

Renovation

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part of this phase of work. This will divert rainwater runoff and keep our basement storage area and lower level dry and thus alleviate any concerns relating to dampness. It was important that this measure, which will help prevent mold problems, be included in the Phase 1 plan.

Finally, as this goes to press, the clapboard was being stripped of over 100 years of paint—up to 15 layers in some places. The clapboard will be primed and prepped for the final coat of paint. During the paint stripping process all state and federal health and safety measures relating to paint removal, dust cleanup, and general safety and environmental issues were strictly followed.

While the clapboards were being stripped, some areas were determined to be “beyond repair.” The clapboard in these areas was removed and replaced by new clapboard milled to exactly match the existing boards, as per New Jersey Historic Trust direction.

The New Jersey Historic Trust also indicated that the school should be repainted to match the building’s original colors. The colors will be “Latte” (Benjamin Moore) for the clapboard and “Pecos Spice” for the trim.

Topping things off will be “acroteria,” or finials, that will crown the gables of the school. The restoration architect, Historic Buildings Architects, LLC, drew plans for these decorative elements after examining historic photographs of the school supplied by Wes Hendricks, Carl Cathers, and others.

Although the current work represents the completion of the first phase of restoration, plans call for a continuation of the restoration process in upcoming phases. This crucial work depends, to a large degree, on grant funding from the New Jersey Historic Trust, and we ask all of the friends of Stockton Borough School to voice their support for this agenda. Future renovation plans include improved, energy-efficient heating, electrical work, and reconstruction of the original bell tower.



Detail from historic photo of acroteria.

Memory Lane

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Stockton School alumni are invited to submit a brief account of “My Favorite Memory of the Stockton School.” These will be included in a time capsule that students will be preparing in early September. The caspsule will be opened 24 years from now, in 2032, which marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of the school. Please call the school at (609) 397-2012 if you would like to contribute.

Stockton School News

Fall 2008

Stockton Borough School—Serving the Community Since 1832

School Renovation Project Nears Completion

All through the summer construction crews worked on the restoration of the school’s foundation and exterior. The sills, which rest on the foundation and support the school, were badly deteriorated, so the damaged portions were removed and replaced. Masonry repairs started on June 18th, the day after classes closed for the summer. On the last day of school, June 17th, after classes were dismissed, Mrs. Ivans, Mr. Horan, and Mrs. French, with the help of several parents and students, emptied out the basement storage area and moved the contents to a storage POD. Access to the basement and crawlspace was necessary to do the foundation repair. Inside the basement area, the stone foundation was repointed—now we have a clean and dry place to

store supplies. New shelving was donated to the school by the Business and Education Alliance in Flemington.

Exterior masonry restoration started by “raking out” the mortar joints. New mortar was specially formulated to match the correct color and composition of the original and the stone foundation was restored.

Repairs to the sill followed. Crews carefully removed several courses of clapboard to allow access for sill replacement. The walls of the school are “stone filled” with brick “noggin.” This was a common construction practice of the period that allowed for a degree of insulation within the walls and also acted as a “fire stop” to prevent flames from traveling up the walls interior in the event of the fire. This

Rededication Ceremony

A ceremony to rededicate the renovated Stockton Borough School will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, September 17, 2008. All current and former Stockton residents and school alumni are invited to attend. There will be refreshments and fun activities for families.

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was state-of-the-art construction, and many houses in the area built during the mid to late 1800s have this same feature.

With the structural and foundation work completed, we are assured that the school will stand strong for many, many years to come. As CSA Suzanne Ivans said, “Our foundation is stronger than ever.”

An “apron” on the side of the school facing the steep slope was constructed as
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From the CSA’s Office

Welcome Back!

By Suzanne Ivans, Chief School Administrator

What an exciting summer it has been! Along with our school construction, we have busily been preparing for a new school year. Thanks to the generous contributions of the PTO and the LAEF, our school calendar is chalk full of a wide variety of enrichment activities for our students. See highlights of some of our school and community events in this edition.

Our school theme this year is “Measurement.” From dance counts to art
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School Returns to Original Color

When students return to Stockton Borough School in the fall, the building will have a fresh coat of paint. However, the school will no longer be the familiar shade of blue. Instead, the Board of Education has agreed to follow the New Jersey Historic Trust’s recommendation that the building be repainted in what are believed to be its original colors: “latte” for the clapboard and “Pecos spice” for the trim.

