

# TIDINGS

Newsletter of the Penikese Island School

Issue No. 080215

## Signs

### Remembering Graduates

Not long ago I took a phone call in the office from a former student. At first I thought trouble must be brewing and he needed to talk to one of the more experienced staff in student matters. I don't get to participate in many student activities. I am not a teacher or direct care staff. My job at Penikese is more administrative in nature.

I do however get to interact with students as they come and go and occasionally tag along with visitors to see them on the island. This student remembered me and stopped me from trying to transfer him on to someone else. "I can talk to you," he said. "I just want to tell somebody how well I'm doing."

He began to tell his story with exuberance. He was still working at the same job that he had started one year ago. He celebrated this anniversary milestone with a friend, whom he hoped would soon be his girlfriend. He was working thirty hours a week and had just started taking college courses at the community college. His excitement was palpable. He really liked one of his new professors but could tell it would be a



challenge to like the other one. His mother's cancer was in remission. His state of mind was happy and hopeful.

I was glad I had taken this call. I tend to remember all of our students. Some are hard to forget. This graduate left signs all around Penikese that he had been there. Literally, he left signs. Before he graduated he carved six ancient symbols onto six, stained pieces of wood. The wood had been carefully rounded into perfect circles to represent the circle of life. Each symbol represented a crossroad that this student had encountered on his Penikese journey. Even the placement of these symbols was purposeful. By the front door he put the symbol for *Difficult Beginnings*. By the dining table he put the symbol for *Community*. By the kitchen serving-island he placed the symbol for Conflict, and by the recreation area is a symbol for *Prospering*. The living room circle stands for *Conduct* and near the sleeping quarters he placed the symbol for *Harmony*. His phone call that day was full of every one of these symbols.

I don't always get the chance, to let our graduates know that we will remember each and every one of them and that they are important to all of us. When I do get the chance they are always surprised. But truthfully, how could we forget them? They are the reason we work so hard to keep this program going. They have all left us signs particular to their own journey.

– Patty Peal, Development Director

#### In This Issue:

- Meet the New Development Chair
- Spring Wish List Island Items
- Leprosy of the West: Student Poetry



## Getting Ready for Spring Island Wish List

The following items were requested by our staff, but are not in our budget to obtain. If you can help us fulfill our staff's requests please contact Suzanne Carrier at 508. 548. 7276 x208 or [scurrier@penikese.org](mailto:scurrier@penikese.org) (All items should be new or barely used to ensure that we remain within State safety codes)

### Garden:

- soaker hoses
- hose connectors
- standard garden hose
- vegetable and herb seeds
- seed starter kits
- pitchforks
- Stiehl hedge trimmer

### Kitchen:

- flatware for 12-24
- mugs

### Shop:

- heavy duty multipurpose vice
- cross cut and hand saws
- Stanley, contractor grade mitre box
- Stanley block planes
- combination squares
- Grizzly workbench with vice and drawers
- Craftsman 1/4 to 3/8 complete socket set
- 2 porter cable cordless drills
- 2, 12 volt batteries

### House:

- 2 convertible sofa beds
- 2 sets extra long twin beds

### Recreation:

- 10 car models
- 2 pairs boxing gloves
- speed bag

# Where there is a will, there is a way.

**Philanthropy:** "a desire to help mankind, especially as shown by gifts to charitable or humanitarian institutions; benevolence. Altruistic concern for human welfare and advancement, usually manifested by donations of money, property, or work to needy persons by endowment of institutions of learning..."

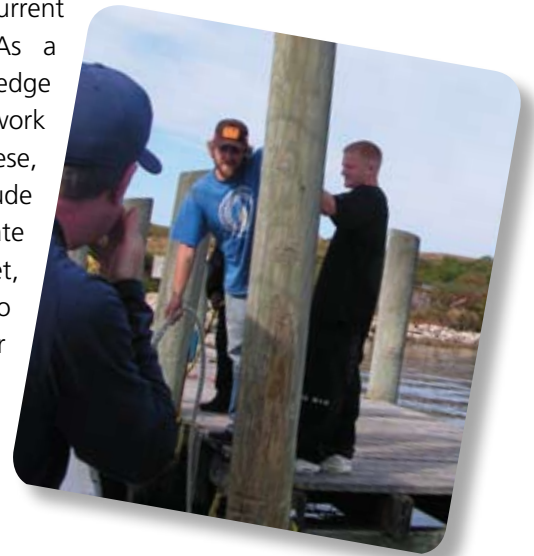
Webster's New World Dictionary

Everyone is a philanthropist! Either one gives to a charitable cause or one (or his/her heirs) gives to the government through taxation. But ... Where There's a Will, There's a Way. It is incredibly hard to believe that the majority of Americans do not have a will. For those of you who do, you have made a provision to transfer assets to human or institutional beneficiaries. By the same token, it is highly likely that the primary document distributing your assets on death does not reflect your current wishes. For instance, what changes have occurred since your will was last written or updated. Has there been:

- a marriage or a divorce
- a death of a spouse, child, niece, nephew, parents who may have been included in a will
- a change of circumstances of one's progeny
- a change in your thinking about supporting a particular charity

And what about your current charitable instincts? As a result of your knowledge about the outstanding work by the staff at Penikese, are you inclined to include the School in your estate plan? Or better yet, have you decided to increase the amount for Penikese in the current document? A will, or a codicil, is the easiest way to be charitable in estate planning.

