

IN THE NEWS

The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life. -Plato

Dates to Remember

April 21

Teacher Work Day
Non-Student Day

May 3

Fiesta After Dark
Dinner & Silent Auction

May 25

Memorial Day
School Closed

May 29

Shakespeare and Social
7:00PM Trinity Prep

May 30

Grade 8 Graduation
Last Day of School!
Half Day

June 2 – 4

Teacher Post-Planning

SAVE THE DATE!

May 3, 2008
7:00-11:00 P.M.

Parents, don't forget our Dance/Silent Auction Gala is **May 3, 2008** at Church Street's Ballroom. This will be a great opportunity to mingle, dance, shop, make new friends, and start a New School tradition. We can't think of a better way to end the school year! Bring alum or potential parents. Most of all mark your calendar to come.

from the Director...

At the conclusion of the Grade Six year, students who achieve 95% or better on their school SATs in Language Arts or Math are eligible to take the College Board SATs that high school students must complete for college entrance. The test is divided into three sections: Critical Thinking, Mathematics, and Essay Writing. A perfect score is 800 on each. Students who earn 500 in any two of the three areas earn the right to attend Duke University during the summer. This past May, 15 students in Grade Six, scored the required 95%. In December and January, as seventh graders, they took the college level SATs. We are pleased that three of these students earned a score of 1000 or more and will attend Duke University this summer.

The majority of students at New School in Grade Eight complete Algebra with Quadratics by the end of the year. They receive high school credit for this course and will take classes in Geometry when they enter high school.

Because of the level of our Spanish program, our advanced students will be able to earn first-year high school credit for foreign language and move directly into Spanish 2 when they enter high school.

New School Prep German students will be attending the annual FASG (Florida Association of Students of German) convention from April 17-19 in Daytona Beach. Our students are the youngest competitors, and are up against high school German students from across the state. Last year, nine New School Prep students came in second place overall in the state of Florida.

Rehearsals for our Shakespeare production are in full swing. All students from Kindergarten through Grade 8 will be part of the cast of *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Morris Sorin



Spend your summer with us!

New School Preparatory is where you'll want to be this summer. Each camp is theme-centered with well-planned activities and exciting special events. Weekly themes include Harry Potter, Digital Photography, Drama, Spanish, Creepy Crawlies, Fairy Tale Detectives and many more. Check out our summer camp brochure, return the registration form by April 15th, and your student will "bounce into summer", enjoying all the simple pleasures of the upcoming summer on our beautiful campus.

Kindergarten Korner



The **Kindergarten** is midway through their unit on "Mammals, Reptiles, Birds, and Amphibians." The children are strengthening their skill in working with classification. During this unit we took a "working field trip" to the Zoo. The children recorded the number of carnivores, herbivores and omnivores they saw. They also identified mammals, reptiles and birds by observing their physical characteristics,

The children are busy writing research reports about their chosen animal and will be making shoebox habitats for clay animals, reciting poetry, making origami animals and baking animal cookies. The class will show off their projects and read their research reports to their parents at a special Science Program on April 10.



News

The **First Graders** performed songs from the opera Hansel and Gretel in Music, used the story of The Elves and the Shoemaker to learn about Simple Machines in Science and opened their very own Fairy Tale Museum!

In Social Studies they continued learning about Famous People-Susan B. Anthony and Harriet Tubman. Telling Time and Counting Money will be the math topics to follow while math facts continue to be very important especially for those beginning place value.

Second Grade



Second Grade has been very busy learning about Lewis and Clark as part of our unit on Westward Expansion. We have been learning how to classify plants and reviewing the classification of animals this past week. During our lessons on classification we also worked on identifying several samples of trees based on their leaves. The students all had a lot of fun with this.

Next we will begin working on growing our own plants so please make sure your child has brought in a bag of seeds of their choice.

During the Month of April we will be focusing on life on the Prairie and the Oregon Trail. We will be reading Little House on the Prairie and working on building our own model wagons. The students will also use their knowledge of plants and the climate to choose appropriate food to grow during the trip west.

Third & Fourth Grade



THE EAGLE HAS LANDED!

Karen Alexandra Hoefler was born on Wednesday, March 26th, weighing in at a nice, plump 8 pounds, 7 ounces! Mom and baby are both well, thankfully.

In Language Arts, both groups are reviewing the s, es, and ing endings. This is important because many children are still making the mistake of putting 's onto words that should be plurals.

Third Grade began reading The Midwife's Apprentice, a book about a young girl in the Middle Ages who must work hard to get little food and eventually develops her identity.

