

## ONE MILLION ACTS OF GREEN

Last spring the Salk School Green Team, led by sixth-grade science teacher extraordinaire Crystal Marsh, entered a contest named "One Million Acts of Green." The contest was part of an online eco-community campaign that helps facilitate green acts that can have a positive environmental impact. It was sponsored by the Green Schools Alliance (GSA), Green Nexxus and Cisco Systems. These groups are working together to help schools across North America to do One Million Acts of Green. The challenge was to see which school could log the most "Acts of Green" by Earth Day (April 22nd), 2010.

By reaching out to students, parents, staff and through chalk, and having them log the acts of green they currently do or pledge to do, the Salk School of Science logged almost 3,000 Acts of Green and won!

As the winner Salk was featured in a Chancellor's memo this summer and gets \$5,000 for a Green Celebration. The school is currently working on planning a memorable and meaningful celebration for the Salk community.

— NN

## Up Date On The Buddy Program

The mission of The Buddy Program is to provide each incoming Salk student with a mentor—someone who knows the ropes, the best places to go for out-lunch, the secret to opening your locker, and other navigational information. The program was created as a bullying-prevention strategy: If 7th and 8th grade students are selected as role models for younger students, there should be less cross-grade bullying. And since the inception of the program, we have seen a major drop in cross-grade bullying.

This program actually begins in the summer with Salk students writing letters to the incoming students, their future buddies. Then when school starts, we organize a Scavenger Hunt, where Big Buddies and Little Buddies work together to decipher clues about their school and teachers, and gather tokens in each location. While it's a race to the finish (top three teams to complete the hunt receive Salk t-shirts), all participants are rewarded at the end with snacks and time to hang out and get to know one another in the yard.

We also schedule Buddy Out-Lunch dates. For the 6th graders' first day out last month, Big Buddies met up and took them to all the best places around. Our next and last scheduled, Buddy Out-Lunch date was November 8. We're also planning a Buddy Celebration after school on Monday, December 20.

— Aliza Mendelewicz



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Salk School of Science

# SALK NEWS

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## Letter from Rhonda

November 10, 2010

Dear Families,

As you all know, I'm a new parent. So, lately I've been thinking a lot about ways in which schools engage the parent community in order to foster a true partnership. I'm really proud of the various ways that we're trying to connect with you and want you to feel like your ideas and contributions are valued here at Salk. As you already know—it takes all of us working together to maximize the quality of a student's day.

So far, we've had quite a number of opportunities for families to interact with us and with each other and I hope you feel energized by our community. It has been a pleasure to meet new families on both the first day of school and at our New Parent Breakfast. I want to thank you all for your well wishes and for sharing about your child's experience at Salk so far. We've also had our first Parent Association (PA) meeting and our annual International Night. Though I was hoping for a bigger turnout at the PA meeting, I was glad to see that many families were able to join us for the next event once food was added to the mix. And, the food was quite delicious! It was fun for me to see people connect with old friends at the International Night and to see new families mingle with some of our "oldies." The best part of the evening for me was to see some of our alums with their younger siblings and to know that they're doing so well in high school.

And speaking of high school...Leslie has been holding individual sessions with each eighth grade family to discuss the process and their choices and she also held a High School Information session for all eighth grade families (and the seventh grade families that snuck in too!). Hopefully, the process is becoming less of a mystery and you're feeling supported and well informed.

Perhaps one of the most important events at our school is Back to School Night where teachers talk about their curriculum, routines and expectations. We have an impressive staff who have been working diligently on designing

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## PARENTS ASSOCIATION UPDATE

A frightfully fun night was had by all at the Halloween Dance. Thanks to chairperson Debbie Glazer who did any amazing job and thanks to all the volunteers who helped with setup, chaperoning and cleanup. The International Dinner, held on October 15th, was a huge success. There were many delicious dishes from around the world, old friends to catch up with and new friends to meet.

With so many City and State cut backs, the Parent Association has the job of raising money for all the "extras" that have been taken away. We are committed to a fund raising budget of \$83,000 for this year to pay for professional development for our teachers, art supplies, teacher supplies, afterschool programs, sports coach and equipment, Licenders, the internet safety seminar and much, much more. Our Direct Appeal, which traditionally funds at least half the budget, is off to a slow start this year.

