

Seven Hills Chronicles & Beacon Prep News

January 22, 2010

Volume 1, Issue 14

We were overwhelmed last Friday night at the Open House. It was so great to see all of our families come through and see the new space. Thank you all for your support through the construction, your volunteerism and bringing your children to us every day ready to learn.

Miss O'Brien was not available for the VIP Assembly this morning and was sad not to be able to share in the celebration of the good citizenship that was recognized today. Mr. Peterson did a great job announcing our VIP winners this week:

Our VIPs this week included:

Kindergarten: Emily Shultz, Genevieve Mitchell, Jeremy Morrison

First Grade: Isaac Flierman, Henry Likness, Eric Oberstar

Second Grade: Savana Sieckert, Nick Mangan, Adam Burkholder

Third Grade: William Santos, Grace Sides, Grace Oberstar

Fourth Grade: Madison Kleven, Ethan Hunt

Fifth Grade: Nick Starita-Carlson, Ammon Harding

Art VIP: Eli Jeans, Taylor Kelley, Isabella Lockrem

Our Very Important Classes (VIC) are:

Music: Mr. Wammer's Class

PhyEd: Mrs. Carlin's class

Our Beacon Prep VIPs for the month will be announced in the last Friday Chronicles of each month. We are proud of the way the students have handled the transition to the new space. We continue to encourage them to take care of that space by leaving it better than they find it each day. If you have Beacon Prep students, be sure to ask her or him what the Pillars are and what they mean as a student, a community member and as a global citizen.

A few more things that you should know:

COMMUNICATION: If you want to speak with your child(ren)'s teacher, please call the office and you will be connected with a voice mailbox or we will deliver the message for you. Because the main office has to reach the classrooms during the day for emergencies, etc., the classroom telephones will ring and we want to avoid interrupting instruction unless absolutely necessary. We appreciate your support of this policy.

HOT LUNCH & MILK: February's lunch menus were due today. Please return your student's menu by Monday, January 25th to order meals for the first week of February. Menus are always posted on our website; so, check there if one does not make it home. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments or concerns that you might have regarding the lunch program.

Dates to Remember

End of 2nd Quarter:
January 25, 2010

Sen. Ken Walsh
Rep. Linda Slocum
Speak at
Valley View MS
January 27, 2010
6-8 p.m.

Report Cards go home:
January 29, 2010

*Please contact Claire Emery at
cemery@shcamn.org to sign-up for
volunteer opportunities.
(952) 426-6000*

February 2, 2010
Seven Hills Board Meeting

February 11, 2010
PC Meeting

February 12, 2010
NO SCHOOL
Professional Development

February 15, 2010
NO SCHOOL
President's Day

February 16, 2010
Beacon Prep Board Meeting

***Students who forget to bring their lunch will be sent to the office and a call home will be made to ensure that every child is eating a lunch.*

SCHOOL CLOSINGS: With the weather over the past few days, I am sure it is clear to all that this section of the newsletter cannot be deleted just quite yet. In severe weather conditions, please watch for our schools closings on WCCO (Channel 4), KSTP (Channel 5) and KARE (Channel 11). Please note that KARE 11 has not yet confirmed for Beacon Prep. We'll keep you posted on that. In the meantime, Beacon Prep parents should tune in to either WCCO or KSTP☺!

LEGISLATION: Given the current political climate and the issues that impact education, particularly charter schools, we wanted to share that Senator Ken Walsh and Rep. Linda Slocum will be speaking at Valley View Middle School, 8900 Portland Avenue South, Bloomington, on Wednesday, January 27th, from 6-8 p.m. If you would like to ask questions about and/or share what you know to be true about charter schools and have the time, please attend. Legislators are always interested in knowing what their constituents feel about charter schools.

LOST AND FOUND: Let your child(ren) know that, if they are missing something, it may have found its way to the main office. They should come in and check either before or after school.

