
The New School News

A monthly newsletter for TNS families and staff

Editor: Jill Staubitz

December 2003

Reunion December 28

Reminder to former TNS students, grade 7 and older, and present and former staff- don't miss the Alumni and Staff Reunion on Sunday, December 28 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Growing Room.

Next Step Jan. 15

If your child will be entering kindergarten, 1st grade or 4th grade in the fall of 2004, mark your calendar for "The Next Step Meeting" on Thursday, January 15. 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.

Open House Feb 1

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 1, allows parents and children to visit The New School and learn about our programs. Referral from our 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. In January, we will also have Open House flyers available for distribution to work places, doctor's offices, recreation centers, fitness clubs and anywhere else that parents of young children may see them. Please leave a note for Sandy Kohn in the office if you would like some flyers to distribute.

News from the December Board Meeting

The December board meeting was held at the home of Assistant Director **Barbara Gray**. After a delicious dinner, the board discussed the final section of the Long Range Plan, Implementation Strategies. A preliminary review of projected expenses and revenues for the 2004-2005 school year was presented in preparation for the January board meeting when the board will approve tuition for next year.

Barbara announced that The New School has received a grant in the amount of \$1,000 from the **William P. Anderson Foundation**. The money will be used for enhancements to the practical life area of the Preprimary classrooms. The Anderson Foundation has supported New School projects for about 20 years, contributing to the first capital campaign, the Challenge for Diversity Endowment, the Growing Room as well as numerous smaller projects.

Auction News

Mark your 2004 calendar for the evening of Saturday, March 6 and plan to come to this year's TNS Auction "Under the Big Top." Co-Chairs **Ann Abbott** and **Beth Cullen Canarie** and their great group of volunteers are putting together a wonderful event for New School parents and friends. Party details and invitations will be available after the winter break. It's not too early to start thinking about your family's donation to this year's auction - tickets, vacation homes, parties, art objects and services of all sorts are welcome. Donation forms and ideas from past auctions will be ready in January.

Thanks from 6 to 9 Teacher Stacy Armstrong to all of the parents and staff members who contributed to her baby shower in November



Elementary Extended Day photo by Kristene Templeton

Snow Policy

Here is a review of The New School's snow policy. In case of snow, our plans will be announced on radio stations 700 WLW, 55KRC, WEBN, MIX 94.1m KISS 107.1 and FOX 92.5 as well as TV channels 5 and 12. You will also receive a call via the phone tree as to whether school is closed or delayed. (Copies of the phone tree have been sent home - if yours is missing, check with the office for a replacement.) Delayed opening is at 10:00 - please do not bring children before that time if we have a delay.

Traditions Meet at Internation-oliday Festival

December is traditionally a month when The New School curriculum in history, cultural geography and the arts incorporates a variety of holiday celebrations at all three levels. This year, at the Elementary level, those individual presentations are being combined into the Internation-oliday Festival on December 17. The Diversity Committee has enlisted the aid of students in grades three through six as well as parents and teachers in order that members of TNS community can share their own traditions and learn more about the traditions of others.

The festival centers on celebrations of Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan, St. Lucia Day, Buddhism Kwanzaa and the winter solstice. Each student chose which holiday s/he wanted to research; event coordinator **Ceara Thalinger** observed that some students chose holidays they celebrate at home while others chose holidays they wanted to explore in depth. With adult assistance, each holiday group will set up a booth for the festival on December 17. The booths will include clothing and other decorations and artifacts, music, activities and, in some cases, foods typical of a particular holiday and will be spread throughout the Elementary classrooms. Parents and students will have

passports, made by 6 to 9 students, and will get stickers or stamps at each booth they visit. Kindergartners and some of the younger preprimary children who do not nap will also attend.

Many thanks to **Claudia Reilly, Kay Fricke, Lisa Kagan, Peggy Mossbarger, Mary Clare Rietz, Sandy Gross, Sara Beaven, J. White, Martha Torrence, Ceara Thalinger** and **David Tape** for their support of the Internation-oliday festival. The Diversity Committee hopes the festival will inspire other parents to make classrom presentations or get involved in other Diversity committee activities; the Dialogue Box in the mansion lobby is available for suggestions, questions, etc.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Director **Eric Dustman** wants to thank teachers who have been observing in classrooms at different levels as a means of enhancing all of TNS programs. Thanks to everyone who donated to the food and clothing drive. The New School collected over 1,100 pounds of food and clothing for the FreeStore Food Bank as part of the Thanksgiving celebration. Thanks to **Kelly Combs & Juliet Kashdan** for organizing the T-shirt sale.

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 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.

Graham Cracker Houses

Myra recommends this project for winter break. Graham crackers make the sides and roof. To make triangular roof supports, score crackers on the diagonal with a box cutter and gently break. Mix up Graham Cracker House icing and keep tightly covered and in refrigerator until needed. Build houses with lots of icing loaded into a ziploc bag .

Graham Cracker House Icing: Put 2 pounds of confectioners sugar, 6 egg whites, 1 1/2 tsp cream of tartar and 1 1/2 tsp water or clear flavoring in a large bowl. Beat on low for 1 minute, scrape sides and beat 5 minutes more.

An Apple a Day. . .

Kitchen Manager Myra Daugherty says "Help! Our fruit supply has begun to run low by Tuesday." Each child is asked to contribute a piece of fruit every day to the community fruit bowl. If you want to make a weekly contribution, bringing your five pieces a little later in the week.

Materials Wanted

Elementary art classes need egg cartons, toilet tissue tubes, newspapers, old aprons for smocks, baby food jars and old dishes for mosaics.

