A low-angle photograph of a student ziplining. The student is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, olive green shorts, a red helmet, and a blue harness. They are suspended from a rope and looking towards the camera. The background is a clear blue sky with some green leaves visible at the top.

# Prep@Pingree

Year End Report 2007

rising  
to new heights

The first Prep@Pingree students  
have now matriculated to college!

# 1 doing something bold. 1

## Prep@Pingree

In 2001, a dedicated group of donors, faculty and students created Prep@Pingree in the spirit of “*doing something bold.*” At its core, Prep@Pingree serves as a bridge between two historically separate worlds: the cities of Lawrence and Lynn, MA and the Pingree School community. Both have reaped enormous benefits from the partnership that has evolved. In the six years since the program’s inception, over 150 middle school students from Lynn and Lawrence have spent five weeks of their summer at Pingree, experiencing rigorous academics combined with afternoon and off-campus explorations designed to enrich their lives far beyond high school. Though not the reason for the program’s existence, consequential independent and parochial school placement of Prep@Pingree students is often an outgrowth of the work we undertake with them. To date, fourteen Prep@Pingree alumni have matriculated to Pingree School. Nearly two thirds of Prep@Pingree alumni have matriculated to other independent or parochial secondary schools.

At the heart of Prep@Pingree is its program of rigorous academic enrichment, augmented by off-campus travel and exploration. A staff of extraordinarily competent and dedicated teachers and counselors make the personal connections between Prep@Pingree students and adults rich and meaningful.

The core of our success lies in the lasting relationships between Prep@Pingree students, their teachers and their counselors. Prep@Pingree people stay connected through a year-round program that puts us in each other’s company often. Ongoing emails, text messages and phone calls further enhance an affirming network of like-minded, ambitious young men and women who aspire to attend the most selective schools and attain the highest levels of achievement on their own terms.

From the beginning, Prep@Pingree’s founders sought not only to offer inner-city students an independent school experience for a single summer, but also to ensure that they had the opportunity to attend one for high school. Over the last six years, Prep@Pingree students have earned over \$300,000 in scholarships to attend Pingree School alone. Other schools combined have awarded scholarships to Prep@Pingree students in excess of \$500,000. The first Prep@Pingree students have now matriculated to college, attending schools as varied as Brigham Young University, Bryant University, Gordon College, Manhattanville College and Stonehill College.

### Growth

- Doubled academic course offerings from two to four (Math, English, engineering and history)
- More than doubled enrollment (from 12 to 30 students)
- Nearly quadrupled fundraising efforts (from \$35,000 to \$130,000)

On the cover: cover credit



As 30 Prep@Pingree students and 10 Prep@Pingree staff embarked in our canoes on our annual July trip down the Ipswich River, a man who was watching us intently on a nearby bridge shouted down to us, “I don’t know who you all are but I’m glad you are here.” The newly formed teams in each boat ziggged and zagged until they worked out a rhythm and balance that kept them on a reasonably straight course down stream. By the time we finished our 5 hour paddle back to Foote Brothers Canoes we were wet, hungry, thirsty and exhausted. I’m always happy each summer when we are on the water with our students. The smiles, laughter, frustrations, splashing and intentional tipping of their boats signal to me that our students have a great time during each trip too.

Like the trip down the Ipswich River, the summer of 2007 brought Prep@Pingree new achievements, challenges and fun. We experienced another level of rhythm and balance. For the first time, thanks to a new partnership with the Ford Annex School, we welcomed students from the city of Lynn, Massachusetts. The students were a wonderful complement to the other students who enrolled from Lawrence. Our staff and program have never been more finely tuned and effective. Again our course offerings in math, English, engineering and history brought our students learning to another level of preparation for eighth grade, high school and beyond. So many of our visitors this summer commented on the exceptional quality of our classroom instruction and on the maturity of our Pingree student counselors who assisted the classroom teachers each morning and led the Prep@Pingree students in artistic and athletic endeavors each afternoon.

After working hard to establish a 6 year track record of success through careful planning and precise implementation, I believe Prep@Pingree is poised to take the next step in its evolution. We now have a draft executive summary of an endowment campaign for Prep@Pingree, a more complete database of donors and alumni and a semi-annual e-newsletter called Prep@Pingree Perspective. All of these projects would not have been possible without the efforts of a hard working, self-directed, super-smart intern we employed this summer through the generous support of one of our donors. Pingree School’s faculty, for the first time last year, earmarked its Pingree School Annual Fund contribution for the next four years to support a Prep@Pingree student who currently is attending Pingree School. None of Prep@Pingree’s successes are possible without the support of our institutional and individual donors who have an unshakeable belief in all students and an inspirational will to persevere no matter how unfavorable the odds may be.

Thank you, again, for making Prep@Pingree a priority in your lives.

