
The New School News

A monthly newsletter for TNS families and staff

Editor: Jill Staubitz

February/March 2004

Borders To Take Over

Tommy "T-Bone" Borders has given official notice that he will be taking over as Director for the Day on Wednesday, April 21. He has invited the 6 to 9 and 9 to 12 students to offer input to his plans for the day's activities. Final plans will be announced in a upcoming letter as well as in an address to TNS student body on April 20.

Conferences April 16

TNS will be closed to students on Friday, April 16 because of parent-teacher conferences. Sign-up sheets have been posted for all three age levels. There will be childcare for New School aged children while their parents are meeting with teachers.

Grandparents May 3

TNS's annual Grandparents' Night is scheduled for Monday, May 3 from 7 to 8 p.m. Children are invited to share their classrooms and work with grandparents and/or other adult relatives or friends. Parents are asked to return their child(ren)'s list of invitees by April 15.

Plant Sale May 3 - 7

Getting ready to "green up" for spring? Don't forget about The New School Flower and Plant sale beginning Monday, May 3. You'll find annuals, perennials, herb and vegetable plants as well as hanging baskets and other Mother's Day gifts and can help support the 9 to 12 class trip fund as well. Watch for details and plan to shop early and often

Missing Person

Help!! We have a missing Auction bidder. Jean Calvert bought a man's silver bracelet at the Auction; but we don't have an address or a phone number so we can send her the bill for her purchase. Contact Beth Barton in the office if you can supply the missing information.

Board Prepares for 2004-05 Elections

The March board meeting focused on elections of members for the 2004-05 school year. Every year, some of the board member seats are up for election and each parent and staff member is entitled to one vote. Ballots should be in the mail by April 1 and need to be returned by Tuesday, April 20. **Yiping Wang** and **Eric Peguero-Winters** are running for one-year terms while **Beth Cullen Canarie**, **Hope Felton-Miller** and **Joanna Groden** are running for three-year terms. Results

of the election will be announced and other relevant business will be presented at the Spring Annual meeting on April 22 from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.

The Board also reviewed the Marketing budget and welcomes **Kay Kinoshita's** return as website supporter. The Board continued its review of the Long Range Plan and development of strategies for its implementation, especially in the areas of use of physical space. Director **Eric Dustman** is reviewing the results of a parent survey on TNS's summer program. Traditionally the program has been limited to children ages 3 through 7. This summer, TNS will host a week long camp run by Women Writing for (a) Change and Eric is considering adaptation of one or more of the after school clubs to a short term summer format.

TNS Community Applauds Auction Success

This year's auction raised over \$78,000 for the school's operating budget. The Board of Trustees has approved the following resolution: RESOLVED, that the Parent Board of The New School hereby recognizes the tremendous effort of the parent volunteers that contributed to the success of the 2004 Auction. The Board extends special thanks to event co-chairs, Ann Abbott and Beth Cullen Canarie, for their time, dedication and creative ideas. The board appreciates the work of Peggy Mossbarger and all of the business solicitors for collecting the many business donations. The Board also recognizes the efforts of Mark Abbott, Marcella Allison, Barbara Baker, Buffy Barton, Chris Canarie, Kathy Collins, Casey Coston, Laura Fidler, Tari Frank, Mary Hanley, Robin Hartmann, Regina Hodnett, Lisa Kagan, Fred Miller, Nancy Miller, Maria Palermo, Eric Peguero-Winters, Regina Radin, Julia Wadih and Sally Winston-Norris. The Board appreciates all those who volunteered in any way to make the auction success. And finally, the board wishes to recognize everyone who attended and supported the auction. The success of the annual auction clearly depends on the support of the entire TNS community.



**Celebrate The New School And Seeds of Stewardship campaign
Saturday, May 8 beginning at 5:30 p.m.
Don't miss this family event featuring a
Potluck dinner, live music, balloons and YOU**

Staff News

TNS hosted an American Montessori Society School Consultant Training Session on Saturday, March 13. Members of TNS staff who attended the training included **Beth Tracy Kaliski, Martha Torrence, Debbie Weinstein, Laura Slanker, Patti Harper, Margaret Kellar and Eric Dustman.** Art Teacher **Robin Hartmann** did a presentation at the Cincinnati Art Museum in February about Jacob Lawrence and another on March 17 about the museum's Americana exhibit.

