
The New School News

A monthly newsletter for TNS families and staff

Editor: Jill Staubit

February 2003

"Blooms In Spring"

Auction March 1

No matter what the weather, it will be spring at TNS on Saturday March 1 for the "Blooms In Spring" Auction. The fun-filled evening starts at 6:00 with a delicious dinner and the excitement of bidding on two rooms full of silent auction items. After the silent auction closes at 8:00, everyone will meet in the Growing Room for the live auction.

A new Auctioneer will put his own spin on traditional favorite items as well as new ones like a lobster dinner prepared by former TNS Director **Robyn Breiman** and a beautiful diamond ring. Director **Eric Dustman**, parent **Tim Miller** and 6 to 9 Head Teacher **Mary Ohlinger Pray** will provide musical entertainment. Don't even think about leaving early because 3 to 6 Assistant J. White has something planned for the "seventh inning stretch." Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard on this year's auction. See you there!

Spring Break Childcare

Applications for childcare at TNS over spring break soon will be available soon. The program, for children ages 3 through 7 runs from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the week of April 14. Cost is \$35 per day and parents are asked to provide a brown bag lunch. Application deadline is March 28. Space is limited and acceptance is on a first-come, first-served basis.

News from the February Board Meeting

The current Annual Giving total of \$76,000 provides an important boost for the operating budget. About 30 alumni, relatives and friends have joined current parents in giving their support to TNS this year. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to Annual Giving including **Sanje Musengo** and **Bryan McCleary** and **Anne Sesler** whose gifts were received since the last newsletter. With only about half of the current parents making donations or pledges, we are still far short of our goal of 100% parent participation. If Annual Giving is currently buried somewhere in your to-do list, it isn't too late to make a donation now in any amount that works for your family.

An all-time high of 50 families toured TNS during the February 2 Open House. Thanks to all of the staff and parents who were on hand to answer questions and guide visitors through the school. Thanks to **Regina Radin** and **Beth Cullen Canarie** who coordinated hospitality for the event and to the following volunteers who provided refreshments and/or helped with set-up: **Sue Bortz**, **Kathy Collins**, **Dee Garretson**, **Joanna Groden**, **Grace Hill**, **Chris Mayhall**, **Claudia Reilly**, **Frank & Yvonne Tils**, **Sally Winston-Norris**, **Sherry Young** and **Vicki Young**. Special thanks to TNS's in-house florist aka Assistant Director **Barbara Gray** whose arrangements added to the atmosphere.

Thanks to **Kay Kinoshita** who continues to incorporate newsletters and other TNS information into the school website. Board election chair **Maria Palermo** invites all parents to consider running for positions on TNS board this spring. Board membership offers an excellent opportunity to work with other parents and to help with important school projects and activities. Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings and to chair committees and/or projects as needed. Terms of both three years and one year are available; watch for applications in March for the April elections.

The Long-Range Planning committee is looking for family input to the plan they are designing for TNS over the next 5 to 10 years. They have asked parents to involve their children in discussing the future of TNS and hope the product of these discussions will be expressed through artwork, writing, music or some other creative media. Work submitted by March 7 will be used to compose a school vision for review by TNS community. Please contact committee members **Gina Angiola**, **Chris Canarie**, **Eric Dustman**, **Hope Felton-Miller**, **Eric Peguero-Winters**, **Kym Nelson** or **Lei Yu** with any questions.

6 to 9 actors ready for their winter play - photo by Jill Staubit



Preview of ISACS/AMS Accreditation Visit

During the week of March 9 through 12, the ISACS/AMS Accrediting Team will visit TNS in order to prepare their evaluations and recommendations. **Susan Devetski-Hamilton**, Head of the Montessori Academy at Edison Lakes, Indiana and leader of our visiting team, spent Friday, February 21 at TNS. At that time, she met with **Eric Dustman, Barbara Gray, Sandy Kohn, Maria Palermo** and **Jill Staubitz**, members of TNS's ISACS/AMS Steering Committee, and fielded questions about the upcoming team visit.

Susan explained that our seven member visiting team includes two other Montessori certified teachers as well as people with backgrounds in teaching, school administration and school business management. Prior to their arrival at TNS, all team members will have reviewed our self-study document, a comprehensive description and analysis of the school's operations prepared over the past year by committees of New School teachers, administrators, board members and parents.

