

Cobblestone School

Where Children Love to Learn - Celebrating 25 Years!



A Leg To Stand On

by Paula Wooters, Director

Several years ago I stepped off a dock at the lake and ended up sprawled in the water and in pain. I later learned I had torn both my ACL and MCL. (If you know anything about knees, you know that this is NOT a good thing!) After several months of therapy I could walk normally, but without

surgery I can no longer run. I'm also cautious on slippery surfaces, hence my tendency to park close to the building in winter months. It's never easy to adapt to physical limitations and a friend suggested that I read Oliver Sacks' book, *A Leg to Stand On*, to get another perspective. The book finally worked its way to the top of my stack and I read it this fall. It was fascinating to read about Sacks' injury and recuperation, but there were several aspects in particular that stood out for me.

One was the loss of stereoscopy he experienced from being confined to a small, windowless room for a long period of time. For Sacks, it was a physical loss of depth perception which he didn't even notice until he finally returned to larger, open spaces. I immediately formed my own analogies, not only in my own life, but in the life of students and teachers at Cobblestone. One of the things we pride ourselves on is the way we extend learning beyond the classroom for the children. It is rare for our students to spend an entire day in a small, enclosed room. We are constantly moving about, whether between classrooms, throughout the building, on the playground or on field trips. We purposefully do this to extend our students' perceptions of the world around them. We want them to know that there's always more out there to explore. I've always felt that students who have studied at Cobblestone tend to have a larger world-view than others their age. (continued on Page 2)

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"A good education is another name for happiness."

- Ann Plato

However, I had never really taken the time to contemplate how much being restricted to a limited space could mean in terms of physical changes such as Sacks experienced.

Another thing that got me to thinking was the role of music in Sacks' journey to recovery. Learning to walk again presented many challenges, not the least of which was a feeling of being disconnected from his leg. Once sensation finally started to return Sacks started walking, but clumsily. He still felt physically and emotionally detached from the leg. But then one day, while struggling through therapy, the strains of Mendelssohn came into Sacks' mind:

"...suddenly, without thinking, without intending whatever, I found myself walking, easily, joyfully, with the music. And, as suddenly, in the moment that this inner music started, the Mendelssohn which had been summoned and hallucinated by my soul, and in the very moment that my 'motor' music, my kinetic melody, my walking, came back – in this self-same moment the leg came back... And now, as suddenly, I was absolutely certain – I believed in my leg, I knew how to walk." (excerpt from Sacks, *A Leg to Stand On*)

At Cobblestone we are trying to help the children find their own "inner music". We expose them not only to music, but to rhythms, patterns, movement and more. For Sacks it was music that helped him to walk again. For our students, it may be numbers or poetry or physical activity that brings success. Knowing how to identify their own kind of "inner music" helps children learn. We all want to be able to run, skip, hop and jump both physically and mentally. We want to synthesize the sum of our experiences into meaning. We want our children to connect their bodies and their minds. This is what we're all about. It's far more than a leg to stand on. It's a jumping off point to explore the world around us.

So, What Do Our Students Think of Cobblestone?

Cobblestone is currently at the beginning of a year-long strategic planning process, which includes gathering input from current families, teachers, staff, alumni and past teachers/staff. Students are also being asked for their thoughts on Cobblestone. Here is a sampling of responses thus far:

(1) What are the best things about Cobblestone?

- *No matter what color you are or what learning disabilities you have, you are welcome.*
- *If you are stuck on something, the teacher will help you instead of saying do this or do that or come back to it later.*
- *Everyone gets to go outside and play what they want to play.*
- *Everyone is nice!*
- *We have pizza!*

(2) How has Cobblestone helped you?

- *You don't have to be the best to have fun.*
- *It lets me do 5th grade math and sometimes I do extra stuff if I finish first.*
- *The teachers get to help you when you don't know what to do.*
- *Cobblestone School has helped me recognize real friends, make learning fun and treat people of all ages with respect.*

MEET THE NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

Molly Flynn, Shira Goldberg and Theresa James joined the Cobblestone community this fall. They all express appreciation for the support they have received and are already feeling “at home” at Cobblestone! Read on and get to know them a bit better...

