



the periscope

Spring '05



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**The Periscope**

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Volume 15, Number 1

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## PS#1's Annual Giving Campaign:

Making PS#1 Number One Each Day

Thank you parents, grandparents, alumni, faculty, staff and friends who have contributed to the record-breaking 2004-2005 Annual Giving Campaign.

### **Special thanks also to our Annual Giving Committee**

Chair, Alan Wertheimer

Deborah Bogen, Doug Brown, Roger DeVito, Bob Eatman, Tammy Ellis, Brian Estwick, Alan Fenster, Chris Fillo, Lauren Fite, Nathan Goldberg, Hugh Harrison, Rob Jacobs, Rana Kirkland, Kathy Lingg, David Nutter, Nancy Daly Riordan, Dick Riordan, Russell Riopelle, Ron Segall, Bob Solomon, Mark Terman, and Eddy Yablans.

To date, 92% of PS#1 parents have made their commitment and \$386,000 has been pledged. Each and every PS#1 student will benefit from your generosity!

**Please make your gift or pledge today!**

# "Fertile Ground"

We seek to create a balance—a balance of hard work and magic, of accomplishment and imagination, of skill development and the nurturing of what is unique in each of us.



In my opening remarks at our Winter Holiday celebration before the New Year, I welcomed everyone to the "fertile ground of PS#1." I meant this in a lot of ways for many different reasons. The most obvious is that six members of our staff will have new babies between December and June!

While some of us will be caring for newborns next year, PS#1 will remain the same fertile ground it has been for 34 years. The fertile ground created in the most dynamic of elementary schools allows for lifelong learning experiences for children and adults. Children flourish and thrive when opportunities for growth are abundant. And inherent in growth is transformation and change.

Just as thriving children change, schools change too. That is a given. The physical space changes; the faces on our campus change; the make-up of the student body changes completely every seven years; Board members and key personnel—paid and volunteer—come and go; new curriculum ideas and assessment procedures are implemented. And yet some key elements continue year after year after year: the flavor of the school; the way we work with children; the qualities that a PS#1 graduate emerges with from our school; the PS#1 core values of competence, confidence, and connection; the solid financial footing our school enjoys; the traditions we celebrate from year to year; and the warm and

welcoming feeling that 'regulars' and visitors alike feel as soon as they enter our campus.

Why? I believe that it has to do with the notion of fertile ground. When I think of words people have used to describe our school, I am struck by how many are synonyms of fertile: productive, fruitful, bountiful, blooming, creative, dynamic, helpful, constructive, beneficial, valuable, practical, positive, and thriving. How many of these words would you use to describe your and your child's experience at PS#1?

'Ground' brings to mind foundation, roots, underpinnings, and groundedness. Good schools seek to provide a base from which students can grow. Many traditional schools don't create that groundedness, that sense of belonging, that feeling of empowerment so essential to future development. Students often have negative memories of their schooling, the kind that led George Bernard Shaw to say that his education was interrupted only by the time that he spent in school. Some progressive schools also don't create a groundedness, a connection to the practical world, a responsibility to others, a solid foundation on which to build one's basic life-skills. We seek to create a balance—a balance of hard work and magic, of accomplishment and imagination, of skill development and the nurturing of what is unique in each of us. We are proud of what we continue to accomplish... every day.

So while this is literally our most 'fertile' year—when more babies will be born to members of our staff than ever before—it is also a time to realize that the seeds of abundance have long been planted at PS#1. They are evident in the signs of hope and conviction that what we do in educating young children, and what we foster and cultivate in relationships between parents and teachers, creates positive lifelong attitudes about life and learning... attitudes that last a lifetime.



Teachers Colby Tofel-Grehi, Hala Innab, Kristin Tone and Holly Swope in a pregnant pose. Not pictured: a pregnant Lisa Capelletti. Congratulations to Pedro and Mildred Ortega whose baby, Isabella, was born in December 2004.

## The Road to Reading: A Parent/Teacher Partnership

On Thursday, November 4th, PS#1 hosted its Third Annual Preschool Symposium. A free public service event for preschool directors, teachers and parents, this annual series provides a valuable forum for information and idea sharing about the preschool years.

