

---

---

# The New School News

A monthly newsletter for TNS families and staff

Editor: Jill Staubitz

November 2004

---

---

## \$1000 Grant

The New School has received a \$1,000 grant for the "Seeds of Stewardship" operating endowment from the William P. Anderson Foundation. The Anderson Foundation has been a generous supporter of TNS for many years with contributions to the purchase of the Mansion and Annex, the Growing Room, the outdoor play spaces and much more.

## Staff Holiday Fund

For parents interested in contributing to the staff holiday gift fund, the deadline is Wednesday, December 17. There is a donation envelope in the office; write checks to "The New School" with a designation of "Staff Holiday Gift." Contact **Maryellen Daston** at 861-4389 for more information.

## Winter Break Care

Applications for childcare at TNS over the Winter Break have been distributed and should be returned as soon as possible to reserve space. The program is for New School students, ages 3 through 7, and will be offered on December 20, 21 and 22 and December 27, 28 and 29. On those days, the school will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and parents are asked to send a brown bag lunch although snacks will be provided.

## Snow Reminder

Here is a review of The New School's snow policy. Our plans are 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. (The phone tree has been sent home - if yours is missing, get a replacement in the office.) Delayed opening is at 10:00 - please do not bring children before that time if we have a delay.

## Auction Update - Please Donate Now!

You still have time (but not much) to make an early donation to TNS's "Glass Bottom Boat" Auction and be entered in the drawing for a new DVD/CD player. All it takes is a donation worth \$50 or more, made by November 30 - maybe that Thanksgiving turkey will leave you with a great inspiration. P.S. A successful Auction takes lots and lots of volunteers. Don't forget to turn in your Auction Volunteer form as soon as possible - extra forms are available in the Office.

## News From the November Board Meeting

Assistant Director **Barbara Gray** reported that the November 16 Open House for prospective TNS families was very well attended, despite the rainy evening. Word of mouth, the public program "Why Choose Montessori?" and the new yard signs all brought visitors to the event. Thanks to **Kym Nelson, Al Beaupre, Regina Hodnett, Mark Abbott, Maryellen Daston, Hope Felton** and **Haleigh Miller** for help with the open house and to everyone who posted a yard sign. Special thanks to Marketing Director **Sandy Kohn** for organizing and publicizing the event. Barbara noted that Sandy is actively pursuing other marketing opportunities with pre-schools, Children's Hospital and other community resources. Thanks to **Eric Peguero Winters, Rebeca Arbona** and **Sandy Kohn** for their work on the Marketing Committee.

Barbara announced that endowment brochures have been mailed to all TNS alums, grandparents and friends. The Diversity Committee outlined their plans to support TNS's ongoing program of recruiting new students from a diverse range of families. Currently about one-third of TNS families represent diverse cultures including African American, Asian, Latino, Middle Eastern, biracial and Europeans born outside the U.S. Director **Eric Dustman** noted that each age level will have its own celebration before winter break with this year's International Holiday scheduled for January. The Montessori emphasis on studying various cultures and helping children to become "citizens of the world" is a perfect atmosphere for this kind of diversity.

Thanks to Linda Dynan and Vicki Polanco for their help with Hospitality during November. Thank you to **Robin Hartmann** for working with the 6-9 and 9-12 to create the artwork for the Original Works art sale fundraiser and to **Martha Torrence** who organized the kindergartners' art project for the fundraiser which netted about \$300.

## TNS Parent In News

TNS parent **Brent Martin** (Zachary 3 to 6) stopped into a gas station for a cup of coffee and wound up saving an elderly woman's life recently. The woman's car caught fire after she ran into a gas pump. When Brent realized that she was not moving to get out of the smoke filled car, he reached in and pulled her to safety. Congratulations, Brent, on being able to think and act quickly, even before you've had your first cup of coffee.

## Wanted!

Elementary Art classes need old newspapers and old furniture that can be transformed into Auction donations. The South Room needs bags of small apples for apple slicing work. **Beth Barton** need your current email addresses to expedite communications - please give corrections to her.



## Life After TNS

This year's "Is There Life After The New School?" program was well attended by school representatives, TNS alums and current students and parents.

Thanks to our expert panel of New School alums: **Jake Allison, Sam Bedree, Zachary Langille, Erin Molloy, Luke Mossbarger, Matt Muller, Max Schimberg, Esper Wadih** and **Tarra Williamson**.

