

We're Ready  
to **Celebrate!**

*Come Join Us on  
May 20th, 2012  
for the  
Greatest Party  
in 40 Years!*

PS1  
Pluralistic  
School

Celebrating

40

Winter 2012

the periscop



# Traditions

Head's Column



The Periscope  
Volume 22, Number 1

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**PS1's tradition of creating buildings that serve our educational philosophy has never been more apparent on our campus. Our dream of a unified campus that will support our whole community of students, parents, alumni, grandparents and special friends, is coming true.**

**Next year we will have a place: to celebrate, to perform, to communicate and learn, to run and sing, to play, to dance, to share, to inspire the inner genius in us all. A place for everything, and everything in its place. Now that's exciting!**

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**In this 40th Anniversary Year, PS1 has a lot to celebrate. So we hope you'll join us at the school on Sunday, May 20, 2012 for the Ultimate Reunion – our 40th Anniversary Party.**

**Save the Date.**  
Come and celebrate with us!

**Attention Golfers!!!**  
Our post celebration non-competitive non-tournament round of golf will take place at the Malibu Country Club on Monday, May 21st at 10am. More details later...

The theme for this issue of Periscope is Traditions. The twenty-two events listed are all regular occurrences on the PS1 calendar. Why? Well, each one of them has a reason and a purpose – making things for each other; making sure that everyone feels a part of something greater than herself; making the school multi-generational; assuring that all feel welcome; creating a sense of belonging; knowing that each and every one of us is valued, honored, and cherished for the unique gifts that we bring to our community; having fun together – all of these reasons gave rise to the creation of one or another tradition.

One of my inspirations for starting our school in 1971 was to give students an experience like the one I had every summer as a child at a sleep-away camp. For ten summers, I found camp to be fun, exciting, pressure free, and meaningful. It encouraged independence; I did things every day that meant a lot to me; and it was something I looked forward to all year long. I was somebody at camp. I wanted all this and I wanted to create a school where, unlike camps, parents would be involved and could find their own niche as well. I instinctively knew that learning is most effective when children can participate in the process, when they are encouraged for their effort and not the grade, and when they can discover their strengths through a wide variety of teaching techniques. "What if kids and their parents could think about school in the same way?" I thought. Countless families over the years have told me that we've succeeded in creating such a place. (Many kids - and their parents too for sometimes different reasons - can't wait for summer to end so they can get back to PS1!)

There was another very important aspect to my camp experience that made everything work. It was filled with tradition, things that happened every single summer, things that we could talk to each other about with great anticipation. Little did I know back then why the camp leaders did this; they too knew that children crave continuity as much as they thrive on the novelty of a new experience. Ritual and routine, having things to count on, play a crucial role in the lives of children.

When we built our school from the ground up for the first time in 1998 (rather than remodeling existing spaces), I wanted to make sure our students felt a connection to the past, even if it wasn't our past. And so I had the bell that rings outside our library brought here from an antique barn in New Hampshire. I needn't have worried - we have traditions.

Of the traditions listed above, perhaps only the All-School Camping Trip has been around from the very beginning. I look at the list and realize that everything else was created for its own particular reason by some combination of administrators, parents, faculty, and students. They are all pieces in the education and community puzzle we have created together.

I hope that many of you reading my column will look again at the list of traditions and remember your own role in helping to create and extend one or more of them. We all seek to leave a place better than we have found it. Thanks to all the people who came before, people arriving on our campus for the first time step into a place steeped in tradition. We couldn't have done it without you! Traditions - the collective experiences that provide the ties that bind!

- All-School Picnic
- Make New Friends Day
- Fathers' Breakfast
- Fall Festival/Book Fair
- Halloween Parade
- Life After PS1
- Thanksgiving Circle
- Holiday Gift Exchange
- Winter Holiday Performance
- Pluralism Circle
- Valentine's Day celebration
- Itty Bitty Art Sale
- Dishiversity Day
- Grandparents and Special Friends Day
- Memoir Club
- Open House
- Staff Appreciation Day
- Fundraising Auction
- All-School Camping Trip
- Graduates Camping Trip
- Graduation
- Moving Up Day

## Itty Bitty Art Sale

The Fourth Annual Itty Bitty Art Sale was held at the Lois Lambert Functional Art Gallery at Bergamot Station and was a huge success! Hundreds of people arrived to vie for the opportunity to buy a piece of original art donated by artists from all over the world. The word has spread as we had alumni, current families and many people from the outside community not related to PS1 come to see the art and buy for their collections. It is a fabulous event and tradition that continues to get better each year. Art has already started flowing in for Itty Bitty Art 5! So stay tuned and go to the website for more info [www.IttyBittyArt.org](http://www.IttyBittyArt.org).