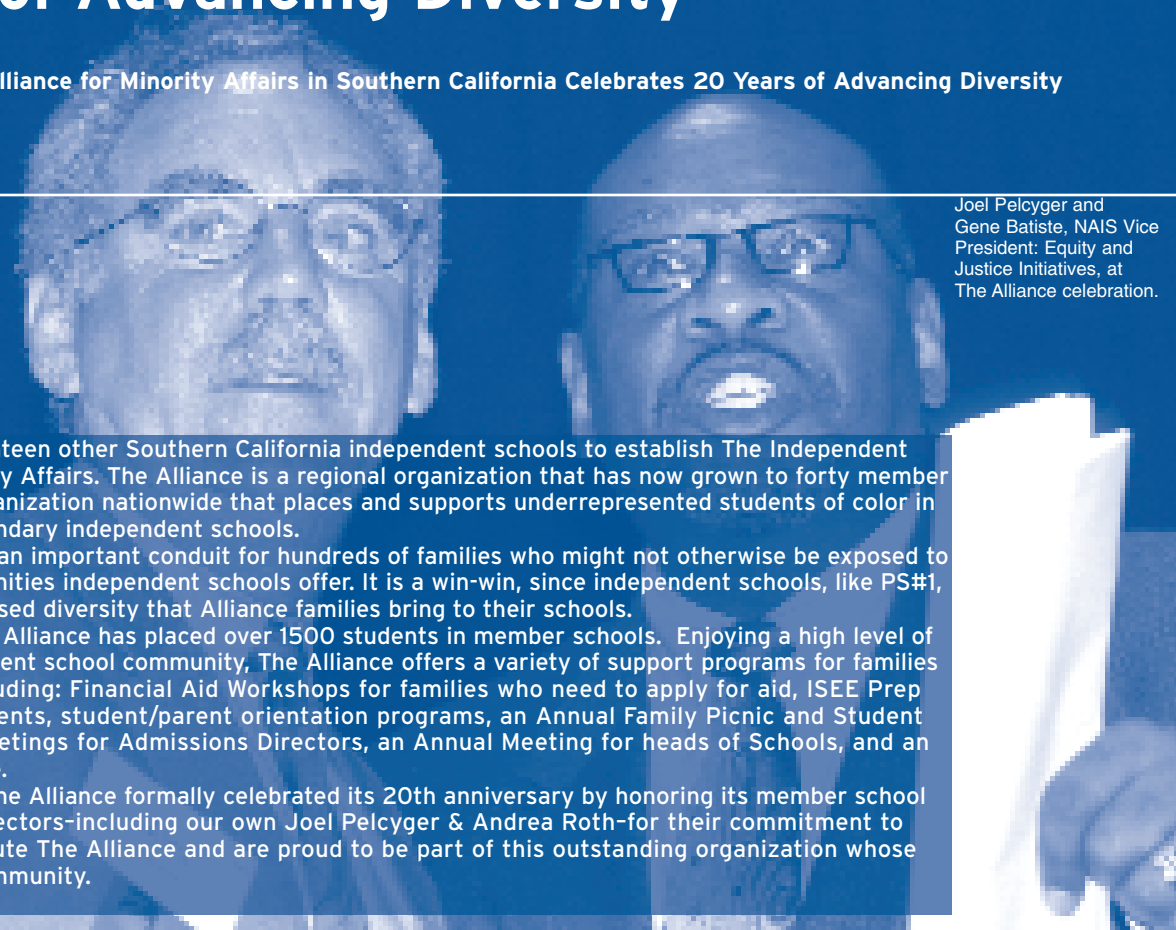
This year's event featured reading specialist Caroline Blakemore. Caroline is a published author, professor at California State University San Marcos, and Gavin Abraham's grandma. At the Symposium, she talked about language development in young children and shared many interesting observations about how children learn to read and write. Her comments were based upon research and her own experience. Caroline's expertise is highly respected and resulted in her being named one of San Diego's "Top Ten Teachers of the Year" in 1992.

During her presentation, Caroline shared specific strategies for teachers and parents to support and enhance children's acquisition of reading and writing skills. The discussion covered a wide range of issues including a dispelling of the idea that reading is just about phonics and decoding. In a lively question and answer session, Caroline answered concerns that both parents and teachers had with regard to their preschool-aged children. Once again, attendees left feeling appreciative for the information and excited about what they had learned!

Caroline followed up her talk by continuing to work during the year with our teachers in Youngers and Bridge. This is another example of the many outstanding opportunities for PS#1 Grandparents to play an active role in our school community.

## 20 Years of Advancing Diversity

The Independent School Alliance for Minority Affairs in Southern California Celebrates 20 Years of Advancing Diversity in Independent Schools



Joel Pelcyger and Gene Batiste, NAIS Vice President: Equity and Justice Initiatives, at The Alliance celebration.

In 1984, PS#1 joined seventeen other Southern California independent schools to establish The Independent School Alliance for Minority Affairs. The Alliance is a regional organization that has now grown to forty member schools. It is the only organization nationwide that places and supports underrepresented students of color in both elementary and secondary independent schools.

The Alliance serves as an important conduit for hundreds of families who might not otherwise be exposed to the extraordinary opportunities independent schools offer. It is a win-win, since independent schools, like PS#1, are enriched by the increased diversity that Alliance families bring to their schools.

