
The New School News

A monthly newsletter for TNS families and staff

Editor: Jill Staubitz

november 2003

Thanksgiving at TNS

As always, The New School's traditional Thanksgiving celebration has focused on being thankful and giving to others. Families were invited to contribute clothing and/or food items for the FreeStore/FoodBank, which will be delivered on the afternoon before the holiday. On the morning of the 26th, Parents, teachers and children enjoyed a program of poems, narratives and songs by students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Alum/Staff Reunion December 28

As a follow up to the recent reunion for alumni parents and staff (story page 3), Development/Marketing Director **Sandy Kohn** is planning a party for New School alums over Winter Break. The event will be held Sunday, December 28 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Growing Room. Invitations will go out the first week of December. If you know a New School grad who would like to help plan this party, s/he can contact Sandy at 961-3012.

Winter Break Care

There still some openings for childcare at TNS over the Winter Break. The program is for New School students, ages 3 through 7, and will be offered on December 27 and 28 and on January 2,3 and 4. On those days, the school will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$30 per day; parents are asked to send a brown bag lunch although snacks will be provided. Applications with 50% deposit are due now; extra forms are available in the office.

Staff Holiday Gift

For parents interested in contributing to the staff holiday gift fund, the deadline is Wednesday, December 17. There is an envelope on the mantel in the office for donations; checks should be made out to "The New School" with a designation of "Staff Holiday Gift" in the memo space. Contact **Maryellen Daston** at 861-4389 for more information.

Board Approves Long Range Plan, Vision

At the November 20 board meeting, the primary agenda item was final approval of the Long Range Plan and Vision Statement. The plan details strategies for achieving the four objectives listed below:

1. Enhance the educational program at TNS
2. Solidify the financial base
3. Strengthen TNS's reputation in the Cincinnati area
4. Improve the physical space to better support school activities, values and enrollment.

The December dinner meeting at Assistant Director **Barbara Gray**'s home will focus on budgeting for the 2004-05 school year.

The Diversity Committee is joining with the Elementary staff and students to plan the "International-oliday Fest" on Wednesday December 17 from 3:00 to 5:00. Displays reflecting various religious holidays and cultural and family traditions will be set up throughout the Elementary classroom spaces. Flyers have been sent home, requesting input from TNS community members.

*Halloween at TNS - photo
by Mary Clare Rietz*



TNS Auction 2004 Goes "Under the Big Top"

Plans are underway for "Under the Big Top at TNS," this year's New School Auction fundraiser on Saturday, March 6, 2004. As the name implies, a heated tent ready will provide the setting for this fun filled evening, which will include a live auction and entertainment by The New School band. This year Kitchen Manager **Myra Daugherty** will attend the Auction as a guest, not a chef, so negotiations for a local celebrity master chef to dazzle the crowd with dinner and dessert are in progress. Stay tuned for details in the next few weeks. Art Teacher **Robin Hartmann** is already working on ideas for decorations and unique auction items, which the children will help to create.

The Auction committee has a great group of volunteers, but can always use more people to share their time and talents to make this event a spectacular success. Contact Auction co-chairs **Ann Abbott** or **Beth Cullen Canarie** with questions, suggestions and offers of help. The Business Donations Committee chaired by **Peggy Mossbarger** is already soliciting auction items. Call Peggy or leave your name and number in the office with **Beth Barton** if you have possible business donors to add to their list. The Decorations committee chaired by **Fred Miller** needs indoor and outdoor holiday lights as well as votive candles and containers so watch for bargains while you are holiday shopping.

Mark your calendar for the evening of March 6, 2004 and plan to enjoy dinner, music and the chance to buy unique items for yourself and your children! Guests from outside TNS community are always welcome so think about asking friends and relatives to join you. Invitations will be available after winter break.



Photo by K.
Templeton

The Inside Story on TNS Support Staff

When people think about The New School staff, they think first of the director and the teachers and teaching assistants who have the job of organizing and implementing TNS's educational programs. However, TNS also relies on an active support staff for a myriad of other jobs; many of these jobs are done behind-the-scenes and all are important to the school's smooth operation. This month, we want to focus on those jobs and the people who fill them.

Assistant Director **Barbara Gray** heads the support staff and has done so since 1986. Her responsibilities include finances, physical plant, food, admissions and development of the school, all of which she did by herself when she first took this job. Now she works "in close collaboration with a wonderful staff!" Barbara's background includes a stint in New York City in office administration for a large multi-national corporation, several years as a social worker and part-time social work in a Montessori pre-school. Her son, Alex ('87 grad and newly married), and daughter, Lydia ('91 grad and North Room Teacher), were attending TNS when she took the Assistant Director's job. Barbara divides her spare time between keeping up a demanding 12 room 2 family house, producing and hosting "Women Writing for a Change," a weekly radio program on WXXU, and vacationing in Michigan where she recently bought a lot on Lake Huron for her dream house.

