

PARENTS ASSOCIATION UPDATE

We are getting close to our Direct Appeal donations goal of \$40,000, but are not quite there yet. If you have not made a contribution, please consider doing so today. Every dollar of the direct appeal goes to the Salk children for classroom supplies, enrichment, and after school programs. You can find the direct appeal form online on the Salk website, under PTA business. You can also make a donation through NY Charities::

http://www.nycharities.org/donate/c_donate.asp?CharityCode=2659

The Parent's Association Executive Board nomination and election process has begun. Since several of our current board members are 8th-grade parents, we need many volunteers to fill those roles for next year. Being a part of the PA Executive Board is a terrific way to become involved in your child's school life and is also a great way to meet new people.

Here are a few facts to consider when making the decision to be on the board:

- All positions are considered open.
- Every current parent is eligible to run for a board position.
- The term of an Executive Board member is one year, beginning in July of the school year in which you were elected, and ending the following June 30th.
- Our Executive Board consists of: President, Treasurer, Secretary and VP's/Grade Reps for each grade. All positions can be held as co's. For a full description of the positions, please see our PA bylaws which can be viewed by contacting Patti Burr
- The Executive Board meets twice a month, on Wednesday evenings. One meeting is an EB meeting, the other a general meeting.
- Nominations and volunteers should be submitted via email to jill.tapia@salkschool.org or in person at our May general meeting. The nomination process will close at the May general meeting on May 26, 2010.

Thank you all for your continued support!

—Jill Tapia, as told to NN



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Salk School of Science

SALK NEWS

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Letter from Jennifer

May 15, 2010

Dear Families,

Much about the middle school experience has stayed the same since I was in middle school. Yet, I imagine my parents' concerns about how much time I spent watching television and on the phone, which was not only a landline but rotary dial, have been replaced by concerns about amount of time spent talking on cell phones and using the internet. In this regard, one aspect of the internet that has taken on a significant role in the life of adolescents today, who are "digital natives," is social networking sites.

Those of you who are familiar with sites such as Facebook are aware of how they allow people to stay in touch with friends, to exchange comments and pictures, and share updates in an easy-to-use format. Facebook is an opportunity to keep track of one's friends and to share the day's events with their friends all at once. Despite the required age of 13 to sign up, many middle schoolers have their own pages.

One concern I have about these sites is that while online many students do not think about protecting their personal information as they make their posts. In addition to posting pictures, many reveal personal information on the sites, such as birthdays, contact information, their school, etc. Further, many students do not use the privacy protections available on the sites. As a result their pages are public. In my conversations with students, I have also learned that many students "friend" people and join groups without thought to whether they know the people or support the mission of the group they join. They just accept invitations en masse. Despite our own "digital immigrant" status (i.e. teachers and parents were not born into a digital world), we need to help them see that once they post a comment, information or a picture online, they lose control of it no matter how private they think it is. Another way digital natives need our support and guidance is in being thoughtful about how and what they communicate online with each other, especially in public forums.

cont'd. on page 3

IT'S AUCTION TIME AT SALK!

This Year We are Celebrating NEW YORK, NEW YORK!

ON JUNE 8TH FROM 7-10 PM

Tickets are \$30.
Invitations will be sent out shortly.

The auction is a fun evening held in the courtyard. We will be eating, drinking, catching up with friends and faculty and, of course, **BIDDING!!**

We still need your help in several areas: DONATIONS, DONATIONS, DONATIONS

Please ask local businesses to donate a service or merchandise. Some suggestions are: restaurants, spas, haircuts, show tickets, tutoring, sporting event tickets, etc. Every family who sends in a donation will be placed in a raffle to win a \$50 iTunes card. The more donations a family gets, the higher the chances to win! Any questions about solicitations can be made to Mindy Garelick, m.mindyg@verizon.net

FOOD, DELICIOUS FOOD

The auction committee is also searching for families with connections to food. Our theme is New York, New York, and we all know we can get any cuisine that we desire in this city. Please contact Debbie Glazer, dfglazer@aol.com, with any food donations.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP

Help will be needed the day of the auction for various tasks. Setup and cleanup, check-in and check-out, food servers, merchandisers, etc. If you can help on the day of the auction please email Mindy Garelick, m.mindyg@verizon.net

We look forward to seeing all of our Salk Parents at the Auction.