Molly started off as a temporary Bookkeeper in September, but was hired permanently after proving her skills and displaying her likeable character! She has 15 years experience in

HR, accounting and sales. Her last position was in telecommunications at ‘Current Communications’. Molly is happily married to Geoff and has two daughters, ages 8 and 9. Rounding out the family is a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named Indiana. Molly is finding her life very busy these days, but for fun she plays sports, travels and spends time with family & friends. She also loves interior decorating! Molly is finding Cobblestone to be a friendly, warm environment. She truly appreciates everyone’s support while learning her job. She also loves hearing the activity of the children in the hall and in the music room!

Shira is a Consult Teacher through the Rochester City School District. She has worked for the City for over 25 years and is extremely happy to be at Cobblestone! She has worked in a variety of schools, most recently at a Catholic School and before that spent 15 years at Edison Tech. She has been married to Mark for thirteen

years, has a 11 year old son named Scotty, and a beloved dog named Huey. She likes to golf, knit and walk. In fact, this fall she trained for and completed the Rochester 1/2 marathon!! She also loves shoes and overall LOVES to LIVE! When asked what she likes about Cobblestone, she replied “it is just the warmest, most

supportive, loving and safe environment!”



Theresa is a Teacher’s Assistant through the Rochester City School District. She has worked for the City School District for one year and prior to that spent 6 years

working at #1 BOCES in the Early Childhood Learning Department. She has been single for 10 years and is a very happy mother to her 15-year old son Jeremy. She is an active member of her church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. She is also an avid cook, enjoys playing video games and throws a *mean* party! Theresa states that she wishes she had known about Cobblestone when her son was younger. Her first impressions of Cobblestone are that it is a very nurturing, loving environment and that the children are very bright!

A great big welcome to Molly, Shira and Theresa! It is wonderful to have you at Cobblestone!

Also, a warm welcome to Cobblestone’s new Spanish teacher, **Clemencia Delosrios** and the long-term sub in the Lower Middle Grades, **Kathy Harlow Fisher**. We hope to get to know them better in the next newsletter.

CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

Lower Primary Group News (Barb & Christy)

The Lower Primary Groups have been quite busy this fall. In early November, they celebrated a Harvest Fire & Stone Soup Festival with the Lower Middle grades. The mid-fall day was beautiful. A kettle of apple cider was warmed over the fire, the children were dressed in capes, gowns and gnome hats, while the teachers and parents were bedecked in their autumn finest. Giving thanks to the community for the hard work put into the harvest, they honored the sun, rain, and wind for its contributions. They shared a delicious meal of stone soup, cider bread, and warm cider. The Lower Middle Grades prepared the soup and the entire group danced around the fire with folk dancer Carol Gayeski.

Fun activities were enjoyed by all. Chopping and sawing wood, face painting, spinning wool with Lisa Gwinner and old-fashioned fun with hoola hoops and horse reins were all part of the Harvest Fire event. A big thanks to parents and garden team members who helped organize this event!



Fun was had by all during the Thanksgiving celebration on Monday, November 24th. The children, teachers, and parents enjoyed pumpkin pie with whipped cream, mashed potatoes, and warm applesauce. The children lovingly made each item served at the table. Adorning the table were the lanterns the children so carefully made during handwork time. It was truly a time to give thanks to the teachers, parents, and children at Cobblestone School.

Barb's class is studying maps. Each child has drawn maps of their rooms, houses, streets, and towns. They delighted in studying a big map of the Rochester area and learning where classmates lived and who had the longest and shortest distance to travel to school, as well as who lives closest to each other.



Also, Barb is in the process of making discoveries about each child in the class and creating a Discovery Poster. In turn, the children will make discoveries about Barb! (See "Student Musings" to read some observations made by children for the Discovery Poster.)

