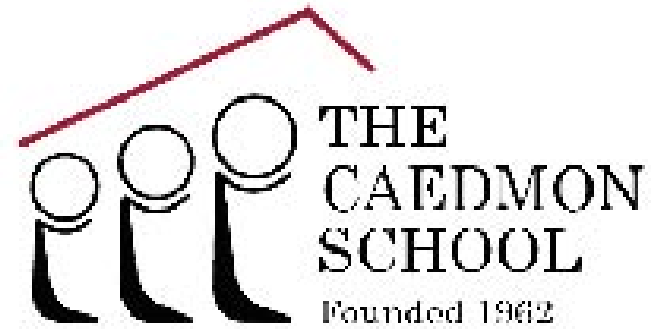


416 East 80th Street
New York, NY 10021

INSIDE



INSIDE CAEDMON

JANUARY - MARCH 2007

New Head of School - Dr. Greg Blackburn

The Caedmon School is delighted with the selection of the new Head of School, Dr. Greg Blackburn. As most of you know, Dr. Blackburn was the unanimous choice of both the Search Committee and the Board of Trustees, who appointed him on November 14, 2006. Dr. Blackburn will assume his position on July 1, 2007, upon Carol DeVine's departure. In the meantime, he and Mrs. DeVine have arranged several meetings, during which they will work on transition plans for the coming year. Dr. Blackburn's extensive experience in independent school education, as well as his enthusiastic commitment to Caedmon's mission and unique traditions, made him the ideal candidate to succeed

Mrs. DeVine. Although Mrs. DeVine was not involved in the selection process at all, when all was said and done, she expressed her excitement about Dr. Blackburn's appointment and for the future of the school under his leadership. Since his appointment, Dr. Blackburn and Mrs. DeVine have had several conversations on the phone in addition to the time they spent together during his visit to Caedmon in November. During one of those conversations, Mrs. DeVine reported that Dr. Blackburn said at one point, "You know, I think we're going to become friends." Mrs. DeVine wholeheartedly agreed! She is delighted that the search for a new Head has ended so well saying, "Caedmon is entering a new phase in its history, and it could not be in better hands!"

Letter from Greg Blackburn, new Head of School

I wanted to begin this letter by sharing with you one of my favorite poems by Naomi Shihab Nye (see page 2). Poetry speaks to me in many ways and I will continue to share phrases and complete passages with you throughout my years at Caedmon. A poem can often convey the same message in a few lines that a letter often times never can achieve. We as educators along with families take care of the "world's most sensitive cargo everyday."

Cathy joins me in thanking you for the wonderful opportunity you have given me to learn, to work, and to grow with your community over many years. During my many visits and hours of listening, I so enjoyed meeting faculty/staff, children, and the families, and it became so evident how much each of you love the school and are committed to its mission and continuing its culture. It was this true passion that you have that made me so excited about the possibility of being your next Head of School. All you have to see are smiling and happy children in a school and as an educator or parent you know that the environment is right.

Over the next several months, I look forward to my visits to Caedmon as I begin my transition. Carol and I will continue to talk for many months and I am so appreciative of her kindness. She is and will continue to be a permanent part of the fabric of Caedmon. As Naomi Shihab Nye says in her next to last stanza, "We're not going to be able to live in this world if we're not willing to do what he's doing with one another." As a school and a community we will all learn to "Shoulder" each other.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Greg Blackburn

INSIDE

SAVE THE DATE!

*DEVINE FAREWELL
BASH
THURSDAY EVENING
MAY 31
ALL ARE WELCOME*

**HOLLYWOOD IN
NEW YORK**

THE LONG AWAITED PREMIER

AUCTION 2007

Tuesday, March 6th, 6:00 PM

CAEDMON NEWS

Shoulders

A man crosses the street in rain,
Stepping gently, looking two times
North and south,
Because his son is asleep on his shoulder.

No car must splash him.
No car drive too near to his shadow.

This man carries the world's most
Sensitive cargo
But he's not marked.
Nowhere does his jacket say
Fragile,
Handle with Care.

His ear fills up with breathing.
He hears the hum of a boy's dream
Deep inside him.

We're not going to be able
To live in the world
If we're not willing to do what he's
Doing
With one another.

The road will only be wide.
The rain will never stop falling.

Naomi Shihab Nye

Musical Moments

Jason Andrews in Concert

Saturday evening, December 2nd, was a most magical evening of music and song. The magic was provided by our very own Jason Andrews, the pianist in our after school Instrumental Music Program.

