
The New School News

A monthly newsletter for TNS families and staff

Editor: Jill Staubitz

December 2002

"A Mind At A Time" Book Club January 9

The first meeting of TNS book club will be held on Thursday, January 9 at 7 p.m. in the Growing Room. All TNS parents and staff are welcome to join the discussion of "A Mind at A Time," by Dr. Mel Levine. Club organizer Robin Hartmann urges everyone to read the book, even if s/he cannot attend the meeting. A paperback version is due out at the end of December and an overview of the book is presented on the website www.allkindsofminds.org (sort of a cyber Cliff's Notes.) P.S. This event is just for grown-ups; childcare is not provided.

Next Step Jan. 16

If your child will be entering kindergarten, 1st grade or 4th grade in the fall of 2003, mark your calendar for "The Next Step Meeting" on Thursday, January 16. This evening will provide you with the opportunity to meet the teachers, tour the classroom and learn all about the program TNS offers for your child next year. The meeting will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 and childcare for New School age children will be provided.

Family Open House Sunday, February 2

Invitations to our annual Open House for prospective new families will be available after Winter Break. The Open House, from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 2, allows parents and children to visit The New School and learn about our programs. Referral from current families is one of our best sources of new students. If you have friends, co-workers or relatives who might be interested in TNS for next year, leave their names and addresses with Beth in the office or pick up invitations to deliver yourself.

Board Discusses Initial Budget for 2003-04

Assistant Director **Barbara Gray** again this year hosted the December board meeting in her home. While this was primarily a time for board members to relax together, President/Treasurer **Mel Bedree** did present a preliminary view of the 2003-2004 school budget. Details of the budget will be approved at the January meeting so they can be included in materials for the Open House on February 2.

Development Director **Jill Staubitz** reported that TNS Family News is being mailed out to about 1000 members of the school's extended family. The mailing list includes alumni, former staff, grandparents, parents of former students (both graduates and those who did not remain at TNS through the sixth grade) and friends who have had some past interest in the school. All current families and staff receive copies of the newsletter in their children's pockets or folders.



Ad created by Matthew Muller

Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!

This is time of year when people of many cultural traditions feel grateful for those who make special contributions to their lives. We at The New School would like to acknowledge the parents, grandparents and friends whose special contributions of time, talent and support are so very important to the well-being of our community. We appreciate your role in helping us to provide a stimulating and nurturing environment for the children we serve. We look forward to that continued partnership in the coming year.

Auction Needs Volunteers

Auction co-chairs **Beth Cullen Canarie** and **Ann Abbott** want to remind all TNS parents and staff to mark Saturday, March 1 on their 2003 calendars. This year's celebration, "Blooms In Spring at The New School" will take place in flower-filled spaces and include great food by Kitchen Manager **Myra Daugherty**. Art Teacher Robin Hartmann will take charge of decorations as well as working with students on special pieces of furniture and mosaics which will be auctioned.

The Auction committee is working on securing business donations and will look for parent donations in January, all of which are important for the kind of lively and profitable evening this event traditionally brings. Contact Ann or Beth if you would like to add your name to the volunteer list.

Amahl January 6

“Amahl and the Night Visitors” is a holiday tradition for 6 to 9 Head Teacher **Mary Ohlinger Pray** and her family. Each year, Mary, Ken and their four children use beautiful marionettes to present Gian Carlo Menotti’s opera about the Epiphany (the Three Kings’ visit to the Christ Child.)

This year’s presentation is combined with a fundraiser for a local youth who is fighting muscular dystrophy. The program will be held on Monday, January 6 at 4:00 p.m. at Concordia Lutheran Church (1133 Clifton Hills Ave at the corner of Clifton Hills and Central Parkway.) A donation at the door will include the performance and dinner after the show. As Mary says, “if you go, you will be raising money for a worthy cause as well as treating your family to a wonderful experience.”

Staff News

Facilities Manager **David Tape** was recently elected to the board for the corporation of Findlay Market. David is also Price Hill site coordinator for the city’s Project 180, an arm of Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, which has the goal of improving the quality of life in urban areas.

TNS Chain Gang

6 to 9 student **Adam Schwartz** reports that the “Great Room and **Helen Bedree** are making a really, really long chain.” The colorful paper chain is long enough to extend all around the Great Room, the study and the hall. The students hope to make this chain longer than last year’s; their goal is stretch clear into the Morning Room.

Child's Wallet Found!!!!

