

ALUMNI EDITION

INSIDE

INSIDE CAEDMON

JANUARY - MARCH 2006

In this edition of Inside Caedmon, we hope to share with our alum families the many ways in which The Caedmon School has been addressing what is becoming an increasingly important issue all across our city and nation - indeed, all over the world. What perhaps began in the 80s as the educational goal of "multiculturalism", has now taken on somewhat more political overtones embodied in the word "diversity." As you all know, talk of diversity is on everyone's tongue these days - whether those tongues are corporate, political, or non-profit. Even as racial and religious tensions have increased in many parts of the world, it seems that America has once again become aware of itself as a "melting pot", to which people are flocking in search of opportunity and free-

dom. As a result, the need to pro-actively reach out to each other across barriers of language, appearance, and tradition is growing stronger every year.

Caedmon has always enjoyed a certain "natural" diversity, thanks to its New York City home, its reputation within diplomatic circles, and the inclusive philosophy of its leadership. Nonetheless, our school has enthusiastically embraced this challenge being posed so vigorously by the climate of our times: to make diversity a more conscious and intentional cornerstone of its mission.

In the process, we at the school have learned that diversity is a much more complicated and compelling issue than any of us had previously imagined, with

many more faces than mere race or religion. The parent driven FACES of Diversity Committee that was formed in 2002 has wakened the community to many subtle, yet no less powerful faces of diversity, such as language and look-ism, family structure and sexual orientation, physical and intellectual, cultural, spiritual, and economic. In a very short time, the initiative has become an adventure for many Caedmon families, teachers, and staff, bringing us together in new ways that enrich both our curriculum and our community. As we learned last year from Mr. Gene Batiste, Vice President of Equity and Justice Initiatives at the National Association of Independent Schools: "Diversity ... should not be viewed as a goal, but as a process. This work never ends."



At the yearly Potlatch, the children exchanged the gifts they carefully made or bequeathed.

CAEDMON NEWS

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARY ANN WINOGRAD

On Tuesday evening, November 29th, about eighty people gathered to remember our dear friend and esteemed colleague, Mary Ann Winograd, Director of Admissions from 1992 to 2004. It was a lovely evening filled with music and laughter, poetry, and warm remembrances of Mary Ann and all that she meant to the school. The program included Michael Cedric Smith on guitar, speeches by Carol DeVine, Erica Lowenfels, and Betty Winograd. Greg Minahan recited the Wordsworth poem, "Ode to Intimations of Immortality." He was followed by a cadre of Mary Ann's closest friends, all Caedmon alum parents whose bonds of friendship were formed in the Caedmon P.A.: Ginger Brokaw, Denise Larson, Moreen McGurk, Maureen Newman-Devlin, and Rebecca Trautman. The evening ended with a number of people sharing their fondest memories of this truly extraordinary woman. We miss her dearly. Still, we feel she is always with us in the spirit of this lovely verse:

I'd like to leave an echo
whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times
and bright and sunny days.

FIRST GRADE PARTY AT THE MAZZELLAS

On the evening of December 5th, about twenty-five of the first grade parents gathered to meet one another and celebrate the class of 2010. They were graciously hosted by Louis and Mary Ann Mazzella at their lovely home. The idea for this party occurred to us only last year, when we realized that with the first graders divided up among three different classes, there was the strong possibility that all of the parents did not know one another ...and we were right! The first party we had last year was enthusiastically attended and the tradition continued this year. The parents had a wonderful time and, for

the first time, met many of the parents of the other twenty-three children who will all be in fifth grade together four short years from now. Many thanks to the Mazzellas, who were such terrific hosts!

MUSICAL MOMENTS

On Monday evening, December 5th, Jason Andrews, our piano instructor in the Instrumental Music Afterschool Program, performed for the very first time at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. The program was sponsored by The Performing Arts Foundation. Mr. Andrews and Laurelyn Watson, soprano, presented a wide ranging program from Bach and Handel, Strauss and Debussy, to Gershwin and Noel Coward. Any of you who have had the pleasure of hearing Mr. Andrews play can imagine the amazing experience it must have been in the incredible acoustics of Weill. His talent, combined with Ms. Watson's, whose lyric soprano has been described in Opera News as "engaging and lush," resulted in an evening that was a pleasure from beginning to end. Congratulations to Mr. Andrews on his successful debut at Weill Recital Hall!

THANKSGIVING FEAST

On Tuesday, November 22nd, the entire school gathered in the lunchroom for the annual Thanksgiving Feast. There was a buzz of anticipation for the event that afternoon, as the students, faculty, and staff all sat together at the decorated tables and awaited the start of one of Caedmon's oldest and favorite traditions.

