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www.adventschool.org

15 Brimmer Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108

A United States Department of Education Blue Ribbon School

The Advent School

News

Educating for the Future: Learn with Passion, Act with Courage, Experience the World

by Head of School Nancy Harris Frohlich

We are living at a critical time in Earth's history. Advances in science and technology have brought peoples and nations closer together. Without any specific memory as to when the dramatic process of acceleration started, we find ourselves living in an era when we can travel to the opposite side of the globe in a matter of hours and when students can uncover volumes of information without opening a book.

This colossal change in the way we live our lives, particularly in the northern hemisphere, cannot help but jog our minds. The impact on our world is monumental:

- Earth's resources are depleting faster than they can reproduce. Policies and systems fail to protect our environment, and access to natural resources varies enormously amongst peoples.
- Widespread poverty, health and hunger crises, and deep inequities, are among the serious concerns facing our world today.

Each of these environmental, economic, and social issues is intrinsically linked to the others.

Global relationships are also undergoing vast change. In Africa agricultural societies are changing, and crowded cities, poverty, and infectious disease continue to grow. Peter Schwartz, author of *Inevitable Surprises*, describes a new world order with Europe holding the "soft power," while it works toward a long process of integrating "disparate countries and cultures."¹ China and India, having already emerged as active participants in the world economy, are becoming leaders in manufacturing and technology, respectively. In the future, China will have the world's largest middle class population, on the order of four to five hundred million, and India just slightly less, most of whom will be fluent English speakers.²

In the face of all this change, do we have the collective capacity to ensure Earth's well-being? Will our children learn the skills necessary to help secure human dignity and sustain the natural resources in their world?

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¹ Peter Schwartz, *Inevitable Surprises* (N.Y., Gotham Books: 2003).

² *Ibid.*

The Advent School News

Letter, Continued from page 1

The Advent School takes pride in its founding Mission, unqualified respect for all peoples. Since our beginnings in 1961, we have taught our children to speak up for human rights and to envision a more just world. As we embark on our Forty-Fifth Birthday year, we are pressing forward with our curriculum, providing our children with a critical new global perspective.

The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

With the United Nations naming the years 2005–2014, The Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, The Advent School is making further advances in its classroom themes, supporting this global vision. The School's historic commitment to cultivating compassionate connections amongst peoples and cultures has guided us in reframing our themes. Our refined curriculum reflects The Advent School's aspiration to deliver a global education that empowers students to address vital issues in their world. These include: human rights, social justice, and environmental preservation.

Expanding our curriculum means that when Kindergarteners explore water each spring, they will learn that clean water is vital to human life and unavailable to many. How might they help those without clean water? Second Graders will begin investigating modern day China, a central element in their Asian theme. What can they learn from China's rapid development? Fifth Graders will examine life in India, focusing on transformations that occurred during the twentieth century. How has India's society changed? Researching programs for Advent's older students, we look forward to finding ways for Fifth and Sixth Graders to become actively involved in community service and mini-internships. Within each class study, our teachers continue to promote Literacy, Math, Geography, and Science skills, consistent with national academic standards.

Growing Science

The Advent School recognizes the imperative for students to have advanced scientific knowledge. Ms. Coolidge and Mr. Rogers have written a new curriculum; they presented its central concepts to the Board last winter. With Advent's growing Science program and partnership with the Museum of Science, we are providing students with vital information, within the context of earth, life, environmental, and physical Science studies. Our laboratory environment invites inquiry and experimentation. Mathematics and technology are integral to Science education at Advent, and our children apply their skills in limitless scientific challenges.

In our August faculty meetings, held at the MOS, we introduced teachers to what UNESCO defines as "the broad scope of actions needed to reorient education for a sustainable future."³ Each of us recognizes the need to conserve ecological systems. In small learning groups, we focused on natural resources that support all life, and systems that have the capability of providing a respectable life for humankind. We acknowledged

³ UNESCO, "Educating for a Sustainable Future," (1997).

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Head of School Nancy Harris Frohlich, Sixth Grader Troi Jackson Conn, and Sixth Grade Teacher Amanda Golden process into The Great Hall at Faneuil Hall.



The recent graduates are led out of Faneuil Hall by bagpipers.

Letter, Continued from page 2

the key role that social issues play in decision and policy making. At the end of two days, we committed to explicitly teach Advent School students to:

- Value our natural world and help restore the health of our planet;
- Actively support the lives of diverse peoples, respecting and preserving all cultures and the wide-ranging achievements of the past; and
- Participate in building a better, more just world.

Global Values

Since our founding, The Advent School has had a curriculum rooted in innovation and global values. We take pride in our traditions, teaching children strategic problem solving, and scientific and social literacy skills. We believe that understanding sustainability, which includes not only ecological, but cultural, social, and economic sustainability, is a lifelong process. We educate even our youngest students to take notice of the world around them.

