

2006-2007
Board of Directors

Jeff Dinkin, *Chair*
Avi Brosh
Chris Fillo
Lauren Fite
Nathan Goldberg
Buzz Harris
Hugh Harrison
Sharon Morrill
Joel Pelcyger
Abbie Perttula
Maggie Rosenfeld
Ron Segall
Bruce Tobey
Joanne Van Emburgh
Andrew Watts
Kedren Werner
Peter Werner
Alan Wertheimer

Head of School
Joel Pelcyger

Curriculum Coordinator
Elizabeth Ostrom

Director of Admissions
Andrea Roth

Director of Finance & Operations
Maggie Rosenfeld

Director of Development
Lisa Wilson

Development Assistant
Heather Kallemeyn

Outreach Coordinator
Deirdre Gainor

Office Manager
Mindy Staley

Administrative Assistant
Evelyn Cazun

Facilities Manager
Wendell Hamick

After Care Director
Eva Tovar

Have you seen it?

The PS#1 website has a new look - with more exciting changes to come! Go to www.psone.org to check the school calendar, browse through the Periscope Archives, sign up for a school tour, download an application or request additional information about PS#1. Our Development Office worked closely with PS#1 Alumnus Heston Liebowitz ('96) to give our existing site this amazing overhaul. Interested in being a part of the design of a private site just for current families? Contact Doug at doug@psone.org or call 310.394.1313.

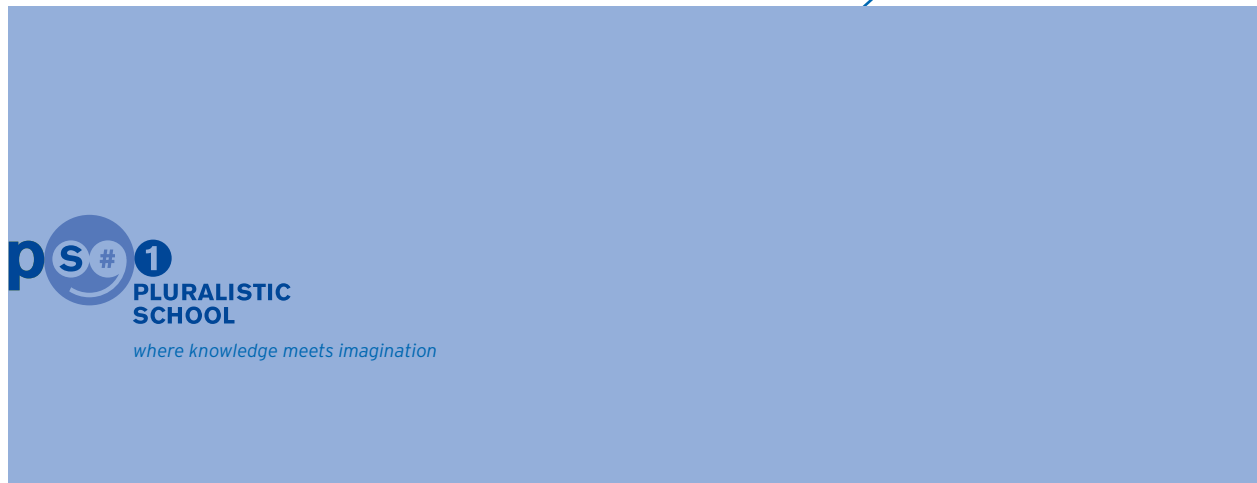


the periscope

Summer 2007



Printed on Recycled Paper



1454 Euclid Street
Santa Monica CA 90404

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mercury Mailing
Systems Inc.

In This Issue:

PAGE 1
Letter from the Head of School

PAGES 2-3
Traditions
Annual Giving Update
psRun

PAGES 4-5
35th Anniversary Party

PAGES 6-7
Curriculum Connections

PAGES 8-9
Alumni Perspectives
Alumni Corner

Alumni Parent Perspective

PS#1 Revisited

Deborah Bogen

I spend twenty minutes finding a place to park—well that hasn't changed. But all is forgiven as the strains of music draw me down 12th street and onto the Field of Dreams. It is the magnificent oak that plays the role of greeter, welcome all, come under my branches and re-connect with old friends, colleagues, fellow board members and the graduates.

