

The New School Family



Editor: Jill Staubitz

A newsletter for TNS families, alumni, grandparents and friends

Fall 2006

THE NEW SCHOOL

Thanks To All

The New School appreciates the support it receives from its extended family of alums, alumni parents, grandparents and friends. We are grateful to the following generous donors who have made contributions to Annual Giving, our scholarship endowment or our operating endowment through November. If you haven't joined this effort yet, please consider doing so.

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What's New At The New School in 2006-07

The New School has a record number of students, 149, for the 2006-2007 school year. 20 6th graders will be researching senior projects and visiting Washington, D.C. 6 to 9 students started their year with a field trip to Tall Stacks. The Preprimary nap room has been adapted to provide an indoor play space for rainy days with the addition of work tables, mats and bright blue shelves full of interesting activities.

This year Special Program Electives allow Elementary students to choose an additional weekly class in one of the four areas for 10 weeks. Creative Drama, the Music elective, presents basics of acting, creating characters, improvisation and the operation of a theatre. Project Linus, the Art elective, combines art and community service as children create blankets and afghans for children who are ill or otherwise in need. Let's Travel to Spain, the Spanish elective, is designed to enrich Spanish vocabulary and cultural understanding through exposure to Spanish history, traditions, dress and food preparation. Through Ansari Yoga, the Dance Elective, children learn breathing exercises, balance poses and basic poses that imitate animals and incorporate themes from nature.

Our website has expanded to include lots more information about TNS as well as an alumni page - visit us at www.thenewschool.cc

Spread the Word

Do you know a family whose child or children would benefit from The New School? Invite them to make an appointment to observe or to attend our Open House Sunday, February 4 from 2:00 to 4:00.

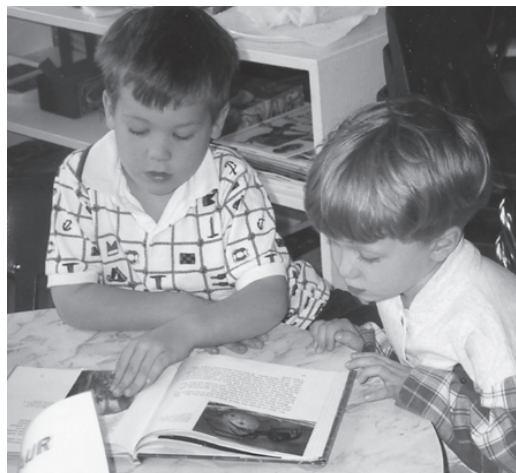


Thanks To "Life After TNS" Panel

Each fall, The New School offers current parents and 9 to 12 students the chance to learn more about their options after 6th grade with the program "Is There Life After TNS?" Representatives from area junior high and high schools provide lots of helpful information but a highlight of the evening is always a panel of TNS grads who share their personal experiences with life after TNS. Thanks to this year's panelists **Tommy Borders, Alex Burte, Seth Curry, Courtney Giannini, Livy Logan Wood, Haleigh Miller, Alex Moore, Christian Moser, Brett & Ian Powers, Jeremy Siegel, Isaac Van Diest and Tarra Williamson.**

Class of '05 Gift

TNS class of 2005 presented a gift to the school over the summer - a large decorative rock with "The New School" engraved on it. Located at the entry to the parking lot, the rock provides a distinctive marker for members of TNS community as well as visitors. Thanks to alums and parents who provided this enhancement to the school grounds.



The New School Auction - a 20 Year Tradition

The tradition of a New School Auction fundraiser is 20 years old this year so I dug into old newsletters and my memory for a little Auction history. The first TNS auction was held in February of 1987 with a Valentine's Day theme. **Maggie Chadwell** chaired the event held on a Friday afternoon. Silent auction items were displayed in the Mansion lobby and bidding ended at 6:00 when children needed to be picked up from ExDay. Items offered included homemade soup, pies, breadmaking lessons and a mystery party. There is no record of the first Auction's profits.

February of 1988 brought the Leap Year Auction with frog logos. Chairs **Jill Staubitz** and **Jackie Sweeney** expanded the event to an evening affair held at the St. Bernard Community Center (this was pre-Annex and pre-Growing Room.) Bid sheets were individually typed on an electric typewriter. Parents and children were included and the evening featured a spaghetti dinner/fundraiser for the 9 to 12 class trip. Dinner, bidding and everything had to be wrapped up early so the kids could get to bed (talk about playing "Beat the Clock.") Profits of \$6,000 felt like a fortune after years of bakesales.

Jill returned with **Martha Landesberg** as co-chair for Auction 1989 which had an outer space theme. A Three Ring Circus theme would have been more appropriate since this event crammed another 9 to 12 spaghetti dinner, bidding a larger array of silent auction items, entertainment by **Claire Slemmer** and games for the kids into one fun-filled (?) family event lasting about 2 hours. Most notable was the fact that this was the first auction held in the Annex – we had just purchased and gutted the church which left an empty, barn-like space for this frenetic evening.

Linda Mautner chaired the next two auctions and brought much needed changes, foremost of which was designating the auction an adult affair. The system of soliciting business donations was successfully expanded. She also set the tone for the future with a silent auction in the Mansion and live auction in the Annex. As an artist, Linda brought lots of creativity to theme and decorations, which included huge papier mache cacti for one evening. About this time, the oldest continuous Auction donation, **Harry and Molly Whittaker's** Maine cottage, was first offered.

Linda Huntress chaired the Auctions in 1992 and 1993. The 1993 Hard Rock Café Auction featured music of the 60's and 70's and celebrity weatherman Pat Berry as a guest auctioneer. Donations ranged from artwork to pizza parties to old skis and computer equipment and the event netted about \$16,000. **Robyn Breiman** and **Buzz Scannella's** Porchetta Dinner made its debut as did the "Ants In the Pants" boxer shorts, bought, monogrammed and later re-donated by **B.J. Muhlhauser**. **Sherry Michael** computerized the auction and persevered through one evening when someone cut the power and disabled the entire system. (Speaking of power, **John Powers** carried on computer support after Sherry.)

I think **Kathy Schwab** chaired in 1994 and 1995, and 1994 had a Mardi Gras theme. By then, **Jim Borgman's** signed original cartoons appeared every year and generated spirited Live Auction bidding. **Jim Rhein** and **Patrick Leedom** were already well established as Auction bartenders. Bidding was encouraged by starting the Live Auction with a champagne sale; and, finally, TNS passed the point where a raise of ticket prices above \$10 generated a 4 hour debate. **Emily Wilkins** and **Beth Powers** chaired the 25th Anniversary Hard Day's Night auction in 1996. A raffle became a key part of the fundraiser with **Marcie Warrington** as organizer. Because the task of collecting and organizing auction items had grown so, someone was needed to organize the party side of the event. Pioneering that effort were **Beth Wayne** and **Grace Hill** (aka the Elsa Maxwell and Perle Mesta of TNS) who put the "fun" in "fundraiser" with great food, decorations and entertainment.

March of 1997 brought the first Auction in the Growing Room which everyone, especially the 9 to 12 teachers, welcomed. **Patrick Borders & Helen Adams** and **Larry & Cathy Rolfes** chaired that event which raised about \$29,000. Patrick and Helen co-chaired again in 1998 bringing "**Doc**" **Wolfe** as a guest auctioneer with regulars **Len & Dave Fye**. TNS alum **Jordan Scannella** ('92) and his trio, Take Three, provided musical entertainment. Patrick teamed up with **Beth Powers** in 1999 for the Celebrate Our Children Auction where Helen's photos of New School children appeared all over the Mansion. Parties offered as donations expanded to include Chinese and Scandinavian dinners and a Seafood Feast. Surprise packages were added to the Auction that year and the event netted \$35,000.

Grace Hill and **Kathleen Bedree** teamed up for Auction 1999-00, which featured Ripple Effect Peace Quilt posters. Staff donations of outings and parties for children netted about \$7,000 and theme baskets were popular as well. Around this time **Marcella Allison** became the Auction computer guru. The following year Grace and Kathleen planned the 30th Anniversary Back to the 70's Auction, which included retro music and a toast by flower children **Larry Rolfes** and **Heather Hallenberg**. The New School Family Cookbook coordinated by **Claudia Reilly** was a big seller. When a generous, anonymous donor offered to match the proceeds, the event netted a record breaking \$80,000.

Ann Abbott and **Beth Cullen Canarie** chaired Auction extravaganzas in 2002, 2003 and 2004. "Share the Stars" in 2002 offered entertainment by **Baba Charles Miller** and **Omope Carter Daboiku**. Decorations and Auction items designed by **Robin Hartmann** and her art students offered wonderfully unique additions to the items for sale and started an ongoing tradition. 6th year students created colorful, hand-painted furniture and every Elementary child contributed something to the auction quilt containing 127 different fabrics. In 2003, "Blooms in Spring" filled the



Auction Continued

Growing Room with flowers and the top selling item, a child's chance to be Director for a Day" went for \$20,000. Auction 2004, "Under the Big Top" was literally that as the Auction was held in a tent set up in the school parking lot. **Eric Dustman** dressed as ringmaster and **Jimmy Gherardi** appeared as guest chef while profits reached \$78,000 without a matching donation.

Tari Frank and **Julia Wadih** organized "The Glass Bottom Boat" Auction in 2005 with lots of special Auction items including glass art work by **Sandy Gross** and the Elementary art students. **Peggy Mossbarger** wrapped up a long and successful run as Business Donations chair. Tari joined up with **Kim Planet** in 2006 to produce "The Silver Screen Auction." Handmade Auction items included a Monopoly table, a Marilyn Monroe chair, a mosaic mirror and a quilt composed of handprints from all of the Elementary students.

The tradition continues with this year's New School Auction scheduled for Saturday, March 10 at a new venue – the 20th Century Theater in Oakley. Auction Chair **Nancy Miller** has posted plans via website: www.goTNSauction.com. We hope you'll join the party

Note I apologize for any omissions or errors which are purely the result of spotty records and/or an aging brain. If you can fill in some blanks, email jill.staubitz@thenewschool.cc and we'll set the record straight in the next issue.

Jill Staubitz

Class of 2006 Adapts Well to 7th Grade

The New School's class of 2006 seems to have made a smooth transition to 7th grade already. **Tommy Borders** really likes Walnut Hills and says having so many people is "a good change." The work was easy for the first 3 weeks and he felt "completely prepared" in math especially. He finds it easy to make friends and has joined the computer club. Thinking about TNS, Tommy says "it was actually pretty much fun – I knew everybody so well and all of the teachers." **Alex Burte** also is happy at Walnut, enjoys having lunch in the cafeteria and says his favorite class is Ancient and Medieval History. He is in honors algebra, belongs to the fencing club and hopes to play basketball next year. Alex misses TNS recess and the fact that the teachers knew him so well and could pick up on problems. **Seth Curry** has "really great teachers" at Walnut, especially in Latin and advanced algebra. Senior project and algebra classes with Patti Harper really helped prepare him and homework is manageable. Seth also belongs to the fencing club and hopes to join the debate team later.

Livy Logan Wood feels well prepared and is doing well at Walnut. She likes the size of the school, different teaching methods and the variety of having different students in each class. Tests were the hardest adjustment; she likes English a lot and finds study halls useful. Livy played soccer this fall and plans to join the ski club. She observes that, even though her teachers this year are helpful, they are not as helpful as her TNS teachers; and "they forget what it's like to be a student." **Haleigh Miller** likes the fact that Cincinnati Country Day is bigger than TNS but still small. Senior project helped her "immensely" and she says being able to complete work at home last year helped prepare her for nightly homework. She has Spanish classes every day this year and wishes she had learned more Spanish at TNS. She plays piano in the jazz band and says making friends has not been a problem. Haleigh misses being on a first name basis with her teachers.

Alex Moore finds Clark Montessori "not too easy and not too hard." It was easy to find his way around the school and TNS prepared him very well. He has found new friends and plays on the school soccer team. Alex sums up by saying "the homework is the same, the lunches are the same . . . it's all about the same." **Brett Powers** is making new friends at Bethany School where he especially likes gym. Some of the work is review but some is new and not at the same level as TNS. He is playing basketball and working the scoreboard at girls basketball games. Brett misses the long recess where he could "get energy out so you're less active in class." **Jeremy Siegel** found the classrooms and teaching style at Walnut strange at first but says it is "really good." He likes pre-algebra and science and feels pretty well prepared for the math. He belongs to the computer club and is still involved with gymnastics. Jeremy says he "liked the teachers more at TNS."

Isaac VanDiest likes Clark as a community and feels the opportunity to work with other people is "good preparation for real life." He says TNS covered everything he needs for this year, particularly in writing and math. The teachers are stricter and have high expectations, especially about daily homework; and keeping his locker organized is a challenge. Isaac observes that he misses "the security of TNS but you have to move on; all the 6th year were ready to move on by the end of the year." **Rae Walters** finds Clark a logical step up from TNS and feels she is "right on track" with her preparation at TNS. She enjoys language arts and in music class is learning to play both the steel drums and the guitar. She hopes to join the volleyball team and the dance team and says there are "lots of choices." Rae does miss the people at TNS and says those "good times are all gone" with everyone scattered at different schools.

We haven't been able to get in touch with **Emily Sprinkle** but hope to put information about her experiences in the next alumni newsletter.

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We Love To Hear From Our Extended Family

Here is the latest news from former New School students, staff and parents. It was great to see so many alums and families at this year's Harvest Moon Festival. The award for the farthest drive goes to **Anne, Carol** ('05) and **William Daniels** who came all the way from Minnesota to join the fun. **Matthew Ahlgren Campbell** ('05) spent the 2005-06 school year in Boston where his schooling included a series of classes at MIT's extension center. He placed third in the New York State Open Chess Tournament and went to the World Chess Tournament in Philadelphia in July. Currently Matthew is back in Cincinnati attending Walnut Hills.

Rory Hartmann ('05) had his Bar Mitzvah this past summer. **Blythe Gross Hutton** ('05) was named Most Valuable Player on her soccer team at Walnut. **Alex Sturbaum** and **Geoff Maher** ('03 grads) played their Scottish/Irish music at Arty Gras last May. **Lauren Pray** ('02) will travel to Morocco with her Clark Montessori French III class in the spring. A big "Thank You" to **Grace and Brian Hill (Robyn '00 and Max Schimberg '03)** whose ongoing support includes everything from substitute teaching in the classroom to landscaping the campus.

Jake Whitman ('99) attends of University of California at Santa Barbara where he was accepted into the Honors Program in Global Studies. Three New School grads from the class of 2001 were named National Merit SemiFinalists: **Neil Spataro, Jennifer McCord** and **Max Wayne** as was **Colin McSwiggen** who attended TNS in his Preprimary years. **Jelani Johnson** and **Courtney Muller**, ('00 grads) once again share a campus – Jelani is at Columbia while Courtney is at Barnard.

Lydia Gray ('91) was married at the family cottage in Michigan in August. **Robin Girouard** ('93) and her husband started on the adventure of parenting with the birth of their son Jackson on September 17. **Katie Fiebig** ('88) is working at Children's Hospital and expecting a baby.

Kate Brown (staff '73 – '74) called while she was in town this summer; she lives in Albuquerque and says she wishes her son's Montessori did things "just like The New School did." **Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ford** also stopped by TNS this summer – they had been married 50 years ago at St. Thomas Aquinas Church (now TNS Annex) and enjoyed seeing both familiar and new features of the buildings. **Sandy Kohn**, TNS Marketing Director since 2003, has taken a job as Assistant Principal at Springer.



We received a letter from **Elaina Yu** who attended TNS from PrePrimary through 5th grade when her family moved to New Jersey in 2005. She reports that she is doing very well academically and socially in a new, large, public school thanks to "my experiences from the one and only New School." She says TNS taught her "the importance of responsibility and respect and . . . helped me greatly in fitting in my new school."

TNS's original Director **Tom French-Corbett** wrote that he and Carol are moving to New Jersey. He said, "One of the things that made Carol very happy in her visits to the school was the remarkable condition of the materials, some dating back to 1970. She was especially proud of the mats and, in our packing, she came across the name and address of the woman who wove them. It's always great to think of you and to know that The New School is in such good hands carrying on a great tradition."

We'd love to hear from you by mail or email to jill.staubitz@thenewschool.cc