



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

A Partnership Between Germantown Academy and Project H.O.M.E.

FALL 2009

VOLUME 4. ISSUE 1



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NEW ENROLLMENT DIRECTOR HELPS SPREAD THE 'SECRET' OF CPS

Like many Community Partnership School staff members, Linn Vaughters wears multiple hats. As the new Director of Enrollment, Ms. Vaughters is responsible for overseeing CPS's admissions process for prospective students, working with current CPS families to identify middle schools for children after they graduate, and meeting with representatives of area middle schools to introduce them to CPS. In addition, Ms. Vaughters also manages to squeeze in Spanish lessons for the school's upper grades.

Even though it is only October, already more than 20 families have inquired about open spots at CPS for the 2010-2011 school year, and that number is sure to increase as the year progresses. Now that a full-time staff member is in place to manage incoming admissions, CPS hopes to make the process more user-friendly, especially for first-generation independent school families. Already, Ms. Vaughters has been brainstorming strategies with representatives from community agencies on how best to educate area families about CPS and its admissions process, so that more people are aware of the opportunity CPS provides.

Meanwhile, CPS's oldest students have reached the fourth grade, "a crucial time to start looking for the right school for grade six and on," according to Ms. Vaughters. She is encouraging families to consider all of their options, and aims for children to apply to four to six schools. To help identify those options, Ms. Vaughters has begun communicating with families in a number of ways, including home visits to each of the fourth grade families before the start of the school

year, an upcoming Parent Night that will focus on admissions, and a weekly admissions newsletter home to parents with tips and advice. Ms. Vaughters tries to arm families with all the resources they will need to make an informed decision. For example, in her last newsletter, she suggested questions for families to ask at Open Houses to determine whether prospective schools have important qualities such as character education curricula and class environments where multiple learning styles and paces are accommodated.



CPS fourth grader Zakiah reviews admissions materials for area independent schools with her aunt, Marlene Adams (left), and CPS's newly-hired Director of Enrollment, Linn Vaughters (right).

In addition to her extensive work with families, Ms. Vaughters is also on a mission to spread the word about CPS. "We shouldn't be a secret!" she says. "As I'm meeting with representatives from regional independent, charter and parochial schools, they are surprised and excited to learn about CPS and what our students will bring to their schools. I have heard a lot of,

"Wow, I can not believe this school is here and we did not know!" People should know more about us, and that's the core of my job."

As students begin planning for their future after CPS, Ms. Vaughters is excited about all the opportunities available to them. She is certain that CPS students are going to be great assets to any school community they join. "CPS students are so comfortable with themselves," she explains. "There's a fearlessness that comes with being educated at a small independent school where teachers really work with you to help you meet your potential. There's nothing students are not willing to try."

Letter from the Head of School ... SHAPING STRONG LEARNERS REQUIRES BUILDING A STRONG COMMUNITY

Dear Friends of CPS,

An important element in a quality school program involves exposure to the diversity represented around us - in particular, the unique range of backgrounds, languages and living styles that make up our society and world as a whole. Exposing students to such diversity enhances their ability to make connections, demystifies difference, and broadens their horizons. If we want our children to be successful in a world that is increasingly interconnected, such exposure takes on a heightened level of importance for schools and should inform all that schools do, from shaping curriculum and school culture, to recruiting and hiring teachers and staff, to the ongoing professional development and team-building opportunities offered.

At CPS, we work hard to remind ourselves of our mission, part of which entails feeding our students' natural sense of wonder and working closely with their parents and guardians to provide skills that lead to more empathic and engaged citizenship. Such skills are transmitted not just via curriculum, but as a result of rubbing shoulders with a diverse team of teachers and mentors. In this way, we shape high achieving scholars whose capacity for curiosity, courage and compassion are cultivated all the more.

Reviewing the list of new hires included in this newsletter and viewing the "Faculty and Staff" page on our school website offer a sense of the range of backgrounds and experiences represented amongst our faculty, staff and administration. Our intimate size facilitates healthy connections with our students and their families which lead to strong bonds between home and school and communicate invaluable lessons to our children. Potential barriers to growth, both individual and collective, are broken down when children get to know people representing a broad range of cultures - their identities are affirmed and, simultaneously, windows on a broader world are provided. Such an approach to shaping community at CPS, we believe, will impel our students to aspire for more and leave them positioned to access all the fantastic things that life has in store. Indeed we are fortunate in that we have drawn teachers, counselors, volunteers and mentors from various walks of life and this is but one of the strengths of our school. —Eric Jones

Donor Profile... MUSIK FOR KIDS FOUNDATION



A CPS third grader practices violin during music class. CPS was able to implement a violin program as a result of a generous donation from the Musik for Kids Foundation.