As TNS's enrollment and Barbara's job expanded, so did the role of Office Manager **Beth Barton**. Beth has an accounting background; and, before starting work at TNS, she did personal accounting for the Lindner family as well as accounting of the outside marketing ledger for Procter and Gamble. What began as part-time bookkeeping work at TNS has become a job that, according to Beth, is "difficult to put in just a few words." She handles contracts, tuition billing, payroll, ordering educational materials and other bookkeeping functions, updates the school data base and produces the directory, fields phone calls of all sorts, tends to sick and "wannabee sick" children and provides necessary support for projects like the magazine sale and the Auction. The whole job is much greater than the sum of its parts, and yet Beth is always ready to cheerfully take on one more responsibility. Beth's family includes Wayne (her husband of 32 years), daughter Amanda (a professor of English at UC) and son Adam (a senior Chemical Engineering student at UC.) Her outside interests include classes at the Hyde Park Observatory, the study of geology and fossil hunting with UC's Dry Dredger's Club and the quest for emeralds and sapphires in mines in North Carolina.

Facilities Manager is just one of the many job titles **David Tape** has held at TNS over the years. From 1983 until 1991 he served first as Cook/Teacher then Kitchen Manager and then in the PrePrimary program as teacher, outside coordinator and swimming teacher. During a 10-year hiatus, David managed Mullane's Parkside Café among other things. In 2001, he took the Facilities Manager's job, overseeing TNS's buildings and grounds, performing in-house repairs and arranging for outside services, ordering cleaning, medical and paper supplies, overseeing the budget and generally helping where he is needed. Outside of TNS, David is on the board of both the Findlay Market Corporation and the Aronoff Small Arts Advisory Panel and serves as a trustee in the Universal Light Church. He

enjoys gardening, travel and entertaining friends.

Kitchen Manager Myra Daugherty has enjoyed cooking since she was four years old. She learned her way around a kitchen from her mother and worked her way through college, serving at restaurants in Cincinnati. During that time she "managed to pick the brains of the kind chefs who allowed me to spend more time than necessary in their kitchens." Myra was owner/chef at "Taste of the World" restaurant in Northside from 1997 until 1999. In September of 1999, when her son Ian was a 6th grader at TNS, she took the job of Kitchen Manager, planning menus, ordering food and preparing lunches and snacks for 150 to 175 children and adults every day. She facilitates the after school Cooking Club at TNS and does occasional, excellent catering as those who have sampled her food at recent Auctions know. Myra is compiling a cookbook due out in February. (Advance orders at \$10 per copy are welcome.) Myra spends her time outside of TNS with her children, Ian, now 15, and Megan, 17, and a dog, a cat and a chicken ("not for baking or frying - she's a pet.") She enjoys long distance biking, pilates and hiking.

Anne Daniels earned a BA in Anthropology from American University, worked as a welfare caseworker and was a stay-at-home mom until she accepted the job of Kitchen Assistant. She works closely with Myra and is usually the one who cleans up after lunch and makes sure the kitchen is ready for the next day's work. Anne has two children at TNS, Carol in 9 to 12 and William in 6 to 9. In her spare time, she enjoys home improvement projects and traveling with the family.

Like much of the support staff, Communications/Development Director **Jill Staubitz** started as a New School parent. Her background includes training, supervisory and staff work for the former Bell System. When son David entered TNS in 1985, Jill had retired to become a stay-at-home mom, with time for lots of volunteering. During her 6 years on TNS Board, she chaired fundraising, the Auction and Annual Giving and served as President. After son John graduated from TNS in 1994, she became TNS's first Development Director. This job has also expanded to include writing newsletters, grants, brochures, publications like the Annual Report and Parent Handbook, designing flyers, maintaining the Donor database and editing KIWI, TNS's student anthology of writing and artwork. Jill's family includes her husband (and former kindergarten classmate) Paul, David ('91 TNS grad) who is married and a second year law student at Georgetown and John ('94 TNS grad) a senior special education major at OSU.

Sandy Kohn first came to TNS 20 years ago, when son Jonah Weiss entered pre-school and the school was still leasing the Mansion from the Archdiocese. She notes "while Jonah made friends at school, I made long lasting friendships with other parents and staff members." For over 30 years Sandy has taught and tutored children with learning and behavior challenges. She served as Director of The Springer Center, developing educational programs for teachers, parents and students and currently does private tutoring and educational consulting. In 2002-03 Sandy returned to TNS as ISACS coordinator, organizing and guiding TNS through the ISACS/AMS accreditation process. Last summer she became TNS's Marketing/Development Director with the goal of spreading the word about The New School to the Greater Cincinnati community. Sandy is also coordinating this year's alumni reunion parties and serving as the administrative staff liaison with the Auction Committee. She

continued on next page

Elementary News

The **6 to 9 class** wants to thank **Bonnie Burte, Kathy Bain, and Ingrid Wuerth** for listening to readers and **Catherine Domka** for helping in the classroom as well as listening to readers. Thanks to the **Oesters** for donating Legos for the personal growth shelf, to the **Hodnetts** for cork tiles and to **Julia Wadih** for first level notebooks.

