



INSIDE

INSIDE CAEDMON CALENDAR

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2005

November 8, Tuesday
Parent Conference Day/Book Fair

November 10, Thursday
International Parents Party
7:00 PM

November 15, Tuesday
Beginners Class Party
6:00 PM

November 16, Wednesday
Coffee & Curriculum - Montessori
8:15 AM

November 17, Thursday
P.A. Cocktail Party
6:30 PM

November 23-25, Wednesday-Friday
Thanksgiving Vacation
SCHOOL CLOSED

December 5, Tuesday
First Grade Class Party
7:00 PM

December 16, Friday
Holiday Show and All School Sing
9:00 AM

December 19-30
Winter Holiday
SCHOOL CLOSED

January 2, Monday
Teacher Workshop Day
SCHOOL CLOSED

January 3, Tuesday
School Re-opens

Caedmon's new science room and gymnasium...



CAEDMON NEWS

EARLY PROGRAM

The children in the Beginners Class and the Early Program have all settled in very well. It is wonderful to see all the smiling faces as the children gather in the lobby, and to hear the giggles in the Beginner's room and all over the second floor! As they become more comfortable with daily routines and explore the materials on the shelves, the children gradually assume "ownership" of their classrooms and experience the growing satisfaction that their "work" brings them.



For children who are brand new to school, the simple act of sitting in a group, standing in a line, sharing an object, or listening to a friend is an art to be mastered! Those who have returned for their second year in Early Program are now instrumental in helping their new friends acclimate to the new environment. They always step into their new role as "class leader" with confidence, and the teachers are happy to have such excellent role-models. Each classroom has witnessed the beginning of many new friendships, and it is evident to all of us that a terrific year awaits us,

filled with laughter and learning. We thank you for sharing your incredible children with us.

If you would like to schedule an observation in your child's, or any other classroom, please call Kristina Wels at the school. Class observations end on May 4th for the Elementary, and May 11th for Early Program and Beginners. To learn more about the Montessori philosophy and materials, be sure to attend the Early Program "Coffee & Curriculum" on November 16th at 8:15 in the lunchroom.

ELEMENTARY APPLE PICKING

One of the events we love to report in this issue is the Elementary Program's apple picking trip. For the second year in a row - after a perfect record of about 18 years - the trip had to be cancelled because of rain. Despite their disappointment, the children went ahead with the many activities inspired by the annual outing. They read stories, charted their favorite apples, and baked delicious pies and apple crisps - albeit compliments of the local supermarket.

UPPER LEVEL TRANSFER CLASSES

Ms. Debye's Upper Level children have begun preparing themselves for the exciting, but challenging process of applying to middle school in their after school transfer classes. Once each week for six weeks, they will meet after school to discuss the qualities they are looking for in their new school, and to practice filling out applications, writing on-the-spot essays, interviewing,

and prepping for the ISEE. In addition, they undergo mock interviews with several members of Caedmon's administrative staff, and come in on a Saturday to take a mock ISEE test. Over the years, our graduating students have found these classes to be very helpful in easing the process of finding their ideal middle school.

COFFEE & CURRICULUM: HOMEWORK

On October 5th, Mrs. Sardi, along with Mrs. DeVine and Ms. Debye, held the first Coffee & Curriculum of the season. The topic was homework and, as usual, it gave rise to interesting discussion. As the attendees learned, Caedmon has a very carefully planned approach to homework. Children are introduced to the discipline during their first year in Lower Level, and then the amount and complexity increases each year. Parents play an important role in making the homework experience both positive and productive, by providing a structured space and time for its completion, by controlling distractions, and by staying involved.

When introduced and monitored in this way, homework improves study skills, promotes independence, reinforces mastery of subject matter, and maintains a confident attitude toward school.



Michael Cedric Smith plays guitar for the elementary students at the annual Instrumental Music Afterschool faculty workshop. The children were introduced to faculty members, and were given a brief introduction to their instruments.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

WINTER VACATION SCHOOL

Caedmon's Winter vacation school is just around the corner! From December 19th through the 22nd, during the winter recess, The Caedmon School will offer fun activities and trips for full-day children of all levels. Children can be signed up for one day only, or as many as they like. Past trips have included Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum and The Brooklyn Aquarium. For before and after the excursions, many in-house activities are provided, such as special art and cooking projects, or games in the gym and computer lab. Registration forms with full details will be handed out during the first week of December.

