

HARMONY EDUCATION CENTER NEWSLETTER

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

P.O. Box 1787, Bloomington, IN 47402
www.harmonyschool.org (812) 334-8349

January 2010

Volume 28, Number 1

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

Monday, January 18th

NO SCHOOL!

Please visit <http://bloomington.in.gov/volunteer> to participate in Martin Luther King Day volunteer activities.

VISITOR TOUR

Our next Visitor Tour will be on **Thurs., Jan 21st** at 11 a.m. or 10:30 for ECP. Interested visitors should contact the office in advance 334-8349.

MATERIALS & TECHNOLOGY FEES - It's time to pay Spring semester fees of \$30 per child. Most people have paid already; if you are not sure please check with Leslie in the office.

STAFF RETREAT - There will be no school on **Monday, February 15th** for a Staff Retreat. However, the ECP *will* be in session.

OPEN HOUSE - February 28th 1-4pm. In case of a snow day open house will be rescheduled for March 7th. Please contact the office for reservations and questions 334-8349.

NEWS FROM THE PROGRAMS

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

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

We had fun preparing for our Holiday Follies act. We danced to the Jackson Five's ABC song, then sang our own version of the song. The kids didn't wear matching costumes this year; we just asked the families to try to find 1970s-style

1.

clothing. That seemed to work well--the kids had some really cute outfits. The night of the Follies the audience seemed to love the dancing. Then they were so enthusiastic after the first singing verse that the roaring applause drowned out most of the middle portion of the song! It was just as well, though, because the kids sang at several different tempos from that point on. Many thanks to Isaac (Ayesha's dad) for accompanying us on guitar.

Maggie (Laurelynn's mom) has been visiting us on a regular basis during the day to teach a music class. It is a lovely mix of songs and finger plays, rhythm and rhyme. She has a gentle and engaging style that includes singing cues to help transition from one activity or song to the next. Speaking of helpful parents, we sometimes have a hard time finding teacher substitutes but this year has been a breeze. When we send out an appeal for help, we have been consistently getting more responses than we can use. Thanks, ECP families!

Emily (our high school science teacher) and her husband, Dave, have adopted two charming brothers from Ethiopia who will be joining our class in a month or so. Their names are Amare and Zenebe (or just Zene) and they have been visiting with Emily to get used to spending time in the ECP.

So far they love the toys and seem to be adjusting nicely.



Keep warm and hit the sled slopes!

-Tim, Linda, and Martha

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

KATE & CLAUDIO's (6-8 yr olds)

Welcome back to school! Our week was definitely a short one – only two days back and

our break was extended with two consecutive snow days! With the busy and exciting month of December behind us, we are looking forward to getting back to our regular routine. The Whole Elementary Theme always takes place during the afternoons in January, and the entire elementary school is looking forward to their classes, each revolving around the central theme of Folklore.

Luckily, of the two days we were at school last week, one was Wednesday, thus everyone wrote a directed journal entry. Our guiding question was "If you were invisible for one day, what would you do?" Please, enjoy the responses given by our many classroom tricksters.

If I were invisible for the day, I would:

- Throw snowballs at people and I would also put a white sheet on and pretend I was a ghost.
- Go to Israel and sneak on an airplane.
- Paint myself because I like to be silly and also drink sweet lemonade because I love lemonade.
- Pick up things and make them look like they're flying.
- Throw balls at people.
- Make people believe in ghosts by poking them and talking to them.
- Steal an ice cream cone from the ice cream man. And a hot dog. Mmmm...I know just no!!! The last hot dog!
- Pretend I was a ghost and play video games.
- Scare my friend and make a mess in my brother's room. And eat my mom's ice cream and cookies. They're really good.
- Throw everything off the desk. Why? Because I would love to get people in trouble.
- Give people nice pictures. I would walk out of school and go home and play ten minutes of Avatar. I would buy things for people and probably give poor people money. I would go to Egypt.
- Scare my mom in bed.
- Trick people.
- Do math when it was reading. And I would sneak food at night.
- I would sneak up and play longer than I am supposed to.
- Poke Ousman on the shoulder.
- Scare my big brother because it would be lots of fun because he bugs me.
- Scare my mommy.

