



# PENGUIN POST



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The Best, Worst and First Fifth and Sixth Grade Newspaper Cost: Priceless\$

## Meet The Penguin Post



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## Principal Kelley Reflects on Pierce

by Rowan Boyd

Before Principal Kelley came to Pierce, she had been an elementary school teacher and the principal of an elementary and high school in Winchester, Massachusetts. So Penguin Post wanted to learn her views about being principal of our school.

When we asked Mrs. Kelley how kids in Winchester were different from kids at Pierce, she said, "They're not much different. Kids are kids." She did talk about a few differences, though. She said people in Winchester drive everywhere, so she didn't see them walking around like she does in Brookline. She also talked about how kids are more independent in Brookline. For example, she said kids at Pierce walk places by themselves, and kids in Winchester do not.

The next question asked was, "What didn't you do over the summer that you would have liked to do to get ready for the school year?" She answered, "That's an easy one. Meet people." She said she was lonely in the building all by herself. The vice-principals don't work in the summer, the office staff doesn't work, and most importantly, the students aren't there, so she was all alone in the building. "No one wanted school to start more than me."

We asked Mrs. Kelley if she was nervous about coming to a school with such high expectations for principals. She said she wasn't nervous about coming to a school with high expectations because she sets high expectations for herself. She did say she was nervous about coming into a new community where she wasn't known, starting over at a new school and needing to build the trust of everyone. She also said she was nervous about commuting from home to Pierce, since it takes from forty-five minutes to two hours.

We ended the interview by asking Mrs. Kelley what she thinks Pierce can improve on. She said Pierce is a big school acting like a small school, and it needs some better systems. She has already taken action to make some better systems. One example of her changing a system is that late students now check in using an electronic kiosk. Mrs. Kelley also moved the Vice Principals' office down the hall from her so that they would be near to the front of the school if people needed them. Also, as a new Principal, Mrs. Kelley finds it super helpful to have the Vice Principals near her office. We followed up by asking if the kids' classrooms are also going to be rearranged. She said nothing for this year though "anything is on the table." She added that they were going to be slow and careful about any changes to the Pierce space.

## Brookline Brings Out The Vote

by Keira Zhou



The presidential election of 2016 has come and gone and many Americans exercised their right to vote. In this election, about 58% of eligible voters nationwide voted. In our town of Brookline, 28,922 eligible voters out of 39,200 registered voters (or nearly 74%) came out to vote. This year in Brookline, some people voted early, while many waited to vote on November 8th, election day.

Voting is an opportunity for the citizens in a democracy to have their voices heard and to elect representatives to work on their behalf. It is a privilege our nation has fought long and hard for. For instance, it was not until 1920 that women were allowed to vote. Now it's our responsibility to vote whenever we can to make our voices heard.

Our principal Mrs. Kelley is a strong believer in the power of voting. "Voting and democratic process form one of my core values," she said. Mrs. Kelley added that voting is one of the huge luxuries we have in this country and we should not take it for granted. She urged everyone to vote "in every election, always," like she tries to do, even in the elections that seem less significant than the big presidential election. For example, sometimes in Brookline, we can vote for a tax override that impact school budgets.

No matter what you think about the results of this past election, it might help to think about what Mrs. Kelley said she hoped Pierce students would learn from this election. She urged students to remember that "we don't have to agree with each other to be respectful of each other." It is natural in any election for people to have different views. Voting is one great way that Americans are able to make their voices heard and to hear and understand perspectives different from their own.



## Leaders Working Together: The Vice-Principals' Perspective

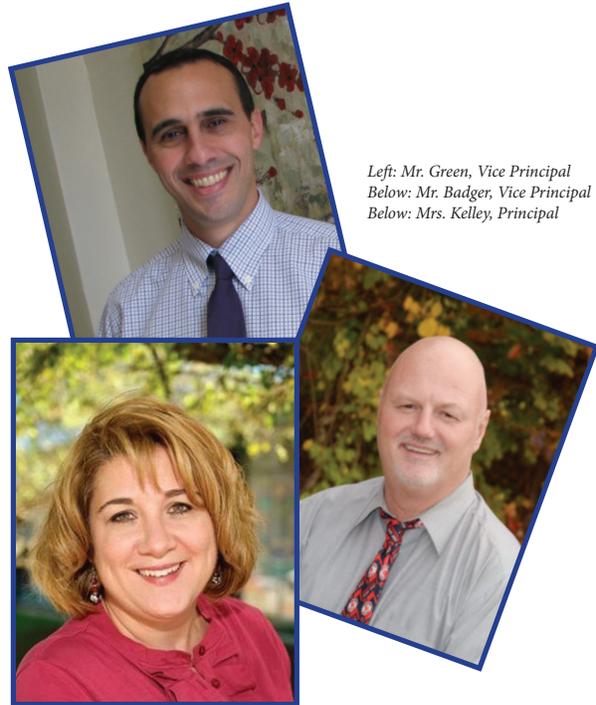
by Sophia Jane

What perspective do our two vice-principals, Mr. Daniel Green and Mr. John Badger, have about our exciting new principal, Mrs. Christine Kelley, and her leadership style? Penguin Post decided to find out just that. We asked the same two questions of both Mr. Badger and Mr. Green: "What is Ms. Kelley's leadership style like?" and "How have you had to change your leadership style to match Ms. Kelley's?"

