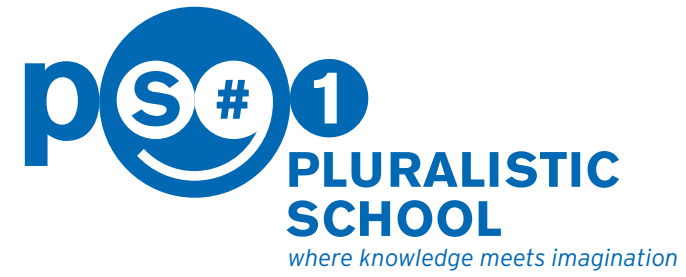


PS#1  
1454 Euclid Street  
Santa Monica CA 90404

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



the periscope  
Winter 2010

## Save The Date!

March	12	Staff Appreciation Day
	25	Open House, 6:30PM
	26	Admissions Notification Day
	29-April 2	Spring Break
.....		
April	9	Grandparents and Special Friends Day
	22	Tour
	19-23	Earth Week
.....		
May	6	Tour
	8	PS#1's Annual Spring Auction

## Mystery Photo

Do you hold the key to identifying these PS#1 Alumni?  
Please email Deirdre at [deirdre@psone.org](mailto:deirdre@psone.org)



Last issue's Mystery Photo was solved first by Bria Silbert, mother of Graham Silbert, who recognized Naomi Nevitt, 1990-97 and Gwyneth Martin-Jones, 1989-93. Then we heard from Kim Pagani, the girls' teacher from that year, who recognized them immediately. Adriane Quinlan's mom, Aletta Schaap, also recognized the girls.



## The Art of Learning



## PS#1 Fact:

Christina Garcia has been the PS#1 Librarian since February 2005. Before she came to PS#1, Christina spent 25 years at the Beverly Hills Public Library where she was Head of Children's Services.

## In This Issue:

**The Periscope**  
Volume 20, Number 1

**Editors:**  
Deirdre Gainor  
Doug O'Brien

**Designer:**  
David Mellen Design

**Photography:**  
Karen Ciccone  
Sahaia Douglass  
Lisa Glassman  
Nikolina Karlsson  
Swampy Marsh  
Doug O'Brien  
Melissa Painter  
Jodi Pantuck  
Brad Shimada

PS#1  
1454 Euclid Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90404  
310 394 1313 Tel  
310 395 1093 Fax  
www.psone.org

Printed on recycled paper

**PAGE 1**  
Head's Column

**PAGES 2-3**  
Itty Bitty Art Sale  
Environmental Club  
Dishiversity Day  
Campfire Sing-a-Long  
Clubs Progrm  
In Our Family  
Pluralism Circle

**PAGES 4-7**  
Curriculum Connections  
The Art of Learning

**PAGES 8-9**  
Alumni Corner

**PAGE 10**  
Mystery Photo  
PS#1 Fact  
Save the Date

## Letter to the Editor

Mary Garvey, (Mother of Harry L/L and Ned T/M) wrote:

Joel,

I've got to start keeping a record of these things...

The song "my wish" came on the radio and the line "your dreams stay big and your worries stay small" played. Harry said, "That's PS#1's motto."

Keep up the good work,  
Mary

**'81**

The PS#1 photo archives are very, very slim for the years 1981-82, and 1982-83. We're sending out a call to families who were enrolled during those years whose children were in classes with Abbie, Leslie, Joel and Ellie. Jim Cantor taught music, put on productions and coordinated after school activities. In 1981 we opened our enrollment to sixth grade and in 1982 we remodeled the old nursery school building (a house!) we had occupied for several years and built a new building now known as our East Campus.

These two school years, 1981-82 and 1982-83 were an ending and a beginning. We should have more of a photo record of them than we have. Please contact Ellie Pelcyger (Ellie@psone.org) or mail your labeled copies to us at the school.

**'83**

## Head's Column

# PELCYGER

## Kobe and Me

I know how Kobe Bryant and Phil Jackson must feel. No really, bear with me for a moment. As I write this column, Kobe and Phil have just this week established records for most points ever scored by a basketball player in a Los Angeles Lakers uniform and most wins by a Lakers' coach in history, respectively. (I feel I can call him Phil as we are almost related since my cousin's step-son married Phil's daughter so we both love the same people—you have to admit that it doesn't get much closer than that!!)