The Early Program teachers began the event by sharing their lists of what their class was thankful for, and then the faculty and staff sang the traditional song of grace to the students. Then the feast began, complete with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and green beans. When nobody thought they could possibly eat any more, cupcakes piled high with

beautiful orange icing and sprinkles were served.

Many, many thanks were given to the kitchen staff for preparing such an incredible feast for us all. After the meal, Mrs. DeVine read what the Elementary students were thankful for, and the children cheered in excitement as their classes were named. Last, but certainly not least, another of Caedmon's favorite traditions began, as Ms. Sardi read a story depicting the meaning of Potlatch. The students, faculty, and staff all drew names at random to determine who their special Potlatch person was going to be that year, and the children giggled with excitement with their new secret. It was a wonderful afternoon for everyone, and we would again like to thank Ms. Figueroa and Mr. Banik, the kitchen staff, for all of their hard work in making the feast so exceptional.



CAEDMON NEWS, cont.

HURRICANE KATRINA

We are delighted to report that the "Change for Katrina" collection and the "Chores for Change" program raised more than \$500.00 for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. What we thought was particularly special about this fund raiser was the direct involvement of the children. They worked at home to earn money to contribute, and each and every

morning many of them were "brow beating" their parents into emptying their pockets into the "Change for Katrina" jar! One child was seen each morning making a beeline for the jar and then standing there adamantly until his parents found some change in the depths of their pockets. As indicated at the beginning of the year, the money will be donated to the Angel Foundation, which will use 100% of it to purchase furniture for

a child's room at our request. Thank you all for helping your children to make this a cause, which they truly took to their hearts!

In addition to this, the money the children raised for UNICEF this year surpassed all previous years. We were able to donate \$2430.00, which UNICEF has pledged to aid the hurricane victims.



Middle Level and Kindergarten book buddies.



The children visited the New York Aquarium during Vacation School.



A five foot tall model of a dinosaur in the new science room.

COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVE WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

As winter slowly approached in November, Mr. David Kleckner again assembled his team of parent volunteers to collect bag loads of new and used winter clothing from the Caedmon community in support of our Upper East Side neighbors. Thanks to two local organizations, The Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter and the Housing Works Thrift Store, your donations were made available to men, women, and children in our own neighborhood who will certainly

make good and grateful use of them this winter. We can never keep track of how many bags are collected each year, since Mr. Minahan delivers them in batches each night – but it's a lot! Such an easy contribution goes such a long way. We thank you for helping Caedmon make an impact.

In March or April, we will be collecting spring clothing, so don't throw anything away when it comes time to switch your wardrobes.

No doubt we will also once again collect used cell phones to donate to Safe

Horizon, an organization that works to prevent domestic violence. Phones must come complete with charger, so keep them tied together in your "miscellaneous drawer" until spring.

As a city employee, Mr. Kleckner is often privy to events and opportunities of interest to city residents. In November, he informed us about a free Housing Clinic offered by Manhattan Community Board 8. Keep an eye on the bulletin board in the foyer for other such announcements in the future.

IMPORTANT ADMISSIONS DEADLINES – PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Re-enrollment contracts for your child will be mailed in mid-January for the school year beginning September, 2006. The contracts are due back no later than **January 31st** with a *non-refundable* deposit of \$2,000. Please be aware that a space will not be held for your child without the contract and deposit.

After January 31st, the second important date to note is **April 1st**. If for any reason a family has a change in plans and no longer intends to send their child to Caedmon in September 2006, we must receive a letter indicating this no later than April 1st. After April 1st, if a family withdraws their child, they will be held responsible for fifty percent of the tuition. That first tuition payment is due on **July 1st**.

Please do not hesitate to call the Admissions Office with any questions about these deadlines.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOWER AND MIDDLE LEVEL BREAKFASTS

The tradition of our class breakfasts has been going on now for untold years and is a favorite of all the parents. This year the Lower Level Breakfast will be on Friday, February 17th, and the Middle Level will be on Friday, March 10th. The children are particularly enthusiastic in their preparations this year, and clearly love to host their parents in the classrooms on these special mornings. It is a window into what is going on in language arts, social studies, or history and, therefore, is a treat not to be missed. We are looking forward to seeing all of you there.

INSTRUMENTAL FACULTY CONCERT AND ELEMENTARY ART SHOW

On Tuesday evening, January 24th, Jason Andrews, Paula Flatow, Kathleen Kilbane, and Michael Cedric Smith will perform in concert for the Caedmon Community. Children five years and older are most cordially

invited to attend with their parents. Those of you who have attended these concerts in the past are well aware of the outstanding virtuosity of our instrumental faculty. As if this were not sufficient reason to attend, this year for the first time we have combined this wonderful musical evening with an exhibit of Elementary art. The visual arts portion of the evening will include the work of children from Lower through Upper Levels. It will open at 6:00 pm and refreshments will be served. The concert will follow immediately afterward at 7:00 pm. Mark your calendars now. It is an evening with the arts that is not to be missed!

