

The New School Family

Editor: Jill Staubitz

A newsletter for TNS families, alumni, grandparents and friends

Fall 2002

Annual Giving Depends Upon Alums, Friends

It's that time of year when The New School looks to its wonderful community of alumni, alumni families and friends for support of the Annual Giving Fund. Revenues from Annual Giving are vital to our ability to cover operating expenses and provide high quality Montessori education while keeping tuition increases within the range of an economically diverse community of families. Donations and pledges to Annual Giving from current families exceeded \$50,000 at the end of November. We look to the generosity of our extended family to help maintain The New School which has served so many children and families well for over 30 years. We hope you will acknowledge that tradition and return the enclosed envelope with your gift or pledge.

Keeping In Touch

You can keep up with all of The New School news by visiting our website at www.thenewschool.cc. We would love to hear from you by snail mail or email to: jill.staubitz@thenewschool.cc.



Peace Pole Dedicated at Harvest Moon Festival

A new Peace Pole has been installed in the middle of a small garden at the side of the Annex. The new addition replaces the original wooden peace pole as a symbol of TNS's focus on peace and peace education. Assistant Director **Barbara Gray** and 3 to 6 Teacher **Shawn Dougherty** worked with artist **Joel Selmeier** who created the 7 foot tall, gray limestone Peace Pole. Carved into its six sides is the phrase "May Peace Prevail On Earth" in twelve different languages. The languages, selected to represent the diversity of TNS community and as many of the world's people and geographical areas as possible, include Arabic, Cherokee, Chinese, English, Georgian, Hebrew, Hindi, Lao, Sinhalese, Spanish, Swahili and sign language. Each face of the pole also depicts the track of a different animal, emphasizing the connection between human beings and the rest of the natural world. The tracks shown are those of an opossum, a snake, a heron, a turtle, a grasshopper and a wild boar. Funding for the Peace Pole was provided by a gift from the graduating class of 2002 and the Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trust.



The Peace Pole was dedicated at this year's Harvest Moon Festival. Director **Eric Dustman** spoke about the values of community, sharing and diversity represented by the peace pole. 2002 grads **Joe Bedree, Bino Hoffman, Teddy Moser, Ben Siegel, Lauren Pray, Chelsea Borgman, Dylan Tennison, Megan Owen, Maya Amoils and Tarra Williamson** helped him lead the group in singing "This Little Light of Mine" (Photo above by Helen Adams.) Members of TNS community then recited "May Peace Prevail On Earth" in languages familiar to them including Spanish, Chinese, Hebrew, Hindi, and Arabic. The ceremony ended with everyone chanting "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in English.

Our multi-cultural Peace Pole reflects the richness and diversity of TNS community. This year we are fortunate in having children and/or parents from the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, East India, the Far East and Africa. Parents and grandparents often share their cultural traditions in the classroom, adding to the wealth of material collected by teachers. December at TNS is full of celebrations acknowledging a variety of cultural traditions. The Diversity Committee now includes a number of staff members as well as parents of varied backgrounds. The committee hopes to raise awareness of the diversity within TNS community and to further increase the diversity of both its families and staff as the year progresses.

TNS Peace Pole in its garden setting - photo by Jill Staubitz

Mark Your Calendar - TNS "Blooms In Spring" Auction March 1

TNS Class of 2002 Well Prepared for Challenges of 7th Grade

After three months, TNS 2002 grads seem to be adjusting well to seventh grade. **Maya Amoils** says there is nothing she doesn't like about Cincinnati Country Day. Adjustment to the different environment including lockers and changing classrooms was a little hard at first. She really enjoys her life science class which involves the year-long observation and study of one animal in the classroom (hers is a turtle.) Maya plays on the basketball team and misses her TNS teachers " a lot." **Joe Bedree** likes his classes at Walnut Hills, especially Latin and Band where he is learning to play the snare drum. Homework was a " huge transition" – he spends about four hours a night on it and it needs to be turned in on time. His senior project work at TNS made history research and presentations much easier. Joe played soccer this fall and plans to join the junior high tennis team in the spring. He does miss the " peacefulness" of TNS. **Marianthe Bickett** made an easy transition to Clark Montessori this fall. She likes the fact that Clark is a lot bigger with " more kids and different types of kids." One of her current big projects is the study of Japanese Americans as an oppressed culture. Marianthe plays in the school's famous steel drum band. She does miss the close relationship she had with her teachers at TNS. **Chelsea Borgman** is very enthusiastic about Walnut Hills, and she likes its size. Science and art are her favorite classes; Latin is her least favorite because the homework is difficult and takes a long time. She quickly got used to the tests but is a little nervous about her upcoming exams. The main thing Chelsea misses about TNS is her teachers.