Christy's class is studying bees. The children have learned about the parts of the body, how pollen and nectar are gathered, what it is like inside the hive and the different jobs of the Queen, workers and drones. They have also tasted honey and honeycomb, worked with beeswax and had the opportunity to visit a neighborhood beekeeper. Christy recently read the Grimm's tale, "The Queen Bee". Up and coming, they will be dipping beeswax candles, learning what happens in the hive during different seasons of the year and learning about bee dances.



Upper Primary Group News (Susan)

Children in the Upper Primary Group have been busy with their unit on Community, which will be wrapping up on December 17th with the unveiling of "Parkerville" for families and friends. Over the past few months the children have been involved in all aspects of the creation of their community, including constructing homes, brainstorming a list of businesses, constructing buildings for these businesses, discussing how to read maps and creating their own detailed maps of the community.

To complement what they were learning in class, field trips were taken to the Town Hall, the Winton Road Post Office, GEVA and

Abundance Co-op. Students thoroughly enjoyed getting a "behind the scenes" perspective of these important institutions of the Rochester community. A day was also spent at the Genesee Country Museum in Mumford, where children were able to spend the day immersed in a community from "days gone by".



In language arts, the children have been finding joy in writing. Journal time is particularly cherished as they love to write on topics of their choice. They then look forward to sharing their work during author's circle. Each child is being challenged in ways significant to their own learning. Students are also excited to read with partners in book groups, a process which supports learning, while encouraging independence.

In math, students have been solidifying understanding of numbers to one hundred and beyond. Some have been working in the thousands. This group has now begun to focus on addition and subtraction strategies which will include carrying and borrowing.

Intermediate Group News (Bridget & Greg)

The Intermediate Group completed their Geo-Travelers in late October and mailed them to places around the world. The idea is that the recipient of the Geo-Traveler then mails a postcard back to Cobblestone and sends the Geo-Traveler on to its next destination. The students have currently received postcards from Connecticut, New York City, England, Australia, Japan, Canada, Montana and many other places. In preparation for the Geo-Travelers, students learned about the seven continents and will be studying each continent in depth throughout the year.

The first continent was North America and students generated a list of questions about history, geography, animals, the environment and sports. They also learned about North America by developing survey questions, which were then distributed to the class. Once answers were collected, students represented the data on a graph. They have now moved on to study Asia, where students are working in small groups to learn about the climate, terrain and animals of each region of Asia.



In math, Bridget's group finished up its unit on money and has started to work on multiplication and division. Greg's group finished up a unit on multiplication with 3 - 4 digit numbers and now the group is learning about fractions, focusing on improper and mixed number fractions.

Book clubs have been up and running since October. Book clubs meet each day during quiet reading time to discuss the chapter or chapters that were assigned on the previous day. The groups focus on comprehension, vocabulary and developing the skills to discuss books. Current book selections include, *Walk Two Moons*, *The Twits*, *The Zach Files* and *The Littles*.



Finally, the Intermediate Group has had two very exciting events occur over the past month! In early December, students welcomed a new member of the class - a Chinese Dwarf Hamster named "Milkshake"! (See "Student Musings" to read some stories about Milkshake.) The other big event is that in late November, Bridget's class was the recipient of the Cellino & Barnes Classroom Scholarship, in the amount of \$250! Congratulations on Milkshake, as well as the scholarship money!

Lower Middle Grades News (Jen & Cherie/Cathy)

Students in the Lower Middle Grades spent the greater portion of October and November studying the movement and migration of people for their integrated Language Arts and Social Studies unit. After much discussion on refugees and movement, as well as watching a few DVDs from the UN Commission of Refugees, students were asked to write short stories on how it would feel if they were a child who needed to leave his/her home because of war and poverty. Each student was given a photograph of a child and was asked to do research about the child's country of origin to help in writing the short story. (See "Student Musings" to read a refugee story.)

