

NO SCHOOL TOMORROW OR FRIDAY

The News Digest

H1N1 Flu

Parents, we had a case of H1N1 Flu last week. We would like you to strictly enforce our policy that students must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school. This means that without the help of a fever-reducing medication, your child must be fever-free for 24 hours.

Please refer to the earlier articles about other H1N1 symptoms or go on the internet for a refresher course. Do not jeopardize your children or family or the children or families of others by sending a child to school who is not feeling well.

Just call to let us know the reason your child will be absent for any reason. However, it is important to the Oakland County Health Department that we assist them to track all communicable diseases, but it is especially important this year that we track any cases of H1N1.

Thanks for your help!

Miss Photo Day? There's a Retake!

If you missed the main picture day last month, there's a photo re-take day on Thursday, Dec. 10th at 9 am.

- Page 1 Hear about the school's new ***Kena Digital Microscope***
- Page 2 ***Do You See A Pattern?*** The Early Elementary certainly does.
- Page 2 ***Share Your Culture on Social Studies Expo Night!***
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- Page 3 The PHS spends some ***Free Time Fencing***

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Upcoming Events ...

THURS - FRI, Nov 5 - 6
NO SCHOOL—ISACS
Conference

WED, Nov 11
12:30 pm, Spirit Day Lunch
1:00 pm, Spirit Day
Assembly

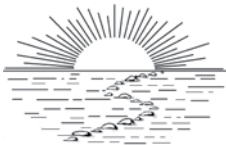
THURS, Nov 12
7 pm, Social Studies Expo

FRI, Nov 13
NO SCHOOL—Teacher
Work Day

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

Email articles to:
jroder@steppingstoneschool.org

cc:
therbst@steppingstoneschool.org



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.

28555 Middlebelt Road
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Phone: 248.539.1666
Fax: 248.539.1929
www.steppingstoneschool.org



Left to Right: Maya Sheth, Natalie Corrigan, Olivia Deming, Heather Gilmore, Jessica Kahn

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Miss Photo Day? There's a Retake!

If you missed the main picture day last month, there's a photo re-take day on Thursday, Dec. 10th at 9 am.

Kena Digital Microscope from Ken-A-Vision

This microscope was given to Dr. Morse to evaluate and for Steppingstone to keep. It is a digital microscope which will allow teachers to project on a screen.



Do You See A Pattern?

Ms. Powell, Early Elementary

Creating a supportive, challenging math environment lies in the questions and statements set forth by the teacher. "Mathematics Their Way" uses divergent questions that are open-ended and allow many possibilities for responses. The discoveries that students make encourage them to ask divergent questions of others. There are six basic questions and statements that can be used over and over during lessons. Through review and extensions, students find math exciting. They are also making connections to science, literature, and more. Math activities are taught as a whole class and in small groups.

This multi-sensory approach to learning math ensures that a student will internalize mathematics in a concrete manner; in other words, they will be able to visualize it. This is a building block and foundation for more abstract math. It does not require extensive paper/pencil work and frees the student to think more creatively about math in a big-picture, conceptual manner.

Next time you take a drive with your child ask them, "Do you see a pattern?"

Share your Culture on Social Studies Expo Night

Come celebrate your ethnicity! On November 12, in addition to seeing the students' Social Studies Expo projects, we would love to invite you to bring an ethnic dish to share! We are planning to incorporate an "ethnic showcase" that will allow parents (or groups of parents) to present their unique and varied cultural backgrounds through the cooking of an ethnic dish! If you choose, please bring a dish of your favorite ethnic food to the Social Studies Expo on the night of the event, and place it in the lobby along with a label that states the name of the dish and the culture from which it came as well as a serving utensil. We will provide dishes and forks.

Please call the office and let us know if you are planning on participating, so that we can accurately predict the amount of space we will need.

Thanks for your help in making this a special event!

The Key to Unlocking the Genius in Each Student

Mrs. Hoff, Upper Elementary

At the AIMS (Association of Independent Michigan Schools) Conference in mid October, I had the opportunity to sit in on a presentation by Thomas Armstrong, Ph.D. He is an award-winning author of thirteen books who has over thirty years of teaching experience from elementary through the doctoral level. It is Dr. Armstrong's belief that educators have spent too much time focusing on engaging in academic achievement and not enough time participating in developmentally appropriate teaching practices. What does this mean, and how does Steppingstone fit into this philosophy?

Developmentally appropriate teaching practices encourage spiritual, ethical, psychological, academic, cognitive, emotional, and social growth in students. The teaching practices allow students to collect experiences that will eventually prepare them for living in the real world. This philosophy of teaching utilizes the student's strengths, responds to diversity, provides opportunities for community based projects, empowers both students and teachers, and stimulates innovation.

The curricula at Steppingstone are set up such that students are able to move at their own pace, with the end goal being mastery. Each student is recognized as unique, and instruction is differentiated based upon the needs of each individual student. The Rouge River Project is one opportunity where students become involved in a community-based project. Students and teachers are learning together, and both students and teachers will continue to aspire to be lifelong students. Social Studies Expo, Science Expo, computer lab, and the fine arts and performing arts curricula are all examples of opportunities provided to our students to stimulate innovation.