The Penguin Post reporters talked to Mr. Badger first. He said Mrs. Kelley likes to get things done. Therefore, they now have much shorter meetings and quick check-ins, instead of a few long meetings. They have more communication face-to-face. He also said that Mrs. Kelley and Dr. Smith-Mumford are like "ice cream and ketchup," meaning they are both awesome, but they have very different leadership styles.

Mr. Green seemed to focus on Mrs. Kelley's personality. He said that in meetings, Mrs. Kelley has a very strong vision for the future of Pierce and the students. Like Mr. Badger, he said she is very hard working. Outside of meetings she is funny, caring, and smart. She cares for students and our school. She supports Mr. Green and, through all her experience of being a principal, knows how to help him and the students of Pierce.

As you can see, Mrs. Kelley has a strong leadership style and personality. She is a great new addition to the Pierce School. Hopefully, she will continue to improve our community for years to come.



Left: Mr. Green, Vice Principal  
Below: Mr. Badger, Vice Principal  
Below: Mrs. Kelley, Principal

## Book Review: *Because of Mr. Terupt*

by Ambre Gherbi

The fifth grade has been reading *Because of Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea as a read aloud and as an independent book.

It is a roller coaster of a year at Snow Hill School. In *Because of Mr. Terupt*, seven students (Luke, Alexia, Jessica, Jeffrey, Danielle, Anna, and Peter) describe through their eyes, voices, and thoughts what happens when a new teacher comes to their school. By the end of the story, each student has learned a valuable lesson about the world they live in and about themselves.

There are many reasons that fifth graders enjoy reading this book. One reason is that you can easily relate to the book--it goes through fifth, sixth, and seventh grades, so the characters are all in an age group that fifth graders understand. Another reason people enjoy this book is that you know the feelings of each student very clearly and you can find one character that you particularly relate to and learn from. And the final reason to love this book is that we have it in the Pierce Library! It's worth checking it out for yourself!

People who enjoyed reading *Because of Mr. Terupt* will probably enjoy reading the other books in the series: *Mr. Terupt Falls Again* and *Saving Mr. Terupt*, both also by Rob Buyea. Each book takes place in a single school year. It makes you want to read all three books to know what happens to the students that you got to know in *Because of Mr. Terupt*.



## Word Search

by William McDonald

E	P	E	Y	J	I	S	E	T	Y
H	L	Y	C	C	B	D	K	E	T
A	A	E	S	R	I	Y	P	A	I
T	Y	L	M	R	E	E	H	C	N
J	G	L	P	E	N	I	X	H	U
A	R	E	B	G	N	R	P	E	M
Q	O	K	U	J	R	T	Z	R	M
C	U	I	W	S	K	N	A	S	O
Y	N	V	L	N	U	C	M	R	C
L	D	S	E	I	T	R	A	P	Y

COMMUNITY  
ELEMENTARY  
KELLEY  
PARTIES  
PENGUIN  
PIERCE  
PLAYGROUND  
PRIDE  
TEACHERS



## The Long View: Looking Back on Three Principals

by Eamon Boshell, Yunseol Lee, Noah Saltzman-Amigone, and Lev Tolkoff

Almost every staff member at Pierce has experienced the transition between principals, but three teachers have taught at this school for the span of three different principals. What are these teachers' perspectives on this year's transition to a new school leader?

Q: What has been the biggest difference among the principals you have known?

Ms. Leipman: Mrs. Kelley is more energetic. Dr. Smith-Mumford was more calm and quiet.

Mr. Rae: The first principal, Kris Fields, went by her first name. Kris had been a teacher, vice principal, and principal. Dr. Smith-Mumford had been a guidance counselor at Brookline High School before Pierce. Mrs. Kelley was a classroom teacher and principal in Winchester. Mrs. Kelley is very outgoing.

Ms. Van Hatten: I knew Dr. Smith-Mumford for 17 years even before she became principal. So the biggest difference is that I don't know Mrs. Kelley as well yet.

Q: When you were told there was going to be a new principal, what went through your mind?

Ms. Leipman: I was a little sad because I was with [Dr. Smith-Mumford] for so long. In her first year being principal, I adopted my oldest daughter. But I was happy for her because she was going to get to spend more time with her family and travel. I was also excited to meet a new principal.

Mr. Rae: I thought it would be an interesting process to hire a principal since they have to know education laws and make sure the students' and teachers' rights are protected.

Ms. Van Hatten: It was bittersweet. I was happy for Dr. Smith-Mumford, but I was sad she was leaving.