CHILDREN'S RECITAL

Last, but certainly not least, on Thursday, February 2nd at 7:00 pm, the littlest of our talented musicians will have their first recital of the year. All the children in the Instrumental Music Afterschool Program will be performing for their parents, families, and friends in the lobby of the school

...a first step to the Weill Recital Hall. We give you fair warning: this recital plays to standing room only, so be sure to get there early!

Early Program flower arranging



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 18, Wednesday
8:15 am
COFFEE & CURRICULUM
Language Arts

January 19, Thursday
6:30 pm
FACES of Diversity Meeting
"Learning Styles"

January 24, Tuesday
7:00 pm
Instrumental Faculty Concert
and Elementary Art Show

January 26, Thursday
6:30 pm
The Lion King

February 2, Thursday
7:00 pm
Children's Recital

February 8, Wednesday
8:15 am
COFFEE & CURRICULUM
Social Studies & Geography

February 17, Friday
9:00 am
Lower Level Breakfast

March 6, Monday
SCHOOL CLOSED
Teacher Conference Day

March 7, Tuesday
6:00 pm
AUCTION

March 10, Friday
9:00 am
Middle Level Breakfast

March 14, Tuesday
6:30 pm
FACES of Diversity Meeting

March 17, Friday
9:00 am
Early Program Music Assembly

March 20 through April 3
SCHOOL CLOSED
Spring Break

DIVERSITY AT CAEDMON

“Where Are You From?”

by Gina Sardi
Educational Director

When people ask me, “Where are you from?” my response is never easy. “I was born in New York, but I grew up in South America” is the short answer. Like many of us New Yorkers, however, my “origins” are scattered all over the globe.

My parents were both born in Brooklyn, second-generation Sephardic Jews of Middle Eastern origin, but my mother grew up in Colombia. By the time I was born, she was back in Brooklyn, which makes me a New Yorker by birth, at least. In Brooklyn, my family was part of a well-defined subculture, but my mom always felt like a bit of an oddity in the community. Then we moved to Bogotá, Colombia, when I was five. My first year in school was at a local kindergarten, where I learned to speak Spanish like a native very quickly. From the time I entered first grade, I studied in American schools.

We moved to Caracas, Venezuela, in December of my sixth grade, in 1962, and I lived there for the next 22 years. The American school I attended was very small and the student population was very mixed. Some were children of diplomats, never there long enough to integrate completely. Some were children whose parents were in the country on business. They might stay through high school, but were sure

to leave for the U.S. for college and beyond. Then there were the Venezuelan kids whose parents wanted them to have an American education so that they too could continue their education in the U.S. I was the other way around. The U.S. was only a place I had visited for a few weeks in the summer. American college was a goal, but I always knew I’d come back to Venezuela – and I did, for the first eleven years of my teaching career.

Caracas is a big city, but the American and Jewish communities are small and my family was only modestly involved. My father, however, was the cultural writer for the English language newspaper and Caracas was important enough that renowned artists traveled there from all over the world. We often met artists such as Yo Yo Ma, Itshak Perlman, and Shlomo Mintz. Sometimes they were even houseguests!

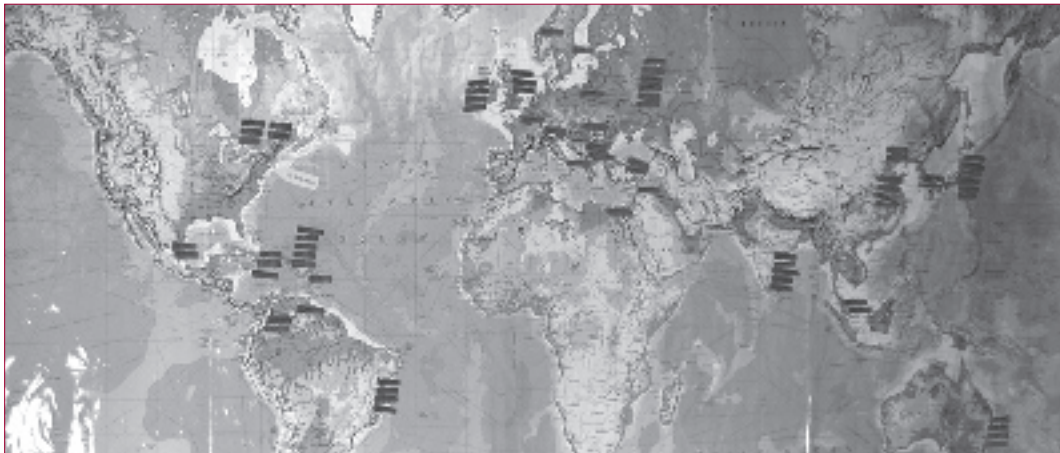
Many of the historical events and icons of popular culture that defined the youth of the 50s and 60s, I experienced from a distance, and somewhat delayed. I’ll always remember when my cousin came to visit and brought my brothers and me the Beatles’ White Album. We watched the moon landing sitting on folding chairs at the Venezuelan-American Cultural Center, on a television set via satellite relay – with very poor reception. The most popular television shows got to us about a year late, dubbed in Spanish.