- Turn off all the lights and turn on all the fans to scare everybody.
- I would play hide-and-seek.
- If my brother was drinking and set down his glass I would grab it so it looked like it was floating.

Here's to a happy, healthy 2010!

- Kate & Claudio

JO & JEREMY's (8-10 yr olds)

We're starting off the New Year with more than snow days. Right now, the children are exploring folklore through our Whole Elementary Theme. Superheroes, superstitions, old fashioned games, Japanese tales, the Middle Ages, and illustrating local stories from Bloomington authors, are the classes being offered. I'm sure that the kids will be learning a lot and having fun doing it.

In authoring, Jeremy has us exploring the art of essay writing. The kids have begun collecting ideas and then forming opinions about them. They've just begun to write short pieces, both serious and light-hearted. Several children read theirs aloud on the circle, to smiles, laughter and even applause. We're off to a great start and eventually each child will choose a topic and then write a more detailed and involved essay about that topic.

Multiplication, division, and problem-solving are the focus for math this month. The children are learning new games to strengthen these math skills.

During a Family Meeting before the holiday break, the children decided to do a fundraiser for the Feline Rescue Center. They are in the planning stages right now, but look for a note home soon about this event.

We sure know how to stay busy!



-Jo

KATHY & SCOTT's (10-12 year olds)

We hope you had an exciting Winter Break with your friends and loved ones. It is time to begin the New Year at Harmony and we are excited to have the students back. For our January theme we will be focusing on physical geography and life science. During our explorations in geography, we will be focusing on reading maps and cartography. David Smith, a student art teacher will be coming in and doing an interesting activity on "alternative cartography."

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Marty and Ursina

First – a big and warm welcome to baby Grey! He was born at home on December 22nd. Congratulations to Kelli and Dave. I also want to congratulate everyone who participated or worked at the Follies – what a spectacular show.

During the next couple of weeks we are preparing for a round of debates. We all know our students can argue well; now we are teaching them how to do it better. They are learning about contentions, evidence, reasoning and persuasion. Students will only know two days before the actual debate which side they are defending. The students chose the following topics:

1. *The War in Afghanistan is unwise and not worth the cost of American lives and money.*
2. *Parents could be allowed to select the gender of their own offspring.*
3. *It's morally unacceptable to experiment on non-human animals to develop products and medicines that benefit humans.*
4. *Violent video games should be banned.*

In science we are finalizing the unit on the brain. We examined learning disabilities and strategies to cope with them, explored multiple intelligences, and drawing from the right side of the brain. The objective is giving students a better understanding about how they learn and how their brains develop. We'll conclude with individual research projects on dysfunctions such as comas, bi-polarity, Alzheimer's, epilepsy and more. Students will conduct research and present to peers.

Next we will study color and light, and explore vision, the electromagnetic spectrum, photography, animation and primary colors in light and pigment. This includes lots of hands on exploration combining art and science. David Smith will join this class as part of his student teaching.

In language arts we're continuing with Joy Hakim's "The First Americans" and, at present, are reading about Ponce de Leon, Pizzaro, and the Spanish colonies. We're also continuing with creative writing homework assignments, spelling tests, and language arts skill building. This multi focused approach seems to keep things from becoming tedious and moving in the right direction.

In math, students are settling into their new classes with Jon, Paul and David. We are fortunate to have Kelly Thomas, an IU graduate

With David, the class will explore artists who are making maps that represent their individual lives, their emotional lives, their political views, their social critiques, etc. David has been an excellent resource for Harmony students over the course of the year, if you see him around say hello and thank you.

The last week of January and most of February will be spent exploring life science and biology. With the help of Mikey Brooks and Jena Hanes, we will create an engaging and exciting unit that revolves around "The Characteristics of Life". In this unit some of the concepts we will look at are: the similarities and differences between cell types and organisms; how to use microscopes to make observations and draw conclusions; and genetics and the passing of information from generation to generation. We are looking forward to learning life sciences together.

