

# HARMONY EDUCATION CENTER NEWSLETTER

Harmony School • National School Reform Faculty • Rhino's • Research Institute

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April 2010

Volume 28, Number 4

## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

**HARMONY SCHOOL NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2010!!! PLEASE STOP BY THE OFFICE OR REGISTER ONLINE AT [www.harmonyschool.org](http://www.harmonyschool.org)**

### RUMMAGE & BOOK SALE

**Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 9-5pm & Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 1-5pm**

We need your support for Harmony High School to raise money for their Spring Trip. Please donate your clean clothes (in good shape), used books/music/movies, working electronics, antiques, and other sellable items. We will be collecting donations on the table directly across from the office up to Friday morning, April 16<sup>th</sup>. They need donations of baked goods to sell, as well. Thanks for your support and don't forget to stop by and get some great bargains!

### HARMONY YEARBOOK "THE TRAVEL ISSUE"

It's not too late to pre-order your yearbook for 2010. The cost is only \$10. This book will feature all of our students and teachers, special sections, the Gizzard, celebrities and assorted surprises. Checks may be written to Harmony School and given to your child's teacher. Please contact Leslie C. in the office for more information.

### MAY CONFERENCES

9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade parents, please call Tom Hastings, 333-1120, as soon as possible for scheduling May conferences.

### GRADUATION DAY

**Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**

Kindergarten (ECP) Graduates: 1:00 p.m.

Elementary School Graduates: 1:30 p.m.

Middle School Graduates: 2:30 p.m.

High School Graduates: 3:30 p.m.



## HARMONY SCHOOL EXTRAVAGANZA

**Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The Harmony School Extravaganza, our annual fundraiser, is now only a few short weeks away! It requires lots of volunteer help, so we will have a sign-up board in the hallway soon. It is a really fun way to get in some PIP hours and help the school. Some parents are already working hard collecting donations for the Silent Auction and the food booth as well as planning games and live entertainment.

The Extravaganza is truly a family event and it wouldn't happen without our hard working parents' involvement. If you would like to join the team that makes this year's event a success, just let Leslie or Megan know in the office. We already have donations from the following generous local businesses – please show your appreciation by patronizing them! Howards Bookstore, Indianapolis Zoo, The Game Preserve, Caveat Emptor, Bruster's Ice Cream, Bikesmiths, Plato's Closet, Vance Music, Vintage Phoenix Comic Books, YMCA and many more. These donations will be in the Silent Auction so be sure to stop by the big tent at the Extravaganza and place your bids!

Again, if you have something to donate just stop by or call the office. We like to have a wide variety of items and gift certificates all tastes and ages for the auction.



## SPECIAL THANKS

We want to thank everyone who participated in making Harmony Art Day such a huge success. With the help of our many volunteers and the location provided by CFC we were able to showcase artwork from our students and local Bloomington artists. Much of the artwork is now on display at the school so if you didn't get a chance to see the show please come take a look.

Work Day went off without a hitch this year. Thank you to all the volunteers who put in many hours of hard work at Harmony School. If you would like to come on your own time to work on the grounds please contact Libby [libby@harmonyschool.org](mailto:libby@harmonyschool.org)

## NEWS FROM THE PROGRAMS

### EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

#### Linda, Tim and Martha's (3-5 year olds)

We're thoroughly enjoying spring in the ECP! The weather has been unseasonably warm leading to lots of outdoor play and even, believe it or not, sunscreen. We started a variety of chicken eggs incubating early in the month and the kids have been filled with anticipation as we read chick books and open a plastic egg each day that contains a picture of a chick embryo at the appropriate stage of development. Several kids have also been writing and drawing their observations of the eggs and making entries in their chick books. The first eggs have started hatching as this is being written. How exciting!

Chicks are not the only things developing in the ECP (besides the young children). Ian and his dad, Arasu, brought in frog eggs that we watched develop into tadpoles. We put them into our aquarium/terrarium combo tank and the tadpoles disappeared as soon as they hatched. Luckily we saw one just the other day swimming amongst the stones of aquarium gravel and we're hoping that several survive being eaten by the fish.