And I am, to my knowledge, the longest serving Founding Head of an independent school in California. To what do I attribute being able to achieve such a record? Stubbornness, persistence, a desire to keep trying until I get it right, age, the passage of time. Also the willingness of others to put up with me, single-mindedness, a supportive family, an unwillingness to stay down for very long, perseverance, and a desire for perfection.

And youth—Kobe started playing professional basketball at age 19; I started PS#1 when I was 24. (And 24 is Kobe's uniform number - wow - how about that - maybe it is not just a coincidence that Kobe, Phil, and I share so much after all, but rather that it was meant to be, especially since Kobe changed his number from 8 to 24 in mid-career, perhaps knowing full well that I could not have started PS#1 when I was only eight.)

Seriously, what a ride it has been. I have probably been thinking about career and records a lot lately because I have received five pamphlets in just the past two weeks from independent schools in California that I respect about the pending retirement of their Heads of School after several or many years of service. Most Heads of Schools do not accomplish what they do serving just one school as I have. The average length of service of School Heads at one independent school is apparently seven years according to National Association of Independent Schools statistics. For some, their careers often resemble a game of musical chairs, moving from one school to another after working to improve the lot of a school and then passing on the torch to someone

else. Obviously that has not been my career path.

PS#1 is my life's work, not just my career. I started with a dream, and have seen that dream morph into my dream and that of others - how to create and sustain the best possible elementary school experience for young children and their families.

I work hard so many hours every day because I believe in what we do, in the system we have created, in the people we have attracted, and in the children we have 'produced.' I have also worked hard the past ten years or so to help establish PS#1's reputation in the larger educational community so that the school we have built together will continue to thrive many years after you and I are no longer visible on campus every day. Together we have established a legacy of success.

But wait - perhaps I have spent too much time reading other Heads' farewell writings. I have absolutely no intention of slowing down. I am asked each year by parents who are applying for their children to attend PS#1 how much longer I will stay at PS#1. I answer them all the same - I have no idea, because I have never given any thought to retirement. Unlike an athlete, the skills in running a school do not decrease over time; rather maturity and experience and building one strong secure institution with a single-minded purpose allows me to help us refine our strengths and make us a little better every year.

Actually, I am looking forward to celebrating with all of you PS#1's upcoming 40th anniversary in 2012. And then our 50th Anniversary ten years thereafter. Who knows? There may come a time when I close in on Vin Scully's record - he begins his 61st year as the broadcast voice of the Dodgers in another month. All I can say is once Vinnie decides to retire, he can look over his shoulder and see me gaining on him. After all, records are made to be broken!



## Pluralism Circle

For the second year in a row, to honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day, faculty and administrators performed original vignettes depicting civil rights events that have shaped our country. Last year, it was the Rosa Parks story. This year, our Bridge teacher Billy wrote of episodes in the life of Cesar Chavez, whose non-violent actions drew attention to the plight of migrant workers. The visual experience of learning through drama provoked further discussion on civil rights and supported the PS#1 core social studies values of social justice, pluralism, community awareness, and identity.



## Environmental Club

Daily low-waste lunches are a desired goal of the entire community, so our student members of the Environmental Club took it upon themselves to conduct an interactive activity as a demonstration of the definition of low-waste lunches and the sorting of trash. Environmental Club members helped each class sort their lunch waste into 3 piles, garbage, recyclables and reusable containers. On the whole they determined that our school is doing a good job at bringing low-waste lunches. Reusable containers and utensils, cloth napkins, and the proper amount of food are some of the factors contributing to low waste. Everyday is a low-waste day at PS#1!



## Dishiversity Day

How great was it that we got to hear our very own PS#1 chorus perform, share stories with members of the Memoir Club, and get to dance along with some great performers? Sampling food from around the world, music and dance from a multitude of genres, and stories that span generations is what Dishiversity at PS#1 is all about.



## Campfire Sing-a-Long

Families convened for hotdogs at sunset. As darkness came upon the yard, a fire pit lit the skies and announced the beginning of the Common Ground Sing-a-Long. Bodies large and small swayed to the tunes of Woody Guthrie folk songs and Beatles favorites, while roasting marshmallows for a memorable urban campfire experience.



