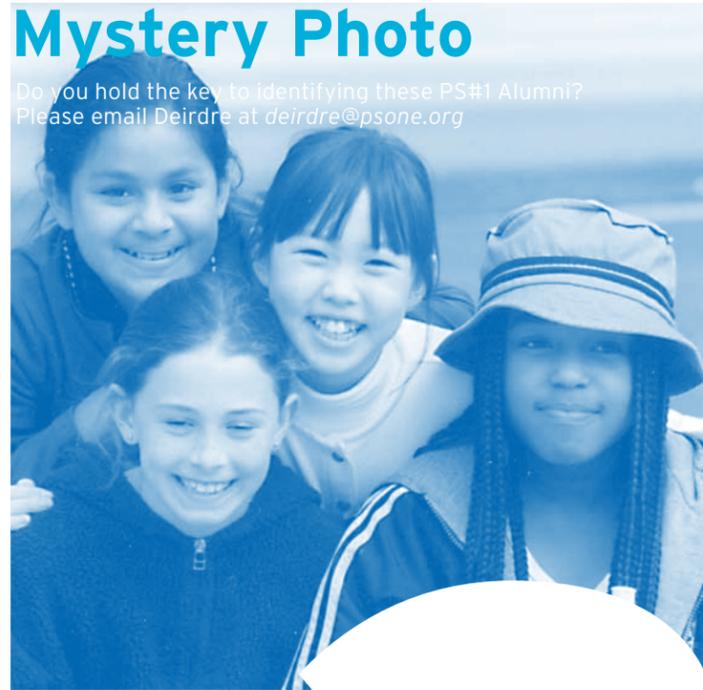


Joel, a great believer in the role that tradition plays in a young child's life, set out to create a tradition for the new campus in 1997. He found something historic and useful. Every day one child, sometimes two, often three or more, have the opportunity to ring the bell and call the community back to class. It feels as though it has always been there.

PS#1
Fact:

Mystery Photo

Do you hold the key to identifying these PS#1 Alumni?
Please email Deirdre at deirdre@psone.org



Last issue's Mystery Photo... Many people recognized Daniel Rosenfeld (right) and Jacob Feldman (middle) - but the boy on the left was hotly contested. Graham Silbert swears that it's him!



Save The Date!

February	8	Itty Bitty Art Sale
March	6	Staff Appreciation Day
	20	Admissions Notification Day
April	2	Open House
	6-10	Spring Break
	17	Grandprents and Special Friends Day
May	9	Fairmont Miramar Hotel, Santa Monica

PS#1's Annual Spring Event and Auction

Invitation and further details to follow.
Please contact Laurie Seplow at lseplow@aol.com or Kerri Speck at speckmarks@yahoo.com for more information.

PS#1
1454 Euclid Street
Santa Monica CA 90404

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

the periscope

Winter 2009



In This Issue:

The Periscope

Volume 19, Number 1

Editors:

Deirdre Gainor
Doug O'Brien

Designer:

David Mellen Design

Photography:

Deirdre Gainor
Billy Huynh
Lina Karlsson-Horelick
Doug O'Brien
Stephanie Renker
Hilary Rosen

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—Joel Pelcyger

PAGES 2-3

Dishiversity Day
Winter Magic
Ballona Wetlands
Itty Bitty Art Sale

PAGES 4-7

Curriculum Connections
Library, Music, PE, Art

PAGES 8-9

Alumni Corner

PAGE 10

Mystery Photo
PS#1 Fact
Save the Date

Head's Column

Small is Beautiful



By the time you read this, I will have returned from attending President Obama's Inauguration in Washington. We live in a time of incredible change because as a nation we have come to realize that government is neither good nor bad; it is essential. Government can stall progress when it becomes too bureaucratic or loses sight of its purpose. Yet there are things that only governments can do if we are to achieve what Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke about when he gave his second inaugural address in January 1937, at the height of the Great Depression 72 years ago, "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." (I have had this inspirational quote on my office bulletin board for many years. It seems especially poignant now.)

Hope springs from emulating good models. I think a lot about systems, organizations, and circumstances that lead to change. I reflect about PS#1's origins and why we have remained in Santa Monica for 38 years now. I am convinced that it is not mere coincidence. I am more hopeful for our nation than I have been for many years because, in the best of times, nations thrive when they follow the lead of small governments, small institutions, and yes small schools that have found the right path. I believe we are entering upon that time right now.