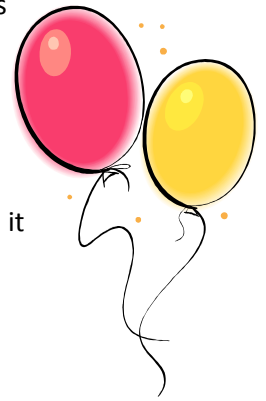
The peas are coming up in the old ECP garden and we are starting a new raised-bed vegetable garden for the ECP with help from Emily's High School Botany class. Our marigolds are also doing well and we have started making papier-mâché pots to put them in (don't let ECP moms hear about this—it's a secret Mother's Day gift).

We have some serious bike riders in our class this year and we were surprised to find that our trikes seem to have been stolen over spring break! We've

been waiting for them to turn up, but no sign yet. They were old and rusty but of high quality construction and we had plans to fix them up. If you hear anything or see them around town, let us know.

Our class really enjoyed the Lotus Blossoms performance by "Moscow Nights." They were especially impressed by the Balalaika Contrabass that was so large it practically hid the man playing it!

All of the ECPers participated in creating art for our amazing "Suspension" Harmony School Art Exhibition. The Kindergartners participated in creation classes (Maya and Alex in the Mobiles class; Lucy, Zara, and Alice in Giant Flying Insects; Sam in Flying Machines; and Quinn and Caden in Kinetic Sculptures). The younger ECP kids wrapped balloons in Mod Podge-dipped string only to find that some of the string shapes collapsed as the balloons deflated. This could have been considered a problem, but along with Julia Dadds' IU Early Childhood students they very creatively made a mobile with all of the shapes and called it "Grapes and Raisins." |



Happy Spring!

Tim, Linda, & Martha

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### Kate and Claudio's (6-8 yr olds)

Spring has arrived in the past couple of weeks, and certainly I am not the only one who finds relief in this. The redbuds are stunning!

In order to properly enjoy this wonderful weather, we are taking a trip to the Valley of the Blue Bells. I am certain that our destination will impress the kids.

On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, we are illustrating my favorite classroom song, *My Rhinoceros*. The kids are doing a splendid job, and I encourage you to come in and check out their work. The finished product will be in the form of a book to take home. Here is a sneak peek of some of the lyrics that will be heading your way: "My Rhinoceros is a scaredy-cat, she's not brave like you and me, so a fireman had to rescue her when a cat chased her up the tree!" I am fairly certain that this will be your new favorite coffee table book.

March has passed, so too has our Invisible Worlds unit. Fun and interesting, but my olfactory system is



certainly celebrating the fact that the bacteria we cultured is no longer stinking up our big room. In this experiment, we cultured dirty and clean hands (some with hand sanitizer, and some with soap and water) to compare the difference. Ask your little bacteriologists about the results, we were all a little surprised.

April's theme is art. Thus far, we have completed a variety of watercolor studies. Check out your kid's creations, they should have gone home last week. There will be more cool stuff to come, so keep an eye out! By the end of this month, your child may just be sporting a raspberry beret.

-Kate & Claudio

### **Jeremy and Jo's (8-10 yr olds)**

The third and fourth graders have been finishing up some amazing projects and are beginning many of our end of the year activities.

The month began with our research presentations. Each of the kids taught the rest of us about the subject they spent March researching. This year, animals were more popular than ever and we found out about pandas, chimpanzees, sloths, and a variety of other animals. In addition to our learning about animals, we heard about robots, Abe Lincoln, D-Day, and even the story of the Titanic. The kids did an amazing job and all of us enjoyed the process.

Our new authoring unit is a class favorite. Jo spent the last month reading aloud many of the fairy tales that we know and love. Then, she read some of the versions that spoof the originals. These "new-fangled" tales use the original setting, characters, or plot and twist it to add a whole new meaning to the story. Once she shared some examples we set out to create our own. The kids have just begun to write their stories and the plot twists include Little Red Riding Hood riding in a hot air balloon, the Big Bad Pig chasing after poor helpless wolves, and an evil Snow White with her sweet and charming step-mother. These stories are sure to be funny and include an array of disgusting bodily noises.