## Staff News

9 to 12 Teacher **Eunyoung Kim** will teach in Seoul, South Korea over winter break. She will teach Sensorial lessons (3 to 6), Math (3 to 6 and 6 to 9) and Geometry (all three levels.) 9 to 12 Teacher **Ceara Thalinger** will travel to Spain over winter break with her family to visit her sister, **Leah Busch** (TNS grad '96.) Ceara is brushing up on her Spanish and hopes to speaking more fluently with 9 to 12 students when she returns to the classroom in January. Art Teacher **Robin Hartmann** is showing her "larger than life" puppet Mother Nature at the Kennedy Heights Art Center beginning November 20. KHAC is located at 6546 Montgomery Road; information at 631-4278. South Room Head Teacher **Martha Torrence** is working on portfolio development with a teacher from Wilmington Montessori School in Delaware.

## Overview of October's "Why Choose Montessori?" Program

For the benefit of TNS parents who were unable to attend the program "Why Choose Montessori?" 3 to 6 Head Teacher Martha Torrence provided an overview of her talk in a recent interview. She explained that Montessori education is designed to meet the needs of children, based on the observations and discoveries of Maria Montessori.

Montessori saw early childhood as a unique period characterized by "the absorbent mind" which allows children to absorb everything from their environment. She used the term "sensitive period" to describe key stages of focus in the development of a child's brain. Each child progresses through a sensitive period for skills like the development of a sense of order and the development of language. Martha noted that these concepts fit in with current brain research on "windows of opportunity" for learning, a sign that Montessori was ahead of her time in the area of child development.

The absorbent mind takes in information through the senses so a Montessori environment is full of sensory-based materials. Maria Montessori saw that "active learning" was most effective for young children so the classroom structure allows movement in the use of materials. Classroom tasks are broken down into small, logically sequenced steps, focusing on process and fostering the sense of order. In this way, Martha says that teaching a three-year-old to scrub a table by assembling tools, following a definite set of work steps and then putting the tools away sets the groundwork for a fifteen-year-old's handling of a term paper assignment. An environment filled with books, labels for materials and conversation promotes language development during the sensitive period for language. The multi-age classroom also encourages development of both language and social skills such as helping others.

The role of the teacher is that of providing individual guidance, observing each child's development and structuring the environment to respond to developmental needs. In the area of discipline, the goal of Montessori education is the development of self-discipline; and teachers try to model that behavior in the classroom. Children are given freedom within limits and learn the balance between rights and responsibilities. While they are permitted to socialize while they work, they have the responsibility not to disturb others. They have the right to choose their work and the responsibility to put it away when they are finished.

Martha discussed some of the questions that arose during her talk since many of the audience were new to Montessori education. When asked about the transition for older children, she observed that they retain confidence, initiative and respect for others as they move on academically as well as benefiting from the work habits they learn in their early years. In regards to the suitability of Montessori methods to children with special needs, she said that these children can fit in well with adaptations in environment and teaching styles as appropriate. The issue of testing and grades also arose; the Montessori educator's view is that testing is just one of many assessment skills and that the Montessori classroom focuses on the mastery of specific skills rather than on grades.

Maria Montessori wanted to see children develop more than academic skills and her list of goals coincides with those named by parents who attended Martha's talk. Bena Kallick and Arthur Costa called these goals "Habits of Mind" which are listed in the box at right. The hope is that these habits developed in early childhood, will last a lifetime.

*Preprimary teachers Martha Torrence, Shawn Dougherty and Margaret Kellar - photo by S. Kohn*



## Elementary Art News

TNS Elementary Art students have entered drawings in the Cincinnati Enquirer "Dress a Turkey" contest so watch the paper for them to appear in print. **Sara Beaven** is working with sixth year students on creating Native American masks of their totem animals, chosen after a meditation session.

6 to 9's are learning about felting with **Maureen Davis**. The process involves separating strands of wool, creating a ball with different color layers, compressing and rolling it and then letting it dry. The end product can be beads or "geodes" which reveal their layers when cut in half. (Photo page 1 by J. Staubitz.) Thanks to Maureen and to **Regina Radin, Nancy Miller** and **Maria Palermo** for help with art classes. A big thanks to **Nancy Miller** for donating mini pumpkins for Halloween

### Habits of Mind

Persisting  
Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision  
Managing impulsivity  
Gathering data through the senses  
Listening with understanding and empathy  
Creating, imagining, innovating  
Thinking flexibly  
Responding with wonderment and awe  
Thinking about thinking  
Taking responsible risks  
Striving for accuracy  
Finding humor  
Questioning and posing problems  
Thinking interdependently  
Applying past knowledge to new situation  
Remaining open to continuous learning