*We need to get back on track!*

Please consider making a donation to support our children's education. Your donation is 100% tax deductible. We suggest \$600 per child but no amount is too large or too small. Please give what you can; you can make your donation in installments if you prefer. Also, if your company has a "Matching Gifts" program, you can make your donation go even further. The direct appeal form is on the Salk website, under PTA business or you can fill out the form on page 5 of this newsletter. You can also donate through NY Charities:

[http://www.nycharities.org/donate/c\\_donate.asp?CharityCode=2659](http://www.nycharities.org/donate/c_donate.asp?CharityCode=2659)

Our auction last June made \$30,500. Thanks to all who attended, bid on great items, and made donations. It was great fun.

— Mindy Garelick as told to Nava Namdarr

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### November 2010

#### November 15th - 19th

Open School Week

#### November 25th & 26th

School closed due to Thanksgiving

#### December 2nd

1st Boy's & Girl's Basketball games

#### December 8th - 10th

8th grade trip to Greenkill

#### December 15th

"Principal for a Day"  
Judy Lewent & Dr. Carlo Parravano from the Merck Company

#### December 16th

Annual Ice Skating Trip to Wollman rink in Central Park

## 4 NEW FACES AT SALK

### Angela Levy

Angela Levy is the new 6th-grade humanities teacher at Salk and she's very happy to be here, "Salk is lovely. It's so refreshing and wonderful to see a middle school that is inviting, cozy and academically rigorous all at the same time."



Growing up in Utica, NY Angela spent a lot of time camping in the Adirondacks and still loves the outdoors. After studying to be an elementary school teacher at SUNY Oswego, Angela got her masters in Literacy at SUNY Albany. For five years she taught 3rd grade at PS. 250 in Brooklyn. Then she taught 4th and 5th grade for four years at PS. 59 in Manhattan. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband Domenic and their two cats Sketch and Hazel.

Angela is delighted to have moved to teaching middle school where she can really focus on her three favorite subjects, reading, writing and history. "I really love, and am fascinated by language," she explains. "I love to read, and am enamored with skillful writers. I particularly love to get students to enjoy reading and writing as much as I do, and am always buoyed by how much the students are fascinated by history." She is very excited about the project work for the study of ancient Greece and Egypt.

- Alice Jankell-Shatkin

### Gregory Richardson

Gregory Richardson is Salk's new Technology teacher. Greg grew up in the countryside outside of Rochester, NY. He went to Springfield College in Massachusetts for his first degree and has two Masters, one in Childhood Education from Hunter College, and the other in Instructional Technology from Touro. He loves Salk, and says that the whole community has made him feel welcome.



Greg sees the internet as having "the potential to take down the wall between school and the outside world. Kids these days live on the internet and connecting to that makes what we do in school more relevant to their lives." For example, Greg's students will be writing brand new Wikipedia articles, researching something as of yet undocumented. This is something they can keep working on long after school ends. Greg will also be running an afterschool video production club.

- AJS

### C. David Walters

Originally from Miamisburg, Ohio, our new 8th-grade math teacher, C. David Walters, earned both his bachelors and his first masters degrees in Mathematics there at Miami University. He stayed on as a full-time instructor of undergrads and discovered that he "really enjoyed connecting with students about mathematics." He earned a second masters in Math Education at Teachers College, taught in Harlem for two years, then came to Salk.



"As a teacher, it is necessary to find real-world examples of the math I teach, and the longer I teach, the more I see these connections. I really enjoy thinking and talking about how mathematics applies to everything I experience, which on occasion is a source of annoyance for my wife."

Right now, he's planning neighborhood Math walks and is very excited "to synthesize our first two units on Transformations and Angle Pair Relationships into a tessellation project where students get to explore the creative side of mathematics."

- AJS

### Beth McCune

Senorita Beth, aka Beth McCune has always loved to travel. Salk's new Spanish teacher majored in Spanish at the University of Oklahoma and studied at the University of Valencia in Spain for a year as part of her degree. After college she decided to fund her traveling by teaching English abroad and took a job in Shanghai. Shortly before she was due to leave, the job fell through, so she accepted a friends' invitation and went to Chile. It was while teaching English at an elementary school in Santiago that she discovered she loved teaching more than she loved traveling. She also met her husband, who is Chilean, while living there.



Beth taught high school Spanish in Manhattan for the last four years. This is her first year teaching middle school and she's really enjoying being part of the Salk community and loves how enthusiastic Salk students are.