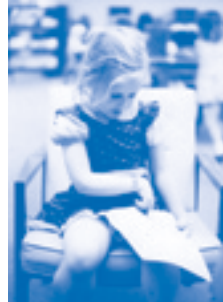
Everyone is talking at once, many are furiously writing their contact information on paper way too small for the job. Mercifully, most people introduce themselves—often with a helpful phrase, "We served on the 20th Anniversary Committee together—do you remember?" "I worked with you on the first Capital Campaign—remember all those challenging phone calls?" And I did remember, I remembered it all. All the ingredients that go into building a community, a haven for children and adults—a place of mutual respect and excitement about learning.

I was happy to see that "door to nowhere" leading off of the bridge classroom will now have a destination. For the first phase of this current building project will be that new classroom. I was a part of endless discussions about the next building phase and now it will come to pass—how wonderful!

The preparation for this 35th anniversary was a labor of love. Jeff Dinkin laughingly said, "Finally, I can see my dining room table—all those photo montages finally take their place where they belong." His wife Marci, along with Tammy Ellis and so many others were responsible for shepherding this day into being.

I came for many reasons. To join in celebrating a school I love, to honor the hard work and dedication of the teachers and staff, to link arms with the other parents and say how grateful we are that we found this wonderful school for our children and to see what some of my son's friends have become.

I loved seeing Susan Madley and Jesse and Lincoln on stage, playing and singing their hearts out. I loved watching the current PS#1 students creating enormous bubbles that sailed up into the sky. I loved the food offerings—healthy and plentiful—everything was there except the "sharing bowl." It was a gleaming day.



PS#1 Alumna Mara Tansman Simon, recently wrote to us, identifying last issue's Mystery Photo as Kim "Kimmie" Burris. Thanks, Mara!

Mystery Photo

Do you hold the key to identifying these former students? That's a slightly younger Joel on the left, but who are the rest? Please email Deirdre at deirdre@psone.org



Letter from the Head of School

You Can Go Home Again



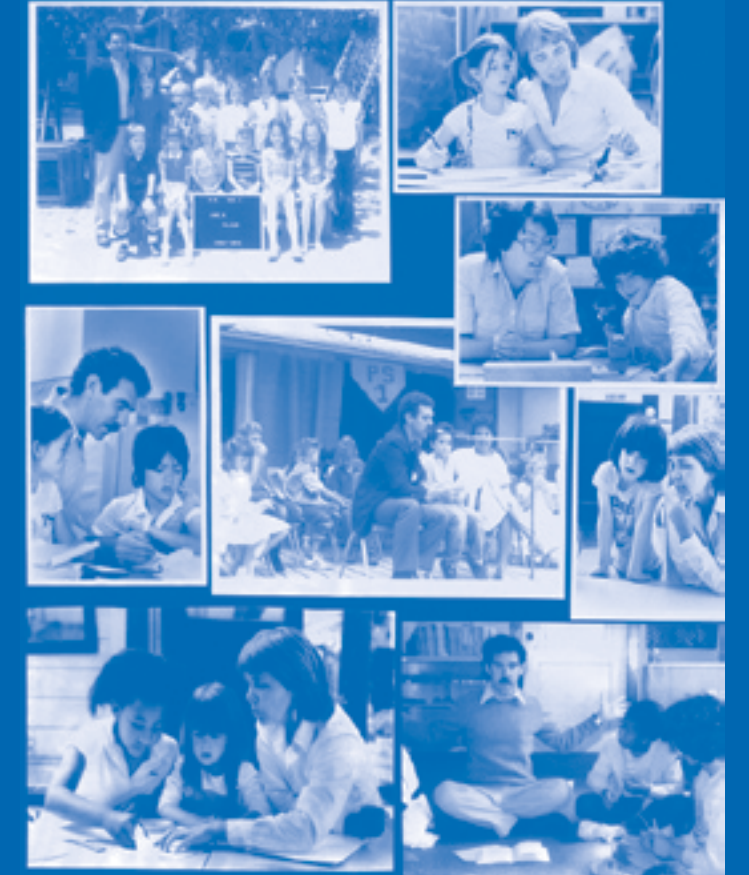
It was clear to all who attended that we are a school for all people and for all seasons.