Q: How has Mrs. Kelley helped you with your job at Pierce?

Ms. Leipman: Mrs. Kelley has been very encouraging, and she came to read to our class.

Mr. Rae: Mrs. Kelley has come in once or twice. I don't know if she'll come in much because she has three buildings to monitor. She is focused on many other areas, including safety.

Ms. Van Hatten: She has been very good about caseload management.



Mr. Rae is one of the art teachers here at Pierce. He has been working at the school since 1994.



Ms. Van Hatten is a guidance counselor at Pierce School. She has been at Pierce for 33 years.



Ms. Leipman is a second grade teacher who has been teaching at Pierce for twenty-two years. She also attended Pierce as a child.

## Spotlight on Technology: My Lego Vending Machine

by Lucas Johnson

*"I am ten and I am a fifth grader at Pierce. In my free time I enjoy playing with LEGOs, robotics, reading fiction adventure, swimming, hanging out with my friends, watching movies, and skateboarding."*



About three months ago I got the idea to build a Lego vending machine. Nothing in particular inspired me, but when I woke up one day, the idea just jumped in my head. I started experimenting with one of those tic-tac dispensers, and just kept adding on pieces. At first it seemed a bit hard, but I knew I could do it. I messed up the first few tries, but then I realized what I did wrong, and what I needed to do to fix it. The building took me less than a day, and when I finished, I was happy about the outcome.

To build the vending machine I needed the following: a base, a coin slot, a large hole to release the items purchased, a small hole to throw out extra change and coins the machine did not take, such as dimes, pennies, and nickels, a roof, a thing that dropped the quarters into a locked slot (to which only I had the keys and where I get the money that has been dropped into the vending machine). The vending machine is 5½ inches tall and 6¼ inches wide.

The mechanism of the machine works like this: when you insert a quarter, it hits a gear attached to the wheel that unlocks the wheel and then you spin the wheel that twists the dispensing wheel. This motion releases the object you get from the vending machine, e.g. small candy bar. I enjoyed building the vending machine.

## Pierce Students Want to Know: Why is there no chocolate milk in the cafeteria this year?

By Jengfei (Jerry) Huang

This is a question that a lot of students have. If it's because chocolate milk is unhealthy, then why do we still have jello and sugar cookies?

In an interview with Mrs. Kelley, she said: "I don't know. Maybe it's because of sugar. We may get chocolate milk back at some point."





## Pierce Gets Fit(bit)

by Alex Xu and Justin Liu

When you walk into Pierce school, you might see students or teachers tapping at a “wristband.” This multipurpose piece of technology, called a FitBit, is revolutionizing Pierce and its students. The Fitbit is a wireless, wearable piece of technology that keeps track of your steps, kilometers walked, calories burned, and more. You wear it around your wrist or the ankle so it can track your body’s movements properly. The FitBit is very popular at Pierce school, with a lot of the owners walking around campus. There are around 9.5 million users worldwide and eight types of Fitbits. Each new Fitbit has more features and is more improved than the one before. For example, you needed a phone to get information about your health on the Fitbit Flex (an early model), but the Fitbit Charge (a recent model) has a screen to keep track. But there’s still one main unanswered question: Why is it so popular in Pierce?

We asked Principal Christine Kelley and lots of Pierce students questions about the FitBit and the results were very surprising. In an interview at the Pierce Loft, room 304, Mrs. Kelley said that she had one, although she gave it to her daughter (mostly because she “didn’t use it very often and her daughter was begging for it”). Mrs. Kelley also told us that instead of the Fitbit, she uses her phone to track her fitness stats. Even though the Fitbit is a very useful fitness tracker and she encourages it, she believes that there are easier and less expensive solutions to keep healthy. Mrs. Kelley said: “As long as something tracks your steps and makes you aware of your health, I think it’s useful and helpful.” Another Fitbit alternative is a pedometer. They’re inexpensive, and can the battery can live a long time. However, the Fitbit can track your heartbeat, while pedometers can’t. Some sources say that the FitBit is the best. They like the elastomer material sports band and its user-friendliness. So, to sum it up, the FitBit is very popular in and out of Pierce because of its usefulness and its maneuverability. What do you think about the FitBit?



## Inside *Out Of The Box*

by Jasper Milstein and Graham Horowitz

*Out of the Box* is a 13-year-old tradition in Brookline. It is made up of two casts with ten actors each. We were both in the cast, and are happy to offer you this insiders’ perspective. The play tours all eight Brookline K-8 public schools, and somewhere in that process performs at the Children’s Museum. *Out of the Box* is part of the awesome Artbarn community theater. The one-of-a kind playwright Adam Brooks wrote the show that Pierce students saw. Helping this year with *Out of the Box* are six amazing people: Matthew Kossack (our superb director/choreographer), Taylor Kirkwood (our incredible music director), Euridice Rivas (our phenomenal tech director), Chloe Laura-Russak (our spectacular producer), and Elizabeth (our fabulous intern who is in 8th grade at Pierce).