Since its inception, the Alliance has placed over 1500 students in member schools. Enjoying a high level of respect from the independent school community, The Alliance offers a variety of support programs for families and member schools including: Financial Aid Workshops for families who need to apply for aid, ISEE Prep Classes for applying students, student/parent orientation programs, an Annual Family Picnic and Student Recognition Program, meetings for Admissions Directors, an Annual Meeting for heads of Schools, and an Across Colors Conference.

On March 5th, 2005, The Alliance formally celebrated its 20th anniversary by honoring its member school heads and admissions directors-including our own Joel Pelcyger & Andrea Roth-for their commitment to diversity. We at PS#1 salute The Alliance and are proud to be part of this outstanding organization whose work is so vital to our community.

# NAIS People of Color Conference

PS#1 alums Carli Singer, Miles Tokunow and Chassity Griffin with Curriculum Coordinator, Carolina Goodman at the NAIS People of Color Conference last December in Miami.



Hala Innab and I were fortunate to have participated in the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) People of Color Conference (PoCC) last December in Miami. This annual conference provides two important opportunities: for people of color to come together for networking and support; and for schools to find ways to build and sustain inclusive communities. Educators from across the nation gathered together to identify ways to support diversity, multiculturalism, and equity and justice in independent schools.

It was an honor for Hala and me to be selected by NAIS as group leaders for the first day of the conference, which was devoted to affinity group work. Affinity group sessions are designed for conference participants to develop their own racial/ethnic/cultural identity rather than to learn about others. Hala led sessions for twelve educators who self identified as Middle Eastern. Carolina and five other facilitators led a group of sixty Asian American educators. We all made new connections as we discussed issues related to identity development, diversity within diversity, and the challenges of fitting into the independent school community.

The second day of the conference offered more than eighty Professional Development workshops, two of which were presented by Hala and myself. Hala's workshop was entitled "Supporting Middle Eastern Students in the Classroom." It focused on providing accurate information about the Middle East, dispelling popular misconceptions as well as supplying teachers with hands on material to use in the classroom. One notable aspect about the workshop was the extraordinary audience participation, which made it a joint collaboration and discussion rather than a lecture. The Middle Eastern affinity group had a similar flavor, with many diverse participants who shared their unique experience and perspective.

My workshop was entitled "Supporting All Families in Independent Schools." I shared information about PS#1's school-wide diversity efforts

(Common Ground activities, Admissions Office outreach, faculty professional development, curriculum integration, Parents Guild board support, Diversity Dialogue opportunities) as well ideas gathered from other schools, both locally and across the nation, e.g. parent organizations which provide speakers for parent education, assemblies for students, research to support faculty in offering new units of study, and forums for families to discuss issues they deem important.

One of the conference highlights was a keynote address by Amy Tan, author of *The Joy Luck Club*. Because of its universal themes, this book has been translated into over twenty different languages. With humor and passion, Amy entertained her audience with stories of being raised by a mother deeply rooted in Chinese culture and of experiencing culture clash as she grew up in California's Bay Area.

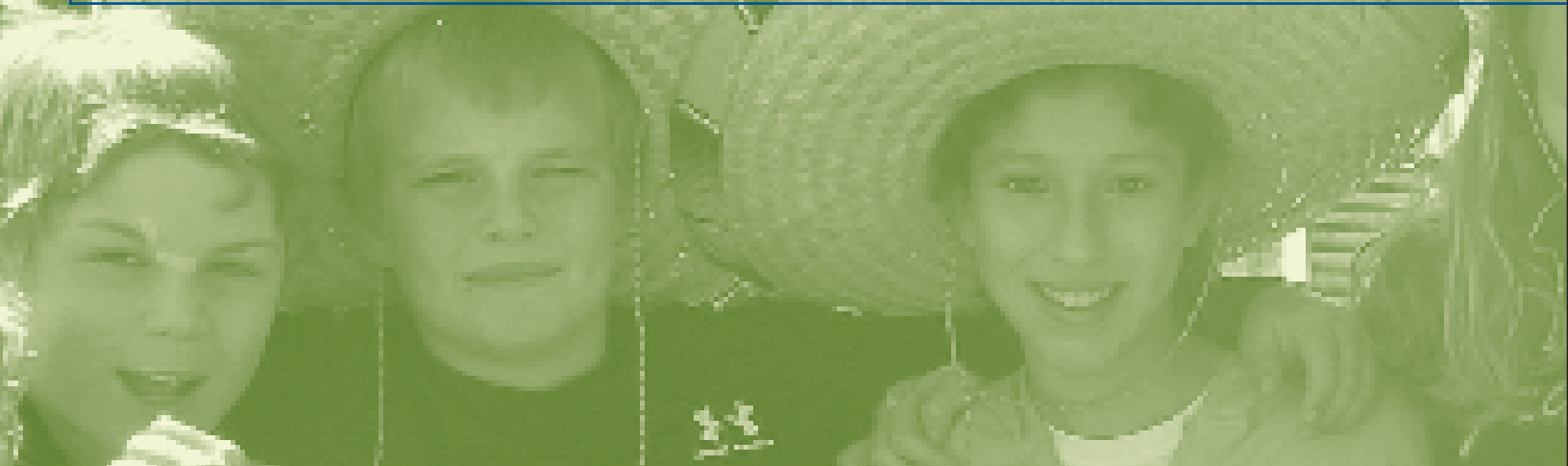
In keeping with the conference's tradition, the final morning session was led by high school students who had been participating in a parallel conference: Student Diversity Leadership. This year, three of those students were PS#1 alumni: Miles Tokunow, Chassity Griffin, and Carli Singer. They shared what they learned about the effects of stereotypes and prejudice with respect to gender, race, class, culture, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age and ability.