She feels one of her strengths' as a teacher is that "Spanish is not my first language so I can see it from the students

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Our Salk sports program began quickly this September bringing us two soccer and two flag football teams.

This was the second season for flag football, coached by our 6th and 8th grade Humanities teacher, Mike DeCicco and a new recruit, Kathleen McGuire, 8th grade science teacher. The league has some rough spots to smooth out but with every year, improvements should come. The varsity football team ended the season with 2 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie, with one game to go. The junior varsity team ended with 2 wins and 2 losses with one game to go as well. Play-offs will be determined after the last game. One game highlight goes to the JV team with a last second win over M.A.T. Two girls played on the varsity team. Unfortunately, two games were rained out and one was cancelled.

Going into our fourth soccer season, Coach was able to field one girl's team and one boy's team. The girl's season ended with 2 wins and 5 losses. The boy's team was made up of three 6th graders and the rest were made up of 7th graders. In addition, three of our 8th grade girls', Kazmi, Aleeza, and Minjee Lee played on the boy's team as well.

Our boy's team, led by Coach Lloyd, had a 3 win, 4 loss record. The team improved as the season progressed, winning three out of the last four games. The defense in four of the games held the opponent to one goal or less. Three games ended in penalty shots. Our goalkeeper, Aleeza took us from the middle to the end of the season with only four games giving up one goal or less. Our offensive line which was made up of Henry, Zale, Mert, Dario, Chet and Griffin all contributed goals. Harry and Yohan were solid at defensive mid. Liam and Max were our utility players in every position. Bazzil offered senior leadership with determination and power play. He was our inspirational backbone! Coach Lloyd was very proud at the end of the season.

We are presently gearing up for the basketball season. Coach and Coach Lloyd will be holding try-outs for a 6th grade team and a varsity team. Jenna and Kathleen will co-coach the girl's team. Practices and schedules will be on echalk.

Special thanks to the parents who came to many of our games! And...of course to our PA for supporting our teams!

- Patti Burr

## NEW FACES AT SALK

cont'd. from page 2

perspective." With her teaching, she aims "to get kids excited about learning Spanish by opening their eyes to the unique cultures of the Spanish-speaking world." She hopes "through exposure not only to the language but also to the festivals, music, food, etc., my students will be inspired to continue learning Spanish in order to travel and experience what they have learned first-hand."

- Victoria Spencer

## Letter from Rhonda

cont'd. from page 1

curriculum where students have opportunities to wrestle with big ideas in various disciplines. You should have received our curriculum map at our Back to School Night event and perhaps you're even checking into our school website to look at your child's projects and assignments, or just to find out about events taking place at Salk. Do log on to echalk so that you can receive occasional emails from us here at Salk. Patti and Greg (our technology teacher) held a workshop for parents a few weeks ago to demonstrate how to use our website and log on. Feel free to contact Patti for more assistance.

We had our Math Night recently which was a very well-attended event. I was told by teachers that it was lots of fun to give parents the opportunity to be students once again and to be with such an open minded group that was so willing to engage with the tasks. (Hopefully, we didn't bring back too many bad memories!) Math Night should have given you a good idea of ways to support your child as s/he works through the various problems in the Connected Mathematics Program. Stay tuned for information about our fun sixth grade Family Science Night!

You'll have other opportunities to see teachers in action since Open School Week is fast approaching (week of November 15th) and parent-teacher conferences will also take place during this week. Another important event approaching is our cyber safety workshop which our PA generously supports. You'll be hearing more from Patti about this event, but we cannot overemphasize the importance of educating families about being safe while using technology.

Aside from all of these events, there are so many other ways to share your ideas with us and to feel like you're a part of the school. Of course there are the PA meetings (next meeting is on November 8th at 6pm, before the cyber safety workshop), and the School Leadership Team, but we also have class parents who meet regularly with Patti. Think about communicating with your class parents about ways to improve the school and ways that you can contribute. And do drop by my office to visit or send an email with your ideas.

In short, please connect with us! We enjoy hearing from you and we simply cannot do this job without your input and support! Thank you to the many of you are truly role models and inspiration to me as a new parent!

With warmest regards,

Rhonda



## SALK NEWS

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# Betwixt and Between

## What Salkies Are Reading...



In October we celebrated Teen Read Week. It made me wonder what are the hottest books this year? Who is reading what? So I decided to investigate what Salkies are reading now.