Without change of this kind, even the most enlightened legislation, the cleanest technology, and the most sophisticated research will not succeed in steering society towards the long-term goal of sustainability.⁴

Starting in the elementary school years, we teach children to recognize the relationship between environmental and human well-being. With this new school year, our children will learn to take a global, futures perspective, focusing on pressing issues. We will empower them with skills to make wise decisions throughout their years. By the time our Sixth Graders embark on their next school experience, they will be fully committed to engaging in responsible, collaborative lives.

We encourage you to talk with your children about what is happening in our world. Positive changes are taking place every day. There is work in progress to decrease atmospheric pollution in many industrialized countries and to replace fossil fuels with solar, wind, and other power sources. In parts of Africa, where there are no power lines, solar energy can be used to improve lives. Scientists worldwide are joining hands to create achievable alternatives.⁵ Throughout our history, Advent students have given back, in the city of Boston and beyond. Together, as teachers, parents, and family members, we can guide our children to make global connections and do their part to support life on our planet.



Nancy Harris Frohlich
Head of School

The Advent School's Overarching Themes 2005–2006

Early Childhood Center
Respecting and Caring for Living Things:
Building Compassionate Connections

Kindergarten
Creating a World Where We All Belong:
Our Common Humanity, Indigenous
Cultures, and Building a Human World
for All

First Grade
Interdependence: Relationships among
Living Things on Earth

Second Grade
Global Perspectives: Foundations for
Living on Our Planet

Third Grade
Concepts of Independence and Freedom
in History: Learning to Lead in a
Changing World

Fourth Grade
Honoring and Preserving the
Achievements of Past Civilizations

Fifth Grade
Promoting Human Dignity, Economic
Justice, and Peaceful Solutions

Sixth Grade
Envisioning Empowerment: Human
Rights, Social Justice, and Sustainability
in Our Global World

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Michael Parfit, "Where on Earth Can Our Energy-Hungry Society Turn to Replace Oil, Coal, and Natural Gas?", National Geographic Magazine, August 2005.

The Advent School News



From Left to Right – Michael Nadelman, Jade Treanor, Troi Jackson Conn, Ms. Golden, Nicholas Sergeant, Cameron Labeck, Elliot Simmons-Uvin, Stephen Simmons-Uvin, Andrew Martone, Ms. Amidon.

Sixth Graders Move On

Troi Jackson Conn
Newton Country Day School

Cameron Labeck
Boston Latin School

Andrew Martone
Catholic Memorial High School

Michael Nadelman
Boston Latin School

Nicholas Sergeant
Boston Latin School

Elliot Simmons-Uvin
Catholic Memorial High School

Stephen Simmons-Uvin
The Willauer School

Jade Treanor
Winthrop Middle School

The Advent Community thanks the Sixth Graders for the class gifts they gave to the school this year. The graduates donated a framed stained-glass window they made during their Middle Ages study as well as a scanner/copier/printer.

Troi Jackson Conn and Nick Sergeant will be the 2005 Class Agents.

Secondary Schools Attended by Advent School Graduates

Class of 2004

Belmont Hill School
Boston Latin Academy
Boston Latin School
Brimmer & May School
Brookline Public Schools
Buckingham Browne & Nichols
Cambridge Public Schools
Newton Country Day School
Shady Hill School
South Shore Charter School
Southfield School

Class of 2002

Belmont Day School
Boston Latin Academy
Boston Latin School
Brimmer & May School
Brookwood School
Buckingham Browne & Nichols
Noble and Greenough School
The Rivers School
St. Sebastian's School
Thayer Academy

Class of 2003

Beaver Country Day School
Boston Latin Academy
Boston Latin School
Brimmer & May School
Buckingham Browne & Nichols
Noble and Greenough School
The Roxbury Latin School

Class of 2001

Boston Latin School
The Carroll School
Fay School
Milton Academy
Noble and Greenough School
The Park School
The Roxbury Latin School
St. John's School, Boston
St. Joseph's School, Cambridge

Class of 2000

Belmont Hill School
Boston Latin Academy
Boston Latin School
Brimmer & May School
Cambridge Friends School
The Catlin Gabel School, Oregon
Lexington Christian Academy
Milton Academy
Noble and Greenough School

Science is Growing at The Advent School

By Susan Coolidge and Tooey Rogers

Dissecting earthworms; exploring Newton's Laws of Motion; Flight; Ecology of a Pond; the Physics of Joints; Sustainability; Weather; Earth's timeline; Atoms and Molecules; studying Owls, and Conduction, Convection and Radiation Experiments, were just a few of our students' explorations this year in Science at The Advent School.



A Science class at Advent typically begins with a discussion of the Scientific Process. We pose a question or problem, and children generate hypotheses. Working together, our students begin by setting up and carrying out experiments and ultimately verifying their conclusions. This year, testing their own sense of the world, Sixth Graders experimented with different materials to discover how heat moves through solid objects. There were no surprises for these young scientists when comparing wood and metals, but questions and surprises abounded when they tested a variety of metals. This is one of many hands-on experiences that students pursued as part of our new science curriculum.