These PS#1 grads made us very proud. They were articulate and insightful about the different perspectives of marginalized groups; and they challenged the adults in the room to be sensitive to the particular and individual needs of the students in their schools.

The People of Color Conference is one of the ways that NAIS realizes its goal of developing inclusive communities—communities that recognize both the richness brought by difference and that which is discovered through commonality. NAIS believes it has a moral imperative to lead everyone in independent education to create community out of diversity.



# Volunteer Spotlight



One of my favorite quotations is in E.M. Forster's novel *Howard's End* – "Only connect!" When I look back on the various events/happenings and volunteer activities from the year and when I think about what is still to come, I am happy to see this theme of connection throughout.

Parent volunteers are the key to these connections. As parent volunteers we embrace new friends, remain linked to old friends and encourage everyone to feel a part of the PS#1 community.

We started the year with a bang at the **Back to School Picnic at Clover Park**. Emanuela Boni (Oliver Curry's mom) did a marvelous job in making the new families feel welcome and allowing returning families to catch up. Emanuela, together with Neil Moss (Kyla's dad) plan to organize the picnic for next year as well. It is sure to be another fun-filled event.

**Make New Friends Day**, chaired by Mary-Dorothy Line (Marie and William's mom) and Christine Champion (Dylan and Alana's mom) helped to make new parents and children feel more at ease about starting their first day of elementary school. What a nice feeling it is for these children to be the only children at their "first" day at school.

The spirit from the picnic and **Make New Friends Day** continued at the **First Day Coffee**, coordinated by Rae Sanchini (Dominique and Will Tobey's mom) and Susan Hayden (Mason Allport's mom). Rae and Susan will do it all again next year!

As the children settled into the routine of school, Brent Shapiro (Sami and Nicki's dad) once again pulled together another fabulous **Father's Breakfast**. I went for the first time, and it was nice to see the Field of Dreams full of parents and children eating, socializing and just having a good time. Then, of course the dynamic Book



Fair Trio, Trula Marcus (Coltrane's mom), Sheridan Farrell (Caris Yeoman's mom) and Jodi Pantuck (Morgan and Alex's mom), together with a cast of thousands (it would probably be easier to list who was not involved), put together an incredible **Book Fair Festival** and week-long celebration of reading. This event is always one of my favorites. By the end of October, most new families have learned the ropes and returning families are looking forward to hanging out with those families they haven't seen yet. The Book Fair Festival is a wonderful time for families to have fun together at the school. Bo Kwon (Hanna Gratch's mom) has graciously agreed to chair this event next year.

And, how about those mini-mall chairs – Beth Robbins (Luca's mom), Julie Broida (Tia Greenfield's mom) and Tina Andrews (Makai's mom)? The colors they have brought into the world of PS#1 speak for themselves. Gotta love the pink!

The buzz on the **Community Service Committee**, chaired by Andra Brosh (Elle and Archer's mom) and Katie Moss

(Madison's mom) just keeps getting stronger. Just when you think that can't do anything more, they come up with another innovative idea. The partnership with Centro de Niños is particularly inspired. PS#1 now has an ongoing connection (there's that word again) with an organization devoted to helping children. I also like the **"Pack-A-Sack Lunch" program**, where children put together sack lunches for the homeless. Every class will be participating in this program. I even heard that a child made a lunch, decorated a lunch bag, and the very next day, saw a person at a bus stop with that lunch bag. What a special feeling that child must have had!

Robin Maya (Louly's mom) got us into the holiday spirit by organizing a sold-out screening of "Christmas with the Kranks" at Sony Studios. We all cheered, of course, when our own Peggy Etra (AnnaRose's mom) uttered that immortal line, "Of course."