The **9 to 12 class** thanks **Rainer Hartmann** for sharing his knowledge about muscles with the sixth year human biology class. Students have been preparing presentations for the Thanksgiving celebration. Fourth year is sharing their family traditions, fifth year has created poems about being thankful and sixth year is researching the origins of thanksgiving symbols. Director **Eric Dustman** wants to thank the sixth year for "another fine rendition of 'Dem Bones'" - photo on this page. **Robin Hartmann** presented the Elementary shoe decoration project at the Art Educators' Evening at the Cincinnati Art Museum. 9 to 12 Head Teacher **Laura Slanker** assisted her in the presentation.

Support Staff - cont'd from page 2 and her husband Ed live in North Avondale. Their son Jonah graduated from Washington University last year and works for a publishing company in St. Louis; son Ben is a college sophomore studying psychology in Schenectady, NY.

Of all the behind-the-scenes people at TNS, the crew from First Impressions Cleaning Service is seen the least; but everyone feels their presence. Each evening they take care of sandy carpets, sticky tables, crumb-sprinkled floors and paper filled wastebaskets, getting classrooms and the Growing Room ready for another day's use by students and staff. Owner **Maira Biddle** "loves The New School" and says everyone here is "so warm, wonderful and appreciative." Originally from Puerto Rico, Maira is a long time member and former officer of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and a second-degree black belt in karate. In addition to her cleaning duties, **Gail Lahring** helps at TNS events. She filled in as cook one summer, offering beautifully and delicious food. Gail loves gardening and often brightens the office with fresh flowers. Russian sisters **Olga Synek** and **Elena Pronina** work during the day and at night for First Impressions. Elena is also a wonderful illustrator and hopes to publish her first children's book, which she both wrote and illustrated.

Staff News

During the past year, staff InService Days, presentations by each teaching team have focused on child development and meeting a child's academic, emotional, social and spiritual needs in the environment at each level. Those meetings have laid the foundation for the ongoing review and improvement of curriculum design and development, sequencing of instructional topics, academic expectations and transitions from level to level. The ultimate goal is to enhance the quality and consistency of TNS's entire 9 year program. To further support that goal, this year, all teachers will spend time observing in the classroom outside of their own level. Director **Eric Dustman** wants to thank the 3 to 6, 6 to 9 and 9 to 12 teaching teams for their presentations and efforts toward meeting these program objectives. He observes that "their work teaching and learning from one another will continue to benefit each child and each program at TNS."

Kitchen News

Thanks to **Julia Wadih** and **Ken Katkin** for helping Myra to prepare bag lunches for the 6 to 9 Tall Stacks field trip. Here is a good cold weather recipe:

Meatloaf TNS Style

2 lb ground turkey
1 large onion, minced fine
2 cloves of garlic, minced
1/2 cup sweet peppers, minced
2 Tbsp parsley, fresh or 1 Tbsp dry
3 large eggs, beaten
1/4 cup bran or flax seed
1/2 tsp pepper
1 tsp salt
1/4 cup beef broth or "beef like" broth (contains no beef - available at Wild Oats)
1 cup seasoned croutons, crushed fine
Combine all ingredients except breadcrumbs and eggs. Lightly mix in eggs, then crumbs - do not overwork the mixture. Bake at 350 uncovered for 1 1/2 hours or more on top rack. Let stand 15 minutes.

After School News

Members of the after school **Art Club** created pastel drawings of endangered species. Their work was displayed at the "Life in the Maketewah Valley Art Expo" on November 21. Thirteen girls in grades 3 through 6 have just completed the 10 week "**Girls on the Run**" program. This weekly after school club focused on topics like manners, teamwork and bullying. On Saturday, November 22, the group joined a 5K (3.1 mile) run in Northern Kentucky. **Elementary Extended Day** wants to thank **Jessica Licis** for doing face painting at a recent session. Some of the students expressed an interest in knitting so that is being offered as an ExDay activity. The next session of after school clubs begins December 1.

Reunion Reconnects Alumni Parents, Staff

The November 1 reunion of alumni parents and staff was a big success. The fifty attendees chatted and reconnected while being entertained by the music of vocalist **Claire Slemmer**, also an alumni parent. Old photos and videos of events like Senior Project presentations triggered lots of memories. **Patrick Leedom**, a teacher in the 70's, reminisced about the early years when staff members actually lived at the school. **Gerry Kaminski** and **Gabe Blumer** recalled their roles as board members in the early 80's when discussions at meetings centered around ways to purchase the Mansion. Newer alumni parents shared news of their graduates.

