

# HARMONY EDUCATION CENTER NEWSLETTER

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

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September 2008

Volume 26, Number 6

## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**FLOWER POWER FUNDRAISER** – please remember to turn in your orders for bulbs & plants as soon as possible! An order form was included in the August mailing we sent to all parents. We have extra forms in the office. This is a great way to help Harmony and brighten up your garden. We raised about \$600 from our Spring Flower Power Fundraiser – help us do even better this time! Fall is the perfect time of year to plant bulbs.

**SCHOOL PHOTO DAY** on Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 a.m. All students will have individual shots taken in the gym, as well as group photos. An order form has been distributed to the students; we also have extras in the office. Please return your order form with payment in advance of Photo Day.

**BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY** – Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**WALK TO SCHOOL DAY** – Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Watch for more information on both events!

## HARVEST WALK & ALL SCHOOL REUNION

October 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

More details in Development Office report on page 5. Don't miss the fun!

**VISITOR TOURS** - This semester we'll be holding two Visitor Tours for people who want to learn more about the school: Tuesday, **October 21<sup>st</sup>** and Thursday, **November 13<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 a.m. (10:30 for Early Childhood Program). Reservations are required.

**STAFF RETREAT** - No school on Friday, **October 24<sup>th</sup>**. The Early Childhood Program will be in session with substitute teachers.

## GENERAL REMINDERS

**PHONE LISTS** will be distributed to all students in the next week or so; if you need extra copies please stop by the office.

**ABSENCES** – when your child is going to be absent or late for school, or if you need to get a message to your child, please call 334-8367 and follow the instructions. Please only call the main office (334-8349) for emergencies or administrative calls.

**PARENTS DRIVING FOR HARMONY** – if you drive Harmony students in your car we need to have a copy of your insurance card and driving license. We can make copies for you in the office.

**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL** - Students who are not in the Elementary or Early Childhood After School Programs must leave the school by 5:00 p.m. Please make arrangements for your children to be picked up on time. The After School Programs officially run till 5:30 p.m. If your child is in pre-K through 3rd grade and is staying after 3:15 p.m., he or she **MUST** be in the After School Program. In the morning, a teacher is here at 7:45 a.m.; please don't drop students off at school before then.

**TUITION PAYMENTS** - Remember to make your monthly tuition payments around the 1st of each month. Please let us know if your payment is going to be late, otherwise we will contact you.

**NOTE:** We now accept VISA and MC for all payments, and you may also use PayPal by visiting our website [www.harmonyschool.org](http://www.harmonyschool.org) and clicking on the School Payments link.

**IMMUNIZATION RECORDS** - We need these records for all new students as soon as possible. If you

are opposed to immunization for any reason, please write us a note to that effect. Also, it's important for you to let us know if your child has an immunization using a live vaccine because we have immunocompromised members in our community.

**PARKING LOT** – The Harmony School parking lot is a busy place, and so we ask you to consider these suggestions:

- The alley is ONE WAY, so please enter the parking lot from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and exit onto Hunter
- Please drop off & pick up older students on East Hunter Street near the limestone rhino (facing East) whenever possible
- Only park your car in the lot while you are in the building NOT while running errands etc.
- Do not block other cars in the parking lot or alley

### **PIP (Parent Involvement Program)**

Our hard-working coordinators this year are:

ECP: Terri Loyal

M & C's class: Erin Garcia

J & J's class: Jena Hanes & Erin Garcia

K & S's class: Bret & Syndee Earheart

Middle School: Jenn Bradley & Denise Hyble

High School: Sharrel Boike, Leslie Cracraft, Conney

Freese, Patricia Johnstone

We are still sorting through the PIP forms so it may be another couple of weeks before we are ready to assign jobs. However, if you are itching to get started on your PIP hours, we have plenty of jobs for you to do! Just email Leslie [lcracraft@harmonyschool.org](mailto:lcracraft@harmonyschool.org).