Steppingstone is continually evolving and changing to meet the needs of our students. Professional development opportunities with fellow educators allow faculty and administration to keep abreast of the latest research based philosophies in education. We continually strive to find the key that will unlock the genius in each student!

Presentation Skills

Ms. Schultz, Intermediate Elementary

The Social Studies Expo is nearly here. It is hard to believe that the time has arrived to demonstrate all of your hard work and dedication. Social Studies Expo is a very important time of year for Steppingstone students and parents, but it is also a day that can cause a lot of stress and anxiety. In order to allow the students to feel confident and comfortable about public speaking, our next week has a good amount of built-in practice time.

To help relieve some of those fears, the Intermediate Elementary will be practicing their presentations before their classmates in both large and small group settings. This type of rehearsing not only gives them the opportunity to review what they say, but also to prepare answers for common questions and become more comfortable with speaking in front of a crowd.

So...take a deep breath, relax, and you will do just fine! Parents, ask your child to present his/her research report at home, too! Good luck to all of our Social Studies Expo presenters!

Ice Skating Thank You's

A special thank you to all of the parent volunteers who helped chaperone, provided food, and/or skated with us. It was a success because of your support! Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication to the Steppingstone School.

Nina Asmi	Kalyani Bhagavathi
Doris & Luis Collazo	Cindy Collins
Luvy Corrigan	Cathy Dekker
Brian Deming	Kendel Dwyer
Vicki Gaines	Dawn Gilmore
Nancy Houdek	Kelly House-Seaman
Teodora Jevtic	JaNele Jordan
Dennis Keast	Jenifer Lampi
Lev Mondrusov	Jane Qui
Jackie Robbins	Sanjiv Shah
Anu Thomas	Sara Velasco
Lori Warner	

If your name is not listed above, we apologize. There were several people who ended up helping that were not on the sign-up list.



Social Studies Expo is Near!

Date: November 12, 2009
Where: Steppingstone School
Arrival Time: 7:00 pm

Parents have asked what their child should wear to Social Studies Expo evening presentations. It would be appropriate if BOYS wore dress pants with a button shirt or dressy sweater and nice shoes. Please no jeans, gym shoes/shorts, or t-shirts. Appropriate attire for GIRLS is dresses, skirts, dress slacks with blouses or sweaters, and nice shoes. Again, please no jeans, gym shoes/shorts, or t-shirts. We would like the students to practice "presentation behavior," which includes appropriate clothing for an event in which they are participating.

THERE IS NO EXTENDED DAY the evening of this event. Please pick up all students by 4:15 pm.

Arrival of students is slotted for 7:00 pm. We will have a viewing and tasting period prior to starting the presentations. Feel free to roam through the classrooms, science room, and music room to see what other children have worked on, as well as stop by eating areas for a taste of another culture's food. Please keep your children by your side at all times during this event.

We will have several rooms set up with six to nine students in each room. Students will present their topics and explain what they have learned. There will be a brief question and answer session, and then we will move on to the next presenter. Once presentations begin, you may enter or leave a room between presentations ONLY. Please make sure you do so quietly. Those of you with young children should feel free to leave the event early if your child is getting tired. Please take your boards and projects home with you.

Thanks for all your work! It is time to enjoy the experience!

Camera Needed

If anyone in the school has access to a good-quality, shoulder-mount or chest-mount mini-DV or digital video camera that the PR committee could borrow to film a video tour of the school and some student interviews, please call Donna at 248-539-1666

Free Time Fencing

Ms. Morse, Pre High School

The Pre High School class has decided to take their fencing skills out-of-doors into the free air at recess. They have been practicing these skills by playing a game that was introduced in class—team pitted against team!

First, students split into two groups. Then, they fence each other across a "no-man's-land" section of the gym. When you score a hit on someone, she/he is out. Whichever team has the most people left on it at the end of a specified time period wins a point. Then they start over and go again.

The benefits to this game are that you have to be swift, and you have to plan an attack. You can disengage and move to face someone else on the opposite team, or you can team up on someone. It helps students make sure that they are paying attention to where their opponents are and to where their feet are (because if they have both feet in no man's land, they are out).

It has been a lot of fun for students to practice in their free time, and I have to say that I have never seen them run their laps so quickly!

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: Sandra Blay

STAFF

General Assistant: Jason Roder
IT Specialist: Jason Roder

FACULTY

Early Elementary: Carol Powell
Intermediate Elementary: Janelle Schultz
Upper Elementary: Linda Hoff
Pre High School: Keiko Morse
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

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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: Nancy Furman
Board Representative: Donna Coffin
Admin Representative: Meir Finkelstein
Decorations Coordinator: Susan Sheth
Acquisition Coordinator: JaNele Jordan
Publications Coordinator: Tom Herbst
Printing and Publications: Wendy Mayer
Immediate Past Chair: Wendy Mayer

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