Our 35th Anniversary Party! What a day! People who hadn't seen the school for ten, twenty, even thirty years were there. Reunion embraces were happening all over the yard. It was an amazing sight! The now 85 year old man (Mel Suhd) who introduced Ellie and me in 1971 so we could start a school based on a pluralistic model of education that he and some colleagues at UCLA had written several years earlier was there. Students who attended PS#1 for all of their elementary school years were here; so were many who were here for just a few years before they had to move away. Many alums were here with their parents. Many alums were here without their parents. Many parents were here even though their offspring couldn't make it. There were students here from every one of PS#1's thirty-five years. It was clear to all who attended that we are a school for all people and for all seasons.

Before the celebration on the Field of Dreams on May 20th, I was asked how many people would be there. I said that I had no idea except to say that perhaps we could expect between 100 and 400 people. When 600-700 people showed up, I couldn't believe my eyes (which were tearing up all day long anyway). I came away with a lifetime of memories that will crash daily across my mind's video screen for many years to come. What a thrill and joint communal experience that we will all remember for many years to come.

I heard groups of people gathered together talking about their lives in the intervening five years since they had last seen each other. The same was true for groups that dated back ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, and thirty years. Teenage alumni commented on how small the campus felt and how little the current students were; thirty-something alums smiled broadly at the sight of teenage alumni posing as adults. Although many former PS#1 students who attended the reunion are older than more than half the current members of our staff, all alumni seemed to share common school experiences that transcended generations.

This whole event could also serve as just a beginning. I heard many small reunion plans coming together at the event. As a school, we are busily at work putting all of the email addresses that we collected into our database. Our new website (www.pstone.org)



org) will soon have an alumni link so that you can all be in touch with each other. We never want to lose touch again. We hope this year's reunion is just the start of many wonderful future events involving alumni.

For a huge number of alumni, coming 'home' to PS#1 meant visiting a campus that was barely familiar. Many had never seen the Field of Dreams before. All of the 'new' classrooms (now nine years old) came long after many had graduated. The current MPR and library were still a local restaurant and flower shop. Even the East Campus (purchased in 1976 and remodeled in 1981) were new to a few.

The event also included an announcement of the next new building in our legacy which will have broken ground by the time you read this column. Phase III of the school's Master Site Plan (after the classrooms and the Field of Dreams playyard) includes the completion of the fourth cluster of classrooms and provides a new after care/enrichment center. When our Bridge classroom was built in 1998, the architects (alumni parents Hank Koning and Julie Eizenberg) included a Door To Nowhere, a design feature in many of their projects. That door will become the Door To Tomorrow in this latest project. (Phases IV and V, unifying our campus with a new library, art room, music room, meeting area, and multi-purpose activity center will come later.)

How did we get from our humble beginnings in 1971 of having just 12 students with six full-time staff people and being evicted from our first building when PS#1 was only two DAYS old... to a thriving school with 180 students, a long waiting list, a staff of 35, and this beautiful campus...with us being the landlords of our own domain? We did it as a community—a community of engaged children, dedicated teachers, and enlightened parents. Families gave of their time, their efforts, and their resources over and over and over again.

Why did this all happen? Because grownups remembered what was important. Education is important. Their children and future PS#1 students are important. Building foundations that last a lifetime are important. Sustaining the spirit is important. It all comes together in PS#1. YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN!

Traditions

Our very own staff and faculty celebrated their artistic sides in front of a full house during **Faculty Arts Night** this past March. John Waldman, wordsmith, read from his work with sureness and clarity and made us see the details living in everything he read. Nancy Reeves smoked us with her set of pipes on "Come Rain or Come Shine"—complete with her Big Band. The creative woodwork of Wendell Hamick, the sensitive photographs of Lisa Wilson, the beautiful technique of Tracy Credle's artwork were all on glorious display. To close the evening, the Andrews Sisters-aka Nancy Reeves, Mindy Staley, and Christina Garcia-sang "Kids!" from Bye-Bye Birdie. Thanks to Elizabeth Ostrom and Nancy for organizing the entertaining evening.