Many thanks to everyone who came to our **Work Day on August 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Despite the oppressive heat that day, we had a record turn out of about 80 people (including 25 students) who worked really hard both inside and out. What a great way to start the school year! Thank you again.

### **NEW TO HARMONY GROUNDS!**

We have just finished two wonderful projects in the north area of our school yard for everyone's enjoyment. The new bicycle shelter was built through a grant funded by the Bloomington Bicycle Club. This grant was written by the students in Emily Sprowls' high school Environmental Science class last spring. Another part of this grant is to schedule some bike-to-school breakfasts where people who bike to school will receive a free healthy breakfast on a designated day. The first of these events is on Thursday, Oct 2. Many people helped to make this project happen. We want to thank Rick Baugh Excavating, Larry Gilliland Stump Removal, Black Lumber, Alex Voyles, Nate and Kelly Holland, Dave Bartlett, Ned Powell, Lee Mysliwiec, and Eric Nolan. Barry O'Quinn and Thomas Cleary from Chicago donated the clay roofing tiles.

The new stage and amphitheater area was built through a grant submitted by the Elm Heights

Neighborhood Association through the HAND Department of the City of Bloomington. Cassidy Electric donated significant support for the project as well. We want to thank members of the neighborhood association and their many volunteers, Harmony parent volunteers, HAND, and Jenny Southern. Amy Gras and Noah Larsen designed and built the stage and did the landscaping. The rocks were donated by the City of Bloomington Utilities Department and Vectren; Black Lumber gave us significant discounts; Kelly and Nate Holland donated labor; Hoadley Quarry donated all the cut stone; Dave Bartlett, Lee Mysliwiec, and Barb Bonchek provided sweat equity. We have plans to complete this project over the next couple of years adding limestone seating, a stone and iron fence, planting more shade trees, and doing more landscaping. We want to especially thank Scott Hutchinson from our Development Office who was so instrumental in working on both these grants.

## **NEWS FROM THE PROGRAMS**

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM**

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

The ECP summer camp stayed a bit closer to home this year to conserve gas, but still had a great time with field trips, trips to nearby parks, swimming at Bryan Park, and loads of splashing in the pools at Harmony.

Thanks to all the families who helped clean, sort, and put the ECP back in order during the last week of summer. The classroom was clean and inviting for a fresh start to the academic year. The field trip to McCormick's Creek on Wednesday was a great success. It is always a bit unnerving to send our new little ones off in multi-age groups on the second day of school, but we had plenty of very capable parent chaperones.

The ECP kids loved going hiking, climbing, painting, caving, birding, splashing, and generally exploring nature with other kids from Harmony School. After those experiences, a bunch of hungry kids met back at the playground for lunch and some good hard play. We have nine new kids in the ECP – be sure to give a big welcome to Alice, Sam F., Milo, Jamilah, Phoenix, Anen, Nani, and Tatum. Lucinda will be joining us soon. The weather has been great for lots of outside play and the water table, new picture books, masks, and the marble run have been popular in these first few days.

Looking forward to a lovely fall,-- *Tim, Linda, and Martha*

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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

Wow! What a flurry of activity in these early weeks!

We've gotten past most of the boring introductory stuff--rules and the routine and so forth. Now that the kids are oriented, we are getting into the real material of first and second grade. We've placed each child at the level of reading and math that we think is appropriate. This process sometimes requires fine tuning. If you think your child's

work is way too easy or way too hard, come talk to us and we'll work on it.

Our September theme is "Oh Yuck!" We'll be exploring what's yucky and why. We bought a new microscope for the class and we'll certainly be getting into bacteria and the like--why does stuff decompose and get yucky and smelly? Let us know if you have any ideas or material that would contribute to this unit. (We don't need your trash, though--we've got plenty here!)

We'd like to welcome the families new to Harmony. We hope Harmony becomes a lovely community for parents and children alike.

We'd also like to welcome our student teacher Meghan Lindsey, who comes to us from Jesse Goodman's Elementary Transition to Teach Program at IU. It's always good for the kids (and us teachers) to have the extra help and the added creativity and energy that a student teacher brings.