This past year was a time of growth and development for Advent's Science program. As newcomers to the School, Ms. Susan Coolidge, a naturalist, and Mr. Tooey Rogers, whose passion is Physical Science, joined the faculty as the Science Team. Our goal was to work with all classroom teachers to develop a theme-based Science curriculum, driven by the Massachusetts State Standards. As we approach the 2005–2006 academic year, we continue to build on this curriculum, guiding teachers in ECC and Kindergarten, and teaching in First through Sixth Grades twice a week for a semester.

With the support of Nancy Harris Frohlich and Liza Franyo, Education Assistant, we have initiated an invigorating collaboration with the Boston Museum of Science. Working with Sharon Horrigan and Henry Robinson in the Education Department at the Museum, we are developing new curricular connections for Advent classroom teachers. This August before the start of School, the Museum is hosting an Advent School all-staff meeting, which will serve as a kick-off for our partnership. All of us will tour the Museum and participate in activities that demonstrate ways in which the Museum facilities can augment and expand on prospective curricula across the grades.

Science Teachers: Tooey Rogers (top), Physical Science, and Susan Coolidge, Natural Science.

This year brings many opportunities and changes for Science programming at Advent. Supported by a Millipore Foundation grant, which provided five Museum visits for each student throughout the Grades, our partnership with the Museum can grow. Another critical shift is our move to a larger science laboratory environment at Advent. Two administrative offices on the second floor were combined to create a generous physical space for teaching and displaying student work. Whether discovering in the classroom, the Museum of Science, or our natural world, Science will continue to energize students and teachers alike at The Advent School.

LearningBOSTON: Our Students Educate the Community

By Jonathan Ross-Wiley, Director of Outreach and Diversity



LearningBOSTON: Art Teacher George Anastos leads student researchers across The Boston Common.

LearningBOSTON's mission is to provide students with the opportunity to collaborate with their teachers in an effort to create their own exciting curriculum based on the city of Boston. Over the course of the nine-day program, 22 students, led by our teachers, George Anastos and Jonathan Ross-Wiley, incorporated navigational, organizational, and research skills, techniques for collaboration, communication, and artistic and written expression into their objectives. This year's lively group of children, ranging in age from 6 to 11, decided to undertake an in-depth study of The Public Garden and The Boston Common. During our daily trips to these locales, our students studied the topography and landmarks of the areas and actively sketched and recorded information in their journals. Along the way, we met a local celebrity, "Sidewalk Sam", who took time with us to explain his current project. Students were inspired by Sidewalk Sam's sidewalk paintings, which, he explained, were designed to promote the New England Aquarium and to "show the sidewalk respect." We completed our first week by planning and painting two maps of each area. During this project, the students experienced the challenges of making maps which were accurate and drawn to scale.

The students who joined us for the first week had the opportunity to make use of the Boston Public Library as a research resource. Each student was extremely invested in this process, using books dated as far back as 1845 to help answer questions such as, "Has a tree ever been struck by lightning on The Boston Common?" and, "Where did the ducks that currently inhabit The Public Garden come from?" Our students gathered information and, working collaboratively, designed informational posters about specific areas of The Public Garden and The Boston Common. We ventured to The Boston Common with our posters and devoted an afternoon to fielding questions from over 100 passers-by. LearningBOSTON students wowed the crowds with their ability to answer even the most challenging inquiries. And, as a matter of fact, a tree has been struck by lightning on The Common, and there is a plaque marking its location.

During the second week of the program, our students traveled to the Recycling Center at The Children's Museum to gather construction materials. These materials were used to build replicas of some the landmarks and sites we saw on our daily excursions. The "Hanging Tree", a swan, and a floating Swan Boat were among the projects completed over the course of the week. In addition, each student prepared a presentation for the end of the week celebration. The celebration, which was attended by all of the campers' parents, gave the students another chance to shine, as they showed the fruits of all of their hard work. In addition, two videos, one teacher-produced and another student-produced, were shown. Each video documented the journey that was this wonderful nine-day learning experience. For teachers and students alike, this year's LearningBOSTON program was extremely fun-filled, educational, and inspirational.

The Administrative Team

This Spring, the administrative team at The Advent School was evaluated by an outside consultant to determine the effectiveness of human resource management at the School. All the administrative positions were evaluated in terms of job descriptions, time management and personal strengths. Through this discussion new roles and responsibilities emerged.

Margo Lane, a veteran administrator, accepted full-time responsibility as Director of Admission and Financial Aid and will do admissions for all grades.

Arati Pandit, accepted the Director of Education position, which includes working with faculty and students on curriculum, professional development and assessment issues.

Holley Meyer, a new member of the administrative team, is responsible for grant writing and fund-raising in her role as Director of Development.

Valerie Dionne-Lanier, our Director of Operations and Business Manager, will oversee both the facilities and the business aspect of the school.