On April 21st, 200 supporters of PS#1 attended this year's **Annual Auction**, entitled 2042-The Next 35 Years. The Fairmont Miramar ballroom was packed with guests having a great time while raising over \$160,000. Congratulations to Steve Reyrer and Christy Full, winners of the auction's \$4,000 tuition discount raffle. That's 21% off next year's tuition! At \$50 per raffle ticket, that's what we call a great return on investment! The most successful auction in PS#1 history, we are grateful to Co-Chairs Mary-Dorothy Line and Andi Holtzman and their team of volunteers for so beautifully orchestrating this vital event.

With May flowers in full bloom, students blossomed into leaders at **Open House**, another favorite PS#1 tradition. Students demonstrated their academic growth by highlighting various areas of curriculum learned throughout the year. Acting as teachers for the night, students led parents, faculty, friends and special guests through Science experiments, Math games, historical reenactments, personal readings of student novels, and discussion of studio arts. As always, our kids impressed attendees with their



mastery of skills, insightful presentations and ability to confidently articulate their knowledge.

The next morning, everyone enjoyed a break by coming to school in their pajamas! That's right, the day after Open House is traditionally **Pajama Day** at PS#1. It is a day when students and staff come to school in comfy clothing, wearing jammies, slippers, robes, and weekend wear. This fun, relaxed day serves as a reward for everyone who worked so hard the night before to host all of the Open House visitors.

At last year's auction, two families placed top bids on a wildly popular Live Auction item called **Joel for a Day**. The lucky students got to act as Head of School, working with Joel to plan and implement an idea for a special school-wide event. This May, Joel for a Day winners Emily Gasster and Ariel, Jacob and Isaac Fenster, organized "**Twins Day.**" Wearing neckties and moustaches, the mini-Joels visited classrooms, generally making sure that the day ran smoothly. Twins and triplets showed up to school in crazy wigs or coordinated hats and hairdos, others wore matching sports jerseys, and some simply dressed in the same color from head to toe. Each set of twins ate lunch together and spent time together on the yard afterward, giving students and staff alike a fun way to connect.



Annual Giving

100% Participation—\$451,000 Raised to date!

Hooray!

As of press time, 100% of PS#1 families have pledged their participation in or already donated to our **Annual Giving Campaign**. Thanks to our **Board of Directors, Faculty and Staff, Grandparents, Friends, Alumni and the many foundations who have so generously made PS#1 a philanthropic priority**. All pledges and additional donations must be paid in full no later than **June 30th** to be included in the **2006-2007 Annual Report**.

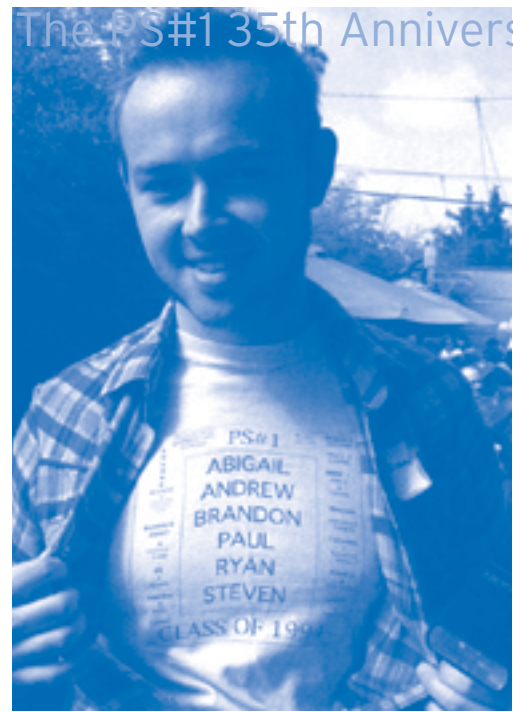


This school year Olders teachers, Billy, Mary, and Chris organized a fun-filled running-walking club called PS Run. Tina Andrews (Makai's mom, L/A) and Olivia Riopelle (Kelly's mom, L/A) joined us regularly and were very helpful parent volunteers. We met every Thursday after school. Our parents thought the running club was a good way to get regular exercise. Many of us looked forward to the weekly fun runs and walks, while others were excited about the popsicle treats at the end of the sessions.

We always warmed up by stretching, which was usually led by a student. After stretching we got into our pace groups and started running or walking around the school. Sometimes the kids in aftercare clapped and cheered for us; this really encouraged us! Our routes were usually the several blocks around PS#1 or a round trip to Memorial Park. Sometimes the swifter runners ran to the Third Street Promenade and occasionally to the Santa Monica Pier.