What, you might ask, do small schools or small government have to teach the federal government? The beauty of our community, like Santa Monica, is that we are small enough where an individual (child or adult) can make a difference, help determine their own role, and have a legitimate voice. Scale is such an important component of all groups, institutions, and working bodies. So too is the spirit of possibility that exists in all successful enterprises.

There are many similarities between Santa Monica and PS#1. Santa Monica is a small but significant part of the larger community of Southern California. It is both a symbol and reality. Many years to be in Santa Monica, and are made better by their experience of it. It stands as a symbol of freshness and tradition. It possesses an identifiable community spirit, a stability, a framework, and a pride in belonging. It teaches others by example of what is possible. It's never been called stodgy or smug but is thought of as principled and open. It is an agent of change and yet has a rich tradition of its own. It plays by the rules but imagines new possibilities to make things better. I think of PS#1 in much the same way.

School provides the most essential structure to help assure that our children's everyday life is enriched by others. Your family's basic values are developed in your children through daily practice, interactions, and guidance by others. Our school has succeeded because of the countless people who have made the worthwhile effort to make things work for the many without losing sight of individual needs and wishes. Governments, like schools, cannot please all the people all the time. Done right, they serve as one big balancing act. In the case of a school, we balance the academic and social; the needs of an individual and the demands of a group; academics and the arts; classroom and cluster; cluster and school; community and business; sight reading and phonics; learning through repetition and dynamic pursuits; freshness and experience; tradition and innovation; knowledge and imagination.

There are so many things we either have, or feel we have, no control over. One of life's real blessings occurs when we are afforded opportunities to make personal decisions. Most everyone reading this column has made the choice to be connected to PS#1 and all that that entails: philosophy, location, values, practice, learning and living environment, and people. As a school, we are not just part of a large megalopolis. As we learned when we received our official commendation from the City of Santa Monica when we dedicated the newest part of our campus in September, we are an important part of our local community, a fixture if you will that symbolizes so many things that are right about our community and our nation.

As a nation, as a city, and as a school, we can keep renewing ourselves—adjusting to changing times without abandoning our secure foundation, our principles, and our guiding philosophy and spirit. I realize that I am an extreme rarity in education—38 years as a Founding Head still in place at the same school—and I am filled with hope about the future of our school. This is an exciting moment in time—I believe the United States of America, Santa Monica, and PS#1 School have never been more in alignment.

Joel Pelcyger

Parent-in-Residence



By Stephanie Renker

A new program in After Care has engaged a multitude of talents in our parent body, making every Tuesday afternoon a highly anticipated event. Parents are leading interactive workshops for the PS#1 community, sharing their special talents and unique hobbies. Jewelry making, sing-a-longs, centerpiece sculptures and healthy snacking have been a few of the offerings. Each encounter has provided our students - and the teacher and parent participants - with fresh insight into career paths and the opportunity to engage in new crafts or performing arts. To learn more about how you can be involved, as a leader or a participant; we are soliciting the larger PS#1 community for this engaging and insightful project - contact Stephanie Renker at stephanie@psone.org. Workshops are generally conducted on Tuesdays from 2:30-3:30.

Dishiversity Day

Diane Solomon & Lori Lahman, Co-Chairs, Dishiversity Day 2008

Traditions, Old...

The spirit of Dishiversity has always been to celebrate our various cultures, traditions and heritage. When we recognize our own heritage and explore it through food; we can share what makes it different and special.

Did anyone else wish they had at least ten times the stomach space to enjoy all of the dishes? There was Gim Bap and Challah with Soy Butter, Empanadas and Baklava....We saw dishes from Helsinki to Israel.... from proper England to the deep South.

Dishiversity Day was outstanding this year due to the tremendous school wide involvement.

Stay tuned for a cookbook celebrating the dishes from Dishiversity Day. With the cookbook available, we hope to encourage the making and tasting of different dishes and to continue the discussion of our various cultures and heritage.

As always, the leftover food was delivered to OPCC that same afternoon. They were immensely grateful for the donation.

Thank you to everyone who cooked, decorated, served, cleaned and participated.



Winter Magic

and New...

