



**THE
CAEDMON
SCHOOL**
Founded 1962

INSIDE

INSIDE CAEDMON

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2005

GREETINGS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

The wheels of time have certainly not turned slowly this summer...it is hard to believe that the new school year is almost upon us! By all accounts, this has been an exciting summer with the major renovations in the science room and gymnasium, and the technology initiatives undertaken by Mrs. Sardi, the Educational Director, and a number of the teachers. Summer is, of course, part of the cycle of a school year, time that is spent in preparation and contemplation of the academic year. However, it is not nearly so pleasing to all of us as when the children walk through the door and remind us in an instant why we were working so hard all summer! Welcome back to everyone, but especially to the young ones who grace our lives from September to June!

GYMNASIUM AND SCIENCE ROOM RENOVATIONS

The excitement is building as the final touches are being put on the newly renovated science room and gymnasium! It has been a long, messy summer, as you can imagine, but we are all looking forward to the looks on the children's faces when they see the beautiful new spaces they will be sharing this September. We are deliberately not including any photos at this time, lest we spoil the surprise... a complete updated report on the Capital Campaign with before and after photos will be coming soon! Please reserve the date, Thursday, September 22, at 7:00 pm, for the dedication of our completely renovated science room and gymnasium.

Before . . .



CAEDMON NEWS

EILEEN SOSA, COLLEAGUE AND BENEFACTOR OF CAEDMON, RETIRES

Since its beginning forty-three years ago, Eileen Sosa has been an integral part of The Caedmon School, first as the parent of three sons who attended Caedmon, and then two grandsons, who followed in later years. Before taking on her first position here as business manager, she worked tirelessly, as a volunteer for the Parents Auxiliary and then as administrator and Board member for a number of years thereafter. She has seen the school through many important transitions and, as Marilou Doyle, one of our founders, stated at the school's fortieth anniversary celebration, Eileen is the golden thread weaving together the many years of Caedmon's history.

Mrs. Sosa could not simply "leave" Caedmon, as most retirees do, with a farewell party. Her farewell to the school was supervising the largest capital improvement the school has ever undertaken, the complete renovation of the science room and the gymnasium. It is a lasting gift to all the generations of children who will pass through Caedmon's doors. It is with extraordinary gratitude that we acknowledge all that Eileen has given to the school over the years and the behind-the-scenes role she has played in so many of the improvements to our beautiful school that have benefited the children in numerous ways. Her contributions will be forever remembered by the children, teachers, and all who work and play in the spaces she helped create. Thank you, Mrs. Sosa!

STAFFING

There are a couple of in-house changes this year, which we would like to tell you about. **Elizabeth Gilpin** is our new Business Manager, taking over for Eileen Sosa, who has retired after thirty years. Lucia Pepitone will be joined in one of the the Kindergarten classes by **Yvette Hasson**,

who was our in-house substitute and Childminding teacher last year. **Jelesia McGregor** has left Lower Level to become the new Kindergarten Head Teacher. **Rafael Sardi**, our Network Administrator, and Technology Coordinator, will be teaching Upper Level computer science. **Dorriane Steele**, formerly in Lower Level, will be an Associate in Middle Level this year with **Joanna Burgess**.

Please extend a warm welcome to all of the new faculty and staff: **Josy Alcindor** is the new Administrative Assistant to Carol DeVine and Gina Sardi. The new Head Teacher in Middle Level is **Joanna Burgess**. In Lower Level, the new associates are **Corinne Simeone**, who will be joining Nancy St. Lifer; **Stephanie Power**, who will be with Meredith Woodruff; and **Melissa Watter**, who will be with Jen Rossano. **Danielle Morgan** will be the new Associate in the second Kindergarten class with Jelesia McGregor. We are all looking forward to a very exciting year with our entire faculty and staff!

YEAR LONG COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

"Give not a cup, but a cow..." a phrase made famous by the founder of Heifer International, introduces us to an organization dedicated to dealing with the issues of hunger around the world by starting with communities. This year with the guidance of one of our teachers, Kristina Bakker, the children will engage in a year-long program to learn about ways in which Heifer International deals with world hunger. There will be age appropriate discussions at all grade levels about the problems of hunger in the world, as well as practical engagement through fundraisers. The children will participate by using money they have earned and ideas they develop themselves. At the end of the school year, the children will vote on the animals to be purchased by Heifer for a community in need, using the money they have raised.