The Board has been told that painting the school in the original colors will increase our chances of getting a \$250,000 matching grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust. Ms. Kathy Goulet, executive director of the Trust, explained that an “interpretive piece”—as if you were transported to the restoral time—is part of the grant application. In other words, the building is supposed to look as closely as possible to the way it did in the late 19th century.

The latte color, chosen in the 1800s by the original builders of the school and residents of Stockton, echoes the color of the Stockton sandstone used not only to build the foundation of the school, but also used in many buildings around the community and state, including the Stockton Inn, Prallsville Mill, and Nassau Hall in Princeton. This color celebrates the proud heritage of our past, when our local quarries supplied the beautiful “brownstone” used in buildings throughout New Jersey, as well as in the cities of New York and Philadelphia.

Stockton NJ 08559
RD4
Resident of Stockton Borough

Stockton NJ 08559
19 S. Main Street
c/o Stockton Borough School
Citizens to Support the Stockton School

Stockton School—For Adults Also!

At Stockton Borough School we're going beyond elementary education. Starting this Fall, we will be opening our doors in the evenings for adults.

For several years, the Board of Education has wondered, "What can we do for the citizens of the Stockton area?" One idea has been to offer some one-evening adult education courses. Some of the areas of interest include First Aid and CPR training; Fire Prevention, in conjunction with the Stockton Fire Company; river and water safety; income tax preparation using financial software; and Tai Chi, Yoga, or meditation classes for adults.

Another area of interest, and our first Adult Education program, will be

"Parenting by Priority" by Dr. Nancy Harrison (see article on this page).

The Board will offer these evening courses in conjunction with the Stockton School PTO. Depending on the costs, courses may be either free or we may ask for a small donation to offset instructor costs. Free childcare will be provided at the school and refreshments will be served. Courses will be open to all area residents.

We welcome your ideas and input. If there is a topic you would be interested in having presented, please contact Suzanne Ivans at 609 397-2012 or drop off a note in the school's mailbox. We look forward to hearing from you.

Parenting by Priority Workshop Scheduled

Local psychologist Dr. Nancy Harrison will present a workshop, "Parenting by Priority," at the Stockton Borough School. The workshop will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 24, 2008.

There are many ways to be an effective parent. However, given all the competing demands and expectations today, many parents find it challenging to consistently make the choices that are best both for them and for their child.

The Parenting by Priority workshop is designed to help parents more clearly determine their own values, instincts, and priorities so that they can effectively act on them and increase their sense of satisfaction and fulfillment. The format includes both a lecture component as well as opportunity for interaction.

This workshop differs from most others in the parenting field in that it is not prescriptive but rather engages participants in a process of guided self-exploration which results in a self-designed approach to parenting. Parents are walked through an easy-to-use, three-step process which enables them to examine their own experience of being parented, deepen their understanding of their

child's needs, and determine their strengths and priorities. Parents will come away with not only much greater clarity about what is most important to them and their children but also specific ways to act on these priorities in their everyday lives.



Dr. Harrison is a licensed psychologist and a professor at Rutgers University's Center for Applied Psychology of the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology. For the past fourteen years she has maintained a private practice in Flemington. Dr. Harrison has worked with a wide variety of families over

the course of the past 25 years. Dr. Harrison has also served as a member of the Hunterdon County Discipline Team, Prosecutor's Office, Domestic Violence and is a founding member of Morristown Hospital Center for Child Abuse. She is the mother of a Stockton School student and is currently writing a book on parenting issues.

This course is sponsored by the Stockton Elementary School PTO, and is free to area residents. (Any donations to help offset costs would be appreciated.) For more information, contact the School.

Do you have news about a former Stockton student? Please send us your news or photos and we will include in a future edition of the *Stockton School News*.

Hold the Date

First Day of School—Wednesday, September 3, (Coffee and donuts for parents to be supplied by the PTO)

First PTO meeting of the School Year—Monday, September 8, at 7 p.m.

PTO Ice Cream Social—Friday, September 12, from 3 to 3:30 p.m.

Innisbrook Gift Wrap Sale—September 10 through 26

"Back to School Night" and Rededication Ceremony—Wednesday, September 17, at 6 p.m.

Regular School Board meeting—Thursday, September 25, at 7 p.m.

Candle Sale—November 3 through 21

News from the PTO

Have a Great Year!

By Joanne M. Nestor, PTO president

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome this year's Homeroom Parents and to extend a big "Thank You" to them for volunteering:

Kindergarten: Laura Mangum
First: Mindy Mutterperl and Tami Hettman
Second: Lisa Kozuhowski
Third: Ida Englehardt
Fourth: Tami Hettman
Fifth: Kathrine Hunt
Sixth: Diane McDaniel

Welcome Back!

