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# Steppingstone School Newsletter

Have a great holiday!  
 See you again on Jan. 9th

December 22, 2011  
 Volume 31, Number 16

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## Next Week

**Winter Break: NO SCHOOL**  
 Dec 26 - Jan 6

**Return to School**  
 9:00 am, MON, Jan 9, 2012

**Executive Board**  
 6:00 pm, TUES, Jan 10

**Board Marketing Committee**  
 7:30 am, THURS, Jan 12

## Upcoming Events

For the next few weeks, we will



I'll get that wascally wabbit yet ....  
 (Ozan with the model Civil War carbine he made for his  
 Social Studies Expo presentation)

## High School Applications

Comments from Kiyō

Our 8th grade students are encouraged to begin their High School applications in October in order to have the best chance for acquiring scholarships. In the last few years, our graduates have applied to and been accepted to Brother Rice, Mercy, Cranbrook and the public school International Baccalaureate programs as well as an occasional local public high school. They have all done exceptionally well, and we wish them the same success throughout the new year!

In choosing their classes, we often recommend that they choose Honors classes over AP classes. The reason for this is that one of the primary goals of AP classes is to prepare a student for a paper and pencil test. Often, this means less hands-on, interactive, integrated, deep or broad studies. It

all be on **Winter Break**. The first part of the school year has been very satisfying and productive, and anticipate a similar experience in the remainder of the school year. We wish you a **Happy Holiday Season** and look forward to seeing you again on **January 9, 2012**.

Students who don't have all their swim gear might want to use the Winter Break to replace or replenish their swim suits (tanks only for girls). **Swim instruction** begins **THURS, Jan 19**.

## Latest News

If you missed the **Winterfest**, you missed the finale. This was an engagingly hilarious impersonation of Bill Cosby's monologue on "**Dentists**" as performed by **Pranav Gopalakrishnan**. You also missed the opportunity to re-engage with recently graduated alums, **Evan Houdek, Joey Varns, Jamal Nichols and Leighton Gaines**. They slipped right back into the routine by swaying to the beat of this year's musical performances. If you took **photos or videos** of the performance, would you please **e-mail them or give us a disc** so that we can put them into our **yearbook**.

Today, the Pre High School class performed a **community service** for **Gleaners**, accompanied by **Cindy Shah** (Milan's & Rohan's mom) and PHS teacher **Keiko Morse**. We choose our community service for **direct benefit** (e.g. sorting and packing) rather than indirect (e.g. running for dollars). Our other most notable community service is the collection of Rouge

often means more rote memory and less application and problem-solving as well. In this, one runs the risk of boring the gifted student and losing the sharp edge of creative problem solving skills.

Prior to high school, we try to help students establish long-term goals. Having a "Happy Ending" (e.g. a chosen career) in mind often helps gifted students put better efforts into successfully completing "requirements." My youngest daughter once complained about having to take math because she planned on a career in music (she has a doctorate in harpsichord performance and early music) and did not anticipate using math much. Fortunately, I knew something about brain research and was able to say, "The part of your brain that does math also does music so studying math will strengthen your music skills as well." Putting 2 and 2 together (no pun intended), she continued with good effort in her math studies, earning the Women In Engineering award (for math) twice, once as a high school junior and once as a senior and continuing math studies through calculus in college.

The continuing saga of this line of guidance from me was that I asked all my daughters, regardless of major, to take in college the following courses: math through calculus, laboratory sciences (biology, chemistry and physics), and a foreign language. About a year ago, one of them was complaining about having to take all these classes and not understanding why they had to take them when they weren't part of their majors. I explained that they were never part of their university's requirements; they were my requirements. This resulted in a howl of, "What?!? I didn't have to take these classes?!?" I said, "Why no, you didn't, but when you were done, I wanted you to be an 'educated' person and not just a person with an education." They are still incredulous when they speak of this, but they are, all of them, "educated" people.