Chase Curtis says Walnut Hills is " good" although finding classes was hard at first and, if you're late, the doors are closed. He learned much of this year's material last year at TNS and enjoys math and history. Chase observes that it is " really hard if you get behind" and you have to study every night because of pop quizzes. Latin is " O.K." as long as you use " all those endings" right. He wants to join the track team in the spring and play football next fall. **Courtney Giannini** observes that Walnut Hills is big but manageable. Since all the floors are the same, she has no trouble finding her way around. She has more tests and homework than at TNS but not as much as she had expected; and she likes all her classes. She plays the flute in the band and spends a lot of time studying ballet. Courtney says her transition was made easier by things she learned from other TNS grads in her Civil Rights classes and the " Is There Life After TNS?" program. **Bino Hoffman** likes the size and variety of Clark Montessori. Last quarter he enjoyed Greek studies, which included creating myths and doing plays. He also designed a park as a math project. Using hall passes and other rules and routines confused him at first but he is doing well. Bino enjoyed spring and fall soccer and is in the ski club. **Teddy Moser** likes the sports program at Summit Country Day where he plays soccer and basketball. He had fun creating an art project out of tacks and participates in Certamen, a jeopardy-type Latin quiz competition.

Megan Owen says her small class at TNS was nice but she really likes Seven Hills, because it is larger with more people to get to know. She was nervous about switching classes but found it pretty easy, and she especially likes her English and Social Studies teachers. Having more tests in 6th grade helped prepare her for this year and her pre-algebra studies at TNS were great for this year's math. Megan is on the basketball team and is acting in a Japanese play, her first theater experience. She misses all of her really good friends at TNS. **Lauren Pray** likes Clark Montessori, which she finds is very similar to TNS. She is looking forward to taking art and playing the African drums next semester. Like most of her fellow TNS grads, Lauren misses the recesses at TNS. **Ben Siegel** found that TNS prepared him well for Walnut Hills, especially in math. He likes math, science, English and history where his studies of U.S. government parallel last year's preparation for the Washington, D.C. trip. He got lost trying to find his classes on the third day of school but has had no problems since then. Ben ran Cross Country this fall, is learning to play the bass in orchestra and is now on the swim team. He misses recess and silent reading time and observes that TNS teachers were always ready to answer questions.

Dylan Tennison is majoring in creative writing and visual arts at the SCPA. He felt comfortable there the first day even though he has to rush to get from class to class in four minutes. All of this year's academics are a review of his work at TNS last year and he likes that fact that he has so little homework. In his art classes he has done a lot of pencil sketching and will have entries in several shows this year. Dylan enjoys skateboarding in his free time and misses being able to combine work and relaxation as he did at TNS. **M.J. Wayne** is doing well at Walnut Hills; and, even though " people say it's really hard," she got great grades the first quarter. Note-taking was difficult in some classes and it took about a week to find her way around the building easily. M.J.'s favorite class is science; she ran Cross Country this fall and has joined the swim team and the ski club for the winter. **Andrew Whitman** has adjusted well to life at Walnut Hills. He has homework every night and finds math challenging because he is in an advanced algebra class. He played soccer this fall and plans to play tennis in the spring with his dad, Bruce, who is the tennis coach. Andrew does miss silent reading and the long lunch and recess time at TNS. **Tarra Williamson** attends Seven Hills and finds that the people are really friendly and nice and the classes are fun. Managing a locker and memorizing her new schedule were her major challenges at first but really were " not too bad." She enjoys her classes in earth science, writing workshop and social studies where she recently participated in a mock constitutional debate. She feels that TNS prepared her well for this year's work and can write papers easily thanks to senior project. Tarra met lots of new people by playing on the school tennis team but " definitely" misses the people at TNS.

