

## Welcome Grandparents and Special Guests!

### The News Digest

#### Alums In The News

**M**atthew Daniels ('08) recently co-starred as Neal in the "1940's Radio Hour" musical performed by the Marian-Rice Players last weekend. The setting was a New York City radio station, where entertainers were broadcasting a show for the troops of World War II. It was filled with the swing music and dance of the era and lightened by the comedy and vocals of Matthew. This was Matthew's debut as a thespian hoping to be "catapulted to fame." Members of the Steppingstone family who were present to applaud his performance were Dr. & Mrs. Morse, Keiko Morse, Bob & Donna Coffin, Clay Mauk & Hiromi Kawanishi, and **Selden Mauk**. Also supporting Matthew and ushering the performances was another Steppingstone Alum & Brother Rice student, **Billy Giorgio ('07)**, who will graduate in June.

**Anna Mondrusov ('09)** has reportedly thrown herself successfully into "everything" offered at Mercy High School, and Amber Talaski ('09) reports that academics at the International Academy has about the same level of difficulty as Steppingstone. The International Academy is a local International Baccalaureate high school program, not to be confused with The International School whose building we currently share. **Spencer Lacy ('09)** attends Cranbrook. All these graduates are reported to be doing well in their respective high schools.

**If someone mistakenly has the Corrigan photo CD, please let the office know.**

#### Midpoint Raffle Sales

**T**he ice cream party for highest sales goes to Mrs. Hoff's Upper Elementary classroom (see article on pg. 2).

- Page 1 . . . . . Kiyoo has some information on the new building in **Update: A Home of Our Own**
- Page 2 . . . . . **What's in a Shape?** The Early Elementary knows.
- Page 2 . . . . . Read about some **Alums in the News**
- Page 2 . . . . . Monica Finkelstein has an **Auction Raffle Update**
- Page 2 . . . . . Mrs. Hoff writes about **Thanksgiving**
- Page 2 . . . . . Now why would the Ms. Schultz ask you to **Cover Your Ears?** Read and find out.
- Page 3 . . . . . **Inside This...** article, Ms. Morse writes about poetry and presents a poem from an alum.
- Page 3 . . . . . Wonder what's taught in computer class? Dr. Morse tells all about it in this week's **Computer Corner!**

#### Update: A Home of Our Own

**W**e had hoped to have a decision made by now, but negotiations are not always quick or simple. While the Board is not in a position to share details yet, we just wanted everyone to know that Trustees on the Building and Grounds Committee have been meeting frequently to review options, share update, and make decisions.

Once the negotiations have been completed, we will be sharing details for building adaptations with you so that you can share in the vision. The timing of the completion of those renovations will be very dependent on the raising of capital funds so we hope each of you will help in whatever way you are able to make this Capital Campaign a successful one. The sooner we can reach our goals, the sooner we can make the vision a reality.

Strategic Planning occurred last Saturday with the following participation: (a) 80% - FACULTY, (b) 80% - ADMINISTRATION, (c) 50% - BOARD and (d) 10% - PARENTS.

Since 10% is the norm, we were satisfied with the attendance, and we hope for greater participation in the more concrete and defined tasks identified last Saturday. After sharing stories about our interests and abilities, we also did some brainstorming about the "heart" of Steppingstone and the vision of our next "home." Tom Herbst compiled the lists of 50-60 characteristics in each category, but here were our top five picks:

At the "Heart" of Steppingstone:(1) The ACADEMIC PROGRAM DESIGN, (2) INTEGRITY, (3) COMMUNITY & FAMILY, (4) EMPOWERMENT of STUDENTS and (5) STRUCTURE.

The "Vision" of our new home:(1) GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD, (2) COVERED OUTDOOR SHELTER, (3) GYMNASIUM, (4) FLOOR PLAN of PODS and (5) ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE & NON-TOXIC.

We also established four primary sub-committees:(a) SMALL GIFTS, (b) LARGE GIFTS, (c) RESEARCH and (d) WRITING. For more information about the work of these committees and to choose one for the focus of your work, read next week's newsletter.

## Welcome Grandparents and Special Guests!

### Upcoming Events ...

**WED, Nov 25**  
1:30 pm, Grandparents and  
Special Guests  
Afternoon

**THURS - FRI, Nov 26 - 27**  
**NO SCHOOL**—Have a  
Great Thanksgiving!

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.*

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Painting from life, I guess

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## What's In a Shape?

Ms. Powell, Early Elementary

**N**ext week in writing, we will continue to explore the wonderful world of poetry. Free verse allows students to write in any form that they wish. Students will hear a story about a mouse and create a shape poem. When children write poetry, it forms reading and spelling connections and encourages creative thinking. Although students have been working on poetry for several weeks, it is fun to write any time.

Before we started our poetry unit, the Early Elementary students gave some thoughts about autumn that I would like to share. They also wrote a class circle story. Enjoy!

### Autumn

Natasha - It's the season before winter.

Brittany - All the leaves fall off the trees.

