

Spirit Day Bake Sale February 10th

Upcoming Events ...

WED, Feb 10
12:30 pm, Spirit Day Lunch
1:00 pm, Spirit Day Assembly

THURS, Feb 11
1:45 pm, Swim Departure

Deadline: Fridays, one week prior to Thursday publication dates.

Email articles to:
jroder@steppingstoneschool.org

cc:
therbst@steppingstoneschool.org



Not sure of the story here, but what the heck.



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Update: Our New Home

We just received the environmental reports, which raised a few questions but nothing exceptional. We are putting together the timeline for announcements and will unveil the site to you, our parents, first.

Accounting Update

Statements and invoices will now be emailed to each family. Because our accounting software can only accept one email address per family, they will be emailed to the mother by default. If you would prefer a different email be used, please let Sandy Blay know by calling the office @ 248-539-1666.

Thank you.

Update: Capital Campaign

Action is still occurring behind the scenes, and you can still make your personal donation or urge others to do the same. The next step will be the pursuit of corporate and business donors as well as the applications for grants and support from foundations. If you can help in any way, please give Donna a call.



Just a Puzzle

Ms. Powell, Early Elementary

Using "Mathematics Their Way" activities surrounds "Children with meaningful concrete experiences that build a true understanding of mathematical patterns, language, and symbols needed to perform simple number operations. Children progress through three levels of abstraction: concept, connecting, and symbolic, as they work—depending on the degree of difficulty the task at hand requires of them."

At the concept level, students develop mathematical language as they explore number patterns. This is done with real events or through the manipulation of concrete materials. Numerical and mathematical symbols are introduced at the connecting level. Students learn to manipulate objects both vertically and horizontally. Children also begin to verbalize the symbols as they solve number problems. Students build concrete models to match the written equation displayed. After students are confident with concrete number patterns, they begin to use symbols to record equations.

By providing opportunities and experiences with free exploration, sorting and classifying, counting, building patterns, graphing, comparing, measurement, and probability, students are able to build on their existing knowledge. This type of math instruction provides a solid foundation that enables children to accept the future challenges they face in the puzzle of mathematics.

—information from "Mathematics Their Way Summary Newsletter"

Field Trip Thank You

Many thanks to the following adults who transported and escorted our Intermediate and Upper Elementary classes on their field trip to the Cranbrook Science Museum—we literally couldn't have done it without you!

Luis Collazo	Trina Deming
Dawn Gilmore	JaNele Jordan
Sherry Kahn	Beverly Kramer
Kevin Lampi	Wendy Mayer
Olga Mondrusova	Jackie & John Robbins
Kelly House-Seaman	

Why Poetry?

Ms. Schultz, Intermediate Elementary

Poetry writing is the surest, easiest way to turn kids on to writing. Kids love it. Teachers love it. It is fun and easy for everyone. Students love to play around with words and patterns in their head, and they love the freedom to write as much or as little as they choose. The biggest advantage to teaching poetry is that every child feels competent and successful as a writer. Poetry writing offers many other important benefits. It extends students' understanding of poetry beyond rhyme to free verse. It incorporates all five senses into the writing process and it challenges students to be specific and innovative with their use of language.

This week in writing, we are going to begin a new study in poetry that will focus on rhyme and rhythm. We will be reviewing a wide variety of poetry. To help your child open their mind to the exploration of words, encourage them to write how they are feeling. They may not know it, but that is a form of poetry! Another great way to get your child excited about this unit of study is to read poetry of all kinds for a bit of FUN and ENJOYMENT!

Happy writing and reading!

Spirit Day Bake Sale

Upper Elementary students will once again be hosting a Spirit Day Bake Sale on Wednesday, February 10. All items will be priced at \$1. Proceeds thus far have been used for field trips to Lansing and the Cranbrook Museum of Science. Thanks for your support!

Japanese Quiz Bowl

Ms. Morse, Pre High School

The Pre High School class is again participating in the Japanese Quiz Bowl that is taking place at the University of Michigan. This opportunity allows students to answer questions about vocabulary, culture, and other topics in a Quiz Bowl format. Students are split into four groups and each group participates as a team.

