



**THE
CAEDMON
SCHOOL**
Founded 1962

INSIDE

INSIDE CAEDMON

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006

GREETINGS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

This summer has gone by faster than most. It may very well have to do with the fact that, as you know, this was my last "summer vacation" from Caedmon. The poignancy of that realization came up time and again throughout July and August as I wrote any number of letters and articles for the last time.

We have kept up the usual summer pace with renovations (to the art room), as well as the regular reorganizing of space, refinishing of floors, painting, etc. that is our usual summer fare. Of course, we are always anxious for the mess to be over with, so we can greet all of our new and returning children on the first day of school. It is a most precious moment and, for me this year, especially so, as it was my last first day at school. It is so wonderful to see all of you...welcome back!



The entire Caedmon community extends many, many thanks to Norma Nathanson and Tracy Dudgeon for the incredibly beautiful work they did on the murals in the courtyard! Be sure to stop by for a look at the product of their amazing talent!

THANK YOU BOTH!

CAEDMON NEWS

STAFFING

Please extend a warm welcome to the following new faculty and staff: Sarah Franklin, Kindergarten Associate with Jelecia McGregor; Sarah Gross, Middle Level Associate with Libette Mahady, the new Middle Level Head Teacher replacing Joanna Burgess; Doris Kong, Kindergarten Associate with Lucia Pepitone; Elena Lewis, Upper Level Associate with Honor Debye; Janet Lopez, science and computer science teacher; Anne O'Connor, Auxiliary Teacher and Early Program science teacher; Allison Richards, Lower Level Associate with Jen Rossano; and Lauren Schneider, Middle Level Associate with Eleanor Sabo. We regret to say that Begoña Escobedo, who was to teach Spanish this coming year, moved back to Mexico this summer. However, we are very pleased to welcome Armando Gomez, a native from Madrid, who has considerable experience teaching young children, as the new Spanish teacher. Welcome one and all!

There are several in-house changes we would like to tell you about: in the Early Program Yvette Hasson will be with Norma Nathanson, Angela Morga will be with Tracey Dudgeon; and Terrye Morgan will be with Susan Kelly. Stephanie Power will be the new Lower Level Head Teacher and will work with Cori Simeone; Melissa Watter will be a Lower Level

Associate with Meredith Woodruff; and Rafael Sardi will not be teaching computer science this year - he will strictly be the network administrator, providing technical support for our system. We are all looking forward to an exciting year with our entire faculty and staff!

YEAR-LONG COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

The year long community service project with Heifer International, which was initiated last year, was so successful that the decision was made by faculty and staff, with a hearty endorsement from the children to continue our commitment for another year. As many of you know, Heifer International is an organization dedicated to dealing with the issues of hunger around the world by starting with small communities. Kristina Bakker, the Early Program and Kindergarten art teacher, will once again spearhead the efforts to raise money for Heifer with considerable input from the children. The success they had last year, which you probably read about in the summer edition of Inside Caedmon, has inspired them to reach an even higher goal this year. We are confident that they will, indeed, be able to do this, as they are filled with creativity and enthusiasm for the project. We trust that all of you will be as supportive of their efforts as you were last year, so they will enjoy even greater success!

SUMMER IMPROVEMENTS

This fall, be sure to stop by and see the latest upgrade to our wonderful school building – the art room! Some of you may not remember that only five (?) years ago, the art room was on the fourth floor where Mrs. Sabo now teaches. The room was moved downstairs to make it accessible to Early Program children, and to make room for our expanding Middle Level, but it retained its original furniture. Now it has received a complete make-over with custom designed counters and shelving. Ms. Moross and Ms. Bakker are newly inspired – to once again inspire the creativity of our Caedmon artists.

As you re-acquaint yourselves with our facility this autumn, keep a lookout for all the little things that have been done to improve the general functionality of our school. New lunch tables will make it much easier to rearrange the ground floor for special events, while bringing a greater sense of community to our children's daily dining experience. New doorways on the ground floor; new counters for the 2nd and 3rd floor water closets; new sinks in the ground floor girls room; and a new, temperature-controlled storage closet for our technology hub, will all add to the security, comfort, and appearance of Caedmon.

The teachers and staff extend their warm appreciation to Mr. Eklof and the Swedish Mission for their summertime donation of lovely office furniture. It is already being used to great effect in the classrooms. Thank you from everyone at The Caedmon School.