## 3 to 6 News

Kindergarten cultural geography lessons with Teacher **Debbie Weinstein** have covered Australia, are now beginning on New Zealand and then will spend two weeks in Antarctica. In January, the class will study Africa, especially South Africa and the west African countries. This year's kindergarten natural science lessons complement that work with a focus on the plants and animals living in the biomes of the Australian Outback, the African savannah and Antarctica. An October 25 field trip to Krohn Conservatory gave the class an opportunity to see plants native to both the African grasslands and the desert climate of the Outback. In addition, the children have been studying leaf types and the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees in our temperate forest biome. Teacher **Sunny Rhein** observed that, at the Conservatory, the students recognized plant types they had discussed in class and saw a practical application for their lessons. This was a first visit to Krohn for most of the class, and they explored both the indoor and outdoor spaces, including the peace garden. Thanks to **Myra Pucci** and **Anne Daniels** for the great picnic lunch and to all of the parent drivers.

The South Room children have made a class book with photos, drawings and stories about the work they do. It is on the top of the "People" shelf in the study - everyone is invited to browse through it and enjoy. In late October, one of the South Room fish died. The class wrote notes to him and made a book about him along with singing songs and burying him in the garden. Children add pictures and stories to the book when they miss the fish - a story shared at a recent meeting is entitled, "Bye-Bye, Friend: A Bubbly Book for a Fish Who Died."

South Room Head Teacher **Martha Torrence** has just published two Big Books with the kindergartners, based on Eric Carle's "Brown Bear; Brown Bear" format. Next, the students will produce their own texts. Preprimary children who do not nap have fun learning Spanish songs and games every Wednesday afternoon with Teacher **Margaret Kellar**. Thanks to **Molly Katkin** for

## 6 to 9 News

Teacher **Mandy Crouch** gives natural science lessons to all of the 6 to 9 students this year. First and second year students are finishing up their study of the five classes of animals. First level focuses on external characteristics while second explores internal characteristics. Third level is completing a unit on leaves, concentrating on parts of a leaf and different leaf shapes. They have identified North American leaves and their characteristics and have compiled booklets about leaves, which include poems and artwork.

Head Teacher **Mary Ohlinger Pray** worked with the second and third level students in composing letters to President Bush with ideas for his next four years in office. The letters will be sent to the White House and the students are hoping for replies. In geography lessons, Mary has worked with the first year students on creating personal family flags and on the map of South America. Second level is learning the parts of geographical landforms and will create a landscape as a group project after Thanksgiving. Third year have created prehistoric Timeline of Life charts and are starting on more advanced study of land and water forms.

Teacher **Stacy Armstrong** is introducing geometric concepts to the 6 to 9's. First and second year students are learning the names of the sides and angles of triangles. Third year is tackling more abstract concepts in preparation for their work in the 9 to 12 class next year. All three age levels are enjoying their lessons in sign language with Assistant **Candice Matthews**. Thanks to John VanWoensel for the "yupik," a native sealskin yoyo from Alaska.

## Dance Classes

Elementary Dance Classes have started, now that swimming is over. Dance Teacher **Jeanne Speier** says "It's a pleasure to be teaching dance classes at TNS again." Jeanne uses the Katherine Dunham Technique of instruction. Miss Dunham was awarded the 2004 Dance Teacher Lifetime Achievement Award as a modern dance pioneer and appeared on the cover of the September, 2004 issue of "Dance Teacher" magazine. Jeanne notes that she is "so proud of this great mentor of mine and I love sharing what I've learned with all of TNS students.

---

donating decorative paper and for loaning books to the classroom.

## 9 to 12 News

9 to 12's are preparing for their part in TNS Thanksgiving presentation on Wednesday, November 24. Sixth year will present the origin and meaning of Thanksgiving symbols. Fifth year will perform an original Thanksgiving song and fourth year will share original writing about their family Thanksgiving traditions. The class will be studying the Korean culture in December and will have a variety of special activities about Korea leading up to winter break. Thanks to **Catherine Domka** for help with Friday folders and to **Julia Wadhi** for organizing Scholastic Book orders.

## Elementary Music

Elementary Music Teacher Andrea Rosenthal says that this year's classes are off to a great start. Each class begins with a music theory lesson and progresses to an exercise, game or song, applying the lesson through lots of singing, playing, moving and CREATING! For part of each class, 9 to 12 students with significant musical experience do small-group or solo work that is challenging for them along with "games" and theory worksheets, while the rest of the class is being introduced to basic music theory. Later, everyone comes together and, Andrea says, "I try to create a joyful sense of teamwork with songs that appeal to all."