With the New Year comes the Graduation Project for our sixth graders.

Sunny Aldrich- *The Incas*
Ciabhan Connelly- *Fiction Writing*
Mayan Earheart- *Greek Gods*
Paige Gerstman- *Mexico*
Ben Land- *The History of Warfare*
Zaynab Maanaki- *Learning Disabilities*
Deo Moore- *The Food Industry*
Ella Poletti- *Sculpture*
Evan Saucier- *Skateboarding*
Autumn Siney-Snyder- *The Circus*
Agnes Weyers- *Armor*
Beom-soo Park- *Organic Chemistry*

These grads will be working hard on these projects over the next three months, so check in with them to see how they are doing.

Later this month, we will have the privilege of working with Jessica Lucas, an M501 early field experience student. The M501 field experience is one of two early (pre-student teaching) field experiences required for graduation in the Elementary Transition to Teach (ET2T) Program. Each of these early field experiences are taught in conjunction with a "cluster" of university education courses. The courses associated with this field experience are in the fields of social studies, art, and language arts/reading education. Jessica is graduate student working on her masters and teaching certification. If you see her around the classroom or school, say hello and welcome her to Harmony School.

-Scott

student, work with us this semester to assist students with their graduation projects.

Linda Hoke-Sinex, a Harmony parent and professor, is involving a group of her IU students to mentor our students in a gender study project. 8th graders are finishing their Peer Education Program at Planned Parenthood and we will continue working with Brad on the Voice Project. Many thanks to all the middle school parents who have been helping us, especially Melissa, Alice, Will, Trisha, Daniel, Amanda and Jeff. Another very special thanks to Mike Hoffmann who has generously shared his expertise and time to help us with Mac maintenance – thank you!

A couple of reminders:

- Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 – 4:00 we have study hall available for middle school
- Each year the middle school goes to Paoli Peaks to ski and snowboard. This can happen on short notice since we are looking for perfect conditions. We get a good group rate, which includes a lesson, lunch, rentals, and lift (about \$25). Look for an email with details. You are welcome to join us - just let us know.
- Finally, students do have daily homework.

We want to welcome Camryn Keplinger who joined the 7th grade this semester.

-Ursina

HIGH SCHOOL

Paul, Emily, Jon, Tom, Sal

January is a quiet month in the High School, when we really notice the seniors' absence and the gap they leave behind them. This year, as always, their projects cover a wide range of topics, taking them to the four points of the US and the world! The students' work is so interesting that we have decided to devote our portion of this month's newsletter to a description of what they're up to. Three seniors - Whitney Blake, Nolan Moss, and Yoon Ju Park - aren't quite ready to go, yet – so more about them in the next issue.

Nate Holland will be working full time at Ellettsville Fire Department. His mentor is Deputy Fire Chief, Mike Cornman. He will be working 24-hour shifts at the station, doing everything that a professional firefighter does - such as assisting with medical emergencies, directing traffic, carrying equipment, and exterior firefighting.



However, because he is not 18, he will not be allowed to engage in interior firefighting - i.e. he cannot go into a burning building!

Sara Jancosek will be studying transgenderism and the differences between being gay, transgender, or transsexual. She will be interviewing transgender individuals, as well as experts in the field about the issues the transgendered face when transitioning from one gender to another.

Abby Middleton's project focuses on the Holocaust. In late December, she interviewed Eva Kor - a survivor of Dr Mengele's experiments on twins in Auschwitz. This week, she travels to Washington DC, where she will intern at the US Holocaust Museum until April, when she will fly to Israel to take part in the March of the Living Program. This program brings together hundreds of students from around the world to travel to Poland to visit camps such as Auschwitz, Treblinka and Majdanek. Abby wishes to develop a Holocaust Awareness education program that will help to prevent genocides (such as Darfur) from happening again.

Opal Mills has chosen to study how imagery in popular children's films and books shapes children's ideas of acceptable gender roles. The first part of her project will be spent creating and administering surveys to children of different ages, examining their attitudes about appropriate male and female roles. She will then use this data to create her own children's book, which will be as gender-neutral as possible. Opal will be assisted in her studies by her mentor, Professor Linda Sinex, from the Department of Psychology at Indiana University.