MAGIC was the theme; magic was in the air. Earlier in the chilly morning of December 19th, the first students on campus scooped up frost that had coated the playground equipment overnight and molded Southern California snowballs in sheer wonderment. A great beginning for our holiday program "Winter Magic," directed by PS#1 music specialist Kirstina. It was a cleverly-orchestrated sequence of seasonal songs interspersed with poetry and whimsical special effects. Opening on a barren stage with *It's a Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, performed by the faculty and staff wearing big sweaters, the program progressed with cluster performances including *Jack Frost* by the Youngers, *Catch a Falling Star* by the Bridge, *Minka* by the Middles, and *Dreams of Harmony* by the Olders. Between each segment, student gnomes produced props of faux snow and decorative items suggested by the lyrics to adorn a leafless plum tree and bring life to the stage. In synchronization with the Olders' recorder interlude during Winter Wonderland, a seven foot tall snowman danced onto stage and into the hearts of the audience.

A sneezing but ever-present Joel was warmed by the harmony as he invited families and alumni to the stage and introduced the Pluralistics (Dermot Mulroney, Lyle Leete, Dan Radlauer, Jamie Estes) who would lead the community sing-a-long with favorites such as *Frosty*, *Jingle Bell Rock* and *The Dreidel Song*. The calendar year rocked to its close with *Feliz Navidad* and best wishes abounding.



Ballona Wetlands

and New...

On December 7th, students, parents, and staff members joined in an effort to clean and protect a beautiful section of the Ballona Wetlands. We picked up trash, built a fence to create a butterfly sanctuary and made signs to remind passersby to respect the butterflies space, before sharing a picnic lunch. The Sustainability Committee thanks everyone who supported this wonderful event and look forward to offering more opportunities to work together taking care of our earth.



Itty Bitty Art Sale

Don't miss your chance to buy original art for only \$35.00 and help raise funds for PS#1 and other designated charities. Join the PS#1 community on Feb. 8th at the Gallery of Functional Art at Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Ave. E3, Santa Monica, for the #1 Itty Bitty Art Sale. Over 250 itty bitty art works will be on display starting at 12 noon or go to www.ittybittyart.org and make your choices ahead of time. The art will go on sale at 2:30 pm but come early as the line will be forming and you won't want to miss your chance to buy one, two or three of your favorite pieces. Special thanks to Lois Lambert, PS#1 alumni parent, for hosting the event at her gallery.





Christina Garcia
Library Pajama Storytime



Kirstina Collins
Music



Pedro Ortega, Brad Shimada
Physical Education

Curriculum Connections

When Deirdre Gainor first came on board as Outreach Coordinator, we wanted to plan something special to introduce prospective families to PS#1. As Deirdre said at the time, “all we need to do is get them on campus and they will feel the magic”. I agreed! We decided to do something that would be fun for our community as well, and Pajama Storytime was up and running!

Pajama Storytime is held on several Friday evenings throughout the year, and everyone is invited to come wearing jammies and bearing stuffies. We now have a three-year history, and have had wonderful, funny, entertaining moments with parents and teachers reading bedtime stories. This year, we have had an extra-special group of readers—the PS#1 Olders!

These students have prepared favorite stories—“You mean, one that I liked when I was a kid?” and shared them with younger PS#1 children, their parents, visiting parents and their children. They have chosen remarkable stories,



presented them with verve and panache, and kept the entire room enthralled during their reading. The proof, as they say, is in the pudding—and our students are mature and confident, charming, and just plain fun to listen to.

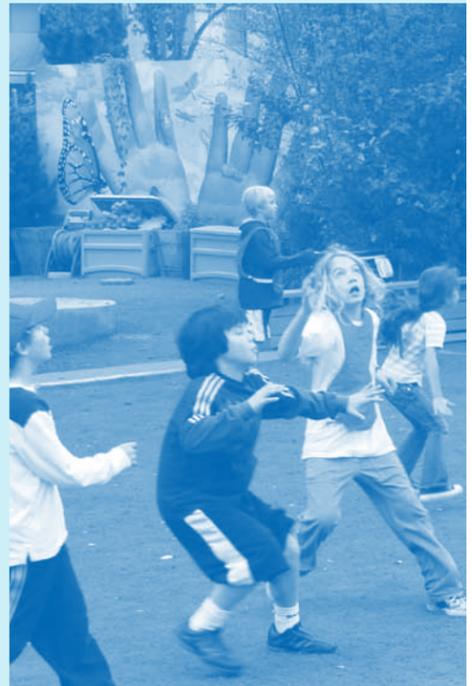
My favorite overheard comment was from a teen-tiny visitor who said: “Hey! I didn’t know KIDS could read!” And ours do it so beautifully that it makes me doubly proud of them all.