Calendar of Coming Events

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|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| December 22-Jan 2 | Winter Break |
| January 15 | Next Step Meeting |
| January 19 | No School - Martin Luther King Jr. |
| January 22 | Board meeting |
| Jan 26-30 | Terra Nova Tests |
| February 1 | Open House 2 to 4 |



9 to 12 News

Sixth year students did a great job on their video production based on the book "The Outsiders." They wrote their own screenplay, memorized lines and assembled costumes as part of the project. Thanks to Paul Muller for his support and patience in recording the takes and retakes of each scene. 9 to 12 girls ran in a 5K race on November 22 as part of TNS after school club "Girls on the Move." (Photo bottom of this page.)

December is a busy month for 9 to 12 students with the celebration of winter birthdays on December 10, exchange of Secret Friend clues and gifts and preparation for the International festival. Details of that event appear in another article.

9 to 12 students are continuing the Student Board established last year. The group's goal is to make positive changes for TNS community and to plan fun events. They held a pajama day on December 12 and have begun posting a question of the week. They are working on organizing the first ever TNS spelling bee and a community service activity.

6 to 9 News

6 to 9 Teacher **Stacy Armstrong** will begin her maternity leave over winter break. Head Teacher **Mary Ohlinger Pray** says "All of us send Stacy and Cresten our best thoughts and wishes and look forward to seeing her after spring break." **Sara Keith** who has assisted in both the 6 to 9 and 9 to 12 classrooms this fall will take Stacey's place. **Colleen Parr**, who has 6 to 9 and 9 to 12 Montessori training, will fill in for Sara.

6 to 9 students have been busy preparing for the International celebration on December 17. Third years have been working with 9 to 12 groups while first and second year students created the passports, which will guide everyone around the event. Thanks to **Maureen Davis** for helping students make origami stars and to all of the parents who brought in cookies and supplies. Thanks to **Ingrid Wuerth, Kathy Collins, Bonie Burte, Nancy Miller** and **Catherine Domka** for help in the classroom.

3 to 6 News

On Mondays, the kindergarten lesson focuses on "literary extensions" with Teacher **Martha Torrence**. Recently the class read books by Eric Carle like "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" and studied the format and rhythms. The children also enjoyed acting out the story with stick puppets which they made. As a group they constructed two big books following the "Brown Bear" format but based on ocean creatures; and they made textured papers similar to those in the Carle books. Now each child is producing his/her own predictable text book; later this year the class will study and produce their own alphabet books. On January 16, kindergartners will visit Avon Woods for a program on "Animals In Winter" as part of their natural science lessons with Teacher **Sunny Rhein**.

Special Programs

In Elementary music classes, 9 to 12 students are learning to read musical notation and are experimenting with their own musical compositions. 6 to 9 students are focusing on the elements of singing such as following rhythm, blending of voices and recognizing dynamics.

In Art classes, all Elementary students studied the famous painting, "The Scream" and then created pastel versions of themselves screaming at something that frightens them. After winter break, Art Teacher **Robin Hartmann** will do a presentation at the Cincinnati Art Museum on Jacob Lawrence, a well-known African American painter. She will focus on one of his works entitled "Fruits and Vegetables" and plans a tie-in trip to Findlay Market with the 9 to 12 class. Thanks to **Nancy Miller, Beth Cullen Canarie, Maryellen Daston, Regina Radin** and **Katie Fiorelli** for help with art

Hueman Expressions Work Due January 23



"Hueman Expressions," a community celebration of both similarity and diversity is scheduled for Sunday, February 29 in the Growing Room at TNS. This celebration will feature original works of art including writing, visual and performance art. All members of TNS community are invited to submit work by the January 23, 2004 deadline.

Annual Giving Grows With Help of Generous Donors!!

The New School's Annual Giving Fund has received almost \$35,000 through December 16. Many, many thanks to the parents and friends whose generous gifts and pledges will help to cover current operating expenses for all children at TNS. If you have not made a contribution yet, please do so over winter break - we hope to have 100% participation from current parents for this important fundraiser.



Photos this page by J. Staubitz

Mansion Society

Patrick Borders & Helen Adams
James & Susan Boney
John Hutton & Sandy Gross
Tim & Nancy Miller
Anonymous

Friends of the Children

Mel & Kathleen Bedree
Michael Schwartz & Maria Palermo
John & Beth Powers
Joe Giglia & Kathy Collins
Lei Yu & Yiping Wang
Brooks & Beth Ewing
Richard & Lisa Kagan
Paul Muller & Terri Schnorr
Tariq Siddiqi & Elizabeth Clark
Matthew Clemens & Laura Bolte



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
Melissa Robinson & Kim Planet

George & Maryellen Daston
Scott Van Diest
Casey Coston & Tari Frank

Sponsor

David & Marjorie Aaron
Kenneth Katkin & Linda Dynan
Andrew & Regina Radin
John & Suzan Barrett
Jeffrey Goodman & Rebecca Arbona
George & Julia Wadih

Scott Braun & Jill Baker
Karl Stukenberg & Christine Mayhall
David & Janet Costa
Geoffrey Calvert
Richard & Barbara Homlar
Keith Thurman & Virginia Reid

Denise Jeavons
Donglu & Ping Shi
James & Leah Turner
Scott & Bette Seibert
Michael Thomas & Megan Kessler

Helping Hand

Julian & Ingrid Wuerth
Karl & Kay Fricke
Mark & Beth Tracy Kaliski
Barbara Gray

Tom & Marcella Allison
Matthew & Juliet Scott
Jessica Licis
Eric Dustman

Buffy Barton
Laurie Davis
Thomas & Sonya Zumbiel
Larry & Kathy Schwab