Wishing you lovely clear early fall days, --*Claudio*

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

Did you know that our bodies make about 16 oz of saliva a day? Or, did you know that there is a mucous lining in the stomach to keep hydrochloric acid in the stomach from eating a hole in it?

These are some of the amazing facts we're learning in our new theme, the digestive system. We'll end up the theme by decorating a t-shirt with a picture of the digestive system and by dissecting a hog's digestive system (gross, but fascinating!).

In math right now, the kids are using their incredible number skills to save the world from imminent alien attack. Go J & J kids! (We'll keep you posted).

We've begun our authoring by having the kids choose two entries to write about. Then they choose their favorite beginning entry piece and created a story board. Now our imaginations can really take off. I can't wait to read their finished stories in a couple of weeks.

It's a fantastic start to the year. --*Jo*

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

Welcome back to a fresh new school year! Our class had a wonderful time camping at McCormick's Creek for the first week of school. We got to enjoy each other socially by hiking, biking, swimming, preparing and cleaning up shared meals, and playing all-school Capture the Flag, before we dive into the academic aspect of our school year.

We'll begin the year with our first theme *The Earth through Time: The History of the Earth and Life on Earth*. Through this extended science theme, our class will explore the scientific method, historical geology, and paleontology. We have many exciting hands-on field trips planned for the first semester, beginning with a longer trip to Falls of the Ohio in southern Indiana. We'll follow up the second week with a local trip to either Cascades or Allen's Creek to explore some of the local geology.

I'm happy to welcome back my teaching partner, Scott Evans, after his year long sabbatical. When you see him around the school, please ask him about his adventures. We all want to extend a warm welcome to our new class members and their families: Madeline Johnstone, Elias Mitchell, and Autumn Snyder-Siney. Please take a minute to introduce yourselves to the new members of our community.

It looks as if we have a beautiful autumn ahead of us and our class definitely plans to spend a lot of time outside enjoying the natural world. --*Kathy & Scott*

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **Kelli, Marty & Ursina**

One of the realities of teaching, at least for me, is that summers don't really represent time away from the profession. Rather, it's a time of planning, pondering, and retooling to do it better the next year. And in that three month vacuum, it all seems rather easy--I do this, students do that, and we move happily forward together. But, it's really not so simple.

Indeed, students are moving--but typically in many directions at once. And likewise, teachers are moving along, also in multiple directions. What happens is more of a glancing blow between what teachers try to get across and what students can avail themselves to take in. It's the "avail" part that's the key--if students are so wrapped up in personal issues that they can't avail themselves to be open to learn, it's tough going. But that's a reality and something we teachers in the Middle School keep an eye on. So, what else do we watch?—are kids really learning the subject content? are they applying rigor to the situation? are they feeling rewarded internally? are they relating well to others? are they keeping up with escalating expectations? are they doing ok outside of school? All that, and more--as you can see, it's not so simple.

So, a few suggestions to make this school year easier: Please feel free to contact us directly with any concerns--e-mail is an effective first step. Due dates for homework assignments are pretty consistent, but watch out for independent projects--we'll send home dates but there'll be two projects the first semester with rough draft, final draft, and presentation times pre-set that students will need to meet. Help your child be organized--we suggest a trapper keeper where pencils, pens, etc. can be kept. Please help your child be timely in getting to school--we find it a recurring problem that kids show up 10 minutes late. Kids should be ready to go at 9 am. Remember, homework help is available after school--we're hoping for Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 4.

As always, we strive for a meaningful, respectful and authentic relationship with both students and parents. This has shown to be the best policy, after all, we're all working for the common goal of preparing these kids to successfully meet the challenges ahead of them. -- *Marty*

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

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

**Sal:** In the high school, we welcome a number of new students to Harmony this year, including Joey Goolsby, Benjamin Haile and Hannah King in the freshman class; sophomores, Christina Johnstone, Da Ye Lee and Saif Nakitty; and juniors, Di Qiu, Keya Sartin and Dewey Wysong. We are also delighted to be hosting Alexander Schlueter, who is with us for one semester from Germany.

