

# 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

November 2008

Volume 26, Number 8

## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

### TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF

Our students collected over \$3,500 for UNICEF during Halloween week, which is the best ever! What a great way to help less fortunate children around the world.

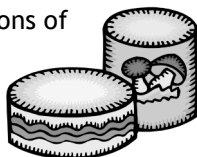
### THANKSGIVING WEEK SCHEDULE

Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences will be held on Monday November 24<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday November 25<sup>th</sup>, and students will have NO SCHOOL all week.

*Harmony (including the office) will be closed Wednesday through Friday (Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>).*

### FOOD DRIVE FOR THE HUNGRY

As usual, we are holding a holiday food drive here at Harmony. Please place your donations of non-perishable items in the box in the downstairs hallway. Items *most needed* are: canned meat, canned fruit, canned soups, canned veggies, and canned beans. Donations will be accepted until Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.



### Harmony School 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Museum of Geology & Paleontology

**When:** Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

**Exhibit:** 1 - 10 pm

**Open House:** 6 - 8 pm

**Where:** Barnes & Noble Bookstore (2813 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St.)

**What:** This is the culminating event of a two month science based thematic unit focusing on historical geology and paleontology. Within this context, students chose specific topics for independent research. Please join us to learn about the fascinating history of Earth and life on Earth, see the results of our students' research, and allow a percentage of holiday purchases to help us build and add substance to our class library. *Ask the cashier for*

*a Voucher to benefit Harmony School, and 10 - 15% of purchases that evening go toward gift certificates for Kathy & Scott's class.*

*Parents of Seniors, Freshmen and new students in the High School please call Tom (before 9 p.m.) at 333-1120, as soon as possible to arrange your Parent/Teacher/Student Conference!*

### HARMONY ALUMNA HONORED

Chelsea Smith, who graduated from Harmony in 2007, was recently selected by Earlham College as its "Realizing the Dream" recipient. This project is funded by the Lilly Endowment, and has been designed to recognize the first-year achievements of first-generation college students. As part of this project, Chelsea identified Sallyann Murphey as being most influential in her decision to attend college. Congratulations, Chelsea & Sal!

### BENEFIT FOR HARMONY SCHOOL

Krista Deter's "A Traveler in Winter" at The John Waldron Arts Auditorium with Special Guests Jennie DeVoe, Arbutus Cunningham, and Michael White featuring Bobbie Lancaster, Jim Krause & Anne Hurley

**December 12<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm & 9 pm**

Tickets: \$12/advance \$15/door \$10/children  
Krista (a Harmony parent) is generously donating all profits from the early show to Harmony School, so please come and show your support at the same time as enjoying the sounds of some of Bloomington's most talented musicians.

### PARENT INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM (PIP)

Expect a call in the near future from your PIP coordinator. You don't need to sign up for an assigned job and can pitch in wherever needed whenever you have time. We always need help cleaning somewhere! Remember to log your PIP hours with [harmonyoffice@harmonyschool.org](mailto:harmonyoffice@harmonyschool.org). Please let us know where you did your hours and any comments. Due to popular demand, we will be reinstating the card system next semester. Then, you can choose to email or use the card system, whichever is most convenient. Reminder: 22.5 hours for single parents, 45 hours for two parents per year. Your help is invaluable to the school. And if you haven't yet filled out a PIP form, please stop by and fill one out or email Leslie at [lcracraft@harmonyschool.org](mailto:lcracraft@harmonyschool.org). Thank you!

### GARDEN WORK DAY

Many thanks to the hard working parents, kids and staff who came to our outdoor work day on November 1<sup>st</sup>. We were blessed with a beautiful sunny, mild day and managed to finish many of the jobs on our list. However, there's still more to be done so if you have some time in the next few weeks to work outside, please talk to or email Libby [libby@harmonyschool.org](mailto:libby@harmonyschool.org)

## 2008 Holiday Follies Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30 p.m.

Don't miss our annual holiday production with students of all ages singing, dancing, acting & more  
Call us if you would like to help out.