On the day of Quiz Bowl, students arrive at the University of Michigan's Modern Language building and help set up. They participate in three rounds of questions and whoever has the highest scores after the three rounds goes to the finals. Finals are done in front of the auditorium while the first three rounds are done in private with a panel of judges. Students have a chance to peruse the poster contests, try Japanese snacks, and discuss their progress with other teams.

This is one of the many real life learning opportunities that we try to provide for students who are in middle school. These kinds of opportunities provide a sense of purpose to students and makes learning fun as well.

Sport of the Week

by Pranav Gopalakrishnan, age 11

Weekly, we have an assigned sport called "Sport of the Week." This is designed to instill a love for sports, train students in teamwork, and give them daily exercise. In the past, playing was optional, but in the last few weeks, everyone has been required to play.

The objects of teamwork games like capture the flag and flag football are to teach strategy and the ability to use critical thinking when playing against better-skilled opponents. Of course, these games also develop sportsmanship and dignity, and they are fun to play!

The games from this perspective of "rigorous training" may seem harsh, but the fun of a game like dodge ball allows students to play happily – and to learn valuable lessons. At recess, we usually have spectacular games of football and kickball. It is really a very enjoyable aspect of Steppingstone. Parents, please encourage your children to play along, we always have open places on our capture the flag teams!



Cranbrook Museum of Science Field Trip

Mrs. Hoff, Upper Elementary

Upper Elementary students completed a science unit on Storms by taking a field trip to Cranbrook Museum of Science this past Monday. Students were reminded that temperature, humidity, and barometric pressure all affect our daily weather. Hands-on opportunities allowed students to observe the power of high and low pressure systems and which kind of pressure system is responsible for making clouds. Students viewed pictures of damage done by gale, moderate, significant, severe, and devastating tornadoes. Students also learned to take cover in a ditch if out in the open during a tornado and how to perform the lightning crouch if out in the open during a lightning storm. The highlight of the Climate and Weather presentation was a demonstration of lightning production by a Tesla Coil.

Students also had the opportunity to go through the Cranbrook exhibits, where they were able to spend time learning about rocks, Native Americans, and the science of motion, just to name a few exhibits. Providing students with opportunities to connect their learning to the everyday world makes learning more meaningful.

Thank you to all the parents who took time out of their busy days to chaperone. I know the students enjoy these opportunities to share what they are learning with their parents.

Conferences on March 5th

Please fill out the attached form and return by Tuesday, February 16th.

An Auction Item From the Past: "Iron Chef"

Due to mutual agreement, this item was postponed from last summer to next weekend. This "make your own" Japanese sushi and Korean bulgogi party for 10 will be prepared, served, and cleaned up by volunteer faculty, staff, and board. The purchasers selected the following menu:

Fruit Punch and Sake

Vegetarian Rice Paper Wraps

Seaweed Soup

*Makizushi
Agezushi
Nigiri*

*Korean Bulgogi
Beef, Pork, Chicken, Shrimp
Mushroom, Onion,
Carrot, Zucchini, Bell Pepper*

*Ginger Ice Cream
or Fruit Sorbet
Green Tea*

This item will be offered again at our next auction on March 20th! Mark your calendars and buy your tickets. It includes all the food and beverages as well as some recipes. We prepare it, you compose your own sushi and/or bulgogi, and we clean up.

If you would like to have a catered party for a bargain price, be sure to keep your eye on this item and plan to bid on it at the upcoming Annual Benefit Auction.

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Admissions Director	Donna Coffin
Special Programs Director, & Office Manager	Sandra Blay
Business and Facilities Manager	

STAFF

General Assistant, IT Specialist	Jason Roder
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Intermediate Elementary	Janelle Schultz
Upper Elementary	Linda Hoff
Pre High School, Faculty Chair	Keiko Morse
AIMS/TSC Representative	Carol Powell

INSTRUCTORS

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Japanese	Mieko West
Spanish	Ana Maria Gonzalez
Mandarin Chinese	Hong Lin
Computer	Dr. Reef Morse
Extended Day	Mary Gage
Fencing	Jerzy Radz
Performing Arts	Oliver Thompson

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