—Mindy Garelick,
Parent Assoc. Exec. Board Member

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2010

June 2
7th Grade Exploratorium
4:00-5:30

June 3
8th Grade Exploratorium
3:00-5:00 @ American Museum of Natural History

June 7
School Leadership Team Meeting 4:30-6:00

June 8
Clerical Half-Day-Dismissal at 11:00
Our Annual Spring Auction 7:00-10:00

June 9-12
Our Annual Drama Shows

June 10
Chancellor's Day
No school for students

June 16-18
7th Grade Trip to Washington

June 17
Clerical Half Day
Dismissal at 11:00

June 18
8th Grade Integrated Algebra Exam

8th Grade Graduation Cruise

June 21
Incoming 6th Grade Welcome Tea

June 23
8th Grade Graduation @ N.Y.U. Medical Center

June 24
Field Day

June 28
Last of Day for Students
Dismissal at 11:00

'Tis Spring, And With It Cometh Shakespeare!

The Salk community celebrates with two productions this year: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, directed by Amanda Hinkle (our teaching artist), and *Twelfth Night*, directed by Aliza Mendelewicz (our drama teacher). Together these productions involve a mix of about forty 6th, 7th and 8th graders from the after-school drama club. Twice weekly after-school rehearsals started in January. Here Aliza answers our questions about the upcoming productions.

Newsletter: Why two productions?

Aliza: We want to offer as many performance opportunities as possible, and since the PTA is generous enough to sponsor a teaching artist to work with us, we don't need to double cast a single performance. Two plays means more kids get lead parts and we can still have a great ensemble cast!

How do these two productions complement each other?

Aliza: They both explore similar themes of mistaken identity and silly romances. Both offer the magic of Shakespeare through comedy and give the students the opportunity to explore physical theatre.

In what ways do you see working on Shakespeare as valuable for middle-schoolers?

Aliza: We asked the actors that question at the beginning of the rehearsal process and they all agreed that as growing writers, it was important to understand the master. I come at Shakespeare with this age group from the idea of cultural literacy. Students should be able to converse with peers and adults alike, as well as understand references in movies. For aspiring actors, it's about understanding where it all started and how to tell a story. It's great because the kids are really starting to see how Shakespeare's stories and themes are completely relevant today.

Did you need to alter the text significantly?

Aliza: We didn't alter much of the text itself. It was important to keep Shakespeare's language intact, as that is part of the experience of performing and beginning to appreciate Shakespeare. We did cut the plays—almost in half—eliminating many topical references to politics, etc. There was also a need to censor (unfortunately) some of the jokes...

Are the students finding it difficult?

Aliza: Amanda and I have been working hard to focus on the story and the character relationships—to help alleviate some of the trepidation about tackling the language. That said, we just had our first off-book rehearsal, and they were AMAZING! Their understanding of the words and ability to learn their lines blew us both away!

Who does the costumes, sets and lighting designs?

Aliza: Our production team (Rachel Berger, Katie Lowen, Danielle Tull, Priyanka Das, and Ellery Hickey) as well as Amanda and myself will be making decisions on the technical elements—from feedback from the actors about their characters.

—Alice Jankell Shatkin



A Midsummer Night's Dream
directed by Amanda Hinkle

.....

Twelfth Night,
directed by Aliza Mendelewicz

The plays will be performed by
the Salk After-School Drama Club
in rotation in the auditorium on

Thursday, June 9th at 7pm,

Friday, June 10th at 7pm

Saturday, June 11th at 2pm and 7pm.

Tickets will be available starting 30 minutes
before each performance,
suggested donation is \$10.

Seating is first-come, first-served.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Tech Notes

Talking Shop with Mr. Munoz

We are thrilled to inaugurate a column devoted to the innovative ways that Salk students are interacting with the rapidly changing world of technology. Technology class is taught throughout the year to our 6th graders. It may also be offered as an elective and after-school choice for all grades. To kick-off our new column we talk to our wonderful technology teacher, Rene Munoz.

Newsletter: I loved that my sixth grader did a comparative study of two artists as a means to learn PowerPoint. That was an inspired assignment!

Rene Munoz: I have a background in art and I used the appeal of artists such as Andy Warhol, Frida Kahlo and others to make this unit interesting and relevant. Art is everywhere. In order to make connections to history and our surroundings, students need to understand the people behind the contributions. Besides, the PowerPoint tool is only as effective as the presentation.

Why is PowerPoint important for our kids to learn in Middle School?

Rene Munoz: In my visits to foundations, corporate institutions and educational organizations Microsoft PowerPoint has been the most commonly used application to share and present ideas. I believe students need to be well versed in applications that serve so many people, and introducing it at an early age allows students to present ideas in a more dynamic way. The software allows the user to apply hyperlinks, pictures, sounds, video, and animation, which create a higher level of classroom product. It also aids students in online research skills, slide-design functionality and adds a verbal component. Furthermore, high schools and organizations are constantly on the lookout for young people who possess multiple technological skills and abilities

The 6th grade learned HTML programming this year. Was this the first year for that?