Growing up with a mixed cultural identity has been interesting in so many ways. For one thing, it has made me sensitive to the unique backgrounds of other people, and aware of the many factors that define a person’s identity. Over the years, my fluency in Spanish has been a useful skill, one that I use with surprising frequency.

I still wonder what it is that defines us. Is it where we are born? ...where our parents are born? ...where we grow up? What most defines our cultural identity? Is it the traditions we grow up with at home? ...the languages we speak? ...the blood in our veins?

We have many conversations about this at Caedmon. When we are updating the world map in the lobby, we often find it hard to decide who to include. Where do we draw the line when so many of us have conspicuous cultural origins that we treasure and want to share? With such a wealth of diversity, we want to include everybody. After all, is a family who has lived on the Upper East Side for six consecutive generations any less diverse from a global perspective?

Diversity is made up of so many things. If we are truly sensitive to the issues of cultural origin and global diversity, then no one should ever have a “short answer” to the question: “Where are you from?”



FACES of Diversity World Map on display in the school lobby

DIVERSITY AT CAEDMON

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Long before the FACES of Diversity Committee was formed in 2002, and before the word “diversity” had become a political and social mantra of such universal significance, The Caedmon School was a place where the spirit of diversity thrived.

The founding families, though all Catholic, were entirely committed to the idea of a school that sought out and welcomed children and families from all over the city and all around the world – insisting on scholarships from day one to assure some economic diversity as well. In the 1960s, many Caedmon teachers were East Indian, since some of the premiere training schools for Montessori educators are in Bangalore, Bombay, and Hyderabad.

During the 1980s, Caedmon found itself hosting a growing number of international families. Apparently, the school had acquired a reputation among diplomats and U.N. officials as a place that was sensitive to the transient nature of diplomatic service, and as a community where families from other nations felt welcome and secure. Though many of these families were only with us for a few years, they brought with them a wealth of tradition, language, and perspective that has spoiled Caedmon to the riches of cultural diversity. During the 1990s, Caedmon began nurturing this growing sub-community by drawing them together for mutual support, and tapping them as a resource for both curriculum enrichment and overseas publicity.

For over a decade, Caedmon has been an enthusiastic participant in the Job Fair to Promote Diversity, sponsored by the New York State Association of Independent Schools. This event, where educators-of-color gather each year to seek teaching positions at New York City schools like Caedmon, has been the source of many of our finest teachers. Competition for

teachers from this limited pool is always high and many who would love to work at Caedmon have a difficult time turning down higher salaries elsewhere. It is hoped that, with the help of our newly established Mary Ann Winograd Endowment for Faculty Salaries, Caedmon will have a better chance of enticing experienced teachers-of-color to join our faculty.

1992 saw the first of Caedmon’s multi-cultural holiday plays. What began as an experiment - to create an all-school show that would allow the children to experience each other’s holiday rituals along with their own - has now become a cherished, annual celebration of spiritual and cultural traditions from around the globe. Originally incorporating Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa, the scripts nowadays are likely to include Diwali, Buddhist New Year, Ramadan, and Native American ritual – not to mention Yule and the spirit of giving represented by Santa. As a theatrical curriculum, the shows have earned a Leading Edge Award from the National Association of Independent Schools in 2003. However, the true reward for Caedmon has been the instinctive tolerance and sincere curiosity it has fostered in the children who work so hard to put them on, and in the parents who watch their children as they practice wildly diverse holiday material at home, and then perform it so exuberantly onstage.

Then, in 2002, under the driving force of Mrs. DeVine and her then-assistant Lisa Levy, Caedmon got serious about building upon the “naturally” diverse community with which it is blessed, in order to build a more educated and intentionally diverse community of families, faculty, staff, and trustees.

From the start, the FACES of Diversity Committee was to be a parent-driven initiative, with Ms. Levy acting as Diversity Coordinator – an administrative liaison role which has now been assumed with equal

enthusiasm by Mrs. DeVine’s new assistant, Josy Alcindor. During initial meetings, the group of 20-30 enthusiastic parents and teachers took their time in researching diversity initiatives elsewhere, determining short and long-term goals, and, with Mrs. DeVine, discussing the role that diversity-consciousness should play in Caedmon’s overall mission. They eventually settled on a name for the committee as well: The FACES of Diversity Committee, or simply: FACES. A team of five committed parents assumed the role of steering committee. Since the committee’s inception, those parent volunteers have included: Kiesha Orr Hudson, Vicki Caban, Marvina Brewster, Stephanie Kempf Toback, Moon Kim, and Paul Lachman.