## Winter Chorus at the SM Library

The PS1 chorus presented its "Beautiful Dreamers" winter concert on Wednesday, Jan. 11 at the Santa Monica Library's Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium. The afternoon event featured music from a variety of genres, ranging from folk and multicultural songs to popular and Broadway tunes. The 19-member group ranged in age from eight to eleven years of age and performed six songs with interludes by professional musician parents. The free concert started at 4:30 pm with a reception following the program. The concert was packed with all ages in attendance. One audience member asked to sign up for the next concert. She said it had been thirty years since she heard children's voices lifted in joyous song.



## The Oak Tree

The literal and figurative symbolism of our iconic oak tree permeates the PS1 experience. Hundreds of PS1 students have performed under its big top and composed poems inspired by its majesty. Many a Circle Time and impromptu talent show has paid tribute to its omnipresence. Recorded to be the oldest oak tree in Santa Monica, our 12th Street Yard centerpiece may be the only structure on campus that predates our Head of School.



# Traditions... New and Old

## Valentine's Day

In the true spirit of PS1 each person received one handmade Valentine, lovingly crafted by another member of the PS#1 community. For those who knew the recipient well, it was a nice way to honor them. For those who didn't know them well, it was a way to learn more about who they are. This wonderful tradition enriches our community every year.



## PSRun

PSRun, an after school club at PS1, tested itself in the big league by running in the Venice 5K. Many PS1 families came out to cheer on the students and staff and some even ran with them.



## Book Breakfast

Two morning essentials? Books and Breakfast! Every month, one of the PS1 classes sponsors a Book Breakfast in the Library, providing a VIR-Very Important Reader-and a bountiful bagel buffet. We schmeer, schmooze, and enjoy the silence that settles on the group (babies, all age students, parents, grandparents) as we get lost in storyland. When the bell rings, we head out to great our day, fortified with words and images and good food!



## Outside Performer Circle Times

Cultural performances, musical reviews, story theatre... the repertoire is distinguished and diverse. On a near-monthly basis, PS1 students are introduced to performing artists from down the street to around the globe. Past presentations have included a barbershop quartet; the history of black baseball league, Brazilian capoeira, steel drums... and the beat goes on. Through our tradition of welcoming outside performers, the PS1 community of students, teachers, and families are enriched.



## “Love for Learning” is a Tradition at PS1

We are a community of learners, and our traditions so enrich the learning environment that PS1 faculty were asked to share some of their expertise with other independent schools at the CAIS Conference at Campbell Hall on Monday, March 5, 2012.

Here are some of the workshop titles:

The intriguing titles of the PS1 Teacher Workshops  
Vermicomposting – Worm Bin Science  
Maynard and the Old Pirate Teach Grammar  
iCan do iMovie!  
Science Inquiry through Art  
How to H2O  
The Poetry Envelope Project (and other poetry activities)  
P.E. as a Moving Experience  
100% Smart  
Roundtable in Elem Ed: Spelling Discussion  
Building Community through Engaging Electives  
Elmo as a Teaching Tool

Meanwhile several PS1 faculty members are using our curricular innovations to prepare articles for publication. These include –

### “The School Project”

A cross-curricular comprehensive research project in which kindergartners and 1st grade-equivalent students learn about the history of their school campus and community.

### “Developing Empathy and Understanding”

Kindergartners and 1st grade-equivalent students experience segregation during social-emotional exercises associated with Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday

### “Book Breakfast and Pajama Storytime”

Library is alive from sunrise to sunset

Piano music, candles, flowers, dimmed lights and handmade tablecloths... LJM has a daily tradition of setting our classroom tables up for lunch as if we were in a restaurant. Once the mood is set, we sit and converse with different combinations of classmates each day to make sure we are always evolving as a class community.