### HARMONY WISH LIST

The Herald-Times prints a list of wishes from local non-profits, including Harmony, during Thanksgiving Week. Our teachers have so many wishes they can't print them all! So here they are - if you can fulfill any of them, please contact the office.

*Chicken wire or hardware screen (2 sq. ft.), red and blue modeling clay, small hand held mirrors, old guitar and/or piano strings, Hot Wheels-type car & track (to borrow), acoustic guitars, microphones, mic stands, cables, guitar amps, digital projector, CD player, headphones, digital cameras, overhead projector and screen, computer speakers, binoculars, chemistry kits, current globe, sewing machine, silk screens, stopwatches, sturdy plastic dishes, silverware, table loom, tempera paints, djembe drums, a button or badge making machine.*

### NEWS FROM THE PROGRAMS

### EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

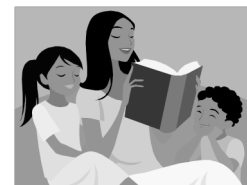
#### Linda, Tim and Martha (3-5 year olds)

Halloween was certainly the highlight of October in the ECP. We heard lots of mildly scary stories, sang pumpkin songs, and even learned about a number of blood drinking creatures in the natural world. Of course the most popular event was the whole-school Halloween parade. Some ECP kids were quite confident and others quite shy as they paraded their costumes in front of the crowd; then they all watched in awe as the big kids strutted their stuff.

We had lovely weather for most of October and spent a lot of time outside. The kids especially like to visit the woods next to the playground. They climb on low arching bushes and bounce on the branches. We took advantage of a particularly nice day and walked to Bryan Park to play on the new playground. The ECPers loved every minute, running, climbing, spinning, swinging, and chasing. The teachers could supervise the play time in a more relaxed way than usual because the new playground is surrounded by a fence. Our classroom assistant Cari has been teaching Spanish to the kids in small group sessions and we have been hearing the kids use Spanish at other times of day, such as when they are counting or talking about colors.

Our cooking experiences included peeling, chopping, cooking and mashing some potatoes for snack, as well as making pumpkin smoothies from the pumpkins that had been decorating the room. Of course we took the opportunity to explore the biology of pumpkins as we tore into the squishy mess inside. We have been examining fall leaves and including them in our art and we made a beautiful giant autumn tree collage out of a variety of colorful materials. Spin art has also been popular as usual, and we tried a new method of printing using tempera paints and patterned foam cushions. The kids painted the high spots, and then pressed on sheets of paper for unique designs. A few kids got to help make three wooden dump trucks from kits at the workbench. Thanks to Crash Elliot for bringing in the kits.

We've had several donations of books that are new to our class and the timing is good because this group of children just loves to be read to. They crowd



around and listen with rapt attention, sometimes in two or three groups around the ECP as well as outside at the picnic table. Thanks to the generous folks who donate books, and especially to Erin Garcia and family for loads of books and games. --*Tim, Linda, and Martha*

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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

Time for the children to speak. For Directed Journal we asked them, "When you are a grownup--what sorts of things will you be doing that will let you know that you are an adult?"

\*I will vote when I am a grownup. And I will get a car. Then I am happy. \*I could drive a car or I could get a job or I could cook food or I could do the dishes or I could be a waiter and that's all.  
\*When I'm a grownup I want a car. \*When I get a job is when I'm grownup and a car and a house.  
\*When you get a car cellphone. \*...when I get a job and when I have kids. 'Bye class. \*I would drive. That is what I want. \*My mom and dad can drive and cook and buy stuff and work for money.  
\*When I'm in college... \*When I get a job, learn how to drive and graduate from college,, \*When I'm a grownup I will drink tea. \*When I get a job... \*...I would drive a car. I would be so excited. \*...when I am 18. And when I get a car..  
\*I will love to be a grownup. \*I will drive when I grow up. It will be kind of fun. \*I will drive...and I will be a plumber too. \*I would be hiking on my own...

You can all look forward to eager drivers!  
Have a lovely Thanksgiving! --*Claudio*

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

What an amazing October it was with all kinds of good things going on. The kids participated in one of our favorite writing units, Memoir. Kids have such a clear vision of experiences from their lives and each of them worked to bring these stories to life using newfound tools and writing crafts. We celebrated these pieces at the end of the month and they are now being compiled into a book.

