

# The New School Family

Editor: Jill Staubitz

A newsletter for TNS families, alumni, grandparents and friends

Fall, 2003



Alumni parents Gordon Huntress, Gail Fiebig and Rosalie Van Nuis

## Annual Giving Looks To Alums & Friends

Events like November's reunion of alumni parents and staff remind us that our connections to The New School don't end when we and our children move on to other schools. The reunion attendees shared a wealth of memories from backyard sand and children cutting vegetables to ghost stories at the camp-out to work weekends painting the Annex to the community Thanksgiving lunch. The word "wonderful" appeared numerous times in questionnaire answers and parents universally agreed that TNS nurtured their children's curiosity and prepared them well for future studies.

It's that time of year when The New School looks to its wonderful, supportive community of alumni, alumni families and friends for donations to the Annual Giving Fund. As always, 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. We hope the generosity of our extended family will help maintain The New School, which has served so many children and families well for over 30 years. Please think about what The New School has given you, your family and the community and return the enclosed envelope with your gift or pledge.

## Reunion Reconnects Alumni Parents and Staff

The November 1 reunion of alumni parents and staff was a big success. The fifty attendees chatted and reconnected while being entertained by the music of vocalist **Claire Slemmer (Zak '96)**, who appears regularly at the Blind Lemon in Mt. Adams. Old photos and videos of events like Senior Project presentations triggered lots of memories. In true TNS style, everyone contributed to and enjoyed a "potluck" of hors d'oevres.

**Patrick Leedom**, a teacher in the 70's, reminisced about the early years when staff members actually lived at the school. **Gerry Kaminski** and **Gabe Blumer** recalled their roles as board members in the early 80's when discussions at meetings centered around ways to purchase the Mansion. Newer alumni parents shared news of their graduates. Many alumni parents completed questionnaires about their child(ren)'s current activities and interests - some of that information appears in this newsletter. While most parents reported that TNS had prepared their children well, **John Fleischman** did comment that TNS curriculum was "a little light on the Italian," probably because **Claire** is now living in Italy.

Thanks to **Sandy Kohn** for organizing what we hope will become an annual tradition. Thanks also to those who helped with the event: **Grace Hill, Gail Fiebig, John Fleischman, Mary Pat Harris, Paul Staubitz, Annie Colvin, Gail Lahring** and **David Tape**. Photos of the event appearing throughout the newsletter are courtesy of Mary Pat and Paul.



Claire Slemmer's music was great



Current and former staff from left: Omope Carter Daboiku, Shawn Dougherty, Patrick Leedom, Debbie Weinstein, Sunny Rhein, David Tape, Diana Tennison, Gail Lahring, Mary Ohlinger Pray, Eric Dustman, Barbara Gray, Phyllis Schomaker, Colleen Blumer, Sandy Kohn and Jill Staubitz

### Don't forget The New School's Alumni & Staff Reunion

on Sunday, December 28 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.! The party will bring together former New School students, in grades 7 and above, as well as former and present teachers and staff. This will be an opportunity to connect with old friends and to see what's new and what's familiar about the school buildings and grounds. (Yes, the chairs are lower than you remember, the woods is smaller, the art room wall paintings are still there and the ginkgo tree is just as grand.) Be prepared to view old senior project videos and photos and have a wonderful time - hope to see you there!

## TNS Grads of 2003 Enjoy 7th Grade Experiences

**Abby Bortz** “loves Clark a lot” and says the teachers are “really nice.” One of her favorite projects so far is an identity journal where she makes weekly entries about her own identity using writing, collages and other media. She feels TNS prepared her especially well in math. Abby may join the steel drum band and the Bee Club when she has time. She misses TNS and her friends who are at different schools this year. **Reed Callahan** likes Clark Montessori but “ you have to get used to the environment” which includes lockers, bigger classrooms and strict deadlines for turning in work. He especially likes his math and science class and says that “ senior project really helped”prepare him for seventh grade. Reed played soccer this fall and is on the basketball team now. He misses TNS teachers who “ cared a little more”and were “ more attentive.**Elizabeth Erhardt** also has found Clark “ a good place to move to” because of the Montessori structure. She likes art because the huge art room allows for big projects; she also enjoys math and science labs. Elizabeth is involved with the Bee Club which involves caring for and harvesting honey from the school’s rooftop hives. She has made lots of friends at Clark but misses the people at TNS. She observes that her sixth grade experiences, like the Washington D.C. trip, made “ a huge part of her life, mentally and socially.”

