



Fellow Parents,

Welcome to another colorful and productive learning year at Steppingstone! As a fifth year Steppingstone parent, I am excited to start this school year on our wonderful new campus. Remember that we moved in November last year so this is our first fall here!

Steppingstone's academic environment is generated by its many uniquely qualified, gifted teachers and administrators. Add to this mix our exceptional, each highly individual, children as students, and their (also highly individual) parents, and each year develops its own personality. Many of you are returning, veteran parents, but many are new to Steppingstone. I want to not just welcome you but invite you to participate in something pretty spectacular – your child's educational process!

Steppingstone provides each parent the opportunity to jump in and contribute on many different levels. This will be my third year leading the Steppingstone Parent Teacher Group (SPTG) and, speaking for the officers, teachers and staff, we encourage you to turn your summer refreshed perspectives and enthusiasm for education into action ... so beyond offering a big welcome to all, I want to offer opportunities to contribute. Hilary Anderson, the SPTG VP and Volunteer Coordinator is enclosing a list of options for involvement in this mailing.

The mission of the SPTG is for the parents, administration, faculty and staff to work together to achieve an optimal educational and developmental experience for Steppingstone's students as well as support for their parents as they grow and develop so whether it is ...

- helping with Math Pentathlon or other after-school activity,
- driving for a field-trip or swimming at the Costick Center,
- participating in fund-raising activities such as the Auction,
- developing the library or grounds,
- offering your ideas, services and opinions,
- participating in our monthly meetings (highly encouraged!)
- and otherwise just **jumping in** wherever you see an under-served need,

... we look forward to everyone being a contributor.

At this point, I want to introduce the 2006/2007 school year SPTG officers:

President	Connie Hart	hartsjcc@aol.com	(248) 478-3165
Vice President	Hilary Anderson	esmemulligan@hotmail.com	(313) 244-5505
Secretary	Marie McCubbery	paulsmomakamarie@yahoo.com	(734) 844-8101
Treasurer	Darlene Carroll-Giha	carrollgiha@comcast.net	(248) 399-8685

Each one of us encourages questions or comments. Please introduce yourself to us.

Your participation is highly encouraged at our monthly meetings, which occur on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Steppingstone (see attached list for dates). The Officers and leaders of the different committees or clubs act as a Steering Committee to help each other work through and address issues or implement new ideas/programs. The discussions have been known to be lively and definitely informative on the latest happenings at the school. Please come and join in the discussions. These meetings provide an important avenue for communication between the parents, administration, faculty and board of Steppingstone – an opportunity to work together as a team.

I would also like to introduce the Class Parent Mentors for this school year:

- 6-8th Linda Daniels
- 4-5th Diane Whipple
- 2-3rd Teri Weingarden
- K-1st Chris Long
- Pre-K Hilary Anderson

... and lastly, this year, Steppingstone is taking a different approach to helping everyone transition to the new school year. Instead of an orientation requiring all parents to attend a meeting prior to school starting, the SPTG will be hosting the New School Year potluck on Friday, September 8, which follows Field Day for the kids (see flyer). At that potluck the teachers, administration, SPTG officers and class mentors will be introduced. Parents will have the opportunity to ask questions in a group format as well as one-to-one. It will be a great opportunity to interact. But we realize this setting has limitations --- we have to keep an eye on the kids and that can be distracting when you're trying to get a question answered!

With this in mind, each class mentor with the support of the SPTG will be hosting a get together on an evening during the second or third week of school. Teachers, administration, and SPTG officers will be present at these events as well. We are very hopeful that by the end of your child(ren)'s second or third week of school, you will have ...

- developed a good handle on the general workings of the school,
- interacted with your child(ren)'s teacher(s) and the school's admin team,
- met many other parents --- particularly the ones who have children in the same classroom(s) as yours
- identified the resources available for getting questions answered and thoughts expressed
- found a real comfort level for the school so that **jumping in** is easy!!!

Thank you so much for allowing me to offer you the opportunity to get involved, and be one of the first to share information on school happenings this year. It's the first of lots to come!!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Connie Hart
President, SPTG