Our math unit is the Businesses Project. The kids spend their time buying and selling all kinds of goods and keeping an immaculate check register that follows the flow of their money. This is a unit I do every year and the kids take it in different directions every time. I

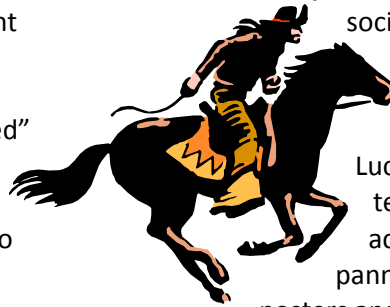
love all of the creative ways they market their goods. From auctions, to coupons, to 25% off sales, the kids are trying their best to move their products and buy all kinds of things for their home. Consumerism, yes, but it's a wonderful way to practice the addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division skills that are sprouting.

Finally, we offered the choices for our class trip! The group made an extremely wise choice and went with St. Louis. We'll spend three days and two nights visiting places like the Gateway Arch, the City Museum, the Science Center, the Botanical Gardens, and the Magic House. This trip fits right in with our Indiana History Unit (in that westward expansion is a part of the history of both Indiana and Missouri) and will be an amazing culmination of the year.

-Jeremy

### **Kathy and Scott's (10-12 year olds)**

Spring is an exciting time upstairs in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We have many opportunities for learning and fun this time of the year. Currently, we are nearing the culmination of the Graduation Project. Students are getting caught up from all the snow days and finishing up their summary papers and reflection essays. Soon, they will be preparing for their presentations the first week of May. We have also been doing thematic units this year along with our research projects. This is a change over years in the past where we have given all of our time to the Graduation Project. The class is in the middle of a



social studies theme on "The Wild West" and the expansion of the United States westward during the Gold Rush. Jessica Lucas, our early field experience teacher is providing great activities for the class including panning for gold, creating "Wanted" posters and creating and designing a town in the old west.

In the next week or two, our class will have a Family Meeting looking at what it means to be a citizen of Harmony School. The students will brainstorm and come up with guidelines that we can use to define future classroom expectations. It will also give us a chance to discuss what it means to be a 'positive and contributing' member of our community. The students just finished up a unit on "Life Skills" and are now discussing "Human Sexuality". We would like

to thank Sheila Evans for coming in on Thursday afternoons and sharing her experience and knowledge with our class.

Our Legal Literacy class is winding down. We have a couple lessons left with our volunteers from the IU Law School before our Mock Trial on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. That morning we will head over to the Law School and participate in a trial. The students will play the role of plaintiff, defendant, prosecuting attorneys, defending attorneys and the jury. A professor from the university will fill in as judge for the morning. We have been doing this for about 7 years now. It's a great opportunity for our students.

We are preparing for the upcoming "Soccer Challenge" vs. the Middle School on Friday, April 30th. The game will take place at Karst Farm Park from



12:45 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. We hope you can come out and watch this exciting annual event. On Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, we will visit Victory Field in Indianapolis to watch the Indians play a baseball game. If you are able to help out with

driving, please let Scott or Kathy know and you can come and enjoy a beautiful day at the ballpark.

Our end of the year trip to Camp Palawopec in Brown County will be on Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup> thru Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup>. We will give out information about the trip during PTS Conferences in early May. Kathy and I look forward to a strong finish from a great group of students. It has been a great year full of growth and success. Enjoy the change in weather!

One of our students was a recent winner of the 2010 Essay/Art Contest held by the City of Bloomington Human Rights Commission. Ciabhan Connelly wrote an essay titled "Ignored by the Cool" which was the first place winner for the upper elementary division of 5th-8<sup>th</sup> grade. If you are interested, there is a copy of his essay at the school for you to read. Congratulations Ciabhan, we are proud of you!

-Scott

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **Marty and Ursina**

Some thoughts on what a Middle School should be.... Many parents go through the somewhat agonizing experience of weighing the pluses & minuses of staying at Harmony or going to public or charter schools. I, myself, have long wondered just what parents are looking for. My initial thinking was a strong academic program that prepared students for the rigors of high school and beyond. Ok, I can live with that--a simple answer. That is until I started to really take into account what else Middle Schoolers needed, like social & emotional connections, a safe place to take risks, a place to try on ideas & reject others. It's a dynamic time and schools need to acknowledge that some of the critical stuff has little to do with academics. The truth is, education is easy, it's neat and tidy. But kids are not so easy and they tend not to be neat and tidy. Which brings me to what, I believe, is a fundamental plus for Harmony, it offers deep, authentic, and meaningful connections between students and teachers. This is not because we're better, or smarter, but simply a by-product of a general atmosphere where students are valued, listened to, and given credibility. It doesn't mean students always get their way, or that we don't have conflicts. But again, I believe, this atmosphere of give-and-take is more consistent with the real world, and ultimately prepares students to better meet their own needs. Learning is not a game where success is awarded an A, but rather a tool where success ultimately equates to options & opportunities.