Steven Filosa  
Director, Prep@Pingree  
Pingree Math Teacher

# Valuable and lasting summer experiences

Every year since the seventh grade I have chosen to dedicate an additional six weeks of my summer towards enhancing my education. It all started with Prep@Pingree. My high school placement counselor had suggested the idea. She told me it was a high school preparatory program at the Pingree School. She spoke of a beautiful campus, classes that covered material which would get me ahead for the next year and the nicest teachers I would ever meet, all at zero cost. Needless to say, I was sold.

We walked the halls as if we belonged at a place like Pingree.

At the time, I had never considered any high school besides the local vocational. And yet, as our bus arrived on the Pingree campus I was mesmerized. It did not take long for my peers and me to foster a sense of ownership at the school. We walked the halls as if we belonged at a place like Pingree. I loved getting away from the city and learning from teachers who really noticed me. This is what I needed in a school and Pingree was going to help get me there.



After learning how to factor, write a thesis and impress the interviewer, I went into the eighth grade hopeful. In high school, I expected to be enlightened, have knowledge beyond my parochial worldview. I had already been captivated by Martin Luther King; now I wanted to be overwhelmed with writings from old dead philosophers whose names were barely familiar. I did not expect to learn only enough to get me through state administered tests, but to have a surfeit of knowledge that reached depths inconceivable to an overcrowded Lawrence High School classroom. I craved being confronted with real diversity, not just different versions of myself within a three-mile radius. Pingree showed me a place like this was out there and the possibility of going was real.

Come eighth grade spring, everything I had been preparing for manifested itself in an acceptance letter to Noble & Greenough School; a place with lush green fields and an imposing castle. I

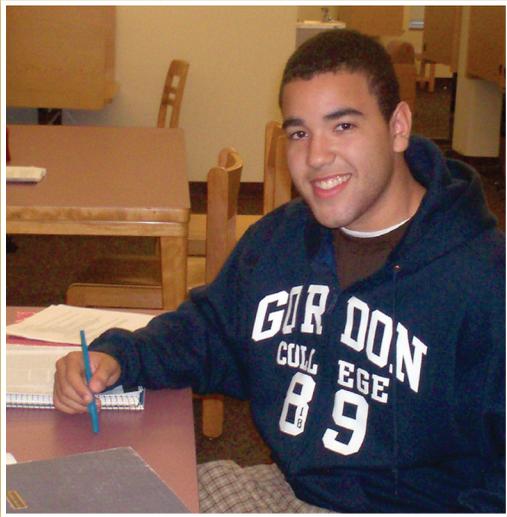
became an inner-city kid in a New England prep school and accepted it with no trepidation. Classroom discussions finally strayed away from “I have a dream” as I was introduced to Nietzsche and Plato. I found

After Prep@Pingree, the question “What are you doing this summer?”

faculty who gave out their home phone numbers for extra help and students who thanked their teachers at the end of every class. I was where I wanted to be.

After Prep@Pingree, the question “What are you doing this summer?” stuck with me. I eagerly sought participation in programs with a similar mission without forgetting the everlasting connections I made that summer after seventh grade. And each fall, including this first semester at college, I know how to go back to school confident in my character and academic potential.

VICKI NAMIAS, PREP@PINGREE STUDENT,  
NOBLE & GREENOUGH SCHOOL '07, MANHATTENVILLE COLLEGE '11



“Prep@Pingree was an experience that changed my life. It was the doorway to my future, and I knew I had to take full advantage of it. I can truthfully say that my life would have been immensely different. It educated me, and molded me into a good person so that I could have more opportunities. Thank you, Prep@Pingree, and all the hard working faculty. I am proud to have been part of the first ever Prep@Pingree class.”

GERMAN DISLA, PREP@PINGREE STUDENT,  
PINGREE '07, GORDON COLLEGE '11

“Even after seven years,  
many of the Prep@Pingree  
student teachers and  
the teachers still keep in  
touch with me and have  
guided me through some  
important decisions.”

JOAQUIN O. SANCHEZ, PREP@PINGREE STUDENT,  
CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL '07,  
STONEHILL COLLEGE '11

## Six summers ago

Prep@Pingree rerouted my life permanently. Perhaps that is a bold statement with which to begin these thoughts but it's the truth. I write this now as a faculty member at The Governor's Academy. I teach math, coach ice hockey and soccer, supervise students in the dorm and advise 6 young women. Were it not for the opportunity to learn the art of teaching Prep@Pingree afforded me, I would have never found myself in this place or in such a personally rewarding profession for me.

Teaching has been a thrill for me since day one in the classroom. Working with Prep@Pingree's hard-working and dedicated students, staff and teachers gave me the time to witness and live what true teaching and learning is all about. I've heard over the past 6 years that Prep@Pingree breaks down walls and opens up doors for its students. I can add without question that the same statement is true for Prep@Pingree staff.

