 725-5300 x. 416—with any inquiries. In order to provide a safer and faster arrival procedure we are asking parents to consider an alternate student drop-off site in the bus lane in front of the middle school wing.

The beginning of the year brings excitement, apprehensions and a renewed set of expectations. The partnership that we develop as parents and educators is important in helping our children develop the skills needed to be successful in school and to become caring contributors to our community.

Jeff Nichols, Principal  
Gary Kalish, Assistant Principal, High School  
Barbara Bekermus, Assistant Principal, Middle School

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 9/13: First Day of School-7:25 AM
- 9/13: 7:30 PM—Bd. of Ed. Mtg.  
Pierson Library
- 9/15: 7:30 PM—PTSA Meeting  
Pierson Library
- 9/17: MS/HS Picture Day
- 9/20: 10:30 AM—Conversations  
With Administrators,  
Guidance Conference Rm.
- 9/20: Community Room opens

Stop by the Pierson THEATRE STUDENTS' booth at Harborfest on Sept. 11th for face-painting and karaoke!

Get Involved!  
Join the Pierson PTSA!  
Contact Colleen Grigonis,  
at 631-899-3604 or  
[rcgrigs4@optonline.net](mailto:rcgrigs4@optonline.net)

### A reminder for Seniors...

The Guidance Department would like to remind all Seniors that the **deadline to register for the October 9th SAT is September 10th**. The late registration deadline is September 24th. Students can go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to register.

### DID YOU KNOW ???

The **cafeteria program** at Pierson will be up and running on September 13th. Many positive menu changes will be in place and students are encouraged to eat a healthy breakfast and lunch there every day.

Prices will be the same as last year: \$2.00 for breakfast and \$3.75 for lunch.

A **no-charge policy** will be in effect.



### *Kelly Gunn*

Miss Gunn will be working as a French teacher. She earned a Bachelor of Art degree in French from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Last year, Miss Gunn lived abroad while serving as an English Language Assistant in a high school in

Paris, France. Between her studies, she worked at a library in Greenlawn, New York. Miss Gunn grew up in Huntington. In her free time, she enjoys reading, gardening and traveling.



### *Anthony Chase Mallia*

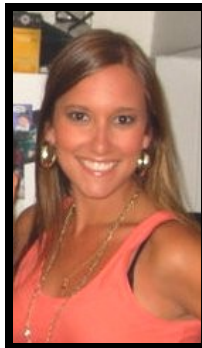
Mr. Mallia will be working as a special education/math teacher. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and his Master of Science degree in Adolescent Education from Dowling College. He has previously worked as a Business and Math Teacher in the Copiague and Oyster Bay-East Norwich school districts. Prior to

that he was a Tutor and SAT Prep Instructor for the Huntington Learning Center and an undergraduate admissions facilitator for the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Mallia grew up in Wading River where he still resides. He enjoys traveling, games of strategy, and learning new things.

## **New Pierson Staff**

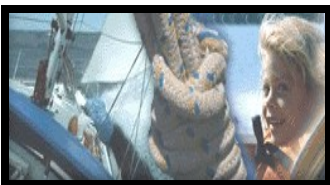
### *Elizabeth Marchisella*

Elizabeth Marchisella will be joining the teaching staff at Pierson MS/HS this year as the middle school art teacher. She graduated in May from Hofstra University with a graduate degree in Art Education. Elizabeth also attended Hofstra as an undergraduate, earning a Bachelor Degree in Fine Arts with a minor in Theatre Arts. While teaching beginner painting as a university peer teacher, Elizabeth was invited to complete an honors project thesis where she displayed 30 works in a solo art show. In between degrees, Elizabeth traveled to Australia and Europe exploring various art cultures and experimenting with her own art. It has always been a goal of Elizabeth to become an art educator. Having worked in the Sag Harbor School District since 2004, Elizabeth feels the transition to art teacher will be smooth. She is honored to have the opportunity to teach in her alma mater and continue to work in a community that has given her so much.



### *Margaret L. Motto*

Miss Motto will join the guidance team with a focus on college and career planning. A native of the North Fork, she graduated from Mattituck High School before pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. She holds a Master of Science in Education in the area of School Counseling from Fordham University in New York City. Miss Motto has earned the National Certified Counselor recognition and previously worked in higher education at Siena College, Fordham University, and Suffolk County Community College. She has experience in college planning and admissions, personal counseling, academic advisement, crisis intervention, career development and counseling. When she is not at school Miss Motto enjoys taking adventures in her kayak, volunteering her time at the community theater, and cooking.



### **SEPTA Goes Sailing!**

Recently, a few lucky SEPTA families took a fantastic two-hour sail in the Sag Harbor area with the Heart of Sailing (an international organization that introduces sailing for free to children and adults with developmental disabilities, such as Autism and Down Syndrome, as a form of education and recreational therapy. For more info on SEPTA (The Special Education Parent Teacher Association of the East End), see <http://www.eastend-septa.com/>

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**Deadline for the October newsletter is Sept. 24th - Please send all copy and photos to the editor by that date [eimskowitz@gmail.com](mailto:eimskowitz@gmail.com)—Thank you!**

## **SAG HARBOR SCHOOLS**

### **INSTRUMENT DRIVE!**



Calling all flutes, saxophones, trombones, violins and drum sets!!! The Music Department of Sag Harbor Elementary and Pierson Middle/High Schools are asking alumni, parents of alumni and community residents to donate any old instruments to the Sag Harbor Schools to be used by current and future students. Donations can be dropped off at the Pierson High School Band Room at 200 Jermain Avenue, Sag Harbor, starting during the week of September 13, 2010 and will continue to be accepted during the 2010-2011 school year. If you have any questions or would like to contact the Music Department about donations, please contact Eric Reynolds, Pierson High School Band Director at (631) 725-5302 x725 or [ereynolds@sagharborschools.org](mailto:ereynolds@sagharborschools.org)

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