We are hopeful that the level of involvement this program promises will enhance the children's understanding of this global problem. We are confident that the children will have your support in all they do for Heifer International this year. Thank you!

NEW LUNCH PROGRAM AT CAEDMON!

After nine years of devoted service to the lunch program at Caedmon, Eileen Ryan has made the decision to move on to another career. We will certainly miss her and all the special things she did for the children, as well as the adults. (Will the Thanksgiving Feast ever be the same?!) Ms. Ryan is moving over to Columbia Grammar & Prep to work with the Head of the Upper School. It is an exciting opportunity and we wish her all the best!

For the first time ever, Caedmon has made the decision to utilize a food service, instead of a single person preparing lunch each day. After interviewing a number of firms who serve a variety of independent schools around the city, we have selected Winstead Catering. This firm comes highly recommended to us. In fact, it is reported to us by Carol DeVine, who has had the pleasure of eating their food at another independent school on a number of occasions, that their food is wonderful. The company was founded in 1999 by Ray Key Winstead and became an extremely successful high-end catering firm. Prior to founding Winstead Catering, Ray supervised the food service for a number of independent schools in New York City. We are all looking forward to this new culinary adventure with great enthusiasm. We are confident that the children will be delighted, as well!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

APPLE PICKING

Autumn and apples go hand in hand with the promise of the children's (and the teachers') favorite trip of the year ... apple picking. Once again they will be returning to Warwick, N.Y., to the Ochs Orchard on Friday, October 14th. In addition to the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful fall day outdoors, many apple-related lessons will be going on in all the classes: in math (graphing favorites, learning about units of weight), language arts (reading favorite stories and folk tales), social studies and geography (harvest seasons, climate and its effect on local crops), and many others.

Those of you not experienced with our apple picking excursions should beware. The children always manage to pick more than they can carry, so gather up your apple recipes! Please send in any favorites you would like to share. Happy Baking!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Over the last sixteen years, this program has built a reputation as a first class instrumental program. Private lessons are offered in piano, violin,

guitar, and voice, taught by a superb instrumental faculty. On Friday, September 30th, the instrumental faculty will be performing for the children and explaining their instruments, so they will get some idea of what is offered. The entire faculty is looking forward to another musically exciting year.

PARENT EDUCATION

SEPARATION WORKSHOP

The first parent workshop of the year was held on September 7th, at 6:30 pm. Carol DeVine, the Head of School and Kristina Wels, the Early Program Coordinator, were joined by Dr. Leo Altschul, our consulting psychologist, to explore the issues of parent/child separation. It focused on the joys and anxieties encountered by parents and children during the first few weeks of a new school experience.

DINNER FOR PARENTS OF 4's

On Thursday, October 20th, the school will be hosting its annual dinner for the parents of four-year-olds who are chronologically eligible for Kindergarten in September, 2006. The dinner will give parents the opportunity to meet parents from the other

classes. More than a social event, though, the evening will include a presentation about the Kindergarten and Elementary programs by the Educational Director, Gina Sardi, and the Head of School, Carol DeVine, followed by small group discussions with teachers, parents of older Elementary children, alums, and parents of alums. Although all parents are welcome, (indeed urged) to make appointments to observe the Kindergarten and other Elementary classes, this will be the only formal presentation of the Kindergarten program. Therefore, it is extremely important that every parent of a four-year-old attend this evening. It only makes sense that you be as well informed about the program as those who are looking at it from the outside (the applications for our Kindergarten doubled this past year!). Put the date on your calendar...NOW!

COFFEE & CURRICULUM

The first "Coffee & Curriculum" of the year will be held on Wednesday, October 30. This has been a very popular aspect of Caedmon's parent education program for the past fifteen years. For those of you new to Caedmon, "Coffee & Curriculum" is an

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IN MEMORIAM

MARY ANN WINOGRAD

Mary Ann Winograd began her association with Caedmon in 1989 when her son, David, entered our Early Program. Three years later she became our Co-Director of Admissions and the rest, as they say, is history.