For one of the many new improvements completed this summer, we received a huge shipment of chairs for the new lunch room tables. Unpacking them was quite a task!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

TRIPS AND PROGRAMS

APPLE PICKING

When most people think of apple picking trips, they picture blue skies, rolling hills, row upon row of trees laden with apples ripe for the picking. The children at Caedmon get this and more!

This favorite among all the trips the children take during the year is also directly related to any number of activities that the children do in class, thus prolonging the pleasure of their day in the orchard. For example, in math the children will be graphing their favorite types of apples, and learning about units of weight; in language arts they will read favorite stories and folk tales involving apples

(remember Johnny Appleseed?); and in social studies and geography they will explore harvest seasons and the effects of climate on local crops. Last but not least, they will be baking, baking, both in school and at home, as they use up the pounds and pounds of apples they pick on their excursion!

This year the children will venture out to the Ochs Orchard in Warwick, N.Y. on Friday, October 13th. Gather up your apple recipes ... we guarantee you'll have quite a few apples!

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

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CELEBRATION OF NORMA NATHANSON

On Friday, September 29th at 6:30 pm, we will be celebrating one of Caedmon's most precious treasures. Norma Nathanson began her career at Caedmon in 1975 as an Early Program intern with Carol Gose DeVine. Twenty-five years later, Mrs. Nathanson continues to impart her love, enthusiasm, and creativity to her class of three and four year old children. Her years of experience and insight have been invaluable, and the Caedmon community continues to benefit from her immeasurable wisdom. We invite you to celebrate this one-of-a-kind teacher and friend, together with those she has touched, past and present.



EXCERPT FROM "THE CAEDMON SCHOOL: AN ANECDOTAL HISTORY AND APPRECIATION"

Norma Nathanson interned at Caedmon in 1975 when Carol DeVine was directing the Early Program. She went away to work in Westchester for five years, but something about the school stuck with her. She returned in 1981 to teach and to enroll her son, Davin in the Early Program. A dedicated Early Program teacher ever since, she has developed a reputation for theatrical creativity - and it's no wonder!

"I started out as an actress," she says. "My husband was basically a poet. We had a theater company and did all kinds of productions. We were also involved with LA MAMA, (a noted off-Broadway theater company). I did costumes, ...also at the Shakespeare Festival. It wasn't about making a living. It was about doing what you wanted to do. Eventually, I found I wasn't comfortable with the ego thing."

Though she is still quick to take on a role in the school play, or whip up a little stitching project for the auction, Mrs. Nathanson has found □

over twenty years she has been the kind of teacher her three and four year old charges will never forget.

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they won't have to tackle a problem at eight or nine."

WHAT'S HAPPENING, cont.

(cont. from page 3)

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.

DISCOVERING KINDERGARTEN FOR THE PARENTS OF 4s, CLASS OF 2013

On Thursday, October 19th at 6:30 pm, parents of current four-year-old children are invited to learn about what their child can look forward to in Caedmon's Elementary Program. Parents will be invited to visit Elementary classrooms and hear presentations from the Kindergarten teachers. Gina Sardi, the Educational Director, will also speak about various aspects of the Elementary Program, as well as the specialist classes. To finish off the evening, parents will have the opportunity to tour all of

the wonderful rooms devoted to art, music, computer, science, library, and physical education. This will be the only presentation available about the Kindergarten program, so it is extremely important that all parents attend this evening.

COFFEE & CURRICULUM

The first "Coffee & Curriculum" of the year will be held on Wednesday, October 11th, from 8:15 to 9:30 am. This has been a very popular aspect of Caedmon's parent education program for the past sixteen years. For those of you new to Caedmon, "Coffee & Curriculum" is an informal get together which involves coffee, conversation, and a presentation of some aspect of the school's curriculum. (For more details, pick up the brochure on "Coffee & Curriculum" in the front office.) 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 NEWS

Welcome back to all you Caedmon parents, grandparents, friends, and of course, children, for what promises to be a fantastic school year of warm celebration and rewarding volunteer effort. As Mrs. DeVine begins her final year as Head of The Caedmon School, we in the P.A. would like to rededicate ourselves this year to support the mission to which she has dedicated her entire career here at Caedmon. We hope you will all find a way to join us with your time, enthusiasm, and ideas.