About four times each year, the committee has convened to organize workshops, hold book discussions, plan ahead, or simply to celebrate. Encouraging participation from the entire community has been a major goal of the steering committee. Predictably, diversity was initially perceived as pertaining to its more obvious aspects of race and religion. The committee has worked long and hard to educate the school community (along with themselves) that the issue of diversity has many FACES, and touches everyone on some level. Participation has steadily increased, and recent diversity events have been among the most well-attended of the school year. Following are some of the events and initiatives that have come to Caedmon as a direct result of FACES.

One of the committee’s very first goals was to find out what kinds of diversity Caedmon already had at its disposal. To this end, in the fall of 2003, they distributed a Community Awareness Questionnaire. Families were invited to share their cultural backgrounds, spiritual heritage, professional expertise, or general uniqueness. As new families join us each year, they also receive the ques-

DIVERSITY AT CAEDMON

tionnaire. Not only does it gather information for the committee, but its detailed questions also serve to highlight the less obvious ways in which diversity impacts our lives.

To celebrate at a glance the cultural diversity we already enjoy, the committee mounted a wall-sized world map in the school lobby, which displays the scattered lands of origin of our international families. Visitors and prospective parents on tour are fascinated by the map, and are amazed at the cultural riches we possess at Caedmon.

In October of 2004, the FACES committee hosted one of the most moving and successful events in recent memory in celebration of "family" diversity. Each family in the school (and alum families as well) were invited to submit a portrait of their family – big or small, typical or unusual, local or far-flung, posing or at play - along with a colorful description of the photo. Participation turned out to be one hundred percent! The photos were elegantly mounted throughout the lobby, and then unveiled during

a "Family Photo Gallery" event that was attended by hundreds. No one anticipated the emotional impact of seeing so many unique families paraded side-by-side with such loving care. Tears and laughter flowed that night in celebration of this most commonly shared FACE of diversity. For months afterward, visitors and regulars alike were seen roaming the lobby, taking in all the family variety.

Just this past spring, guest speaker Mr. Gene Batiste was invited to Caedmon to lead a workshop on diversity issues on a global scale. As Vice President of Equity and Justice Initiatives at the National Association of Independent Schools, Mr. Batiste has traveled the world learning and speaking about how schools such as Caedmon are contributing to the world-wide effort to increase awareness of diversity issues. He playfully, yet eloquently described how working within our families and school communities to discourage look-ism, create curiosity about religious and cultural traditions, or recognize learning styles, can help to combat the rise of polarity and isolationism

in the world. He analyzed Caedmon's mission statement and gave it high marks, but quickly pointed out that words are cheap, and that "... the important thing is to learn from the teachable moments and to honestly and constantly self-evaluate your own community's goals and challenges." The workshop was so well received that Mr. Batiste is returning this spring to give us lesson number two from his stock of global wisdom.

The FACES committee was determined from the start to celebrate diversity, as well as instruct. What better way is there to celebrate than with food, and what better way to cook than potluck? The annual FACES Pot Luck Supper has provided a true smorgasbord of culinary delight from around the world. It is a wonderful way of thanking our committed parents and teachers each spring for their efforts to keep Caedmon's diversity awareness growing.

Caedmon's diversity consciousness is taking on greater direction and purpose each year. It is truly becoming a cornerstone of our mission.

DIVERSITY IN THE CURRICULUM

GEOGRAPHY

However we define our personal origins, whether through culture, ethnicity, tradition, or geography, our own experience tells us that where in the world we are from affects who we are. The world may be getting smaller all the time, but the differences among people from different parts of the globe continue to be both fascinating and powerful. Meanwhile, global events impact us more and more each day, and it becomes ever more important to understand them in the context of geographic diversity.

Beginning this year, we have expanded the study of geography at Caedmon, from Early Program through

Upper Level. There is more to geography than learning to read maps. It stimulates curiosity about the world and its diverse inhabitants. It shows us that people are interdependent with their particular physical environment. We come to understand how local and regional issues affect global relations.

Each month, the teachers and specialists will spend some time guiding the children in researching a particular country. So far, the children have studied the United States, China, and India. In January they will research Russia, followed by Uganda, New Zealand, and Peru. The children will learn about the geographical and cultural characteristics of the country in a specific way that will engage

their curiosity. For instance, the Kindergarten classes will be baking bread from different countries as the focal point of their social studies and geography research. Our goal is to expand the children's imaginative grasp of our shrinking, but wildly varying world; to help them appreciate all types of people in the context of their own environment.