We were able to get Nike dri-fit shirts with the PS Run logo for the members of the running club. The shirts made us look like an official team. Several of us participated in community runs like the L.A. Cancer Challenge and the Brentwood Run. We enjoyed the racing environment, water stations, and the promotional giveaways. Throughout this year, we've noticed that participating in PS Run helped us with our endurance, pace, and self-esteem. Did we mention that we loved the refreshing popsicle treats?





Youngers



Students Enjoy New Instruments

The Music Program has had a great time using all of the wonderful instruments that were purchased as a direct result of the Fund-A-Need Auction project in 2006. Funds were focused on increasing the number of percussion and Orff instruments. "This year was one of the best," says Hannah Kirkpatrick, "we played lots of instruments like the xylophone, metalophone and glockenspiel." Hero Stevenson writes, "I've enjoyed enriching our music by using the wonderful instruments that we bought from the auction." Recorders were also purchased for the Olders and some of the Middles classes. "We did a lot of work on the recorder," writes Alexa Wilson, "It helped with our hand-eye coordination and learning notes." Sam Gaynor added, "That was fun!"

We immediately began to use our new Orff instruments in Chris and Mary's class in the Fall and learned several challenging pieces of music in two, three and four part harmony. The developed their skills so quickly I had to scramble to find more difficult pieces. Chris and Mary's class was the first to perform a Circle Time using the new instruments. "Isn't it nice to hear the beautiful, relaxing rhythm of mixed instruments? It is soothing, but also exciting for the kids, too!" says Angela Knight.

The Olders weren't the only ones using the instruments during music classes. All PS#1 students got to bang on the drums and express themselves on the Orff instruments. We learned the importance of taking care of our instruments and how to work together to keep rhythms and beats alive.

After listening to a Circle Time of visiting percussionists one Friday morning, the Youngers walked up the stairs to the music room and had a circle of drums

ready to beat! Congas, bongos, djembes and tongs were scattered around the room along with shakers, tambourines, chime trees, and claves and other percussion instruments. Little Chloe Rosenstock took one look at the display and declared, "You've made my dreams come true!" We made so much beautiful noise that afternoon trying out all of the instruments that the Art students below us wished they could join in.

The Music Room is a joyous place to be. It's a place where children have the freedom to express themselves through music and drama. "I like the exotic pictures of the music artists on the walls," says Lucas Haimes, "I just love this room." Evan Karsian agrees and adds, "I like it when Nancy sings with us. I like it when our voices create ONE BIG VOICE." "I love the drama games," writes Emily Gasster, "some of the best things happened to me this year and they happened in music class." "We're always waiting for sweet music to come," says Leo Brown, "so we can sing our hearts out." And Austin Wilson writes, "I can't wait 'til next year!"

And neither can I. Thank you PS#1 parents!

Nancy

Middles



Developing Skills for an Active Lifestyle

The PS#1 philosophy of helping each child find their best self reaches beyond the classroom and onto the school yard every day, when students participate in Physical Education. We have found ways to make what is traditionally a competitive and segregating segment of the school day into interactive, team-building, skills-based, cooperative fun. As children have the opportunity to participate in the fitness activities we have created, they derive pleasure from the actual movement experience and gain a sense of personal achievement as they become more competent in their movement ability.

By starting each school year with ice-breakers and group-focused activities, we are able to assess each child's individual motor development, social interaction style and learning needs (i.e.: visual vs. auditory). By observing how new and returning students play and negotiate game roles with each other, adjustments can be made for each individual child's PE learning plan. To enhance the faculty's knowledge base and stir up some creativity, we facilitated a faculty in-service that got all of the teachers playing and laughing and coming up with their own ideas for cooperative physical activities.

During the year, a multitude of units are introduced including: rugby, basketball, football, soccer, baseball and circus arts. For each activity segment, skills are slowly introduced and built upon until students can incorporate all of the individual tasks into a complex motor sequence. Lesson plans are tailored to be developmentally appropriate: Youngers might practice dribbling with handballs instead of basketballs; Olders might learn to juggle with sticks instead of scarves.

