

News Worthy

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Joan Bardee, Editor

New School Parents' Association
www.newschoolpa.org

Faculty News

Steve (and Mila, and big sister, Jana,) **Roushakes** had their second daughter, Nia Patricia Roushakes, born 2/21/08, weighing 8 pounds. Mother and child are in very good health.

John Buzzard is leaving The New School at the end of this school year and moving to Phoenix, Arizona. John will marry Kaycie Wielgus on September 20th, 2008. Kaycie is a political organizer and communications officer, and is from outside Chicago.

Robert Silverman's wife, Jessica, will begin work on a PhD in Parasitology at Tufts in Boston this fall. She wants to cure third world diseases and change the world. Robert will be following her and looking for a teaching job in the Boston area.

This summer **Tanja Quinn** is getting married to Mike Gaal, a Chemist for Virginia Tech at their NOVA campus. The wedding will be in Springfield, Virginia on June 29th.

Caroline Cochrane-Braswell will be attending Peabody College at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. She received the Dean's Scholarship, which will pay a third of her tuition. Caroline will be earning her masters in Secondary Math Education.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to each of you. Those leaving will be missed!

President's Perspective

By Lorie Nierenberg

As the end of the academic year approaches, it is interesting to step back and reflect upon the experiences and accomplishments of the past several months, and also to look ahead at what likely lies in store.

The school continued to grow and make its mark among area private schools. The faculty and administration did amazing things for our sons and daughters, challenging them intellectually and stretching them to their limits and beyond. The students performed beautifully and meaningfully in their academic, artistic, community service, and other endeavors. And many of you parents gave greatly of yourselves to help ensure the richest possible experience for your child/children. In speaking with several of you personally, I was amazed by how many of you described The New School as the perfect fit for your child and said you couldn't imagine him/her elsewhere.

For some of us, it's now time to move on. Beloved faculty

members are undergoing personal and professional growth and seizing new opportunities elsewhere. Seniors will soon graduate and move on to college or other life-changing experiences, resulting in many New School families' saying goodbye to an academic environment of which they have been a part for many years.

But it pleases me to note that many families will return next year, and many parents have enthusiastically agreed to serve the community through the New School Parents' Association. Come June 1, a new NSPA Board will enter on duty; my sincere thanks and appreciation to those who served this year and to those who have agreed to serve next. While the Board can provide leadership and direction in many areas, it cannot serve the community effectively without the support and participation of each and every one of you, and it would be my hope that you will all find ways in which to get involved in one or more activities of your choice, thereby providing your own value added to a New School education.

Volunteers Needed for Graduation Reception

The NSPA sponsors the reception for our graduating seniors. Volunteers (parents and high schoolers) are urgently needed to help out on Graduation Day – Saturday June 21. Please contact Joan Bardee at bardee1@cox.net if you can spare a few hours!

Going Green In the After School Car Pick-Up Lane

The school recently received a thought provoking suggestion from a parent and passed it on to the NSPA. A lot of cars arrive early to pick up the students – the line forms around 3:45pm. On most days, drivers keep their cars running for over 10 minutes. That's a long time!

We strongly recommend turning off your car while waiting. This simple act will save you gas dollars and reduce emissions that we all breathe.

Parents Council of Washington Update

By Lisa Doyle

The NSPA is a member of The Parents Council of Washington. The Council recently sponsored a session entitled "Meet the Other Parent: Today's Media." The guest speaker was Jim Steyer, who is one of the founders of Common Sense Media. Common Sense Media is a non-profit, non-partisan organization "dedicated to improving the media and entertainment lives of kids and families." It provides a website with numerous resources for parents, including tips and opportunities to share opinions as well as ratings of many popular television shows, movies, video games and website. You can become a free member of the organization by registering at commonsensemedia.org.

One interesting note: according to Jim Steyer, Howard Gardner (of Multiple Intelligences fame) is now exclusively focusing his research on ethical considerations in a digital age.

Equipment Wanted!

By Janis Trizna

Technology is constantly changing. Rather than tossing equipment, donate it to the school. We can make use of it. Unfortunately, we don't have room for everything, so please abide by this list: Email Janis@newschoolva.com with donations and/or questions. Thanks!

Digital Cameras: 2 megapixel or greater
Video Cameras: mini -dv, HD, or 8mm w/firewire
LCD monitors: 17" or greater
TVs: 32" or greater in working condition w/remote
LCD TV: all
LCD projectors
Movie screens: pull-down preferred
Ipods: in working condition
MAC computers: I mac or newer
PC computers: 2ghz or greater
Laptops: 1 ghz or greater

Scholarship Information

The NSPA Board's Scholarship Committee, in consultation with Board counsel, has completed its review of NSPA scholarship standards and procedures, and has received Board approval of suggested revisions. The new Board policies governing the issuance of needs-based scholarships are posted on the NSPA website at www.newschoolpa.org <<http://www.newschoolpa.org>>, where you can also find an Application for Financial Assistance form.

