

Literary Character Day Next Friday, October 30th

The News Digest

Literary Character Morning and Ice-Skating Afternoon Friday, October 30th

Drivers, we will depart from school at 12 pm.



Auction Update

Now is the time for us to kick off ticket sales for our Pre-Auction Raffle to be held on December 18 at Winterfest. Shortly, your child will bring home their packets of raffle tickets and instructions. As mentioned earlier, our prizes this year are fantastic—

- GRAND PRIZE: Week-long stay at a 2-Bedroom Condo at the Beautiful Marriott Royal Palms Resort Orlando + 4 One-day Park-Hopper Passes to a Walt Disney World Theme Park
- 2nd PRIZE: \$250 Gift Certificate to Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi
- 3rd PRIZE: \$100 Gasoline Card

We hope you ALL will help us in this effort by selling as many tickets as you can. Look for more details in your child's packet and thank you in advance for your support!

- Page 2 Ms. Powell's class is *Discussing Ideas in Literature*
- Page 2 The Intermediate Elementary is studying the *Northeast Native Americans*
- Page 2 Mrs. Hoff writes about *The Importance of Play*
- Page 2 Ms. Morse writes about the fencing program in *En Garde!*
- Page 3 Read all about Ms. Morse's experiences on one of the *ISACS Visiting Teams*
- Page 3 The Steppingstone staff let you in on the secrets of... the *Mileage Club*
- Page 3 Ms. Powell's class has opened the *Snack Shack*. Check it out.

Study Halls

A clarification from Kiyo

Since we continue to experience confusion over terminology, the faculty has implemented the following:

"Study Hall" will be the terminology used to indicate the time a student has spent outside his/her classroom to complete assignments from the previous day. During this time, the student is recalled to the classroom any time new instruction is provided.

Parents, your student does NOT miss any new instruction in math, reading, spelling, social studies, science, art, music/drama, foreign language, computers, etc., when s/he is using a Study Hall. Your student only completes incomplete assignments somewhere outside of his/her classroom in such locations as a desk in the Commons, Mr. Herbst's office, Mrs. Morse's office, or other classrooms. It may "feel" like all day to your child, but rest assured that it is not so in terms of real time. Students are always called back for instruction time and never miss an enrichment class.

Your child might also feel like the teacher "would not help." Strictly speaking, this would not be true either. However, sometimes the student has not been paying attention and decides it would be easier and faster to have the teacher explain a process "again," and at these times, a teacher may decide that the student should re-read and study the explanations in the text in order to figure it out him/herself.

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Upcoming Events ...

FRI, Oct 30
Morning, Literary
Character Day
Afternoon, Ice Skating

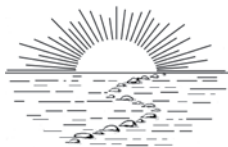
Deadline: Fridays, one week prior to Thursday publication dates.

Email articles to:
jroder@steppingstoneschool.org

cc:
therbst@steppingstoneschool.org



Congrats to Brittany Butler, Artist of the Month



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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Discussing Ideas In Literature

Ms. Powell, Early Elementary

Next week in literature, we will continue to develop our interpretive thinking skills. This is practiced during literature, using the whole range of language skills. The read-aloud program helps students become skilled readers. These skills are practiced in a concrete way through drawing, interpretive questioning, forming questions of their own, art work, and independent writing. Students get a chance to review their work in order to revise their thinking, and they share their work with other students. Most stories are folktales from around the world and poetry by famous poets.

Parents, you can help your child practice these skills when you read to them at home. When you finish a story, ask your child what questions they had about the story. Remember that these questions have no single right answer; instead, it is their interpretation of the story. Once they state their question, you can ask them to tell you more. Students, get ready to discuss all your great literature ideas!

Northeast Native Americans

Ms. Schultz, Intermediate Elementary

In the Northeast Woodlands, the wooded mixed terrain provided abundant timber, rivers and streams, low mountains and hills, and both seacoasts and lake coasts. It featured a generally continental climate with more rain than that which falls on the Plains. These points reveal just some of the information your child will learn during this next phase of our Native American unit.

During this close look into the Northeastern region, students will gain knowledge of the culture, traditions, food, clothing, and family life. Most importantly, they will be able to gain insight into a different life style than their own and to make connections to the similarities that they share.

The Importance of Play

Mrs. Hoff, Upper Elementary

If anyone was watching me during Field Day activities at Mayberry State Park, s/he would have noticed a great big grin on my face. What could be better than sitting on a bench, soaking in the afternoon sun, watching children play! I do not mean watching the local organized sporting events that so many of our children participate in, but watching children jump, chase, and giggle as they run around the playscape.

