
The New School News

A monthly newsletter for TNS families and staff

Editor: Jill Staubitz

October 2003

Conferences Nov. 7

Friday, November 7 is TNS's official fall parent conference day. Teachers will be available to discuss each child's Progress Report and any other issues or concerns about the child so far this year. Sign-up sheets are posted for all three age levels; please arrange a conference time if you have not already done so. **Please remember that there will be no classes for children on Friday, November 7.** Childcare will be available from 8:00 to 5:00 in the Elementary Extended Day Room for New School aged children while their parents are meeting with teachers.

Time To Visit TNS

Many of our new students each year come to TNS through referrals by current families. If you have a friend or relative who might be interested in TNS for the 2003-2004 school year, this is a perfect time to arrange an observation, the first step in the application process. Our observation schedule gets pretty full in January and February. You can help by suggesting that your referral call **Barbara Gray** or **Beth Barton** to set up an appointment now and avoid the rush.

Thanksgiving

Collection of food and clothing for the FreeStore Foodbank will again be part of TNS's Thanksgiving celebration. Details will be available later but it's not too early to begin checking closets and drawers for good used clothing and other donation items.

Winter Break Care

Applications for childcare at TNS over the Winter Break will be available soon. The program is for New School students, ages 3 through 7, and will be offered on December 29, 30 and 31 and on January 2. On those days, the school will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The cost will be \$35 per day; parents are asked to send a brown bag lunch although snacks will be provided.

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● **Jeff Goodman & Rebecca Arbona** ●
● *were inadvertently omitted from the list* ●
● *of TNS Donors in the Annual Report.* ●
● *We apologize for that oversight.* ●
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News From the October Board Meeting

At the October Board meeting, much attention focused on the Long Range Plan developed last spring to provide direction for TNS over the next ten years. The five key objectives listed in the plan are to enhance the educational program, to establish a solid financial base by 2006, to strengthen the school's reputation in the larger community, to improve the school's physical spaces and to put enabling strategies in place. The Board's discussion centered around the objectives relating to the school's finances and physical spaces. Many thanks to **Eric Peguero Winters** and the members of TNS community who took part in the development of the Long Range Plan.

Annual Giving brochures have been mailed to all current TNS parents. A list of those who have already made pledges or donations appears on page 4. It is important that everyone join in this effort to supplement tuition revenues. We hope that every family will return a pledge envelope as soon as possible. The Diversity Committee is planning a holiday celebration event in December. This after school, family event, scheduled for December 17, will include a variety of holiday traditions. Details will be available soon.

Assistant Director **Barbara Gray** reported that sixth graders from TNS class of 2003 were featured in a recent edition of "Hyde Park Living" and the "Clifton Chronicle". The articles focused on their entry in the National Underground Railway Museum's sculpture design competition. Barbara also reported that TNS will host its first annual Alumni Parent and Staff party on Saturday, November 1. Communications/Marketing Director **Sandy Kohn** is organizing the party, which will include tours of the school and entertainment by alumni parents **Buzz Scannella** (with the Madison Trio) and **Claire Slemmer**.

This year's Harvest Moon Festival was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of many parents and staff members. Special thanks to Hospitality Chair **Joanna Groden** and to **Regina Radin, Sally Dannemiller, Juliet Kashdan and Al Combs and Elizabeth Hedrick** for organizing this wonderful event. Photo at right by **Lisa Haglund**.



"Is There Life After TNS?" Find Out Nov. 5

Montessori parents of preschoolers and Elementary age children always wonder how TNS grads fare in the transition to junior high and high school. The program "Is There Life After The New School?" scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, is designed to answer many of those questions. Beginning at 7:00 p.m. representatives of Walnut Hills, Clark Montessori, Cincinnati Country Day, Summit and Seven Hills will be on hand, passing out literature and answering questions about admissions and programs. This will be followed by the traditional discussion of issues like homework, big and small schools and social life by a panel of TNS grads who now attend both public and private secondary schools.