A special note of thanks goes to Chris Money (Madi Miller's mom), who came up



Background:  
PS#1 students enjoying Global Feast Day;

Left to Right:  
Chairs Karen Biers and Julie Broida at Global Feast Day; Chair Trula Marcus with Gary and Coltrane at Book Fair Festival; Dylan McDermott reading at Book Fair Festival.



with the idea of the first aid kit drive for **Tsunami Relief**. Chris almost single handedly coordinated the drive for the entire school and made it so our children could feel connected to children in another part of the world. Other Tsunami relief programs were also initiated in different classes.

Jeanne Lisella (Sofia Duffy's mom) has put a great deal of effort into the **Library Committee**, which lends support to our librarian and also creates new programs for children to express their enthusiasm for reading. **Access Books**, chaired by Kay Seymour-Gabriel (Emma Laurent's mom) collected over 2600 books that were distributed to Sheridan Street School on

March 5th, yet another way for our children to feel connected to other children in a different community.

I am not sure who has more fun on **Staff Appreciation Day**, the children or the faculty and staff. Shaun Bornstein (Kalia and Olivia's mom) and Vala Legan (Olivia's mom) planned a fantastic day where the faculty and staff felt truly treasured and connected to our community. And this year's **Global Feast Day**, chaired by Julie Broida (Tia Greenfield's mom) and Karen Biers (Ruben and Marrika Radlauer's mom) was our most festive and delicious ever!

Perhaps the most under appreciated volunteer parents are Karen Davidson (Jake's mom) and Natalie Ziontz (Jared's mom), who coordinate the **Hot Lunch Program**. The amount of work put in by Karen and Natalie to ensure that our children have hot lunches three times a week is more than you can imagine. Remember this is a program run solely by parents for the benefit of parents (or for the children whose parents would otherwise make them make their own lunches).

Many parents have been working behind the scenes to keep our community connected. Laura Beck (Sara Wilson's mom) and Jodi Nagy (Emily's mom) organized and coordinated the **Gift Wrap drive**. The graduate parents owe a particular debt of gratitude to Laura and Jodi. **The Head Room Parents** – Tammy Ellis (Dylan's mom), Nancy Mindel (Sam and Jake's mom), Joyce Ng (Alex and Fiona's mom), Ronnie Reade (Gabbie's mom), Shaun Bornstein (Kalia and Olivia's mom), Robin Terman (Bryce's mom), Christine Champion (Dylan and Alana's mom)—as well as the other room parents have been doing a marvelous job in keeping parents informed and gathering help for the



teachers. Also, when you pick up your child's folder every Monday, don't forget about the many parents who stuff those folders as part of the **Staff Assistance Committee** chaired by Tammy Ellis (Dylan's mom) and Marci Dinkin (Robin and Leslie's mom). While this is a very behind the scenes volunteer activity, we all appreciate it.

The amazing **Yearbook Committee**, chaired by Jennifer Bitterman (Jordan Bitterman-Jace's mom) and Sheridan Farrell (Caris Yeoman's mom) has been busy taking and collecting pictures of the children and designing the layout. And what an accomplishment it is! The PS#1 yearbook is worthy of a high school, much less an elementary school!

I could go on and on about everything that parent volunteers do for PS#1, but I have limited space. As of this writing, we are all looking forward to **Auction 2005: A Celebration of Our Children**. This fun-filled evening, set for April 30th at *Shutters at the Beach*, has been brilliantly chaired by Andi Holtzman (Madelyn's mom) and Abbe Shapiro (Sami and Nicki's mom). Hope to see you all there!

There are many ongoing activities in which to become involved, we look forward to everyone's participation. I appreciate all that you have done, are doing and will do for our school. I hope to see you on the yard, in the carpool line, stuffing folders, at a school tour, at the Auction, or just hanging around!

Originally developed in Scotland, Storypath teaches through experience. In the case of the election program, our class created a campaign of our own, while concurrently learning the historical specifics of the evolution of the presidential election.



**By Lauren Hansson,**  
aka Presidential Candidate  
Lola Thompson

Our Story path experience brought some people together and split others apart. Although I was uncomfortable about making speeches, the fact that I was no longer Lauren Hansson - I was now Lola Thompson - helped me. I thought that our party, the Pledge Party, needed to know all the details about our campaign, because people would ask us during snack and lunch a lot. What surprised me the most was how serious the younger kids got. At one point after our newspaper scandal, some of them refused to vote.

In our class, we had times when we didn't get along with so many "leaders" who wanted to be in charge. There were many great ideas and posters by the time Election Day came. I spent time preparing myself in case I lost. When I found out that I had won, I was happy, but knew that if I had lost, it might have hurt my feelings to hear people cheering. That's why I didn't cheer myself.