I am excited to be sharing my love of music with the students at PS#1 this year. In all of the classes, I help the students attain new music knowledge and to personally experience music. This happens in many ways: through listening, singing, playing recorders & Orff instruments (various-sized xylophones, metallophones, and tone bars), and working as a group to create something beautiful together. My goal is to bring music to life for all of the students at PS#1: for the Youngers class, that could involve movement to music with scarves or streamers; for a Bridge class, jumping up and down on an over-sized music staff on the floor, as they learn a melodic pattern; for a Middles class, singing 2-part songs and playing instruments at the same time; and for an Olders class, beginning to learn about the roots and influences of the popular music they listen to today. Music can bring classes, clusters, and the school community

together in ways that unite, elevate, and uplift and I am thrilled to be an integral part of making that happen. Hearing the entire community’s voices lifted in song during the Holiday program was a rich bonus.



Physical education not only shows our students that leading an active lifestyle is important, it gives our students the opportunity to develop skills in responsible decision making and self control. At PS#1, we enable students to gain a better awareness of their surroundings through activities and games. Skills such as teamwork and good sportsmanship are developed through structured lessons designed for maximum participation. This allows students to enjoy learning in a fast paced, cooperative, and supportive environment. The Field of Dreams provides the space we need to teach these important skills our students will use for the rest of their lives. The other element, which comes from all this learning, shows on the students’ faces as they joyfully rush out to PE each day, and that is fun!





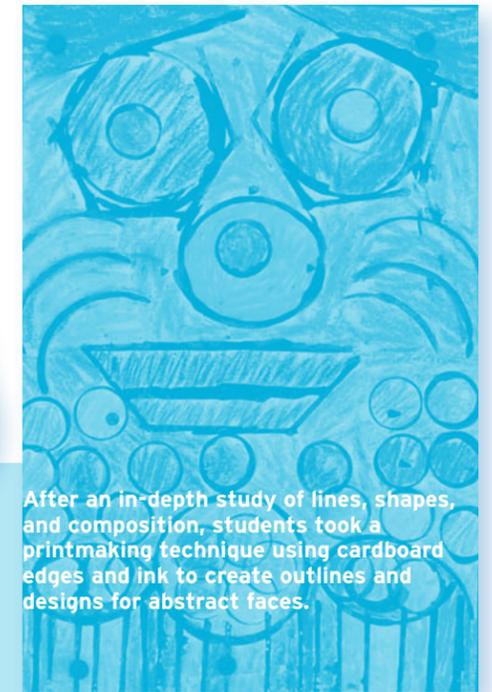
Tints, shades and perspective are essential to creating optical illusions.



Playing with warm and cool colors.



There is something special about working with clay. You can create in three dimensions and it's actually best if you get dirty while doing it.



After an in-depth study of lines, shapes, and composition, students took a printmaking technique using cardboard edges and ink to create outlines and designs for abstract faces.



Nicolina Karlsson-Horelick

Art

Curriculum Connections

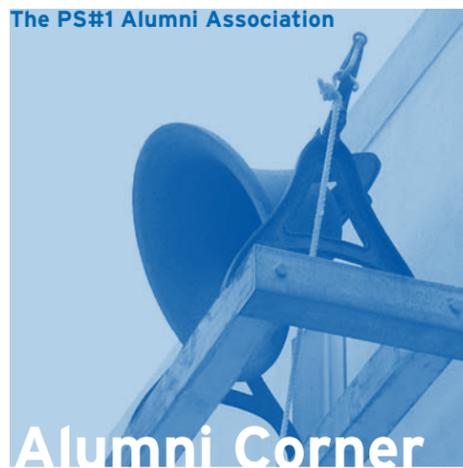
As the Art Teacher at PS#1, I am constantly amazed at the talented artists we have at the school. Art allows us to express ourselves in ways that are as unique as the artists, and at PS#1 we have a bright and diverse group of students that create vibrant and thoughtful artwork.



