

Parent Conferences Next Friday

45 Minute Parent Conferences

Parents, plan for 45 minute Parent Conferences next week, FRIDAY, March 5th.

Swim Demo, Last Lesson!

Students will complete their eight week swimming lessons next Thursday, March 4. Please plan on joining us from 2:15 to 3:15 to watch or swim with your child. Students will demonstrate what they have practiced with their assigned teachers and lifeguard in swimming.

A sincere thank you to all our drivers. Your commitment to drive was appreciated by the students and faculty. Thank you for giving us adequate notice when you were unable to drive—that helped a lot!

THANK YOU:

Doris Collazo	Trina Deming
Dawn Gilmore	Teodora Jevtic
JaNele Jordan	Aparna Joshi
Shere Kahn	Jenifer Lampi
Jane Lock	Wendy Mayer
Jackie Robbins	Susan Sheth
Anu Thomas	

A BIG thank you to Dr. Morse and Mr. Herbst for managing the boy's locker room.

We acknowledge all of you!

Update: New School

Go to the full newsletter on the Steppingstone website at: <http://www.steppingstoneschool.org/students/newsletters.php> for more photos from last night's presentation. More pictures and information will be posted on the website at a later date.

The News Digest

- Page 1 Big news! Check out *Update: New School!*
- Page 1 *We're on Facebook!* Now you can keep up with Steppingstone news online and quicker than the weekly newsletter.
- Page 2 Ms. Powell takes us *Far, Far Away...* in literature.
- Page 2 *What is Bloom's Taxonomy?* Ms. Schultz explains levels of thinking.
- Page 2 *Who's Ready to Write a Good Fantasy?* The Upper Elementary, of course.
- Page 2 Next week there will be *45 Minute Parent Conferences*. Check out the article for more details.
- Page 2 *Fencing Continues* in the PHS class. Not watches. Foils.
- Page 2 Next Thursday, there will be a *Swim Demo, Last Lesson*. Read the article for details.

We're on Facebook!

Steppingstone is catching up to the 21st Century and now has a Facebook page. To reach it, point your browser at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Farmington-Hills-MI/Steppingstone-School/307861297606?ref=ts>

Things are still a little rough around the edges on the page, but we're working on getting things up to speed. If you have any suggestions, email them to Jason at jroder@steppingstoneschool.org.

If you don't have a Facebook account, you can still catch up on the latest news through our Twitter account, which you can find at:

<http://www.twitter.com/SteppingstoneFH>



Check out the new digs!

Parent Conferences Next Friday

Upcoming Events ...

FRI, Feb 26
NO SCHOOL—Teacher
Workday

THURS, Mar 4
9 am, Student Pre-Auction
Party
1:45 pm, Swim Demo
Departure

FRI, Mar 5
NO SCHOOL—Parent
Conferences

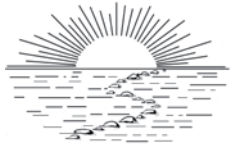
Deadline: Fridays, one week prior
to Thursday publication dates.

Email articles to:
jroder@steppingstoneschool.org

cc:
therbst@steppingstoneschool.org



Check out the new digs!



Steppingstone is an independent, state-approved 501(c) (3) non-profit elementary school (K-8) for gifted students. Steppingstone does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, gender, religion, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of any school policy or program.

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Far, Far Away...

Ms. Powell, Early Elementary

In the land of Snow Kings. Oops, I almost gave the story away! Next week in writing, we will begin writing our own stories of enchantment. Fantasies by definition contain some form of enchantment and some unreality. Children are fascinated by animals, so they may choose to write a story about an animal with human traits. The main characters from the classic *Charlotte's Web* is a prime example of animals living in a human world. The animals take on human feelings and draw conclusions like humans. Toy fantasy is another option that students may choose. It is not unusual for dolls or stuffed animals to become living creatures. We all remember *Winnie the Pooh* who has a happy, carefree life. The toys have the ability to move around, but their existence depends on humans. Who can forget *The Borrowers*, a family of miniature people living in walls. Now they are extraordinary beings!

To help your child prepare for their fantasy trip, pick-up some classic fantasies at the library, share fantasy stories from your childhood, or on your ride to the grocery store, make up your own fantasy. What ever you do, your child will be ready to go Far, Far Away...

What is Bloom's Taxonomy?