In celebration of twenty years of making music together, Jason joined forces with Hiromi Ohmori, pianist, and Rebecca Hicks, soprano. As part of the 2006 - 2007 Performance Series of Yamaha Artist Services, they gave an amazing concert in Yamaha's recital hall, the Yasi Piano Salon. Several people from Caedmon were able to attend and were enthralled by Jason's performance. As talented as they always thought he was, they were taken aback by the virtuosity of his playing. The Totentanz-Danse Macabre by Franz Liszt in particular demonstrated Jason's ability to make a particularly difficult piece look easy. (The solo arrangement for this piece was done by Jason.) It was a truly memorable evening!

Instrumental Faculty Concert

In January, we were delighted to see a wonderful turnout for the instrumental faculty concert, which featured Mr. Jason Andrews on piano, Mr. Michael Cedric Smith on guitar, and soprano Kathleen Kilbane. Dinner-quality refreshments a half-hour before concert time were served, which helped many Caedmon parents solve the question of "How do we take our child to the concert and feed them as well?" The result was that more Caedmon music students than ever before were able to exercise their listening skills as part of an adult audience, while hearing their own teachers demonstrate their accustomed level of professional artistry.



Kathleen Kilbane accompanied by Jason Andrews

SALSA II



Did you know that Salsa was created right here in New York City? ...on the streets of Harlem? Well, Caedmon's elementary children can tell you that much and more, after Mr. Obando and his band of Salsa musicians visited Caedmon recently and took over the lobby level with their rhythms, melodies, and spirit. For the second year in a row, this engaging ensemble came to Caedmon as part of a program sponsored by the Metropolitan Museum where Mr. Obando is curator of the salsa instruments section of the musical instruments exhibit of the museum. Thanks to Mr. Davidson's impressive collection of tubanos, hand drums and claves, each child was able to become a part of the band and really work those salsa rhythms. The prospective parents who toured the school that morning may have had to struggle a bit to hear their tour guide, but they left with the clear impression that Caedmon was a swingin' place.



DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Throughout this incredibly busy autumn and winter at Caedmon, while so many of us have been focused on Head searches, holiday shows, and Gala Celebrations (...not to mention educating the children), the Annual Giving Campaign and The Campaign for The Caedmon School have been moving steadily closer to their goals.

Kathleen Hendrickson, Judy Gilpin, and their devoted team of Class Liaisons and Trustees are on track to meet ...and hopefully surpass this year's goal of \$250,000. To date, \$193,261 has been pledged. In spite of ever-greater generosity on the part of the entire community, last year's parent participation level dropped from 82% to 79%. We sincerely hope that all of you will consider contributing in some way to this essential effort. All gifts up to \$500 will be acknowledged within the same donor tier. Even a gift of ten or twenty-five

dollars helps us communicate to all our supporters the depth of commitment in our extended Caedmon community. We really mean it when we say: "the only gift that is too small - is no gift at all."

The Campaign for The Caedmon School is drawing to a close with one final goal remaining: \$1 million to establish The Mary Ann Winograd Endowment for Faculty Salaries. Thanks to the heart-warming generosity of everyone during the recent Gala Celebration for Mrs. DeVine, it is all but assured that we will exceed that goal ...all the more so, since the P.A. has pledged one more year of Reverse Auction proceeds to this worthy cause. As you know, however, an endowment is meant to continue growing forever. The larger it becomes, the greater will be Caedmon's ability to increase and maintain the compensation it offers

to new and long-standing faculty members. We hope you will look upon this endowment, along with Annual Giving, as part of your long-range support plans for Caedmon.

For those of you who recently contributed to the DeVine Gala, we want to remind you that the deductible portion of your gift may be eligible for matching contributions from your employer. Please ask your company's human relations department for the necessary paperwork, or call Caedmon's Development Office for assistance.

On behalf of the entire Caedmon community, the Development Office extends its sincerest gratitude for your incredible support of our efforts to secure and improve Caedmon's future.

PA NEWS

AUCTION! AUCTION! AUCTION!

Yes, it's that time of year again. The P.A. and a group of wonderful volunteers are in full swing preparing for this year's Auction extravaganza, "Hollywood in New York." The Auction will take place on the evening of March 6, 2007. The event will have Hollywood glamour and style. It's not too early to select your red carpet attire and book your hair and nail appointments. Let's glam it up this year and have fun!

