

# HARMONY EDUCATION CENTER NEWSLETTER

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

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## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

### **SOCIAL ACTION DAY AT HARMONY – A Day on, Not A Day Off** for our students **Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:10 Opening with Bill Breeden & musical interlude  
9:50 morning activities, including:
- Building a Recycling Shed at Banneker Center
  - Working with kids at The Rise
  - Painting Dog Kennels at The Animal Shelter
  - Civil Rights History and Training
  - Visting Meadowood Nursing Home
  - Planting seedlings for Mother Hubbards Cupboard
  - Decorating bags for Hoosier Hills Food Bank food drive
  - Storytelling with an art project component
  - Reading a book & talking about MLK Jr.

Afternoon at Rhinos (for 5<sup>th</sup> grade through high school):

- Good live music by our own "We are But Mannequins" or otherwise known as Spencer and Brittany and a local, very fun, pop punk group "Good Luck".
- An interactive art installation focused on putting a face to slavery and its impact on our society. The students can make paper mache masks and decorate pre-made masks.
- Refreshments will be available; donations welcome
- Local social service agencies will be present so students can learn ways to be socially active in our community

### **VISITOR TOUR DATE CHANGED**

Our next Visitor Tour will be on **Thurs., Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>** 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.

### Don't miss Harmony's **ALL ELEMENTARY PLAY**

Children from 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will perform in "*The Four Worlds*", a Dine (Native American) creation story that celebrates Mother Earth.

Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009

11:15 a.m. for the school

7:00 p.m. for families & the community

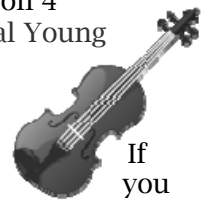
*Suggested donation: \$2 per person to cover the costs of the play & the cast party.*

**STAFF RETREAT** - There will be no school on **Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** for a Staff Retreat. However, the ECP *will* be in session.

### **HARMONY STUDENTS WIN COMPETITIONS**

**Seung-Mi Sun**, a Harmony senior, won 4<sup>th</sup> place in the The Lennox International Young Artists Competition for Piano and Strings at the University of Texas at Dallas last weekend. And, she was the youngest participant to place!

If you were at the Holiday Follies, you will certainly remember this talented young musician performing so brilliantly on her violin.



Sixth grader **Corey Dadds'** mini-play submission "Throw Away" won second prize in the Middle School division of the Mini-Play competition for The Bloomington Playwright's Project (BPP). His play along with the other winning plays will be produced in the annual BPP mini-play festival. The student productions will be performed the week before Spring Break. BPP hopes to bring some of the productions, including that of Corey's play, to Harmony next fall.

Congratulations to both these talented young people!

### **HARMONYCORPS MEMBER IN NEED**

As many of you know, Harmony also runs an Americorps project in Indianapolis. Over the holidays, one of our members lost everything in a fire. Her 3 daughters & 3 grandchildren all live with her, so the entire family was affected. We are collecting donations to help them get back on their feet, so if you are able to contribute any of the following, please bring the items to school in the next couple of weeks:

**Towels & washcloths**

**Clothes for her grandchildren -  
childrens' size 6, 4 & 6- 12 months**

**Clothes for her daughters - womens'  
size 3, 16 & 18**

Thank you in advance!

## NEWS FROM THE PROGRAMS

### EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

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

The ECP kids had a blast getting ready for and performing our "Purple People Eaters" Holiday Follies act this year. Being able to customize their own costumes seemed to give them a stake in the preparations and they all loved playing kazoos in the last chorus. No amount of rehearsal prepares you, though, for walking out onto the stage in inky darkness followed by blinding light and the presence of a gym packed with people! Several kids were stunned and stood there with a dazed look while we tried to coax them into the singing and hand motions.