Upon learning how frightening it is for refugee children to leave their homeland, the students decided to find a way to help. They created books, complete with illustrations, and sent them to children in an Afghanistan refugee camp through a program called "Kid to Kid". To defray the costs of shipping the books, the students held a bake sale, selling an array of cookies, brownies and muffins. They raised over \$130.00!



Students in this group have now moved on to exploring ancient Greece and have started their study by creating a timeline, reading myths and transforming these myths into

board games. They are also starting their play unit and have chosen Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*.

In 5th grade math, students have been working on the addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions. Fifth graders are also making a list of the 100 most often misspelled words in the English language.



The 6th grade math group is currently working on decimals, exponents and factorization.

Finally, students in both Lower and Upper Middle Grades are "reading buddies" for children in the Lower Primary Groups. This provides an opportunity for Cobblestone's oldest students to interact with the youngest students in a fun way. The younger kids love it - and the older kids do too!



Upper Middle Grades (Jim)

The Upper Middle Grades' curriculum includes ELA, math, social studies, science, Spanish, physical education, music and art. In ELA, students have been using the "6 plus 1 Writing Traits" (Ideas, Organization, Voice, Sentence Fluency, Word Choice, Conventions and Presentations) as a framework for their writing. Students have explored the "Ideas" trait by writing purple ninja stories. These stories are based loosely on the book *Nothing Ever Happens on 90th Street* and originated from student observations of various staff members.

Students are currently using much of their ELA writing time to learn about their theme, which is identity, culture and community. In early December, students interviewed their parents, asking what life was like for them when they were 7th/8th graders. Students are now compiling this information into Venn diagrams, which is helping them to compare their parents' middle school experiences to their own.

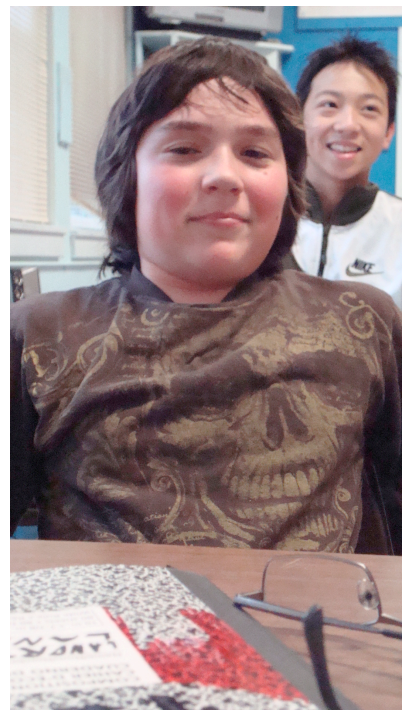
Students will then write a paper and perform skits, with the end goal being that students will start to think about their own identities as middle schoolers.



In Science, students are learning about States of Matter. They recently finished a lab on what happens when a substance changes from a gas back to a liquid. The next unit will be on the Periodic Table and what happens when elements are combined. They will also be learning about electrons, protons and neutrons.

The 7th grade math group has just completed a unit on decimal operations and have moved on to studying mean, median and mode of a data set. Students will be using bar graphs, line graphs, stem and leaf plots, box and whisker plots and histograms to display and analyze the distribution of values in a data set.

Students in 8th grade math have moved on from factoring monomials to Algebra that involves fractions. They are also studying Algebra with the distributive property of combining like terms, as well as solving longer Algebraic expressions. Next month, this group will be getting into Geometry.



STUDENT MUSINGS...

Lower Primary Group students in Barb's class are making discoveries about themselves, classmates and Barb for their Discovery Poster. They first defined the word "discovery".

Discovery means: (1) to discover something new, (2) to go on an adventure to find something, (3) to go on a hike.

Discoveries made about themselves: (1) Iris - I draw very well and I make very good friends. (2) Georgia - I'm energetic. (3) Daniel - I'm a good friend. (4) Lia - I can draw girls & horses really well. (5) Ben - I am really silly.