In the meantime, the seniors have already begun preparations for their senior projects. We will be meeting as a group in the afternoons for the next two weeks to get the

process really underway. In early October, we will be holding a family day to go over the application process, assemble the packets and meet with a financial aid adviser. Dates to be confirmed later this month.

Parents are also helping out in classes. I must say a big thank-you to Patty Jones, who is brushing up on her Foxtrot, Charleston and Swing dancing, so she can teach the dance of the decade to students in The American Century at our Decade nights. You'll be able to see what's happening in the class at our new web site:

<https://sites.google.com/a/harmonyhighschool.net/the-american-century/>

There are also sites for Western Civilization and Art of the Story, where you will be able to catch up on what we have been covering in class, what assignments have been set and what the calendar holds for the future:

<http://sites.google.com/a/harmonyhighschool.net/western-civ/>

<https://sites.google.com/a/harmonyhighschool.net/art-of-the-story/>

**Paul:** This fall I'm excited to be beginning my new role as the International Student Coordinator of the High School.

Right now, we have nine international students. They are from Korea, mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia and Germany.

Two of my classes will be directed primarily towards them.

In the morning, I will be teaching American Language and Culture. This class will provide language support for the students' other academic classes and help new international students transition to life in Bloomington by teaching them about American culture. Then, in the afternoon, I'll be teaching a class called Americana, which will be focused more on American culture, while still giving strong support for the language demands of other classes.

In addition, I'll be teaching two Social Studies courses: The Ethics of 9-11, which attempts to answer the question of what it means to be an ethical person, by looking at the events, causes, and consequences of 9-11. I will also be teaching the second part of a two year sequence of Cultural Arts of the World. This semester, we'll be focusing on the Far East: China, Korea, and Japan. We are going to spend the first month or so investigating some of the philosophical and religious ideas that developed in ancient China, then turn to the more artistic side and look at calligraphy, music, painting, and more. The final project will require the class to create an original movie based on some of the art films, kung-fu movies, and samurai classics that we will watch.

**Emily:** Riding our bikes out to McCormick's Creek was a fabulous start to the school year! Kudos to Noah, Anthony, James, Dewey and Josh for pedaling through the humidity. Look for more cycling events this fall to celebrate the construction of the new bike shelter, with thanks to Alex, Nate, Mikey and Haneer for helping get the grant.

**Sophomore Advisory** The new sophomore class will be starting this year with... sex and drugs! Guest speakers from Planned Parenthood and Bloomington Hospital (arranged by seniors Carina Lee and Hannah Watt) will be visiting us in the first few weeks of school to lead discussions about birth control, sexually transmitted infections, addiction and tobacco cessation.

This year there is a new home page for all the high school

science classes. You can get there through Harmony School's website, or just bookmark the link below.

<http://sites.google.com/site/harmonyschoolscience/>

**Ecology** This class will be getting outdoors and studying various ecosystems in the area, and will rely on **parent drivers** to help get us there. Please let me know if you are available to drive any Tuesday morning for our mini-field trips. Our first adventure will be canoeing Lake Griffy to collect water samples!

**Research Seminar** This class will give students a chance to plan, conduct and review their own experiments. We'll begin by practicing our experimental skills to develop a perfect *slime*, and then apply the scientific method to issues in current scientific research.

As usual, there is always a need for various supplies for our lab experiments. If you have stuff you can contribute, please check in the office or in the weekly "WHAT" email to see my wish list! Lastly, THANK YOU to all the parents and students who helped clean and organize the science room on Work Day: Joey, Denice, Annie, Darryl, Lorraina, Keya and Shakoor.

**Tom:** Thanks to you parents for transporting us to and from a most mellow Creek Camp beginning for a new school year.

It's a reunion year as festivities gear up for the October celebration and I look forward to greeting and hearing tales of power from past students at registration Friday aftn'even, Oct.17.