The kids have been writing and illustrating stories that are read to the whole group at story time. Here's a story, "Lightness," by Isaiah Carter that we would like to share with you. The story was enhanced by 3-D pictures but we found them difficult to reproduce. "Once upon a time, there was a tree that had a million trunks, and bloody leaves on top of it. Beside it was a great land, but the only thing it didn't want around was the tree. The tree was causing land problems. Dinosaurs roamed caves and when they couldn't fall asleep in their caves, they roamed out. A big strike of darkness hit all of the land. And soon, a big strike of lightness hit the land, and the bloody tree that had a million trunks was gone. The land was finally at peace."

For the dark days of December, we got out an overhead projector and the kids played with silhouettes and shadows, making tracings that were much larger than the

original objects. We also made bright blue playdough one day, and then made a batch colored bright yellow on another day. When the two were mixed, surprise, a brand new color emerged. Just before winter break we set up a village of giant connected cardboard boxes with doors between and lots of windows and peep holes. These were just right for playing house on Pajama Day.

Happy New Year! --*Tim, Linda, and Martha*

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

#### **MICHELE & CLAUDIO's (6-8 yr olds)**

January brings some changes to our routine. The second graders, who have been writing in their Journals for three semesters now start a series of writing exercises during that time. They will include retelling a familiar fairy tale, writing a letter, writing a set of instructions (which a first grader will try to follow), and writing a report (and reading it to the whole class). The first graders continue to write in their Journal daily, and the second graders will join them for Directed Journal every Wednesday. The first graders now get to do "No-spelling-book Journal" on Thursdays, when they have to spell words as best they can on their own. The second graders are also (finally) getting to learn cursive, while the first graders explore writing poems and making books.



This month all the elementary classes are mixing for our All-Elementary Theme, which this year involves the environment. Our kids are either in Birds and their Environment with

Scott, Recycled Art with Jeremy, The All-Elementary Play with Michele, or Beautiful Planet Earth with Claudio.

The All-Elementary Play will be performed by 16 students from all the elementary grades on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m. and 7 p.m. It was put together by Michele from a variety of Native American stories. Its theme is the environment and human beings' relationship to it. Everyone is invited.

By now everyone - kids and teachers alike - is settled in. These winter months are often calmer times (especially when

compared to December), and lots gets accomplished.

Wishing you a peaceful and cozy month. --*Claudio*

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

After a wonderful holiday break it was awesome to see a bunch of smiling faces trickling into the classroom on an icy Tuesday morning. We heard lots of stories about presents, celebrations, sleeping in, and pancakes. The kids seemed rejuvenated and happy to return the school. They were especially excited to see their friends and catch up.

As for class work, we started a whole bunch of new activities. Our authors are currently learning the fine art of letter writing. They are writing thank you letters and then a letter to one of their living heroes. Each letter includes all of the bells and whistles one would expect in a formal letter (return address, greeting, closing, etc.). We do ask the kids to refrain from such sentences as, "OMG my BFF totally LoLed in the mdle of class."

In math, we move into the study of measurement systems. We are doing a couple of projects that stretch the kids' understanding of why we measure and help them to become familiar with the systems that we use. All of the activities incorporate fun and investigation.

Another heavy focus is the All Elementary Theme "Going Green". Jo is teaching a class that uses science experiments and field trips to explore a variety of simple ways we can all make our environment healthier. Jeremy is leading an art project that uses recyclable materials as the medium.

All of this put together offers our group a ton to do this month. On top of that, we are looking forward to beginning our research projects next month! --*Jeremy*

### **KATE & SCOTT's (10-12 year olds)**

We hope you are having a great start to 2009 and staying warm during this winter. The students are back in the swing of things for the New Year. Kathy is doing well at the beginning of her sabbatical; she wrote a nice letter that was shared with the class. We all wish her the best during her time off. Kate Minelli has stepped right in where Kathy left

off. Many of you have met Kate either when she was working in the office or working with the current 5<sup>th</sup> graders last year in Jo and Jeremy's class. If you see her around the school, feel free to welcome her and say hello.