This year 7 of the 20 *Out of the Box* cast members attend Pierce: Jasper Milstein (5th grade), Graham Horowitz (5th grade), Rowan Boyd (5th grade), Eleanor Bergstein (6th grade), Malcolm Grant (6th grade), Taj Horowitz (6th grade), and Gabriel Nigrovic (6th grade). Jasper, Graham and Taj are in the cast of Gizmos; and Rowan, Eleanor, Malcolm, and Gabriel are in the cast of Gadgets. The Gadgets performed at Pierce. Even though we perform separately, we had a lot of fun rehearsing together. This year the performance was about technology in kids’ lives. Every year there is a theme in *Out of the Box* with a moral at the end.

Recently we interviewed the director Matthew Kossack. These are the questions we asked him:

**PP:** How long has *Out of the Box* been going?

**MK:** The *Out of the Box* program began in 2004, so this Fall’s production is the 13th *Out of the Box* production.

**PP:** How long have you been performing at the Children’s Museum?

**MK:** This season is the second year of *Out of the Box*’s partnership with the Boston Children’s Museum. *Dear Failure* performed there last season, and the experience was so wonderful for both Artbarn and the Museum, that we decided to do it again this season. And we’re hoping the tradition will continue for many seasons to come.

**PP:** How do you come up with ideas for the shows?

**MK:** Each year we ask the current *Out of the Box* case for theme ideas for the coming season. We want to know what topics seem relevant and exciting to our actors, and what ideas they think would get our audiences thinking. From those ideas, the directing and writing team meet and make a decision, and then write an original show to debut the following season.



*The Gadgets*



*The Gizmos*



## The Who, What, When, and Where of Pierce's History

by Lyrissa Anderson and Sonia Provost

Did you know that Pierce is one of the oldest schools in the country? No? Then read on! Pierce School was founded in 1855. Pierce started as a four-room schoolhouse. Part of that original building is still part of our historical building. Later, in 1973, a new building was built, famous for its open classrooms and modern architecture.

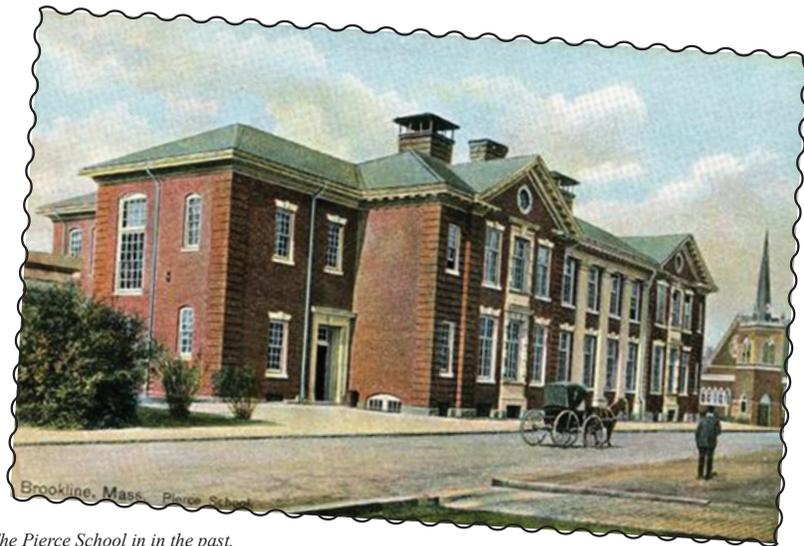
Over the years, some people have fallen in love with working at Pierce and have stuck around for a long time. In 1922, a teacher named Margaret Malone retired after 50 years teaching at Pierce! Mary McSkimmon was principal of Pierce for 35 years, from 1893 to 1932. She was a supporter of student government and parental involvement in the schools. In 1914, she co-authored a peace curriculum for American schools to increase international understanding and appreciation for other cultures. She was also President of the National Education Association (NEA) from 1925 to 1926, and created a new committee to focus on education for African American students.

Pierce has always been a leader and innovator in education and has always been a welcoming environment for all students. As early as the 1920's, Pierce already had special classes to include children with mental disabilities. One family we interviewed has a child who uses a wheelchair. They recalled that they moved to Brookline in 1976 because Pierce was one of the only public schools in the Boston area that was wheelchair accessible.

An interview with teacher Nancy Springer gives us an idea of how Pierce has changed since she began teaching here in the 1980's. Mrs. Springer said that Pierce felt smaller in the 1980's, and there were more open areas in the building. One of the biggest changes she has noticed at Pierce is that there now there are lots more students, teachers, administrators, and specialists. She told us: "The building is the same. In fact, some of the furniture is the same furniture that was around in 1980!" In those days there were also woodworking classes, and Home Economics (sewing, cooking, etc.), which had their own classrooms.