All around, I think I really became a more confident person and a much better public speaker.

**By Stephanie Smith,**  
aka Presidential Candidate  
Scarlett Milden

My name is Stephanie Smith and I'm in John and Kristin's class. This year we did a program called Story Path; it was all about the presidential election. My whole class came up with characters and applied for jobs. My character was named Scarlett Milden from the Speak-Out Party, and I ran for President against a girl named Lola Thompson who was from the Pledge Party. Each of us had a whole team of people behind us; we had speechwriters, campaign managers, etc. And we must not forget my reliable Vice Presidential candidate, Jesse Printz (David Stone!) Lauren Hansson (Lola Thompson) and I made speeches to four different classes. Our parties made Power Point presentations, commercials, and posters. Lauren and I even had a debate! Then everyone voted. Even our class!

Story Path was so much fun! It really got me interested in the real election! But what I really liked about Story Path was that we didn't just read about the election, we did the election, and we had the best time doing it! I remember my first speech. I was so nervous and I was shaking! Everybody came up to me and wished me luck. That's when I realized that it wasn't about who did better in her speech or who won the election, it was about who had the most fun doing it! I learned more about the election than I thought possible in one year. From designing the Speak-Out Party headquarters (our first task as a party) to finding out that Lola Thompson had won the election; Story Path has been a wonderful experience, and I had the best time participating in it!





by John Waldman, PS#1 Classroom Teacher

## Using Storypath to Teach the Presidential Election

When planning for the 2004-2005 school year, Kristin and I were certain we wanted to focus on the presidential election in our investigation of United States History. Late in the spring, our curriculum coordinator, Carolina Goodman, found a listing for a summer workshop training teachers to implement a program called Storypath in teaching the election, as well as the whole history of our democracy. I immediately signed up and it turned out to be one of the most valuable career development activities in which I have participated.

With Margit Maguire, a former president of the National Association for the Teaching of Social Studies, and current professor at Seattle University, and Su Hickenbottom, a former Social Studies Teacher of the Year in Washington, I worked intensively for three days. A group of teachers from Washington, Texas and New York joined us in learning the specifics of Storypath.

Originally developed in Scotland, Storypath teaches through experience. In the case of the election program, our class created a campaign of our own, while concurrently learning the historical specifics of the evolution of the presidential election.

We began by dividing the class into two parties (although we certainly discussed the impact of third parties on the past two elections) and designing campaign headquarters. We then visited an

actual Campaign Headquarters to learn what jobs existed in a campaign and what specific events constitute a campaign. The students then officially applied for jobs within their respective parties. These included art director, campaign manager, media specialist, speech writer, treasurer, and other positions one would encounter in the course of a campaign.

After a primary, our candidates emerged. In Storypath, students create a character, which they “play” for the duration of the campaign. Thus, Stephanie Smith became Speak Out Party presidential hopeful, Scarlet Millden. Her running mate was Jesse Printz, aka David Stone. The Pledge Party ticket of Lauren Hansson’s character, Lola Thompson, and Scott Heinemann’s, Lysander MacMilkfish, opposed them. The candidates and the parties then spent several sessions writing party platforms, and the campaigns were officially underway.

Working from a fictitious budget of a \$1,000,000, the political parties created posters, t-shirts, PowerPoint and video advertisements, buttons, and bracelets. Campaign managers booked speaking engagements and registered voters in four other classes on campus that had agreed to participate. Late in October, with Election Day bearing down, a ‘scandal’ broke. An article in the Los Angeles Times detailed Scarlet Millden’s investment in an environmentally unfriendly company and Lola Thompson’s efforts to bypass United States laws in helping her brother set up an overseas lighting manufacturer. Both parties called emergency meetings and speech writers had to create responses to the controversy to be delivered the following morning in each classroom. Students in the Bridge Class felt particularly deceived, and if it wasn’t for the extraordinary speeches, they may have stayed home on Election Day.

The final event was a debate that was staged for the students in Colby and Anne’s class, who had contributed the questions. On November 2, the polling place in the 12th St. garage opened and students cast their votes. Savvy poll workers turned one student away who tried to cast her ballot a second time. A few others were denied the chance to vote, because they had not registered. In the end, Lola Thompson emerged victorious with narrow leads in both the popular and electoral counting.

Over six weeks, the students had learned an enormous amount about presidential politics, from the earliest parties such as the Federalists and the Whigs, to the Watergate break-in during the 1972 campaign. The students watched the televised debates and followed the actual election with informed interest. It may be that nationwide only 17% of eighteen year-old voters participated in the election, but you can rest assured that these twenty-six children will participate when they finally get the chance. By the emails, notes and comments we received from students in other classes and their teachers and parents, other children on the campus will follow suit. To celebrate their extraordinary efforts, we threw a class party and gave each child the opportunity to write in detail about the experience. We archived much of the campaign material and displayed these materials in the classroom during this year’s Open House.