MATCHING GIFTS: We are so appreciative of the substantial employer matching gifts that we are receiving already this year. If you have not done so, check with your employer to see if the company matches charitable contributions. In this way, whatever you donate to the school can be matched.

BUSING: Should you have busing issues and concerns, please contact the office to speak with our transportation contacts: Liz Ekholm and Chris Bewell. We appreciate your support and, as always, welcome suggestions and/or questions. If you have immediate concerns—e.g. the bus just drove by your stop and you're quite positive you saw your child sitting in the third seat waving at you as it

drove by, please contact Monarch Bus Company directly at 612-238-8080.

CLUB CLASSICS: Winter Club Classics began this week. While very well attended this session, we are certain that there is still room in some of the clubs. Please contact Mrs. Burfeind at hburfeind@shcamn.org with any questions that you might have regarding kids clubs.

SPANISH and LATIN: If you have an interest in having your 5th through 7th grade child join the Spanish and/or Latin enrichment classes, please let Ms. Pollis (epollis@shcamn.org) for Spanish and/or Mr. Ball (tball@shcamn.org) for Latin know and they will be happy to provide you with any details that you might need.

MUSIC: Please contact Mrs. Wood kwood@shcamn.org with any questions that you have regarding choir (available to 4th-7th graders) or band (available to 6th and 7th graders). Mrs. Wood is currently accepting new students for choir and students who already can play an instrument for band. She will be accepting enrollments through January.

UNIFORMS: Thank you all for supporting the schools' uniform policies. We are getting a great deal of communication about lost school shoes over the winter break. Please assist your child(ren) in locating uniform items so that they will be in compliance with the uniform policy. Again, continue to review the policy with your children. We appreciate your support of all school policies and encourage you to make a phone call to the office with any questions that you might have.

COMMUNICATION: We encourage e-mail communication as the best way to connect with a child's teacher. Each teacher can collect voice messages throughout the day. If you would like to leave a voice mail message for any staff member, please contact the school and we will be happy to assist you. Additionally, we send the school's newsletter out each week via e-mail only and are contacting VIP parents via e-mail when possible. If the office does not have your current e-mail address, please let us know.

SEVEN HILLS BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The board of directors February meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., here at the school. *Please be advised that the Seven Hills Board is looking to add a community member to the board. While any interested community member is encouraged to participate, individuals with either a legal or human resources background would add to the various abilities and skill sets already represented. Interested individuals should contact Mrs. Day at eday@shcamn.org for more information.* Agendas for the meetings will be posted on the main office door approximately one week prior to each month's meeting.

BEACON PREP BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The board of directors will be having its February meeting on Tuesday, February 16th, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., here at the school. Please note that this meeting will be held one week earlier than the regularly scheduled board meeting. *The Beacon Prep Board is looking to expand its membership as there are currently only 5 members. Should you have an interest or know of anyone who would like to participate on the school's board of directors, please have them contact Meghan Butler, the Board President, at mbutler@tcfbank.com.* Agendas for the meetings will be posted on the main office door approximately one week prior to each month's meeting.

School board meetings are public meetings and all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

PARENT CONNECTION: The Parent Connection "PC" will be meeting on February 11th at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Liz Ekholm at lizekholm@yahoo.com should you have any questions, comments or concerns that you would like to address to the PC. Again, all are encouraged to attend. Additionally, we want to let the PC know how much we appreciate the time and effort that was expended in getting the school directory printed and ready. Please contact Liz Ekholm if you have not yet received your copy.

The PC launched its COOKIE DOUGH sale last week and from what we hear there are some

really fabulous new cookies on the list! This is one of the PC's most profitable fund raiser and we all look forward to the tons of cookie dough that come through the doors on delivery day☺. The sale will end next Friday, January 29th. Please ask your child(ren) for details.