Now, some information that might be helpful: May is approaching which means independent projects, graduation projects, concluding classes, 5th periods, etc. Things get rather stressful as students realize what all has to get done. We monitor these things and try to keep kids on track to meet the challenges but, it's always good for you to check in with your child. This semester the Middle School has been involved with an IU class taught by Linda Hoke-Sinex and her students focused on female adolescent psychology. IU students met with Harmony students three days a week to engage in discussions on a range of topics from body image to relational aggression to what it's like growing up today. This was a trial program and will probably continue next year. Also, the Middle School has been fortunate to work with Kelly Thomas, a doctoral student and teacher in the School of Education. She's provided much one-on-one help to students. We also want to thank Michael Ladwig

for assisting with study hall this year.

This year Harmony students took part in a program at Planned Parenthood on "Peer Education." Peer education trains youth about sexuality and other health issues so they can be resources for their peers. Some goals of the program are to decrease risk taking behaviors and to improve family communication.

The end of the year is still shaping up as to parent conferences, CAT tests, trips, etc. The information will be forthcoming. As always, if you have any questions, please let us know, we're available to meet with you.

-Marty

## HIGH SCHOOL

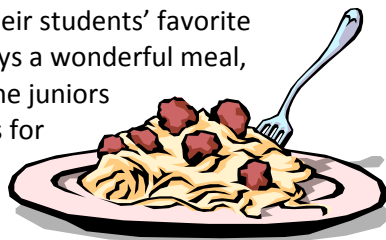
### Sal, Jon, Paul, Tom, Emily:

**Sal-** April and May are busy months in the High School, with a number of dates to make note of. First of all, please give all the support you can to our annual rummage sale this Saturday. The proceeds from this help many of our students go on the spring trip and we really count on the community for donations and support. Have a look around the house, are you sure you have nothing to bring in? If not, come and pick up a few books or furnishings in the gym on **April 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>**.

On **April 29<sup>th</sup>**, another high school tradition will be observed when the juniors and their parents come together for the Junior Dinner at 6:00pm, when parents bring one of their students' favorite dishes for what is always a wonderful meal, before we hear from the juniors about their initial plans for next year's senior projects.

On **May 7<sup>th</sup>**, this year's seniors are welcomed back officially at the all-school convocation when they will talk about their adventures briefly, before we all head over to Bryan Park for the All-School Picnic. Senior graduation presentations will begin the following week on May 10<sup>th</sup>. They will be held in the mornings, while parent/teacher conferences will go on in the afternoons. Tom will be in touch with you shortly to schedule a time.

On **May 11<sup>th</sup>**, all our high school families are invited to one of our great celebrations of the year: History Night! Please join us for a 1920's Dinner (Fettuccini Alfredo, Caesar Salad and Pineapple Upside-Down Cake) and then stay to watch the grades match their



knowledge and their wits to win the Herodotus Cup. Teams are already practicing and it promises to be quite a competition. The tickets for dinner are \$5.00 and proceeds go towards the costs of our American Century Decade Nights throughout the year. The food will be delicious and you will be impressed with the wonderful work your kids have been doing. Feel free to bring friends and show off what this school is all about!

On **May 16<sup>th</sup>**, the High School will be leaving for the Booker T. Washington State Park, near Chattanooga, Tennessee. We will be gone until Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Trip contracts have gone out to all our families by now and we ask you to return them by no later than **April 16<sup>th</sup>**, so we can plan what we'll need to fundraise.

Finally, there will be a second set of senior presentations from **May 25<sup>th</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup>**, so please talk to your senior about their schedule.