Jonathan Ross-Wiley, Director of Outreach and Diversity, in his new role will promote The Advent School mission to new families and nursery schools at admission fairs and coffees. He will also support our commitment to diversity by writing the 'On A Mission' newsletter, co-chairing the Diversity committee, and inviting speakers to address issues of diversity.

Liza Franyo, our Education Assistant, will support the Head of School and the Director of Education on curriculum research and development. She will coordinate partnerships with the Museum of Science and other educational endeavors.



Museum of Science: Teacher Jonathan Ross-Wiley, Cyrus Poteat, A.J. Gomes (hidden), Yasmin Francis, and Marisa Breece-Sullivan, Fourth Grade.

photo gallery



Kindergarten student Andrew Olivo balances gymnastics with learning.



Museum of Science: Victoria Schoeck shares a delicate moment with Board Member Wendy Kistler and President/Director Ioannis N. Miaoulis at the opening of the Butterfly Garden Exhibit.



Math Breakfast: Parent Janet Sweeney and her son Chris make breakfast count.



Early Childhood Center: Frances McMillan building a strong foundation.

The Advent School News



Annual Field Day: Renee Patterson gets things rolling.



Science: Teacher Susan Coolidge and Advent First Graders in the field.



Physical Education: Kindergarten raises our "Parachute of Values."



Interweaving Science and History: Jade Treanor shares her model of a sustainable home.

alumni notes

2000s

Ross DeMore '01 and **Caroline Holland '00** have been selected by Mayor Thomas Menino to serve as members of the 2005–2006 Mayor's Youth Council. This organization is comprised of high school juniors and seniors who volunteer to act as representatives for their schools and neighborhoods and to address youth issues. Ross attends Roxbury Latin, where he is a member of the varsity baseball team. He also volunteers at the Hailey House soup kitchen. Caroline attends Noble and Greenough, has helped out at the Beacon Hill Times and Charlestown Bridge papers, and is a volunteer at the Medical Foundation Youth Advisory Group.

Lauren Makhholm '00 is a member of numerous singing groups at Boston Latin School, including the Gospel Choir and the Show Choir. She has been elected president of the Show Choir and looks forward to her senior year at BLS.

Kaitlin Lynch '02 was named Most Valuable Player of the Varsity Field Hockey team at Brimmer and May and was on the Honor Roll as well.

Adrian Madaro '01 will be entering his junior year at Boston Latin, where he plays percussion for the Latin Band and participates in the mock trial program, since he is interested in pursuing a degree in law. He looks forward to having his first official job this summer as a camp counselor for kids ages 5 to 8.

Elizabeth Kendrick, Sarah Minahan, Annie Osborn, Maya Jonas-Silver, and Mai Jean Hunt '04 are doing extremely well at Boston Latin School. All five received an "Approbation" award reserved for straight A and B students.

Jared Lynch '04 played on the junior varsity soccer team at Brimmer and May this past school year and was also on the Honor Roll.

1990s

Jane Daly '99 is looking forward to studying art and ceramics during her freshman year at Alfred University in New York during the fall of 2005.

Nia Murrell '95 graduated cum laude from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, in May 2005. She plans to spend some well-deserved time relaxing in Malibu before moving back to the east coast.

Phil Petri '94 graduated from Washington University in St. Louis in May 2005 with a degree in International Studies. He minored in French and writing and enjoyed spending a semester his junior year in Brussels.

Nick Petri '98 and **Christian Sherden '98** just finished up their freshman year at Washington University in St. Louis, where they were roommates.

Douglas Martilla '78 wed Adrienne Casey on January 2, 2005 in Cambridge, MA. They had invited guests for brunch at The Blue Room and only told the guests upon arrival that a wedding would be taking place. The couple vacationed in Costa Rica for their honeymoon and currently reside in the Fenway. After graduating from Advent, Douglas attended Milton Academy, followed by Georgetown University.

1980s

Bea Berg Gallagher '88 and her husband Rob had a baby son, William MacEwen, on October 11, 2003. The family has relocated from Boston to San Francisco for the next two years.

1970s

Elizabeth Day Churchill '75 and husband John are thrilled to announce the arrival of their son Robert Blackwell Churchill on April 5, 2005. Robert weighed 9 lbs. 2oz. and measured 22 inches. Robert was also welcomed by his two year old brother Freddy, who is excited to have a new addition to the family, and by Grandparents Bob and Barbara Day who were present in Los Angeles for the birth.



Robert Blackwell Churchill, born April 5, 2005.

Anne Meyers Brandt '75 is living in Cambridge with her husband Cameron, daughter Charlotte, and newborn son Sebastian. She is working part-time as an architect and loves being a mother.

1960s

Former Faculty

Lavinia Schoene recently bought a log house in Lebanon Church, VA. She plans to spend her free time fixing it up.

Justin McHorse resides in West LaFayette, Indiana, with his wife Genesis. The couple was married in May 2004.