## In Our Family

"In Our Family," a touring photo-text exhibit by Family Diversity Project of Amherst, Massachusetts was on display for the PS#1 community during the month of December. Brought to us through the efforts of the PS#1 Faculty Diversity Committee, the exhibit's purpose was to stimulate meaningful dialogue and present opportunity for building understanding, admiration, and appreciation of differences. Throughout the duration of the exhibit, students participated in age level appropriate curricular activities addressing our Social Studies core values of pluralism and community awareness. In separate programs, parent and visitor audiences challenged their own tendencies to stereotype, forging new outlooks.



## Itty Bitty Art Sale

Our Second Annual Itty Bitty Art Sale was a huge success thanks to the outstanding art donated by artists from all over the world. The word has spread and we had alumni, current families and non-PS#1 related people come to see the art and buy for their collections. The live music provided by Lisle Leete, Jaime Estes and Tom Freund sparked everyone's imaginations and emotions. The whole event was spearheaded and organized by current parents Bear Verburgt, Swampy Marsh, and Amber Valletta. They did an outstanding job with the help of many wonderful volunteers.

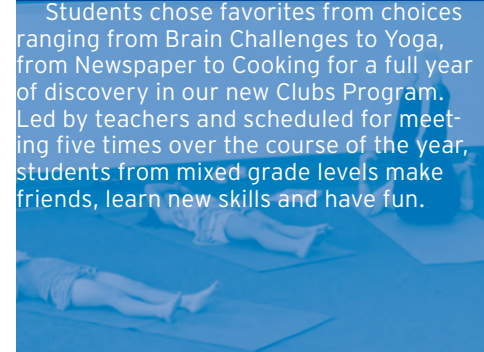
Artists, start imagining your newest creations for next year's Third Annual Itty Bitty Art Sale. Go to [IttyBittyArt.org](http://IttyBittyArt.org) to see the art.



# Traditions, Old... and New...

## Clubs Program

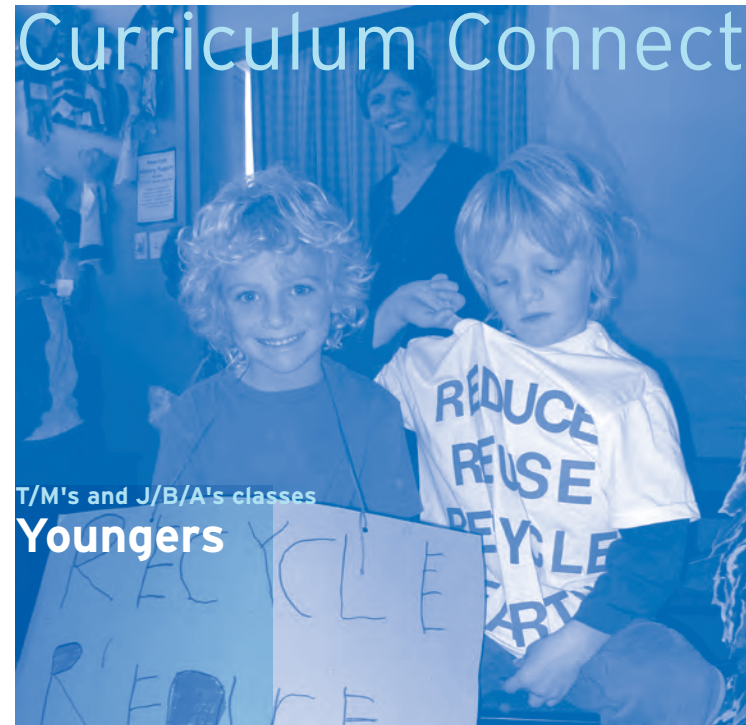
Students chose favorites from choices ranging from Brain Challenges to Yoga, from Newspaper to Cooking for a full year of discovery in our new Clubs Program. Led by teachers and scheduled for meeting five times over the course of the year, students from mixed grade levels make friends, learn new skills and have fun.



# Curriculum Connections

T/M's and J/B/A's classes

## Youngers



L/H's and A/B's classes

## Bridge



L/L's and H/K's classes

## Middles



J/C's and B/H's classes

## Olders



# The Art of Learning

Having recently completed a life science study of taking care of our earth, TM's class painted watercolors that went with the words to Louis Armstrong's "It's a Wonderful World." Dressed as gardeners, recycling bins, the earth, and more, the children sang a song called "Working on the Trash" to teach the audience about the three Rs - reducing, reusing, and recycling.