In order that there be no question of one's intent, wording in a will – or a codicil thereto – is crucial:



(continued on last page)

# Good News for Volunteers

Development Committee Chair Position Filled  
Party Planning Under Way

*Save the Date!*

Join us August 23rd  
to celebrate our  
35th Anniversary  
Penzance Point



Meet Polly Kisiel, new Development Committee Chair. A former schoolteacher by profession, Polly's connection to Penikese is her understanding of education as a key to directing or re-directing a child's future. In fact all of Polly's volunteer energy has been generously applied to organizations that educate in some way. Polly steps up to the plate with 30 years of combined experience governing, volunteering and fundraising for her alma mater, Skidmore College, and also as a lifetime honorary trustee for the Boston Children's Museum for her efforts to promote and support them during their formative years. Locally, you may recognize her name for her involvement with the Harbor Head Tennis Club, tennis being another passion. Married for 43 years to her husband Mark, they share three married daughters and six grandchildren.

Polly's first formidable assignment as Development Chair is to assemble a committee that will help to plan and implement our 35th birthday celebration. Please welcome Polly to our team by considering your participation in this party. Whether you have experience with events or not, Polly would love to hear your ideas! If you can't serve on a committee please plan to save the date and attend. We look forward to seeing what Polly has planned and to seeing you at the celebration. Contact Patty Peal, Development Director, 508.548.7276 x207, ppeal@penikese.org

## Hats off

Being generous in their time and talent

It was a simple and sincere request: Laurie and Suzanne wanted to go out to Penikese Island. Laurie, who had been out to the island on a Visitors Trip in September, had been busy knitting each of the boys a hat; Suzanne, a professional hairdresser, had her clippers charged and ready for free haircuts. Both of the women were talking non-stop about Penikese Island School. Meanwhile, back at the office, it was their enthusiasm that worried us. We spent a lot of time discussing the pitfalls of their generous plan: what if the boys summarily discarded the hats? (Very possible.) What if no one wanted a haircut? (Probable.) And, most worrisome, what if they were downright ungrateful to the ladies for their thoughtfulness? Think of it: teenage boys from *traditional* family homes are not going to get too excited about the gift of a hand-knitted hat! So we continued to ponder the hat/haircut proposal. But Laurie and Suzanne had a plan; they were politely persistent and arrived early on the day they went to the island with one bag full of tools needed for haircuts and another full of different colored hats beautifully handmade from washable wool. As luck would have it, John (a tall, tough and respected island staff member) needed a haircut—so he went first. It was with both amusement and amazement that the rest of us watched while our newest student chose to be next. As he was getting his haircut, he chatted about having spent Thanksgiving on the island (he went quahogging with the staff) and about his family. He shook Suzanne's hand when he thanked her for the haircut. It was around that time when we decided to put the hats on the table and told the boys they could each pick one. Over their hat-clad heads my co-workers and I were beaming with pride as we watched each boy decide on a hat, put it right on, and—most gratifying—say *Thank You*. It was later that I learned why the ladies put on their dark sunglasses after we said goodbye to away from the dock: they were moved to tears. So, if you see a couple of women on the Lower Cape proudly sporting Penikese Island School grey hooded sweatshirts, say hello to Laurie and Suzanne. Word has it they are already planning their next visit to Penikese....

Suzanne Currier, Development Officer



## Where there is will, there is a way *continued*

"I give to Penikese Island School, a not-for-profit organization, (\$\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_% of my estate) (for its unrestricted use) (to establish the \_\_\_\_Permanent Endowment Fund, the income from which can only be used for ((unrestricted purposes)), ((capital improvements)), ((Aftercare)), etc.) In establishing the \_\_\_\_ Endowment Fund, I require and direct that no more than 5% of the income and principle be used in any year with the stipulation that the corpus never be less than the original bequest."

Upon notification of your desire to include Penikese in your estate plan, the school will include you as a member in the George Cadwalader Society, symbolic of your commitment to helping troubled boys become mature, productive members of society. You will set an example for others to follow by your act of long-term generosity.

Charles Case and Kevin Quinn, two nationally known estate planning attorneys, have given us all a wake up call: "We are living in an exciting time in history. The largest transfer of wealth in the history of the world is occurring now and this will continue for the next 25-30 years. Many trillions of dollars will pass to baby boomers. Unfortunately, 50% of this wealth will be lost to taxes unless people begin to direct their portion of the tax bill to non-profit organizations."

–Rich Miner, Board Member, Volunteer

### *Isn't it time to think about Penikese?*



The following essay/poem was written by a student who had a very short stay with us on his way to sentencing for a crime. We can only hope that he will be allowed to return to us after his incarceration. We'd like to think our relationship-based program had some influence on the expressiveness in his work.

*In the west there is  
loneliness which I call  
the leprosy of the west.  
In many ways it is worse  
than our poor in Calcutta.*

*That means that even rich  
people with families get  
sick from loneliness  
because even people  
with a lot of stuff get  
lonely and people who  
are poor can be happy  
if they're not lonely and just  
because you have a lot of money  
doesn't mean you will be happy  
You need other people in  
your life in order  
to truly be happy and  
things you have  
don't really matter.*

*For more information on  
Penikese Island School*

Call: **508.548.7276**

Visit: **[www.penikese.org](http://www.penikese.org)**

Write: **P.O. Box 161, Woods Hole, MA 02543**

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**Placement:** Pam Brighton  
[pbrighton@penikese.org](mailto:pbrighton@penikese.org)

*summer visitors trips:*

July, August, September

For information and reservations please contact, Suzanne Currier  
508. 548. 7276 x208 or [scurrier@penikese.org](mailto:scurrier@penikese.org)

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