A Pokemon wallet was found on the school grounds earlier this fall. It has a red and orange striped background and three figures on the front (to the Pokemonally challenged like myself the figures are from left to right, a yellow egg with legs and square ears, a big yellow and black weasel with a spiky cape and a blue dinosaur/frog.) The wallet does contain both bills and change. Its owner apparently has not thought to ask about it; perhaps his or her parents will step forward. See Beth in the office for details.

Preprimary children put on a play in Extended Day with the help of sixth year student Erin Molloy. Photo by Matt Goebel



6 to 9 Presents Two Winter Plays

Again this year, TNS parent **Claudia Reilly** has volunteered her time and expertise in developing drama projects with 6 to 9 students. Half of the class prepared two winter-themed plays and presented them to an audience of parents, Preprimary children and other 6 to 9 students on Tuesday, December 17. Claudia will work with the other half of the class in the spring.

The plays, “Winter World” and “The Magical Snow Forest,” are the original work of Claudia and the students. To start the process, each child created his/her own character, posed a problem for that character to face and developed a solution for that problem. The only rule about the choice of characters and problems was that it had to fit a winter setting. Among the characters appearing are snowmen, a polar bear, a coyote, a baby sea lion and a talking snow lizard.

Claudia worked out the two stories, incorporating all of the characters and problems. “Winter World” is the tale of a girl who was burnt in a fire and is afraid no one will be her friend. Inside the winter world she meets characters who help her deal with her fears. In the “Magical Snow Forest,” two girls, searching for homes, enter a snow forest. The enchanted animals of the forest help the girls solve their problem and return home.

In preparation for the presentation of the plays, the students have studied improvisation and movement on stage. For some, this is a first stage experience and Claudia notes that the third year students in each group have been a great help as the first year students work on their actions and lines. (Children will be reading their lines in the actual performance to keep the experience low-key for everyone.) Students have created costumes from materials at home, and Claudia designed masks for some of the characters. **Kathleen Bedree** and **Helen Adams** provided welcome backstage assistance on the day of the performance. Many thanks to Claudia and all of the other parents who supported this great project. Watch for photos in January’s newsletter!

Calendar of Coming Events

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|----------------------|--|
| Dec. 23 thru Jan 3 | Winter Break |
| Dec 30, 31, Jan 2,3 | Vacation Care |
| Monday, January 6 | “Amahl” 4:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, January 9 | Community Discussion |
| Thursday, January 16 | Next Step 7 p.m. |
| Monday, January 20 | Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day – No School |
| Thursday, January 23 | Board Meeting 7 p.m. |
| January 27 - 31 | Terra Nova Tests K – 6 |
| Sunday, February 2 | Open House 2 - 4 |

Preprimary News

Preprimary students have experienced a number of special events this past month. In early December, the children joined the Elementary classes in viewing a performance entitled "Fable of Wolf, Ant and Frog" by the music students of TNS parent **Dorotea Hoffman**. Kindergarten students enjoyed a field trip to the Art Museum where they saw the work of different artists they have studied with South Room Head Teacher **Laura Muntz**. On December 17, the children attended the 6 to 9 performance of two winter plays (see story on page 2.) An International Fest featuring a variety of ethnic foods brought children, parents and teachers together on Wednesday, December 18.

Classroom meetings with teachers and parents have focused on multicultural traditions of the season. 3 to 6 Teacher **Debbie Weinstein** spoke about the symbols of Hannukah and shared a story at morning meetings. **Joretha Johnson** made a presentation about the principles of Kwanzaa. Thanks to the **Beaupres**, the **Abbotts** and the **van Woensels** for taking care of the class pets over Thanksgiving break. Thanks to **Julia Wadih** for coordinating Scholastic Book orders, to **Vicki Young** for copying videos and to the **Peguero Winters** family for cutting fabric for napkins and donating a camera. Thanks to the following families for a variety of useful donations: **Millers, Goodmans, Katkins, Thalingers, Ewings, Sayles/Whelans, Stukenberg/Mayhalls, Grace Hill, Giglia/Collinses and Krejsa/Schaffers**.

News From the Elementary Art Classes

In the Elementary Art Classes, 6 to 9 students have created work relating to their study of the rainforest. 9 to 12 students have completed a study of advertising in which they analyzed the strategies and effectiveness of a variety of ads. Teacher Robin Hartmann had them try to figure out what was being sold in ads with the copy blocked out. Sixth year students brainstormed ideas and created their own ads "selling" The New School. A few of those ads are included in this newsletter; all of the work is displayed in the Growing Room. Second and third year students have begun work on furniture for the Auction; some sixth year students are making a mosaic bench. Thanks to **Nancy Miller** and **Regina Radin** for their help in the classroom.