We also interviewed Jennifer Anderson who was a student at Pierce in the 1970's and 80's and more recently the parent of two Pierce kids. She said "Pierce has always been a diverse community, but the diversity feels different now. When I was a student, a lot of the international families came here as economic and political refugees. Now Pierce is still very international, but it seems like families are coming here by choice for reasons relating to the parents' jobs and to take advantage of the excellent education offered here."

We're starting a new chapter of history with our new principal, Mrs. Kelley, who has given the school the nickname of "Old Ironsides" because of the unusual, boat-like architecture. Pierce has had a long and interesting history, and now we look forward to having a long and interesting future!



This is a picture of The Pierce School in in the past. Notice that there is a horse drawn carriage on the street.

## Video Game Fun Facts

by Clyde Barnes

- *Wii Sports*, *Minecraft*, and *Tetris* are the three top selling video games of all time.
- The first video game ever was called *Pong*. It was created in 1958.
- In 1981, *3D Monster Maze* was the first ever 3D video game released commercially.
- People used to play video games like *Frogger*, *Pacman*, *Asteroids*, *Donkey Kong*, *Galaga*, and *Centipede* on big machines in arcades.
- *Skylanders* is one of the best home games to come with interactive gaming toys. *Spyro*, from the game *Spyro's Adventure*, is the most famous *Skylander* ever.
- In *Plants Vs. Zombies*, the undead make for an interesting game! *Zombies* and gardening, who knew? *Plants Vs. Zombies* earned one million dollars in the first nine days after release.
- The largest real-world place to be created in *Minecraft* was a map of Great Britain. The first movie based on a video game was *Super Mario Bros.*, which came out in 1993.
- When *Pokemon Go* was released in 2016, millions of people downloaded the game in the first few weeks.
- The most popular *Just Dance* song is *One Direction's "What Makes you Beautiful."*

## The Amazing History of the Amazing Mario

by Max Navarrete



Mario was originally created by a Japanese artist and was first used in the 1981 arcade game, *Donkey Kong*. Mario's name was Jumpman at the time, but everyone just started calling him Mario and that name stuck. When the Nintendo company needed a new game, it chose Mario. Then the arcade game *Mario Bros.* was created and released. At first, Nintendo didn't really like the idea, but it was a huge success. Today, Mario has evolved with more graphics and into more games such as the paper Mario series, *Super Mario 3D World*, *Mario Galaxy*, *Mario Party*, and many more amazing games that are now used on consoles. Mario managed to become one of the most recognizable characters on earth, and continues to be updated.



# The Renovation of Pierce Park

By Frances Hochleutner

The old Pierce Park, a place many people have grown to love, is being redone. You may be thinking: Why does Pierce Park need to be redone? It seemed perfectly fine to me! Pierce Park had been the same for a while: the scruffy field, the tired baseball diamond, the spacious sledding hill, the faded basketball court, old wooden benches, lots of climbing trees, and an aging playground. Erin Gallentine, Director of Parks and Open Space for Brookline, said "There is a great fondness for this park, but conditions had deteriorated and many aspects had long exceeded their life cycle." According to Gallentine, "Playground equipment lasts about 15-20 years and then you can't get replacement parts anymore, and Pierce Park was slowly rising up on the town's to-do list." Students observed there were even bees that would burrow into the old play structure and make holes. Ray Dunet, a landscape architecture design consultant hired by the Parks Department of Brookline, said the playground didn't meet the current codes and safety requirements that it needed to.

Now Pierce Park is changing: The fresh field won't have bare patches, the new baseball diamond has a protective backstop and a real pitcher's mound, the sledding hill has a slide, the bright blue and green basketball court has new basketball hoops with holes in the back boards to reduce sound, there are newly painted hopscotch and four square courts, modern metal benches, fewer climbing trees, no belt swings, walking paths, and a brand new playground. All the shrubs and trees have been pruned and almost everything has been cleaned up. It also has new water fountains, which feature a water bottle filler (to reduce the need for one-use water bottles) and there are new bike racks coming. "They have so many cool new structures, the basketball court came out really good. I'm excited," said Mrs. Christine Kelley, the new Pierce School Principal. Mrs. Kelley said this park is much more modern than the park of the school where she worked previously and she really likes it.

In order to fix the things that were wrong with Pierce Park, the Parks and Recreation Commission started with the design process. After a 2015 kickoff meeting open to the public, they chose a Design Review Committee, including two Pierce parents. The Design Review Committee got ideas from a wide group of people about what worked for the park and what didn't, then worked with Dunet to agree on a park design within the budget. "The Pierce Playground renovation project included a terrific public process that involved the school, the PTO, the principals, teachers, and the neighborhood. The renovation celebrates the Pierce Playground as an important community resource in a very urban corner of town," said Gallentine. The goals of the park designers were to make the park as safe and accessible as possible and they wanted to provide opportunities for anyone who uses the park to have a good time in a natural space. The slide was added to spread out the park because the original playground was so dense.