"Life After TNS" will be held in the Growing Room and, as requested by parents and students, has been scheduled early in the school year for the benefit of sixth year students and parents. (P.S. This event is geared for parents of all age children but will be of most interest to children in the 9 to 12 class. Childcare for younger children is provided.)

October Brings Special Events to TNS Students

Noted children's author **Angela Johnson** read from her latest book, "I Dream of Trains" at a program for TNS students at all three levels in October. The book weaves the story of Casey Jones into the experience of an African American boy who hears the trains pass while he works in the cotton fields. **Loren Long**, a local artist, incorporated the gray haze of train smoke into his illustrations.

Ms. Johnson is a two-time Coretta Scott King Award winner and recently received a McArthur genius grant. She has written poetry and other books for young adults, dealing with subjects like the loss of a sibling. Thanks to **Sandy Gross, John Hutton** and the Blue Manatee Bookstore for sponsoring Ms. Johnson's visit; copies of the book are available at the Blue Manatee.

On October 14, members of the staff at Camp Joy conducted an all day workshop on teamwork, community building and communication for grades 3 through six. After a series of small group exercises, fifth and sixth year students led the entire group in a problem solving exercise. On October 28, a team from Children's Hospital brought a program on Bike Helmet Safety to TNS. Designed for first and second year students, the program used videos and discussion groups to emphasize the why and how of bike helmet usage.

Halloween Fun

The New School's Halloween celebration follows a long established tradition. For Preprimary children, Halloween symbols, stories, poems and songs are incorporated into the regular classroom routine. Pumpkins and other seasonal materials have been incorporated into a variety of practical life and art related work. Costumes are not part of the celebration at this age because of the emphasis on work that children do for themselves rather than work that adults do for children.

At the Elementary level, students made haunted houses in art classes and wrote scary stories which are hanging in the Mansion's second floor hallway. The Elementary Halloween celebration on October 31 included games like an egg toss and a three legged race, crafts and a tradition rendition of the song "Dem Bones" by sixth year Human Biology students. After a costume parade through the Preprimary area of the Mansion, students assembled for the annual "Who Am I?" guessing game. Students submit clues in advance and invite their classmates to guess which historical or literary character they represent. Thanks to all the parents who provided snacks and helped with the party; special thanks to fortunetellers Buffy Barton and Claudia Reilly.

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to fourth year student **Jeremy Siegel** who was named to the Regional/National Men's Developmental Gymnastics Team by USA Gymnastics. Jeremy feels one of the things that has helped him in gymnastics has been TNS's philosophy of "working hard without being scared if you mess up sometimes."



Staff News

6 to 9 Teachers **Mary Ohlinger Pray** and **Stacy Armstrong** recently attended a lecture on dealing with bullying behavior. Congratulations to 9 to 12 Assistant **Sarah Keith** who married **Nick Luehrman** on October 25. Sarah will return to TNS after her honeymoon on Mackinaw Island.

Hue-Man Expressions

**A Community Celebrates itself:
A World Apart, a Common Heart
Sunday, February 29, 2004**

Co-sponsored by TNS Diversity Committee
and Women Writing for(a)Change Foundation

The New School's first **Hue-man Expressions** event, in the winter of 2001, reflected our response to the tragedies of September 11. The idea grew out of student **Natania Hoffman's** dream, in which she longed for a way to express her sorrow and to find a way to help. Natania asked for help in arranging a forum where people could come together and give expression to their grief, their concern, and their hope.

Those of you who participated in December of 2001 remember a lovely winter afternoon, flowers and candles, a display of children's art, and thoughtful, powerful words. **Joretha Johnson**, parent, Board member, and then-Chair of the Diversity Committee, opened our readaround by expressing the hope that the day would serve to "strengthen our community and promote inclusion and appreciation for everyone." She hoped the tradition would continue. Please join us in making it so.