Whether to award scholarships, and in what amounts, are matters for the Board's discretion each year, based upon funds raised and allocated for scholarship purposes. We hope to be able to continue our tradition of helping to defray tuition costs for those families who have demonstrated a need for financial assistance.

Please note that The New School itself also makes limited scholarship funds available from time to time but that the two award processes and determinations are separate and distinct and handled independently of one another. For information about New School scholarships, please contact John Potter.

Dates to Remember

5/20: Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast (8:00 - 9:00) Please come and please RSVP to Val

5/21: Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (12:15 p.m. dismissal); NSPA Board meeting, 7:00 p.m.

5/26: Memorial Day (no school)

5/27: 4:30 Information Meeting for all parents of rising 9th graders in the Media Center

5/28: High School Coffee House, 7:30 p.m.

5/31: Fiddling Concert

6/2 and 6/3: WrAP essay test beginning at 11:15 (runs for an hour)

6/4: Field Day (rain date 6/5)

6/5: 7th grade "Le Petit Prince"

6/13: Final day for the entire lower school; dismissal at 12:15

6/13: 8th grade graduation; High School prom

6/16: last day for seniors

6/18: school year ends; 1:00 p.m. dismissal; NSPA Board meeting, 7:00 p.m.

6/21: Graduation

Cappies Have A Lighthearted Evening

By Sarah Flanagan

Peels of laughter emanated from the New School theater on Friday evening, May 2 as a *Washington Post* team of fifty Cappies high school critics reviewed *A History of American Film*. Although the cast was initially concerned by the relatively quiet audience reaction to the play's first scenes, it was clear by the second act that the Cappies were fully engrossed in the play's sophisticated humor.

Cappies are high school theater critics who review local plays and then compete for the honor of having their reviews published in *The Washington Post* or other local papers. The New School has sponsored its own Cappies team for several years, under the direction of Virginia Palmer-Fuechsel. Several New School students have been published in the *Post* and other papers.

So on Friday night it was the New School's turn to have its production reviewed by an audience full of high school peers from the greater Washington metropolitan area. Certainly few things could be more unnerving to high school thespians than the thought of singing, dancing and acting in the intimate New School theater before 50 hardened teenage theater critics.

As always, the New School production was more sophisticated and edgy than most high school plays that the student critics would have reviewed during the year. While this may account for the initial quiet reaction of the group, it did not take long for them to be fully engaged in the show. In accordance with Cappies rules, the critics meet in a special room for a pre-show conversation and dinner, and after the show have a closed, free-ranging conversation to decide if any aspect of the production deserves a nomination for a "Cappies award". These awards are given at a formal end-of-year celebration at the Kennedy Center that includes an evening of song, dance and acting.

The NSPA is particularly grateful to all the parents who cooked, volunteered and contributed to the welcome dinner and desserts for the Cappies critics. The evening went off without a hitch. Keep your eyes open for a favorable review in an upcoming edition of the Fairfax extra section.

New NSPA Officers! More Volunteers Needed!

At the NSPA Annual Meeting held on April 23, a new Board for the 2008-2009 academic year was approved. As of June 1, the new Board officers will be:

President	Tom Grumbly
Vice President	Nancy Vibert
Secretary	Betsy Sue Scott
Assistant Secretary*	
Treasurer	Ross Gorte
Assistant Treasurer	Patti Oehmke
Senior Parent Rep	Donna Kraemer
Junior Parent Rep	Caitlin Lhommedieu
Sophomore Parent Rep*	
Freshman Parent Rep	Brenda Mutchler
Junior High Parent Reps	Melissa Dana, Donnalyn Adams
Elementary Parent Rep	Kathy Ginsberg
At-Large Rep	Patti Oehmke
Faculty Rep	Maril Levy
Alumni Rep	Joanna Cole (NSNVA Class of 2003)
Volunteer Coordinator	Clare Dean

* We're still attempting to fill these positions, as well as those of **NSPA Website Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Parents Council Representatives (2), and Rudolph Run Chair**. If you might be interested in one of these positions, please contact outgoing NSPA President Lorie Nierenberg at lnierenb@aol.com.

What Else Can We Do For You? The NSPA welcomes your ideas as to how we might better serve you. If you are not a member, how can we entice you to join? If you are a member, what else would you like to see us do?

Please watch for a questionnaire eliciting your thoughts, comments, and suggestions, and take 5 minutes to complete and return per instructions.

Please share your thoughts with Patti Oehmke at

Have a great summer!