Across the board *The Hunger Games* trilogy by Suzanne Collins seem to be the hottest books around. It begins with *The Hunger Games*, continues with *Catching Fire* and concludes with *Mockingjay*. The series is an exciting, provocative tale of lethal reality. I did not have the stomach for the story line which has kids fighting for their lives, but my daughter and her friends could not put it down.

A lot of kids like *It's Kind of a Funny Story* by Ned Vizzini, and the movie just came out so it may become even more popular. There are enduring series like *Alex Rider*, *Pendragon*, *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* and *Twilight*, as well as *Harry Potter* and *The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel*.

Many boys seem to be into horror and science fiction, and what we consider adult reading like Stephen King. *Unwind* by Neal Shusterman seems to cover both the science fiction and horror categories. It's a futuristic thriller that gives teens plenty to get wound up about. *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry, is an interesting utopian novel that's skillfully crafted.

Other popular books are the *Uglies* trilogy and the *Kiki Strikes* series. There's also Rick Riordan's lasting series, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*. Riordan's newest book is *The Lost Hero*, the first in his new series, *The Heroes of Olympus*. Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin is a realistic fantasy novel that touches many. Her other book for young adults, *Memoir of a Teenage Amnesiac* is similarly rich and thoughtful.

Kids who are into realistic fiction are reading what we consider to be grown-up books, including Jodi Picoult's *Nineteen Minutes* and *My Sister's Keeper*, which seems to have been a favorite ever since the movie came out. The dramatic novel *The Lovely Bones* aroused a lot of interest when the movie version came out and is still popular.

For lovers of history and historical fiction there is *Mare's War*, which tells a unique African-American woman's World War II experience, which won the 2010 Coretta Scott King Award. While *The River Between Us* by Richard Peck, is a wonderfully realistic depiction of the Civil War.

Yes, some of these books are adult fiction and advanced for our kids. I cannot stomach some of the material that my 12 year old reads, but I find that adult material is a great opportunity to start a discussion on various topics. The most important thing is that the Salk kids are interested, informed and engaged readers. —NN

## The Hunger Game



Hannah Kadyrov, 8th grade  
Art Class

*The Hunger Games* series books are addictive and great fun to read. Basically, the first book *The Hunger Games* tells the story of 16-year-old Katniss who volunteers to fight in the Hunger Games in place of her little sister who was picked for the games. The second book *Catching Fire*, finds Katniss and Peeta after they have finished the hunger games and it even has a love triangle—or does it? The third and last book *Mockingjay* tells the story of the rebellion and Katniss becoming its leader, even though she doesn't really want to.

There are lots of twists and turns with great adventure and romance. The books hook you from the first page. They are exciting and kept me up at night, even when my mom kept yelling at me to go to sleep. I recommend *The Hunger Games* series to everybody. —Leela Actis, 7th grade



## 2010-2011 DIRECT APPEAL TO PARENTS!

**Please** take the time to read this carefully—the Salk School of Science community depends on your donation.

### WHY THE DIRECT APPEAL?

We are fortunate to have an exceptional administration and staff providing our children with a superior education and environment. But we can only provide students with classroom enrichment, up-to-date equipment, and after school programs through YOUR donations.

### WHAT DOES THE DIRECT APPEAL FUND?

- Drama Program
- Books and supplies for the classroom and art supplies
- Afterschool programs including sports coaches and uniforms
- Internet Safety Seminar for students and parents
- Licenders
- Community building events such as the International Dinner and School Dances
- And much, much more

We can only do this with YOUR help. We have committed to a PA budget of \$83,000 this year to support the administration in providing these vital services.

### WHAT CAN I DO?

Since the PA is a registered non-profit organization; your donation is **100% tax-deductible**. Our goal is full participation from our entire parent population. Though we request \$600.00 per child, no amount is too large or too small. Please give what you can. **The direct appeal campaign affects your child's education!**

If your company has a "Matching Gifts" Program, you can make your donation go even further. Please return this form with your contribution in the envelope provide.

**As an ALTERNATIVE to filling out this form, we are highly encouraging credit card donations on the school website ([www.salkschool.org](http://www.salkschool.org)) as you will now have the choice of "one-time" or "monthly" payments AND a tax letter will automatically be generated to your e-mail. Just click on the "Click Here To Donate Now" button on the homepage.**

YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT THE SALK SCHOOL OF SCIENCE 2010-2011 ANNUAL APPEAL

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parents \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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\$1000  
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