We also had an amazing time Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF. The kids chose to go out to IU both Thursday and Friday and many of them brought in money they collected while Trick-or-Treating at home. In all we collected more than \$3,500 dollars for an amazing cause. GO KIDS!!!

Now we have begun to explore the physics of sound. The kids are working in small groups

and doing a bunch of experiments trying to figure out how sound works. Thus far we have explored quite a lot, but our "Proven Sound Facts" board is pretty empty. This is mostly because someone seems to be able to disprove almost any theory that is presented as a sound fact. In a heated conversation, we explored the theory that all objects are capable of creating more than one sound. Many objects were presented as possible theory spoilers, but there was only one that stumped us, smoke. We will keep trying to prove this one and others in our quest to understand sound more fully.

October was great and November is looking pretty fun as well. --*Jeremy*

#### **KATHY & SCOTT'S (10-12 year olds)**

Winter brings a new wind of activity in our class. As you read this letter, our class is busy with final revision, editing, and publishing of the written text of their independent research projects on their topic of choice within the context of our Historical Geology and Paleontology theme. We are just beginning to plan and create a visual or hands-on project that illustrates the main points of our research.

Please save the date and plan to come to our Harmony School 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade **Museum of Historical Geology and Paleontology on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at Barnes and Noble Bookstore**. See our students' exhibits and learn about the History of Earth and Life on Earth. A percentage of purchases on this day will serve as a fundraiser to purchase new books for our classroom library if you ask for a Harmony School Voucher at the cash register.

In authoring our class collaborated with the IU Art Museum in an exploration of poetry and music inspired from art or art inspired from poetry and music. Students listened to a variety of songs inspired from famous art works while viewing the inspiring art. We engaged in a range of discussions and writing exercises focusing on different art and literature concepts such as line, negative space, setting, point of view, composition, color, description, foreground, background, theme, and mood. In our culminating project, we toured the gallery, chose a painting or sculpture, observed the piece in detail, filled out an observation sheet, created a sketch of the piece, collected entries toward a poem inspired from the art work, created a draft, revised, edited, and published a poem inspired from the art piece. Upon publication of our poems, we spent an afternoon painting the

imagery inspired from our classmate's poems without seeing the original art work that inspired the poem. Please save the date of **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> for a poetry reading and art exhibit** of our students' work, to be held at the **IU Art Museum**. At 10 am we will gather for drinks and snacks, and then student author will read their poetry in front of the art work that inspired their poem. Our students' art work will be displayed in the lobby.

Our class recently began a new civics theme on Legal Literacy. So far we've discussed the history of the right to vote and the election as well as exploring the foundation of how laws are made and the basic structure of our government. We also recently began our new theme in Conflict Resolution.

Recently, thanks to a generous grant from the Indiana State Museum and IMAX Theater, we went on a field trip to see a film on the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. We also toured the geology exhibits, as well as a few other exhibits, at the Indiana State Museum. Afterwards, we ate our lunches in White River Park and played a lively game of Capture the Flag.

Please remember to bring non-perishable food donations for our annual winter food drive. Be certain that the donations are not out of date. Collection boxes are at the entrance to the school on the north side of the building.

Our class and families are making initial preparations for our annual Thanksgiving Day dinner on the Friday before fall break. In the Thanksgiving spirit, we want to send out warmest expressions of appreciation for all of our amazing parent volunteers. Many thanks go out to our wonderful volunteers who have been cleaning and organizing our classrooms, maintaining good communication and coordination among families, and chaperoning our many field trips.

Best wishes of good health and happiness to the Harmony and greater community that supports us. --*Kathy and Scott*

***The Sunset***  
*by Paige Gerstman*

*The sunset  
Has many  
Colors.  
Red,  
Pink,  
Orange,  
Green,  
Blue,*

*And yellow.*

*A sunset  
Dances all over  
The sky.  
Dripping colors,  
Into the sea,  
And all over  
Me.*

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Kelli, Marty & Ursina**

Here we are, quickly approaching the holidays. This is a time that is full of many traditions for the Middle School, the first of which is the Independent Projects. We are currently wrapping up the presentations of our first round of projects and they are going smashingly.