After School Has a New Look at TNS

TNS's Extended Day program has always insured full day childcare for working families. This fall, the traditional Elementary Ex-Day has some new additions to the usual programming. ExDay Coordinator **Dan Horn** organizes lots of outdoor games as always but has also initiated a "Clean Up the Woods" project. **Kristene Templeton** is leading the Ex Day crew through a series of arts and crafts project while **Matt Goebel** is teaching weekly sketching lessons.

A series of after school enrichment programs is also being offered for all Elementary children whether or not they attend ExDay. These programs meet for an hour each week right after school and are designed to expose children to a variety of skills and experiences without a huge amount of extra driving for parents. Options for group classes include acting, chess, art, cooking, fencing, guitar and science. Individual piano lessons are also available along with both adult and parent/child yoga classes. The first seven-week session was so well received that a second session, running from November 18 through January 24, is now underway.

ISACS Accreditation Update

TNS is continuing in the process of self-evaluation and accreditation through the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS.) One of last year's tasks was a survey of parents, alumni and staff, the results of which were released this fall. Overall, the responses were strongly positive in themselves and in comparison with the average scores for other ISACS schools. Those surveyed rated TNS especially high on quality of education, student development and strength of community, all of which are key values of the school. TNS is seen as caring, innovative, and committed to a racially diverse enrollment. Curriculum areas of English/language arts, math, geography, social studies, science and public speaking were all rated significantly above the ISACS benchmarks as were the extended day and the food programs. TNS was also seen as very strong in areas like character and leadership development, social/emotional development and behavior. Areas identified by the survey for improvement include funding, computer technology, special programs and after school activities, many of which have been addressed this year.

Currently a committee, guided by TNS alumni parent **Sandy Kohn**, is finishing a self-study document. This detailed analysis of the school's organization, curriculum and philosophy is the product of intense work by staff, parents and alums. The survey results described above are included in the analysis. In March, a team of teachers and administrators from other ISACS schools will visit TNS and determine the extent to which we actually follow the practices and procedures described in the self study. Their suggestions for improvement will guide TNS's strategic planning for the next few years. Participation in the ISACS process affirms TNS's position as an independent school while providing recognition among other outstanding schools and helping to establish ongoing standards of accountability.



A student works on TNS's entry in the city's "Flower Power" planter program.

TNS Receives Two Learning Links Grants for 2002-03

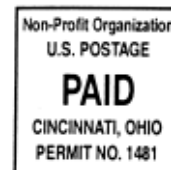
The New School has received two Learning Links Grants from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation to fund special projects for the 2002-2003 school year. North Room Head Teacher **Beth Tracy Kaliski** was awarded \$500 for "Children of the Earth," an addition to the geography curriculum. South Room Teacher **Shawn Dougherty's** \$400 grant will fund "The Children's Peace Quilt," a creative writing and art project.

Beth's goal for the geography curriculum is to add to existing materials, further enriching the children's exposure to the people, the animals and the landforms of the world's continents. Toward that end, some of the money will be used for a speaker who will teach the kindergartners dances from the European countries they are studying this year. New materials related to the animals found on each continent will be added along with landform structures, which the children can fill with water and use for hands-on experience with the world's diverse physical geography.

Shawn sees the peace quilt (the third project of its type, which she has done at TNS) as a means for children to express themes of peace education, community and stewardship through writing and mixed-media artwork. As in past quilt projects, children will be invited to create their individual additions to the class quilt, first on paper and then in fabric. Shawn will work with Preprimary Teacher **Alison Boynton** to facilitate the artwork and to compile an album of the stories dictated by the children about their quilt contributions. She summarizes the project this way: "Our quilts carry messages of hope and relationship to the earth and its creatures. Children learn a multitude of skills in the process, infuse the classroom with happy focused energy and remember the experience fondly long after the quilt is completed."