Advent Alumni enjoyed themselves at the reunion for the Classes of 1967–1992.



The Class of 1999 at their 6th grade Graduation (Left to Right) David Toro, Daniel Sutherland, Angelina Romero, Malcolm Rivers, Katherine Ramey, Sarah Placke.

Class of 1999

Congratulations to the Class of 1999 for their recent high school graduation. We wish them all the best of luck next year!

The members of the Class of 1999 will be attending the following colleges:

Ian Chuckran

University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Eliot Cohen

Northeastern University

Jane Daly

Alfred University

Catherine Demore

Boston University

Andrew Flink

Franklin and Marshall College

Emma Halas-O’Conner

Bates College

Caleb Larson

New York University

Chris Lemmons

Colby College

Ashly Pietras

Northeastern University

Sarah Placke

Bryn Mawr College

Katherine Ramey

University of Arizona

Malcolm Rivers

Harvard University

David Toro

Emerson College

New Faculty Members Bring Their Energy and Experience to Advent



Kate Hulbert and Kelly Sullivan,
ECC Co-Teachers.

The Advent School is most fortunate to have hired new faculty from all over the country, bringing with them varied experiences and impressive credentials.

The Early Childhood Program welcomes Kelly Sullivan and Kate Hulbert, both from the Reggio-Emilia-inspired Boulder Journey School in Colorado.

Kelly has worked directly with Amelia Gambetti and Carla Rinaldi, two central figures from Reggio Emilia, Italy. Kelly has an undergraduate degree from the University of New Hampshire, a Master of Arts degree from the University of Colorado at Denver, and has presented at conferences nationwide (“Teachers as Protagonists of a Community of Learners”). Kelly looks forward to joining the ECC program and living back East where she will be closer to her family.

Kate, who completed a Masters degree at the University of Colorado at Denver a year ago, comes to us with experience with infants, young children, and First through Third Graders. Kate cites her consultations with Amelia Gambetti, Carla Rinaldi, and George Foreman as a source of inspiration and education throughout her time teaching at the Boulder Journey School. While working at the Boulder Journey School, Kate gained valuable experience in the area of documentation. Using digital photography and video, Kate was able to support effectively the growth of the children and their families.



Jason Ankowitz and Natalie Sanders,
Third Grade Co-Teachers.

Joining Denise Bogosian in Kindergarten will be Laura Taylor. Laura has already proven to be a dedicated and talented teacher here at Advent. She substituted in almost every classroom over the course of the 2004–2005 school year, and spent the spring volunteering in our ECC program. Laura’s experience with our ECC program will make the transition into Kindergarten a smooth one for her as well as for the students. It’s always nice to see a familiar face in the fall.

In the First Grade classroom, Anna Bell will co-teach with Amy Lisbon. Anna completed her Master’s degree from Lesley University this past spring, and brings with her talent, inspiration, and a sincere desire to be a part of a community that places a high value on diversity and collaboration. Anna is a passionate basketball player outside of her professional life, and her enthusiasm and determination will certainly be an asset to the First Grade classroom and the entire Advent community.



Candace Kerner and Sarah Hinkle,
Fourth Grade Co-Teachers.

As is the case in the ECC, the Third and Fourth Grades will both have two new partnerships. Jason Ankowitz and Natalie Sanders will team up in the Third Grade and, across the hall, Candace Kerner and Sarah Hinkle will make up the Fourth Grade teaching team.

Jason comes to us from Washington, D.C., where he was teaching the Fourth Grade at Lowell School. While teaching, Jason reviewed and expanded the Fourth Grade Language Arts program and helped to secure a GROW-DC grant for construction of a bird garden as an extension of the Fourth Grade curriculum. An American History major while attending The George Washington University, Jason specialized in literacy while working toward his Master of Education degree at Harvard University. These two academic concentrations, as well as Jason’s natural ability to connect with children, will serve to make the Third Grade a special year for all students.

Natalie describes her first impression of Advent as “unforgettable”. In particular, she noted how eager and motivated the students were throughout the School. Natalie comes to us from The Steppingstone Foundation, which is a non-profit organization that “develops and implements programs, which prepare urban schoolchildren for educational opportunities that lead to college.” While at Steppingstone, Natalie served as the Assistant Dean of Admission, and, most recently, the Assistant Dean of Preparation and Placement. Natalie comes highly recommended and has been noted for creating a stimulating, nurturing, and inspirational learning environment.

Sarah has taught for four years at the Spence School in New York City and at Tower School in Marblehead. Sarah feels that Advent’s commitment to social justice was critical in her decision to teach here in our Fourth Grade. Sarah has already proven to be committed to social justice and diversity in her work with The Second Step and The Steppingstone Foundation programs. Her experiences in these programs made Advent a perfect fit for Sarah. A reading, sailing, and crossword puzzle enthusiast, Sarah will bring a creative and focused energy to the Fourth Grade.