The March 26 Staff InService Day focused on curriculum development at all three levels. **Beth Tracy Kaliski, Martha Torrence, Mary Ohlinger Pray and Laura Slanker** will all attend a workshop on curriculum scope and sequencing in Toledo on April 15. Assistant Director **Barbara Gray** is serving on a committee for OAIS (Ohio Association of Independent Schools) which is investigating ways for schools like TNS to obtain payroll services, flexible spending plans, insurance and other services at group rates.

Martha Torrence to Lead AMS

Congratulations to Preprimary Teacher **Martha Torrence** who starts a one-year term as President of the American Montessori Society (AMS) at the end of April. Although she served for eight years on the AMS Board as a delegate elected by other Montessori teachers, Martha admits that she thought hard before taking on this commitment. As a board member, she has written columns for "Montessori Life," the AMS magazine and is familiar with the organization and the issues it faces. This past year, as President Elect, she held "the understudy role" and arranged the speaker and logistics for touring mini-conferences at four locations across the country.

As president, Martha expects to chair meetings, juggle schedules, travel on the weekends, oversee some fundraising and, occasionally, be "in the hot seat." She has three major goals for her tenure, guided by the AMS strategic plan, which has been in place for three years. First, she wants to continually connect with the members, assessing and meeting their needs by expanding services, improving teacher education programs and improving the accreditation process. Second, she hopes to see the completion and publication of ongoing research about the outcomes of Montessori education. This includes both quantitative research (collecting and reviewing test score data, etc.) and qualitative research (an anecdotal collection of "voices in the field" by an NYU researcher as well as the child's perspective of Montessori principles in action.) Third, Martha wants to promote outreach to other educational organizations, both Montessori and traditional. She feels this type of collaboration will make AMS more open and more influential in the public policy arena. We hope Martha will keep TNS community updated on her work with AMS and we wish her well.

Hueman Expressions

A group of students and adults gathered at TNS on Sunday, February 29 for Hueman Expressions "a read-around and exhibit in celebration of each other and our diverse community." Students shared their thoughts and ideas in a variety of ways. **Natania Hoffman, Esper Wadih, Livi Logan, Haleigh**

Miller and Alexis Nelson read their own work while **Zach Langille and Esper Wadih** presented a crossword and **Arielle Licis Doepke** shared a unity quilt. Student artists included **Jake and Nathan Allison, Sam Bedree, Christine Jeavons, Steven Miller, Matt Muller, Alexis and Sydney Nelson, Amira**

Siddiqi and Kelen Thalinger. TNS Teacher and event organizer **Shawn Dougherty** was pleased at the turn-out and hopes to continue this as an annual event.



Special Programs, Club News

In weekly Spanish lessons with **Jonathan Howells**, first year students learned the Spanish song "Los Pollitos" while second year learned a song about the months of the year. Third year made a "Tortilla Espanola" and all second and third year students made Spanish valentines in February.

Elementary Art Teacher **Robin Hartmann** wants to thank all of the students for their wonderful work on Auction items and decorations. Thanks to **Regina Radin, Nancy Miller, Maryellen Daston** for help with art classes. Special thanks to **Maureen Davis** for help with the Auction quilt and to **Gail Lahring** who assisted with centerpieces as well as the quilt. Robin reports that the Lighthouse Youth Services mural project is completed and looks wonderful. She needs egg cartons and baby food jars for upcoming art projects.

The spring session of after school clubs is well under way with a variety of activities. Among the offerings are Mad Science Club, Young Chef's Cooking Club, Art Club, Acting Club, Fencing Club, Basketball Club, Girls' CAN and parent Yoga.

One of the activities featured in the winter session was a Journalism Club organized by **Ann Abbott**. The group produced an impressive newsletter with articles and pictures on events like the International-oliday, Pajama Day, the 3 to 6 international feast and elementary class trips to Music Hall. Features included an interview with Director Eric Dustman, editorials on the Terra Nova tests, cartoons and an advice column as well as an extensive classified ad page. Congratulations to **Nicholas Abbott, Char Daston, Rosie Giglia, Christine Jeavons, Nathan Katkin, Haleigh Miller and Emily Sprinkle** for a job well done.

3 to 6 News

At the end of February, the kindergarten class visited the American Masters exhibit at the Cincinnati Art Museum as part of their study of African American History Month. Teacher **Martha Torrence** gave the children a preview of the exhibit so each one could design a personal tour of the work s/he most wanted to see. The class had read **Tar Beach** by Faith Ringgold and especially enjoyed seeing her colorful, lively story quilt at the museum. Another highlight of the trip was a stop at the museum's mummy display, everyone's favorite. As a follow-up activity, the children created a mural of Cincinnati in the style of Ms. Ringgold; it is on display in the Growing Room. Thanks to the **Krejsa Shafer** family for the donation of clay for the South Room.

