



CPNS Alumni Newsletter

From the Director, Nancy Rahimi

Whew! What a year it has been. Our ride on the wheel of change began in August when Teacher Shelley was offered an irresistible opportunity to teach art at her children's school. While Shelley's bubbling enthusiasm has been missed, her departure opened the door for another fabulous addition to the CPNS teaching team.

After intense deliberation, we had the largest number of highly qualified applicants in CPNS history, the hiring committee selected Conny Shyvers to teach the 3 day class. Her knowledge, confidence, experience and abilities made her our number one pick. We are fortunate that she chose to work with us. Conny brings with her nearly 20 years of teaching experience, she has her MA in child development, an Early Childhood Special Education Credential, and is fluent in American Sign Language. Check out our website to learn more about Conny.

Thanks to a little co-op magic and years of hard work, we have a wonderfully renovated outdoors, and a stable budget in these hard times. Costs have increased in every category and we have lost a bit of school district funding, but we still stand strong. Our school's strength comes from our history, and it comes from you. CPNS parents have always had a way of living in the day while preparing for the future. I hope that the time you spent at CPNS is not only fodder for fond memories, but that it also helped to lay a solid foundation which continues to support you and your family through all life's changes, challenges and celebrations. I know that the schools which surround us are also stronger because of you. The effects of your positive, conscious parenting and community activism are doing more good and for more people than you will ever know.

If you miss being at CPNS and have some free time, consider

applying to be a paid sub, nursery caregiver, or classroom aide. Send me an email if you want more information. Summer Camp registration is just around the corner. Announcements will we send out to the alumni email list in the Spring. I hope to see some of you then. For those of you who have been away a while, invite your alumni children to apply for camp aide positions, or just to stop by to say hi. Until we are together tomorrow again

Nancy Rahimi



Carlmont Parents Nursery School

Alumni Issue

February 2010

Special points of interest:

- ☺ 2010 Spring Auction March 8th-14th
- ☺ School Picnic and New playground ribbon cutting ceremony May 8th 11am-2pm

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From the President, Kimberly Unger

It seems a decade ago, doesn't it? Well, who am I kidding, for some of you happy alumni it *was* a decade ago. But here you still are, keeping tabs of your favorite comfy-cozy



playbased co-op! The place where your kids finally figured out that wearing a jacket in the rain was actually a good idea and not just a fashion **Cont. pg. 4**

A New Playground for CPNS!



The new rock climbing structure!

Remember selling cookie dough and wrapping paper? Remember bidding on items at the silent auction? Remember taking your kids to pizza nights? Thanks to all of those fundraising efforts, CPNS has finally put in a new playground! Thank you to all of our alumni who supported this project over the past 10 years! And don't worry, the enormous sandbox is still here!

Two years ago we had enough money to start the planning process. Bill Enloe and Nancy Rahimi led the effort, which included surveying the parents about their desires, interviewing playground companies, drawing up plans and searching for equipment unique from other playgrounds in our area.

After the planning was complete, there was a delay in breaking ground because our lease with the church expired. As we negotiated a new lease, we remembered how lucky we are to have so much outdoor space for our kids to play. It is not only spacious, but safely fenced, interesting, green and provides so many opportunities for our kids to explore.

Once the lease was signed, we were able to break ground in October. We saved money by having parents do specific parts of the project. On the weekends we dug trenches, laid pipes for irrigation, dug holes, poured cement, rotatilled the sand and much more. The playground crews installed the equipment for the jungle gyms, moved our monkey bars, poured a soft mat surface and craned in a huge climbing rock. We also installed some cool outdoor instruments, including a steel drum and xylophone. The kids enjoyed watching the construction crews at work with their tractors, jackhammers and diggers.

In the spring, with **Rusty Hopewell's** leadership, we are going to construct planter boxes, create a new garden and plant new trees to add shade and greenery. This stage will finish off our playground project by the end of the school year.

A super big thank you goes out to **Bill Enloe**. Bill started working on the project in 2008 when he was a 4pm parent, and his daughter graduated before we could break ground. But, since he was so invested in the project and wanted to see it successfully completed, he finished the project as an alumni. Thank you so much, Bill!!

Please Join Us!
School Picnic and New
playground ribbon cutting
ceremony at CPNS
May 8th 11am-2pm



Playground Cont.

Also, a big thank you to **Nancy Rahimi** for her leadership in the project. Nancy has a wealth of knowledge and experience in redoing playgrounds, and her expertise for the details was invaluable. She made sure that the equipment was appropriate, challenging and fun for all of our 2-5 year olds.

Greg Thornhill is a CPNS parent as well as head of grounds at the Congregational church. Greg spent countless hours communicating between us and the church board of trustees and helped us get approval for the playground. This was a giant help, and we want to thank him a lot!

Finally, we would like to thank **Jason Alger**. Jason is a new parent at CPNS this year, and he (and his dad) jumped right in to every step

of the project. Jason also organized his company, **Granite Rock**, to donate a significant amount of sand to bolster the sandbox. Thank you Granite Rock! Granite Rock provides a complete line of building materials, masonry and landscape supplies, and is located at 355 Blomquist Street in Redwood City.

Again, thank you to all of our alumni families who supported this project over the past 10 years! We are having a ribbon cutting ceremony and picnic on Saturday, May 8th from 11:00-2:00 at CPNS. We hope you will bring your kids by to play with us that day or come by to visit anytime!



Spring Into Auction!