To learn how you might take part in our plans for the coming year, be sure to drop by during one of the Back To School Coffees for new and returning parents. They are held each morning from Monday September 11th until Tuesday, the 19th, immediately after drop-off in the school lunchroom. Come meet the PA officers, share tales

of summer, and linger close-at-hand in case your child experiences any separation woes.

Get ready to head back to class for Back to School Night on Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30pm. Join virtually every other parent in the school to visit your children's classrooms and hear their teachers describe the routines, rules, and plans for the year. The evening begins with a P.A. meeting in the lunchroom where you will hear all about the social and fundraising events planned throughout the year, meet P.A. officers and event chairs, and sign up to volunteer.

Don't make any plans for Saturday, October 21st at 11:00am. You are already booked for the annual Caedmon Halloween Field Day and Picnic. This is a super day of

fun and games for all Caedmon families, faculty, and staff. Friends and siblings are certainly welcome. The afternoon will culminate with the children marching in a fabulous costume parade, and parents are encouraged to dress up along with their kids.

In the meantime, don't forget to order Caedmon clothing for your entire family through our special arrangement with Lands' End. Catalogues will be sent home soon, but you are free to visit the Land's End website at any time to order your attire. (www.landsend.com/school)

Once again, Co-Presidents, Michele Hootstein and Betsy Zuppone, along with Secretary, Gerilyn Smith and Treasurer, Eun Hee Chun, welcome everyone back to Caedmon. Let's have a wonderful year together!

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The Development Office extends a warm welcome to all our Caedmon families, new and old, as we enter this very dramatic and exciting school year. In the coming few months, we will all be swept up once again in the various fundraising and community-building efforts at Caedmon. The Parents Auxiliary will be inviting you to volunteer for its many projects; a fellow parent from your child's class will be contacting you regarding the Annual Giving Campaign; and your children will once again be doing chores to buy livestock for Heifer International.

On top of all this, we are entering the third and final year of The Campaign for The Caedmon School. Already, the new gymnasium and science room seem so much a part of Caedmon that it is hard to remember they are only one year old, and the product of your

very recent generosity in support of this capital campaign. The final goal of \$1 million to establish The Mary Ann Winograd Endowment for Faculty Salaries is so nearly achieved, that we have great hopes of far surpassing our initial target. This would be a wonderful thing, since an endowment should never stop growing.

Our final major initiative of the capital campaign will surround the Gala Benefit in January, in honor of Mrs. DeVine's 25th and final year as Head of Caedmon. There are numerous ways to participate in this event, whether or not you can join us at the St. Regis on the 17th. The Gala Committee is already assembling a Tribute Journal to commemorate Mrs. DeVine's many years of service and influence at Caedmon. Anyone may purchase space in the journal

for a donation large or small, and all donations benefit the endowment. For information on how to participate, visit Caedmon's website and click on the homepage link to "The Caedmon School celebrates Carol Gose DeVine". Greg Minahan is also at your disposal with information on the year of celebration ahead.

Remember, since seating at the St. Regis will be limited, the Gala Committee is also planning a Community Bash at the end of the year – a final farewell party for Mrs. DeVine as she sets off on her new adventures. Please Note... The date for this party was previously announced as Thursday, June 7th, but due to scheduling conflicts, it has been moved to Thursday, May 31st. Please re-mark your calendars!

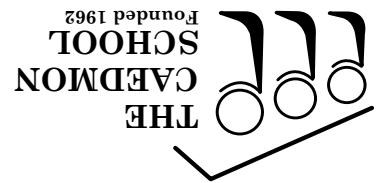
ATTENTION NEW CAEDMON PARENTS

The Caedmon Development Office has planned a special evening cocktail party in October, at which we hope to share with Caedmon's newest parents all the details of the capital campaign, as well as how it fits into Caedmon's long range 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!
Thursday, October 26th @ 6:30 pm
at The Caedmon School

416 East 80th Street
New York, NY 10021

INSIDE



Reminder!

Make your reservations SOON for

The DeVine Gala
at
The St. Regis Hotel

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Don't wait for your invitation to arrive in November!
Limited seating is filling up fast.

Visit the school website: www.caedmonschool.org for all the necessary forms and information, or contact Greg Minahan in the central office.