On a business note, we still need donations. Tickets, gift certificates, bottles of wine, and electronics are always big sellers. We have a particular need this year for airline tickets or gift certificates toward airline tickets. If you have any questions about donations, please stop by the P.A. corner after drop-off. If you are interested in volunteering to work on the Auction over the weekend, there will be plenty to do! Childminding will be available Saturday and Sunday.

We also want to take a moment to deliver kudos to all the event chairs and participants for our fall events. The Halloween Picnic, Parent Cocktail Party, Fall Book Fair, Sally Foster Drive, and Holiday Bake Sale were all successful. Thanks to all of you who participated. Thanks also go to all who attended in the Carol Gose

DeVine Gala. It was a lovely event. Watch out for future information on the Springtime DeVine Bash, as well, which will take place on Thursday evening, May 31st. It will be a no-cost event and we hope everyone will attend to give Mrs. DeVine a warm final send-off, as she begins life after Caedmon.

See you around school.

Betsy and Michele

Quoted in the Associated Press

Michael Zuppone, from Ms. Sabo and Ms. Schneider's Middle Level class, was quoted in the Associated Press recently. While at the Museum of Natural History with classmate Steven Halsband, he was asked about Ben Stiller's new movie: "Night at the Museum".

NEW YORK - Thousands of moviegoers who saw the film "Night at the Museum" are spending the day there, too. Michael Zuppone, 8, and his friend Steven Halsband, 9, are regulars who say they were excited to see the movie because they love coming to the museum. "I want to go see it, but I really like the real thing," Michael says.

HOLIDAY SHOW

Six Stories of Faith
The Annual Caedmon Holiday Show

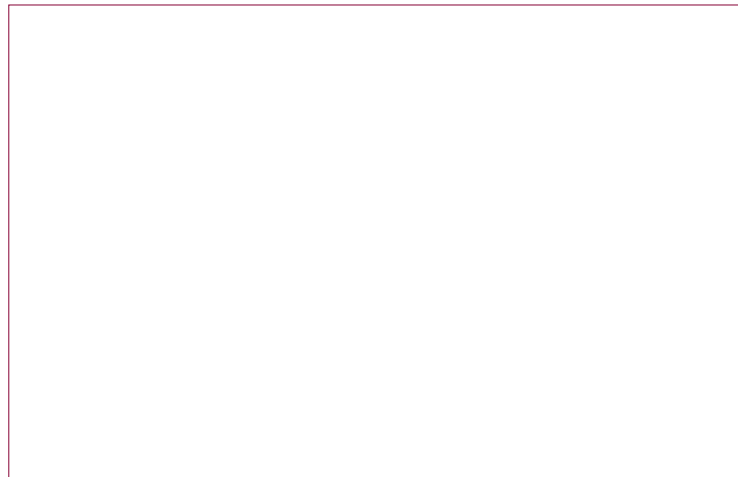
Mr. Davidson, with the help of all the elementary teachers, once again led the entire student body through a musical exploration of the ways in which people of numerous faiths and traditions celebrate the mid-winter season (with a little bit of calendrical license for traditions such as Ramadan and Diwali that fell in the fall this year). Using musical pieces both traditional and from Caedmon's growing repertoire of original multicultural holiday songs, the Upper Level students narrated a colorful description of no less than six different traditions, which were then celebrated in song and instrumental music by each class in turn. The performance culminated in a special appearance by the Caedmon Chorus, followed by the annual all-school-sing, during which the Early Program and Beginner children introduced the theme of world peace.

Mr. Davidson took the occasion of Mrs. DeVine's final year to acknowledge her role in creating this wonderful Caedmon tradition: "Holiday shows have always played an important role at Caedmon, but much has changed in the last 16 years, under the stewardship of Mrs. DeVine. Caedmon has always been relatively international and multicultural, yet through the 1980's, the Caedmon holiday program was still based primarily on one story of faith: The Nativity. As years passed, Mrs. DeVine decided that we could and should do more, so she worked with Music Specialist, Greg Minahan, to create a new kind of holiday program. Soon, the traditions of Hanukkah and Kwanzaa appeared alongside the traditional Nativity story. As the program continued to grow, incorporating Diwali, Buddhist New Year, Ramadan, and more, something wonderful began to happen. Caedmon students were not only learning about each other's cultural and religious backgrounds, they were beginning to take such

knowledge and understanding for granted, as the most natural kind of shared experience."