Rene Munoz: I have been a technology teacher for almost ten years, but this is my first at Salk. I don't believe I've seen or heard of other technology teachers instructing HTML, so this may be the first exposure for some students as a classroom unit.

Why is it valuable to learn HTML?

Rene Munoz: We live in a world where technology is moving at a furious pace. All transactions, paying your rent, doing your taxes, applying for graduate courses or reconnecting with long-lost relatives are being done online. And all of this has been a product of the last 5-10 years. In order for the next generation to understand the intricacies of a digital world, it is essential to understand what is used

to create such an environment. I equate learning HTML to learning the ABC's or 123's: Basic skills that are essential to understand and compete in a "digitized" world. Moreover, I've witnessed how students, who normally struggle in other subject areas, quickly become fully immersed in the unit. The HTML language is not an easy subject to comprehend, but I'm still amazed how some children take the lessons learned and apply them to other classes to create a product

What other exciting learning opportunities can we look forward to?

Rene Munoz: I plan to introduce a video unit as the last unit of the school year, inviting students to use their favorite novel and create an animation based on the story. They will visually represent the novels from their own point of view.

—AJS



Keo Chan (Leader), Kenny Lee, Devin Lao, Alina Silva, Danielle Rothenberg, Amanda Goldman, Art Project (Heather's Class) from 8th graders in 804

SALK NEWS

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OUR CUSTODIAN ENGINEER



Lisa Fioto

I loved the building the moment I saw it. The environment was so warm and the people so nice, and I knew I wanted to be here for a long time.

Of the 1,000 custodians who manage the public school buildings in New York City only around 15 are women. Lisa Fioto is one of this small group and we at Salk School of Science are very lucky to have her as our own custodian engineer.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Lisa went to Kingsborough Community College and graduated with an associate degree in accounting. She married and had three children and started working for the Board of Education in October of 1998. She worked her way up from being a cleaner to becoming a handy woman, a fire woman, to custodian and eventually becoming certified as a custodian engineer.

The Salk building was her first choice to manage. "I loved the building the moment I saw it. The environment was so warm and the people so nice, and I knew I wanted to be here for a long time," she remembers. Lisa started at Salk on November 27th, 2009 and has appreciated every minute since. She loves Jennifer, the staff, the teachers and the kids. "I feel very blessed and very lucky to be here," she says.

Her team consists of three men: Joseph Ortiz who is the building's fireman and her right-hand man and has been at Salk for over 10 years. Lisa calls him "the backbone of this place," and the cleaning crew: Hector Davila who is been at Salk since 1997 and Joseph Mendes who joined in 2008. "The team at Salk is wonderful!" she says.

Lisa finds her accounting background is very helpful on the job especially with payroll, ordering, budgeting funds and doing inventory. Ideally, she would have loved to have a fourth person to help with the workload, but since the DOE made budget cuts, she makes do.

Once a year, Lisa goes to the annual dinner-dance for all NYC custodians. She finds almost all her male peers to be encouraging and helpful. The other women custodians are her friends and they often call each other for support, suggestions, and once in a while they get together for lunch. "The only time I got a lot of flack for being a woman in a man's job was when I was a firewoman for the Board of Education, but I don't let guys' comments bother me!" The old-timer custodians had a hard time accepting her; "A woman as a custodian?!" they used to say," she recalls. But she isn't letting any of that stop her, and at the moment is in school working to further her education

Her engineer husband, whom she met on the job, is very proud of all she does. Her children, aged 26, 21, and 17, think their mother is very cool, as does anybody who crosses paths with her. How fitting for Salk to have a woman custodian engineer who is as courageous, forward-thinking and dedicated to learning as Lisa is.

— Nava Namdar

Letter from Jennifer

cont'd. from page 1

Through these forums, students are not only creating an electronic identity but their identity is being shaped by their experiences online. I encourage you to talk with your child about their online life and help them to establish appropriate boundaries for their communication. It is never too soon or too late. One way to start the conversation is to ask your child to teach you about these sites if you are not already familiar with them.

Hopefully you attended our workshop on May 10th and developed some useful strategies for supporting your child as he/she navigates the cyberworld. A couple of strategies that I have heard that families employ include having children with Facebook pages friend their parents and keeping computers in public family rooms. The most important support you can provide is a line of communication, so that if there is a problem you are there to help out. This means that you will also hear the positive news that is shared using these tools, especially as they keep in touch with their Salk friends when they move on to high school.