**Marjorie Finnie** observes that “ people are really nice” at Summit Country Day. Switching classes and climbing stairs was hard at first. Her favorite class is language arts; she feels TNS prepared her well for everything but gym, which includes strength tests and football. Marjorie is a member of the volleyball team and may play basketball this winter. She misses the teachers at TNS and the “ hands-on” way they taught. **Geoffrey Maher** attends Loveland Middle School with about 700 seventh and eighth graders. Having homework every night and sitting in class taking notes was a big adjustment although he really enjoys listening to his American history teacher. Art is fun because they do a lot of work with clay and are now making huge African masks. Learning how to write a clear paragraph for senior project has helped him with some big writing assignments this year. Geoffrey met a lot of people as a member of the cross country team this fall and hopes to get involved in art club, drama and maybe the school paper. He misses TNS’s “ one on one environment” and knowing everyone’s name. **Erin Molloy** says Seven Hills is “ really fun” – she likes her teachers, her classes, the 5 minute passing period and the daily fruit break when she can grab a snack. In her American history class they holding a debate and writing a constitution. She feels homework has been overexaggerated although doing science lab reports is a new experience for her as is the focus on parts of speech in language arts. Erin played on the tennis team this fall. She misses “ sitting on the floor”at TNS and says “ you can’t get in close enough” with tables.

**Luke Mossbarger** says Clark is “ really good” and feels he has lots of interaction with his teachers. He likes all of his classes, especially science where he recently completed a

project on the elements of space and earth. Luke notes that Clark offers interesting clubs and sports – he played soccer this fall and is on the swim team now. He misses the teachers at TNS and knowing lots of kids. **Julia Patterson** attends Seven Hills which is “ not too big” so she gets lots of personal attention. The homework load and switching classes were an adjustment but she really likes her math class and feels well prepared for this year’s work. Julia is a member of the school gymnastics team and misses getting to stay in the same classroom all day as she did at TNS. **Ian Powers** attends Bethany School where his favorite subjects are science, Spanish and art. He has already used what he learned on senior project while completing a nine-week research project on the pyramids. The biggest changes for Ian are using desks, wearing uniforms, moving around for each class and having tests and pop quizzes along with 1 to 2 hours of homework each night. He hopes to run track in the spring.

**Jeffrey Rappaport** attends a middle school for grades 6,7 and 8 in Maryland. His favorite classes are science and history, and he feels TNS prepared him well for the work. The halls at his present school are really crowded but it was a pretty easy adjustment. He belongs to Art Club and is currently doing printmaking at the meetings. Jeffrey misses TNS’s small size and “ family feeling;”he notes “ here you make it on your own but at TNS you had people to help you more.” **Sean Satogata** likes Clark a lot and finds it similar to TNS in many ways. He likes gym class and is currently having fun doing a research project and presentation on puzzles. Sean knew some people at Clark because he played on the school team when he was in sixth grade. The main thing he misses about TNS is recess. **Max Schimberg** likes having different bells and changing classes at Seven Hills. All of his subjects have involved a different way of learning in the transition from Montessori. Max enjoys having gym four days a week where activities include football, bowling, gymnastics, rugby, lacrosse and handball. He is playing basketball on the seventh and eighth grade team. **Alex Sturbaum** says Walnut Hills is “ 8 billion times as hard as TNS”and it was an adjustment going from

“ top dog at TNS to short effie at Walnut.” His teachers are “ a lot tougher,”and the rules are strict (“ if you step out of uniform in phys ed, you are doomed.”) What Alex misses most about TNS is “ friends who have stood the test of time.”