Fourth Grade is reading Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh, a story about a plucky mouse widow who uses her brainpower and friendly contacts to help her young son Timothy. **Third Graders** began their math unit on fractions this week. The first thing to understand is that fractions can show part of a whole or part of a group.

Next we identify and compare fractions, deciding whether or not they are equivalent, greater than, or less than one another. **Fourth graders** began a unit on decimals, which requires them to apply their newly gained knowledge of fractions to these new skills. In Science, we extracted DNA strands from plants cells and discussed how DNA is what makes us unique. Many kids had questions about cloning, thinking that a clone would be a perfect copy of them, which, of course, on some levels, is true. We began our unit of Florida Studies this week as well, learning about the different symbols of our state. The Great Seal, the state flag, etc. We will continue to learn about the many ecosystems of Florida and about the first Floridians. The children will be making their own native tools, crafts, etc in order to have first-hand experiences. (**If anyone is considering cutting down a pine tree sometime soon, please let me know. I would LOVE to have the kids make a native canoe out of a piece of its trunk**)

SPANISH NEWS

Grade 8 students have been practicing conversation that takes place in a Mexican restaurant; they will learn how to ask politely to have something brought to them, order a meal, and say what they want to eat and drink. At the end of this chapter we are planning to bring and share traditional Mexican food.

Grade 7 students started working on how to conduct a conversation related to health and health practices in the Spanish-speaking world; they will describe how they are feeling, tell what parts of their body hurt, and suggest things they or others can do to feel better.

Grade 6 students also started a new chapter this week; they will be able to describe what they like and don't like to eat and drink, tell when they have meals, and say whether they are hungry or thirsty.

We have continued working on conversation and reading comprehension with all students.

Language Arts



5th Grade

Last week the **5th Graders** created Renga, a collaborative poetry project originally created in Japan and the forerunner of Haiku. They had to think and write quickly, yet some of the verses they came up with are simply amazing!

The theme of Renga is the cycle of the seasons. It begins with a spring image and works its way through summer, fall, winter and back to spring. We'll have them posted on the classroom bulletin board next week, so come in and check them out.

We've been reading the novel *Holes*. This wildly popular novel tells the story of a boy forced to search for buried treasure as part of a juvenile rehabilitation program. We'll be finishing it next week.

6th and 7th Grade

While the **Grade Six and Grade Seven** Language Arts classroom does not look like the Plato's Academy of 385 B.C. Athens, the dialogue within New School's walls could rival the thought of the best of Plato's students.

Grade Six discussed what Socrates might have meant when he declared, "The unexamined life is not worth living." Both classes studied Plato's Philosophy of the Cave in which a group of chained prisoners perceive the shadows they see to be reality.

One of the prisoners is able to get free and, at first, is blinded by the light he encounters when he leaves the cave. He realizes that he has lived without seeing what is truth and knows he must go back to teach those left behind in the cave. Students related the quote and the story to the meaning of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* in which Scrooge's life was unfulfilled until he had a chance to examine his values.

Another topic involved ethical decision making. In a hypothetical scene, parents suspect and then find out that their son has plagiarized his application essay for high school admission. The students had to decide how to handle the situation. Most students decided that there should be a consequence for lying.

In a second situation, parents were offered the opportunity to submit an address that was not their own, in order to get their child into a better school district. In this situation, most of the students decided that it was permissible to lie. The heart of the discussion became, "Why is one lie more acceptable than another lie?" After an exhaustive debate about right and wrong, students watched one DVD in the series *Ethics in America*. Harvard Professor Charles Ogletree led the dialogue among well-known prominent leaders of today through the same hypothetical situations. Our students were surprised and pleased to see that the adults experienced the same philosophical struggle as the students in our Middle School.

Grammar work in **Grade Six** focused on identification of dependent clauses. **Grade Seven** was introduced to participles and gerunds. Both groups reviewed sentence diagramming.

8th Grade

Eighth Grade has begun its study of the Holocaust. While the facts of this horrific event may be familiar to most of us, studying it in a literature class should provide students with a more personal perspective. We've been watching *Fiddler on the Roof* and researching Jewish holidays in order to gain some background on Jewish culture and an understanding of what the world lost as a result of this tragedy. We'll also be reading *All Quiet on the Western Front* for some background on the monumental conflict that precipitated the events. Finally, we'll read Anne Frank's diary and Elie Wiesel's *Night*, two harrowing visions of those who survived and succumbed to these horrors.