Discoveries made about classmates: (1) Zofia can make you feel better if you are sad. (2) Camille adds a lot of details to her pictures. (3) Ben has very good table manners. (4) Grace is a really good friend. (5) Kaia shares with her friends.

Discoveries made about Barbie: (1) She is good at reading. (2) She cuts very well. (3) She colors really well. (4) She is a good teacher!

Intermediate Group students were asked to write a short story about what Milkshake (the new class hamster) does at night after everyone leaves the building...

Milkshake our class hamster, as you all know, is nocturnal. When we're

sleeping, Milkshake invites all the hamsters in town over. First, they have a chewing contest and the winner gets a new chew stick. Then, they head over to the Community Center and have a big swimming party. After that, they go upstairs to the vending machine and one of them has to climb up it. Their favorite snack is Frito corn chips. After the snack, they go to the park and play. Finally at 4am they all go to their cages and fall asleep immediately. That is why Milkshake is tired (poor thing). (Kali)

At night in Greg's dark classroom, there lies a cuddly hamster named Milkshake. While we are at home getting ready for bed, our friend Milkshake is just waking up. He begins his day by putting on his art smock and grabbing a drink of hamster juice to get his creative juices flowing. But before he sneaks out of his cage, he decides to exercise. He scampers through his tube and runs around his wheel several times. He nibbles on some food and drinks more hamster juice. Then he slicks his hair back to impress the hamster babes and grabs his art supplies. He then gnaws at the twist tie until the cage door opens. He begins his quest for tissues. Milkshake snatches some tissues and creates a heart shaped Hamster Montana tissue sculpture. As the sun begins to rise and he hears the laughter of children, he realizes that his time is up. Before you can say, "tiddly wink", he buries his

sculpture in the bedding of his cage so no one would ever know his true identity.

F.Y.I Our Milkshake is a famous hamster tissue artist. (Nya)

Lower Middle Grade students were asked to write a short story on how it would feel if they were a child refugee...

Hello my name is Lezia. I am 11 years old. I live in a refugee camp in Azerbaijan. In Azerbaijan it sure is hot enough! The temps can be from 43 to 96 degrees. Azerbaijan is half rural and half urban. My native tongue is Azeri, which is the main language along with Russian.

My life as a refugee is not terrible, but is not pleasant either. Weekly I need to go to Mingechar to shave the sheep and retrieve water for the camp. When I get back, everyone has a nice handful of water to drink. I carefully pour the glistening water into their sweaty hands. They thank me and walk away. They find a nice spot to rest and drink their water. Before they drink the water, they stare deeply at the small pool of shining water, slowly they sip, their eyes looking bright. (Anna)

CHOCOLATE DESSERT BUFFET & SILENT AUCTION

On November 15th, Cobblestone School held its first annual Chocolate Dessert Buffet & Silent Auction. The event was held at the lovely Perkins Mansion (home of the AAUW) on East Avenue and was graciously supported, in part, by Gateway & Company.



Current families and staff, alumni, past directors and friends exchanged greetings over the most decadent chocolate desserts the City of Rochester can muster! The silent auction was a success, with many of the items created by members of our own Cobblestone community. Attendees enjoyed the beautiful music of a string quartet, performed by members of the Eastman School of Music. It was truly a magical night..and one that will be repeated!

**Mark your calendars for November 14,
2009 for Cobblestone's 2nd Chocolate
Dessert Buffet & Silent Auction!**



**Please see insert, which lists
Chocolate Dessert Buffet &
Silent Auction donors -
THANK YOU!**



THE BOARD CORNER

Greetings to the Cobblestone Community!

The school calendar has been complete with various activities, both within the classrooms and outside of them (i.e. field trips, events). These activities could not be sustained without the many volunteers who assist in the classroom, help at lunch time, provide outside time support, drive for field trips and much more. Additionally, we have many parents and family members who serve on committees, on the Board, and attend events for the school. In general, we have an enormous number of venues where teachers, staff and families impact the quality of our community -- a community that we all support and work to make the best educational experience for the children.