TK's daily morning meeting is chock full of songs to get our morning off to a jazzy start. These daily routines include a good morning song, two calendar songs, and some short chants we use, such as, “Happy \_ day!” or “It’s good morning time!” Each week, we have a new calendar boy or girl to lead these fun traditions.



At the start of each week, teachers and students in LG pick the name of a “Secret Buddy.” Throughout the week, the buddy becomes the unsuspecting recipient of random acts of kindness and special attention. On Friday, we have our Secret Buddy revelations!



Each year JBK students make class books, sometimes big and sometimes small, as a culmination to a social studies investigation. Our books have covered a variety of topics including: our families, Pluralism, jobs at PS1, and PS1 traditions.



# Curriculum Connections



# We Learning

Traditions are celebrated at PS1 – every hour, every day, every week, every month, every year!

Here are just a few of the classroom traditions that PS1 embraces to create motivated, engaged, leaders, who are thoughtful, spirited, confident and passionate about learning...

For the past six years, the tradition of recycling has been a highlight in AB. During clean-up time each day, their students transect the campus collecting recyclable bottles and cans for redemption at the Santa Monica Recycling Center. At the end of each year, they research charitable organizations whom to donate their hard-earned money. Thus far the majority of their donations have gone to helping animals.

If it's 10:00 AM on a Friday morning in HS, it's BINGO BINGO BINGO BINGO! - a tradition of nontraditional weekly spelling assessment. To make it extra engaging, students design their own cards and play a variety of versions. The conclusion is a round called "cover all." When HS achieves 100%, we holler BINGOOOOOOOOO in unison. The enthusiasm, the learning, and the resonance travel far.



HS



BH

Bold colors, bright designs, and powerful words hang high above the floor of Room 8 every year. Each student in BH fashions a flag with a personal motto to fly in our room all year long. The flags represent each personality as we blend the individuals into a community.

In P.E. at PS1, units that introduce team sports are deliberately scheduled to coincide with seasonal events. During NFL playoffs, kids learned football vocabulary while practicing well-known and little-known maneuvers. March Madness means that they'll be turning their attention to basketball.

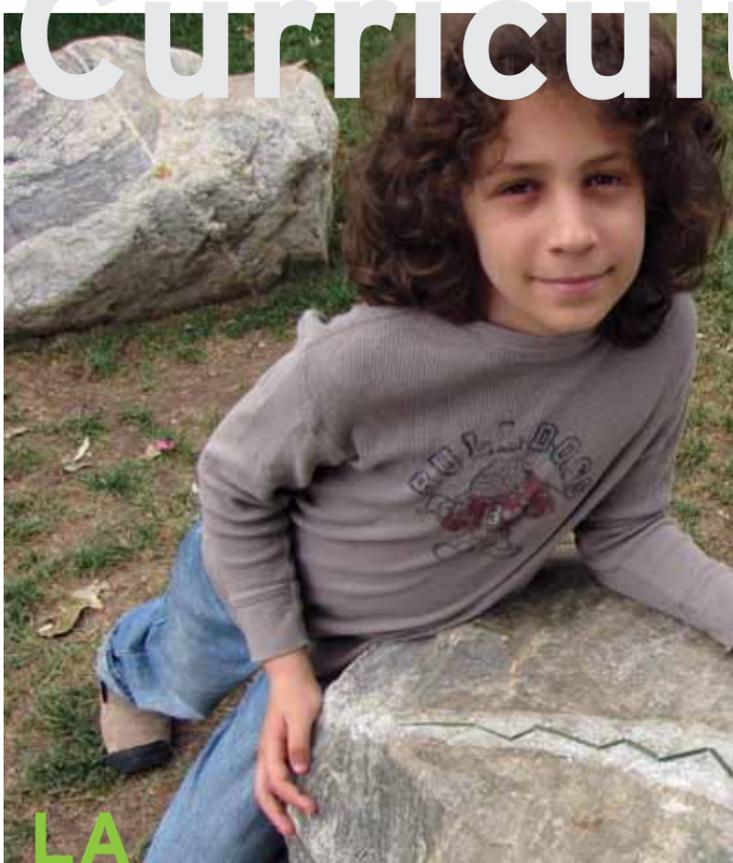
P.E.