Year after year, we will continue to expand the group of countries that the children explore. The teachers have encouraged parents in their classes to come in and talk about their own countries, read stories, or cook with the children. Please contact us if you have anything you would like to share with a class.

DIVERSITY EVENTS

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE UPDATE

On October 26th, the Diversity Committee sponsored a screening of Kavery Kaul's acclaimed documentary, "Long Way From Home". The film highlights the indomitable spirits of three teenage girls from non-white cultures experiencing serious culture-clash (in addition to the usual adolescent struggles) in two Independent Manhattan High Schools. Cindy, a Cambodian-American, Sage, an African-American, and Sarah, an Arab-American and devout Muslim, dramatically reveal their thoughts and feelings as they struggle to fit in.

Following the screening the audience (itself quite diverse) engaged in a passionate discussion of the girls' experiences. Discussion focused on the question: "How does a society steeped in traditions, ideas, and biases of the past learn to embrace diversity

as a strength?" Some members of the audience talked about their own experiences either as "outsiders" trying to fit in, or as "insiders" attempting to help others feel a sense of belonging. Many parents described the positive ways that their young children are being prepared both at home and at Caedmon to understand and respect cultural differences. Everyone hoped that, by nurturing diversity and a sense of compassion early in children's lives, the obstacles faced by the teenagers in the film could be avoided. The screening caused such a stir that a second one was scheduled the following week in order to accommodate a morning audience.

Next on the Diversity Committee's agenda is a WORKSHOP ON LEARNING DIFFERENCES, focusing on Mel Levine's All Kinds of Minds, to be presented by Gina Sardi on Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 6:00 pm.



CULTURAL EVENTS AROUND THE CITY

"Global Shoes," an exhibit at the Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Avenue) is a hands-on, feet-in exhibit, in which children can step into shoes from around the world and "manufacture" international shoes in the Shoe Factory. The exhibit runs through January 8, 2006.

"Slavery in New York," the first of two exhibitions at The New York Historical Society (170 Central Park West), spans the period from the 1600's to 1827 and focuses on the experiences of Africans and African-Americans in NYC. ...through March 5, 2006.

"Picturing Hope: Through Their Eyes": Using cameras donated to them, Indian children capture their everyday world, ravaged by AIDS. This photo exhibit at the Asia Society and Museum (725 Park Avenue) ends on January 8, 2006.

"Once Upon A Ballet: The Alice-In-Wonderland Follies": In this production that blends Irish Step Dancing, African Juba, and classical ballet, Alice meets the White Rabbit, the Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts, and other beloved characters. Part of New York Theatre Ballet's "Once Upon A Ballet" series of abbreviated ballets for young dancers. Runs from March 3 to 5, 2006 at Florence Gould Hall (55 East 59th Street).

"Family Day: Lunar New Year": Families are invited to ring in the Lunar New Year with games, prizes, crafts, and musical performances all reflecting traditional Chinese celebrations. ...February 4, 2006 from noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Asia Society and Museum (725 Park Avenue).

"Getting By: Immigrants Weathering Hard Times": a guided visit to the apartment of a German-Jewish family in the 1870's and a Sicilian family in the 1930's at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum (108 Orchard Street). This exhibit/tour runs through January 15, 2006.

DIVERSITY EVENTS AT CAEDMON

January 19 at 6 pm
Workshop on LEARNING STYLES

February 9 at 4 pm
Visit to Exhibit at NY Historical Society
SLAVERY IN NEW YORK

April 20 at 6pm
Workshop on
THE MEDIA'S INFLUENCE ON
OUR CHILDREN

May 9 at 8:45am
Morning coffee and book discussion
RAISING CONFIDENT BOYS AND GIRLS

May 25 at 6:00 pm
Gene Batiste Part II - Dynamic Speaker on DI-
VERSITY AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

June 1 at 6 pm
Potluck Dinner

HOLIDAY SHOW

“Northern Lights” The Caedmon Holiday Play – 2005

In creating the Caedmon Players’ 14th annual, multi-cultural holiday play, music specialist Jeremy Davidson was inspired by, of all things, the Civil War. Over the summer, he had read an historical account that captured his imagination. On a bleak December night in 1863, on the eve of a major battle between the North and the South, a magnificent display of northern lights appeared in the skies from Maine to the Carolinas. Mr. Davidson imagined opposing armies bivouacked on a cold night as the holiday season approaches. Then he created a story that explores how the Northern Lights might have affected two enemy camps, one Union and one Rebel, separated by only five hundred feet of trees and meadow that would soon become their field of battle.

As officers, cooks, reporters, and foot soldiers from various backgrounds witness the celestial display, they each see within the lights images of their longed for holiday traditions: menorahs, New Year Dragons, drinking gourds of freedom, messengers from Allah, deepas, and heavenly hosts of angels. In each camp, they share traditional music and stories, and the songs and prayers they evoke reach out across the meadow to unite the two armies in an unexpected and miraculous way.