To achieve their goals, they made the pathways connect all the different parts of the park to give people a good chance to exercise. On the paths anyone can ride a scooter, bike, or skateboard. Or you can just run around playing tag! These paths were also made so adults can enjoy a cup of coffee while taking a walk, or for going on a jog. The designers also gave the park good new fencing providing views, made bigger, more welcoming park entrances, and chose some Park Vue benches for seating. The old benches, according to Gallentine, were old fashioned, and the new park furniture was chosen to be urban, like the town, and contemporary, as the public wanted. The biggest challenge in constructing

the park for Gallentine was the dispute over whether or not to have lights on the basketball court so teenagers could play in the evenings. In the end, the park designers decided to put them in with automatic timers so the lights would shut off by 8:30 p.m. and would not bother neighbors too much.

The Pierce Park construction began in April 2016. About \$960,000 has been spent on the construction of the park and another \$90,000 was spent on survey costs, design, and construction documents. The playground was closed off, and students who normally had recess at Pierce Park spent the rest of their recesses that year on just the Pierce field. This project was phased differently from other park related projects, because the students had nowhere to go for recess except Pierce Park, so it was closed off in phases, not all at once. During the summer, the whole park was closed off since there wasn't school. In June, Mrs. Kelley started helping with the project and said she had no difficulty picking up in the middle because it was already being well managed by John Badger and Dan Green, the Pierce School Vice Principals, and the Parks Department. Mrs. Kelley said "the biggest challenge of the project so far was knowing if the playground would be done on the first day of school. There was no plan B and if the playground wasn't done in time, there probably would have been no recess for most students." Mrs. Kelley made a lot of phone calls during the last few weeks of summer vacation to ensure the park would be open in time for the start of the school year. She also said: "I would love to put a plug in for the Parks Department, because they managed this entire project."



Plans for the new Pierce Park come to life.

Many people are enthusiastic for the park to be done and wish it could be done sooner. According to Gallentine, who is also the overseer of the Pierce Park renovation process, Pierce Park is about 85% done (as of late October 2016), but does need a good deal more work. Unfortunately, the park won't be finished until spring, and probably the field and baseball diamond won't be open before June 2017. Some aesthetic and plant work

remains to be done, but the main reason the park won't be finished until spring is the grass. The field needs one or two growing seasons, so the grass roots will mature and become longer and stronger. Gallentine and Mrs. Kelley confirmed that there will be no sledding this winter because the grass will not have strong enough roots yet. The soil for the new grass is mixed, partially soil from the old Pierce Park's grass, and partially newly bought soil.

Gallentine thinks that Frederick Law Olmsted, the famous landscape architect and once Brookline resident, probably wouldn't have liked most of this park because he didn't really like playgrounds and this is a twenty-first century park and much more modern than the sort of parks he liked. Olmsted liked organic shapes and lots of trees and shrubs, so Gallentine thinks he would like the shrubbery that was added near the playground. She also thinks that he would understand that this is a busy school park that needs a playground.

Even though Olmsted might not have liked all of the new park, Pierce sure does! Gallentine said, "Parks strengthen our connection to self, others and community. They help provide safer, more civic-minded and civil communities. Properly designed parks enhance our overall quality of life, physical and mental wellness, and economic vitality." Let's hear three cheers for the new Pierce Park!



## Billy and The Mascot Mystery

By Hannah Intille



Ask Billy if you really wanna know!

What if I told you the Pierce Penguin, our mascot, wasn't what you thought. I met with Billy Harris, known at Pierce as "Billy," and he told me something mysterious.

Everyone knows Billy. He is an influential person at Pierce and is seen every day. He's out at recess. He's at Pierce in the morning. He's at Pierce in the evening. From my point of view it seems as though Billy is involved with everything. That's why I decided to write an article about him.

I met with Billy at recess. The now hustling and bustling, under-construction playground was a crazy place to have an interview. In between questions he was high-fiving and greeting everyone. Billy has worked at Pierce for 30 years. I wanted to know some of the most important events that happened to him in his own life before he arrived at Pierce. He was born in Pennsylvania and he said, "I moved to Boston when I was about 5 years old." After that, he told me about a major opportunity he had. He said, "One important thing in my life, at a very young age, I ran a youth program out of the Roxbury YMCA, and from that point on I knew I really wanted to work with kids." Then I asked about the path that led him to Pierce. He said, "Well, after my youth directorship job at the Roxbury YMCA, a friend of mine worked in Brookline through the METCO program. So I was a METCO aide at first, and after I decided to get into the Brookline Schools, and I was very fortunate that there was a position open at Pierce for me."

I asked him about important events in the time that he's been at Pierce. Billy seemed comfortable and relaxed in the chaotic environment as he answered, "Oh, there's been so many." He continued, "Just watching a lot of kids to grow up to be productive citizens in the community." Then I asked him what were some of the most important changes at Pierce that he noticed in the time that he's been at Pierce. He said, "Well, the fact that we've grown as a school, that's very important... the fact that we have a fun and interesting staff... and just Pierce life in general."