THANKSGIVING FEAST

The yearly Thanksgiving Feast is one of Caedmon's most cherished traditions. On Tuesday, November 22nd, all of the staff and children in the school (except the half-day three-year-olds who have already gone home) will gather in the lunchroom to dine together on turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce in thanks for all our gifts. The teachers sing for the children, Mrs. DeVine shares the Thanksgiving wishes she has collected from each

classroom, and the Elementary children choose their "Potlatch Person" for the year - someone they select at random to whom they will present a very special gift on December 12th. As we once again share the Thanksgiving rite in school, may the spirit of the holiday pervade your home this November and always!

HOLIDAY SHOW AND ALL SCHOOL SING

The curtain for the annual multi-cultural holiday show will open at 9:00 AM on Friday, December 16th, in St. Monica's auditorium (entrance on 79th Street). This powerful, unique, and important Caedmon tradition begins with the Elementary Holiday Play, an original musical production that celebrates holiday rites and music from many cultures and spiritual traditions. Following this, the Early Program and Beginners join the cast for an All School Sing - 200 children and their teachers on stage together to sing about the season in all its variety and wonder. The entire event is a Caedmon experience you won't want to miss. Please mark the date and time now. Dismissal will be from the classrooms immediately following the show.

RECEPTION FOR THE CLASS OF 2010

Last year, it occurred to us that parents of first-graders from the three Lower Level classes might like to get together and meet all the other families whose children will one day be graduating from the fifth grade together. The idea worked so well, expanding social circles on both the child and adult level, that we are doing it again. We hope that none of the first-grade parents will miss our Reception for the Class of 2010. It is planned for Monday, December 5th, at the home of Louis and Mary Ann Mazzella. Please join us for good food and the chance to meet folks with whom you will share much during the next five years. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

*Please save the date
for a Memorial Service for
Mary Ann Winograd*

at

*The Caedmon School
Tuesday, November 29th at 6:30 pm*

*If you would like to participate in the
service, please contact Erica Lowenfels
at 212-879-2296*

FACES of Diversity

The steering committee for FACES of Diversity met to discuss the exciting possibilities for this year on Wednesday, October 12th. We are pleased to report that Stephanie Kempf and Marvina Brewster have agreed to be the co-chairs of this committee. They will be ably assisted by Vicki Caban, Moon Kim, and Norma Nathanson, as the faculty representative. Josy Alcindor, Mrs. DeVine's assistant, has become the Diversity Coordinator for the school and will serve as administrative liaison to the committee.

The first FACES meeting for the entire school was held on Wednesday, October 26th. It featured the film "Long Way From Home", described in the viewer's guide as a film which "...focuses on the inner lives of three remarkable young women who move between two very dif-

ferent worlds at home and at independent schools in New York City... 'Long Way From Home' looks at diversity from the inside out; it sets out to tell the point of view usually not heard... Out of the specific story of each girl, stems larger questions of race, class, and girlhood, critical to the building of an inclusive society."

All those who came to the meeting on Wednesday hailed the film as one of the most enlightening and moving they had ever seen on the subject of diversity in schools. The ensuing 90 minutes of discussion was as lively and engaging as we've ever had at a FACES meeting, and we look forward to continuing the dialogue about this and other topics at future meetings.

Coming up: the steering committee plans to repeat the book discussion evening that

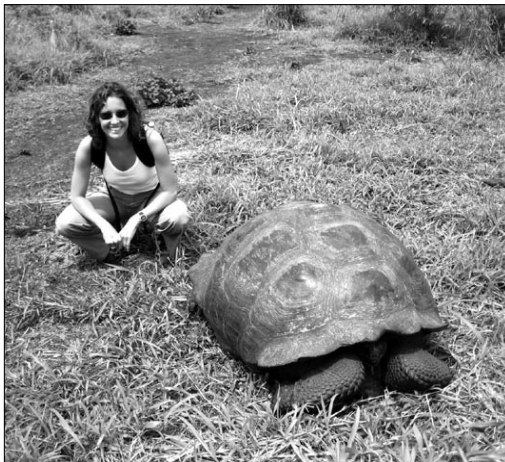
was such a huge hit last year, and is finding out if Gene Batiste can do a "Chapter 2" on the fabulous workshop he did for us last spring. Other suggested topics for workshops included "Lookisms" (how people judge other people according to their looks); questions of sexual orientation often raised at the elementary school level; a discussion of the books "Raising Confident Boys" and "Raising Confident Girls"; and, finally, an exploration of intellectual diversity based on Mel Levine's "All Kinds of Minds." We will let you know which topics have been selected and when they will take place after we review the results of the brief survey that was done at the meeting on October 26th. We hope many of you will take advantage of the exciting year ahead with FACES!