What do you get when you mix together one very determined music teacher, a brand new non-profit intent on enriching children's musical lives and twenty-four eager CPS 3rd and 4th graders? You get Suzuki violin lessons and a lot of beautiful music!

When Community Partnership School first opened in September of 2006, it had yet to put a music program in place but knew that its students would benefit greatly from regularly engaging in all aspects of learning about and making music. In stepped Beth Dzwil, a Germantown Academy parent and music teacher at Germantown Friends School and Springside School. She spent many hours volunteering with CPS students, always hoping that in addition to general music studies, someday there would be a way to teach them violin.

Fast forward a few years and not only is Ms. Dzwil in her first year as CPS's part-time music teacher, she is also instructing 3rd and 4th grade students in Suzuki violin. It sounds like her dream simply fell into place, but there was a great deal of effort as well as many generous people involved in the process.

Last spring, when it became evident that Ms. Dzwil's changing teaching obligations would allow her to step in for the departing CPS music teacher, she sent out an email to all of her musician friends, looking for used violins. Fortunately, many of her friends and colleagues were able to donate used violins. Then,

incredibly, Ms. Dzwil was told of a new non-profit that was interested in helping bring music into the lives of students in need.

This fall, two huge cartons containing twelve brand new violins appeared in the CPS hallway. Courtesy of **Musik for Kids**, an Abington based non-profit, these donated violins have made the Suzuki dream a reality.

The mission of **Musik for Kids**, started by then 18-year-old Dan Meropol last year when he was a senior at Abington Friends School, is to enrich the lives of children through music by providing musical instruments to students in need. Through benefit concerts and word of mouth, this organization gathers used instruments and funds for new ones.

Now a freshman at Brown University, Mr. Meropol, who plays piano, trumpet and drums, is thrilled that his organization has had such a strong impact. "Music was always my greatest passion, and I received great joy from playing and listening to it," he notes. "I realized, however, that other students in less fortunate neighborhoods were not offered the opportunities I took for granted."

Mr. Meropol points out that many school districts like Philadelphia are under-funded and the arts are always the first to go in a budget cut. "I wanted to help, and I did so by founding MUSIK. Now we have made our first donation -- our labor is finally paying off!"

And here in North Central Philadelphia, the sound of kids plucking strings, learning notes and trying out bowing techniques has become the background music of a very busy and grateful school.

CPS Family Spotlight... THE HALES



At home with the Hale Family (l-r): Joseph, Janiya, Jalia (CPS first grader), Tara and Joseph.

This issue of the Community Partnership School newsletter celebrates the Hale Family. During a recent visit to their home, it was clear that the Hale Family truly represents the sense of family and community that CPS is so known for within and outside our school walls. Meet the Hale Family, Tara (mom), Joseph (dad), CPS 1st grader, Jalia, daughter Janiya and son, Joseph.

How did your family first hear about the CPS?

Mr. Hale: My good friend works for Philabundance and discovered CPS during his travels throughout the city. He knew from his work in the city that CPS was different from most schools. We started to research the school as much as we could. We met with Head of School, Mr. Jones, visited classrooms, and got to know the teachers. We liked what we heard, saw and read about the school. We did everything possible to send Jalia to CPS. Truth be told, we put all of our eggs in one basket – we only applied to CPS! We prayed and I guess you can say that the big man upstairs answered our prayers!

Why is sending your child to an independent school important to you?

Mr. and Mrs. Hale: CPS is an independent school, which means they are self-regulated and don't receive public funds. Because the quality and future of the school depends on everyone involved, everybody works incredibly hard to provide the best education for our daughter. An independent school experience is different from our neighborhood public schools.

Mr. Hale: My family was able to send me to an independent Christian school in Pittsburgh. I personally understand the important difference that an independent school provides.

What is unique about CPS?