# Good Global Citizens

**“What I learned was that the kits that the class was making were going to small affected places. The larger places got most of the world's attention. What I think was really amazing was that a girl who studied tsunamis saw the water go back and told everybody to run. She saved about 100 people's lives.”** –Madi Miller, age 9

## **A Winning Wash: Abbie & Chris' Class Raises Funds**

Abbie & Chris' class organized an exceptional project to support victims of Southeast Asia's devastating Tsunami. The students debated ways they could earn money to help the victims, and then voted. They decided to hold a doggie/car wash. The event took place on Saturday, February 5th at PS#1. The class pre-sold tickets and washed approximately 35 cars and a dozen dogs. At the end of the day, they had made nearly \$2000.

The next task was to select a worthy organization. The students researched a number of relief organizations and invited a representative from International Medical Corps to speak to them. Of all the organizations they researched, the IMC made the greatest impression. The class decided to donate their \$2000 to the IMC. The check was proudly presented to the IMC and the Santa Monica Press ran a feature story about the project. Congratulations to every student in Abbie and Chris' class! A job well done!

## **“A Heartfelt Hello” LiAnne & Allison's Class First Aid Kit Drive**

On a wintry, January afternoon LiAnne and Allison's class stood either side of a forty foot long table. Their attention was uniformly focused on the task at hand: assembling over 300 first aid kits for shipment to Tsunami affected families in Southeast Asia. Slings, ointments, gauze, bandages and other medical supplies were precisely and carefully placed, assembly-style, into bright red lunch boxes donated by Thermos Corporation. Once tightly packed with all the necessary supplies, the boxes were decorated with white first-aid crosses. Photographs and messages from the children themselves, a “Heartfelt Hello”, were carefully attached to the inside lids. The completed kits were then packed into cardboard boxes, ready for shipment.

“The final reward for me,” said Chris Money, the parent who coordinated this relief effort, “ is knowing that not only did our children benefit tremendously from creating this project, but most importantly, that the kits are now on their way to Indonesia to truly help people in need.”

PS#1's 312 First Aid Kits were shipped to Southeast Asia by DirectRelief International. Although this project originated in LiAnne and Allison's classroom, the entire community participated. Thousands of dollars were donated by PS#1 families to purchase the supplies. Both the Santa Monica Mirror and Brentwood Media Group ran stories on the effort. Local businesses, including Longs Drugs Santa Monica, Thermos Corporation, Kinko's Brentwood, Brentwood Mailbox, International Hospital Supply and Curtin Studios, also contributed generously. Thank you everyone for making this project such a heartwarming success!

## **Faculty Arts Night**

Talent abounds in our PS#1 faculty in the visual and performing arts! On Tuesday evening, March 1st, parents and friends were wowed by the work of visual artists Nancy Reeves, John Waldman, Abbie Perttula, Anne Sweet, Nicolina Karlsson, Brad Shimada, and Chris Hertrich.

The performance part of the evening was equally remarkable. It featured beautiful flute solos by Nancy Reeves (PS#1's music teacher) as well as John Waldman's annual poetry reading. John's poetry readings have become a highlight of every PS#1 school year. This year, in addition to his traditional readings, John incorporated music into several of the pieces. He was accompanied for these works by his cousin James Waldman, Franchot Tone (husband of PS#1 teacher, Kristin Tone), and PS#1 parent Dan Radlauer.

**“The feeling of helping others in need just feels great.”** –Dylan Champion, age 9



# Alumni Corner

**David Newhouse ('83)** Since leaving PS#1, David went on to receive a BA from Oberlin University in 1995 and a PhD from Cornell in 2002. David is now an economist at the International Monetary Fund, helping to look at the effect of recommended policies on the poor. His fondest memories of PS#1 are the all-school camping trips, Circle Time singing with Jimbo, Friday afternoon soccer at Memorial Park, and most importantly, the nurturing and inclusive atmosphere.

**Griffin Harris ('04)** is in 7th grade at Crossroads Middle School. Griffin sent us an update and is enjoying middle school and his new friends. He loves "to hang around, play basketball, make jokes and be active" with all these new friends.

**Jak Koning, ('02)** Is at Santa Monica High School and was named Student of The Year at Lincoln Middle School last year. The criteria for student of the year include academics, intellectual curiosity and helpfulness and consideration for others. Congratulations Jak!

**Alex Hartung ('04)** is in 7th grade at Crossroads Middle School and was selected to represent Crossroads at the LA County Fair. Congratulations Alex! Alex reports that he played on the "A" soccer league and they had a "great season." He also had a great time on the class trip to Catalina and was lucky enough to see a Tiger Shark when he was there!