"Me and My Family" was a social studies topic in JBA. First, we made pen and watercolor self-portraits, inspired by the book *Elmer* by David McKee, where a multi-colored elephant learns to appreciate his distinctive features. Second, we did research about the origin of their names. Third, they created chalk pastel family portraits. Fourth, the students put together a family album page. Each unique page reflects their family's personality, and is bound into a class book, revealing an exceptional set of families.

LH's class discovers secrets of the plant kingdom: A visit to the Huntington Gardens allowed the class to identify a variety of commonly used plants such as cotton, rosemary, lavender, aloe vera, and mint. Back at school in our garden, students weed and aerate the soil in our plot and sow seeds for green onions and radishes. They dissected and identified the various parts of many seeds. In reading the story *A Seed is Sleepy* by Dianna Aston they learned that some seeds can travel miles away from their mother plant and some can weigh up to 60 pounds! Then each child took on the role of a seed; helping to choreograph a dance based on the verses in the story while Kirstina, our music specialist, composed music to go with the movements. In art, the students created a headpiece inspired by their seed. It was a fusion between science, literature, social studies, art, music, movement, and drama. The conclusion was a delightful Circle Time performance.

AB Bridge students found that humor makes the learning easy. Do you know why fish always know how much they weigh? It is because they have their own scales.

Having our students participate in the performing arts is a creative and lively way for them to effectively learn material from the curriculum. Recently, our students sang songs, shared jokes as stand-up comedians, and performed skits about ocean life in front of the school community. During the unit on oceanography, they studied about the different characteristics of fish and the unique features of marine animals. They were also inspired after viewing the three-dimensional IMAX movie, *Under the Sea*. As we prepared for our class performance, students reinforced their learning by creating funny jokes about ocean life, rehearsing songs like *Octopus's Garden*, *Ocean Commotion* and *Splishin' Splashin'* with the music teacher, and acting out humorous skits.

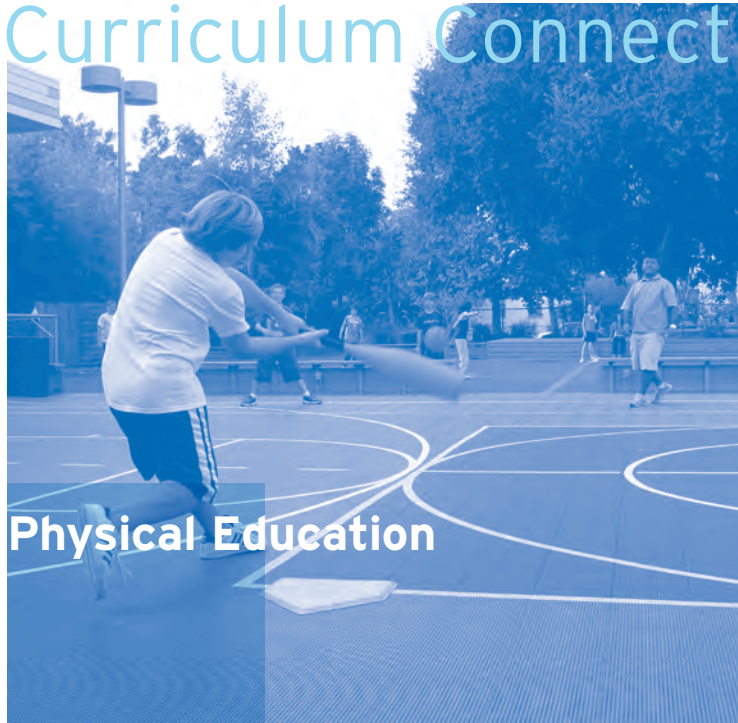


In Science each student researched an individual biome, its unique climate, flora and fauna. They used their research to make an artistic interpretation of their biome constructed inside a shoe-box. Cotton snow, tin foil icicles, real leaves, sand, cacti and a bit of creative license helped bring these mini-environments to life. As part of the Middles social studies curriculum on the Depression, the students embarked on a unique collaboration between in-class curriculum and art. They studied several Works Progress Administration (WPA) murals and paintings located in Santa Monica, learning how these particular artworks provide a narrative as the main element. From this, the Cluster will develop a WPA inspired mural that is based on the kids' inspiration and knowledge of the Depression. Lina will help everyone bring this mural to completion later this year. LL's class also brought this era to life by singing original songs and performing a play set in the Great Depression.