Old Chefs' Club

Kitchen Manager **Myra Daugherty** led the first "Old Chefs' Cooking Club" meeting on Friday, February 20. Assisted by Director **Eric Dustman**, Myra demonstrated four quick, easy chicken dishes with four side dishes to an audience of seven parents. While the "students" enjoyed appetizers, beverages and the entrees, Myra whipped up a butter cake with chocolate ganache in the food processor and served that warm to an appreciative audience.

The next session "Sushi Making," offered as an Auction premium, will be held on April 17 but may be repeated if there is enough parent interest. Future club meetings may include TNS favorites, Italian cuisine and Indian cooking techniques. Cost is \$40 for each two hour session - details will be available soon.

Fine Arts Sampler

For the first time, TNS hosted two artists during the city's Fine Arts Sampler weekend. Origami Artist Jonathan Heart and Storyteller Maertha McLeod entertained about 40 children and parents in the Growing Room on Valentine's Day morning. TNS welcomes the opportunity to share our spaces.

6 to 9 News

Third year students spent time over the past month creating imaginary islands, incorporating their knowledge of various land and water forms. 6 to 9 Teacher **Stacy Armstrong** will return from maternity leave on April 12. Many thanks to **Sarah Keith** who has taken on Stacy's teaching duties since winter break. Thanks to **Mary Hanley** for the Valentine cookies and lollipop flower art project. Thanks to **Catherine Domka, Cathy Bain, Bonnie Burte** and **Sara Beaven** for help in the classroom. Thanks to the **Hodnetts, the Buttons** and **Joanna Groden** for bringing crickets for our pets.

Student Visitors

Elementary students welcomed four Japanese boys who returned to TNS as visitors during March. The boys, **Yu, Taka, Yuta** and **Rei**, are students of **Miyoko Wardell** who heads the Montessori International School in Yokkaichi. Their stay in the U.S. combined time in Cincinnati and sightseeing. Thanks to **Rene Dustman** for providing TNS logo t-shirts for the boys to take home with them. After spring break, two cousins of the **Wadihs** will be visiting from France.

Tales From the Class Trips

A class trip has long been an important part of TNS 9 to 12 curriculum. The trips teach practical life skills and support work in other curriculum areas such as history, geography and the sciences. This year, the fourth and fifth year students spent two nights at Spring Mill, Indiana, visiting Marengo Caves which were "really awesome" according to **Emily Cosco**. **Blythe Gross Hutton** liked seeing the different images which light made on the cave formations, while **Elaina Yu** (and everyone else I interviewed) enjoyed riding the zip line from 30 feet in the air. **Carol Daniels** had fun throwing coins at the "penny ceiling" in one cave. **Brett Powers** and **Jeremy Siegel** liked the "cave crawl" simulating cave exploration through a "really tight, dark space." Swimming in the indoor/outdoor pool and a hot dog and marshmallow roast were highlights of the evening hours.

Sixth year student **Esper Wadih** felt very well prepared for the many sights of Washington, D.C. He was impressed by the documents in the National Archives and had fun using a flight simulator with **Sam Bedree** at the National Air and Space museum. **Stephen Miller** liked the Mount Vernon cruise and he and **Zak Langille** found the Spy Museum very interesting. **Alex Nelson** enjoyed seeing the city lights on the night bus tour and braved the cold to complete the entire bike tour of the city in order to see the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials. Everyone enjoyed riding the Metro and attending a performance of the barbershop mystery "Shear Madness" at the Kennedy Center.

9 to 12 News

9 to 12 students held a spelling bee during the week of the Terra Nova tests, and the winner was **Christian Moser**. Thanks to **Kathleen Bedree** for organizing the sixth year trip to Washington, D.C. and to **Lisa Kagan** and **Peggy Mossbarger** for handling the logistics of the fourth and fifth year trip to Marengo Caves in Indiana. Thanks to alumni parent **Brian Templeton** and alum and former teaching assistant **Dan Horn** for donating fanny packs and water bottles for the fourth and fifth year trip.

Thanks to **Melanie Hauck, Beth Powers, Kathleen Bedree, Claudia Reilly, Kim Moser, Helen Adams** and **Hope Felton Miller** for driving the class to Highland Heights Nursing Home where the students entertained the residents. Thanks to **Beth Clark** for the presentation about circulation and blood types for sixth year human biology.