TNS community appreciates the support offered by the Greater Cincinnati Foundation through Learning Links which has funded past projects like Arts Week, additions to the kindergarten science program, KIWI (the school's anthology of original writing and artwork) and the Preprimary Wild Bird Habitat.

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News From The New School Family Present and Past

The New School's Growing Room was the site of two special events for alumni families this summer. In June, **David Staubitz** ('91) and his family hosted his wedding rehearsal dinner at TNS with a spectacular view and spectacular food catered by **Myra Daugherty**, TNS Kitchen Manager. David and his wife are living in Washington, D.C. where he attends Georgetown Law School. In August, **Barbara and Richard Homlar** (son **Joe** '88) held their daughter **Kate's** wedding in the Growing Room. Speaking of weddings, **Alex Gray** ('87) got engaged this past summer. **Claire Fleischman** ('90) who has lived and worked in Italy for several years was married in Rome on November 30. Her parents **John** and **Mary** and brother **Thomas** ('95) enjoyed partying with their new Italian relatives. (P.S. None of the parents involved in these events is old enough to have a married child.)

Continuing the wedding motif, 9 to 12 Head Teacher **Laura Petersen** was married August 31 to **Craig Slanker**. In other news from current staff members, North Room Head Teacher **Beth Tracy Kaliski** received her Masters of Education degree from Xavier last May. TNS Director **Eric Dustman** taught 9 to 12 math to a group of Montessori teachers in Seoul, South Korea in August.

Several TNS grads are members of the CCM Youth Ballet and performed in a special Holiday Concert in December. The dancers include **Courtney Giannini** ('02), **Courtney Muller** ('00), **Marissa Walker** ('99) and **Rebecca Hale** (late 90's.) **Kristene Templeton** ('95) is part of TNS's Elementary Extended Day staff while she attends Xavier University. **Bridgette Donnelly** ('99) is a sophomore at Summit Country Day. As a freshman she played field hockey, basketball and softball and was named "All Academic" by the Miami Valley Athletic Conference for maintaining a high GPA while playing sports. She is also active in SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions.) **Mary Daugherty** ('97) is living in Holden, Maine with her mom, **Cyndi**, and brother **Franklin** (early 90's.) Mary loves the outdoor activities in the area and is involved in theatre and the art and photography clubs at school. She has been on the honor roll for most of her high school years and sings in her church choir. Franklin recently graduated from eighth grade. Cyndi is a child psychiatrist at Acadia Hospital; older sister Anna ('89) is in sales work and lives in South Bend, Indiana.

TNS grads attending Walnut Hills High School are active in many areas. **Peter Muller** ('97) is a National Merit Semifinalist, won the Princeton University Book Award, was an usher at graduation last spring and was recognized in a number of math competitions last year. **Nora Sweeney** ('97) was chosen for Daisy Chain and received the Smith College Book Award. **Tom McEvoy** ('97) ushered for graduation and was a member of the Math Team. **Scott McEvoy** ('97) co chairs the Student Congress Fundraising committee. The following TNS grads received awards for spring sports: **Jake Whitman** ('99), varsity tennis; **Kris Schwab** ('99), reserve tennis; **Max Wayne** ('01) junior high tennis and Most Improved and **Jasson Giannini** ('01), junior high track. Among those recognized for their scores on the National Latin Exam are: **Jennifer McCord**, **Kelly Schwab**, **Claire Borders**, **Max Wayne**, **Chelsea Rolfes** ('01 grads), **Rebecca Hale** (late 90's), **Courtney Muller** ('00), **Scott McEvoy**, **Katelyn Victor**, **Kris Schwab** ('99) and **Eliza Kelley Swift** ('98).

Remembering Dorothy McLain

We were sorry to hear of the death last summer of **Dorothy McLain**, long-time TNS librarian. Dorothy retired in September of 2000 after ten years of work in establishing, organizing and maintaining The New School's library. She shared her interests in books, music and art with children and staff alike and everyone appreciated her kind and positive presence.