The arts brought Homer's *Odyssey* to life as students created movies, animations, or PowerPoint presentations to teach their classmates about a section of the story. Students made sculptures of body parts and paintings of cells as they explored new concepts in science. In math they drew pictures to solve problems and even acted out the relationship between integers. They also used their personal textbook as a place to marry writing to image, and where they create a keepsake of the curriculum, as it exists through artistic expression. Finally, there is no better way to study the language of Shakespeare than to act it out. The Olders cluster is looking forward to performing their second annual Shakespeare festival in the spring.



# Curriculum Connections



Physical Education



T/B's and J/B/A's classes  
Library



T/B's and J/B/A's classes  
Music Room



Art Room

# The Art of Learning

Don't tell the kids, but juggling isn't just a circus act. It demands concentration, patience, eye-hand coordination, and core strength. Likewise, lessons using different size, shape and weight of manipulative accessories require skills of focused grasp, timed release and spatial awareness. Hoops, plastic rings, squishy balls, ribbons, beanbags, and peacock feathers - this isn't your father's PE class! Parachutes, beanbags, scooters, are all used in activities to develop the gross and fine motor control to support writing, posture and coordination. These activities challenge the cognitive skills of children as well as their physical skills.



Since L/L's Circle time was about the Dust Bowl, I wanted the Youngers, as audience, to bring some understanding about this era to the performance. The Youngers shared the poetry of Woody Guthrie's lyrics: "Bling, blang, hammer with my hammer. Zing-o, zang-o cutting with my saw." To see what life would have looked like during the 1930's, I shared *The Little House*, written and illustrated by Virginia Lee Burton. This children's classic is also about preservation and conservation and history, and is an engrossing and endearing experience for the children as well. "This Little House shall never be sold for gold or silver and she will live to see our great-great-grandchildren's great-great-grandchildren living in her."



The Music Room adds rhyme and reason to the classroom curriculum.

Youngers develop fine motor skills on the Orff instruments and through their rhythmic gyrations choreographed to complement catchy tunes. In the Bridge, sowing and growing is experienced through jingles and rhymes attached to catchy tunes. Middles are moved by the melodies of the Great Depression through Woody Guthrie songs and the FDR campaign lyrics "Happy Days are Here Again." The students have learned not only factual information about the Depression era, but some of the feelings and sentiments of that time, as they sing these authentic songs.



The Art Room is an extension of each classroom. Projects are purposely designed to have direct connection with core curriculum, enhancing the learning experience and reinforcing the content by utilizing tactile and aesthetic modalities.

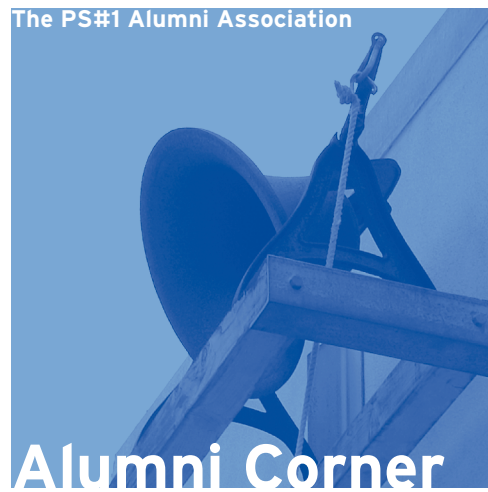
For Youngers, the Art Room became a geometry lab of lines, shapes and forms in nature intensified through the inspiration of impressionist Claude Monet's garden, plants and insects.

In LH Bridge, magnificent seed and flower hats were made during art class while the home classroom conducted an in-depth study of seeds and flowers. The students were introduced to several of Georgia O'Keeffe's paintings, which served as inspiration for the project.

AB Bridge created sea-inspired clay reliefs as part of an extensive study of marine wildlife in their home classroom. This project allowed students to use reverse thinking since everything carved into the clay would turn out reversed in the final artwork.

As any Middles student can explain to you, a biome is a place on earth that has the same climate, plant life and animal life over a large area of land. Each earth-loving student collected special materials and carefully decorated and/or painted a shoebox with colors that reflect the type of climate. This project reinforced the interconnectedness of all living creatures.