Jessi Musungu is spending her project observing arts communities in Chicago, New York, and Melbourne, Florida. She plans to interview artists, curators, gallery owners, and so on, in an effort to answer her essential question: "What about a community defines its art and how do artists define their community? What do the interactions that go on look like?" On her return, Jessi will put together a show of her own paintings and drawings, which will go on exhibit in Bloomington at the end of the semester.

Di Qiu's project focuses on business during the Recession. She has traveled back to China to explore why state-owned companies appear to be surviving more successfully than individually-run enterprises in the current economic climate. She is interning at a mid-size IT company in Beijing called HATCH, a high-tech enterprise that focuses on the design, creation, integration and

service of Air Traffic Management (ATM) systems.

McCarry Reynolds is interning with several Chicago theaters for his project. He will be an Assistant Director in the Educational program at Northlight Theatre and doing an artistic/administrative internship with The Chicago Dramatists, a theatre dedicated to new-works, much like the BPP. He will also be volunteering at the Redmoon Theatres. McCarry wants to answer the essential question: "To what extent are theatres influenced by the style of work they produce"?

Emma Rush is the school's Ancient Egypt expert. She has taken college classes throughout her high school career in Classical History, Egyptian History and a lecture course on the Writings of Herodotus. Now she completes her research with a project that will take her to England first to study at the British Museum, then to the land itself, where she will visit many of Ancient Egypt's most important archeological sites in pursuit of an answer to her question about the accuracy of Ancient Egyptian history and what we can still learn from this great civilization today.

Keya Sartin's ambition in life is to be a dietician, so it is not surprising that she is focusing on nutrition. For the first part of her project, she is interning at Bloomington Hospital with their head dietician, Christine Carver. There, she will learn about special diets given to victims of disease, such as diabetes or high blood pressure, as well as patients recovering from treatments or surgical procedures. Keya will then travel to California, where she will observe dieticians at a number of spas. Her aim is to answer the essential question: "How does dietetics, when used for health reasons such as disease, differ from dietetics geared towards beauty and wellness, in a society where looks are highly valued?"

Michael Tiefenbach is pursuing his ambition to enlist in the army and is focusing his project on the requirements, challenges and experiences faced when attempting to join the military. He is enrolled in the Future Soldiers Program, which involves attending regular physical training classes, Army Reserve drills, job shadowing and online Future Soldier classes that teach skills such as map reading and first aid. Michael's essential question is: "What qualifications are required of a soldier in the modern army and are they that different from qualifications required of soldiers through history?"

Divina Thrasher will be taking the exams for her real estate license this semester and will be participating in two internships. One is in

Minneapolis with a small private company that provides loans for people who cannot obtain them through a bank. Her second internship will be in Michigan, where she will be working with an independent real estate broker for a month. Her essential question is: "How has our economic situation affected the real estate market and the American family?"

Alex Voyles will be traveling around the country to learn different styles of guitar-playing from a variety of musical mentors. For the first month, he will be studying jazz and classical guitar with Curtis Cantwell Jackson here in Bloomington. Alex will then travel to Seattle, where he will study blues guitar with his father's band. At the end of February, he will fly to Chicago, where he will study folk guitar at the Old Town School of Folk Music. On his return home, Alex will take the lessons he has learned about the various genres and incorporate them in an album of his own music that he will record for his project presentation.

Zac Woodhouse: At the end of January, Zac will journey to Borneo where he will work with the organization, Raleigh International, to help local communities with building projects such as gravity water feed systems, schools and community centers, libraries, and environmentally-sustainable buildings that help communities earn money from tourism, instead of logging their forests. Zac hopes the experience will answer his essential question: "How can I and this program help give people what we in the West take for granted?"