Mary Ann's dedication to Caedmon is legendary. She was totally devoted, both as a parent and an employee, in a way that was inspiring to those who knew her. Mary Ann will always be remembered for the thoughtful way she approached every discussion and the good humor she contributed along the way. Her opinion was always sought and deeply respected.

Beyond her professional ability, which was extraordinary, Mary Ann exemplified the very spirit of the school she served so well. Her generous nature and her keen interest in celebrating the amazing diversity of the human family was well known among her colleagues, as well as the many families she brought into the school. She was kind, thoughtful, and deeply respectful of each person she encountered.

It was an honor and a privilege for us to have had the opportunity to work with her these past thirteen years. All of us at Caedmon will miss her dearly. However, she will be with us always, as time and again we turn to one another to say, "And what do you think Mary Ann would say about this?"

In Memory of...

Mary Ann Winograd

Caedmon parent,
Admissions Co-Director, Trustee,
and friend for fifteen years,

The Caedmon School,
together with the Winograd family,
invites you to contribute to:

The Mary Ann Winograd
Endowment for Faculty Salaries

For information, contact
The Caedmon School
Development Office
212-879-2297 or
minahan@caedmonschool.org

CAEDMON NEWS

Carol Gose DeVine recently submitted an article to the *Finding Solutions* Newsletter of **Kids Can Make A Difference** (KIDS), entitled, "Why Teach about Social Justice Issues: Answering An Essential Question". The purpose of Kids Can Make a Difference is to inspire young people to realize that it is within their power to help eliminate hunger and poverty in their communities, their country, and their world.

The mission of The Caedmon School states in part, "We foster in the

children the empathy and compassion to see the world from perspectives other than their own. We nurture in them the self-assurance and courage to one day address the social concerns of their age. By committing to this mission, we believe that our children will grow to take command of their natural gifts with a greater understanding of our complex world and their eventual role within it..." Mrs. DeVine's article suggested that, even though Caedmon only goes through the 5th grade, the children are fully capable of grasping these

concepts and joining the struggle against hunger. Mrs. DeVine referred to the Middle Level children's peace journals and the community service initiatives undertaken by Caedmon parents, teachers, and children. Mrs. DeVine recently joined the KIDS Advisory Board.

Her full article is available at the Kids Can Make A Difference website at www.kidscanmakeadifference.org. Click on "Kids Newsletter" in the left margin and select the Summer 2005 issue.

SUMMER TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

There is no doubt that technology plays an increasingly important role in all of our lives, and will continue to do so in the lives of our children. At Caedmon, the children are introduced to computers in Kindergarten, and receive instruction throughout the elementary program, so that they leave here comfortable in the use of computer technology as a tool for further learning. Of course, it is equally important that all the teachers continue to develop their computer skills to keep up with new resources and technology.

Caedmon was fortunate to have participated throughout last year in a program provided by the NYC Board of Education with a grant for non-public schools. This program provided us with a consultant who worked with the teachers once a week. The school also received several very

valuable additions to our technology resources: a computer, printer, and scanner for the library, a digital camera and a digital video camera, video editing software, a color laser printer, and a computer cart for the Middle and Upper Level classes with eight iBooks and a projector.

Our challenge now is to put all this equipment to use! To this end, the Board of Education offered a summer institute during the month of July, which was attended by several of our teachers and Gina Sardi. Over a period of four weeks, the institute allowed time for teachers and the BOE technology consultant to meet and participate in training workshops. Workshops were offered in PowerPoint, Inspiration, iMovie, Excel, Media streaming, and Photo-shop, among others.

The meeting time was a great opportunity to plan curriculum for the coming year, especially in math,

social studies, and geography, and to research resources available online. With representation from all levels of the elementary program, including specialists, Ms. Sardi was able to consolidate plans for year-long themes in social studies, create a geography curriculum for the whole school, and work with Ms. Debye (our in-house math specialist) on writing up sequences for math instruction for the year.