With the beginning of the new semester, our class is currently engaged in our first true Kid's Query of the year. Kid's Query is a chance for students to research a topic of interest to them. They will write a small research paper using various resources and then give a presentation to the class to share their work. This is our final tune-up on research writing and presentation skills before the upcoming Graduation Project in March.

During the afternoons this month, we are involved in our annual Elementary Theme for Creation and Exploration times. The theme for the month is Environmental Science. Ask your children how their classes are going. On Monday and Tuesday afternoons, Kate will be offering a beginning Spanish class for interested students. We will continue to work with our IU Law students on "Legal Literacy" when they are available. The culmination of this unit will be a "Mock Trial" that we will hold over at the IU Law Department. This is a great opportunity for our class to learn about the judicial system and the rights of US citizens.

One of our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students, Corey Dadds was recently awarded a Second Place Prize for a Bloomington Playwrights' Project competition for middle school students. Corey wrote a play that was competing against students from grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. His play will be performed by the BPP both at their theater and then at our school sometime in the upcoming year. He also won a gift certificate for the Simon Mall. If you see Corey around the school, feel free to congratulate him on his success.

We would like to take this time to thank all the parents that have volunteered in the classroom over the last four months. This includes room cleaning, driving to events, supervising activities and supporting the classroom. There will be more opportunities coming up to get in your PIP hours. Look for emails from Bret Earheart for these opportunities. Until next time, take care and stay safe and warm,

--*Kate, Scott and the 10-12 year olds*

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **Marty, Kelli and Ursina**

As we begin our new year, I would like to acknowledge everyone who contributed to and participated in the Holiday Follies. As always, it was a reflection of the unique and creative community we are. I hope you had a rejuvenating break and enjoyed the little snow we got and wish you a Happy New Year!

In the Middle School we are back in full swing, and during the next two weeks our students are preparing in teams for debates. The students brainstormed topics, voted on the top five and finally each student made her/his top three choices. Here are our teams:

*Animal Testing is a positive thing for society:*  
Jason, Eli, Oscar, Sasha, Mandi, Alex.

*Curfews do keep teens out of trouble:*  
Brittany, Sam, Jordan, Emily, Azra, Emileigh.

*Performance-enhancing drugs including steroids should be allowed in professional sports:* Arianna, Isaac, Hazel, Jake, Natasha, Kendra.

*Violence in media causes violence in society:*  
Nico, Renan, Nick, Gabe, SongBear, Rakan.

*The government should assist the US auto Industry to keep them in business:* Jack, Dorian, Adam, Amy, Aurora, Shamus.

Each team is preparing a pro and con argument and a list of questions and facts for rebuttal. This year, they will only know which side they argue shortly before the debate and will need to write a two-minute statement from the research they gathered. Debates will be held the week of January 19<sup>th</sup>. We all know they can argue well; now we give them the ammunition to do it even better.

In February, eighth graders will be starting on their graduation projects. They will choose a committee of teacher, mentor and peer to guide them through the next few months. The final work has to reflect a minimum of 60 hours, including research and project. This is a unique opportunity for students to delve into exploring something of special interest to them. It's a gift of time and a celebration for the culmination of their middle school experiment. Now is a good time to brainstorm together on a solid topic.

Seventh graders will start on their next independent project. For our all school social service project, the middle school is working with the Waldron Arts Center to help them with a monthly fundraising project throughout this semester. We are also looking forward to a project Michelle Coleman will lead: "A Walk in Their Shoes" - an activity focused on multicultural awareness.

Please help your son/daughter stay on top of upcoming assignments. All core classes have regular assignments and tests. This includes 5<sup>th</sup> period. Pacing is important during these coming months - please inquire about upcoming deadlines.