*Like most reunion attendees, John Fleischman resorted to deep thought when asked his children's graduation dates*

## Alumni/ae News

**Raleigh Green** (70's) has a BFA from University of Missouri and graduated from Boston's Berklee School of Music. He teaches guitar and performs in the Boston area and is on the summer faculty of the National Guitar workshop in New Milford, CT. **Petra Van Nuis** (late 70's early 80's) lives and performs as a jazz singer with guitarist husband Andy Brown in New York and Chicago. **Aretha Fiebig** ('86 grad) is doing post doctoral work at Stanford in Palo Alto, CA and is married with a 2 year old daughter. **Alex Gray** ('87 grad) has completed law school, is currently renovating homes in Cincinnati and was married on November 8, 2003. **Brian Kaminski** ('87) is in the third year of an Emergency Medicine residency at Stanford and enjoys surfing and politics. **Katie Fiebig** ('88) works as an RN at Stanford Hospital in the bone marrow transplant unit.

**Becky Kaminski** ('90) is an occupational therapist with the San Diego public schools. **Claire Fleischman** ('90) lives in Italy near Milan with husband Lorenzo Cocorocchi and son Giulio who was born October 12. She hopes to return to her job as a teacher at an English language school. **Lydia Gray** ('91) teaches at TNS in the Preprimary classroom; **David Staubitz** ('91) is in his second year at Georgetown Law School and lives in Washington D.C. with his wife, Megan. **Jonah Weiss** (80's) graduated from Washington University in Fine Arts, works for a publishing company in St. Louis and enjoys photography. **Kalpana Kotagal** (80' s) attends Penn State law school; **Meera Kotagal** (also 80' s) is studying at Harvard Medical School.

**Miles Frasca** ('94 to '92) works in a motorcycle shop in Ft. Collins, Colorado and is interested in studying graphic design. **Jim Harris** ('94) is studying wildlife biology at the University of Montana in Missoula and spent the last two summers as part of wildlife research teams. He enjoys mountain biking, skiing, backpacking and art. **Michael Weinstein** ('94) is in his fourth year of U.C.'s five year chemical engineering program and enjoys spectator sports and movies. **John Staubitz** ('94) directed one of Cincinnati Recreation Commission's Therapeutic Rec day camps this summer, works with autistic children in Columbus and will get his degree in Special Education from Ohio State in June.

**Thomas Fleischman** ('95) is a junior majoring in history at Kenyon College and will complete a semester of studying in Berlin, Germany in December. He plays second violin in the college orchestra and enjoys doing improvisational comedy. **Shannon O'Brien Antoine** ('95) attends New York University, majoring in psychology, minoring in physics and enjoying the arts in NYC. **Stuart Tennison** ('96) attends U.C. and works at Montgomery Inn Boat House. **Nick Rhein** ('97) is in Ohio State's Honors program, majoring in chemistry and minoring in Spanish and is a member of OSU's Academic Quiz Team. **Peter Bailey** ('97) is studying film at Savannah School for Art and Design.

**Josh Weinstein** ('98) is a senior at Walnut Hills and a



*Shawn Dougherty, Gerry and Jerry Kaminski*

member of the school's Academic Quiz team; he enjoys touch football and current events. **Jake Whitman** ('99) is a junior at Walnut, plays tennis, basketball and soccer, plays bass in the Cincinnati Symphony Youth Orchestra and is co-founder of Students Against War. **Katie Fiorelli** (early 90's), also a junior at Walnut, is assisting in Elementary Art classes and Extended Day as part of her community service class. **Ben Colvin** ('00) is a sophomore at Clark and starting point guard on the basketball team. **Mara McGarrigle** ('00) is also at Clark and enjoys karate, skiing and photography; Robin Schimberg ('00) attends Seven Hills and is active in the 7-Up and Service Clubs.

**Justin Cline-Bailey** ('01) attends Seven Hills, is on the JV soccer team and recently won a state-wide prize for Latin. **Dylan Tennison** ('02) attends the School for Creative and Performing Arts and enjoys skateboarding and music. **Lauren Pray** ('02) attends Clark and played tennis with Walnut Hills junior high team. **Andrew Whitman** ('02) is in 8 Honors at Walnut, plays cello and played both junior high soccer and tennis. **Adesola Daboiku** (late 90' s) is an eighth grader at Clark and a member of Steel Drum Band; **Tinuade Daboiku** is a fifth grader at Sands and does Taekwondo. Aaron Colvin (late 90's) is at Clark and enjoys baseball. **Mary and Charlie Bailey** (90' s) attend Cincinnati Country Day; Mary likes ballet and drawing while Charlie likes cars.

