

Dear Stanwich Parents,

This is an exciting time for all of us at Stanwich as we look to our future and the growth ahead. While change certainly brings dissonance, without it we cannot move to new levels. The coffees and the Fireside Chats that so many of you have attended this past month welcomed changes in leadership as we begin the next chapters of our history. Paul Geise, Head Elect, has been available and will continue to meet with grade levels throughout the spring as he becomes familiar with our community. We are both looking forward to our overlap year and ensuring a seamless transition for our entire community.

Derek Krein, our Senior House head, has also been meeting with parents and students to speak to the specifics of the Stanwich Senior House. Consistently reinforcing the Stanwich mission, we believe our Stanwich graduates will have experiences that prepare them for global understanding and leadership and we are excited by the vision and opportunities that these next three years will develop. You will find in our Senior House that next level of "Stanwich" that you quickly recognize as you move from each of our Houses and you will see the passionate, committed faculty that have become our hallmark.

Our Grade 9 has arrived safely in Costa Rica where they will spend the next week in ecology and community service experiences. This trip is one of several experiences that highlight the Grade 9 leadership focus which helps our students gain a better understanding of themselves and God's world. Our Grade 9 students have built relationships with schools in Costa Rica and have created programs that will foster connections throughout the coming year as they share resources and exchange ideas using technology. The Grade 9 year at Stanwich is intentional in preparing our students for the challenges of their Senior House years.



Pat Young with Pre-K students at the annual Hop-a-Thon

In response to your inquiries and suggestions, *Race to Nowhere* was shown on Monday night. This documentary has drawn much attention as it looks at the societal pressures placed on young people today. While there are no easy solutions and perhaps no answer that is right for each student, it calls attention to each of us who interact with young people to reexamine the expectations we hold for our children. Throughout the film there were commonalities among the distressed students which included sleep deprivation, compulsive perfection, minimal engagement with peers and adults and increased isolation. The Stanwich survey that over 50% of you completed regarding the film, indicated that your children were overwhelmingly happy at school, were getting appropriate sleep and had reasonable numbers of out-of-school activities. Our connected community does provide an environment where your children do feel safe and one where they feel needed. As many of you testify, Stanwich faculty are vigilant with your children and forthright about contacting you and asking that you contact them when there is an issue. Our partnership is about your children and working together we must make decisions that promote the best in each of them.

Our mission is about developing the mind, body and spirit of each student, helping each child to grow in capacities and heart to understand his or her particular role and to appreciate the fullness of life. We embrace the coming changes and remain secure knowing that our mission is foundational and will continue to guide all that we do. Thank you for creating a community that works together for our children.

Enjoy a wonderful spring break.



Inside This Issue

2 Pre-K Cottage

3 Primary House



4 Intermediate House



5 Junior House



6-7 Parent Association

8 Senior House

8 Happenings

Pre-K Cottage



Barbara Kennedy
Head of Pre-K Cottage

Winter Days

On our winter days in Pre-K, we're learning and growing each day.

We are busy:

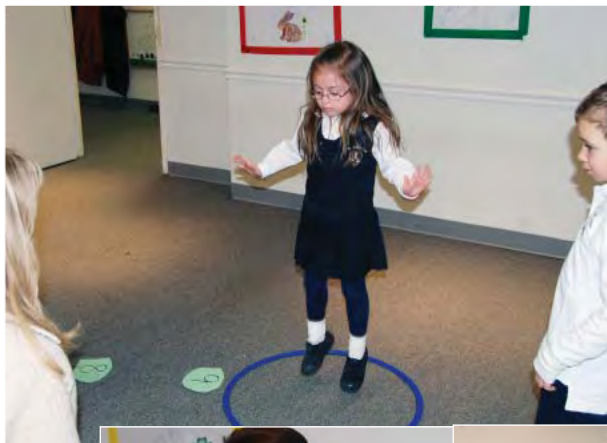
- Sliding, rolling, and building in the snow
- Drawing and writing in our very own journals
- Making valentines for others in the community
- Learning how our bodies work in the *World Around Us*
- Listening to wonderful stories from Ms. Liz and our parents
- Learning about place value with our unifix cubes
- Making rhythms and learning how to keep the beat in Music
- Participating in our Hop-a-thon to raise money for Project Blessing

Winter is a special time of year!