If students are provided with a variety of activities that are developmentally appropriate, enjoyable, beneficial and replicable, the likelihood that they will engage in an active lifestyle is greatly increased. We all succeed if we realize that our differences are what make us who we are. How we share these differences is how we succeed!

So, if you are ever in the neighborhood during the school day and want to see the PE team in action, stop by for a visit. The kids might even let you play with them!

Brad and Pedro

Olders

At PS#1, we often integrate our Art projects together with academic studies from the classrooms. Recently, one of these projects originated with John and Brad's Olders as they took a field trip to the House of Blues to study musicians and the history of music. In the Art room, we discussed Folk Art and its place in Art History before combining the study of Music and Folk Art in a unique project. The students created Folk Art pieces - each using a different musician as subject matter - and the results were really amazing! One of our students, Ariel Fenster, wrote a detailed account of the project from beginning to end. Read on to enjoy a "student's eye view" of the process. -Nicolina

American Folk Art and the Blues

Slow soft notes, and a triumphant tenor sax played by the legendary John Coltrane dances through the classroom. This is Jazz, one of the many musical forms born from the American Blues, the spring from which all other American music emanates. This year John and Brad's class of 5th and 6th graders were introduced to some of the greatest musicians of all times.

We began this project in early March when we studied slavery as an element of Colonial History. From this experience came the roots of traditional and non-traditional American music. As part of our studies we took our own journey to the House of Blues, which is well known for its fantastic resume of performers, but also has a treasured collection of folk art. At the House of Blues we were not only given a tour of the art, we were also given a tour of American music by the house band. Next we were assigned a musician from one of the time periods that we studied, from Bessie Smith to Howlin' Wolf, from Ray Charles to Bob Marley, from Chuck Berry to Janis Joplin, each student investigated the life, times, and music of one of these great artists.

In addition to the written reports, we each created a folk art rendering of our own. We took found pieces of anything we could use, such as old decks of playing cards, feathers and pennies, as well as materials ranging from cardboard, wood, and glass to pastels, acrylic and tempera paint. With Nicolina's guidance in our Art class we turned them into expressive portraits of the assigned musicians.

The end result was that we now have our very own collection of folk art pieces and reports to go with them that were on display at Open House for the whole school to admire.

By Ariel Fenster



Alumni Perspective

Robert Rainey (1983-1987) has a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from UCLA and currently works as a biomedical researcher at the House Ear Institute. He has been married for 7 years and has a 5-month old daughter. He says, "How great that PS#1 is 35 years already! I didn't realize I am almost as old as the school."

Jonathan Sheldon (1978-1983) currently has a new musical project with his sister, Jane, and another singer called The Bloomers, a harmony oriented, songwriter sound which harkens back to the California seventies (The Eagles, Fleetwood Mac, etc). In the film realm, he continues to work with the Polish Brothers. His future looks to be creatively busy, and he looks forward to taking on the challenges that lie ahead.

"I attended PS#1 until 1983, finishing my K through 6th grade years there. I have often marveled at how my grade school years, in that sun-kissed house on Euclid Street diagonally across from Chowder Call, were so filled with wonderment and creativity. PS#1 was a magical school. Joel and Ellie's vision came together with a likeminded staff of teachers, at a period in America that was open to progressive educational ideas. It would not be a stretch to say that my time at PS#1 is a touchstone by which I measure the rest of my life."

Circe Mirano (1979-1983) went up north for college, to study Landscape Architecture at UC Davis. She actually used her degree for several years after graduation; first with the SWA Group (Sausalito) and then with Land Studio (Berkeley). In 1999, she decided to make a change, and studied Graphic Design through SFSU while working in a glass craft studio in San Francisco. Eventually, she accepted her fate, moved back to Los Angeles in 2001, and began her career as an Art Department Coordinator and then as a Graphic Designer on feature films. She met her husband that same year, bought a house in Venice a couple of years later, and then welcomed their son, Soren, in 2005. Since the mommy bug bit, she began an open-ended hiatus from paid employment. She hopes to return to her previous career sooner than later, but they are also hoping to expand the family a bit more, so she thinks she's still several years away

"Soren is now almost 2, and as we begin the long process of his education, I realize how lucky I was to be exposed to a school like PS#1 during my early formative years. The things I remember have little to do with pencils and desks; learning how to use a broom and dustpan, singing with Jimbo, camping up the coast, dressing up for our backyard performances and Halloween parades, making a koi pond out of a bathtub. We learn from so many sources throughout our lives, and while the classroom proper plays an important role, the experiences just outside it truly shape us."

