

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

May 2008

Volume 26, Number 5

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE

Be sure to come to the **Harmony EXTRAVAGANZA** on Saturday, May 17th! See outside cover for details.

HARMONY SCHOOL GRADUATION DAY Saturday, May 24th

Early Childhood Program Graduates: 1:00 p.m.
Elementary School Graduates: 1:30 p.m.
Middle School Graduates: 2:30 p.m.
High School Graduates: 3:30 p.m.

We encourage everyone to come and give all our graduates a great send off!

GARDEN WORK DAY

Saturday, May 31st, 9-12

Help us get the summer off to a good start!
We'll be weeding, mulching,
planting and more



PIP THANK YOUS - special thanks to this year's PIP coordinators for all their hard work: Terri Loyal, Heidi Vosekas, Erin Garcia, Jena Hanes, Denise Hyble, Jen Bradley, Marsue McCalla-Jackson, Renee Reed, Cristie Kellar and Leslie Cracraft. Your assistance with organizing parent volunteers and helping teachers is invaluable.

I'd also like to thank Barbara McKinney and Julie James for faithfully helping us get this monthly newsletter copied and mailed!

1.

THANK YOU FROM THE YATES FAMILY

Dear Harmony Faculty, Staff, Families & Students, Many of you know our family and what we went through last year. Briefly, Mark Yates had a Bone Marrow Transplant in Seattle WA. He and I left the kids (Abi and Sophie) in the care of my dad and Mark's mom from April 1st 2007 until October 10th 2007. It has taken the last 6 months to find our ground again at home in Unionville. It has been slow but sure. We want to Thank You all for supporting, caring, loving and generously giving to and feeding our family during the last year(s). We could not have done it alone. This community has been one of the biggest blessings in our lives and we are very grateful. Sophie went from 3rd grade to 4th grade and Abi from Middle School to High School (thanks Marty, Kelli and Ursina, Sallyann, Jon, Tom and Emily) without parents at home. You have no idea what a gift that was!! Mark is doing well, he is back at work and our family is thriving. Again, I say we could not have done this without your support! Our entire family Thanks You from the bottom of our hearts.

With Love and Thanks,
Mark, Jennifer, Abi and Sophie Yates

NEWS FROM THE PROGRAMS

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

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

We had a wonderful field trip to the WonderLab this month. There were lots of new exhibits since the last time we were there. The trip overlapped with our usual lunch time and the kids didn't have a chance to snack, but they were so totally engaged in the exhibits that we didn't hear a single complaint, even on the drive home. May Day was a real treat

with the Morris Dancers and the Maypole in the morning (the kids were still talking about weaving the Maypole later in the day), and the all-school picnic at Bryan Park for lunch and afternoon play. The ECPers loved the big playground as usual, but it was a special treat to have a picnic lunch and include older kids in their play and kite-flying. Thanks to everyone who helped with the food and organization!

Martha has been sharing her plans for summer with the kids and they can't wait. They love putting on their swimsuits and splashing in portable pools at Harmony, but the two trips a week to the Bryan Park pool can't be beat. Also on the list are lunches with live music at People's Park on Tuesdays as well as the big trips to Blue Springs Cavern, the Indiana Art Museum, and the Children's Museum with lots in between.

A group of ECPers chose to attend a workshop put on by the IU gumboot dancers. The dances come from South African miners and involve clapping and stomping in high rubber boots as well as slapping the boot uppers. It was fun to watch the dances and even more fun to learn the dance moves with the troupe. Zara's dad, Iuri, substituted for Linda one day and he taught a Capoeira class in the dance room. A core group of about 8 kids stayed with him for over 45 minutes, learning the moves and getting a good workout at the same time. Star Wars has been an enduring theme this year (kid inspired and driven) in books, stories and play. A few kids have just about worn out a 5-10 year-old collection of Lego catalogs and magazines, especially asking us to read the Star Wars stories.

We are continuing to hear the Kindergarten project presentations. Fionn's chemistry project involved changes between gas, liquid and solid states, accompanied by an exciting demonstration. Jack taught us about surfing with stories of his actual surfing adventures. We're looking forward to the final graduation project presentations on May 21st at 1:00. Join us and you will be impressed by our capable 6 year-old speakers.