In the meantime, classes proceed apace. In Western Civ., we are entering the Age of the Enlightenment and learning what Isaac Newton, Descartes, and Bach have in common. In The American Century, we are leaving the Sixties and entering the Seventies, where we will learn about the iniquities of Watergate and how that blot on history helped start a very special school.

The Press Corps have started work on what promises to be some really beautiful boxes, in the style of Joseph Cornell, to add to a collection of remarkable art that will be on display for History Night. This has been a tremendous class, due greatly to the inspired curriculum from my co-teacher, David Smith, who had to leave last week to finish his education portfolio. We are missing him already and wish him the very best for the future.

**Emily-** First of all, many thanks to Kathleen Clark and Mia Beach for working with me and our young artists to make those amazingly cool microfiche mobiles you saw at the art show!

Have you peeked in the greenhouse lately? Seeds have sprouted and it is filling with the Botany class's baby green plants for the garden! The botanists have also been hard at work maintaining the flower gardens around the school. In Cells & Genes we have studied how the structure of DNA allows it to code for proteins, and mimicked it with licorice, marshmallows and gummy bears. Now we are studying genetic patterns of inheritance and students are educating each other about various genetic disorders. They created imaginary offspring by combining their heritable characteristics with a classmate's to create a bizarre yet lovable family of Harmony babies.

Chemistry students are working incredibly hard to understand the mathematics of molar quantities. They are applying that math to answer important questions such as: how many molecules of sugar does it take to make yummy lemonade? The class also developed the cool display of suspended pins at the art gallery after experimenting with various hydrophilic polymers.

They even calculated how many molecules of water were absorbed by that fascinating polyacrylimide gel.

**Paul-** Spring is finally here, and all the classes are entering into their home stretches. In American Popular Music we are finishing up Punk from the 1970s and about to begin our look into 80/90s Rock, Heavy Metal, Hip-hop, and Electronica. Individually, the students are each creating their own compilation CD of '60s and '70s music. In groups, they are going to be making their own music video montages that show their perspective on a particular type of music from the '80s and '90s.

In Practical Pre-algebra we have finished up our work on decimals and percentages and have begun to come to terms with fractions. The past couple weeks we have been looking at probability, odds, and gambling games like craps. In the weeks to come we will be learning how fractions help us understand music, cooking, carpentry, and more.

Finally, in Practices of Music students have been performing and work-shopping pieces of their selection for the class. Thus far, we have heard work from Beethoven, Gary Jules, Skip James, and Nena.

For the rest of the semester we'll be having shorter periods during 5<sup>th</sup> period, but hopefully that will still be enough time for the students to practice, finish their performances, and build on the basic musical skills that will allow them to continue their musical growth.

**Jon-** In 2<sup>nd</sup> period Algebra 1 during the month of April we will be finishing our section on word problems with systems of linear equations. Once it is over, we will begin our final section on quadratic equations of two variables and their graphs, parabolas.

In 3<sup>rd</sup> period Algebra 1, we will spend April exploring the various uses of linear equations, looking at systems of two linear equations and how to use linear equation to solve real-world problems.

In Algebra 2, we are finishing our sections on systems of non-linear equations and begin our final section on functions. We will look at linear, quadratic, rational and radical function using the  $f(x)$  notation and determining the domain, range and roots of the functions.

In Pre-calculus, we are finishing trigonometry. Once

it is over, we will go back and review the major techniques involved in working with all our basic types of functions: linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, logarithmic, exponential and trigonometric.

**Tom-** We're winding up class projects and revisiting dropped stitches in 9th Grade American English. Students will culminate their creative writing workshops with a zine being guided and developed by IU guests Sarah and Kevin.

Greek and Latin Roots class will finish the last text chapter in the next couple of weeks and will be watching some supplementary films and documentaries.

Depth Psychology students will discuss the books they read for class and will hand in their commentaries on myth commentary.

Learner & the Learning Process students continue their work with Rebekah and analytical writing basics and we recently watched the Academy Award-winning documentary, *The Cove*, to supplement Under the Skin, the novel students read and are writing about.

I am grateful to have been a guest artist for the graffiti train along with students and the true visual artist of the project, Jacob Kowalczyk, whose vision it was and who volunteered his time outside of the Thursday afternoons to make it so. Thank you also, Ursina, Rachel and Anthony for installing the boxcars and Ben Hensel's perfect engine for the piece to be titled, "Old 31131 Descending a Staircase."