**Graham Silbert, ('96)** now works at The Santa Monica Playhouse and is part of their professional repertory company. Graham is involved in a variety of capacities: directing, teaching, acting, writing, composing, etc. He is also in charge of The Playhouse's STEP program (School Theatre Excursion Project). He would welcome visits to the theatre from PS#1 students and families.

**Christine Chun, ('00)** was named a finalist for the prestigious Guerin Prize at Marlborough School. The Guerin Prize, established in 1999, offers a member of Marlborough's junior class the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity of meeting a living American thinker, doer, or leader of her choice. Congratulations Christine!

## Life After PS#1? I'll Say!

On Wednesday, November 3, seventeen incredibly bright, articulate PS#1 alumni took over the MPR to share their experiences in middle and secondary school with a very attentive audience. The alums were joined by several PS#1 alumni parents and by Gennifer Yoshimaru, Director of Admissions at Crossroads, and Dr. Kevin Newman, Associate Director of College Counseling, at Brentwood. As Joel announced at the evening's onset, it was to be a free-wheeling discussion and the kids were not to give "politically correct answers." They took Joel at his word.

Many different personalities were represented on this panel, but there was a consistency of wit and intelligence throughout. Each student was a passionate advocate for his or her own current school. Some students opted for a more traditional school environment, while others felt freedom of choice was critical to their growth. In every case, however, they reinforced the theory that, by the time kids reach middle school age, they have a good sense of what will work for them at the next level. Parents are wise to listen to that and allow their children to have a major voice in the decision.

What was pointed out several times during the evening was that, too often, the final year at PS#1 is fraught with panic over the middle school application process. It was clear, from both the student and the adult panelists that, for the most part, kids end up going to the school they're meant to go to. A key point, made by several of the students, was that, if they had it to do over again, they would have spent a lot less time "stressing" and a lot more time savoring the joys of their final year at PS#1.

Thanks to Kevin Newman, Gennifer Yoshimaru and the following alumni panelists for participating in this special event: Kate Berlant, Daryn Foster and Molly Wertheimer from Archer; Alex Hirsch from Brentwood; Nick Maya, Delaney Simon, Alex McCown, Gina Rockenwagner and Roxy Rockenwagner from Crossroads; Charlotte Baskin-Gerwitz, Will Baskin-Gerwitz and Harley Wertheimer from Harvard Westlake; Asha McNab from Marlborough, Milo Frank from New Roads; Laura Simon from Windward; and Nick Cron-DeVico and Jake Hagelberg from Wildwood.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS by Jeff Dinkin

## Who is on the Board and What Are Their Responsibilities?

### 2004-2005

#### PS#1 Board of Directors

#### Committee

The Board is comprised of a group of both parents and non-parents of the school. Each one of them is charged with a leadership role in a specific sector of our community. Listed at right are the 2004-2005 members of the Board, along with the committees they represent. If you have questions concerning what's going on with a specific committee, contact the board member charged with that responsibility.

Jeff Dinkin  
 Chris Fillo  
 Buzz Harris  
 Hugh Harrison  
 Rana Kirkland  
 Lee Kovel  
 Joel Pelcyger  
 Abbie Pertula  
 Magye Rosenfeld  
 Ron Segall  
 Bob Solomon  
 Bruce Tobey  
 Nancy Wang  
 Andrew Watts  
 Kedren Werner  
 Peter Werner  
 Alan Wertheimer

Board of Directors Chair and Standards and Search Chair  
 Administration and Finance Chair  
 Capital Campaign Co-Chair and Marketing & Publicity Co-Chair  
 Strategic Planning and Board of Directors Vice-Chair  
 Parents Guild Liaison  
 Marketing & Publicity Co-Chair  
 Head of School  
 Aesthetics Committee Co-Chair, Building & Grounds Committee  
 Treasurer, Administration and Finance Committee  
 Development & Outreach Chair  
 Buildings & Ground Chair  
 Administration & Finance and Capital Campaign  
 Admissions Co-Chair  
 Capital Campaign Co-Chair  
 Admissions Co-Chair  
 Capital Campaign & Strategic Planning  
 Annual Giving Chair

## Save The Date!

- May 5** **ERB Parent Education Night** 7:00pm
- 13** **School Tour** 8:45-10:45am
- 18** **Faculty Workshops** No school, child care available
- 23-26** **Graduates Trip**
- 24-26** **All School Camping Trip**
- 27** **Post Camping Trip Holiday** school closed
- 30** **Memorial Day** school closed
- June 3** **School Tour** 8:45-10:45am
- 16** **Last Day of Classes** noon dismissal, **Graduation** 4:00pm
- 17** **Moving Up Day** 3:30pm

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