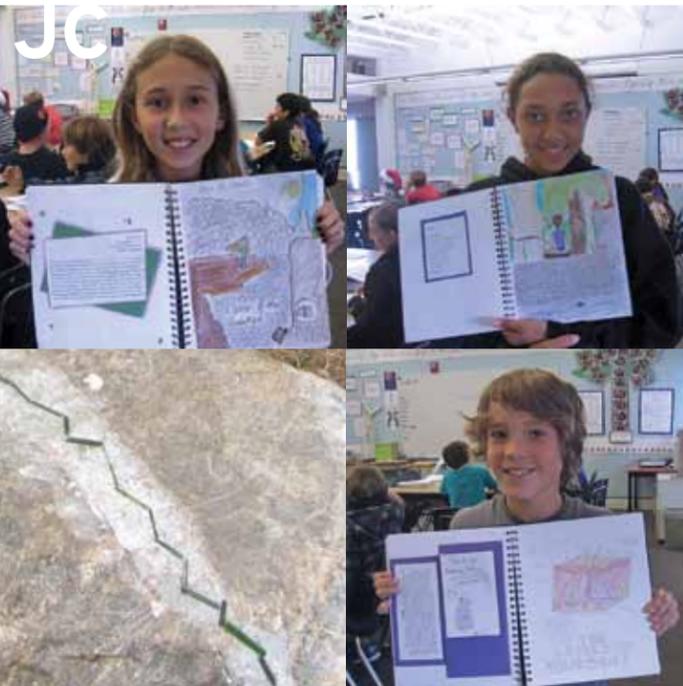
Art

The Art Room shares our student work with the school community at the annual Art Show during Open House. This special event is a great time for viewing the collective projects and exchanging art ideas with each other, and also an opportunity for families to learn more about our wonderful art program.

# Curriculum Connections



It's a semi-monthly tradition in JC for students to share their personal textbooks in an interactive art gallery. As part of curricular assignments, the students give careful attention to creating keepsake entries in their books. During their bi-weekly Friday galleries, they display their works on their desks, then slowly and quietly make their way around the room "museum style" to appreciate each others' efforts.



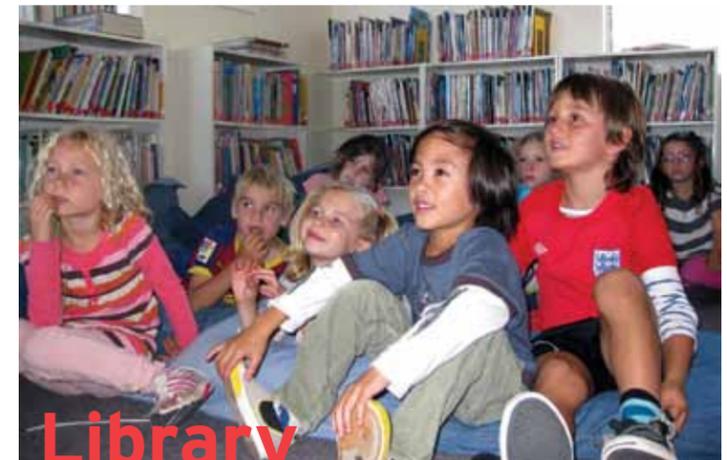
JC

Each year in LA's class, students create Earth Art inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy and other earth artists. After each masterpiece has been completed, students compose original poems inspired by their artistry. The earth art sculptures are photographed for posterity, and then returned undamaged back "to the earth."

LA

Each December, in the final hours before Winter Break, the entire community gathers for an all-inclusive musical celebration. Students, faculty and staff, and parents all have a turn to take the stage. The annual gala event culminates - with a community sing-a-long, led by the Pluralistics, our parent band.