Each student's project has gone through many incarnations between choosing the topic and its final product. Every student belongs to an advisory group with an advisor to help them through the process. Each advisor does things a little differently but we are all looking for: notes taken, effort and research put in, rough draft and a final draft. Now that we are about done with the first round, students should have started to brainstorm topics and start to work on their second independent project which will be due before the end of the semester.

With the holidays also come the breaks. Thanksgiving break is the week of November 24<sup>th</sup> through November 28<sup>th</sup>. We will be having Parent/Student/Teacher conferences during that Monday and Tuesday. We have a sign up board in the hallway and encourage you to come up and put your name in a slot. If you cannot make it up to the Middle School we would greatly appreciate it, if parents would call or e-mail a Middle School teacher to set up the appointment. If you have a conflict with the dates above, please call or see one of us to set up an alternate date for your conference. We are suggesting the Monday after break, December 1<sup>st</sup>, after school. Each conference gives the students a chance to show off what they have been doing. It gives us the chance, as the adults in their lives, to support them in their endeavors. In addition to celebrating their achievements the conference also gives us a chance to set goals, expectations, and share concerns.

After Thanksgiving, we have a mere three weeks until the semester ends, with the FOLLIES, on Friday December 19<sup>th</sup>. For those families that are new to the school, the Follies is a true variety

show (in every sense). Students create skits, dances, and routines that they perfect in December. It is a great way to end the semester with fun for the whole family and lots of laughter. It's another Harmony tradition and we hope you can attend.

We here in the Middle School wish you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving. --Kelli

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Sal, Emily, Jon, Paul and Tom

**Sal:** As I write this, the most exciting news of the month is Tom's return to classes. We are all thrilled to see him back with so much more color in his cheeks. And we have to say a HUGE thank you to Berta Medicus and Bryce Martin for stepping in at the last minute and covering his classes. You have both been magnificent!

In the meantime, the seniors have been busy putting their projects together and collecting the materials they need for those applying to college. We will be having a Senior Parents' Night later this month to assemble a complete college packet for each applicant and to talk about the financial aid process. Please watch your email for details about the date and the list of what your student should bring.

In classes, students in *Western Civ* are beginning plans for a Roman Banquet at which they will sample actual recipes from Ancient Rome. They will also learn how to tie a toga; and play a real Roman board game. Later in the month, we will begin to tackle their end-of-semester project, an essay comparing the Roman Empire with the USA and examining whether similar seeds for destruction exist within our own society.

In *Art of the Story*, we are continuing to read 'The Kite Runner', as part of our discussions about the nature of courage in its many forms. Later this month we will move on to dystopias, which will include 'Lord of the Flies', '1984' and 'The Handmaid's Tale'.

Students in *The American Century* are finishing their studies of World War One and will be taking a close look at the Suffragist Movement and women's fight for the vote, before we move on to look at the 1920s.

**Emily:** *Ecology* - From our lively discussions about evolution (How did all those finches get to the Galapagos, anyway?), we've moved on in our studies to ecological interactions like predation and herbivory (Just how many corn

plants or cows does it take to feed a human for a year?). We reveled in the goriness of symbiotic parasites on Halloween (Bloodflukes!

Tapeworms! Eyelash mites!). It's time for ecologists to bundle up because it's getting cold out there! Students have been creating some amazing field journals on our various trips (Deer Park, Cascades, Griffy Nature Preserve, College Woods, Bryan Park), and soon we'll be exploring wetlands in winter at Bean Blossom Bottoms preserve. Special thanks to Maggie of the Sycamore Land Trust, Rhonda of Indiana Forest Alliance, Angie and Kriste of Bloomington Parks & Rec, and Ruthie of the IU Community of Teachers program for making the field trips possible.

In the *research seminar*, we are in the thick of our experiments. Hydra, daphnia, zebrafish, E. coli, Vibrio and yeast are growing! Experimental apparatus are being constructed, and destructed! Soon we'll dig into some statistics to analyze all these results...