6 to 9 News

6 to 9 students have enjoyed several presentations about holiday celebrations during the past month. **Bonnie Burte** worked with students on a skit about the origin of Hanukkah and made delicious potato latkes for everyone. **Ms. Khalily** (Camille & Cyrus's grandmother) used beautiful artifacts to explain Ramadan while **Johnnie Rucker** made a presentation about Kwanzaa. **Kathleen Bedree** described Christmas traditions and **Sara Beaven** shared an activity surrounding the celebration of the Winter Solstice.

Third year students concluded their study of prehistoric time periods with the construction of elaborate dioramas. The Great Room has a pet corn snake named Kingpin, thanks to Polly **Whittaker** who also supplied a terrarium and frozen rice. Thanks to **Tommy Borders** who will be caring for Kingpin over winter break. Thanks also to **Jessica Licis** for bringing a narcissus plant to the Great Room.

Thanks to **Julia Wadih, Beth Powers, Yiping Wang, Nancy Miller and Yvonne Aecherle-Tils** for help with materials; to **Susan Martell Adams** and **Bonnie Burte** for listening to readers and to **Helen Adams, Maria Palermo** and **Sara Beaven** for classroom help. The 6 to 9 class sadly says good-bye to **Campbell Baxter** and his family who are moving to New Jersey. We will miss you all very much!

Ad created by Sean Satogata & Reed Callahan

9 to 12 News

The 9 to 12 class traditionally spends December studying a particular culture or historical period. This year, India is the focus of much classroom activity. Because of the importance of religion in the Indian culture, each of the three homerooms is researching a different major religion of the country. This research of the history, philosophy and customs of Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam was presented before winter break in a program including a play about the life of Buddha.


Students are also learning about such diverse areas as the geography, the traditions and the languages of India. Special activities in art and dance complement this study. During art classes, students heard the folktale of Ganesha, the son of Siva and then made Ganesha dolls. On the last day of school before the break, the class sampled traditional Indian foods at a celebration and feast.

Help and Materials Wanted

Elementary Art Classes need black or red dishes for an Auction mosaic project. They also need socks, toothbrushes and old mechanical parts (e.g. radio parts) for an upcoming robot project. 6 to 9 needs volunteers to cut laminated materials in January.

SNI lessons - \$300
School Supplies - \$100
Baseball Game - \$50

Going to The New School - Priceless




At The New School, you get a good education because it's a Montessori school. Teachers spend more time with you, and you get to sit wherever you want. You get to make new friends and you get 45 minutes of recess.

Annual Giving Tops \$50,000; Looks for 100% Participation

The New School's Annual Giving Fund 2002-03 has grown to almost \$55,000 as of December 17. We appreciate the generous contributions of the donors listed below who have already done their part to support the school's operating expenses. Because Annual Giving benefits every child at TNS, it is vital that every family make some donation. We hope those families who have not yet donated will do so right away; extra pledge envelopes are available in the office. Gifts received by December 20 may be tax deductible in the current year.

Got Montessori?
Everyone's cool at The New School



At The New School, we have hands-on activities. We learn about diversity, music, art and dance. We don't wear uniforms, and work is fun and easy. There's 45 minutes of recess, and a friend for everyone.

*Ad created by
Jeffrey Rappaport*

Mansion Society

Patrick Borders & Helen Adams
Sandra Gross & John Hutton
Jim & Susan Boney
Anonymous

Friends of the Children

John & Beth Powers
Melvin & Kathleen Bedree
Michael Thomas & Megan Kessler
Frank Satogata & Heather Hallenberg
Madhu & Leela Vrishnabhendra
Matthew Clemens & Laura Bolte
Richard & Lisa Nisenbaum Kagan
Joseph Giglia & Kathy Collins



Photo thanks to Lei Yu

New School Associate

Robert Siegel & Claudia Reilly	Lei Yu & Yiping Wang	Paul Patterson & Sylvia Mitchell
Daryl & Regina Hodnett	Michael Schwartz & Maria Palermo	George & Maryellen Daston
Tariq Siddiqi & Elizabeth Clark	Richard & Lisa Kagan	Michael & Kym Nelson
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Polly Whittaker	Karl & Donna Grummich	Lorrence Kellar
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