And last, we are planning our annual trip to Paoli Peaks to enjoy skiing and snowboarding. We'll send information home soon. We are waiting for the perfect weather conditions and will leave on rather short notice. We get a great group rate and half of the cost is included in the middle school activity fee (*if you are uncertain if you have paid the activity fee, please ask in the office*). If you would like to join us, please let us know.  
--Ursina

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

### **Paul, Emily, Jon, Tom, Sal**

In the midst of all this cold, it's hard to believe that we are already planning for this year's spring trip, but the decision has been made and this May the high school is going to Asheville, North Carolina. We will be sending trip contracts out in the next few days and ask all our families to return them as soon as possible, so we can calculate accurately what funds the students will have to raise. They have some very creative plans, including the now-annual rummage sale and book fair; a staff versus students basketball game; and - new this year - a babysitting service for parents on a Friday night! We are also soliciting any donations you might be willing to make of goods that we can sell on Craig's List. Please contact Sal or Paul with details at [smurphsj@gmail.com](mailto:smurphsj@gmail.com) or [pswanson@harmonyschool.org](mailto:pswanson@harmonyschool.org) And please support the students in any way you can - this year their fundraising efforts will be especially important in offsetting the costs of the trip for everyone.

In the meantime, we all have equally exciting plans for our classes!

**Paul:** This semester marks the end of my two-year curriculum cycle, so I'm looking forward to both the creation of these courses, as well as the chance to refine and develop them in the future. The one course that I am re-teaching is called Critical Comedy and is designed to complement last semester's Ethics of 9-11. The course has three foci: comedy, psychology, and sociology. We are beginning now by looking at the history of comedy itself from Greece to the present. Though this segment of the course is brief, we'll be continuing to use comedy as a window into other topics. Next up is some psychology and philosophy, with some foundational reading by Henri Bergson and Sigmund Freud.

My next class is American Language and Culture, part two. Our main focus this semester is developing the reading, writing, and grammar skills they need for the SATs. To that end, we're working on developing vocabulary, improving reading comprehension, and exploring the conundrum of English grammar. In addition, we'll be mixing things up with some poetry, drama, American culture, and Scrabble.

My final class of the morning is Cultural Arts of Latin America. This is the last semester of my Cultural Arts series, and it's off to a great start. We've begun by looking at creation stories from the Mayas and Aztecs, and now we are looking in depth at the history and arts of the great Native American civilizations: Mayas, Mexica (Aztecs), and Incas. From there, we'll be looking at the worlds of the Spaniards and Portuguese, of the West Africans, and what ensued when these worlds collided. After that we'll look into the arts of colonial and modern Latin America, and also into the themes of resistance, identity, and modernization that have shaped that world.

In the afternoon, I will be teaching a new course called Practical Economics. I have four main goals for the students of this course: that they 1) learn the basics of personal finance (budgeting, paying taxes, balancing checkbooks, etc.), 2) gain some experience starting their own business and actually make some money, 3) gain a basic

knowledge of microeconomics and supply/demand, and 4) learn enough about the American and world economy to be able to read and understand economic current events. This is a difficult time for our country economically, so it is that much more important for our students and future voters to be informed and aware of how money works.

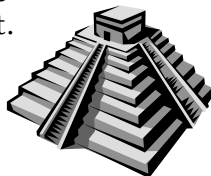
**Emily:** A new semester brings a whole set of fun new science courses for the high school! First, Biochemistry, in which students have already selected a variety of chemicals (enzymes, drugs, toxins, hormones, vitamins) to research their effects on living things.

This will give the class a nice overview of the variety of chemical impacts on biological systems. They are also busy memorizing (gasp!) element symbols so they can recognize molecular structures. In class this month we'll cover the basic organic macromolecules (lipids, proteins, carbohydrates) and do some experiments with plant pigments and saliva (eew!).

The Alternative Energy course is also off to a great start. This class was inspired by a grant received by the Caldwell EcoCenter to "green" its building, as well as Harmony School's ongoing efforts to improve our energy efficiency and carbon footprint. The students will be involved in an energy audit of the EcoCenter and will help design some energy solutions for that building. This month we'll be visiting the new Bloom Apartments' green building for some inspiration. They are also currently working on evaluating the school's energy use by examining our utility bills. They are an enthusiastic group, so I'm looking forward to sharing with you what they come up with as the class progresses.