Olders students designed 3-D multi-media sculptures inspired by their Human Body unit of the science curriculum. Sculptures could reflect a specific purpose or just be a metaphor for the Human Body. Free-form cell collages were inspired by the cell study in the Olders classes. Students went beyond the confines of scientific cell structure to produce artistic images on wood canvases.



# Alumni Corner



Cody Dashiell-Earp's wedding, June 27, 2009. L to R: Colin Jennings '97, Katie Chun '00, Cody Dashiell-Earp '96, and Adriane Quinlan '96.

### Adriane Quinlan (1990-96)

After spending a year in Beijing, China I moved back to New York, where I work as a blogger for an MTV website that focuses on global pop culture. I'm trying to write as much as I can—nonfiction and fiction, which is all thanks to Barbara, PS#1's incredible poetry teacher. I am still close with Cody Dashiell-Earp and was ecstatic to have been asked to read a poem at her wedding.



### Jenny Astman Pozen (1975-79)

We caught up with Jenny Astman on the occasion of her brother Joel's engagement party. Jenny and Phil's three year old, Raphael, is in preschool, and Jenny is expecting another child in June. She's an avid runner, a professional massage therapist, and she's been a birth doula for 10 or 15 years. They live in Santa Monica and her husband, Phil, works in health care merchant services. Jenny and Corinne Clifford (Coco Weinraub) were in touch this fall after Corinne visited PS#1, reminiscing about playdates and all the guinea pigs, rabbits and hamsters at Coco's house. And then there were the old boyfriends: Andy Blumberg and Mike Stewart, where are you?

### Jim Starr (1985-1992)

Jim Starr has opened a new restaurant in Los Angeles that has received rave reviews. Famous food critic Jonathan Gold devoted a long review to *The Golden State*, 426 N Fairfax Ave, in the May 13, 2009 *LA Weekly*, in which he said: "One thing is certain: The burger, ... is among the best in Los Angeles."

Jim writes us about his new endeavor: "I went to UCSB for college and studied abroad for a year in Padova, Italy. The year in Italy was inspiring and made me realize how important food is and what a beautiful tool it can be for bringing people together and celebrating life. ...my wife, Mollie, was very instrumental in the planning process, helped work in the restaurant for the first few months, and now is helping with the bigger picture as we are expecting our first child in early April. PS#1 Alum Ben Gales as well as Joel and Ellie have eaten there, and we hope to meet more PS#1 families there soon!



Jim Starr, Joel, Ellie, Maria and Phil

### Correction:

In the last issue we inadvertently sent Nick Cron-Deviso off to Cuba with Molly Wertheimer when it was Peter Cron-Barshov who is on that adventure. We look forward to hearing more when they return.

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!

Check out the website this spring. We are creating a portal where all the alumni updates will be available.

# Alumni Perspective

Last Issue we explored the birth of the Periscope and this issue we explore the birth of the Parents Guild.

By Jo Chandler

I remember shortly after our first son, Frederick, started at PS#1 in 1988, I was walking past Joel's office where he was meeting with a few parents. I overheard him talking about wanting to start a parent volunteer group at PS#1. Later I approached Joel and told him I had been Director of Development at Curtis School and I would be interested in helping to start a parent group. Not long after that, Joel's assistant moved, leaving an opportunity for me to take the job. In the beginning, with Joel's recommendations, I started asking parents if they would like to join a group of parents to help with fundraising and other events at the school. I remember asking Kathleen Harris if she would like to take on a position. (I can't remember which one.) She replied, "Well, I really would rather start a newsletter." The Periscope was born.



We met with Joel and on our own to define what our role would be and how the positions would take form. This "group" would eventually become the PS#1 Parents Guild. Wherever help was needed there was a parent ready to step in. We helped in the classroom, driving field trips, and in the office. Parent volunteers created opportunities and programs.

One volunteer parent, Kathy Frankel, took on the job of librarian and daily worked to catalogue and enlarge the school's collection. We started traditions, which still occur today such as Grandparents and Special Friends Day, Dishiversity Day, and we helped the Auction, which began a year or two before the Parents Guild, to grow from a very small event with a few tables of items to what we know today.

Those years created amazing friendships, many which lasted long after our children's last Moving Up Day. The most fun was developing Staff Appreciation Day. We wanted to honor the faculty and staff by taking them out to lunch and getting them out of the classroom. We asked the help of parent and board member, Deborah Bogen, who was also an educator. With Deborah acting as "Head for the Day", we could have parents be with the students in their classrooms working on a project/gift for their teacher, Deborah would be in the office and we could whisk (parents drove) all the faculty (including Joel) off to a surprise location for a delicious lunch. Do you still do something like this today?