I've matured considerably as a student, teacher, and person through my experiences with Prep@Pingree. I've witnessed the evolution of the program and made my best effort to keep pace with its growth. Prep@Pingree students challenge me every summer to come to class fully engaged and committed to learning by demonstrating these qualities day in and day out. Their enthusiasm and open-minded approach to education is truly an inspiration. I have been privileged to work with such wonderful people and I look forward to seeing what's in store next for Prep@Pingree.

HOLLY O'DONOHUE, PINGREE '03,  
FACULTY AT GOVERNOR'S ACADEMY

**Working with  
Prep@Pingree's  
hardworking  
and dedicated  
students, staff  
and teachers  
gave me the time  
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learning is all  
about.**

<p><b>JULY 6</b></p> <p>Project Adventure</p> <p>WEDNESDAY</p>	<p><b>JULY 20</b></p> <p>Ipswich River Canoe Trip</p> <p>FRIDAY</p>	<p><b>JULY 27</b></p> <p>Trip to Harvard University</p> <p>FRIDAY</p>
<p><b>AUGUST 3</b></p> <p>Gloucester Whale Watch</p> <p>FRIDAY</p>	<p><b>JULY 26</b></p> <p>Secondary School Admission Workshop and Panel</p> <p>TUESDAY</p>	<p><b>JULY 13</b></p> <p>Boston's Museum of Science</p> <p>WEDNESDAY</p>

<p>Wednesday:</p> <p>8:45 – 8:55 AM</p> <p>9:05 – 9:45 AM</p> <p>10:10 AM</p> <p>11:15 AM</p> <p>12:40 AM</p> <p>1:15 PM</p> <p>2:35 PM</p> <p>3:55 PM</p>	<p>Students Meet in Commons for snack, announcements</p> <p>Engineering Design 1/ History Class 2</p> <p>Math Class 1/English Class 2</p> <p>History Class 1/Math Class 2</p> <p>Leave for Tidepooling at Halibut Point w/M</p> <p>Bus Departs</p>	<p>English Class 1/ Engineering Design Class 2</p> <p>Change and Swim</p> <p>Math Class 1/English Class 2</p> <p>Lunch</p> <p>Afternoon Activities: Ceramics with Mrs. Taft</p> <p>Students Meet in Commons for drinks, announcements</p> <p>Bus Departs from Pingree School</p>
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# Once enrolled, at no cost to them,

students are provided everything they need to participate in the program — round-trip transportation from Lawrence and Lynn, meals, and all school supplies. The summer session begins with a brunch at Pingree for Prep@Pingree families. As part of the program orientation, participants spend two days at Project Adventure engaged in team building activities. The program concludes with a graduation ceremony, followed by a final day trip.

During the five-week summer session, Prep@Pingree students spend their time engaged in rigorous academic work and extracurricular activities. They spend four hours each day in the classroom followed by two hours of interactive activities utilizing Pingree facilities (swimming pool, playing fields, computer laboratories, etc.). On Fridays, students take day trips within greater Boston and Essex County, including a canoe trip down the Ipswich River, exploration at Boston's Museum of Science and a whale watch out of Gloucester harbor.

Upon graduation, program participants are invited to continue their academic support work, receive secondary school placement counseling and attend other activities throughout their eighth grade year.



## How Can I Help?

Prep@Pingree enrolls 30 students each year at a cost of roughly \$2,500 per student. The operating budget for the program is approximately \$75,000 per year. Funds are needed to support the students and staff. To fully sponsor a Prep@Pingree graduate to attend Pingree School costs \$30,000 per year.

There are many ways to support Prep@Pingree. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated.

Your contributions may be used to support:

Scholarships for Prep@Pingree alumni to attend Pingree School

Scholarships for Lawrence and Lynn middle school students to attend Prep@Pingree

Stipends for Pingree School students and faculty to work at Prep@Pingree

Prep@Pingree field trips

Transportation, meals, learning materials

For more information please contact Steven Filosa, Director, (978) 468-4415 x 265.

## The mission of Prep@Pingree

is to provide an ongoing academic and cultural enrichment program for talented, urban, middle school students. Through an intensive five-week summer program and supplemental year round support, Prep@Pingree prepares admitted students for independent, parochial, and public high schools. Prep@Pingree balances rigorous academics with co-curricular experiences.



# funding

Funding for Prep@Pingree is diverse and growing. A number of individuals and institutions with a deep commitment to the children in Lawrence, Lynn and Pingree School have been generous contributors for the past six years. Several new contributors supported Prep@Pingree for the first time this year. In addition, Prep@Pingree continues to receive support from Pingree School's operating budget.

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Mr. and Mrs. Chris W. Armstrong  
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