Also to come this month is an afternoon course in CPR and First Aid, in which I will train middle and high schoolers in basic emergency medical care. Students will be working towards their Red Cross certification.

**Jon:** Algebra 2 - This semester is dedicated to strengthening students' basic math skills, and preparing them for the SAT. The first week is dedicated to improving students' speed and accuracy when making calculations with fractions. The rest of



January will be dedicated to practicing SAT style questions involving fractions, decimals, percents and proportions.

Analytic Geometry - This class contains two groups of advanced math students - one group has taken extensive Geometry but not Algebra 2, while the other group has taken extensive Algebra 2, but not Geometry. January is dedicated to catching both groups up on the basic algebra and geometry that they need to begin their study of analytic geometry. By the end of the month the students will begin answering geometric questions concerning systems of linear equations.

Algebra 1 - January is dedicated to solving algebraic equations of one and two variables. By the end of the month we will be focusing on how to convert word problems into equations.

Geometry - January is dedicated to learning about circles and their properties. Emphasis will be put on the relationship between angles and arc measure as well as radius, diameter, circumference and arc length. Quizzes will be more frequent, and there will be continued attention on PSAT style questions.

**Tom:** We're taking a respite from last semester's dropped stitch grammatical focus in Ninth Grade American English and will be practicing more writing and proofing skills as well as more vocabulary development.

Greek and Latin Roots class is now in one section and I'm looking forward to learning about the words students are choosing to create their own 10 word lessons.

My new Depth Psychology class is small enough that we'll be able to meet at my house for some of our classes and I'm taking another run at offering Dada, Surrealism, Mythology and the Symbolic World for fifth period afternoon classes after its gastronomic abruption last fall.

Last spring semester, my oracular systems classes grew out of our multicultural day celebration month and the numerological components of those systems we considered cause me to pause and ponder the following: it is both 1/11 and 1:11 as I am keyboarding this current newsletter information. Ursina and I celebrated our 33rd anniversary last October 31 and

Natasha turns 13 in the 3rd month of this 3X3 year as I complete my 31st year with Harmony High School. May all your syzygies of nanoseconds conspiral!

**Sal:** In Art of the Story 2, we will continue to examine how and why great stories are told through the lens of "choice". Using novels, biographies, plays, poems and classic movies, we will look at the choices we make in life - between good & evil (*Macbeth, The Picture of Dorian Gray, Dracula*); choices of lifestyle (*A Long Day's Journey Into Night*), even how to die (*A Lesson Before Dying*). And we will also examine what happens when our ability to choose is removed - by accident of birth (*Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*), by poverty (*Angela's Ashes*), or war (*Sophie's Choice*). As we explore each concept, students will write stories that revolve around these themes.

In Western Civ, we continue exploring the "must-knows" of Western Civilization with a journey into the Dark Ages, where we will study the rise of Christianity and the Golden Age of Islam, before enjoying the colorful exploits of the Viking Age. This month, students will also start to plan their final projects, which will be on display at History Night in April.

The American Century will also have a display of the magnificent portfolios students are producing about their studies of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This semester, we have resumed our studies in the 1920s, which will be celebrated in a Decade Night, when we will eat Fettucini Alfredo and learn the Charleston! In a more serious vein, students will be writing an essay, comparing the Twenties and the lead-up to the Wall Street Crash with events in our own era.

Finally, the Press Corps will again design and execute a media campaign in support of the Harmony Open House this April. The young journalists will build contacts with local television, radio, and print reporters and will offer them news stories and feature ideas, tailored to their media outlets. They will also write newspaper articles themselves for local newspapers and for the spring edition of the Press Corps Magazine.

## OTHER REPORTS

### RHINO'S ALL AGES CLUB UPDATE

Happy New Year from Rhino's.