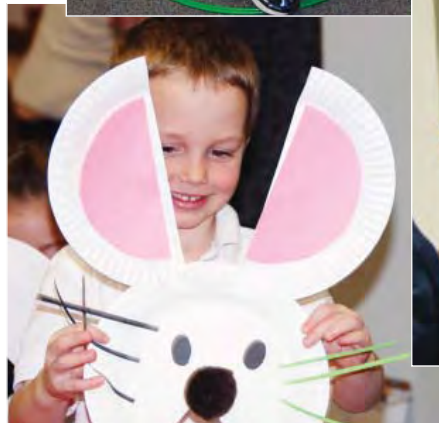
Snow Day

Thanks to an abundance of snow, students made snowmen, a fort, a snow boat and snow horses, in addition to just loving sliding and rolling down the Cottage's hill.



Hop-a-Long

To reinforce Stanwich's commitment to Project Blessing, the Pre-K students participated in a Hop-a-Thon to raise money for the initiative. The students made bunny masks, and made pages for a book about their favorite family activities that will be given to children in Rwanda by Stanwich alumni this summer.



Rainforest Lesson

To reinforce their unit on the rainforest, the Pre-K students got up close with hissing cockroaches, a salamander, a parrot and an iguana from the Beardsley Zoo.



Primary House



Julie Colligan
Head of Primary House

Does Your Path Have a Heart?

“Does Your Path Have a Heart?” I asked the Primary House children in Assembly about our motto for February. Many students raised their hand to share ... yes, because I share my toys ... yes, I include everyone at recess ... yes, I did a walk-a-thon! Our children have so many opportunities to share God’s love with others every day; some are big, some are small but the opportunities exist every day. Take a moment to reflect on your day. Think of one act of kindness you have committed today; I’m sure you can think of more than one! At a shared meal this week, ask every family member to share how they showed love or kindness to someone that week and then challenge the children to think of an act of kindness they may have shown to someone whom they do not know very well – of course they will then ask you the same question, so be prepared.

The Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes participated in a wonderful community service project with the Grade 6 students in what would be considered a BIG act! The Ks and 1s buddied with the Grade 6 students to interact, play, have a special lunch and raise funds for Project Blessing (pictured below). Before the big day, one kindergartener told me that she was happy because she “could make a kindergarten for someone else!” I could see God’s love in her smile and bouncing shoulders! During the event I observed the Grade 6 students thoughtfully explaining the game to the PH students, patiently walking PHers to the bathroom and willingly fetching lunches. I was very proud of the sixth graders. I see their strides and I am proud to have the PH children follow their heart-filled path.



Stormy Weather

News Channel 12 weatherman Paul Piorek shared weather-related experiments with Grade 1 students. After producing an Alka-Seltzer explosion and making snow, the students gave the weather report for the evening newscast.



Young Artists

Artwork created by Kindergartners in the style of artist Eric Carle, was proudly on display at Cos Cob Library.



All-Star Poets

To study famous African Americans, Grade 2 students read plays and then performed them, such as this story about poet, Phillis Wheatley.

Intermediate House



Meaghan Mallin
Head of
Intermediate House

The Candy Man Can!

What a scrumptious treat it was to watch the Intermediate House production of *Willy Wonka!* I hope that all of you had the opportunity to come to a performance of this delightful and charming musical. The play was the culmination of a tremendous amount of hard work on the part of our students and it was wonderful to watch them experience the rush of pride that is earned through commitment and hard work.

The entire production was a great representation of the magic of the Stanwich community: parents, students, and faculty partnered together to create this amazing experience, which is sure to be a life-long memory for the children involved. I offer a sincere thank you to all of the parents who helped to make the production possible. We couldn't have done it without your help.