William - It's starting to be Halloween.

David - You always need a jacket because it's cold.

Savitri - Autumn is the month before Thanksgiving.

Katarina - You pick apples in the autumn.

Melissa - Leaves can get messy.

Holden - Leaves start to fall.

### *If You Give a Ghost a Trip*

If you give a ghost a trip, he'll have to look at a map.  
He'll want to go to Florida.

Then he'll ask you for a suitcase to put his clothes in.  
When you pull the suitcase out of the closet,  
he'll want to buy a new costume.

Then he'll want to go shop at the mall.  
When you're at the mall shopping, he gets hungry.  
You order him a slice of pumpkin pie.  
He gets thirsty.

So you order a glass of orange juice.  
The glass of orange juice reminds him he wants  
to go on a trip.

You remind him you gave him a trip.  
He asks for a map.  
He'll want to go to Florida.

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## Auction Raffle Update

**C**ongratulations to Mrs. Hoff's class for selling the most raffle tickets in the months of October and November. They will have a special ice cream party on Tuesday, December 1, when they return from Thanksgiving break. But there is still time left for all of us to sell more raffle tickets. We will announce December's winning class right before Winter Break and they will get an ice cream party when they return in January. At that time, we will also announce which child has sold the most raffle tickets and he/she will receive a \$30.00 gift certificate to Paradise Park. Good luck to all of you and keep on selling!!

## Thanksgiving

Mrs. Hoff, Upper Elementary

**A**ccording to the dictionary, "...thanksgiving is an act of giving thanks, or the grateful acknowledgment of acts, favors, or kindness, or an expression of thanks." As I reflect on my first few months as the Upper Elementary teacher at Steppingstone, I have many things for which I am thankful. Thank you for:

- Providing me with a safe learning environment and supportive learning community.
- Sharing your children with me.
- Supporting me with the academic classroom curriculum.
- Supporting me when I need volunteers to provide extracurricular learning opportunities, such as field trips, selling bake sale items, and caring for Sparky, the bearded dragon.
- Allowing your children to stumble and make mistakes under the watchful eyes of their parents and teachers.
- Encouraging your children to be the best that they can be.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving with our family and friends, look around the table in wonder of all that we have to be thankful for. My best wishes to you and yours for a safe and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday.

## Cover Your Ears

Ms. Schultz, Intermediate Elementary

**I**n previous lessons, students observed when rulers produced sound. In this lesson, they are introduced to sounds produced without visible vibrations by experimenting with a slide whistle. Through their observations and discussions, students begin to consider that sounds can be produced by the vibration of air. The graph resulting from this investigation provides students with an example of the relationship between the length of the column of vibrating air and pitch.

Students will have the chance to do some reading about how this relationship is used in making musical instruments. This will set the stage for our next lesson, in which students apply their knowledge to designing and building their own wind instrument.

Parents, to assist your child's readiness for this lesson, help him or her find whistles and other musical toys from home to bring to school. Here, students can establish a learning center in which they can explore similarities and differences in the sounds produced.



## Inside This...

Ms. Morse, Pre High School

Next week, PHS students will continue to write various free verse poems. The lesson they will focus on will be about what you can find inside of something. For example, what would you find inside a pencil? The obvious answer would be graphite. However, students are asked to look deeper and to see the pencil from a different point of view.

According to Matthew Daniels, an alum, who wrote a similar poem that was chosen for Writer of the Month in previous years...

### INSIDE THIS EYE

Inside an eye are images  
waiting to be seen.

What lies inside this lying eye's boundaries  
is much more  
than lenses and mirrors.

The eye has developed a mind of its own from being  
shut inside  
the lid at night,  
longing to breathe as does its twin  
and when the lid is about to open it scurries  
to get ready for the  
light  
that it has longed for  
for so long  
that it has lost practice providing sight.

-Matthew Daniels

## Computer Corner

by Dr. Reef Morse (reef@steppingstoneschool.org)

All of the computer classes taught at Steppingstone use software that is freely available from the web. However, if you'd like, send an email to me at reef@steppingstoneschool.org with the words "Steppingstone School Computer" in the subject line and I'll be glad to send the software your child is using, including additional materials that are used in class.

As a reminder, here are the major programming languages that I teach:

- Ms. Powell's class - Scratch
- Ms. Schultz's class - Alice
- Ms. Hoff's class - Python
- Ms. Morse's class - Blender
- Everyone - KP Typing Tutor

Kids are free to use any of the programs they want outside of computer class. Computer class is reserved for teaching the concepts of these particular programming languages.

Of course, if your child wants to use other programs from this list that are not being taught to them, I'd be glad to send you those also.

I am gratified to learn from some of you how much your kids are enjoying the computer class. It's fun for me too.

If you have quotes that we can use in our advertising about your child(ren)'s interest in the computer class, please send them to me at the above email address.

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Admissions Director	Donna Coffin
Special Programs Director, & Office Manager	Richard Houdek
Business and Facilities Manager	Sandra Blay

## 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

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