Pierce has changed Billy. He told me, "It's changed me by being a little bit more patient with kids, and understanding the different problems kids have, and what's really changed is that kids kind of trust me to help them out." Right then, he yelled out, "Bye, Sandy. What's up Andrew?" and he laughed. Billy is a friendly and outgoing guy who always wants to make everyone feel good. He really does.

Then I asked him, "Can you tell me something about Pierce that the students wouldn't know?" And he said something unexpected: "Yeah, the fact that we're called the Pierce Penguins, and we're really not that." I didn't follow up just then because I felt like it was becoming too busy on the playground. More students were showing up, and that meant more chaos.

But later, after the interview in my cozy, quiet home, I decided I had to investigate the Pierce Penguin mystery. Is he right? If the Penguin isn't the mascot of Pierce, what is? I investigated the problem. First, I went to the Pierce website. Under the "Fun Facts" section, it stated, "The mighty penguin is the mascot of Pierce School." There was an icon of a penguin in a green scarf. Green is the color that represents Pierce. Second, I recalled at FitFest one year, someone dressed up in a Pierce Penguin mascot uniform, and on the FitFest shirts, there is always the icon of a penguin. My own fifth grade assignment notebook has the word, "Pierce" and a green penguin on the front. Third, when I asked Hyewon Suh, a student in the fifth grade, what she thought the mascot was, she told me, "a penguin," with confidence. Then I asked her why. She said, "Because there's a penguin on everything. Penguin Post, penguin on posters, and penguin on sweaters, and the FitFest shirt."

That's why I decided to follow-up with Billy on the Pierce mascot mystery. Four days later at another recess I asked Billy, "About the Penguin, why is it not the mascot?" He replied, "Well, it's not the mascot because we were always called Pierce Pride, but just until the last five years, everybody just assumed that we were the Penguin. Personally, since I've been here a long time, we've never been known as Pierce Penguins. It's always been Pierce Pride. So I'm just rollin' with it, 'cause if you think about it, it's sort of silly." I think it's incredible that almost everyone had the idea that the penguin was our official mascot.

We are so fortunate to have someone like Billy who has been here for so long and can tell us things that we might never have known. Back at the first recess when I interviewed Billy, the last question I asked him about working here, and he said, "I truly, truly, truly enjoy working at Pierce." I think Billy has shown commitment and love for the students and the school.

## Pierce Cross Country Meet

By Eliot Ebert

The cross country meet was held on October 27. Around 75 students ran for the Pierce team in Larz Anderson Park. Only 5th-8th grades were allowed to participate. The race was 1 mile, and the Lawrence team won.

Practices were twice a week located in the Pierce gym. When the gym was occupied, students ran around the streets of Brookline. In practices, runners stretched, did laps, and learned running techniques.

The cross country coach, Amy Grindstaff, has never run a marathon and didn't even like running as a kid. "I have recently fallen in love with running, and that is why I now coach cross country," said Grindstaff.

When runners for Pierce weren't running they cheered, ate their lunch, and put layers on. It was cold!



### Top 3 Scores

	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>5th boys:</b>	Kailas Ciatto DP: 16	Alex Xu DP: 22	Joe Moolman DP: 25
<b>5th girls:</b>	Maddie Driscoll DP: 3	Francis Hochleutner DP: 6	Hannah Intille DP: 12
<b>6th boys:</b>	Omri Khaykovich DP: 3	Devin Hunt DP: 10	Gabe Holmes DP: 14
<b>6th girls:</b>	Cecilia Wager DP: 3	Charlotte Smith DP: 8	Eleanor Bergstein DP: 9

DP stands for district score.



Track Team Cheering Squad



## Pierce Perspectives on Transportation

by Hyewon Suh

Do you ever wonder how people get around? Do you think people worry about how they could impact the environment while getting where they need to go? And, lastly, what do you think is the preferred way to get to places?