Steppingstone provides our students with many opportunities to regularly engage in play. Additionally, Upper Elementary students have been allowed to play during their physical education classes. Students vote on the game of the week, and rotating captains select their teams. Students determine the rules and parameters, and also set up and clean up the equipment. The games played during physical education have not only provided the students with opportunities to challenge their physical abilities but also have served as team building opportunities for the Upper Elementary students.

Research indicates that play develops imagination, dexterity, physical, cognitive, and emotional strength. Play helps children develop new competencies that lead to enhanced confidence and the resiliency needed to face future challenges. Play that is not directed by adults allows children to learn how to work in groups, share, negotiate, resolve conflicts, and learn self-advocacy skills. When play is allowed to be child driven, children practice decision-making skills and develop leadership and group skills.

Upcoming physical education classes will provide students with opportunities to practice soccer skills.

En Garde!

Ms. Morse, Pre High School

// En Garde!" The PHS students scuttle into a line and pose – sabers ready – to fend off an attacker.

"Make sure you're in good fencing position!" The students bend their knees, check the position of their sabers – slightly to the outside of their bodies – and turn their torsos a little more to make that target area as small as possible, their masks showing blank faces as they all turn to give their attention to their teacher.

"GO!" The students start advancing and retreating, according to the teacher's movements.

"Lunge!" The students all lunge forward with a resounding "THWAP" of tennis shoes hitting the floor with force, sabers stretched out, and arms balancing their bodies.

"Okay, come in..." The students start to laugh and circle around the instructor, ready to absorb any imparted wisdom about the intricacies of fencing.

After various warm-ups and exercises, this is how a fencing lesson generally goes—all with the goal of making students pay attention to the ever-changing requirements. Fencing was described to me as a physical chess game, not merely for the brawny, but also for the brainy. Now I can see why. Students cannot simply practice movements and expect to win matches. There must be quick thinking and focus as well. How do I get my opponent to lose her guard? How can I feint an attack and score a point? These are all questions that students are learning how to answer through their drills.

It is exciting to watch and exciting to learn. Parents, have your child teach you Parry 5, 4, and 3! Have them show you what a good lunge will look like! Ask them what games they play to keep their skills honed. Most of all, ask how quickly Urich, their teacher, can score a point on them – even at 14 against 1!



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ISACS Visiting Teams

Keiko Morse, our PHS classroom teacher, has been absent this week while she participates on an ISACS Visiting Team at DaVinci Academy in Elgin, Illinois. Tom Herbst participated in a Visiting Team in Ohio earlier in the year. Those of you who attended Steppingstone last year will remember our own late-April ISACS visit.

As part of their rigorous accreditation program, ISACS schools undergo a seven-year cycle of events that leads to a visit by a group of educators from another ISACS school. The Visiting Team experience is valuable not only for the school being visited, but also for the team member and for the school that provides a team member for another school. As part of the regular cycle of accreditation, Steppingstone will again be visited in 2016.

While Keiko was absent, Amanda Thomas was the substitute teacher. Amanda is taking a leave of absence to start her own family, but she is available to substitute for Steppingstone from time to time. It was great to have her back for the visit!

Snack Shack

Ms. Powell, Early Elementary

Beginning Tuesday, October 20 the Early Elementary will launch the SNACK SHACK. The "SHACK" will be open everyday in the afternoons. Some items offered at the shack are, granola bars, apples, pretzels, crackers, and carrots & Ranch dip. Offerings are subject to change. Bring a dollar and grab a snack to go. How convenient is that!

The revenues will be used to cover our expenses for fish care, special projects, and field trips. In addition, students will apply their math skills and learn a little about sales, shop-keeping, and counting money. The Early Elementary students thank you in advance for helping to support their classroom ventures.

Mileage Club

Steppingstone Staff

What is a foot day? Those are the days that the neon-green shoe lace is tied in a bow, and all laps count towards feet! Each student has a Mileage Marker card where laps are tallied.

10 laps = 1 mile

1 mile = 2 heart punches on the yellow card

5 miles = 1 Fancy Foot

Students set their own goals for running laps on "Foot Day!" This year, students may choose a "fancy foot" for each 5 miles that they run. They also receive mileage markers for 10 miles, 20 miles, and so on. We would like to acknowledge the top runners from each class for the month of September.

Early Elementary: **Brittany Butler**—5.1 miles

Intermediate Elementary: **Jake Lampi**—5 miles

Upper Elementary: **Danny Mondrusov**—6.2 miles

Pre High School: **George Elias**—5.1 miles

Running promotes fitness and healthy minds. Keep on running, a "Big Foot" is just around the corner!



Noel Dyde, Computer Programmer of the Month for October



Lea Baker, student In The Spotlight for October

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	Kathy Nellett

SPARC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Jackie Robbins
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Secretary	Susan Sheth
Treasurer	Sherry Kahn

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Vice-Chair	Jenifer Lampi
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Publications Coordinator	JaNele Jordan
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