CAEDMON NEWS

TEACHERS TRAVEL

While "vacationing" this past summer, several of our teachers had the opportunity to travel to unique places and enjoy some novel experiences. When such opportunities come along, they never fail to remind a teacher that keeping alive the "inner-learner" enriches their teaching immensely.

Ms. Kindred accompanied her mother on a journey by riverboat up the Rhine River through Germany, Holland, and Belgium. They visited wonderful museums where they learned how cuckoo clocks are crafted, and the process of creating Delft stone china. Back in the States, she also took a yoga and anatomy workshop in Lenox, Massachusetts, studying breathing techniques and how they affect our bodies. She is already incorporating what she learned into her yoga classes with the children.



Ms. Woodruff spent the summer in the Galapagos Islands. As she says, "It changed my life. While I was there, I worked as a volunteer teaching English to adults. Who would have thought teaching adults is exactly the same as teaching Lower Level?" She writes this



about her experience:

"Being a teacher changes the way one is as a student. I had some amazing experiences during my nine weeks there. But the experience that was the greatest gift of this summer was not climbing an active volcano, seeing endemic plants and animals, meeting people from all over the world, learning how to surf, snorkeling with sea lions and sea turtles, camping on a pristine beach, visiting untouched beaches, touring organic coffee farms, eating the most amazing ceviche, dancing salsa, or diving with Galapagos sharks. The greatest gift was the gift of learning.

I have been thanked so many times for being a teacher, but for the first time my eyes were opened wide to the way learning something completely unfamiliar and new changes you. I had many 'teachers' this summer. The most influential was my dive instructor, Victor. When I reflect on the experience of learning from him, I realize that the greatest gift is the gift of someone passing on what they love. I have a new appreciation for the power of learning and its effect on our lives. The gift of learning is a gift you will have for the rest of your life, and I hope to share that with my students this year."

Mr. Minahan wrote this about his summer vacation:

"I took a revitalizing break from civilization to hike a week's worth of the Appalachian Trail with my big brother, who flew 8,000 miles from his home in Japan for the chance to

walk 45 miles through western Massachusetts in six days. We spent weeks on the Internet planning and gathering equipment, meanwhile doing our best to get our bodies ready as well - me on local NJ trails and he in the stairwell of his Tokyo apartment building. The hike proved

arduous enough, but mostly it was gloriously liberating in mind and spirit. There are parts of ourselves we totally forget about, until civilization leaves us alone long enough to rediscover them. Water never tastes so good as when you have to tote it yourself and ration it to last until the next moving stream comes along. We averaged 7-8 miles a day between New Barrington and Cheshire, regularly making way for "through hikers" who typically cover up to 24 miles a day on their way from Georgia to Maine. Most memorable moment...? When the trail passed through the town of Dalton, we treated ourselves to a sandwich at the local deli, and then proceeded to get lost trying to get OUT the other end of town. The moment three hours later, when we finally escaped under the canopy brought such a sigh of spiritual relief that I knew I was hooked on the woods, for as long as I - or they - last."

Ms. Bakker describes her trip:

"A two week trip to Africa: three days in a safari camp in Botswana, three days in South Africa.

A dream journey, something I wanted to do since I was eight years old. Beyond the amazing, incredible, wonder of gazing at animals in their natural habitat, and the loss-for-words moments of being in such close proximity to such magnificent creatures, the land, the orange sunsets and sunrises, and the plants were remarkable. The people were very kind and knowledgeable. I was given massive amounts of information on animals, birds, flowers, trees, and plants.

I was able to be still. I did not feel uncomfortable doing nothing. My mind did not wander. I just sat peacefully watching amazing creatures as they lived their lives."



ANNUAL GIVING

Even as we celebrate the progress of our Campaign for The Caedmon School, the Annual Giving Campaign has begun another year of essential fund raising effort. Like the tide beneath the surf, Annual Giving remains the most important part of Development at Caedmon. While we hope you will support the Capital Campaign goals, we encourage you to adopt Annual Giving as your priority, to whatever extent you are able to contribute. Before our school can grow, we need to continue meet-

ing annual budgetary expenses. By giving to Annual Giving at any level, you acknowledge and participate in the reality that tuition at Caedmon is kept at a moderate level, for reasons of diversity and community that are essential to our mission.