As Board Chair, I wish there was a way I could thank each person individually for their continued support in so many ways. Please know that I THANK YOU for your involvement, for your engagement, and THANK YOU for your support.

Currently we ask for your participation in the strategic planning process and I do hope you will continue to find time to share your ideas, concerns and thoughts for the future of Cobblestone through this process. Also, please join us in support of The Cobblestone Fund; such gifts help us meet our financial goals for the school.

We truly value and desire your participation in all activities of Cobblestone School.

Personally and on behalf of the Board, I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season. I look forward to working with you next semester.

Bill

Bill Spelman, Chair
Board of Trustees



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Board meetings are held on the third
Thursday of each month at 7:15pm.



HEALTHY HOLIDAYS!

By Aimee Wood

The term healthy holidays might seem like an oxymoron, but you can have fun eating this season without sacrificing nutrition. Eating healthier during the holiday season supports your immune system and hopefully helps to fend off colds and illnesses that plague this time of year. Also, by creating healthy options for the holidays you are teaching your children the value of nutrition. Cooking with children is time well spent together; those are memories you will cherish for a lifetime.

Healthy Treat Ideas:

• Fresh Fruit & Yogurt Dip

Cut up some fresh fruit, put them on a kabob, or simply lay them on a plate and offer some yogurt (or soy yogurt) dip. The flavored yogurts tend to have a lot of added sugars in them, so I opt for plain yogurt and puree some frozen berry juice into it (add honey if you like). Dip and enjoy!

• Fruit and Nut Balls

Use a quarter cup of the following: dates, walnuts, sunflower seeds, raisins, dried cherries, dried cranberries, coconut, dried pineapple, 2 tablespoons of carob powder, and ground almonds. Place all ingredients except ground almonds in a food processor and grind. Roll into balls and roll in

the ground almonds. Keep in an airtight container.

• Warmed Fruit

Slice baked apples or pears on a plate and drizzle with honey.

• Popcorn and Cranberries

Pop up some organic popcorn and toss with cranberries. A low fat nutritious treat you can take with you.

• Cut-Out Cookies

Try replacing the white flour with 1/2 whole wheat flour and 1/2 cake flour.

All of these recipes can be easily made in minutes and are perfect for kids to help with. While it is inevitable that cookies will be eaten and treats will be made, make sure you take some time to keep yourself healthy. Some simple tips are: getting outside, exercising, drinking plenty of water, eating a larger portion of healthy veggies, and most importantly having fun!

Aimee is mom to Evan and Anna, a holistic nutritionist, and editor of The Wise Mom and at BellaOnline.com.

RECIPE CORNER:

Black Rice Polenta Casserole

(from *Vegan World Fusion*)

- 5 cups veggie stock
- 1 & 1/2 cups black rice
- 1 t sea salt
- 6 (more) cups veggie stock
- 2 cups dry polenta
- 1 cup unflavored almond, hemp or soy milk
- 1/4 cup diced sun-dried tomatoes in oil
- 1 T chopped fresh/dried basil
- 1 T chopped fresh/dried parsley
- 1 T chopped fresh/dried oregano
- 1 T chopped fresh/dried thyme
- 1 T chopped fresh/dried rosemary
- 2 t sea salt
- 1 - 3 T shoyu
- crushed red pepper to taste
- black pepper to taste

- (1) Bring 5 cups of stock to boil. Add rice & salt. Cover & simmer about 60 minutes or until all liquid is absorbed, stirring occasionally.
- (2) Bring 6 cups of stock to boil. Reduce heat and WISK in polenta (very important to prevent clumping.) Add milk & wisk until smooth.
- (3) Add tomatoes & herbs to polenta.
- (4) Spray/butter 9x13 pan. Spread rice in pan, then spread polenta on top of rice.
- (5) Bake 350 degrees for 10 minutes or until browned.