Candace, who graduated from Virginia Tech and has just finished her Masters in Education from Lesley, looks forward to becoming a part of a “strong community” that is supportive of its students throughout their individual journeys. Through the Lesley University teacher-training program, Candace worked full-time at Buckingham, Browne & Nichols, gaining experience in all aspects of school community. While at BBN, Candace had the opportunity to share her love of the outdoors while leading Fifth Graders on a four-day environmental-education camping trip. We look forward to having her join our faculty.

Neil Taylor, a recent Lesley University, Masters of Education graduate, will join Amanda Golden in the Sixth Grade. Upon graduating from Tufts University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology, Neil spent two years as a research assistant at Children’s Hospital. Among other projects, Neil studied ways of improving school experience and rehabilitation plans for children with chronic pain. Neil’s focus on the whole child, as well as his strong Math and Science background, will make the Sixth Grade experience challenging and dynamic.



Laura Taylor, Kindergarten Teacher; Neil Taylor, Sixth Grade Teacher; and Anna Bell, First Grade Teacher.

New Faculty 2005–2006

Jason Anklowitz – Teacher, Third Grade
Harvard University, M.Ed., The George Washington University, B.A.

Anna Bell – Teacher, First Grade
Lesley University, M.Ed., Southern New Hampshire University, B.A.

Sarah Hinkle – Teacher, Fourth Grade
Harvard University, M.Ed., Trinity College, B.A.

Kate Hulbert – Teacher, Early Childhood Center
University of Colorado at Denver, M.A., Hobart and William Smith Colleges, B.A.

Candace Kerner – Teacher, Fourth Grade
Lesley University, M.Ed., Virginia Tech, B.A.

Natalie Sanders – Teacher, Third Grade
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, B.S.

Kelly Sullivan – Teacher, Early Childhood Center
University of Colorado at Denver, M.A., University of New Hampshire, B.A.

Laura Taylor – Teacher, Kindergarten
Simmons College, M.A.T., Auburn University, B.A.

Neil Taylor – Teacher, Sixth Grade
Lesley University, M.Ed., Tufts University, B.A.



Annual Report

Summary of the 2004-2005 School Year

Committee Chairs 2004-2005

Building
Mary Horst
Gail Sullivan

Development
Robin Gilbert
Klare Shaw

Diversity
Valerie Dionne-Lanier
Jonathan Ross-Wiley

Education
Robin Gilbert
Anna Coppola

Finance
William Mandell

Human Resources
William Mandell
Carolyn Davis

Marketing
Greg Smucker
Lisa Simmons

Technology
David Sprogis

Trusteeship
Pam Smith
Susan Whalen

Parents
Laura Beebe
Fatima Ali-Salaam

Summaries of Committee Reports Delivered at the Annual Meeting of Trustees on June 7, 2005:

Development Committee

The Development Committee continued to provide outstanding counsel and feedback to its leadership of trustees Robin Gilbert, Ellen Plapinger, and Klare Shaw. Annual Fund Co-Chairs John and Elizabeth Ronayne led a dedicated team which grossed \$135,721 for the School from 96% of the families. Combined with the Spring Benefit gross of \$62,643, the gross Annual Fund revenue amounted to \$198,364. Net raised was \$193,741 (\$11,986 still to be collected in pledges).

The School raised \$9,440 at a leadership donor reception for restoration of the windows on the Brimmer Street side of the School. Anonymous donors provided full tuition for two children for the 2005–2006 academic year. To advance Advent’s burgeoning Science program, The Millipore Foundation donated \$2,500 worth of passes, representing 5 visits per child to the Museum of Science from September 2005 to March 2006. Ongoing projects in addition to the windows restoration include the “Sponsor A Child” program.

Evening gatherings for the Advisory Board and the alumni rounded out the Development calendar this year, with approximately 40 young alums skating and munching on pizza at the Frog Pond in January. Parent and comic Tony Viveiros assembled the cream of Boston’s crop of comedians for two hours of nonstop laughter during a Comedy Night on May 11, raising over \$3,400 for the Annual Fund.

To all those who gave of themselves in order to help the School accomplish these goals, especially Elizabeth Peters, in her last year as Director of Development, we owe our heartfelt thanks.

Finance Committee

The 2005–2006 budget was reviewed and approved. Actual 2004–2005 revenues and expenses were in line with those in the 2004–2005 budget. The 2004 audit has been finalized; the 2005 audit is expected to be completed in July 2005. The Committee met twice with the School’s investment advisor to discuss investment strategies. The Committee supported the initiative to move from an associate and head teacher to co-teachers, with two teachers in each class. Next year, the Committee plans to spend time focusing on increased revenue sources for financial aid as well as for general operations from new programs and offerings.