While they will be familiar with the entire document, team members will each be responsible for evaluating a specific self-study area. On March 10 and 11, each team member will observe relevant aspects of the school's operations and interview staff and board members. The team's goal is to interview as many staff members as possible, given the short duration of their stay. Comments and recommendations will be prepared for each of the seven main study areas by the team member reviewing that area. In addition, the entire team will develop three to five overall recommendations. Susan observed that these recommendations most often affirm themes or areas of concern identified by the school in the self-study rather than offering blueprints for major change. She will review the team's recommendations with Eric before she leaves on March 12.

After the visit, the team will submit its report to ISACS and AMS for their final review and ruling on our accreditation request. That is likely to take several months for ISACS and longer for AMS so there won't be any instant feedback. Once the report is approved and all of the evaluations and recommendations are returned to TNS, we have a year in which to act on those recommendations as part of this ongoing process. Susan was very enthusiastic about the upcoming team visit, which will offer everyone at TNS a good learning opportunity.

Appreciative Inquiry

Members of the Long Range Planning and Diversity Committees attended a presentation on "Appreciative Inquiry" by **Dr. Chester Bowling** from Ohio State University. Organized by Diversity Committee Co-Chair **Yiping Wang**, the presentation outlined ways for organizations like TNS to develop new visions by building on current strengths. Dr. Bowling encouraged his audience to recall specific activities and times when TNS is performing ideally in terms of diversity or other relevant goals. Plans for the future can then be based on replicating and/or building on those ideal times. Both the Long Range Planning and Diversity Committees hope to incorporate this positive view of planning into their work.



Storyteller Highlights Black History Month

Storyteller Sabina Arlene Barron presented a program on February 26 as part of TNS's observance of Black History Month. Ms. Barron brings a background in education and the fine arts to her presentations. For 3 to 6 and 6 to 9 students, she provided lively sketches of historical figures such as George Washington Carver, Rosa Parks and Harriet Tubman. The 9 to 12 program, focusing on "extraordinary people who believed they could make a difference," included Douglass and Tubman as well as Robert Smalls and Sojourner Truth. She also provided a view of entertainers like Hattie McDaniel and Louis Armstrong who she characterizes as being "misunderstood by their own people even though they opened doors." Ms. Barron's style is highly interactive and welcomes audience questions and comments.

6 to 9 News

First level students are studying the animals that live in the different biomes of North America. Second year is beginning the exploration of various cultures through the study of fundamental human needs. Third year students are creating imaginary islands, drawing on previous work in physical and cultural geography. Each island is designed with a variety of land and water forms as well as the means for its inhabitants to meet their human needs. Soon third year will be researching the biomes of Asia.

The entire 6 to 9 class celebrated Valentines Day by providing messages and small gifts for their secret friends. In Spanish, they are learning the parts of the body. Everyone is looking forward to a presentation by a Vietnamese Dance and Music Ensemble on March 14, thanks to the **Gross-Hutton** family.

Thanks to **Ian Martell** for donating a Spanish book and to Max Amneus for **Rudyard Kipling's** "Just So Stories." Thanks to **Claudia Reilly** for helping third year with their biography reports on very short notice. Thanks to **Maria Palermo, Bonnie Burte, Susan Martell-Adams** and **Sara Beaven** for help in the classroom and to **Polly Whittaker** for donating crickets for the classroom pets.

Kindergarten Thanks

Preprimary Teacher and kindergarten swimming coordinator **Lydia Gray** offers an advance thank-you to parents who will drive to swimming in March.

9 to 12 News

9 to 12 students are busy with research and other preparations for their class trips at the end of March. Fourth and fifth year will visit Cleveland while sixth year will enjoy the traditional tour of Washington, D.C. During the past month, fourth year students attended the Cincinnati Ballet's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Aronoff Center.

9 to 12 teachers and students would like to add to the classroom selection of books. They would appreciate any age appropriate selections that are in good shape – fiction, non-fiction, poetry and resources books in history, science and geography would be welcome.



Photos of Preprimary children on pages 2, 3, and 4 thanks to Nancy Miller

Staff News

Facilities Manager **David Tape** just returned from a three week pilgrimage to India where he visited six states and a wide variety of geographical areas. His itinerary included many Buddhist monasteries, shrines and temples.

Summer Camp Info

Information from several summer camps is available on the parent bulletin board in the Mansion lobby.