This particular philosophy is one of the driving factors in the development of our curriculum and the Steppingstone education is one of diverse experiences and studies. It's part of what makes our graduates desirable high school students. We hope that the experience contributes to a continuing interest in diverse experiences and learning which in turn will make them desirable college students.

River water quality data on chemicals, organisms and condition (e.g. temperature).

If you haven't sent your **Annual Donations**, we hope you will do so before the end of the year in order to claim it as a **tax deduction** when filing your 2011 returns. Also, if you plan to attend, consider taking advantage of the **Auction Early Bird Discounts** by the end of the month. While we won't be in the office, mail will still be delivered.

Board President **Rich Niemisto** will be coordinating all alcohol-related provisions for the Auction. He asks that as we move into the winter holidays, we remember to **regift** any **alcohol & chocolate** to the Auction if we have to much for our own consumption. They will be placed in baskets to be raffled at the **Auction on March 31st**. In fact, you might consider regifting any **duplicate presents** that you or your children receive and asking friends and relatives to do the same. Rich sends his thanks to you in advance for this consideration.

## Donors

### **\$5,000 to \$9,999**

Anonymous Donor

### **\$1,000 to \$4,999**

Patty Depa's  
"Dancin DJ Productions",  
professional services  
Fran Eldis, operations supplies  
Sally Gaines, librarian

### **\$500 to \$999**

Nancy Furman  
The Jevtic Family

### **\$250 to \$499**

All Aspects, John Levitte;



And then, after I've taken over the world with my epic dioramas .... (A real possibility with Lindsay)

## Swimming Lessons

Thank you to parents that already volunteered to drive students to the Costick Center for our swim program.

January 19, 26

February 2, 9, 16, 23

March 1, 8

If you must cancel, please give us as much notice as possible because last minute cancellations create major organizational problems (eg. with emergency driver packets and faculty assignments).

We leave Steppingstone at 1:45 P.M. Dismissal at 4:00 P.M. will be from the Costick Center. Extended Day students and students not picked up by 4:15 P.M. will return to Steppingstone with faculty.

Students who are not able to participate for health reasons need to be picked up at 1:30 P.M. from Steppingstone.

### SUPPLIES

- ✓ 1 Waterproof tote
- ✓ 2 Towels (1 for pool, 1 for shower)
- ✓ Bathing suit::  
Boys: Trunks under clothes  
Girls: Modest 1-piece tanks (change in Costick Center locker room)
- ✓ Dry underwear in gallon size ziplock bag for wet suit after class
- ✓ Goggles
- ✓ Extra snacks for afternoon after swimming
- ✓ NO TOYS

exterior paint  
 Jason & Stephanie Haase  
 Nina McEachin, accounting  
 services  
 Zina & Mark Mondrusov

**\$100 to \$249**

Cris & Lianna Ambriz  
 Jim's Affordable Towing, towing  
 for the Car Show

**\$50 to \$99**

Country Lanes,  
 Dana & Margaretta Donley,  
 graphics and printing  
 Five Star Signs, Inc., signs for  
 Car Show  
 Scott & Cristina Hauncher  
 Rich Houdek  
 Don & Nancy Johnson  
 Richard Niemisto  
 Mike & Annette Pelligrino  
 Target  
 The Gall Family  
 The Johnson Family  
 The Mondrusov Family  
 The Wood family  
 Zap Zone Extreme, Ltd.

**Up to \$49**

Bellacino's, Car Show pizzas  
 Happy's Pizza, Car Show pizzas  
 Hungry Howie's Pizza, Car Show  
 pizzas  
 Mary & Dave Gage  
 Don Gaines,  
 MIDWEST Auto Truck & Spring,  
 loaner car for "Bash an Import"  
 Papa John's Pizza, Car Show  
 pizzas  
 Pizza Hut, Car Show pizzas

If you have donated and your  
 name is not on this list, please  
 send a correction to:

[jroder@steppingstoneschool.org](mailto:jroder@steppingstoneschool.org)

## **How to Donate**

- Leave cash or check at the office
- Mail a check to:



Winterfest rarely passes without some violins (Filip)



And some more violins from Katarina Jevtic

## **Mixtures and Solutions**

Ms. Morse, Pre High School

As we enter a new year, the Pre High School class will be starting a new section in Science called Mixtures and Solutions. They will be completing experiments to determine whether substances are pure or mixtures, determining solubility and saturation points, dissolving solids and measuring mass, and learning about boiling points and why they differ.