CPNS Online Auction, Mar 8-14, 2010

It's time again for our big annual fundraiser! Our goal this year is to raise \$13,000 that will help our school make needed improvements such as new floors and other repairs. The money will also help offset teacher salaries which have been drastically reduced due to severe state budget cuts. Our online auction will once again be hosted on the eBay website. Please visit our new website for more information.

www.cpnsauction.com



THINK OF US FONDLY, AND GIVE US GOOD OLD STUFF

CPNS is in need of gently used dress up shoes from kindergarten through second graders. Sports cleats, tap shoes, roller skates, ballet slippers and Halloween costume accessories will find a loving home here. I want to thank you for continuing to think of CPNS when you are cleaning out your closets and garages. You are invited to contact T. Nancy if you have something to give away which you think we might be able to use.

President Cont.

statement imposed by the MOM.

Where they made friends, argued, made up again and then went out to fight imaginary fires and take the dinosaurs through the car-wash.

These past couple of years have seen some major changes here at the school and now, FINALLY, your foresight, all the pre-planning and decision making of the previous ten years have come to fruition. **The new playground is COMPLETE!** Okay, mostly complete. If this rain ever lets up we will get all the new gardening in place as quick as a wink, just you watch us go!

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you, to the past parents, the previous board members, the movers and shakers who planned ahead, who started setting aside the funds for this massive undertaking over ten years ago, allowing us to maintain the financial integrity of the school, allow-

ing us to practice the fiscal responsibility we all preach and try our utmost to pass on to the next generations. Getting this renovation in place was no mean feat and the security that we could do it without having to take out loans, beg for money or delay until safety became an overweening issue was a HUGE help.

Secondly, I want to extend a BIG thank you to several very special families who have gone above and beyond. To Bill Enloe, who is already an alum, but who took on the task of masterminding all the logistics for the playground design, delivery and assembly. To Rusty Hopewell, who helped us nearly double our green space and garden, planning around the frenetic winter weather and designing a space that will be educational as well as beautiful (and durable). To Jason Alger, whose company helped us out immeasurably with fabulous new sand. And last but certainly not least to the incomparable Dee Dee Clarke who has been overseeing this whole shebang as part of her Board position while at the same time managing

three kids *and* starting a new business.

One thing I want to impress upon all of you, even as we change equipment, repair and repaint, bid a tearful farewell to beloved teachers and welcome new members to our family with open arms is that all this change is on the outside. On the inside, the heart and soul of our school have remained the same. The focus is still on our kids, on maintaining that play-based system of learning and teaching that is becoming more elusive by the year. While we may be sporting a slick new firefighter's hat and sparkly new princess sneakers, CPNS remains, in its heart and soul, the same kid and parent friendly learning environment that has been our mission since our doors first opened.

Notable Achievements from past CPNS'ers

Nicholas ('03-'05) is now in the 4th grade and has been doing exceptionally well in school, continuously marking in the upper percentages of his class. He is reading a full grade level ahead and is really enjoying school. Last year a poem he wrote was selected and printed in the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans. He recently received a \$10,000 grant for a project to help save endangered snakes through a writing/oratory program at his school. He started Pop Warner football this year and was positioned at linebacker, defensive lineman and tight end.

Daniel ('06-'08) is also in the top of his class, reading almost a full grade level ahead. He has had artwork selected for and placed in the Art in Action Summer Art Show in the San Mateo Main Public Library. He continues to make his friends laugh.

Hulman Family '03 - '08

1) Interesting that at least 5 CPNS grads were selected for competitive gymnastics teams - Madigan and Adam Griffin, Kate Exley, my son Nico Levy and Will Stange. Adam and Kate are quite good, taking high podium positions at a state wide level. Will is no longer on the San Mateo Gymnastics team, but may be continuing elsewhere. Adam and Daniel Griffin and my other son Julien Levy are advanced karate students, sporting green with brown striped belts (only brown and black to go!) Kevin Gray is an assistant instructor of karate at his dojo, which is an honor accompanying his green belt level.

2) Nico Levy danced again in the Peninsula Youth Ballet's Nutcracker, although he has an equal love for breakdancing as ballet.

3) Parents of CPNS learners continue to hold positions requiring time and effort for our children's ongoing activities across the peninsula, whether it's as board presidents, 4H leaders,

class room parents and other modes of engagement. Ed and Erin Coady are now PTA president and Art in Action lead for Laurel Elementary School, (Julie Averill was the past president there), Ruth Bennett and Katie Lipka volunteer in schools with the Music for Minors program, I'm leading 2 projects for 4H, serving as Nico's class room parent, Vice Chair for the county wide presentation day program, the 5th/6th grade field trip coordinator for my older son together with another CPNS alum, RJ Ligtenberg, and see Sue (past CPNS president) in Tierra Linda's library helping students there work on their reading skills. Betsy Carter continues to invest in co-ops by working at Family Connections, and by chairing the volunteering process at the Author's night. We're all still engaged, and appreciate the treasure that CPNS is for families of preschoolers.

Knisely/Levy Family

Donation Form

Yes, our family would like to donate to CPNS! We would like to help by contributing:

___ \$10 ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 Other: \$ _____

Please apply this donation to the following fund:

___ Scholarship ___ Capital Improvements ___ Reserve Fund
___ Site Improvement ___ Unrestricted

Please mail check to CPNS, 751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont, CA 94002 in the envelope provided. Thank you!