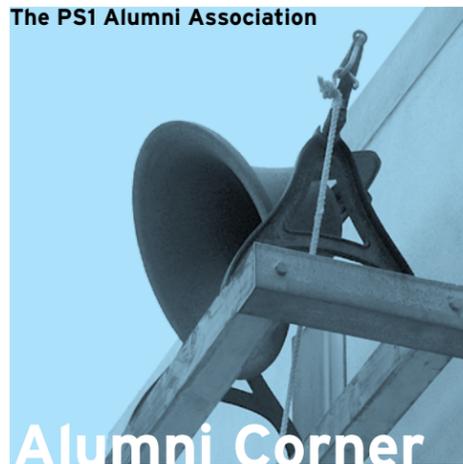
Music



Library

Ask any kid at PS1! Library Time begins with a poem - that's the tradition! Listening to any story is always an experience, and a poem as its introduction puts us all in the right mindset.

## The PS1 Alumni Association



## Alumni Corner

### Rachel Seplow (2004-11)

Rachel is a student at Harvard-Westlake. Recently, she accepted an invitation to return to Brad and Holly's class. She writes: *"All of my graduating year at PS1, I couldn't wait to come back as an alumna. When Brad and Holly asked me if I wanted to teach a lesson at PS1, I decided on a grammar lesson. I was surprised at how fast identifying the parts of speech, phrases and clauses came back to me. Brad helped me with the last minute preparations, which included using the copy machine in the office. For my lesson I taught two half groups of twelve students each. I am very thankful to Brad and Holly for giving me the chance to have this experience. Like so many of my PS1 experiences, this one has also boosted my confidence in myself."*

### Reanna Wauer (2003-2010)

Reanna is in her second year at Archer and very happy there. She is excelling in Math, investigating Dance and continuing her concentration on Gymnastics, where she is at level 7.

### James Wauer (2000-2007)

Now in the 11th grade at Harvard Westlake, James is on the football team and discovering a fascination with life sciences. He's especially enjoying his AP Biology class this year.

### Ryan Klein, Whitney Klein (1980-85)

Warren and Rene Klein, great supporters of the school in the early 80's, wrote that their alumni daughters, Ryan and Whitney, are both married and living in Orange County. Ryan has a year-old son and both Whitney and Ryan will give birth in the New Year. Warren says, "Our lives have been blessed in so many ways, and one of the most important is the loving training, teaching and council that both the girls received at PS1."

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.



Rachel Seplow



Todd Schreiber

### Erica Everage (1995-2000)

After majoring in theater, Erica graduated from Northwestern in June of 2010 and is working for her parents' Interior Design firm while pursuing her acting career. She just signed with an agent and has high hopes.

### Another 40th

Phil and Maria Starr celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary at Spago in November, 2011. In the celebrating crowd were alumni, **Nick Starr**, who had a new play open at the 59E59 Theater in Manhattan, which ran from January 11-29, and his brother Jim, Joel and Ellie Pelcyger were there, as were alumni parents, Steffi and Harry Blitzstein. Steffi reports that their son **Joseph Blitzstein** (84-89) has been given a full professorship of statistics at Harvard. Find his engaging video, Stat 110, on YouTube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uStCvohAHk>

### Katie Burton (1992-1999)

"Since New Roads I have been keeping active in the acting community. After graduation from New Roads, I attended, for a short time, The American Musical And Dramatic Academy. From there, I took classes in improvisation at The Upright Citizens Brigade. Now I'm attending The Ruskin School of Acting in Santa Monica. I audition and hope to land something one day soon! My passion for acting and life continues. I have been on wonderful travels and have made many self discoveries since my high school graduation in 2005. 2012 looks like it will be a bright year for me with many wonderful possibilities!"



Lindsey Thompson-Moreland and Katie Burton

### Lindsey Thompson-Moreland (1992-99)

Lindsey Thompson-Moreland is studying psychology at Antioch University in Los Angeles. She keeps in touch with PS1 friend **Katie Burton**. Her brother, **Brad** (1995-02), is a student at Whittier College.