Once again, Annual Giving Coordinator Judy Gilpin has assembled her lively and charming team of Class Liaisons, who call to ask each Caedmon family to participate in the yearly drive. Most of them gathered

at Caedmon on October 18th to have a bite and make their initial calls. Should you find an opportunity to thank these parent volunteers for their role in our school's success, please don't let it slip by. They are: Irene Siotka, Kathleen Kilbane, Eva Sudol, Marvina Brewster, David Page, Anne Park, Jenene Perry, Jane Birbara, Mary Ann Mazzella, Silvana deAguiar, Moon Kim, Robert Hornick, Annemarie Dargan, Stuart Kasdin, Sue Ann Kasdin, Mary Coyle, and Jacqueline Monasebian.

PLANNED GIVING AT CAEDMON

Have you ever considered...

- ...leaving The Caedmon School a bequest and avoiding estate taxes?
- ...donating your appreciated, long-term stocks to Caedmon and avoiding capital gains tax?
- ...making Caedmon the beneficiary of an unneeded life insurance policy or retirement plan?

These are only a few of the many ways that you may be able to give to The Caedmon School, while gaining substantial tax advantages. For more information about Planned Giving opportunities at Caedmon, contact the school's development office.



Some Annual Giving Class Liaisons get ready to begin the 2005 Phonathon on October 18th.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

MATERIALS FOR THE ARTS

Caedmon continues to look for ways to contribute to the greater good of our community, beginning last summer with the annual assortment of materials and computers that our teachers could no longer use. After a great deal of research, Rafael Sardi, our Network Administrator, found an organization called Materials For The Arts that could make these Caedmon donations available to various non-profit institutions in the New York City area. Members of these organizations and teachers can go to the Materials for the Arts warehouse in Long Island City and take anything they need. We have been very pleasantly surprised to receive notes of gratitude from the following organizations that have benefited from our contributions:

Soho Repertory Theatre Inc.,
DreamYard Project,
New York Housing Authority,
Harborview Visual Arts Program,
Coalition for Hispanic Family Services,
Creative Force Art,
Flying Fig Theater,
Cyril Weinberg Adult Day Center
Association for Help of Retarded Children,
International Rescue Committee
Refugee Youth Program,

Queens Children's Psychiatric Center,
Queens Museum of Art,
Sephardic Community Center,
The American Folk Art Museum
The Urban Assembly Academy of Business & Community Development,
Variety Boys & Girls Club of Queens,
Woken Glacier-Dept of Cultural Affairs,
YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities.

YORKVILLE COMMON PANTRY

As we have for the past 25 years, Caedmon will be supporting the annual food drive sponsored by the Yorkville Common Pantry. The pantry provides Thanksgiving dinner for 650 people. This year the Pantry has asked Caedmon to supply the fixings for a Thanksgiving feast: candied yams, cranberry sauce, mashed potato mix, stuffing, canned fruits and vegetables, and desserts. This is a wonderful opportunity for your children to practice the spirit of giving and experience the true meaning of the holidays.

CHORES FOR CHANGE

It's amazing how much change people carry around in their pock-

ets! In just the few short weeks that the "Making Change for Katrina" jar has been sitting by the front door, we have collected in excess of \$200. Thank you for all of your contributions, but we are far from finished! The P.A. initially selected the goal of helping the Angel Foundation re-furnish a child's complete bedroom (about \$1,200). Right now we can provide a desk and chair, or twin size bedding, but we would like to put together an entire room and we are confident that with your help we can do it!

The children are hard at work on "Chores for Change" - doing jobs at home for pay - which they then collect in separate jars in their classrooms. We encourage all of you to participate in this as well by giving your children plenty of chores.

UNICEF boxes will be given out again this year and all money collected for UNICEF will also go to hurricane victims.

Again, thanks for emptying your pockets and for helping your children earn as much as they can at home. It is certainly a hands-on way of helping others!

ADMISSIONS

The Admissions season is well underway for families interested in applying their child to Caedmon for September 2006. As part of the Admissions process, prospective parents are required to take a tour of our school. They are fortunate to learn about Caedmon from seven very special current parents who volunteer as Caedmon tour guides.