"In the middle of the backyard was a fig tree with a wooden platform that went around it. The figs from this tree were delicious. Next to the fig tree was the chicken coop. Beyond the fig tree, in the back part of the yard, was a wooden monkey bar structure and an area where we would play soccer. Josh was always the best at this. Also in the back part of the yard was a small camper trailer we could play in. Under the monkey bars I once conducted an archaeological dig where I found items of trash from what must have been previous owners of the house, and an old chrome nameplate from a Studebaker. This was pretty exciting to me. At the far end of the yard was a fence that kept the outside world out and a gate that opened to the alley and the uncertain world away from the safety of the magical island of PS#1."

-David Blair (1974-1980)

Alaskan Nights

Bitterly cruel
Fresh frostbitten air racing and swirling, like the swiftest ballet dancer
Soft, but elegant.
A wolf call echoes through the landscape
Bouncing off the mountains that seem to cut into the black night sky like a monstrous knife
A small redwood tree slowly grows and soon will be a part of the scheme
Raging furiously from the freezing Arctic, comes a blizzard that yields to the Northern Coast
Darkness gives way to Light, Mourning the new visitor.

Austin j. Wilson ('09)

Ben Madley (1977-1981) graduated from Yale University in 1994 with a B.A. in History. He then earned an M.A. in Modern European History at University College, Oxford before spending nearly a decade working in international business. He is now a doctoral candidate in the Yale History Department. He has written a number of academic articles about genocide and recently appeared in the BBC documentary, "Genocide and the Second Reich: Namibia." His dissertation is titled "American Genocide: The Northern California Indian Catastrophe, 1846-1873."

Ian Noble (1985-1988) has recently completed work as a photographer for a book about homeless women in Santa Monica. For a year and a half, he photographed the homeless women on the streets of Santa Monica during the day and at night. Prior to that I worked in the family land development business in Palm Desert, splitting my time between the desert and Santa Monica. He will be starting some new photographic projects this summer.

Karine Perttula Sully (1973-1978) attended UCSC and graduated with a degree in Environmental Studies. She stayed in Santa Cruz for a couple of years, working in the growing computer industry. In 1995, she moved to San Francisco and jumped headlong into the computer industry, where she has been ever since, riding the boom and the bust back into a thriving industry. She is currently a manager of software quality assurance at one of MTV Networks' subsidiary companies, Atom Entertainment. During the downtime in the economy, she walked and trained dogs for a living and made jewelry that she sold at craft fairs. She lives in Daly City with her husband, Newfoundland/Rottweiler dog and two Maine Coon cats. They have three adorable nieces and nephews in Santa Monica who they love to visit, and they both enjoy cooking and traveling to new countries—especially where they can scuba dive!

Nicole Bosustow Brule (1982-85) is currently living in Santa Barbara working as a psychologist for the county. She graduated with a Doctorate in Psychology in August from the Wright Institute in Berkeley, CA. She is currently gathering her hours for licensing while working in the county crisis and intake center. Her long-term hope is to work with college students in a university based counseling center, which she has done in the past and loved. She was married to David Brule in October 2006 in Sayulita, Mexico. They have been together for 4 years and met while in graduate school. He is applying to grad school to become a psychologist himself, and it looks very likely that they'll be moving to Eugene, Oregon in July, which they are very excited about.



Roxy Rockenwagener just finished the 11th grade at Crossroads. She is very involved in theater and auditioned for a place in the Crossroads Conservatory, the theater major for 11th and 12th graders. She got the part of Steele, a U.S. Army nurse in the Vietnam era play called "A Piece of My Heart" that opened at Crossroads Theater on October 6, 2006.

Hansi Rockenwagener just finished the 9th grade at Crossroads. He is very interested in music and art. He plays guitar and has been teaching himself to play the drums. He recently moved into the big attic room in his house where he created his own art and music studio. He is an expert stencil maker and cuts interesting images, some with political themes, which he spray paints onto t-shirts.

We try to include as many Alumni updates as space allows. If you were not included in this column, and you sent us an update, please look for your feature in an upcoming issue. We love hearing your news!