You will witness the fruits of these labors throughout the year, as your children develop impressive skills in the use of technology, and the teachers take full advantage of the wonderful resources available to them. With the upgrade of computers in our lab, each classroom is now furnished with an updated computer as well, to allow teachers full access to all the technology at their disposal! We are very excited about the new curriculum ideas, and will be informing you about them in the near future.

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informal get together which involves coffee, conversation and a presentation of some aspect of the school's curriculum. All parents in the school are invited and encouraged to attend, regardless of whether or not the specific topic relates to the level in which your child happens to be. Over the last few years, we have

found it helpful in the first workshop to address that dreaded topic: homework! This workshop is required for parents of children entering Lower Level for the first time, or for those who may not have attended before. It will clarify what is given for homework and why, as well as explain your role in your child's homework. If you have a child-care person who

covers the "homework hours" for you, they should be urged to attend as well. Any parents who may have attended in the past are also urged to come, as this will serve as a good refresher course for the hours of homework that lie ahead!

PA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year! The Parents Auxiliary spent time this summer not only planning for the 2005-2006 school year, but also making a New Year's resolution! . . . that's right, a resolution for the new school year. As parents, we all know that September is the real start of our year anyway, so let's resolve to get off to a great start.

The **Back To School Coffees** are the first PA events for new and returning parents. They provide the opportunity for parents to meet the PA officers and chairs and to share tales of summer. For those with children who are going through the separation process, the coffees provide a way for parents to remain easily available to their children. We look forward to meeting all of you.

Get ready to head into to the classroom for **Back to School Night** on Thursday, September 29th at 6:30pm. The highlight of this event is a visit to your children's classrooms where their teachers will be available to answer questions regarding classroom routines, rules, and plans for the year. The evening also includes a P.A. meeting with presentations regarding social and fund raising events planned throughout the year. The night provides the opportunity to meet P.A. officers and event chairs and to sign up to volunteer.

Be sure to enter Saturday, October 22nd at 11:00am into your PDA. This is the date of the annual **Caedmon Halloween Field Day and Picnic**, a super day of fun and games for all the children. Friends, family, and siblings are welcome. The afternoon concludes

with students marching in a fabulous costume parade. This year, parents are encouraged to dress up along with their kids.

Don't forget to order Caedmon clothing for your family through our special arrangement with Lands' End. Information will be sent home soon.

This year's Co-Presidents, Michele Hootstein and Betsy Zuppone, along with Secretary, Gerilyn Smith, and Treasurer, Eun Hee Chun, wish to take a moment to extend our heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Secretary, Sue Ann Kasdin, for her service and support. We also welcome Jathena Monaghan as our new Lead Class Representative.

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

ATTENTION NEW CAEDMON PARENTS

In the next few months, you will be hearing a lot about various fund raising efforts currently underway at Caedmon. The Parents Auxiliary will be looking for volunteers for its various projects. Also, a fellow parent from your child's class will be contacting you regarding the Annual Giving Campaign. All of these efforts occur each year and are essential fixtures of our school's annual budgetary planning.

In addition, however, you will read and hear a great deal about the Campaign for The Caedmon School. This "capital campaign" is a separate, three-year fund raising initiative with specific goals over and above Caedmon's regular fiscal needs.

As we enter the second year of this campaign, two of our goals have already become reality: the recent renovation of our gymnasium and science room. Our final goal, The Mary Ann Winograd Endowment for Faculty Salaries, is also well on its way to success.

The Caedmon Development Office has planned a special evening cocktail party in November, during which we look forward to sharing with Caedmon's new parents all the details of the capital campaign, and how it fits into Caedmon's long range development plans. We sincerely hope you will join us for this casual, yet informative evening of getting to know each other. Invitations will be sent, but in the meantime . . .

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH @ 6:30 PM AT THE CAEDMON SCHOOL
NEW PARENT WELCOME TO
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE CAEDMON SCHOOL

416 East 80th Street
New York, NY 10021

INSIDE



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, September 22, at 7:00 pm

Dedication of our
New State of the Art
Science Room and Gymnasium