We are recreating **Hue-man Expressions**. The event is an opportunity for you to share yourselves with your community. We all share one common heart and we treasure our memories forever. Each of us is a unique individual with unique experiences and talents. Also this community is so 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.

We invite you to submit writing, any of the visual arts, music, dance, drama, whatever form of art you would like to present. We are accepting original pieces from students, teachers, parents, alumni and staff. Pieces may be collaborations. We hope to bind a book of our collective work.

We thank you for your work. Please bring it to the collection box in the office. If it is too fragile or too large, please bring a photograph with a description of the piece and what it represents to you. **Art may be submitted until Friday, January 23, 2004.**

TNS Hue-man Expressions Committee:

*Natania Hoffman, Alexis Nelson, Amira Siddiqi, Jake Allison,
Marcella Allison, Shawn Dougherty, Eric Dustman*



3 to 6 News

In September, third year students appeared in the 3 to 6 classroom to read stories, help children with their work and provide other mentoring support (photo left by J. Staubitz). On October 10, kindergartners took a field trip to Krohn Conservatory; thanks to drivers **Maria Palermo, Sandy Gross, Brad Pickard, Nancy Miller, Joanna Groden** and **Brian Barnes**. Margaret Kellar has started weekly Spanish lessons with Preprimary children. Preprimary students enjoyed their first Schoolhouse Symphony on October 23. The half-hour performance featured six musicians with a focus on different instruments and their sounds. The group will return for concerts on December 11 and March 23.

Thanks to the **Rueves**, the **Hanleys** and **Ping Shi** for donating chopsticks to the kindergarten cultural geography lessons; thanks to **Kathy Collins** and **Molly Giglia** for demonstrating the use of chopsticks. Thanks to all of the parents who have driven the kindergartners to their weekly swimming sessions; special thanks to **Tony Rucker** for taking on the entire group of boys by himself. Thanks to **Jennifer Adamson** for subbing in the 3 to 6 program. Thanks to **Steve Slack, Beth Caruso** and **Al Combs** for planting and designing the native species garden and to **Claire Surko** and her family for native species plants. Thanks to the following people for donations of materials: **Vicki Young, the Ruckers, Renee Harris, Bette & Scott Seibert, the Peguero Winters family, John & Beth Powers** and the **Ewings**.

The Preprimary program could use donations of rinsed out egg shells, alfalfa bales and food pellets for the guinea pig, tablet fish food, pistachios, peanuts and mixed nuts in the shell and whole, unpeeled carrots.

Photo by J. Staubitz



6 to 9 News

The 6 to 9 class has enjoyed several field trips this past month in connection with their studies of Ohio history and our state's bicentennial. Their visit to Tall Stacks included playing games from the early 1800's like tug of war (photo right by Kathy Collins) and a performance of "Tom Sawyer, an Original Musical." Thanks to **Kathy Collins** for help organizing the trip and to drivers **Regina Hodnett, Bob Jones, Beth Canarie, Helen Adams, Joanna Groden, Kathleen Bedree, Maria Palermo, Jeff Goodman, Bonnie Burte, Mary Hanley, Julia Wadih, Nancy Miller** and **Maryellen Daston**. Thanks also to trip chaperones **Susan Jones, Chazz Button, Beth Caruso, Catherine Domka, Ann Abbott, Ken Katkin** and **Mark Bass**.

A trip to the Museum Center allowed students to walk on a riverboat and talk to its captain, to see a sofa made by the Mitchell Furniture Company, to learn how to card wool and to see what Cincinnati looked like in 1940. A stint in the museum gift shop added practical life experience to the trip. Thanks to **Kathleen Bedree** for help organizing this trip and to the following drivers and chaperones: **Yvonne Aeckerle-Tils, Chazz Button & Beth Caruso, Catherine Domka, Laura Fidler & John VanWoensel, Jeff Goodman, Maria Palermo, Jamie Phillips, Estrelita Powell, Regina Radin, Mary Clare Rietz** and **Julia Wadih**.