Annual Report

Current Trustees

Carolyn Davis
Nancy Harris Frohlich, Ex-Officio
Mary Horst
Sharon Knox-Hutchison, Faculty Trustee
Hakim Law
William Mandell
Talbott Miller
Ellen Plapinger
Erich Schumann
Klare Shaw
Alison Simmons
Pam Smith
Greg Smucker
Rob Soni
Dave Sprogis
Gail Sullivan
Clayton Turnbull
Suzy Welch
Susan Whalen

Elected Officers

Erich Schumann, Chair
Pam Smith, Vice Chair
Alison Simmons, Clerk
William Mandell, Treasurer
Klare Shaw, Member-at-Large

New Trustees

Karen Charles
Jennifer Scott-Sutherland

Retiring Trustees

Robin Gilbert
Mercedes Ridao

Marketing Committee

The Advent School Website redesign is currently in development and will be launched by September 1 to communicate more effectively with external and internal audiences.

With the Head of School, we developed a brochure to provide current families with information about the benefits of remaining at The Advent School through 6th grade and identified new opportunities to disseminate this message to the Advent community: at Parents' Night in the fall, in Getting to Grade 7 meetings, and in coffees with parents of different grades. We are formalizing these plans for next year.

We have laid the groundwork for a new marketing/PR plan to increase The Advent School's visibility in the community and to increase the applicant pool at every grade level, but will begin to work the plan in earnest in 2005–2006. The plan includes a Neighborhood Ambassador program, contact with neighborhood groups, dissemination of materials in targeted neighborhoods, an open house specifically for new parents, and building relationships with preschools city-wide and with neighborhood media.

We have redesigned and created templates for a wide variety of the School's print and electronic communications, in order to bring all materials under a cohesive design umbrella and make them more effective. This initiative will continue in 2005–2006.

We have provided professional services in media relations, copywriting, and graphic design as needed, including Holiday, Spring Benefit, and other school event invitations; flyers for Getting to Grade 7, PEC, LearningBOSTON, Giving at Advent; open house posters, viewbook inserts, displays for admissions fairs, and news releases, as well as a marketing video.

Annual Report



Climbing Wall: Advent Third Graders on their way up.

Technology Committee

In order to compete, graduates of the Advent must have the basic skills of electronic document development, Internet research, email communication and a general understanding of computer usage. Access to equipment is no longer sufficient; use of technology must be integrated into the daily activities of every student.

The first step was to restore the core facilities. We took inventory of the School's technology assets, restoring and replacing equipment as necessary in order to raise the core infrastructure up to full operation. We added wireless networking, which allows administrators, faculty, and students to access the Internet (as well as school printers and servers) using now-common wireless technology.

The second step was to bridge the gap between students and technology. We established a set of Key Technology Skills by grade. The Head of School is adapting the 2005–2006 curricula to include these skills. Faculty will be instructed on the School's technology protocols and trained on specific equipment as necessary. Instruction will be performed by the recently hired Technology Coordinator who will be on-hand to support the faculty throughout the school year.

The third step is, in fact, not a step but a continuing process. Each year we adapt and improve both the instruction of technology to students and the use of technology by faculty for preparation, presentation, and documentation. We are currently evaluating an A/V presentation suite for the library, a floating projector for the classrooms, and a faculty laptop program.

Education Committee

In accordance with the 3-year Strategic plan, the Board set the following goals for the Education Committee this year: to communicate and make the community aware of all aspects of the curriculum, including the interconnection of the individual themes to the entire curriculum; to research the possibility of expanding the summer program to include academics (we were subsequently asked to look into the possibility of adding after-school sports programs); and to build a partnership with the community using the resources of the city, both physically and technologically.

The Committee decided in September that in order to meet the first goal, at most meetings there would be a special presentation related to the curriculum (topics were suggested by attendees) and that subcommittees would be formed as needed. Meetings included presentations by the following: Arati Pandit about Advent's tutoring program; Nancy Harris Frohlich about "The Inside Scoop on Finding the Right Match for 7th Grade Placement"; Advent Kindergarten, third, and fifth grade teachers about Advent's math program (Investigations from TERC) and the many different strategies children can use to solve math problems; Hollee Freeman (from TERC) about "Differentiated Instruction As It Applies To Math", including students' need for procedural competence as well as mathematical reasoning, the continuum of math strategies, that teachers need to push students to do the most efficient strategy and be cognizant of the mathematical

Continued on page 17

Annual Report

Building Committee

Progress on Work this Year

- Assess how the building does and does not support the School's mission.
 - In Progress
- Building, Zoning, and Accessibility code analysis for entire building.
 - Completed
- Assess the Building's HVAC, Electrical, and Plumbing systems. – Completed
- Assess state of building's pilings, and those of neighboring buildings.
 - Completed
- Identify and record ongoing maintenance and repair needs. Review prior years' work in order to establish annual budget for the future. – In Progress
- Evaluate physical needs of program in relation to the space it inhabits. Analyze options within the building for possible expansion. Assess physical class size vs. size of children using the space. Evaluate off-site expansion possibilities.
 - Completed
- Identify and establish a system for the implementation of regular maintenance and repair, minor improvements, and capital improvements. – In Progress
- Develop, evaluate, and prioritize a "Wish List" for space improvements and expansion.
 - A. Faculty Input – Completed
 - B. Advisory Board input – Completed
 - C. Coordination with other Committees – In Progress
 - D. Evaluate spaces in other school
 - Completed
 - E. Board input – In Progress
- Develop a Comprehensive Plan for short and long term improvements.
 - A. Determine the Development Budget
 - Not yet begun
 - B. Develop a Building Plan
 - In Progress
 - C. Create Documents – Not yet begun