Mrs. DeVine herself spoke movingly about the program: "It's just been a wonderful experience all these years. These shows have meant so much to me, and I think to everyone at Caedmon. They speak so much about what Caedmon is about; the fact that all of us can come together in this way to honor and celebrate everyone else's traditions, their faiths, and beliefs. I'm so happy that my last show here is called The Six Stories of Faith."

Likewise, Mr. Davidson wrote: "For me, this is the gift that Caedmon gives its students and its community each holiday season. Thank you, Mrs. DeVine, for providing me with the opportunity to be a part of this unique tradition. Today we will present six holiday traditions. For some people, these are histories. For others, they are traditions. For all of us, they are a part of our world ...and thanks to Carol DeVine and many others, part of The Caedmon School."



CAEDMON NEWS, cont.

Heifer International

The children at Caedmon are continuing their wonderful work with Heifer International for the second year in a row. Once again, the Middle and Upper Level students assisted in producing the Heifer Gift Catalogues. They made them specifically for the holidays, so families could choose to contribute an animal to a family in need in the name of a relative or friend to whom they ordinarily

give gifts. This was an extremely successful endeavor last year and we are hoping to hear of its success this year as well. If you were able to choose any of the Heifer animals for gifts this year, we would appreciate it if you would send the Child's Record of Gift Choices at the back of the catalogue into school. We will then be able to report on how much was raised this holiday season. Thanks!

For the next semester, the children have planned a penny harvest and, of course, will do another art project for the mid-year raffle, as well as the most popular of all, the "Work Weekend". As you know, the children raised an amazing amount of money last year and they are determined to work harder than ever to break their record this year! We know that you will be supportive of all of their efforts on behalf of Heifer...thank you so much!



Early Program children working with a variety of Montessori materials.

Centennial Celebration of Maria Montessori

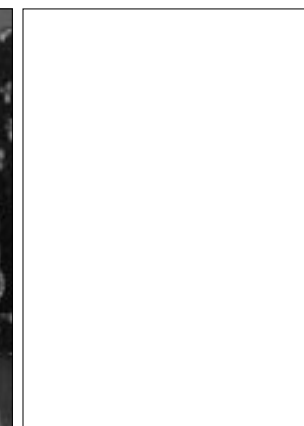
As many of you may already know, the year 2007 marks the centenary of a very important event in history. On January 6th, 1907, Dr. Maria Montessori opened the first "Casa dei Bambini," or "Children's House" in San Lorenzo, Rome. The Montessori pedagogy was born, and one hundred years later, it continues to grow and spread. There are celebrations around the world this year to honor

the Montessori centenary. Here at Caedmon, we plan to honor the philosophy by adding Maria Montessori to our social studies curriculum, and to teach the students about the tremendous impact this one remarkable woman had. We also plan to display a timeline of the history of the Montessori movement in the lobby this Spring, and we encourage all of you to learn more about the trials and tribulations that Dr. Montessori went through, to bring her visions of education

to fruition. Lastly, in early March, Caedmon will be sending a number of teachers to attend the American Montessori Society conference here in New York City. In addition to the invaluable lectures and workshops that the teachers will attend, the event will feature such inspirational guest speakers, as Dr. Maya Angelou, Senator Christopher J. Dodd, and author Jonathan Kozol, all passionate advocates of the Montessori movement.

Parent Visits

Parent participation in the various activities and projects in the classroom is always invaluable. over the past few months, we have had parents and grandparents visit to share their favorite books, and family immigration stories.



CAEDMON NEWS

Interview with Jason Andrews

The Lower Level classes recently completed a unit on community helpers. Each child chose a person to research and interview. Sam Kasman, in Ms. Rossano and Ms. Richard's class, chose a musician as his community helper, and interviewed Mr. Andrews, our piano teacher. He wrote that the job of musician is important because they play music for people to enjoy. Sam learned some interesting facts in his research: "Adults play music just like kids can. Some musicians play more than one instrument.

We thought you would enjoy reading excerpts of Mr. Andrew's conversation with Sam.

S.K.: Where do you do your job?
All over America. I've played in Boston, Kentucky, Ohio, Texas, Pennsylvania. I teach students at The Caedmon School.

S.K.: What is the best part of your job?
J.A.: Playing the piano! I enjoy all aspects - practicing, teaching, rehearsing, and performing.

S.K.: Why do you think your job is important to the community?
J.A.: Because music is important to the world. We can't live without music. Music supplies a great deal

of beauty. What would the world be without the arts? It would be a pretty dreary place if we had nothing beautiful like music.

S.K.: Did you always want to do this job?

J.A.: No. As a small boy I wanted to be a chicken farmer growing up on a farm in Texas.