Thanks to **Dee Oester** for sharing a Spanish computer program and to **George Wadih** for bringing the class postcards and wood carvings from Egypt. Thanks to **Bonnie Burte, Polly Whittaker, Pete Cosco, Sally Dannemiller, Maria Palermo** and **Ingrid Wuerth** for classroom assistance. Thanks to the following parents for help with swimming: **Linda Dynan, Mary Clare Rietz, John Van Woensel, Mary Hanley, Bob Jones, Tim Miller, Johnnie Rucker, Jessica Licis, Chazz Button, Beth Caruso** and **Bert Beaupre**.

After School Clubs

Fall after school clubs will end the week of November 21. Sign-ups for winter clubs will begin the week of November 10. Acting, fencing, art, cooking and adult yoga will be among the offerings. Other possible clubs include child yoga, babysitting/first aid and journalism. Applications for Ski Club at Perfect North Slopes are available in the office.



9 to 12 News

Thanks to **Polly Whittaker** for help creating a habitat for the class pet turtle, Speedy. Polly is donating a frog to the class as well. Thanks to **Tim Miller** for his presentation to the sixth year Human Biology class. Thanks to **Leah Turner, Lisa Kagan** and **Bonnie Burte** for help with weekly spelling work. Thanks to **Eric Dustman** and **Shawn Dougherty** for donations to their classroom library and to parents who have helped with swimming.

Special Programs

Elementary Art students have transformed a pile of assorted old shoes into colorful, imaginative footwear for special occasions. Art Teacher **Robin Hartmann** will conduct an evening for educators at the Cincinnati Art Museum in November; the shoes coordinate with a current museum exhibit about Cincinnati dressmakers, curated by TNS parent **Cynthia Amneus**. Among the shoe creations are bright pink pig shoes, a pirate ship shoe, Bengal shoes complete with goal post and a red race car shoe. In November, sixth year students will start their outreach project, painting a mural with young people at Light House.

Thanks to **Steve Slack** for donating wood, **Barbie & Jim Powers** for foam core, and to parent helpers **Regina Hodnett, Beth Cullen Canarie, Maryellen Daston, Nancy Miller** and **Ann Abbott**. Thanks also to former TNS student **Katie Fiorelli** who is assisting Robin on Tuesday afternoons. The Art Classes could use buttons, newspapers and toilet tissue tubes for future projects. Robin could really use a parent volunteer to help first year children on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 1:45.

Thanks from the Elementary Spanish classes to **Kyle Costa** for his gift of a Spanish language edition of "Where the Wild Things Are." Elementary dance and music classes started October 30. This year's music emphasis will be on ensemble work, including instrumental music. The Elementary special programs team hopes to develop a program later this year which will include art, music, dance and Spanish.

Thanks to Annual Giving Donors

Thanks to the following people who have already contributed to this year's Annual Giving Fund. We appreciate your support!!

David & Marjorie Aaron
Tom & Marcella Allison
Buffy Barton
Mel & Kathleen Bedree
Jim & Susan Boney
Patrick Borders & Helen Adams
Scott Braun & Jill Baker
Kay & Karl Fricke
Sandy Gross & John Hutton
Denise Jeavons
Kenneth Katkin & Linda Dynan
Michael Marcotte & Mary Rietz
John & Beth Powers
Gregory Sayles & Elizabeth Whelan
Michael Schwartz & Maria Palermo
Donglu & Ping Shi
Robert Siegel & Claudia Reilly
Karl Stukenberg & Christine Mayhall
Scott VanDiest
Julian & Ingrid Wuerth

Help TNS Through Schoolpop

There's still time to earn money for TNS while you shop through Schoolpop, an on-line shopping network. So far we have gotten over \$350 in rebates from Schoolpop - the more New School families who order Schoolpop VISA cards and/or shop on Schoolpop's online network, the more rebates TNS will receive. If you register for a Schoolpop VISA, TNS gets \$20 plus 1% of all your VISA purchases. If you use Schoolpop.com to access online retailers like Amazon.com, L.L. Bean, Lands End, Borders Books and more, TNS also receives a percent of the purchase price. Enrollment in Schoolpop is easy - just visit the schoolpop.com website.