The tour guides are: Roland Brewster (Reginald & Roland- Lower Level); Barbara Bridgers-Johnson (Georgina - Middle Level); Lynne Burke (Kim & Jill - Lower Level, Kate & Jane - Lower Level); Barbara Carbone (Lindsay - Middle Level, Richie - Caedmon alum, attending Poly Prep);

Stephen Killian (Grace - Lower Level, Emma - Middle Level); Sonya Neis (Sophia - Kindergarten, Lauren - Lower Level); Wilford Pinkney (Kaylah - Middle Level). Thank you to all the guides for their help during this busy time. We are especially fortunate that several of our guides have been giving tours for many years now. A very special thanks to those guides for their continued dedication.

Recently, Erica Lowenfels, our Director of Admissions, was honored to be asked by the Parents League of New York to participate in a panel discussion about the Independent School admissions process. On

September 27, she spoke at the Park Avenue Methodist Church along with Admissions Directors from four other ongoing schools. During the panel discussion, Ms. Lowenfels explained to parents from all over New York City how to navigate the admissions process, with topics including: how to compile a list of schools to consider, what to look for during a school tour, and what kinds of questions to ask during an interview. Parents who attended left the panel with a clear understanding of what to expect during the Admissions season, and since then, some have even called to apply their children to Caedmon.

PA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save The Date for the Social Event of Caedmon's Autumn Season!

On Thursday, November 17th
the Auction Committee of the Caedmon P.A.
invites all Caedmon Parents to an
Auction Kick-Off Cocktail Party

Gerilyn and Jerry Smith will be opening their home to the entire Caedmon Community
(...bless them) to help build enthusiasm for the 2006 auction, entitled:

CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL

Take a night off to hang out with some new friends.
Nothing is required but your presence!
Come and get to know your fellow parents who are planning this most important P.A. event.

There is no agenda for the evening but a good time with friends.
However, the committee will have useful information available on how you might help to drum up valuable and interesting donation items to be auctioned off in March.

You will receive your invitation shortly.
Be sure to R.S.V.P., so that Mr. and Mrs. Smith can plan effectively.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

DEDICATION CEREMONY

We trust that by now everyone has had the chance to check out the new Science Room and Gymnasium. If you haven't, please take a few moments next time you pick up your child to get a visitor's pass and climb the stairs. Our dedication ceremony on September 22nd was one of those rare and wonderful evenings when we gathered as a community with no agenda but to celebrate. The Oohs and Ahhs of the parents in attendance were surpassed only by those of the children, who first entered the new spaces with obvious excitement.

Girls: "It's beautiful!"
Boys: "Cool!"

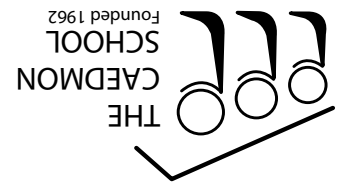
To quote one Upper Level student:
"This year, my favorite classes are gym and science. With the new gym, you just want to BE in there, and the science room is just great!" Even the prospective parents at our first Open House in October were visibly impressed – especially when they learned that the science room is used for Early Program as well. Former

Trustee, Maggie Eber, whose son, Dennis, graduated last year, wants to come back and continue as an Admissions tour guide, just so she can show off the new facilities!

We can't emphasize enough that you have only yourselves to thank for these wonderful additions to the Caedmon program, along with the numerous alum families who have participated purely on the basis of their fond memories of Caedmon. It is your volunteer effort and your contributions that turn such growth into reality. Our challenge now will be to continue the momentum of our Campaign for The Caedmon School until we have accomplished our third and most important goal: the one million dollar Mary Ann Winograd Endowment for Faculty Salaries. Though we won't be able to walk into our endowment and say "Oooo", or "It's beautiful", the impact it will have upon Caedmon's programmatic and fiscal security cannot be underestimated.



INSIDE



Brrrrr. It's getting COLD outside!
The Caedmon School Community Service Initiative
can make a difference for our neighbors with its...

4th ANNUAL WINTER CLOTHING DONATION DRIVE

Monday, November 7th - Friday, November 11th

Bring your NEW or GENTLY USED items of clothing to school
and hand them to volunteers, or place them in the labeled receptacle.

Men's, women's, and children's clothing will be donated to the
Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter and Housing Works.
(Please bag men's clothing separately.)