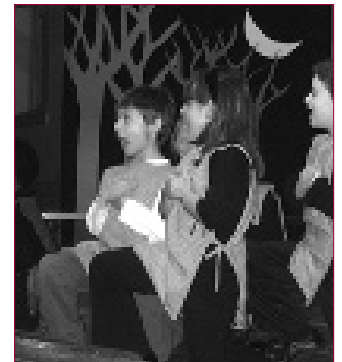
Ms. DeBye’s Upper Level students expertly portrayed the Civil War soldiers, complete with Yankee lilt and Southern drawl. The other Elementary classes enacted the holiday visions that emerged from the northern lights, once again making marvelous use of the ORFF and percussion instruments purchased by the P. A. only a few years ago. All came together for the glorious finale, in which “Gloria, in Excelsis Deo” transformed into “Glory, Glory, Halleluiah, Our Light is Shining On!”

After the Caedmon Chorus sang an interlude of three songs, the second finale of the morning brought the entire Early Program on stage for the annual All-School Sing, during which tradition calls for every parent in the house to simultaneously “sneak” down to the front row to capture the perfect photo opportunity.

All in all, it was a wonderful morning

for the whole community. “Northern Lights” was a glorious addition to the growing repertoire of holiday celebrations, with which Caedmon annually celebrates its cultural richness and spiritual diversity. Congratulations to Mr. Davidson, the children, and all the supporting faculty and staff for helping our community bring in the holidays...

...all of them!



ALUM FORUM

The **Fleury** Family wrote recently from their home in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where all three children are doing very well at the Chapel School, a U.S. accredited international school. Anna is a senior now and beginning to apply to colleges - preferably somewhere sunny. Rachel is in tenth grade and a star player in basketball and softball. Marcelo is a fifth grader and (says Mrs. Fleury proudly), "is a very good student too."

Brian Halweil, a Caedmon alum from the early eighties, has recently published a book entitled "Eat Here, Homegrown Pleasures in a Global Supermarket". Brian is a senior researcher at the Worldwatch Institute. In his book he argues that a farming system dominated by "globe-trotting food" sold in impersonal megastores is bad for the health of economies and people alike, while "eating local" and encouraging regional self-sufficiency are good for both the environment

and the human race. The book is available at amazon.com. Congratulations, Brian!

Steven Sosa, Caedmon alum and current employee, and his wife Jennifer are expecting their first child in March. Best wishes to the whole family!

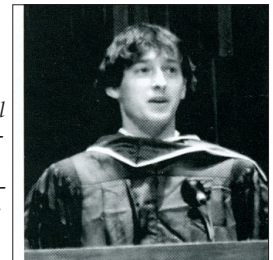
David Winograd is now at Northeastern University, after graduating from Columbia Prep last spring, at which time he also received the Henry Wilson Howell Award for High Scholarship.

William Doyle has published yet another book, this time as co-author with his wife, Naomi Moriyama. Entitled: "Japanese Women Don't Get Old or Fat; Secrets of My Mother's Tokyo Kitchen", the book is an introduction to a non-Western everyday cooking plan.

Elizabeth Gilpin, who graduated from Caedmon in 1984 and was an associate teacher in Caedmon's Early Program for many years, has now taken on yet a new role at Caedmon. Upon Eileen Sosa's retirement last year, Liz has become our school's new Business Manager.



Alums Lynn Zaremski, Edward Baida, and Sam Schreck with Mrs. Flynn at the Dedication Party.



David Winograd, recipient of the Henry Wilson Howell Award for high scholarship, graduated from Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School in June, 2005.

ALUM PROFILE - Eleanor Fleming

Since graduating from Caedmon two years ago, Eleanor has become very involved at her new school, Trevor Day. Now in the seventh grade, Ellie is not only doing well academically, but has also continued to develop her love of poetry, and has taken an active interest in the environment.

Many adults here at Caedmon still have tacked to their office walls a poem entitled "The Transformation" that Ellie wrote for her class's Closing Exercises. It ends unforgettably with:

*Deepness spills from the empty well
But I am ready to move on
To fill the well with waters
Of unfound memories, of newness,
The different person that's within.*

Eleanor now participates in a poetry workshop at Trevor Day. The young poets sit in a circle improvising free verse, building upon each other's images in mutually inspiring ways. Some poems they created (including one of Eleanor's) were published last

year as a gift to the departing Head of Trevor's Middle School.

Eleanor's other passion has been the environment. Last year, she entered a national competition for new ideas that would further student awareness of the environment. With some friends, she created a website that offers articles and information about the environment. They send a weekly email to every student in the middle school asking a Question-of-the-Week, such as: "How long has the blue whale been on the endangered species list?" Students search the website for the correct answer and send it back to earn points. At the end of the year, the student with the most points wins a prize.