### Hana Mogulescu

Hana has spent the past 10 years pursuing her love of music and performance. She attended Hamilton Academy of Music in Los Angeles, where she was a member of their award-winning Vocal Jazz Ensemble and musical theater productions. She graduated from UC Berkeley, where she received her B.A. in Theater and Performance Studies. She was the female vocalist on Aviation Orange's 2009 self-titled debut album and also appeared in their music video for the song "Radio," which was featured on *MTVMusic.com*. Hana's interest and experience in the world of music has expanded into a profession. She currently lives in New York City, where she is the Product Management Coordinator for the world-renowned independent record label, Beggars Group.

### Matthew Palevsky (1992-1997)

Matthew has been an activist since PS1, when he organized a coalition to lobby City Hall for tougher gun control laws. He graduated from Crossroads and Brown University. During his college years Matthew co-founded the Council on Crime Prevention, a state-funded research house that advised Rhode Island on treatment-instead-of-incarceration policies, and the Rhode Island Patient Advocacy Coalition, a grassroots organization that led the fight to make Rhode Island the eleventh state to legalize medical marijuana. After graduating, he spent two years as a journalist covering the 2008 elections and running the citizen journalism desk at The Huffington Post, where he organized over 22,000 volunteers to give award-winning coverage of national and international news. In 2010, Matthew left The Huffington Post to join Students for Sensible Drug Policy, a student-led organization that advocates for harm reduction policies on over 150 campuses across the US and in countries around the world.



Erica Everage

### Adrian Chandler (1990-97)

Adrian Chandler is a self-employed writer living in Los Angeles. Adrian graduated from Crossroads, attended Santa Monica College and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Loyola Marymount University in 2010.

### Todd Schreiber (1998-05)

We heard from Todd in February, responding to a note we sent about a tribute he had written to our former, long-time poetry teacher, Barbara Strauss. We discovered it among her papers and offered to send it to him. He wrote: *"I would really value having that... when I try to look back to that time, everything about Barbara seems like a light; something happy and pure, something impossible to recreate."* Todd is a freshman at the University of Oregon in Eugene and is pursuing his passion for art.

### Nora Frankel (1994-98)

Nora graduated from Smith College in 2008. She is a designer and exhibiting artist living in Northampton, Mass., where she has bought a home. Catch up with her current shows on her blog [norafrankel.blogspot.com](http://norafrankel.blogspot.com) where she writes: *"Much of my work is influenced by textiles. I like to think of creating art and fabric in similar terms. Both build up with marks or stitches to create a complex, layered, and cohesive whole from the smallest, most simplistic element. I also find much of my inspiration from the natural world. To me, nature is the source of all forms of exploration from science to art, two fields that both strive to explain, honor, and interpret the world around us."*



Alumni dads Buzz Harris and Marc Jacoby have an unplanned reunion at Vincente Foods.



Adrian Chandler



Hana Mogulescu



Zach Ehrlich (1987-1993) and Amanda Harper married October 1st, 2011.

# PS1 Fact:

PS1 Archives is going digital. Larry Jenkins, father of Amelia and Eloise, and his team have begun the monumental task of scanning and organizing the thousands of photos in the archives that span 40 years. It is so exciting to see images of the early years, discovered from negatives and slides that we haven't examined in decades. This is a huge, on-going project and we extend grateful thanks to the scanning team for being True to Their School. Below see one of their discoveries: a photo from 1971 of the first PS1 campus, located on Princeton Street in Santa Monica. The landlord sold the building, so we had to move three months after school started.



Do you hold the key to identifying these PS1 Alumni? Please email Deirdre at [deirdre@psone.org](mailto:deirdre@psone.org)

## Mystery Photo

Last Issue's Mystery Photo winner is Amanda Payton. She said, "It helps that the students in the mystery photo were in my class – from left to right they are Rem Koning, Taizo Tachibana (in the background) Killian Clarke, Danny Barreira, and Zach Meredith."

## Save The Date!

March	22	Open House
	23	Admissions Notification Day
	29	Dishiversity Day
April	2-6	Spring Break
	20	Staff Appreciation Day
	17-22	Earth Week Celebration
	26	Admission Tour
May	5	PS1 Annual Auction - Alumni Invited!

20 **Save The Date:**  
**40th Anniversary Celebration**  
on the Field of Dreams  
**Sunday, May 20, 2012, 12 noon**  
Come and celebrate with us!