Now that we have a full time water table and a sensory table, we have had to think up more ideas to keep the sensory table engaging. It is fun to try various things from nature and see how the kids respond. We put in some lichen-coated bark that had lots of tubular shapes because it came from 3-4 inch branches, thinking the kids might like to use the shapes as homes for plastic woodland animals. Instead, they got very excited when they noticed bugs on the bark and asked for magnifying glasses to get a closer look. Several kids spent the morning finding and examining various spiders, sow bugs, and even a tiny centipede.

Happy Spring! --Tim, Linda, & Martha



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

Welcome to the end of the year crunch! Already we have sent numerous notes home about all the exciting things that are happening in the next few weeks. Of course, we can't do some of them without your help. If you need PIP hours or would love to spend quality time with your children, we can use you! We have many trips in the next three weeks, as well as our graduation/potluck on the last day of school. Please let Erin Garcia or me know if you can give some time!

Our theme this month is "Animals". Of course, we are learning general information about animals, but also plan on going on many field trips. We will be visiting the animal shelter and Canine Companions in town. Later on, we'll be taking day long trips to The Feline Rescue Center and the zoo. We're hoping to get two guest speakers to come in with some furry and feathery friends, as



well. The kids are very excited about this theme after being fired up by the second graders' animal reports!

Also, this month will include the ever-popular class overnight at school on Friday, May 16. We have tons of fun

during this event—pizza, games, a movie and then pancakes in the morning. Lights go out at 10:00 and various amounts of sleep occur after that. Drop off is at 6:00 pm and pick up is promptly at 9:00 am the next morning. After all, teachers need their rest, too! And if your child isn't tired enough already, take them to the Extravaganza that afternoon for more fun! I guarantee they'll sleep soundly that night!

Our class graduation/potluck ceremony is at 6:00 pm the last day of school, May 23. The second graders will give speeches and all the kids (including the first graders) will receive awards for the year. After the ceremony, we'll celebrate the end of another successful year with a potluck dinner. Erin Garcia will be contacting you about dishes to bring. Because all kids participate in this ceremony, it is important that they all are present. Please let us know right away if your child can't make it! Remember, our kids are not involved in the graduation ceremony that takes place the next day, Saturday, May 24. That ceremony is only for the kindergartners, 6th graders, 8th graders and 12th graders.

And lastly, remember to have your children continue to read all summer long! We had a visitor from the public library this week to talk about their summer reading program with the kids. We highly encourage kids to participate in this program as a fun way to keep up their reading skills. If you have any questions about it, just call the library!

Have a great summer!--Michele

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

There's something about the last months of a school year that seems distinctly different from the rest of our time together. Maybe each short period of time is different: the

excitement of the first months of school, the build up to the Follies, hunkering down into the heart of winter, and now this. This time is curious though, because of the freshness of the earth birthing itself into a new growing season. It seems the kids are doing the same. They seem bigger than they were, and older, and of course, they are. We teachers start looking at our soon-to-be-graduates differently; they won't be under our wing anymore. How will they fly at whatever the next level, the next chapter of their life story is? We begin to reflect heavily on the year, the goals we accomplished, the ones we didn't. Progress has shown itself in ways we expected and many we did not. And now, like an artist with a newly painted canvas, we are left to touch up the details and celebrate.

It's funny because the cycle of our earth and the cycle of our school year are on opposite rotations. I guess this is reasonable and historic. The time for gathering children for learning sits opposite the time for outdoor work and play. Yet the summer is chock full of learning opportunities. These experiences are in the hands of the kids and you, their parents. It is time for your kids to be outside rolling down a grassy hill or reading a new and exciting book, staying the weekend at a friend's house or going to a camp, exploring a new game or riding their bike. Summer is an opportunity for kids to learn in a way the school cannot always provide. I hope that each of you uses the resources you have available to get your kids out in the world this summer and help them to explore something they have never done before.

The academic side of me also wants to remind you that many great leaps are lost when kids are not reading, writing, etc. during the summer. I hope you challenge your kids to keep a journal, participate in a summer reading program, do 20 push-ups a day, manage their own allowance, visit a museum, or write a letter to the editor. As for us teachers, we will do the same. --Jeremy

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

As you read this letter our graduates will have finished the culminating activity of their elementary career, and our 5th graders will have completed their internship with 6th grade mentors. Our class is a very bright group of active learners as we can easily see from the quality of their graduation presentations. The presentations are quite professional, and we invite you to glance through their collected research papers on display at graduation. Their scholarship is quite impressive.