Needless to say, the *Physics* trip to Six Flags was a huge success! We had a great time, despite the "nerdy" accelerometers and altitude trackers students carried on the rides. We measured g-forces while spinning upside down and as we screamed on roller coasters! Eventually, we came back to school and analyzed our data on angular velocity and gravitational acceleration. Now, teams of students have each learned about a different concept in mechanics and are preparing demonstrations and activities to show the class how things work.

**Jon:** *Geometry 2*- The first half of the month will be dedicated to studying the geometry of polygons, learning the different types of polygons, their properties, how to find the measure of their angles and the areas. The second half of the month will be spent studying circles and the relationships between radius, circumference and area.

*Precalculus*- We have begun our systematic analysis of rational functions starting with polynomials. For each type of function we will look at how to determine the domain, range, intercepts, vertices, and end behavior. We will also look at systems of equations and practical applications. By the end of the month we have moved on to exponential and logarithmic functions.

*Algebra 1*- The majority of November will be dedicated to memorizing the rules for simplifying all forms of rational algebraic



expressions, including how to multiply and divide polynomials. Before the end of the month we will move on to the methods and uses of solving basic linear equations.

*Geometry* - The first two weeks of November will be spent studying properties of triangles, including area and The Pythagorean Theorem. Before fall break we will move on to a broader study of polygons.

**Paul:** Every day, as I get up in the cold dark at 7:00 to walk my dog, I feel the semester slipping by. In so many ways, these next few weeks are the heart of my courses: we've done all of our introductions and gotten up to speed, but we haven't quite reached the final push of December.

In *Ethics of 9-11*, we have been both having fun and exploring provocative issues. We spent some time looking at philosophical systems of ethics ranging from Immanuel Kant to John Stuart Mill to Noam Chomsky. Now we turn to more religious systems of ethics, focusing on Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. The students are finishing up their research papers on 9-11, and will soon begin writing their own personal statements of ethics.

*Cultural Arts of the Far East* has been fun for both me and my students, especially with our weekly guests. We were lucky enough to have both James Yang and Jinsob Choi come to share their talents in Chinese calligraphy/music and in Korean percussion. We are now turning to look at some of the people, culture and history of Korea, and we will then move on to Japan. I'm hoping that we can get to everything I've planned before break, because after break I hope for us to film our own movie.

In *American Language and Culture*, we have been honing our language skills by looking at the 2008 presidential election. We are in the middle of a series of debates about foreign policy, economics, and education, and the students are learning new, relevant vocabulary, developing their research skills, gaining awareness about American culture, and sharpening their debating skills.

Finally, in *Americana* we have been investigating the idea of American stories. The students are currently writing their own short stories set in the United States, and we have been developing their understanding of setting, characters, and plot/conflict. Recently, we have looked more closely at biographical stories by examining the two most talked about Americans: Obama and McCain. Now the election is over, we

have turned to a somewhat different mode of American storytelling: theater, and the *Death of a Salesman*.

**Tom:** Having been absent from October 3 until November 3, I'm sure enjoying being back at home with my family and in my classroom with my students. I am humbled and grateful for all the support Ursina, Natasha and I received from the Harmony staff while I was in the hospital for almost 3 weeks and during my present home recuperation strategy. I am humbled and grateful to the angels of mercy who attended me on 3rd Floor South at Bloomington Hospital and to my surgeon, Dr. Green, who fixed my innards again. Thanks so much to all who sent their blessings and well-wishes our way.

Thank you to Paul and Evan Voss who met with my 9th grade advisory group and to Emily who covered my late days. Special thanks go to Bryce Martin, who worked with my Literary Criticism class and a very special thank you to Berta Medicus-Moore who guided my Ninth Grade American English class, as well as my two Greek & Latin classes every morning.

I look forward to our imminent Thanksgiving week Mon/Tues student/parent/teacher conferences for new students, 9th graders and seniors. If you haven't scheduled with me, please do so immediately. The sooner I hear from you, the more flexibility there is. Call before 9 PM please: 812-333-1120!