FRIENDSHIPS & SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

by Arlene Levit, Counseling Consultant

Dear Cobblestone Families,

I've just read several great books on friendship and social success and would like to share some of them here with you. We all need to be able to make and maintain solid relationships, but it's essential for school age children. Within our Cobblestone community, children learn and re-learn creative ways to connect, respond and enjoy each other. Hopefully you too will find some interesting new ideas in these resources.

For our youngest ones, *When I Care About Others* by Cornelia Spelman teaches empathy and compassion with simple illustrations and text. Laurie and Marc Brown, authors of the popular *Arthur* series, have written *How To Be a Friend*, for those in the early elementary grades. Their concrete cartoon drawings and dialogue balance "ways to be a friend" with "ways not to be a friend". This book, as well as The American Girl Library's *The Care and Keeping of Friends*, is an ideal guide for children handling issues like shyness, joining in, rejection, arguments and teasing.

Jarvis Clutch - Social Spy by Dr. Mel Levine, director of the All Kinds of Minds Institute is an intriguing and thorough inside look at middle school dynamics written for students "who've struggled to fit in and feel good about it". Jarvis and Dr. Levine not only help readers to recognize the social challenges that affect them but also teach them how to make plans and set goals to improve their social success. Similarly another well known clinician, Richard LaVoie in *It's So Much Work To Be Your Friend* provides a wealth of information about the impact of learning differences on social skills. He well knows the longing children have for friends and acceptance even when their behavior often pushes others away.

In Scott Cooper's *Sticks and Stones* and *Speak Up and Get Along*, the author creates an imaginative set of relationship tools in kid friendly language. His humorous coaching style "gives kids the confidence to speak up for themselves more assertively, yet gently and effectively". I love that all of these books for older students and their families provide lots of "scripts" of real life situations or conversations as well as many proven methods for working out these stressful concerns.

The most accessible source of information is, of course, the internet. Readers can easily find many helpful articles on friendship simply by typing in "how to make friends kids" or "how to help my child make friends".

Remember, too, that our children learn first by watching behavior at home. Both adults and older siblings model communicating, sharing, following rules, problem-solving and respect. As your child's expert, you will know how ready they are for others and which interests or activities might be nurtured to increase their social spheres. Your child's teacher is your next best source. Check in with them for what they notice at school, as well as suggestions and ideas for after school connections.

Best wishes and happy holidays to all,

Arlene Levit, Counseling Consultant



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM - Daily Themes

by Eric Zabriskie

Mondays -

On Mondays we are creating general arts and crafts projects, ranging from finger painting, sculpture, paper-mache etc, to holiday and seasonal gift making. We will be keeping portfolios of the work your children wants to save. This day is always exciting, creative and sometimes, delightfully messy. We are also now offering Chess Club on Mondays.

Tuesdays -

At the end of last year we had a great time creating props and filming our very first music video. All ages participated in the pre-production and filming process, and the video turned out excellent. This year we have started working on a filmed musical, involving an original script and original songs, along with a full length CD of original music. Our audio/visual workshops take place on Tuesday.

Wednesdays -

On Wednesdays we focus on organized outdoor physical activities such as outdoor games, organized sports, outdoor exploration and environmental studies, along with other science projects.

Contacting ASC Staff

If you have questions or comments regarding ASC or Vacation Camp, staff members

Tessa, Steve, Eric, and Kenny are available in person at the school

from 2pm – 6pm Monday –

Friday. Or send an email to

ezabriskie@gmail.com.

We also want to hear your ideas for activities! We'd like to have as many parents visit as possible, for any kind of lesson, workshop, or career explanation.

Thursdays -

On Thursdays, we have resumed the cooking club. During this time, the students cooperate in the process of making a complete meal. The idea behind this activity is to create an inclusive space for culinary creation, wherein all students can make age-appropriate contributions to a unified process, and literally taste the rewards of their work. The culinary themes are usually organized around cuisine of various world cultures. We've been doing this for the last two

years and it's always fun and often delicious.

Fridays -

On Fridays, the children are able to choose their own activity and the staff supports them to the fullest extent. On this day your children get to lead and we follow.