As I know many of you did, I felt a great sense of pride and gratitude as I watched our students performing on stage. How lucky we all are to be a part of such a spirited and joyful community. Bravo!



Pop Art

In art class, Grade 4 students created city scapes and displayed them for their grade-level art exhibit.



Lake Placid Trip

From sledding, to cross-country skiing to enjoying a bonfire, Grade 5 students spent three fun-filled days in picturesque Lake Placid. The trip was a true bonding experience for the class.



Natural History Lesson

Grade 6 students explored the American Museum of Natural History.



Junior House



Dana Montañez
Head of Junior House



Operation Stanwich

Grade 9 students participated in a video conference with a flight director from NASA. The students divided into teams and spent two hours developing an emergency management plan to evacuate civilians from Montserrat during a mock emergency simulation.



Beaming With Pride

In the days preceding the class trips to Boston and Washington, D.C., there is a flurry of activity regarding the details. Parent fears are quelled, student questions are answered, and travel itineraries confirmed. As a faculty, we meet with each grade and discuss our expectations and make sure that each student understands that he or she will be representing The Stanwich School during the entire trip.

We do this preparation every year, but in reality, the students impress us year to year with their exemplary conduct on these trips. Stanwich students make us proud with their conduct and their sunny dispositions, and our tour guides compete to get the Stanwich booking. Our kids are confident, polite, and they listen to directions. They answer historical questions and they have inquisitive insights.

Of course, according to the kids, the bus ride and the hotel are the absolute best parts of the trips. However, their actions prove louder than words, and as a faculty, we beam with pride!



Leadership Training

As part of their leadership program, Grade 9 students received instruction to become certified in First Aid and CPR.

Join the Club

Members of the Pottery Club crafted chess pieces.



Grade 6 Visit

Junior House students hosted Grade 6 students when they recently had a day long tour of the Stanwich East campus.



Top of Their Game

Congratulations to Stanwich's Squash team who finished in 7th place in the U.S. Middle School Nationals.



Parent Association

Dear Stanwich Community,



I know you will join me in welcoming in the month of March. We have had a long, cold winter, but Spring is around the corner. And with the warmer weather, comes lots of energy and the Parent Association has been busy planning away.

First and foremost is our 2011 Benefit, Lucky 13, to be held Friday, April 29th, at Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich. This event will include a Live and Silent Auction, with all proceeds going towards our "Building the Dream" campaign. It is going to be a lot of fun, all for a wonderful cause. I have had a sneak peak at some of the auction items and it is amazing what has been donated so far. We still have room for more items, so if you have a favorite restaurant, birthday party location, spa, etc,

please think of a donation to the auction. Jessie Drennen, the Auction Chair, is available to answer any questions.

April is also the month where we celebrate our teachers with Faculty Appreciation Day. This year it will take place on Friday, April 15th. We begin the day with making flower arrangements for the teachers and end the day with a parent sponsored luncheon. We need volunteers to make this day special for our faculty and staff, so please contact Elli Bai if you can help with this wonderful Stanwich tradition.

Enjoy the March break, relax with your families, and come back to Stanwich energized, as we have lots of activities in April to look forward to!

—Wynn McDaniel, Parent Association President

Announcements from the PA

Dear Stanwich Parents,

Do you want to be more involved at Stanwich School? Would you like to join a team putting together the yearbook, or perhaps plan the Benefit or serve as a Grade Representative for your child's class? The Nominating Committee is looking for you!

We want to know if you are interested, or if you have a friend who might want to do more at Stanwich. We have a talented and enthusiastic parent body to support our school and want to include as many people as possible.

So what can you do and what does it involve? Attached to this letter is a list of the PA jobs that are available for the 2011-12 school year. Further details of the specific jobs can be found in the Student Handbook and Family Directory under the "Parent Association" section. We are also looking for several Grade Representatives for each class. Please contact any member of the Nominating Committee if you have questions about a specific role and we would be happy to describe it further. Names and contact information are below.

To nominate yourself or a friend, please download the form from the Today @ Stanwich webpage and leave it in the PA box in the PH office, or send to Beth Daigle at bdaigle@optonline.net.