Thanks to all who made "Suspension" such a successfully impacting opening and exhibition in spite of the rainy morning downtown farmers market.

-Sal, Emily, Jon, Paul, Tom

## PROFILES

### FAMILY PROFILE

**The Enstramulak Family**, compiled by Harmony parent, Barbara McKinney

This month's family profile focuses on the Samulak-Enstrom family, often called the "Enstramulak Family" by friends. I didn't have a chance to meet them; we conducted our interview via e-mail.

The parents are Chris Enstorm and Mandy Samulak. Chris is the director of IU's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars Program and Mandy works from home as a part-time proofreader for an educational publishing company.

They live in Brown County, where Mandy moved in 2001 because she wanted to live in the woods. Chris wanted to live with Mandy and so he, too, moved to the woods. They live in an old log cabin in Yellowwood State Forest that they call "The Crooked Shack."

Mandy and Chris have Chicago in common. Chris grew up in Highland Park, Illinois, went to Eastern Illinois University and moved to Chicago. Mandy grew up in Columbus, Indiana, went to IU and then moved to Chicago.

Mandy and Chris have two children; Quinn, 6, who is in kindergarten at Harmony, and Zachary, who will be four by the time you read this. Zachary will attend Harmony when he's ready for first grade. Mandy said they chose Harmony because they wanted a school that reflected their family's values and which felt like a community. They love how Quinn's teachers know him quite well and they appreciate being able to be very involved in his school.

Quinn says he likes the playground at Harmony and he likes doing pottery and wax leaves with Ursina. He said he didn't like some of the games.



So far, their PIP jobs have been filling in when they can. Chris has worked as a substitute teacher at ECP and enjoyed that, and Mandy loved helping out with the Holiday Follies.

The family loves hiking and camping. Both Chris and Mandy are learning to play the guitar. Zach and Quinn love prehistoric creatures, including of course dinosaurs, and Star Wars. The family has one pet, an elderly Old English sheepdog named, appropriately enough no doubt, Harry.

## OTHER REPORTS

### RHINO'S ALL AGES CLUB UPDATE

While we are keeping busy doing all the awesome things we do here at Rhino's, the planet has once again made its yearly trek around the sun. It's the 18th time since Rhino's opened its doors!

Yep, 18 years of providing education and engagement for the youth of our community at a safe, alcohol, tobacco, and other drug free environment.

So, we're going to celebrate with our 3rd annual GuitArt auction on Wednesday May 26th @ The Lodge (on the square above Subway, formerly called Space

101). Great Food, awesome music, and amazing guitars created by local artists will be featured to raise money and support for Rhino's.

Tickets are only \$10 and can be purchased at Rhino's, the Harmony Office, or from any Rhino's Board member. The guitars will be on display at art galleries downtown so you can see them ahead of time. More info will be on the walls of the school soon and all over town.

We hope to see you there!

-Brad

### REPORT FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

We are looking forward to the 30th Annual Gene Flander Golf Tournament on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. It looks to be a big bright celebration of thirty years of support for Harmony School by the golfing community. If you know of any local businesses or philanthropists who would like to sponsor the event, Gold \$500, Silver \$300, Bronze \$200, and Goodie Bag \$100 sponsorships are still available. For more information, talk with Leslie Burns or Scott Hutchinson.

This is tax refund time. We will be contacting donors and former students and parents about helping current Harmony families put the Great Recession behind us. A gift of \$110 or \$220 will give us more flexibility to meet our end of the fiscal year goals on August 31 even if the hard times dampen other families' ability to contribute. Look for a letter from Roc in the mail.

-Scott

### NATIONAL SCHOOL REFORM FACULTY

National School Reform Faculty will be hosting our first annual Summer Conference "Breaking Through the Barriers to Change" in Bloomington, Indiana June 28 – 30, 2010. The conference will feature three keynote addresses, five workshop sessions, and three Open Spaces.

There will be an open, five-day training in Bloomington, IN on July 12 – 16. This is a training that qualifies new members of the NSRF community to become coaches. Please reserve these dates and let us know of your interest.