S.K.: When did you decide that you did want to pursue music professionally?

J.A.: When I was 10 or 11. My first instrument was the flute. I wanted to be a professional flutist. Somebody said that if you want to be a professional musician, you should know harmony and theory and one of the best ways to get a good grasp is to learn the piano. So I started to take piano lessons at the age of 13.

S.K.: Anything else you want to share?

J.A.: There are so many aspects to the job of being a musician. It's not just one thing. Few people in the world can make a living only playing an instrument. Anybody who wants to contribute to the world of music should work with children at some point, because this is our future audience.

S.K.: Do you enjoy playing piano for yourself in your apartment?

J.A.: Yes, I do. Ever since I started playing piano as a child, my parents begged me to stop practicing. I played constantly. I'm always playing the piano when I'm at home.

S.K.: Do you prefer playing solo or playing with other musicians?

J.A.: They are very different experiences. I love both equally. The advantage of playing by yourself is that you are the sole creator of what is going on. It's also wonderful to make music with other people. Right now I'm working in a quartet that includes the piano, violin, viola, and cello. It's called chamber music.



The children wore costumes and brought props to represent the community helpers they selected for their books.

EARLY PROGRAM

I Did Nothing Today

**When children come home at the end of the day
The question they're asked as they run out to play
Is "Tell me, what did you do today?"
And the answer they give makes you sigh with dismay
"Nothing. I did nothing today!"
Perhaps "Nothing" means that I read a book,
Or...with a teacher I got to cook,
Maybe I painted a picture of blue,
Or heard a story about a mouse that flew,
Maybe I wrote in my journal myself,
Or found a great book on the library shelf,
Maybe I helped a friend today,
Or went to my favorite area alone,
Maybe today was the very first time,
That my scissors followed a very straight line,
Maybe I sang a song right to the end,
Or worked with a special brand new friend.
When you're three, four, or five your heart has wings
And "Nothing" can mean so many things.**

Fortunately, such allowances for self-discovery lend themselves to an enjoyable and satisfying learning experience. Lastly, much of what the children learn throughout the day cannot be found in their beloved "bluebags" that come home with them on Fridays. Though there may be evidence of the drawing they created alongside their friends, you won't find a tangible product for the fine-motor skills they developed while carefully "tonging" beans, or the memory they formed by feeling the sandpaper "M," or most importantly, the kind gesture they learned from their caring friend.

So what is a parent to do in order to find out what their child is doing in school? The best measure is to come and see for yourself! You are all encouraged to call Kristina Wels to set up a time to observe in your child's class. We want you to witness all those wonderful moments you never hear about! You may never get the full picture from your children

In the Early Program, parents frequently tell us that their children claim they do "nothing" each and every day at school. For those of us who get to watch your children every day, "nothing" does not come close to describing the array of experiences and learning opportunities that your children enjoy each day! However, for most of you it is not likely that you will get any other response from your child, simply because it is developmentally appropriate for young children to recount only their most recent memory, or the most concrete and literal memory of the day. An example of this might include what they had for snack (often the last event of the day), or the ever salient information of who was absent and who got "time out."

Parents often wonder what the children will "cover" for the year in Early Program. Because the teachers are guided by the Montessori tenant, "follow the lead of the child," it

would be difficult (and possibly misleading) to say exactly what themes and topics are yet to come. In a Montessori environment, themes are often spontaneously adopted from the enthusiasm the class has for say, penguins! If the class runs out of play dough one day, the afternoon children may experiment with making play dough. Perhaps a classmate returns from a trip to China, and a new theme is born again. Of course, during their "work time," each child will work on any number of activities and materials that are put on the shelves for their selection. Again, each child will follow his/her own lead, and make his/her own choice.



about their school day (few parents do!), but you can trust that your children do a lot at school on any given day, whether they elaborate or not. When your children say they did "nothing" at school today, "nothing" can mean a whole lot. The poem above was shared in a Montessori newsletter. The author is unknown.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2, Friday
9:00 am
Middle Level Breakfast

March 5, Monday
SCHOOL CLOSED
Teacher Conference Day

March 6, Tuesday
6:00 pm
AUCTION

March 19, Monday
2:15 pm
Early Program Full Day
Grandparents/Special Friend Day

March 20, Tuesday
6:30 pm
FACES of Diversity
Potluck Supper

March 26 through April 9
SCHOOL CLOSED
Spring Break

April 9, Monday
Teacher Appreciation Lunch