6 to 9 students remain in one group but Andrea "layers" the lesson to accommodate their differing abilities. For example, students who are just learning to read and play quarter rests and quarter notes play one series of rhythmic patterns while children with more exposure play a more complicated rhythm pattern at the same time. "They seem to enjoy their respective accomplishments and relish the experience of creating something 'cool' together."

During the year, Andrea hopes to have special music classes featuring performances by the students, listening exercises and other fun activities to break up the routine. Parents and/or grandparents are welcome to join these classes by performing a song, sharing an interesting instrument you own or presenting something about your family's heritage or celebrations. Contact Andrea at [Venusmission@fuse.net](mailto:Venusmission@fuse.net) or leave a note in her box in the office if you're interested. Enjoy music at home through [www.classicsforkids.com](http://www.classicsforkids.com), 90.9 classical WGUC's site for families, or tune in Saturdays at 8:50 am and Sundays at 6:00 pm.

# Over 40 Families Already Support Annual Giving 2004

The New School's Annual Giving Campaign is off to a great start with almost \$30,000 donated and pledged as of November 19. Many thanks to the families listed below - we really appreciate their generous contributions to TNS's operating budget through Annual Giving. With 46 donors out of about 120 families with children 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 your donation or pledge now - gifts received before December 17 may qualify for a tax deduction in 2004.

P.S. Don't forget to send in your child's paper doll so it can find a home on the poster in the lobby of the Mansion!



*Preprimary photos by S.Dougherty*

Jamie Bennett  
Datha Harrison & Lisa Butler  
Kevin Leahy & Joyce Steiner  
Greg Sayles & Beth Whelan  
Scott Van Diest

Kerry & Bonnie Burte  
Ken Katkin & Linda Dynan  
Donglu & Ping Shi  
Michael Thonas & Megan Kessler

Kelly combs & Juliet Kashdan  
Scott & Amy Pugh  
Stephen & Robin Wilson  
Tom & Marcella Allison

## Mansion Society

Patrick Borders & Helen Adams  
James & Susan Boney  
John & Beth Powers  
John Hutton & Sandy Gross

## Friends of the Children

Mel & Kathleen Bedree  
Brooks & Beth Ewing  
Fred Miller & Hope Felton Miller  
Tim & Nancy Miller  
Michael Schwartz & Maria Palermo  
Neal & Felicia Williams  
Horatio & Barbara Wood  
Lei Yu & Yiping Wang  
John VanWoensel & Laura Fidler

## New School Associate

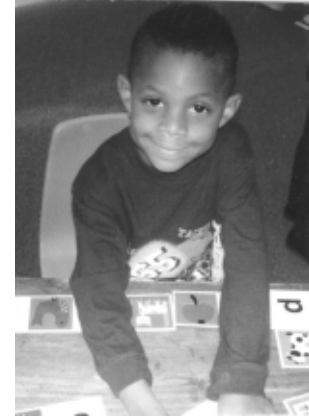
Casey Coston & Tari Frank  
Darryl & Regina Hodnett  
Michael Marcotte & Mary Clare Rietz  
Lynn & Andy Seel

## Sponsor

Jeff Goodman & Rebeca Arbona  
Jeffrey Mills & Jane Keller  
Dennis & Susan Taffe  
James & Leah Turner

## Helping Hand

Garfield & Corinne Eaton  
Karl Stukenberg & Christine Mayhall  
Sandy Kohn



George & Maryellen Daston  
Mark & Beth Tracy Kaliski  
Egbert & Estralita Powell  
Robert Siegel & Claudia Reilly

Denise Jeavons  
Scott & Bette Seibert  
Keith Thurman & Virginia Reid  
Christopher & Vicki Weber

Joseph & Vicki Polanco  
Julian & Ingrid Wuerth  
Jonah Weiss



## Calendar of Events

Wednesday, December 15 PrePrimary Holiday Festival  
Thursday, December 16 Board meeting 6:30 p.m.  
December 20 - 31 Winter Break  
Monday, January 3 School resumes

## Reasons To Choose The New School

The New School has always owed much of its success to its talented, dedicated and creative teaching staff. Here are some statistics to show exactly how exceptional TNS staff is. Of eighteen teaching staff members:

- \* Sixteen have Montessori credentials
- \* Twelve has Masters degrees
- \* Five have Montessori certification in at least two areas
- \* Three have trained Montessori teachers in other countries
- \* Director Eric Dustman has Montessori credentials in two levels plus a Masters in both elementary education and school administration
- \* TNS teaching staff has almost 200 years of combined teaching experience