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frame sizes, to the metric measurements at the Olympic Games, to the circumference and corresponding volume of our time capsule—our annual theme helps weave our curriculum into a real-world tapestry of learning.

In continuation of our last year's theme "Going Green" we are encouraging our students to walk or bike to school along the designated safe routes to school. We kindly ask the Stockton citizens to please clear all shrubbery that may have crept into sidewalk areas over the summer and to remember to promptly remove snow from the walkways to help promote safe travel for our students. Thank you for supporting this initiative.

Grants Help Stockton Keep Costs Down

After school closed in June, while restoration work started on the school, CSA Ivans, together with the School Board, volunteers, and others, were busy at work on the application for a historic preservation grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust.

"This is the big one," explained Mrs. Ivans. "We are hoping that we get this grant because it is for approximately \$250,000 that will be used for the restoration of the school."

Stockton School received letters of support for our renovation project from the Hunterdon County Cultural and Historic Commission, Stockton Borough Mayor and Council, State Senator Leonard Lance, Assemblywoman Marcia Karrow, and U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg. Unfortunately, the Board was only permitted to include five letters of support with its application. We thank all of those individuals, businesses, and local organizations that offered to support our school and this renovation project.



Stockton School Participates in New Jersey History Fair

For the second time in as many years, our Historic School participated in the "Spirit of the Jerseys" History Fair, held this past Spring at Washington Crossing State Park.

As part of our commitment to educate the public about the importance of preserving and using historic neighborhood schools, school volunteers manned a booth at this event. On display were historic photos and documents from the school as well as plans for our restoration. School staff members and volunteers were also on hand to share our plans for the school's restoration and answer questions regarding the school's history, academic programs and tuition program.

Stockton School has applied for the New Jersey Historic Trust grant in order to help pay about half the cost of the renovation expenses. Stockton recently received a smaller grant from the Historic Trust, for approximately \$40,000. This was used to pay 75 percent of the cost of architectural plans for the renovation.

Each year, the Stockton School attempts to offset some of its operating expenses, or improve its academic offerings for students, through grants. For example, we have received grants from the Lambertville Area Education Foundation to subsidize our Mandarin Chinese program for students in fourth through sixth grade, and from the Municipal Alliance for drug, alcohol, and truancy prevention programs. Some other grants that the Board has applied for include a Safe Routes to School Grant, which would provide funds to improve the school crossing, and a Captain Planet/Turner Broadcasting Environmental Science Education Grant.

After-School Enrichment Program Continues

We are pleased to announce that our successful and popular after-school program will be offered again this school year. This PTO-sponsored program will start soon after classes resume this Fall. Handouts announcing the topics, dates and outline of courses offered to our school children will be distributed in the near future, so be sure to check your child's backpack for these flyers!

Some of the courses we plan to offer this school year include:

- Mr. Horan's always-popular Guitar Lessons.
- A return of the dance program from Roxy Dance—this was a big hit last year for boys and girls.

Other courses we are considering in the coming year include: Martial Arts, Photography in and around Stockton, Keyboard Basics, Introduction to Spanish Basics, and others. As always, we look for your ideas and input. If you know someone who is interested in teaching an after-school subject, let the PTO know.



What Should We Do About School Sign?

During the exterior restoration, it was necessary to remove the wooden sign that was mounted on the façade of the school facing Main Street. The sign was a gift from the graduating Class of 1977. It was attached to the school for over 30 years. Unfortunately, the elements have taken their toll on it. The sign was made of plywood, with wooden letters, and it may be beyond repair.

The Board is now looking at either repairing or replacing the sign and are asking for your input. If you have an idea for repair or replacement of the sign, or know someone willing to donate a sign, please contact the school.



Sister School

This past year, one of our PTO parents noticed that we are not the only "Stockton School" on the Web. There is also a small, rural elementary school, Stockton-on-the-Forest in Yorkshire, England. CSA Ivans contacted the schoolmaster in Yorkshire and they arranged to be sister schools.

Students have been exchanging letters and discussing interests—for instance "football" in England is "soccer" here. And while we have a guitar program, our sister school has a violin program. Another interesting similarity is that their school colors are blue and white—just like us! We hope this cultural exchange is enlightening to the students at both "Stockton-on-the-Forest" and "Stockton-on-the-Delaware."