

The New School Montessori Family



Editor: Ann Baumgardner

Alumni Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2010



Save the Dates - Oct 8, 9 and 10

Please mark your calendars for the second weekend in October (October 8, 9 and 10, 2010). The 40th Anniversary Steering Committee is planning a wonderful weekend of celebration, and you won't want to miss one minute of the fun!

40th Anniversary Party Plans

Do you feel the excitement building? The New School Montessori has just completed its 39th school year. When the doors open again in August, it will be the start of an entire year of 40th anniversary fun! We will spend the year celebrating our roots and looking ahead to a bright and wonderful future. We will honor the "pioneers" whose vision and hard work made the school possible. We will celebrate 40 years of happy graduates and 40 years of dedicated staff.

Several Ways to Get Involved with the Celebration:

- If you want to help plan the 40th Anniversary Weekend contact Sara Neyer at saraneyer@me.com or (513) 607-6500.
- If you have TNSM photos or memorabilia to share contact Anna Adams at tns.anna.adams@gmail.com.
- If you consider yourself a New School pioneer and want to re-connect with others, contact Tom French-Corbett at tomfrenchcorbett@comcast.net.
- If you know how to track down "lost" alums contact Ann Baumgardner at ann.baumgardner@thenewschool.cc.



Senior Projects

For many years TNSM 6th graders have been "wow-ing" audiences with their presentations for senior project night. The whole TNSM family is in attendance - alumni, students, family and staff to listen, learn and be totally entertained. In preparation for this night, sixth graders (see below) read several books about their topic, took copious notes, prepared a thorough and lengthy paper, and then condensed their presentation into a concise powerpoint summary for all to enjoy. Astrid painted the mansion using the design style of Disney's animator Mary Blair and the whole class danced and sang - Aretha Franklin style - joining Sydney in a chorus of R-E-S-P-E-C-T. What a proud day.



Tobin Kashdan-Combs: Steven Spielberg
Samantha Schwartz: Jacqueline Kennedy
Cheyenne McGuire: Pele & the History of Soccer
Jack Daston: The Domestication of Dogs
Astrid Gross-Hutton: Mary Blair
Keziah Barker: Ruby Bridges

Jake Sullivan: The Beatles
Gabe Lamba: The Taj Mahal
Charlie Krejsa: Yellowstone
Molly Sayles: Chocolate
Molly Giglia: Nikola Tesla
Luc Moser: Petra

Marcella Domka: The Amazon
Paul Kellar: Oscar Robertson
Carter Ross: Leonardo Da Vinci
Bela Hounshell: Andy Warhol
Sydney Nelson: Aretha Franklin



**the new school
montessori**

together we can...

Annual Giving Update

Our 2009-2010 Annual Giving Campaign has proven the strength of this community once again with contributions totaling \$56,002 to date. Gifts continue to be sent in, getting us closer and closer to our goal. Thanks for your support.

Richard Polt and Julie Gifford
Gail and Robert Ogletree
Fran and Joseph Palermo
Ann and Erich Baumgardner
Gary Busch and Shawn Dougherty
John and Beth Powers Family
Jack and Anne Daniels
Bill and Barbara James
Joy Kashdan Glaser
Macy's Foundation
Hope Felton-Miller & Fred Miller
Luke and Brady Mossbarger
Paul and Dorothy Varland
Suellen and Katelyn('99) Victor
Frank and Janell Weinstock
Bruce and Virginia Whitman
Anonymous
Kaminski Family
Wilson Palmer
Jake Allison ('04)
Emily Frank ('09)

Denise Jeavons
Walt Koch
Elaine Liechty
Shelia Heighter
Rita Rhein
Jeanne Speier
David Tape
Beth Barton
Barbara Gray
Blumer Family
Rosalie van Nuis



**TNSM student and daughter
of Alum Bridgette Donnely ('99)**

Chatting with Robyn Breiman and Tom French-Corbett

Recently I spoke with Robyn Breiman and Tom French-Corbett who are both previous directors and teachers at TNSM. Robyn and Tom expressed their excitement and anticipation for re-connecting with everyone at our 40th anniversary celebration this fall.

Robyn lives in Cincinnati, but travels throughout the U.S. as she helps communities train teachers in Montessori education. She works for the Center for Montessori Teacher Education/New York which is one of the largest Montessori teaching institutes in the country.

Tom and his wife Carol have taken up dancing, learning Jane Austen-style English Country Dancing and the faster-paced Contra Dancing. Tom is now an experienced "caller," singing out the steps for both novices and experts alike. They live with their daughter and son-in law in New Jersey.

As I am relatively new to TNSM, I asked Tom and Robyn to fill me in on school history and to share their favorite memories. Robyn immediately spoke of the remarkable sense of community and willingness of parents to take part. She remembered pre-Thanksgiving meals served in the upstairs hallway, camping trips with students, staff and parents, senior projects, and the very first auction organized by students to raise money for

their Washington trip. I was surprised at how many traditions we continue to practice and hold dear. Robyn confessed that even though it rained every year on their camping trips, there was nothing like soggy bedding and cooking spaghetti over a fire to bring people close together.

The smell of baking bread and the sight of children reading by a warm fire were some of Tom's memories. Volunteers organized a food co-op on the back porch and spent every Thursday baking whole-wheat bread for the school. Tom was thrilled to be a part of the founding of the school and remarked, "John Holt, a well-known activist even came to visit to see and support our work. Educational change was in the air; it was a wonderful opportunity to engage in change at the grass roots."

As I learn more about the history of The New School, its challenges and the bonds that were formed as a result of those challenges, I have a newfound appreciation for this unique and precious school. Being grounded in Montessori principles and our strong sense of community, I feel certain we can overcome present challenges with the same determination and passion our founding pioneers showed and continue to show for The New School Montessori.



TNSM Class of 2004 Moves Beyond High School

Name	What are your plans for the future and what honors and extra curricular activities have you enjoyed?
Jake Allison Covington Latin	Students from Covington Latin finish their studies a year early to pursue volunteer internships and paid work experience before college. I have spent the last year interning with Roxanne Qualls in Cincinnati City Council and will continue working at Subway this summer. I will attend the University of Chicago this fall. I'm not sure of major yet. I've enjoyed being on the soccer team, swimming and being involved in drama. I play the guitar and am big on art and drawing.
Sam Bedree Walnut Hills	I'll be going to Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. During high school I tutored students in Latin and raised money for the Juvenile Diabetes Association with my dad. We raised \$25,000 on two 105-mile bike rides through Death Valley, California my sophomore and junior years.
Ben Fricke Walnut Hills	I plan to study chemistry or chemical engineering at Purdue University. I ran cross country and track and enjoyed swimming and drum band. I'll be working this summer at Keller's IGA in Clifton.
Natania Hoffman Clark Montessori	I will be auditioning at the Conservatory of Music in Germany for a cello performance major. My back-up plan is to study liberal arts at the University of Florence. I was on the University of Cincinnati's Dean's List with 77 credits and was named a National Merit Finalist. I was on the student committee that prepared a video presentation for President Obama's nationwide <i>Race to the Top</i> competition. Clark was one of the top 3 schools chosen and will host U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, as speaker for our graduation ceremony this year.
Zach Langille Walnut Hills	I will be attending Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles to study film and TV production. My plans for the summer are to find a job and work before beginning college in the fall. I've played the trombone in both marching and jazz band. In 9th grade we played at Carnegie Hall and more recently I was first chair in state for Ohio Ambassadors of Music.
Steven Miller Walnut Hills	I am attending The Ohio State University this fall, majoring in biomedical engineering as a pre-med student. I am traveling to Maine this summer with other future OSU students to make friends and have fun. I have taken numerous AP science courses which have broadened my interest in the subject. This summer I plan to do a rotation with a surgeon for week (following him around, observing operations) to better understand what the job entails. In high school, I was part of the marching band for four years and the varsity swim team for two. I do not plan to continue swimming competitively or marching in college, but I might join a club swim team or a pep-band.
Alexis Nelson Walnut Hills	I will be going to Ohio State and will major in environmental engineering. During high school I've enjoyed being a student representative in our student congress, have been Vice President of our improv comedy club, played tennis and was the captain of the bowling team.
Joe Norris Clark Montessori	I have a scholarship to Xavier University and will study business. I've travelled a lot and worked and studied in Costa Rica and the Caribbean with a biology class I took for school. I enjoy kayaking, canoeing and motorcycles.
Matt Muller Clark Montessori	I'm going to the Rhode Island School of Design and will focus on painting. I was the captain of our varsity golf club and am looking for a job this summer where I can paint.
Esper Wadiah Walnut Hills	I want to major in biomedical engineering at Ohio State University. I won the Junior Book Award for college honors at Ohio State and Provost Scholarship to Ohio State. I've been in marching band for 4 years and have taken a job babysitting for a TNSM family this summer.
Amira Siddiqi Walnut Hills	I plan to attend Ohio State and am undecided about what I'll major in. In high school I played soccer freshman and sophomore years. I was in school clubs and enjoyed swimming. This summer I will be looking for a summer job.

Alumni News

Jocelyn Johnson ('94-'98) is a sophomore at Princeton University majoring in anthropology. She spent last summer in Germany as a participant in the Princeton in Munich Program. She sings with the University Gospel Ensemble, is the Social Chair for the Princeton Association of Black Women and is a member of the Black Student Union.

Sanjay Hariharan sent us an email message saying he still remembers the going-away book his (3-6) teachers and classmates gave him when he moved to Milwaukee in the middle of the school year. Everyone had signed it and it meant a lot to him. Sanjay is currently a sophomore at the University of Pennsylvania and his older brother who also attend TNSM just graduated from Harvard University. Sanjay exuded, "I'm sure the success of our college acceptances is due to the quality of the Montessori system!"

Director of Admissions
Barbara Gray
proudly holds her
newest grand
daughter Mae
Neihesel, born
December 16.



Let Us Know What You've Been Doing

Everyone enjoys hearing from TNSM friends to find out where you've settled or traveled, your career choices, additions to the family or stories about TNSM.

Please stay in touch with us by sending a note, emailing us from the Alumni page on the website or by sending a note directly to me at ann.baumgardner@thenewschool.cc. We'd love to receive scanned or electronic photos to include in our next alumni newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

www.thenewschool.cc

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