Assessment

We'd like to offer parents, not only the skeleton of each day, but its multifaceted and intricate spirit as well; as the structure of every day is colored with the ever-unfolding narrative of each child's development. Whether they are engaged in a pre-planned activity or engrossed in improvised play, we observe every child with vigilance and passion, day after day. We'd love nothing more than to share these stories of their triumphs and tragedies, be they in a creative, intellectual, physical or social realm. In this way, we are trying to contribute, from our unique vantage point, to the process of authentic assessment practiced by Cobblestone, to offer our angle to the multi-perspective, cubist like portrait of your child's growth.

Please come speak with us, formally or informally, and as often as you'd like!

UPCOMING EVENTS & CALENDAR

December/January/February Dates to Remember:

Dec 22 - Jan 2	Holiday Recess
December 30	Alumni Luncheon
January 5	Solstice Celebration
January 6	The Big Clean
January 14	Open House 9:30-11am
January 19	NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Holiday*
February 2 - 6	Theatre Week
February 10	Open House 9:30-11am
February 16 - 20	Winter Recess
February 28	Rafe Martin Event 2-4pm

* vacation camp available

Mark your calendars for February 28th - Rafe Martin Storytelling Event!

Back by popular demand, this event was a huge success last year with over 200 attendees!

Rafe Martin is a professional storyteller and award-winning author of books for adults and children. He recently won the 2008 Empire State Award. This award honors a body of work that represents excellence in children's or young adult literature and has made a significant contribution to literature for young people. Rafe is the spouse of Rose Martin, former Cobblestone Director. They are also alumni parents.

Rafe will be holding a storytelling performance on February 28 from 2-4pm at Visual Studies Workshop to benefit our school. This was an amazing event last year; it drew families from all over Rochester and his stories captivated young and old. Books will be for sale and a signing will follow the event.

"Rafe Martin...is an amazing performer and storyteller. Every time Rafe appears he makes 500 new devotees because he is magical in the way he tells his books."

Arthur A. Levine, editor and publisher of Harry Potter

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Cobblestone receives
5 - 7% for each order.

Also, please bring your
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box tops to the office.

THANK YOU!

OPEN HOUSE DATES:

January 14th & February 10th,
9:30 - 11AM

Do you know of any families who are looking for alternative education? If you know of a family that may be interested in Cobblestone, please let them know about these upcoming Open Houses. Spread the word about our school and refer a family!

If you make a referral by January 30 that results in a new enrollment for this academic year, we will extend a \$1,000 tuition credit to you for your own child for the next academic year. If your referral results in an enrollment for 2009-2010, you will receive a \$200 referral bonus.

Thank You!

ALUMNI - Life After Cobblestone

Most Cobblestone families at some time ask themselves the question, “How will my child do once he/she leaves Cobblestone?” The following is a list of colleges that Cobblestone alumni have attended. The paths our graduates follow are varied, but the list is indicative that alumni are doing quite well...

Tufts	Cornell
Kenyon	Lehigh
SUNY Geneseo	UCSC
SUNY Purchase	American '09
SUNY Buffalo State	Uniwersytet Jagielloński '09
SUNY New Paltz	University of the Arts, Philadelphia
SUNY Binghamton	Ohio Northern
Wesleyan	St. John Fisher
Clark	Williams
Syracuse	Bard
University of Rochester	Harvard
Academy of Art	
Brown	
Université Rennes 2 Haute Bretagne '08	
France	
Iona	
Manhattanville	
SMU	
Boston University	
McMaster , Hamilton, ONT	
University of Chicago	
RIT	
Fairleigh Dickinson	
Scranton	
John Carroll	
Texas Tyler	
Swarthmore	
Univ. of Vermont	
FLCC	
Colorado	
Oberlin	
Duke	
Yale	
Oxford	

A Few More Great Cobblestone Moments!





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COBBLESTONE SCHOOL WISHES YOU A
HAPPY, PEACEFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!
SEE YOU IN 2009!