## PROFILES

### FAMILY PROFILE

**The Maoz-Levy Family**, compiled by Barbara McKinney, Harmony parent

The Maoz-Levy family consists of Michal Maoz-Levy, the mom; Ofer Levy, the dad; and their three children: Yanai, their 8 ½-year-old son who is a fourth grader at Harmony; Ann, their 20-year-old daughter currently serving in the Israeli Army; and Naama, their daughter who is a junior at Bloomington High School North.

Yanai began attending Harmony last January. Before, he attended University Elementary. University was fairly rule-bound and students were required to follow a strict regimen. His parents decided to transfer him to Harmony, where they appreciate the individual attention Yanai receives and the opportunity to be more creative. Yanai likes the fact that the teachers really know each student, the longer lunch hours and the mixed-age groups Harmony provides. Yanai is fluent in spoken English

and Hebrew; he's a good reader in English but is struggling a bit to learn to read Hebrew.

The family moved to the United States from Israel six years ago so Ofer could work on his degree in education. (They had lived in Bloomington before; Ann was born here.) Michal said that the atmosphere at Harmony is similar to the atmosphere in Israeli schools and also to the atmosphere at the Jewish pre-school Yanai attended in Bloomington before going to University. Before transferring Yanai to Harmony, they talked to people they knew who had gone to Harmony or whose kids had gone to Harmony, and kept hearing it described as "paradise."

Michal is a full-time lecturer at IU, teaching Hebrew. In Israel, she worked as a journalist and published three works of fiction, all in Hebrew and not yet translated into English. Ofer is working on his PhD in education and teaches education classes at DePauw. He is a classical singer and plays the trumpet as well.

Both of their daughters loved to play soccer, but thus far, Yanai has not expressed interest in the sport. He loves biking and swimming and anything with wheels. He already has a motorcycle which he can ride on private property. Ofer, too, has a motorcycle and likes to go on cross country trips.

In the summer of 2007, the family went on a cross-country trip in a 20-year-old station wagon, camping most of the time and staying at some hotels to keep the girls happy. It was a bit bittersweet, as Ann departed for her military service from California, and the return trip was without her. She plans to return to college when her military obligation is completed next year. With Ann in Israel, along with other family members, the Bloomington contingent tries to visit Israel at least once a year.

So far, the parents' PIP jobs have included cleaning the big room and working at the Harmony Extravaganza. Ofer is interested in getting a grant to teach a class at Harmony on the logic of Lego construction.

The family lives in Park Ridge. When they first returned to Bloomington from Israel, they had three dogs and a cat. Two of the dogs have since passed on, and they now have one dog, one cat and three goldfish, which Michal says is "enough."

## OTHER REPORTS

### RHINO'S ALL AGES CLUB

Happy Thanksgiving from Rhino's.

The big news this month is the opening of our brand new Screen Printing Studio! Harmony parent, Danielle Urschel, has assembled a studio with state of the art equipment with a grant from Bloomington Parks and Recreation and the Indiana Arts Commission. She will be teaching the art of screen

printing every Tuesday afternoon in conjunction with our Mural Arts program. Stop by and see it!

Lots of cool upcoming shows, of course, and the after school programs keep chugging along.

That's all for now. --Brad Wilhelm

## DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

As we come to the last two months of the year we mark the economic difficulties facing so many individuals, groups and businesses, as well as the promise of impending political change in Washington and beyond. We redouble our efforts in identifying and approaching new funding sources.

Scott Hutchinson will be convening the grants committee soon. All those interested in taking part are invited contact him with your availability. His email is [hutchinson@harmonyschool.org](mailto:hutchinson@harmonyschool.org) or you can find him at 334-8379.

As a result of the reunion we have a new pool of friends to recruit as supporters and work is underway to solidify Harmony's Alumni Association. We also await word on a number of grant applications, and continually widen our range of individuals and organizations to include in our campaign. As always, we welcome new names and 'ins' you may have to businesses and other organizations. Where did you buy your car? Does someone do your taxes? Are you a faithful client of any gym, bank, HVAC supplier, designer or salon? Lurking among these is potential for support for Harmony, at any level. Keep us posted. --Mary Beth Roska