Many alumni parents completed questionnaires about their child(ren)'s current activities and interests - some of that information will appear in the fall alumni newsletter. Those responding to the questionnaire universally agreed that TNS prepared their children well. Thanks to **Sandy Kohn** for organizing what we hope will become an annual tradition. Thanks also to those who helped with the event: **Grace Hill, Gail Fiebig, Mary Pat Harris, John Fleischman, Paul Staubitz, Annie Colvin, Gail Lahring** and **David Tape**.

TNS "Skeleton Crew"



Annual Giving 2003-04 Looks For Help From All Families

The New School's Annual Giving Campaign is off to a great start with over \$23,000 donated and pledged as of November 21. Many thanks to the families listed below - we really appreciate their generous contributions to TNS's operating budget through Annual Giving. However, with just 32 donors out of about 120 families at TNS, we still have a long way to go to reach our goal of 100% participation. If you haven't already done so, please send in a donation or pledge now - gifts received before December 19 may qualify for a tax deduction in 2003. P.S. You can watch our Annual Giving progress on the poster in the Mansion lobby!



Photo by R. Hartmann

Mansion Society

Patrick Borders & Helen Adams
James & Susan Boney
John Hutton & Sandy Gross
Fred Miller & Hope Felton-Miller

Friends of the Children

Mel & Kathleen Bedree
Michael Schwartz & Maria Palermo
John & Beth Powers
Joe Giglia & Kathy Collins
Lei Yu & Yiping Wang

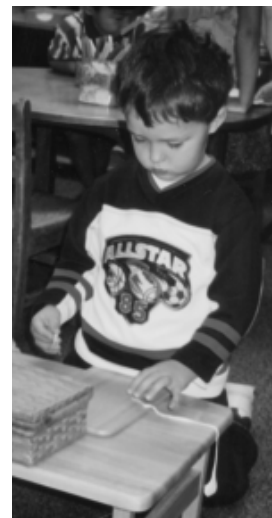


Photo by J. Staubit

New School Associate

Michael Marcotte & Mary Clare Rietz
Gregory Sayles & Elizabeth Whelan
Frank Tils & Yvonne Aecherle Tils

Richard Polt & Julie Gifford
Robert Siegel & Claudia Reilly

George & Maryellen Daston
Scott Van Diest

Sponsor

David & Marjorie Aaron
Kenneth Katkin & Linda Dynan
Andrew & Regina Radin
Michael & Jen Folan

Scott Braun & Jill Baker
Karl Stukenberg & Christine Mayhall
David & Janet Costa

Denise Jeavons
Donglu & Ping Shi
James & Leah Turner

Helping Hand

Julian & Ingrid Wuerth
Karl & Kay Fricke

Tom & Marcella Allison
Matthew & Juliet Scott

Buffy Barton
Beth Caruso and Charles Button

Thank you! Thank you!

Thanks to **John Powers** for his patient, thorough support of TNS computer network. Thanks to **Lisa Kagan** for her ongoing assistance with the organization and coordination of after school clubs. Thanks to **Chas Button** for donating a World Almanac and a Scientific Encyclopedia to the 9 to 12 classroom. Thanks to **Tim Miller, Jeff Mossbarger** and **Lisa Kagan** for accompanying the 35 Elementary students on the post-magazine sale limo ride and pizza lunch.

Calendar of Coming Events

November 27 & 28	Thanksgiving Recess
December 11	Schoolhouse Symphony
December 17	Preprimary International Fest
	Diversity Celebration
December 18	Board meeting
Dec. 22 through Jan. 2	Winter Break
Dec 29-31, Jan 2	Vacation Care ages 3 to 7

"Life After TNS" a Big Success

This year's "Life After TNS" program drew a large audience of parents and 9 to 12 students. Attendees were able to gather information about admissions, testing, curriculum and programs from admissions directors and principals of six area schools. In addition, a panel of recent New School grads fielded questions about their experiences in middle school. Thanks to the following schools which sent representatives and information: Clark Montessori, Walnut Hills, Summit, Seven Hills, Cincinnati Country Day and SCPA. Thanks to **Terry Frank** and **Estrelita Powell** for providing hospitality.

Special thanks to the New School alums who served as panelists for the evening: **Maya Amoils** (Cincinnati Country Day); **Courtney Giannini, Joe Bedree** and **Jenny McCord** (Walnut Hills); **Tarra** and **Kaylyn Williamson** and **Max Schimberg** (Seven Hills); **Teddy Moser** (Summit) and **Sean Satogata, Reed Callahan** and **Elizabeth Erhardt** (Clark.) We hope that holding this forum early in the year will provide more timely input to decisions about seventh grade options.