Big Shows coming up including Gwen Stacy, Haste the Day, and of course, the 3rd Annual Chocolate Prom February 6th. This year's CHOC PROM features the fabulous soul/dance grooves of The LADYQUAKES, MORE Chocolate, MORE decorations, and MORE fun for the whole family!

Check out the Rhino's Website, [www.rhinosyouthcenter.org](http://www.rhinosyouthcenter.org), for more info on these and more upcoming concerts. Also on the website is a link to a discount coupon on tax preparation from Jackson Hewitt. Using that coupon not only gets you a discount on the service, but also gets a donation from JH to Rhino's.

The after school video program, Rhinoplasty, recently won its THIRD Farnsworth Award for excellence in community broadcasting! The Award is shared with CATS Channel 3, and we're pretty darn proud of all the cool work they do.

Our anti-tobacco industry VOICE project this year is "Don't Glam Tobacco". It's a state wide initiative designed, through letters, petitions, media, and social action, to compel the entertainment industry to eliminate smoking from G, PG, and PG-13 movies and music videos. Look for more info on this in the school in the coming weeks.

That's all for now! --Brad Wilhelm

### REPORT FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

As a fun follow-up to our reunion, we are encouraging our students, alumni, parents, volunteers, donors, and other supporters to join the Harmony School on-line community at [www.ning.com](http://www.ning.com). I know that many of you have enjoyed the Harmony School page and All-School Reunion page on MySpace and the Harmony Education Center page on Facebook. The new Ning community will give us greater capacity to share pictures, videos, texts, blogs, chats, and just generally keep everyone informed about life at Harmony and after Harmony.

Paul, Leslie, Rosie, and Terri have joined Scott in the Development Office on a grants committee. They are looking at Requests for Proposals from foundations and corporations that might support Harmony Education Center. If you work at or otherwise come into contact with a corporation or foundation that might fund our programs or endowment and sponsor our special events, please let us know.

We still have NAP credits available for donors who wish to contribute \$250 or more in the new tax year. For example, if donors give \$500, they receive a \$250 credit to their Indiana state taxes as well as the usual tax deduction from their federal tax if they itemize.

**Chocolate Prom** will be held at Rhino's Youth Media Center on Friday, February 6, 2009, 8:00 p.m. \$8 single and \$15 for couple. It will feature the music of Rip Owczarski and the Morning Afters plus the White Roberts. We will have lots of chocolate treats on hand. Last year's Chocolate Prom was attended by young and not-so-young, singles and couples, families, and dancers of all ages. It is a unique way to celebrate the romantic month of February and support Rhino's.

**The 29<sup>th</sup> Gene Flander Harmony School Golf Tournament** is scheduled for Sunday, May 3, at Eagle Point. 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

### BLOOMINGTON WINTER MARKET

10 Saturdays from Jan 24<sup>th</sup>-March 28<sup>th</sup>

9 a.m. - noon in the Harmony gym

A wonderful place to spend some time on a wintry Saturday morning - items for sale include salad greens, local meats, eggs, cheeses, squash, mushrooms, baked goods, herbal products, plants and more!

### HILLTOP GARDEN & NATURE CENTER WORKSHOPS

Sat., January 17th & Sun., January 18th 12-2 p.m.

Children's Mosaic Tile Workshop - \$25

This is a 2-day, kid-friendly approach to mosaic tile design. This workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to create a beautiful mosaic tile design atop a stepping stone for the garden.

Saturday, January 24th 1-4 p.m.

Children's Winter Craft Workshop - \$20

Children ages 6-15 are invited to participate in this craft extravaganza.

Saturday, February 28th & Saturday, March 28th;

Storytelling Workshop with Mrs. Pamela Smith - \$10

Children of all ages are invited to hear amazing garden stories from a professional poet and storyteller, Pamela Smith.

For more info & to register, email [hilltop@indiana.edu](mailto:hilltop@indiana.edu); or call 855-8808.