It was a grand time of growth and created so many lasting memories.

*Editor's Note: Staff Appreciation Day is still cherished by all faculty and staff, as parents honor us with a fabulous lunch at a secret location, though we don't have parents and board members trying to run the school while we are gone anymore.*



## In this issue we celebrate Abbie Perttula and her family—a teacher who has been here almost from the beginning of PS#1.

### Abbie Perttula (1973-2010) and beyond

One year after PS#1 opened its doors to students, Abbie Perttula and her husband Howard enrolled her daughter, Karine, and began volunteering at the school. "Family is really important to me," she said. Before coming to PS#1 she had taught school in Santa Barbara, so after seeing her in action for a year, Joel and Ellie asked her to come work with them. When asked what has kept her coming back, year after year, she said she loves the different challenges that come each year. She has loved having a voice in shaping the community, loved sitting on the committee that planned buildings that would support our educational philosophy and what's best for children. She said the great thing about PS#1 is the opportunity it has given her to grow as a human being and as a teacher. She said she learns new things every year and what keeps her fresh is being able to see things through her students' eyes. For her, making a difference in a child's life and in a family's life is the most rewarding work she can imagine ever doing. All the people she has worked with and taught have made it interesting. Abbie recognizes she has a unique perspective, being able to look at life as a continuum, now that some of her students are enrolling their children at the school, including her own son. She is looking forward to what next year and then the next will bring.



### Karine Perttula (1974-1978)

"I left PS#1 in 1978 and headed to the local public/traditional elementary school down the street from our house. It was an amazing culture shock. Afterwards I went to the Santa Monica Alternative High School (SMASH) and then Windward High School, where I graduated in 1986. After high school I found myself in Santa Cruz, where I graduated with a degree in Environmental Studies from UCSC. I stayed in Santa Cruz for a couple of years, then in 1995, moved to San Francisco jumping headlong into the computer industry, where I have been ever since. I was manager of software quality assurance at one of MTV Networks' subsidiary companies, Atom Entertainment. Now I work in the Nickelodeon Kids and Family division of MTV Networks as a Project Manager. During the downtime in the economy, I walked and trained dogs for a living and made jewelry that I sold at craft fairs."

"I live with my husband Dan, our two year old daughter Olivia, our dog Sequoia, and our two cats, Eclipse and Geiger. Dan and I enjoy cooking and, before we gathered a family, traveling to new countries - especially where we can scuba dive. We live on the cliffs in Daly City. "

### Josh Perttula (1975-1980)

Joshua is a graduate of PS#1, Windward School, UC Irvine and UC Hastings College of the Law. Since passing the California bar, he has used his legal background in politics, government and business and traveled world wide for business and pleasure. Some years ago he married, and he and Kimberly have a six-year old boy, Jonah, at PS#1. Their daughter, Anna, is in preschool, and newborn Alexandra is keeping life lively at home. They recently remodeled and sold their house in Westchester and are renting while looking for a home that will more comfortably contain their growing family. Josh is in business for himself now, having created a real estate and finance company that he manages from home and Irvine, CA.



### Tavi Perttula (1982-1989)

Tavi writes that he "...graduated from UC Santa Barbara in fall of 1995, and after a few attempts (and a short run as an after school instructor at PS#1) returned to UCSB and received a BA in Art History. After a few years in the work force tending bar and drafting for a landscape architect in SB, I decided to get a masters in Landscape Architecture. In June of 2006 I received an MLA from the California Polytechnic University, Pomona. " He recently became licensed as a fully accredited landscape architect. With that last hurdle behind him Tavi has settled comfortably into his job as a designer at Rios Clementi Hale, a multidisciplinary architecture firm that not only designs indoor and outdoor spaces, but has a full line of home furnishings. He describes his job as one that any designer would be lucky to have. Tavi's wife, Lisa, has run an in-home day care center in the Santa Monica home in which the Perttula family was raised, and they live as a three-generational family with Abbie and Howard on that property. Tavi and Lisa have two lively children, two-year-old Mia and nearly 4-year old Lucas.



Five of Abbie and Howard's grandchildren

# The Perttulas