BEACON PREP FUND RAISER: Beacon Prep is planning an overnight field trip to Camp St. Croix. The field trip is scheduled for the end of the year and Liz Ekholm, a Beacon Prep parent, has spear-headed a fundraising effort through the sale of cookbooks which are now available for \$10 each. Again, you can purchase the cookbooks from the Beacon Prep families. Please contact Liz Ekholm at lizekholm@yahoo.com with any questions.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS: We appreciate those of you who are volunteering in the classroom, regularly during lunch and recess, and with projects that you might be doing at home. Please contact Mrs. Emery (cemery@shcamn.org) to share your availability to come in and help out. As always, we are particularly grateful for any help we can get during the lunch hours—come have lunch with the kids and help us ensure the safety of all students☺!

Are you a 1st Year Student Family at SHCA/Beacon Prep? Want to connect with other first year families? Please contact Amanda Boe, arboe@frontiernet.net, if you have any questions, are looking for or would like to be a mentor parent.

DROP OFFS & PICK-UPS: We think the drop offs and pick-ups are going well! Thank you all for following the directions that were sent home and paying attention in the parking lots! We continue to encourage pick-up parents to take advantage of the car pick-up line, particularly now that inclement weather is upon us. Our children's safety is our concern.

If you have to call the school to change a pick up or drop off plan, please make sure you are doing so well before 3:45 p.m. each day. As you might imagine, things can be a bit busy after 3:30 p.m. each day. Having advance notice of your plans for your children is greatly appreciated. A note with your child is the best way to communicate transportation information to his or

her teacher and the office.

NEW FACILITY and TAKING CARE of OUR SPACE: We have been speaking with the children regarding taking care of all of our space—the new and the old. We like to say, “Leave it better than you find it.” We would appreciate this policy being reinforced at home. Please take a moment to talk to your child(ren) about the importance of cleaning up after themselves, not dragging their hands along the walls, making sure they are taking a moment when getting to school to stow their personal items in the right place—a cubby or hook. We, also, encourage the children to help their friends who may struggle with organization and/or remembering classroom/hallway procedures. We want the building to look as it did during the Open House for years to come☺!

EARLY ARRIVALS: As a reminder, no drop-offs are allowed prior to 8:45 a.m. Please make every effort to have your child here as close to 9:00 a.m. as possible. If you happen to let your child off early, please remind her/him or them that they are expected to be on their best behavior—no running, playing ball indoors, etc. At 8:45 a.m., there is staff in the entry area to monitor student behavior. Students who are not able to make appropriate choices will be asked to wait with their parents in their cars until the children are allowed to enter the building at 9:00 a.m.

ENROLLMENT: Please share with your family, friends, neighbors and community how happy you are with Seven Hills and Beacon Prep! Seven Hills' enrollment window is now open.

Beacon Prep's enrollment window is now closed. We will be accepting enrollment interest forms for Beacon Prep on a first come, first serve basis. Please direct interested families to our websites so that they can complete Enrollment Interest Forms for the 2010-11 academic year. Additionally, we are now conducting tours of the building. They will be given on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. through the end of February. Please have any interested families call Ms. Bewell to schedule an appointment and for information regarding parent informational meetings.

Seven Hills School Mission Statement

Seven Hills Classical Academy provides students with a classical education in an academically rigorous environment designed to promote strong citizenship and life-long learning.

Beacon Prep School Mission Statement

Beacon Preparatory School creates a unique community by engaging students in a rigorous, content-rich curriculum with an emphasis on Classical, liberal arts education. We promote pillars of character development including integrity, honesty, and self-confidence while embracing the individual needs and development of our students.

*****please remember that we promote a nut-free environment for our students—be sure to check granola bars, lunchables, etc., when deciding what to pack for lunch or to send for snacks*****

GO VIKINGS! WHEN the Vikings go to the Super Bowl, we look forward to staff and students supporting the team on the Friday before the big game by wearing our Viking's colors (purple, vikings jerseys and jeans, only, please)☺!

Have a FANTABULOUS weekend!