Education Committee, Continued from page 16

level of their students in order to encourage, support, enhance, and reinforce their thinking; Nancy Harris Frohlich about the ERB's: why we use them, what they assess, and how our kids perform; Nancy Harris Frohlich, Elaine Paster, and Sara Mulrooney about documentation, with specific examples of how teachers at Advent are using it in the classroom; and Mark Beckley, Advent's technology consultant, about present and future plans for technology at Advent. Due to popular demand, the presentation was repeated. Both sessions featured parents of graduates speaking about their experiences with the admission process and the assistance Advent provided. Another subcommittee worked on an annual schedule of events about the placement process; a tutoring subcommittee was also formed to compile and gather information for parents about the tutoring program. Since the technology presentation was also a topic of great interest to parents, we recommend that a similar presentation made in the fall to the Parents Committee.

To address goal two above, two subcommittees were formed. A summer academic program entitled "ADVENTures in Learning" will occur the last two weeks of August. Advent is collaborating with Hill House to make a full-day program. Students will come to Advent from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to participate in reading, writing, math and Spanish activities and then join Hill House camp to participate in sports, arts and crafts. Tennis was added to ADVENTure session 4 and took place on the Boston Common tennis courts under the direction of Advent teachers Amy Lisbon and Laura Taylor. Basketball was offered but cancelled for lack of interest.

Goal three was not specifically addressed this year, although various partnerships were formed with local organizations, including the Museum of Science.

The Education Committee also oversaw the Parent Education Collaboratives; response was good and it was a marvelous way to showcase the faculty. The following sessions occurred over the course of the year: September – "All Children Are Authors: Writing in the Elementary Grades", presenters Jonathan Ross-Wiley, Amanda Golden, and Sara McCullough; November – "Thinking and Talking About Books", presenters Maggie Schofield and Kelly Currier; March – "Building Scientific Minds: Exploring the Natural and Physical World with Children", presenters Susan Coolidge and Tooley Rogers; April – "Family Math: Challenges for Children and Grown-ups to Explore Together", presenters Sara Mulrooney and Christine Size; and May – "Tapping the Creative Spirit in Your Child", presenters Christina Bechstein and George Anastos.

The Education Committee sponsored an admission panel for 5th grade parents in May. Speakers were Jon White from Thayer Academy, Aline Gery from Beaver Country Day School, and Val Dionne-Lanier and Louise Ambler Osborn, parents of Advent graduates. This is one of two events the Education Committee hopes to present annually. The second event will be held in the fall and will feature Advent graduates speaking about their schools.

We decided to continue having special presentations at meetings, but are currently planning to have fall, winter, and spring meetings, instead of monthly ones. Decisions for topics for meetings and Parent Education Collaboratives have not been determined.

Annual Report

Parents, Grandparents, Alumni, Faculty, and Friends significantly increased their percentage of participation in the Annual Fund, which supports Advent's current operations, including financial aid and special projects. By fiscal year end, we had collected approximately \$200,000, with a few pledges still to come in. The Advent School thanks all of our donors for their generosity.

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Clinton Burgos reaches new heights.

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calendar of events

School Night for Parents

Thursday, September 22, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Admission Open House

Sunday, October 23, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Parent-Faculty Dinner

Thursday, November 3, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Topic: Sustaining Our World

Admission Open House

Sunday, November 20, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Winter Concert

Friday, December 16, 10:30 a.m. –
12:00 p.m.

Parent Education Collaborative Schedule

Wednesday, September 28, 8:30 a.m.

Developing Mathematicians for a Changing World

Christine Size, Fifth Grade Teacher

Thursday, October 27, 5:00 p.m.

Environmental Science: Teaching Children to Preserve their Natural World

Susan Coolidge, Natural Science Teacher, and Tooey Rogers, Physical Science Teacher

Thursday, January 19, 8:30 a.m.

Reading to Learn: Exploring History, Biography and Social Change through Literature

Amanda Golden, Sixth Grade Teacher

Thursday, March 23, 5:00 pm

Documenting Children's Learning: Understanding our Children in a Complex World

Kate Hulbert, ECC Teacher, Kelly Sullivan, ECC Teacher, and George Anastos,

Art Teacher

Wednesday, May 3, 5:00 pm

Writing to Inform: The Powerful Role of Self Expression in Children's Lives

Jason Ankowitz, Third Grade Teacher

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