Six TNS grads were recognized in the Walnut Hills newsletter as AP Scholars, designated by the College Board. The honor, based upon number of AP exams taken and the grades achieved, was extended to **Tom McEvoy, Peter Muller, Nora Sweeney and Corinne Peters** ('97) and **Joshua Weinstein and Elizabeth Kelley-Swift** ('98.) **Elizabeth Kelley Swift** is a National Merit Semifinalist and was a finalist for a Golden Galaxy Award in the General Scholarship category. **Phil Newsome** ('98), a senior at Summit, is also a National Merit Semi Finalist.

Special thanks to the following New School alums who served as panelists for this year's "Is There Life After TNS?": **Maya Amoils** (Cincinnati Country Day); **Courtney Giannini, Joe Bedree and Jenny McCord** (Walnut Hills); **Tarra and Kaylyn Williamson and Max Schimberg** (Seven Hills); **Teddy Moser** (Summit) and **Sean Satogata, Reed Callahan and Elizabeth Erhardt** (Clark.) *Keep in touch by snail mail or email to [jill.stabitz@thenewschool.cc](mailto:jill.stabitz@thenewschool.cc)*

## The New School Family

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**Return Service Requested**



# Don't Miss The New School's "Under the Big Top" Auction March 6

## Hueman Expressions Returns

The New School's Diversity Committee, Women Writing for (a) Change and four TNS sixth graders are planning a second "Hueman Expressions," event on Sunday, February 29 at TNS. The first "Hueman Expressions," held in December of 2001, combined artwork and writing by children and adults to express grief, concern and hope after the tragedy of 9/11.

The New School students working on the February event express its purpose as follows: "**Hue-man Expressions** is an opportunity for you to share yourselves with your community. We all share one common heart and treasure our memories. Each of us is a unique individual with unique experiences and talents. Our community is diverse in culture and family history. Each of us has our own view of the world. This is the time to express those thoughts, dreams, and memories and help us know and appreciate each other better. Whether happy or sad, humorous or melancholy, creative expression is a generosity."

All members of TNS extended family are invited to submit writing, any form of visual art, music, dance or drama related to these themes. Work must be submitted in TNS office by January 23, 2004. Please contact TNS for more information about this project and for details about the time and format of the February 29 program.

## Help TNS Through Schoolpop

TNS has joined Schoolpop which offers rebates to schools for credit card purchases. You can earn money for TNS through Schoolpop by shopping in stores, from catalogs and online. If you order a Schoolpop VISA credit card, TNS get \$20 plus a 1% rebate on all of your credit card purchases. You can also register your existing credit cards with school pop (our registration number is 0124910) and earn a rebate for TNS when you shop at participating retailers. For more information, call 650-323-5670 or check the schoolpop website at [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com).

## TNS Hosts Class of '53

New Schoolers have often wondered what transpired in the Mansion between the time the Mitchell family left and 1970 when TNS was founded. The St. Thomas Aquinas eighth grade class of 1953 provided some answers last summer when they gathered at TNS for their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.

To review some New School history, the Mansion was built by the Mitchell family as a home for their twelve children. In the 1920's, the family donated the Mansion to the Archdiocese, which used the first floor for religious services, the second floor for a school and the third floor as living quarters for the nuns. After an actual church was built in the 1930's (today's Annex), the St. Thomas Aquinas School expanded to the first and second floors of the Mansion.

Assistant Director **Barbara Gray** learned from the 7 alums who attended the reunion that each class had its own room in the Mansion. The original dining room (today's North Room) served as lunchroom. A favorite pastime was flipping spaghetti onto the lunchroom ceiling to see if it would stick. The reunion attendees also enjoyed touring the entire building and were especially eager to explore the third floor which, as the nuns' living space, had been "off limits" during their school days.

*Alumni parents and former board members Gabe Blumer and Jeff Harri*