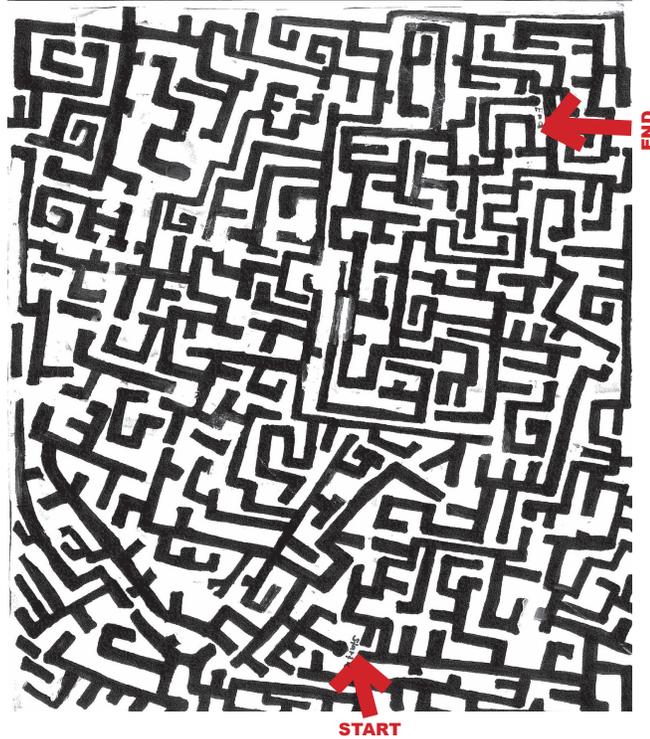
I set out to answer these questions by asking members of the Pierce community. Mr. Carter, a third grade teacher who lives in Foxborough, says that he arrives at Pierce by car. He added that he does worry about the environment while driving and if it were feasible, he would take the train as his means of transportation. Next, I interviewed Ms. Balzano, a fourth grade teacher who ran the Boston Marathon last year, about her thoughts on this subject. She replied that her favorite way to get around was either by biking or walking. Ms. Grindstaff, one of the P.E. teachers, says that she drives to Pierce but "would rather run or bike," and when asked about whether she worries about the environment while driving, answered, "Absolutely." Our principal Mrs. Kelley says that she enjoys driving to work. She explained, "When I was sixteen, my parents had to force me to take the driver's test, saying that even if I wouldn't use it, it would be good to have, and now I'm the driver of the family."

And now for the students' point of view: Hannah Intille, a student in the fifth grade says, "I usually get driven, but if I really wanted to, I could walk every day." She worries a lot about the environment and thinks people should take it more seriously. And, like fourth grade teacher Ms. Balzano, she prefers either walking or biking. Jeongwon Suh, a third grader, answers that, "I come to school by foot or car." From time to time, he has had concerns about the consequences of driving, but brightly says, "Luckily, I walk a lot." He likes riding bicycles because it is easy and fun.

So that wraps up this discussion on transportation. Has this article changed your thoughts about transportation? Has it influenced what you will do from now on? And has it made you think more deeply about how you get around? You might start by sharing your thoughts with your friends and family so that we can build a better tomorrow together.

## A Hand-drawn Maze

by Frances Hockleutner



## Advice from Pengweeno de Fishsticks

This fall, Pierce students had the opportunity to submit questions (real and imagined) to Penguin Post's advice columnist, Pengweeno de Fishsticks. Sixth graders Gabriel Nigrovic, Taj Horowitz, and Danny Treistman helped collect questions for Pengweeno de Fishsticks to answer.

*Dear Pengweeno de Fishsticks: Why don't I get gold when I pick my nose? My dad said "Stop diggin' for gold" whenever I pick my nose.*

- Nose Miner

Dear Nose Miner: Start digging for silver. Those mechanical diggers are also really cheap these days.  
- Pengweeno de Fishsticks

*Dear Pengweeno de Fishsticks: Whenever I call a friend, they don't answer.*

- First grader with a landline

Dear first grader with a landline: Start texting! If that doesn't work go last resort -- Snapchat!  
- World's best Pengweeno

*Dear Pengweeno De Fishsticks: I keep on asking for the same thing for Christmas, but I never get it.*

-Anonymous

Dear Anonymous: Ask again and switch to Hanukkah.  
- P.D.F

*Dear Pengweeno de Fishsticks: I'm overwhelmed by homework. What should I do?*

- Stressed Student

Dear Stressed Student: Play hookie and use a calculator.  
- A Pengweeno near you

*Dear Pengweeno de Fishsticks: Why doesn't the tooth fairy answer my calls??*

- Anonymous

Dear Anonymous: I don't know, but I heard she's on Facebook.  
- Pengweeno

*Dear Pengweeno de Fishsticks: Why do boys have to ask girls out to dances?*

- Lost Girl

Dear Lost Girl: Who says. Start a new tradition.  
- Mr. Fishsticks

*Dear Pengweeno de Fishsticks: I keep asking people to RAFT, but no one says yes. What should I do?*

- Lonely Hunk

Dear Lonely Hunk: Have fun and enjoy the snack table and the punch.  
- Deep Fried Pengweeno

*Dear Pengweeno de Fishsticks: Why do grown-ups go on dates?*

- Little Kid

Dear Little Kid: To get away from us kids. Take advantage of it.  
- Pengweeno de Fishsticks

*Dear Pengweeno de Fishsticks: I want to be president, how do I do it.*

- Mature 4-Year-Old

Dear Mature 4-Year-Old: You have a few more years to plan, but in the meantime there's always Vice President.  
- PdF



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**The Penguin Post wishes everyone a happy and healthy winter. We look forward to bringing you new voices and stories in the spring.**