Thank You! Thank You!

TNS grounds and garden spaces look great after the mulching work done by a group of eager volunteers. Thanks to the following helpers: **Mike Marcotte, Bill Walters, Kim Planet, Jeff Goodman, John Powers, Dan Norris, Chris Whalen, Karl Stukenberg, Rich Kagan, Gail Lahring, Alberto Torres, Eric Dustman and David Tape.** Thanks to the generous anonymous donor for new carpeting which was installed this summer in classrooms at all three levels. Thanks to **Beth Powers** for a terrific job assisting during Picture Day.

"Our Families" Album

Even though the Harvest Moon Festival is past, it isn't too late for your family to create a page for The New School's "Our Families" photo album. Currently we have three volumes of pictures, drawings and information about TNS families past and present. The albums were designed to help members of TNS community learn more about each other and to feel more connected to others in the community. The albums and blank pages are available in the Mansion lobby - fill your family's page with whatever you choose to share or draw inspiration and ideas from the completed pages in the album.

News From the Annual Meeting

On October 16, TNS parents, staff and board members gathered for the Annual Board meeting. After the introduction of board members and staff, an overview of the school's finances was presented. Director Eric Dustman provided a review of the ISACS/AMS accreditation process and the commendations and recommendations made in that process.

The next order of business was approval of revisions to the school's By Laws, which govern the functioning of the board. The revisions updated the By Laws, making them more clear and reflective of current Ohio law related to non-profit organizations like TNS. The revisions also moved the timing of the Annual Meeting to April and made election of Board members a part of that meeting.

Other items of business included discussion of Annual Giving and the plans for funding an Operating Endowment as well as the introduction of volunteer opportunities through the Board committees. It is never too late to offer your services to one or more of the Board committees - committee chairs are as follows:

Personnel - **Maryellen Daston**
Diversity - **Yiping Wang and Regina Hodnett**
Development/Fundraising - **Eric Peguero Winters**
Physical Plant - **J. D. Sandipher**
Long Range Planning - **Hope Felton Miller**
Public Relations/Marketing - **Al Beaupre**
Hospitality - **Joanna Groden**

TNS's Annual Report for the 2002-2003 school year was distributed at the Annual meeting. Extra copies are available in the office.

News From the Kitchen

Thanks to **Samantha Schwartz** and **Maria Palermo** for bringing delicious cherry tomatoes to the kitchen. Several parents have approached Kitchen Manager **Myra Daugherty** about adult cooking classes. Please contact **Eric Dustman** by November 7 if you are interested so we can decide if there would be enough adult students to make the class feasible - format would be two evening sessions which would include a cooking demonstration and taste testing.

Salmon Cakes

16 oz can of salmon, drained with skin and bones removed
3/4 cup minced onion
1 tsp dill
2 Tbsp mayonnaise
1 Tbsp lemon juice
1 large egg, beaten
1 cup bread crumbs
Combine ingredients and form into 8 patties. Dredge with more bread crumbs. Heat 2 Tbsp oil in large skillet. Place patties in hot oil and brown on both sides over medium heat (8 to 10 minutes.) Serve with more lemon juice or horseradish sauce.

Calendar of Events

•	Wednesday, Nov. 5	•	"Life After TNS" 7:00 p.m.	•
•	Friday Nov. 7	•	Conferences - no school	•
•	Thursday, Nov. 20	•	Board Meeting	•
•	Wednesday, Nov. 26	•	Elementary Thanksgiving	•
•	Nov. 27 and 28	•	Thanksgiving Recess	•
•	Wednesday, Dec. 17	•	Preprimary Internat'l Fest	•
•	Thursday, Dec. 18	•	Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.	•
•	Dec. 22 through Jan. 2	•	Winter Break	•