Besides offering 9th Grade American English and Advisory Group, Greek and Latin Roots (10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Grades) and Literary Criticism (12<sup>th</sup> Grade), I will be adding a new fifth period class to my schedule. The working title is Dada, Surrealism, Mythology and the Symbolic World.

**Jon: Pre-calculus:** After a brief but thorough review of basic algebraic mechanics, we will begin an investigation of real world applications of linear and quadratic functions.

**Algebra I:** The first priority of Algebra I is to review and expand upon the fundamentals of arithmetic - especially working on becoming proficient with fractions, decimals and percents.

**Geometry II:** After a brief review of algebra I concepts from last year, we will review the basics of angle relationships and triangles. By the end of the month we will have reviewed polygon concepts, which will conclude our review of Geometry I.

## OTHER REPORTS

### RHINO'S ALL AGES CLUB UPDATE

There isn't enough space in this newsletter to talk about ALL of things happening at Rhino's this fall, but let's look at the Highlights, shall we?

The after school programs will expand their efforts to include work with Middle Way House's Teen Outreach Program, a record label project with Tri North Middle School, Fighting Big Tobacco's imprint in TV and movies through Project VOICE, promoting and educating youth about the European Union and EU member countries ( yep, you read that right), and

MUCH more. Oh and come October, we will have a full functioning screen printing program with a studio and equipment.

Plus shows a plenty like the Soul Food Picnic Hip Hop Dance on September 19<sup>th</sup>, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WFHB's Beat Party on September 20<sup>th</sup>, the return of Gwen Stacy on September 27<sup>th</sup>, The 1<sup>st</sup> ever Rhino's Latino Punk Showcase on October 4<sup>th</sup>, and the much ballyhooed REVIVAL Tour on October 5<sup>th</sup> ( featuring Harmony alum Austin Lucas).

Check out [www.rhinosyouthcenter.org](http://www.rhinosyouthcenter.org) for more details! –Brad Wilhelm

### **DEVELOPMENT OFFICE REPORT**

This Fall a one-two punch of major events looms on our horizon: the first all-school reunion since 2000 and our second Harmony Harvest Celebration. Both fall on the same weekend, **October 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>**.

Students and families are invited to participate in a sponsored walk for the Harvest Celebration on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Alpha Tau Omega fraternity is excited about working with us again; we'll have a longer walk through campus and pause at the ATO house on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street before returning to Harmony for an afternoon of fun and games. Invite your friends and family to support your child and you as you walk to raise funds for Harmony scholarships. Make it a family outing! We're setting a \$50 goal for each student again.

The reunion begins with a light supper here at the school Friday night, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Alums can take part in the walk and the celebration Saturday afternoon, and enjoy an evening reception at Fountain Square Ballroom. Next morning we'll bid farewell at a send-off brunch.

Help us spread the word! Our website, [www.harmonyschool.org](http://www.harmonyschool.org), has details about the reunion. Pass the word to students and staff you know, past & present. We hope for a big turnout and lots of fun. To get involved in either of these fun projects contact Mary Beth at 334-8379 or [mbroska@harmonyschool.org](mailto:mbroska@harmonyschool.org). PIP hours can be applied. We welcome your ideas and energy!

### **BLOOMINGDANCE AT HARMONY SCHOOL** **Contemporary Ballet for Children**

Registration is ongoing and space is available in both classes. 20% discount for Harmony students and families! Fall 2008 Classes (Sept 6-Dec 13):

Introductory Ballet      Ages: 4-6 years  
Time: Saturday, 10:30 – 11:15am  
Tuition: \$7.50/class, 14 classes in semester

Intermediate Ballet      Ages: 7-12 years  
Time: Saturday, 11:15am – 12:30pm  
Tuition: \$12.50/class, 14 classes in semester

Contact [info@bloomingdance.org](mailto:info@bloomingdance.org) for more info.