The first lesson in this new section will begin with identifying whether samples of substances are pure or not and why. Some will be obvious, while others will not. The point is for students to test, describe, and discuss their ideas and why they came to their conclusions, and then to determine a definition of a pure substance based on their

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48336**

- Charge to VISA or MasterCard by calling Sandy Blay at:

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### **The Wish List:**

- Science materials:  
\$1,685.00 total
- Electric hand dryers:  
\$313.25 ea
  - W. W. Grainger
- Throw down bases:  
\$150.00 per set
- Social Studies textbooks: \$62.00 plus shipping each
- Laptop batteries (five total): \$30 each
- Set of *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*: \$15 each
- Kickballs: \$12.00 ea
- Lysol wipes:  
\$8.00/pack
- Dipping calligraphy pens: \$6.00 each

**HEAD OF SCHOOL**  
**Kiyo A. Morse**

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Donna Coffin:**

Admissions Dir, Special Programs Dir, Office Mgr

**Sandra Blay:**

Business & Facilities Mgr

**Dr. Morse**

SMART Center Director

#### **STAFF**

**Jason Roder:**

General Asst, IT Specialist

**Toshi Adair:**

findings



Teaching the world to sing at Winterfest:  
(left to right) Grant Haase, George Elias, Katarina Jevtic, Milan Shah (hidden behind Katarina), Sydney Warner, Filip Jevtic, and David Mondrusov

### **Visual Puzzles**

Mrs. Gutterman, Elementary

This week the Elementary Class has worked on problem solving puzzles that integrate visual, spatial and language skills. The students have to analyze a page that includes words as well as other symbols. To solve the puzzle they have to take into account what the words and symbols are as well as their position on the page and to each other. By doing this they can figure out what phrase or concept the puzzle represents. This sort of problem solving helps students learn to use multiple types of thinking at once. Additionally, it is a lot of fun!



Bldg & Grds Asst

**FACULTY**

**Heather Gutterman:**

Elementary

**Keiko Morse:**

Pre-High School, Faculty  
Chair & AIMS & ISACS Rep

**INSTRUCTORS**

**Shari Dudek:**

Sci & Social Studies, Early  
Elementary

**Mary Gage:**

Art

**Oliver Thompson:**

Music

**Mieko Ono West:**

Japanese

**Valerie Hadrot-Portes:**

French

**Dr. Morse:**

Computer Science,  
SMART Center director

**Jurek Radz:**

Fencing

**SPARC STEERING  
COMMITTEE**

**Gopal Padinjaruveetil**

**Susan Sheth**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Richard Niemisto:**

President, Exec Chair

**Richard Houdek:**

Vice-President I

**Don Gaines:**

Vice-President II

**Fran Eldis:**

Secretary, Grants Chair

Bullwinkle could never quite manage the rabbit-  
from-a-hat trick. Lindsay shows how it's done.



Grant rocking out on the xylophone, at Winterfest

**Nancy Furman:**  
Treasurer, Finance Chair

**Kim Howard:**  
Fund-Raising & Development  
Chair

**Dr. Olga Mondrusova:**  
Auction Chair

**Lev Mondrusov:** Trusteeship  
Chair

**Gopal K.  
Padinjaruveetil:**  
Marketing,  
Recruitment & PR Chair

**Yong Hwa Son:**  
Facilities Chair

*Ex Officio*

**David Jeshurun:**  
Immediate Past Pres

**Kiyo A. Morse:**  
Head of School

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