Annual Giving Update

Gifts from over 70 current families and 35 alumni, grandparents and friends have pushed the 2003-04 Annual Giving total above \$65,000. Many thanks to the following people who have made donations since the January newsletter:

Mark & Ann Abbott

Gillian Ahlgren

John & Cynthia Amneus

Beth Barton

Kerry & Bonnie Burte

Christopher & Beth Canarie

Jack & Anne Daniels

Robert Girton

Patrick & Mary Hanley

Rainer & Robin Hartmann

Elizabeth Hedrick

Robert Jones

Susan Jones

Doug Krejsa & Dottie Shaffer

Neal & Kimberly Poore Moser

Polly Whittaker

Shaun & Emily Wilkins

Eric & Russell Peguero-Winters

Horatio & Barbara Wood

Dan & Xiaojie Zavon

It's not too late to make a contribution if you haven't done so this year. As a reminder, we ask that pledges be paid in full by April 1.



*Auction photos by Julia & George Wadiah;
Hueman Expressions photos on page 2 and 4
by Tom Allison*

Calendar of Coming Events

April 5 - 9	Spring Break
April 16	Conferences - no school
May 3	Grandparents' Night
May 3 - 7	Spring Plant Sale
May 8	Celebration 5:30 p.m.
May 17 - 21	Arty Gras
May 21	Senior Projects, Parent Appreciation breakfast
	Kindergarten zoo trip
May 26-27	Elementary camp-out
May 28	PrePrimary picnic;
	6 - 12 community day
May 30	Graduation

Book Discussion Energizes TNS Community

On March 23, TNS Diversity Committee concluded a five-week discussion group about the book Race Manners by author Bruce A. Jacobs. Co-facilitators **Mary Clare Rietz** and **Regina Hodnett** report that "attendance was phenomenal" with parents and staff from a variety of backgrounds at every meeting which included "lively discussion while maintaining respect and confidentiality." They were pleased that participants could share "feelings, thoughts and fears regarding interactions with people of different ethnicities, religions and races" and they hope these discussions will help build a stronger community at TNS. At the final session, entitled "What's Next?" participants identified actions they would like to take at TNS as an outgrowth of issues raised in the book.

Parent Ed Night Features Arts, Spanish

This year's Parent Education Night was held on Thursday, April 1. The program, "Montessori In Motion" focused on enrichment activities for the Preprimary students and the fine arts and special programs for Elementary students. Highlights of the evening included tours of TNS Art Gallery, a music and dance performance and Mexican treats, prepared by students. The goal of the evening was to help parents see the degree to which the arts and other special program areas are integrated into the Montessori curriculum at TNS.

Shop 'til You Drop

TNS has earned over \$600 thanks to parents and grandparents using the Schoolpop credit card for shopping in stores and on the Internet. If you aren't already part of the program, you can register for a no fee, low APR Schoolpop VISA card at www.schoolpop.com and TNS will get a percentage of every purchase you make. You'll find a brochure in the Mansion lobby with more information. TNS recently received an additional donation of \$76.95 for purchases made on Target VISA and Guest Card purchases

Now there is a new way to shop and earn money for The New School through the Escript program, which donates up to 5% of purchases to non-profit schools. Enroll yourself, grandparents and friends of TNS with the forms in the Mansion lobby or online at www.escrip.com. If you register a credit card, designate TNS as the school you wish to support and give our ID# 1225068, you'll earn money for TNS every time you shop at Wild Oats. If you are already using a Schoolpop VISA card, you can register that card with Escript and TNS will get an additional percentage when you use the card. It doesn't get any; easier than that.

Spring Recipes

Here are some recipes Myra presented at the "Old Chefs' Cooking Club:"

Chicken Scallopine

2 chicken breasts
1/2 c white wine
salt and pepper
1 clove minced garlic
1/4 c vegetable oil
1/2 c chicken stock
Pound chicken, shiny side up, until thin. Heat oil in large skillet over high heat and saute breasts for 2 minutes per side. Remove, then deglaze pan with wine, scraping bits from bottom and sides of pan. Add broth, salt and pepper and garlic, reduce heat to medium low. Simmer broth, creating a reduction sauce and serve over chicken.

Vegetable Frittata

2 T olive oil
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
2 small potatoes, cooked and sliced
1 small zucchini sliced
1 small red pepper, thinly sliced
1/4 c gruyere cheese, chopped fine
1 T chopped parsley
salt and pepper
6 eggs, slightly beaten
Preheat oven to 450. Pour oil into 8 inch pie plate or oven proof quiche dish. Arrange onion slices in bottom and bake for 5 minutes. Arrange all ingredients, except cheese and egg, over onions. Sprinkle with cheese.