Mr. and Mrs. Hale: CPS provides concentrated learning, two teachers per classroom, 13 students per class, values of respect for one's self and for others, individual attention and extra classes that aren't offered in our neighborhood schools such as music, art, foreign languages, and an after school program until 5:30pm.

Why is your involvement in your child's education important?

Mr. Hale: Our participation in Jalia's education is the key to her success. Learning must not stop when she leaves the school building. Learning must continue at home and be reiterated at home by both my wife and me.

What's your hope for Jalia after CPS?

Mrs. Hale: To be honest, we wish that CPS would go to 8th grade. We want Jalia's CPS education to continue through middle school. With CPS's help, we will find a middle school, high school and also a college with the same qualities as CPS.

What's your hope for the future of CPS?

Mr. and Mrs. Hale: CPS is a well-kept secret. While we want more schools like CPS to open in the city, we don't want CPS to lose its personal approach to education as it grows. One thing that can't change is the teacher to student ratio. Also, CPS can't lose the community and family feel. We hope that some day there is a CPS middle and high school. Hopefully soon enough for our kids!

CPS WISH LIST

Digital Camera
Student Snacks
Van

Marketing Assistance
Copy Paper
Bus Driver

First Aid Supplies
Business Journal
Subscription

Groups of 15 tickets for performances, museums.

Like What You've Read? Like What You See?
Want to make a difference?

*** Volunteer * Visit * Donate**

The Reality: Our Expense...\$15,000 per child
The Reality: We raise 94% from private gifts

For more information on visiting, volunteering, or donating,
please contact Angie McCole at
a.mccole@communitypartnerschool.org or 215-235-0461.

STUDENT SHOWCASE CORNER



Chalk Insect Drawing—Obaida, 2nd Grade.



Self-Portraits: James, 2nd grade (left) and Justice R., 2nd grade (right)



Up Close With.... NEW TEACHERS AND STAFF

Name: Dave Kasievich
Position: Director of Development

Education: B.A., Human Services, La Roche College. M.A., Theology, La Salle University

Previous Experience: Director of Development, Young Scholars Charter School

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

Hobbies: Biking, gardening, hiking with my dog Dakota

What are you most looking forward to this school year at CPS? I'm looking forward to building a stronger and more effective development program so we can expand our impact in North Philadelphia.



What are you most looking forward to this school year at CPS?

I'm looking forward to making even more memories with the wonderful faculty and my beautiful students. I'm also really looking forward to the day when my students will be able to open their own ketchup and mustard packets at lunch time.

Name: Joanne Yi

Position: First Grade Teacher

Education: B.A., Elementary Education, University of Pennsylvania

Previous Experience: Teacher, Daejeon, South Korea

Hometown: Chicago, IL

Hobbies: I love to cook, read books, and travel with my husband.

What is your favorite thing about CPS?

I love seeing the kids light up with pride and confidence at their own academic success. The first grade is growing by leaps and bounds! It is a joy to be with them everyday.



Name: Annie Kim

Position: Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

Education: B.A., Elementary Education & Ms.Ed, Multicultural Education, Eastern University

Previous Experience: Pre-Kindergarten Teacher, Episcopal Academy.

Hometown: Ellicott City, MD

Hobbies: I love running, reading books of all kinds, and making crafts. I also really love eating churros!



Name: Harmony Goldstein

Position: Fourth Grade Teacher

Education: B.A., Franklin Pierce College. MS.Ed, University of Pennsylvania.



Previous Experience:

K-5 Environmental Educator, Wissahickon Charter School

Hometown: Port Washington, NY

Hobbies: Planning for my upcoming wedding, yoga, reading

Favorite thing about CPS? I love the small class size and the ability to give individual attention to my students. I also love how welcoming and nice the staff are!

Name: Beth Dzwil

Position: Music Teacher

Education: Associate in Viola Performance, Philadelphia College of the Performing Arts. Certified in Suzuki Method, Books I through 4.

Previous Experience: Music teacher—Springside School, Oak Lane Day School and Haverford College.

Hometown: Hauppauge, NY

Hobbies: I love to read, see movies, hike in the woods and spend time at the beach.

What is your favorite thing about CPS?

I love the people at CPS - the students, the teachers, the administration, the volunteers. Everyone is so enthusiastic and committed. They all make it a joy to be here!



- CPS BOARD MEMBERS:
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