Twenty-first century communication tools promise to continue to multiply. As such, I look forward to seeing the new developments and continuing to dialogue with you on this topic as the field evolves.

Regards

Jennifer



Salk Sports, Sports and more Sports...

Over the last seven years, the Salk Sports program has grown from two teams to nine. When I began working at Salk as the Parent Coordinator, there was just a boys basketball team and a co-ed track team. Soon there was a demand for a girls basketball team, bringing us to three teams.

Three years ago one of our parents, Fiohna Giordani, along with a few others in the Lower East Side community, began the Loisaida Youth Soccer League (LYS), a downtown middle school league. Salk was invited to join and we were then able to field a boys as well as a girls soccer team. Our Physical Education teacher, Coach Michael, was coaching all of these teams. We quickly realized that we needed to provide him with some support and were lucky to find our assistant coach, Lloyd Wright, who helps Coach with basketball, soccer and now, this spring, girls volleyball.

To further enhance the basketball program, Jenna Lipton, our sixth-grade humanities teacher, and Kathleen McGuire, eighth-grade science teacher, stepped up to take on coaching the girls basketball team. All year long, Crystal Marsh, our sixth-grade science teacher, coaches the co-ed track team. This is her fifth year. Our track team will compete May 7th, 14th and 21st at the Verizon track downtown. The last day is the section championship for District 2. The winners will then compete in the borough competition at Icahn Stadium on May 27th. Crystal also has formed a cheerleading squad!

Last fall, our boys began talking about starting a flag football team. Mike De Cicco, sixth-grade humanities teacher, decided to coach and they made it all the way to the finals! This spring, in addition to the girls volleyball, Mike D. is coaching tennis for the second year. And we were able to field our first boy's baseball team! Mr. Munoz, our sixth-grade technology teacher, is coach and Kathleen McGuire is assistant coach. We are very fortunate to have teachers who are so vested in coaching.

Having an extensive background myself, in and out of schools, I am happy to be part of enhancing the program here at Salk as sports coordinator. Special thanks to Rhonda and Jennifer for their support as well as to our awesome Parent Association. PA support funds our assistant coach Lloyd, referee fees, equipment needs, uniforms and other sports needs.

More to come....our sports committee has talked about a possible sports banquet in June and fundraising for a trophy case, which both would boost Salk School spirit. Look for updates on eChalk and students should be looking at the Salk sports bulletin board as well as the 4th floor board for practice and game updates!

—Patti Burr



Come On In—The Water's Fine! 7 Summer Program Suggestions

1. STREB CAMP AT SLAM

The Streb Lab for Action Mechanics (SLAM), is a mixture of gymnastics, circus and outrageously wonderful physicality. This coed, week-long day camp in Williamsburg will leave campers red-cheeked, exhausted and happy! It culminates with an unimaginable performance.

www.streb.org (Go to “school,” then “camp.”)

2. CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF THE ARTS

A bastion of hands-on art workshops, CMA is offering sessions in cartoon animation, experimental sculpture, mural-making, textiles, transformation animation and more. Some of the CMA Summer Arts Colony classes are on Governors Island and some take place at the museum in Soho. Four-day, one-week and two-week classes are offered for ages 8-14.

www.cmany.org (Go to “classes”, then “Summer Art Colony”)

3. DOWNTOWN UNITED SOCCER PROGRAM

Soccer at Pier 40! This program provides plenty of outdoor, physical activity. It is especially great if you need days or weeks here and there, and at last minute notice.

<http://www.dusc.net> (Go to “Camps”)

4. HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT

This Lower East Side institution has two great summer camps:

- **Camp Henry** is a day camp for 5–13 year olds. It includes all the good camp stuff of sports, swimming, arts and crafts, field trips and more. Full summer, half summer, and an end-of-summer mini camp session are offered.

- **Abrons Arts Center** has three summer programs: Arts Camp, for children 6-12; Architecture Camp, for children 9-12; and Broadway Lab, a four-week program for teens interested in musical theater.

www.henrystreet.org

5. SOHO SEWING CAMP

Feeling crafty? Here you will learn sewing machine skills, basic sewing terms, how to measure for pattern sizing and read a pattern, how to layout and cut pattern pieces, about the right side & wrong side of fabric, garment assembly, and all the things needed to design clothes yourself!

www.sewinginsoho.com

6. CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

Located in Greenwich Village, these week-long studio programs for youth entering 3rd-12th grade, explore topics in architecture and design through art & design activities, walking tours and site visits.

www.cfafoundation.org (Go to Summer@theCenter)

7. YOUR LOCAL Y

Be sure to check with them for swimming programs. They may also offer other exciting classes.

—AJS