Ambitious, Amazing Artwork Awes Auction Audience

Elementary students have been working hard on "Blooms In Spring" art projects during recess and regular art class times. Among the creations which will be offered in the March 1 Auction are a beautiful wardrobe/entertainment center, an "Alice In Wonderland" chair, a horse motif chair, a "Love" mosaic garden bench, a handwoven basket and picture frame adorned with bead people and a Harry Potter bed table.

One of the prime live auction items will be a huge quilt made up of individual blocks created by the Elementary children and inspired by the work of Keith Haring. (Incidentally, there will be a Broadway show based on the life of Keith Haring.) In addition to auction items, art students have also made floral centerpieces and other decorations for the auction. Thanks to Art Teacher **Robin Hartmann** who puts a tremendous amount of energy and creativity into this awesome collection of projects – talk about a juggling act!

Thanks to parents **Shawna Khalily, Patti Walters** and **Nancy Miller** for their help with the art classes. For future projects, Robin needs old hardware, hinges, old parts of radios, newspapers and old shoes so start digging in your junk drawers again.

News From Extended Day

Elementary Extended Day students have enjoyed creating a large “ I Spy” collage from magazine clippings. Everyone is invited to stop by the Ex-Day room and take the “ I Spy” challenge to find as many objects as possible. Thanks to **Beth Powers** for magazine donations; Ex-Day Coordinator **Dan Horn** is looking for more magazines as well as paintings and prints to beautify the Ex-Day room. This spring he would like to include some live hanging plants as well and would appreciate any botanic donations.

The spring Extended Day program will include a special “ Clean Up the Woods” afternoon for students and any available parent volunteers – date to be announced in a future newsletter. **Kristene Templeton** will continue her arts and crafts projects this spring and **Matt Goebel**

will offer sketching classes beginning the last week of March. The sketching classes start at 4:15 so as to include children who participate in after school clubs or classes.

Dan notes that the number of children taking advantage of Elementary Ex-Day is growing. He welcomes all newcomers, both regular and occasional and is looking forward to spring sports and other outdoor activities which work well with larger groups. As Dan puts it, “ Ex-Day is a great place for children to

grow socially, physically and artistically in a safe and comfortable environment.

Book Club Update

TNS Book Club fell victim to the past month’s winter weather. **Robin Hartmann** will be sending out a letter to all parents asking for ideas about next month’s book. A date for the next meeting is yet to be determined.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 1	TNS Auction 6:00
March 9 to 12	ISACS/AMS Visit
Thursday, March 20	Board meeting 7:00
March 25 to 27	4 th & 5 th year trip
March 23 to 27	6 th year trip
Thursday, March 27	Schoolhouse Symphony
Friday, March 28	Staff InService; no school

Kitchen Reminders

Kitchen Manager **Myra Daugherty** wants to remind everyone that the daily (or weekly) fruit contribution is an important part of the lunch menu. Bananas, canteloupes and grapes are especially popular.

Take-out TNS returns the week of March 15 so watch for an informational flyer soon. The program will still offer the same great, convenient meals to go for TNS families with a few changes. Pick-up will be moved to Friday afternoons, with no take-out on school holidays. The sign-up period will extend from Monday through Thursday morning. Also, a monthly prepayment option will be available, although the menus may be subject to change.

Myra’s Alphabet Soup

1 cup onion, finely minced
1 cup diced celery
1 cup carrots, diced or sliced
2 potatoes, peeled and diced
2 cloves of garlic, minced
3 Tbs oil
1/2 tsp thyme
1/4 tsp pepper, 1/2 tsp salt
1 Tbs vinegar
24 oz vegetable broth
24 oz V-8 juice
1/2 cup alphabet pasta (or other tiny pasta)
1 cup frozen peas.
Saute first 5 ingredients with oil and spices for 3 minutes on medium high heat. Cover and simmer on low for 8 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add vinegar, broth and V-8; bring to boil, then reduce heat, add pasta and simmer for 30 minutes, adding more water, V-8 or broth as necessary. Add peas just before serving.

"Life After TNS" Thanks

A number of TNS parents and 9 to 12 students learned about the transition to secondary school at the “ Is There Life After TNS?” program on February 12. Thanks to the following TNS alums who offered their insights: **Joe Bedree, Andrew Whitman, Courtney Giannini, Ben Siegel, Chelsea Borgman** (Walnut Hills), **Dylan Tennison** (SCPA), **Lauren Pray, Brett Rellar** (Clark), **Tara Williamson** and **Justin Cline-Bailey** (Seven Hills.)