Making Fabric Imaginary Friends while exploring a wide variety of media.



Here are the Youngers enjoying room to create in the newly organized art space.



The PS#1 Alumni Association

Alumni Corner



Alex McCown



Suzanne Waary and Joe's wedding picture



Ariana Lambert Smeraldo and family



Sami Shapiro



Jacob and Atticus Feldon



Grace Hagen



Andrew Hagen

Alex McCown (1995-02)

Alexandra is absolutely adoring her school, The London College of Fashion, and was elected President of her class last month. She's working really hard and, as they don't give any grades until mid-year, she can only hope she's doing as well as they seem to be indicating she is. (Since P S # 1, she's sort of used to no grades.) She lives in a great little apartment "...four tube stops from school." She has a very international group of pals and a wonderful boyfriend. She works 20-25 hours a week as a receptionist at a hair salon, and has dinner a couple of times a month with Emily Simon (P S#1 alum mom). Alex was home this December for a visit.

The weekend of October 25-26 was a mini marathon reunion for PS#1. On the 25th **Harley** (1994-99) and **Molly Wertheimer** (1995-02) were in town for a 60th birthday party for their dad, Alan. **Alan Wertheimer** served on the Board at PS#1 and was for many years the chair of the Annual Giving Campaign. **Sharon Wertheimer**, seven years after Molly graduated, is still leading PS#1 tours. Harley is a senior at NYU and has been working for several years in the front office of Allido Records, finding new artists for this hot label. He fondly remembers taking the bus after school and running around the Annex with **Danny Barriera** (1991-98), **David Perlman** (1991-98), **Matt Hart** (1993-00) and **Peter Clerkin** (1995-00). Molly is a freshman at NYU in Gallatin College, loving the city, and supplementing the rigors of freshman requirements by taking a course in ceramics. Also attending the party were **Rylan Griggs** (2000-07) and his mom, **Vernita Griggs**. Rylan is in the 8th grade at Palms Middle School, enjoying great teachers. **Griffin Harris** (1997-04), a junior at Crossroads, and his mom, **Francine Fanali** were there to celebrate Alan as were Joel and Ellie Pelcyger.

Suzanne Waary (1983-89)

Suzanne married Joe Bergstrom in October. The wedding was on the beach at Sunset Restaurant in Malibu. They honeymooned in Dublin, London and Amsterdam in November. Suzanne teaches 8th grade English at Laurel Hall in North Hollywood.

David Waary (1986-89)

David is a lawyer with Lion's Gate Entertainment. He graduated from Southwestern in June of 2007.

Ariana Lambert Smeraldo (1977-1981)

Ariana gave birth three months ago to a daughter, Fiori. Enclosed is a photo of Livio, Fiori, husband Nero and Ariana.

Jessica Elliot (1977-81)

a classmate and friend of Sammy Counter's, and her baby, Nola.

Sami Shapiro (1999-05)

In November, Sami, a sophomore at Windward, won two gold medals at the 2008 Pan American Gymnastics Union Individual Event Championships in Rosario, Argentina for her work on the balance beam and the uneven bars. Sami and her sister, **Nikki** (2002-09), have been competing internationally in gymnastics for many years. Good job Sami! You can watch her uneven bars routine by following this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNFQyi7dvsY>

Graham Silbert (1990-96)

Graham graduated from the Hamilton Academy of Music in 2002 working in the electronic music department. He worked with the Santa Monica Playhouse throughout high school as a performer, teacher, director, costumer and writer as well as travelling to London, Stratford, Ireland, Italy, Holland, and a four city tour of Japan as a member of the Playhouse's education department. For the past few years, he has taken a departure from theater, working as a Floor Leader for Cole Haan in Century City. He's intrigued to find out where life will take him next. Graham sends a huge hello to anyone around PS#1 who remembers him.

Colby Tofel-Grehl (2002-08)

Atticus Feldon joined the Tofel-Grehl family this fall. Jacob is thrilled to have a new brother.

Mary Hagen (2005-08)

Grace and Andrew joined the Hagen family on July 28th.



L to R, Harley Wertheimer, Vernita Griggs, Rylan Griggs, and Molly Wertheimer



Sharon Wertheimer



Alan Wertheimer



Jessica Elliot and baby Nola

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.