The five friends that came together to work on Eleanor's idea decided to form an Environmental Workshop at school. It is called: Green and Blue Planet (also Eleanor's idea). They promote awareness of environmental issues at school. Eleanor's particular role has been to organize a recycling program. Check out their website at: www.freewebs.com/greenandblueplanet

Hazel Eyes

by Eleanor Fleming (Caedmon Alum)

10 umbrellas going up
The rain falling hard
A secret in the heart eats at lavender
tainted lips
Blue sky drowned in its own arrogance
Ten steps along an abandoned road
Lead her away from him, sore temptress
A stormy sea crashing on the sand
A blossom falls from a tree
Standing like an idle ballerina
Waiting for her cue
The small pink love note drifts
Until it hits the frothy grey waters below
And is lost to the beating of fists
10,000 tears falling all at once
Bringing a melancholy sound
hollowing the silence
A travel shop
One ticket please, no return trip
The whoosh of a train
Like the wind that whips through lovers
Fingers delicately entangled
Strolling the same walk I did
5 years past
Unaware of my torment
But maybe they will chance
On that 99 cent store
Where dreams are sold
And the old man sits on an elbow, waiting

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

With the Parents Auxiliary's annual auction just over the horizon, the Annual Giving Campaign and The Campaign for The Caedmon School will be keeping a low profile for the next few months, which is not to say we won't be working away like duck's feet below the surface to bring these two campaigns closer to their goals.

Under Judy Gilpin's guidance, Annual Giving is keeping abreast of last year's progress with \$168,312 pledged as of January 9th, but it is still far from the 2005-2006 goal of \$250,000. The level of parent participation last year reached a record 82%. Believe it or not, many independent schools regularly achieve 100% and we hope to far exceed our own record this year. Your participation at any level

supports Caedmon's intention to do all it can to maintain low tuition rates. Absolutely no gift is too small...
...except no gift at all.

Last month the team of Capital Campaign Class Ambassadors held their second-year phonathon, to inform new families of the campaign's goals and invite contributions. These wonderful parent volunteers are: Barbara Bridgers Johnson, Jessica Brown, Barbara Carbone, Richard Clarkson, Terri Collins, Brenda Derfner, Kathleen Hendrickson, Chandra Hicks-James, Steven Killian, John Kim, Donna LeSchander, Stephanie Lofgren, Louis Mazzella, Douglas Monasebian, Michael Smith, Jan Sudol, and Betsy Zuppone. If you get the chance, please don't hesitate to thank them

for taking on this important role in building our school's future.

The remaining goal of the capital campaign is the Mary Ann Winograd Endowment for Faculty Salaries, for which we aim to raise \$1 million. With \$1,139,480 pledged to date, and taking into consideration campaign expenses, we are still \$607,870 away from our final goal, which we hope to surpass considerably. The best way to achieve our aim is to aim well beyond it.

On behalf of the entire Caedmon community, especially the children who keep us all going, we thank you for your incredible support of our efforts to make Caedmon ever better.

PA NEWS



Alissa Cartun and Sonya Neis chaired the Bookfair in early November, and together with fellow P. A. members, did a fantastic job. The fair had a new format and distributor this year, so accounting is still underway. Many thanks to everyone who helped to assemble the event, and to all the parents who purchased books for Caedmon's library.

On November 17th, Mr. and Mrs Jerry Smith graciously opened their home to host one of the most spectacular and well-attended Parent Cocktail parties ever! Almost one hundred parents "boarded the cruise ship", to celebrate the highly anticipated upcoming auction, which will have a "Caribbean Carnivale" theme this



year. Many P. A. members enthusiastically promoted the party (you may have seen them dancing with sailor hats on the front steps!) and helped in the planning. Thank you to everyone who "came aboard" to create such a wonderful evening!

Crowds mobbed the front foyer to drool over the scrumptious goods at the Holiday Bake Sale. We thank all of the parents who contributed to the cornucopia of delights. The display was a feast for the eyes as well as the mouth! Kudos especially to Brenda Derfner, Lisa DeStefano, and the Fehmiu family for their outstanding contributions. We are happy to report that the Bake Sale raised a record \$1,600.00 for the school!



Preparations and enthusiasm are growing for the upcoming "Caribbean Carnivale" on March 7, co-chaired by Kathleen Davock and Sheri Halsband. Everyone is encouraged to donate (and solicit) donations for the show-stopping event! If you need help identifying donors or generating donation ideas, ask anyone you see in the P.A. Corner.

We remind you all that the P. A. has once again dedicated the Reverse Auction to The Campaign for The Caedmon School. Last year it raised \$42,000 for new science room equipment. This year the money we raise will pay for gymnasium equipment – that which is already purchased and much more yet to come.

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INSIDE