Ms. Schultz, Intermediate Elementary

Bloom's taxonomy was originally devised by Benjamin Bloom; it categorizes and classifies levels of intellectual learning that commonly occur in the classroom setting. Bloom's taxonomy contains six levels: knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

It has been said that when students are evaluating and judging and using their higher order thinking skills, they are more likely to retain information, perform better on standardized tests, and most importantly, achieve the ultimate goal of becoming lifelong learners.

At Steppingstone, teachers strive to use the best strategies when instructing students and recognize that implementing these types of lessons serve as best practice for your children. By understanding how to best reach your child, teachers at Steppingstone are able to create more focused lesson plans and help students use higher order thinking skills.

Who's Ready to Write a Good Fantasy?

Mrs. Hoff, Upper Elementary

What do the books *Charlotte's Web*, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *Winnie the Pooh*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Harry Potter* all have in common? They would all be classified as fantasy literature.

Fantasy stories may involve magic, supernatural magic, gods and goddesses, heroes, adventures, and terrible monsters. J. R. R. Tolkien played a large role in the popularization of the fantasy genre with his massively successful publications, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. Tolkien's close friend, C. S. Lewis, who wrote *The Chronicles of Narnia*, was also associated with popularizing the fantasy genre.

During Power Reading, students have all had the opportunity to read fantasy literature. Next month, they will be given the opportunity to write their own fantasy stories. Students will be able to apply what they have already learned about writing good stories and practice "exploding" character traits and plots by using interesting vocabulary.

Research indicates that the broader a student's reading and life experiences, the better writer (s)he will become. Parents, consider going to the library and picking out a fantasy novel to read as a family. A good-night story is always a great way to fall asleep.

45 Minute Parent Conferences

Parents, plan for 45 minute Parent Conferences next week, FRIDAY, March 5th. In past years, faculty spent the first 15 minutes handling administrative issues and the last 30 minutes on your child's education issues. This year, Donna Coffin will handle the administrative issues, and the faculty will handle only the educational issues.

Even though conferences are scheduled every 30 minutes, your appointments are not 30 minutes long. Your Parent Conference appointment is 45 minutes long. Hope this helps you to plan.

Please plan to arrive promptly at the time noted on your conference confirmation sheet.

Fencing Continues

Ms. Morse, Pre High School

We are into our second semester of Fencing classes, and the Pre High School students are doing extremely well in their bouts. We had a few turns at fencing with electronic equipment, which was a different experience—it certainly made for less arguing about who scored a point! If the sabre touched the jacket or helmet of the other person, it was immediately recorded and the referee could stop the bout and determine who got the point.

I have gotten to fence a few times now, and I appreciate the students who are taking it easy on me! There are some, however, who are way too eager to fence me!

Anyway, we are having a great time, and I hope that soon the students will start participating in fencing matches at the fencing club. Perhaps, in our new building, we will be able to have one of our own!

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Kiyo talks about the new campus

ADMINISTRATION

Head of School	Kiyo Morse
Assistant Head	Thomas Herbst
Admissions Director	Donna Coffin
Special Programs Director, & Office Manager	Sandra Blay
Business and Facilities Manager	

STAFF

General Assistant, IT Specialist	Jason Roder
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FACULTY

Early Elementary	Carol Powell
Intermediate Elementary	Janelle Schultz
Upper Elementary	Linda Hoff
Pre High School, Faculty Chair	Keiko Morse
AIMS/TSC Representative	Carol Powell

INSTRUCTORS

Art	Mary Gage
Japanese	Mieko West
Spanish	Ana Maria Gonzalez
Mandarin Chinese	Hong Lin
Computer	Dr. Reef Morse
Extended Day	Mary Gage
Fencing	Jerzy Radz
Performing Arts	Oliver Thompson

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Vice President	Tom Collins
Secretary	Susan Sheth
Treasurer	Sherry Kahn

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Vice-Chair	Jenifer Lampi
Sponsors & Program Ads	
Board Representative	Nancy Furman
Admin Representative	Donna Coffin
Decorations Coordinator	Meir Finkelstein
Acquisition Coordinator	Susan Sheth
Printing and Publications	Tom Herbst
Immediate Past Chair	Wendy Mayer

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Capital Campaign Chair	
Ex Officio:	David Jeshurun
Immediate Past President	
Ex Officio:	Kiyo Morse
Head of School	



This is a little further ahead, but it'll be great to have