Social Studies



Sixth Graders just completed their first formal debate. As we transitioned from studying tribal cultures to studying civilizations, we took some time out to consider the merits and drawbacks of each way of living. Five students argued for Civilization, pointing out our advances in health care and food preservation as well as the variety we enjoy in jobs, food and education. On the tribal side, strong arguments were made for a more leisurely paced lifestyle that did minimal harm to the earth. Both sides spoke eloquently, and audience members commented on how well the speakers performed. Seventh Graders served as judges, though all judging was done anonymously, using forms that kept the judging as objective as possible. In the end, Civilization barely edged Tribal life as the preferable lifestyle.

Seventh Grade is studying Egyptian gods like Anubis, the jackal-headed god of embalming, and Horus, the falcon-headed god of the sky. Ever wonder where these gods originated? We did too. We've been discussing the basic human needs for a sense of control over uncontrollable environmental forces, and the universal concerns over life and death and how these may have led to mythological gods who would come to the aid of the people. We've also been creating our own versions of the Egyptian gods as they might be today in the face of our modern problems.

Eighth Grade is studying the Civil War period. They are exploring the life of Abraham Lincoln and his contribution to freeing the slaves. The students will examine the short, but powerful Gettysburg Address as well as the Emancipation Proclamation. They will analyze this document to determine if the common impression that it freed the slaves is accurate. They will learn about John Wilkes Booth and the role of the freed slaves in fighting for the Union. The study of this time would not be complete without including an examination of the Underground Railroad and the role of John Brown and the abolitionist movement.

MATH



Grades 5-8

We hope everyone enjoyed Flight Day. Thank you for coming out and supporting our efforts.

8th Grade Algebra students have been having fun simplifying radicals this week. They can now add, subtract, multiply and divide radicals and rationalize their denominators.

7th Grade Pre-Algebra students are studying linear equations and learning how to graph them. The other 7th grade students are using the Hands on Equations kit and are learning the basics of solving algebraic equations.

6th Graders are excited to be finishing the last chapter in their book this week. Next week it's the book test and then on to 7th grade concepts. Several of the

5th Graders are also almost finished with the 5th grade book and will soon be moving on to the 6th grade book.

MUSIC



Music is in the air this Spring. **Kindergarten** students are singing songs about animals. We also are learning to read and sing the Scale going up and down! **First Graders** have just started a unit on solo singing and are singing Broadway songs written especially for children. We will be memorizing many songs in the next month and will be practicing singing them alone and with a friend. **Second Grade** is singing early American Folksongs working with their unit on early American Pioneers. **Third and Fourth Grades** are studying Franz Schubert and we are writing lyrics to one of his melodies. We are also learning how to use the music computer program and will create the song complete with each of our own lyrics. We are also singing rounds and working on singing in harmony. **Fifth through Eighth Grade** is busy with Shakespeare, but in music classes, we have been studying how music is put together. We are learning about the 12 bar blues using the keyboards and percussion instruments playing the blues. The structure of music is our focus for the spring. The tunes of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons are also something wafting around the music studio. The **Eighth Graders** are exploring the Civil War through Song. Ask them about the origin of the "Taps" melody that is played at every military funeral. And, of course, when we want to take a break, we pull out our wonderful African drums and just enjoy making rhythm together. The **Sixth and Seventh Grades** are especially excited about drumming and request it almost every week.

Athletics

Congratulations to all of our **Tennis Players!!!** We had an incredible, record setting season!

OUR GIRLS- played tennis with such grace on the courts.

Becky went Head to Head with Trinity showing great sportsmanship well into a tie breaker that ended in a 5-7 loss. **Catherine** did a fabulous job fighting off her opponent. **Olivia C** ended her New School Tennis Career battling. **Patricia**, most definitely should be proud of her accomplishments as well. **Monica**, a first year player had her first experience in a grueling battle at a Trinity Championship match. **Renee, Caroline, and Alex** had the opportunity to see what it takes to play against the best players in the area. **Olivia A, Gabriella, and Christina C.** keep working hard, and we look forward to a great season next year!!

OUR BOYS ---2nd Place – Tennis Trophy !! They have set a standard for the rest of the players. **Kian** has come so far for a 5th Grader and will continue to grow. **Alex G.**, next year is your year to shine. **Reece and Elliott**-2nd place boys doubles. **Sean and Justin**- the dynamic duo- both came in 2nd place and took 2nd place in doubles.

A special thanks must be given to Randie Frederick for tireless efforts and, from the players' perspective, thank you for the snacks.

We thank all the parents for the support and commitment to the Athletic Program.