All nominations must be submitted by Wednesday, March 9.

Many thanks in advance for your time and thoughtful recommendations.

The 2011-12 PA Nominating Committee:

Beth Daigle, Grade Rep. Chair (203) 625-8163
bdaigle@optonline.net

Kara Donahue, Past President (203) 698-2928
ksdonahue@aol.com

Wynn McDaniel, President/Vice President (203) 869-9071
wynn@us.ibm.com

Please Mark Your Calendars

The Stanwich Faculty Appreciation Lunch is
Friday, April 15th



Show your appreciation for our wonderful teachers and staff by volunteering to help with flowers, bring in a home-cooked dish, set-up/clean-up, and serving!

Contact Elli Bai at elliym@optonline.net if you'd like to help.

Spring Luncheon

Please save the date!

Thursday, May 26

Annual Spring Parent Luncheon

Invitations to follow

WE NEED YOUR HELP ... BE PART OF THE DREAM

RACE TO THE DREAM
13TH ANNUAL STANWICH BENEFIT
FRIDAY, APRIL 29



WE ARE ON OUR WAY TO BUILDING THE DREAM. ALREADY, WE HAVE A SCHOOL WITH A CURRICULUM, A PHILOSOPHY AND STEADFAST VALUES THAT HAVE SURPASSED OTHER SCHOOLS, AND NOW WE CAN DO THE SAME WITH OUR FACILITIES. HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS OF HOW YOUR FAMILY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUTURE OF STANWICH SCHOOL.

WE ARE COUNTING ON THE FAMILIES OF STANWICH TO COME FORWARD, REACH OUT AND HELP 'RAISE THE STAKES' AT THE RACE TO THE DREAM BENEFIT TO BE HELD AT THE BURNING TREE COUNTRY CLUB ON APRIL 29TH. JUST BY BEING THERE, YOU WILL BE SHOWING YOUR SUPPORT. HOWEVER, IF YOU CAN HELP IN OBTAINING ITEMS FOR THE LIVE OR SILENT AUCTION, ALL THE BETTER. WE ARE LOOKING FOR ANYTHING YOU CAN DONATE, FROM A SMALL SERVICE LIKE DOG WALKING BY A 9TH GRADER, TO LARGER ITEMS LIKE VACATION DESTINATIONS, AIRLINE TICKETS, ETC. WE REALLY ARE GOING TO HAVE THE BEST EVENT YET.

UNDERWRITING: ENTERTAINMENT, DECORATIONS, PRINTING, T-SHIRTS TO BE SOLD AT EVENT
CONTACT: PEGHOME@OPTONLINE.NET

DONATE AUCTION ITEMS: (LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION)
VACATION RENTALS, BOAT TRIPS, TICKETS TO SPORTS EVENTS/TV SHOWS/THEATER, BEAUTY TREATMENTS, COOKING CLASSES, SPORTS TRAINING, SPORTING ITEMS, GOLF LESSONS, RESTAURANT VOUCHERS, AIRPLANE TICKETS, SIGNED MEMORABILIA, LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE.
CONTACT: CTTWIN@AOL.COM



PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT WILL GO TOWARD BUILDING THE DREAM. WE HOPE TO HAVE 100% PARTICIPATION FROM ALL FAMILIES TO MAKE IT A HUGE SUCCESS. SAVE THE DATE NOW.



STANWICH
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

HELP PROTECT THE HEALTH OF OUR CHILDREN

PLEASE DO NOT IDLE YOUR CAR AT DISMISSAL

Reducing emissions from idling motor vehicle engines is one of the most important air-quality issues in Connecticut today. Because the state is committed to reducing air pollution, protecting our health and improving the environment, "No Idling" is the law!

IDLING CAUSES AIR POLLUTION

- An idling vehicle spews air toxics, chemicals, gases and particulate matter ("soot") into the air, contributing to regional haze, acid rain and global climate change.
- An idling vehicle emits 20 times more pollution than one traveling at 30 miles per hour.