Dewey Wysong: As you read this, Dewey is in New Mexico, interning at the Sangre De Cristo Ranch, a 700-acre farm and experiential educational facility high in the mountains, 20 miles north of Taos. While he is there, he expects to herd yaks; convert their bus to using vegetable oil; train draft horses; construct a welding shop; prepare their gardens for spring planting; and work on wilderness education with a local middle school. Dewey hopes that his project will help him decide whether he would be happy living a sustainable lifestyle in a remote rural area, outside mainstream society.

-Sallyann

PROFILES & OTHER REPORTS

FAMILY PROFILE

Still lots of music and media and fun to be had as well - every day after school and Friday and Saturday nights.

-Brad

REPORT FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

I look forward to seeing all of you at Rhino's for the Chocolate Prom on Friday, February 5, at 8:00. Advance tickets are \$5, at the door they will be \$10 per person or \$15 per couple.

Please visit the Harmony School Ning site <http://harmonyschool.ning.com/>. We have posted videos from last year's Chocolate Prom, All-Elementary Play, Senior Projects, and graduation. We have also posted videos from this year's first day of school ceremonies, Halloween Costume Parade with a special Thriller Dance, Senior Sendoff, and Holiday Follies.

The new calendar and tax year have begun. The videos posted on our Ning sites remind us of the rich traditions of a Harmony education. Some of these traditions rest on the diversity of the student body. This diversity requires the support of donors like you. Feel free to call or visit the development office for more information.

The 30th Gene Flander Harmony School Golf Tournament is scheduled for Sunday, May 2, at Eagle Point Golf Course. Please mark your calendars, start up a team, and get your company or community group to help sponsor part of the event.

-Scott Hutchinson

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Events held at Harmony School:

The Bloomington Winter Farmers Market is the best way to continue to keep your money local and support the farmers and producers in your area. BWFM takes place Saturdays, beginning January 23 through March 27. Doors open at 9am until 12pm at the Harmony School Gymnasium, located 909 E. 2nd St. Come for great food, live music, chef demonstrations, and to celebrate our rich community!

Bloomindance at Harmony School starts January 23, with class levels for children ages 3 - 10, taught by Robin Hoover Allen, with live musical accompaniment. The class times, tuition

and registration info can be found on Robin's website www.bloomindance.org

Hoosier Martial Arts Taekwondo Class

5:30-6:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Harmony School gym.
\$25 every 4 weeks

Middle Eastern Dance Classes

Starting soon - Tuesday evenings - IU campus
Thursday evenings - Harmony School
Contact: Donna 812-330-1831
www.allaboutbellydance.com

Clogging Classes with Tamara Loewenthal

Clogging/Flatfoot classes, Tuesdays, Feb 2 -16:

- o *Beginning class for children 6 – 12, 6:00-6:45pm*
- o *Beginning class for adults & teens, 7:00 – 7:55pm*
- o *Intermediate class, 8:00 – 8:55pm*

Waltz log/Step, all levels, March 7&9: 7:00 – 8:45pm

Cost \$40, \$35 if received by Jan 30. Please email tamara@bluemarble.net

Other Events:

The Third Annual Percussive Dance Extravaganza: A Fountain of Fancy Footwork, Fiddling, and Fun presents another great assembly of musicians and dancers for a sumptuous evening of percussive dance, great tunes, and sweet songs. **Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 7:30pm in the John Waldron Auditorium.** Doors open at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$15 at the door. To order advance tickets, call (812) 333-3180 or email tamara@bluemarble.net; all advance tickets will be held as Will Call, at the door.

A message from the local 2010 Census Committee

The 2010 Census is a snapshot of our nation's population. The 2010 Census WILL affect YOUR future and the future of our COMMUNITY.

There are only 10 questions on the Census Form and it should take about 10 minutes to fill out.

Please participate. Not only is the census data used to determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, but also to determine in part how the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion in federal dollars each year to states and communities. So, help yourself, help your family,

help your friends and your community by participating in the 2010 Census.

Special thanks to:

Barbara McKinney for writing family profiles and helping with the newsletter.

Kevin Burdeshaw for taking care of paper recycling.

Julie James for putting labels on the newsletter.

Lee Deckard for bringing items from IU Surplus and helping with recycling.