Last month we took a break from the rigor of grad projects to enjoy ourselves in a variety of Earth Day activities. We also took advantage of the nice weather to walk to Chocolate Moose for frozen treats and an afternoon at the park. On another sunny day we joined in the all-school picnic and learned about our high school seniors' amazing graduation experiences. Perhaps the most exciting event was a trip to the Indianapolis Indians game at Victory Field. Overall we've been working hard and playing hard. Many thanks to our PIP Coordinator, Denise Hyble, and the parents who volunteer to clean up our classroom. We also want to thank Crash Elliott for driving us to the Indians game.



For the rest of the month we will spend some time acknowledging the qualities of character that we respect and admire in each individual in the class including ourselves. Grads will write their speeches and practice them a few times before we all do a big classroom clean up. Capping off the end of the year, of course, is our annual trip to Camp Palawopec in beautiful Brown County. We're excited to get out to the countryside and enjoy each other as a reward for all of our hard work during graduation projects. We would like to thank in advance the parents who will chaperone the trip, including Leslie Burke, and Crash and Brandon Elliott. We couldn't do it without you.

In closing, it has been a busy and event filled year. I appreciate the hard work that our students have invested into their research projects and thematic units, as well as day to day math and language arts work. They inspire the lifelong learner in me.

I want to take the opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to Bart (David Bartlett). Bart, you have invested your heart and soul into the students, the curriculum development, and the school. I felt comforted to know that an educator of your caliber, and my dear friend and mentor, would be my partner during Scott's sabbatical leave. It was a special treat to be reunited after ten years and teach together again. I couldn't have done it without you. Our students are truly fortunate to have been cared for so deeply by you. Thank you more than words can tell.

Next fall I'll be returning after a summer of study and travel welcoming back Scott after his year-long sabbatical leave. I'm sure our combined energy and inspiration from our adventures will find their way into the classroom. We look forward to hearing about your summer adventures as well when we meet again in September. Until then, best of health and happiness to the Harmony School Community.

In Peace, --Kathy Boone

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Kelli, Marty and Ursina

May at Harmony has got to be the most intense and rewarding point in the school year. For some students this is the first time that they have had to deal with so much at once. It is a time for immense growth and maturity. It can also be the time for a few meltdowns, but it is our job to help the kids through and to allow them to grow. The fun part comes once all the projects have been presented and everyone; students, teachers, parents and friends can look back and celebrate all of that growth.

We here in the Middle School like to celebrate the end of the year and our accomplishments with three events. First is the Spring Trip. As I write this letter we are preparing for our take off for Red River Gorge. It is one of my favorite destinations because we enter into physical challenges as a community, yet everyone can maintain their independence by setting private goals for each day. We leave exhilarated in our accomplishments and exhausted by the challenges.

Next is the Soccer Challenge. This year the Soccer Challenge will be on Friday, May 16th at the Bloomington Sports Complex on West 2nd Street. It is my understanding

that Bart played a key role is setting up the original soccer challenge, so it should be exciting to see how it plays out with him back coaching the 5th/6th grade.

Lastly, we like to end the year with a Middle School picnic on the last day of the school year. We would love to make it a Middle School and Family affair. It is nice when parents bring food, help us grill and sit around talking about what changes have been made this year. For me it is a day full of nostalgia.

In addition to all of this fun we have Parent Conferences on May 12th and the 13th. The sign up board is in the Middle School Hallway. Students are expected at their conference, but we don't have regular school those two days. If you don't think you're signed up, please contact us ASAP.

Seventh graders will be wrapping up their independent projects and presenting them on May 14th, 15th and 16th. Eighth graders will be finalizing their graduation projects and presenting them the last week of school. We encourage families to attend their child's presentation—we can help arrange times that fit your schedules. Finally, 8th graders will be preparing their graduation speeches the last week of school. This is a great opportunity to touch base with your kids to reflect on the Middle School years and celebrate what amazing young adults they have become. Graduation is Saturday, May 24, with the Middle School going on at 2:30. It's a busy month, indeed!

Have a great summer and thanks for all the support.
--Kelli

HIGH SCHOOL

Sal, Emily, Paul, Tom, Jon, Zeri

From **Sal**: It is hard to believe that this will be the last newsletter of the year – and what a year it has been! The students have accomplished amazing things, most recently on History Night when the Senior team won the Herodotus Cup for the third year in a row – just beating out the Freshman team who were on amazing form. Congratulations to all involved, for their knowledge and their good sportsmanship. I would also like to thank Marsha Hamer, Maggie Smith, Rachel Land, Abi Yates and Avery Street for making us such a delicious dinner – and many thanks to Nolan Moss for acting as my all-calm, all-capable assistant for the day! Finally, a big thank you, as always, to Berta Medicus for her help and to Deborah Rush for her generous support.

The high school itself has been through some dramatic changes. We have had to say a reluctant goodbye to Gayle Ebel, Andy Alphonse and Zeri Ort, who will be leaving at the end of the month. We wish them all well in their new endeavors. At the same time, we extend a warm welcome to Jon Cracraft and Paul Swanson, who have now joined the faculty as full-time teachers.

In the meantime, classes have now come to an end, as we move on to the trip, Senior Presentations, Parent/Teacher/Student conferences and Graduation.

In Western Civ, students spent their final few weeks working on some of the best final projects to have ever come out of that class. Subjects ranged from the History of Illustration, the History of Architecture, the History of

Music, the History of Painting, to the History of Language and the History of Engineering. Many of the projects were on display on History Night and will be used as examples to other students for many years to come.

In the American Century, students also did beautiful work on their 20th Century portfolios. We concluded the class in the early 80s – in time to learn about the early roots of the crisis in the Middle East; the rise of Islamic Fundamentalism; the Power of Oil; trickle-down economics; and the Conservative Revolution.

Finally, the Press Corps spent much of last month developing a new drug and sex education curriculum for the fall. They are also working on a new video documentary about Harmony School which will have its airing next spring.

From **Emily**: Cells & Genes students finalized their studies of genes with their project presentations on genetic diseases – lots of fascinating information!

Students watched a few science fiction movies to begin to explore some of the imaginative implications of biotechnology. In ending the term, we were all challenged to question our opinions during our series of debates on stem cell research, genetic screening of human embryos, genetically modified food, and human cloning. I am always impressed by how talented teenagers are at arguing a point!

Chemistry finished the term with organic chemicals. We talked about water quality and the impacts of Bloomington's favorite organic compound, PCB. We synthesized aromatic esters to make artificial orange, wintergreen and pineapple smells. The final experiment of the year was utilizing freezing point depression of water with salt to create frozen emulsions of lipids and sugars (ice cream)! Many, many, many thanks to Bob Togasaki, Professor Emeritus of Biology from IU who co-taught this class, but really did most of the work and shared a great deal of expertise and knowledge, not to mention supplies and equipment, with us.

Anatomy & Physiology students tested my nerves during the last month of the term! Well, they tested theirs, too, in a series of sensory experiments on vision, smell, touch, hearing and taste. We got some exercise outdoors in the lovely spring weather, and students educated each other about the various diseases and disorders they had been researching all term. Many thanks to Desiree Hensel and the IU Nursing lab for a great field trip to practice on their medical mannequins – quite a few students successfully drew fake blood from a fake arm! Our final lab of the year was the much, um, anticipated dissection of rats.

Fascinating for some of us, less so for others!

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped in my classes while I attended the Coalition of Essential Schools conference in Memphis for a few days: Bob Togasaki, Wyatt Kitner, Berta Medicus, Desiree Hensel, Evan Voss, Tom Hastings, Sallyann Murphey and Mari Griffin. THANK YOU!

From **Paul**: As we roll into the month of May we're just wrapping things up with our end of the year traditions. On May 4th we left for Savannah, Georgia and a week of salt marshes, beaches, art museums, and ghost stories. Many thanks to all the parents who helped us fund raise to make our trip possible!

For me personally, this is a joyous time as well as a time of transition. I've been working this past year teaching "the arts," filling in for Gayle while she has been on sabbatical. Next year I am happy to say that I'll be returning to Harmony as the new International Student Coordinator. I'll be teaching ESL and Americana to the international students, and will still be teaching a bit of the music and social studies that I've been involved with this year. As of right now, I have three goals for next year and the near future: 1) to build and diversify the International Student Program, 2) to organize regular sports and physical activities for students, and 3) to start up a free after school music program for Harmony students. If you are interested in one of these projects, or if you know someone who may be, send me an email!

From **Jon**: The end is nigh!

At this point every student has taken the final. I am pleased to report that the overall scores were very good. A few students still have some work to complete in order to get credit, and all students are encouraged to take home a packet to work on over the summer. There will again be an evaluation shortly before school begins in the fall. Details on the date and time will be sent most likely in August.

I am hoping to improve upon both the website and the Assignments for next year, so expect some changes.

Other than that, we have been looking forward to the trip and to the remaining senior presentations when we return.

From **Tom**: Hooray for the Morris Dancers' time-spinning yearly visit on Beltane and their celebration of the cyclical nature of time as well as its linear appearances. As I conclude thirty years of teaching at Harmony High School, I give fond fare-thee-wells to Andy, Gayle and Zeri who each enriched my personal and professional life as well as so many of our students over shared past years. Thank you.

I am also very grateful to my newly-one-year-old fast-learning hard-working cohorts, Emily, Paul and Jon. You have goodly done good! Cap'n SallyAnn navigates this ship well.

Thanks to all my students who got through their finals and handed in their assignments and will read some cool books this summer.

From **Zeri**: It's crunch time for the yearbook so I'll make this quick. Three cheers for all my Spanish students for passing the class. Good luck to the German students as they finish their end-of-year cumulative test. Congratulations to my ESL girls on completing a very difficult book, Life of Pi. And best wishes to all in the coming years. Ta ta!

PROFILES

STAFF PROFILE

Kate Minelli

(Kate has been helping out in Jo & Jeremy's class all year to fulfill her individualized major and just graduated from IU last week).

When I was asked to write a profile for the newsletter, it occurred to me that autobiographical writing is clearly not among my strengths. Rather, I believe that a biography would better serve as a description of my character. Thus an idea was born, and the following is the result:

Kate is a great teacher. She has taught this school that she is a great, happy, caring, loving person who teaches you that you should be yourself no matter what. Like once, she got so embarrassed because she thought she was a bad singer, so I almost bit her leg off so that she would sing! Kate would totally be a great teacher. I think it's so funny that she always comes to school with garlic bagel chips. She is a great role model and she acts like a total nerd with an insane mind. Everybody loves Kate, she has a very creative mind. One day, Kate will marry George Harrison, even if he is dead! – *Zaynab Maanaki*

There's a four-armed lady named Kate
Rotten spinach was all she ate
She said "Waaaahhh!" a lot
And she thought that she ought
To plan a hot date with fish bait – *Amadeo Moore*

There was once a wizard named Kate. She had spent two weeks trying to summon two warriors from the future to help defeat the evil cyclops, Jeremy. He and his skeleton army were destroying King Zion's kingdom. Anyway, back to Kate. She was saying a spell to summon the warriors, "Carter and Ben, sitting in a glen, bring two warriors to help us win!" Suddenly, she heard a scream. "Aaaaahhh!" Splat!!! Kate ran outside to see what happened. Two soldiers, Carter and Ben had fallen out of the sky and landed on King Zion and Princess Alina. Carter had a knife, a handgun, and an assault rifle with a scope. Ben, who was evil, had a knife, a machine gun, and grenades. When Ben and Carter saw each other, they started wrestling. Carter knocked Ben unconscious. "Throw him into the dungeon!" Zion screamed. Zion's guards dragged Ben to a dungeon. Carter already knew what was going on. "Let's take Jeremy down!" he yelled. Carter was sneaking into Jeremy's castle, and Kate & Zion were with him. Before they knew it, they were behind Jeremy, "He's huge," Carter whispered, "Give me two ropes, Kate!" Kate nodded. She waved her hands and said, "Rope!" "Great!" Carter said. "Here," he said and gave Zion one of the ropes. They wrapped the ropes around Jeremy's legs. Jeremy fell and hit his head. Unconscious, Jeremy was dragged back to Zion's castle. "Ready to leave, Carter?" Kate

asked. Carter looked at Kate, Zion, and finally, Alina, "I think I'll stay in this time," Carter said blushing, "I was going to teach Alina how to bike and skateboard, anyway!" The End – *Carter Adams*

Kate is obsessed with The Beatles and even named her cat George Harrison. Everyone remembers what she brings to school for a snack, and everyone begs her for her bagel chips and garlic sesame sticks. She's scared of loose teeth. Some say she will marry George Harrison, but I think her real love is either Stephen Colbert or Paul McCartney. Although Kate has many weird things about her, Kate is great!!!!!! – *Ella Flynn*

FAMILY PROFILE

The Urschel-Jarvis Family, compiled by Barbara McKinney

This month's family profile focuses on the family of Danielle Urschel, mom; Alex Jarvis, dad; and children Izzy Jarvis, 17 and Mars Jarvis, 7.

Izzy has been at Harmony since she was four, so this family has quite a bit of experience with the school. Danielle said she met Kathy Boone at a cooperative day care when Izzy was little and learned about Harmony from her. She said she likes how the school strives to educate the individual student instead of focusing on standardized tests and expectations. Now that Mars has had a couple of years at Harmony, Danielle said she has even more appreciation of how the school works with the individual student. Mars and Izzy have different interests and talents, and Harmony is able to work with both of them well. Among the many things she likes about Harmony is the fact that her kids can (and do) call the teachers at home when need be.

Izzy has a strong interest in graphic design. This summer, she plans to take a six-week course at the Rhode Island School of Design. She helps design silkscreen posters for nonprofits in Bloomington, including Rhino's.

Alex has an economics degree from IU. He owns a business, Solar Systems of Indiana, the only certified solar site assessor in the state. His company evaluates the many factors that help determine if it makes economic sense to convert a house to solar energy. His company also designs and installs solar systems. He installed the solar panels on the South Dunn Street project. He also worked with an architect from Ball State on Ball State's straw bale house. He is also a musician who has been with many local bands, including Pit Bulls on Crack, Trailside Killers, Speed Luxury and El Nino. (When he met

Danielle, he was with Pit Bulls on Crack.) He plays the drums and the guitar, often performing in Indy. He grew up in California, Illinois and Bloomington.

Danielle has her Masters in Fine Art and is currently a print maker and ceramicist. She worked with another Harmony parent, Paul Patch, to design and install hand-made mosaic tiles in two local parks, Lower Cascades and Third Street Park. She produces limited edition, hand-carved and hand-painted tiles that are used for backsplashes, fireplaces and bathrooms. She and her studio partner, Vicki Helber, own Groundhog Studio. Their business has grown based on word of mouth up to this point, but they are working on a web site as well. She was born in Valparaiso and has lived in Bloomington for 20 years. She said she loves living here.

Danielle said another thing she likes about Harmony is the chance to be involved with the school. She really enjoys teaching and has had the opportunity to teach several art classes, including making sugar skulls on Day of the Dead last fall with Mars' class. She also has had Harmony students work in her studio. Izzy is learning French from another Harmony parent, Amy Roche. Danielle said her family likes the sense of community that the opportunity to share talents provides. She and Alex both have gone on field trips as part of their PIP work as well.

Danielle also appreciates the conflict resolution skills Harmony teaches, something that Harmony graduates carry with them after they graduate.

Danielle and Alex are expanding their studio. Danielle had experience in construction and drywall from her college days, and she is putting those abilities to good use as they add on to their pole barn. Alex's experience in framing and construction are coming in handy as well. When done, they will have a soundproof studio for Alex as well as a ceramics studio and a silkscreen studio for Danielle and additional office space. Danielle recently acquired a lithographic, relief and intaglio combination press with a grant and needs space for that. Of course this expanded space will feature passive and active solar heating.



OTHER REPORTS

RHINO'S ALL AGES CLUB UPDATE

Well another school year comes to a close, but that doesn't mean SQUAT to us here at Rhino's

(and we don't actually know what that phrase means either!). We will continue to provide weekend shows and our award winning after school programs all summer long.

Be sure to check the website:

www.rhinosyouthcenter.org for updated information of what's going on this summer. –

Brad Wilhelm

REPORT FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

This time of year is the best of times and the busiest of times, to paraphrase Mr. Dickens. We're putting final touches on several grant applications, preparing lots of written communications such as our *Happenings* Newsletter, in the thick of presenting special events and talking to lots of people about the richness of Harmony Education Center.

Since we're all in the relief side of having filed taxes, now is a splendid time to think about the Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits we have available. This program gives you a CREDIT ON YOUR STATE TAXES for a contribution you make to Harmony. A gift of \$250 or above means you receive half that amount as a credit on your Indiana state taxes next April. Even more savings accrue if you itemize on your federal return, so in essence your money goes twice as far for you. Take action before June 1st! Follow this link on our website http://www.harmonyeducationcenter.org/nap_credits.html or talk to Scott or Mary Beth for details.

Our presence in the social network scene continues to expand. Look at FaceBook, MySpace and Flickr for latest networking possibilities and photos of Harmony and Rhino's activities.

We will be present throughout the summer when students, staff and teachers are absent from these halls, making it a terrific time to pay a visit to the school and take a close look at the improvements wrought through our recent renovations. Scott and Mary Beth are good tour guides and always ready to point out some of the special features of our 1926 vintage school building. Stop in to say hello and take a look around. --*Mary Beth Roska*