IDLING IS UNHEALTHY

- Breathing in exhaust can aggravate asthma, allergies, and cardiovascular disease.
- Exhaust emissions increase school absences, ER visits, and even premature deaths.
- Emissions are still present and harmful, even when you can't see the exhaust.

IDLING WASTES FUEL AND MONEY

- For each hour spent idling, a typical truck burns approximately one gallon of diesel fuel, and a typical car wastes 1/5 of a gallon of gasoline.
- 10 seconds of idling uses more fuel than turning off the engine and restarting it!
- Idling is like burning dollar bills.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- Take action and stop unnecessary idling! Spread the word to family, friends, neighbors and school bus drivers. It's an easy way to contribute to a healthier community!
- Drive your car to warm it.
- Do not use remote starters.

WHAT'S THE LAW?

Connecticut law prohibits vehicles of all kinds from unnecessary idling for more than three minutes. Provisions are made for weather extremes, certain service vehicles and health-related conditions.



For more information go to www.ct.gov/dep
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Senior House



Derek Krein
Head of Senior House

Mission Driven

The positive buzz surrounding the announcement of Head-Elect Paul Geise from every area of school life is off the charts in the Senior House, too. Mr. Geise's eagerness to engage in articulating how the philosophical foundation of the SH will manifest itself in the program for our SH students has been unrelenting. Together we've delighted in the collaboration that has generated a framework which is, like all else at Stanwich, mission driven. In the wake of Race to Nowhere, this is a timely opportunity to share with you some of our progress to date. Our common denominators: rigor, relevance, sustainability.

Our Senior House students will begin their pioneering journey together through an outdoor orientation and personal challenge trip, connecting them individually and collectively to the aspirations articulated in our mission: "Be Your Best, Help Others to Be Their Best, and Make God's World a Better Place." With this as the first of many common experiences to characterize their education, our lead class will begin the Grade 10 "Independence" themed year by relating all aspects of their Stanwich program to "Be Your Best." In each grade, a set of essential questions will thread through and connect every experience – academic, artistic, athletic, trips, values seminars, outside speakers, community engagement. In Grade 10: "How do I maintain my integrity and personal excellence in an increasingly diverse and rapidly changing society? What are my obligations to myself? To society?" As their self-awareness heightens over the course of the year, Mr. Geise and I plan to take the class on an extended overnight college trip in the spring. In this survey exercise, not only will each student begin to learn the language of the college search process, but she or he will also begin to apply their understanding of how to "be their best" toward the next step in the educational progression. Discovering the breadth and depth of what awaits them as undergraduates will inform and guide them as they navigate the remainder of high school. The year will culminate with a week in which each student will make a public scholarly presentation of his or her "best" as it pertains to the Mind (intellectual), Body (aesthetic, kinesthetic), and Spirit (self-awareness, moral development, internal/external voice).

As I noted in the *Tag You're It* column in November, "once we have made sense of ourselves or particular concepts for ourselves, we are more willing and able to engage the ideas of others. From there, our educational experience takes on a whole new dimension." Our students are heading toward a breath-taking series of opportunities in the remaining years: partnerships with our sister community in Rwanda; an International Student Forum on Spirituality and Ideology; a Grade 11 "Interdependence" theme that engages students to "Help Others to Be Their Best" as they volunteer in their school, local, and national communities; the robust beginning of the college search and application process; a Grade 12 "Stewardship" theme imploring students to "Make God's World a Better Place"; the Stanwich Senior Sage series, in which seniors will make a public presentation responding to a call to service and taking an active leadership role in creating a more sustainable future – to name just some. In the Senior House students will begin to take ownership of their education in earnest, because it will be relevant –it will matter– to them. And within the Stanwich spirit, our students will be in a 'race to somewhere substantial.' Is it any wonder that our current families and feeder schools alike are eager for our Senior House to set sail or that colleges want to start visiting us this spring?

Happenings

Survey Results

In preparation for the showing of the documentary, *Race to Nowhere*, Stanwich families were asked to complete a questionnaire to help us understand where we are as a community and the concerns we might address. Following are the results:

