

Alumni Corner

It's been a great year for Stockton School Alumni. Our former students have gone on to accomplish some outstanding goals—as seen below:

These former Stockton students have recently made their school's Honor Roll:

Roxanne Kreider, Grade 7 (SHRHS)
Hannah Marty, Grade 7 (SHRHS)
Lydia McDaniel, Grade 7 (DTS)
Grace Giannattasio, Grade 7 (DTS)
Joseph Hillman, Grade 7 (DTS)
Emma Hillman, Grade 8 (DTS, high honors)
Rose Lowry, Grade 8 (SHRHS)
Nichole Ruzicka, Grade 9 (SHRHS, distinguished honors)
Bret Tokash, Grade 9 (SHRHS)
Kurt Tokash, Grade 9 (SHRHS)
Samantha Messina, Grade 10 (Solebury School)

Samantha Dailey graduated from Delaware Valley College in 2008.

Marijka DeBlieu graduated from Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC, this year with a degree in Finance. Marijka graduated on the Dean's List.

Amy Danese, a 2005 graduate of Rider University, was recently appointed Acting Director at Sylvan Learning Centers.

Alex Danese is attending Fairleigh Dickinson University, where he is majoring in Nutrition and is on the Dean's List.

Alex Giocondo graduated from the University of North Carolina and is currently employed at Citizen's Bank in Pittsburgh.

Fran Giocondo graduated from Brandeis University and earned a Master's in Human Resources Management from Rutgers.

Megan Giocondo is currently enrolled in a masters program in California. A Boston University graduate, she is an Ayurveda Practitioner in Northern California.

Jessica Giffin graduated from George Washington University in 2008.

Kjisten Torkelson graduated from Ursinus College with a double major in French and Exercise Sports Science. She taught English in France for a year, and is now one of 50 people in the Occupational Therapy graduate program at Thomas Jefferson Medical University in Philadelphia. Her GPA is 4.0.

Sara Torkelson is a junior at Rowan University, studying social science. She is on the Dean's List, and is President of the Communications College Honor Society.

Jennifer Wiley graduated from Ryder University in 2008.

Matt Wiley earned a Master's Degree in Special Education from Rider University.

Please contact us with any Alumni News you may have at ivans@stocktonschool.us, and we'll include it in a future newsletter.

Stockton School News

Summer 2008

Stockton Borough School—Serving the Community Since 1832

From the Board President

Seeking Efficiency By Sharing Services

By Rick McDaniel, Board President

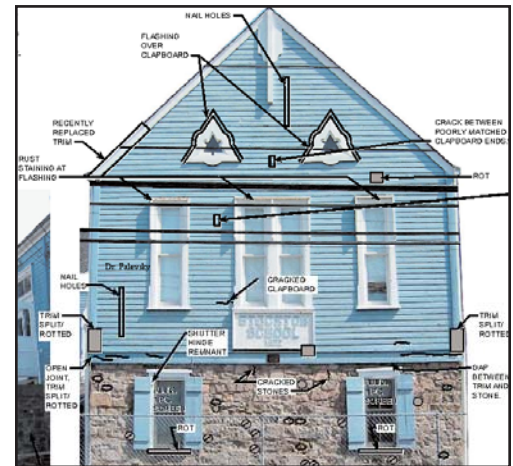
Since the 1950s, when state regulators demanded that we had to get rid of our outhouses, the Stockton School has been vulnerable to closing due to one simple fact—we operate on a very small budget. While we have never sacrificed the quality of education, unexpected expenses such as a new furnace or an increase in health benefit costs can impact our budget by a greater percentage than larger districts. This fact, combined with changes in how the state Department of Education views the organization of school districts, has forced the Board of Education to focus continuously on exploring efficient ways to protect our school and its superior educational environment.

One way for Stockton to operate more efficiently is to share some services with other schools. This is something that we See "Efficiency," page 3

School Exterior and Foundation Restoration to Begin This Summer

You will notice big changes to the school's exterior this summer, as restoration of the school's exterior envelope and foundation takes place. The Stockton School's entire stone foundation will undergo extensive rehabilitation, and the exterior clapboard will be stripped of paint, primed and repainted. But this is more than just a facelift. The restoration, overseen by renowned restoration architects Historic Building Architects will be a thorough process, addressing many structural problems while adhering to stringent restoration standards set forth by the US Department of Interior.

HBA's restoration plan is so precise and detailed that it labels individual clapboards that need to be replaced, mortar compounds to be used and identified the original color of the school, which, incidentally, was not blue. Analysis of paint chips over 100 years old indicate that the original color of the clapboard was a light



Part of HBA's restoration plan for the school's exterior.

"latte" and the window, door and other trim was a darker shade. This color scheme was used in the 1870s because dark pigments were very expensive. As a See "Restoration," page 2

Junior Kindergarten Starts in September

Call it Pre-Kindergarten or Junior Kindergarten, but please don't call it Preschool! Unlike many "preschool" or daycare programs, the Stockton School's Pre-Kindergarten program will be a curriculum-based, early learning experience, as recommended by the New Jersey Department of Education.

Like the school's current private tuition program for grades K-6, the new pre-K program will be offered to students who live outside of the district. It will also be available to resident children at a discounted rate. The cost will be \$360 a month for non-resident students and \$270 a month for resident students.

The program will run on the same school calendar three days a week, from

8:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

By combining the Pre-Kindergarten with the existing Kindergarten classroom, similar to the other combined classrooms in the school, the board hopes to reap educational benefits in addition to improving efficiency.

"Our combined grade level and small class sizes allow us to provide an individualized instruction program to our students," said CSA Suzanne Ivans. "It also makes us more efficient, since we have one teacher for two grade levels."

Ms. Ivans said that no new staff will be hired. "Our Kindergarten teacher has both her elementary and her preschool See "Junior Kindergarten," page 2

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c/o Stockton Borough School
Citizens to Support the Stockton School

Welcome, from the CSA

We hope you enjoy this newsletter from the Stockton Borough School Community. For such a small school we are very busy. This issue includes articles on a variety of topics, from updates on shared services and our renovation project to school and alumni news. If you would like to stay current on Stockton School news, check out our website at www.stocktonschool.us. We plan to publish these newsletters periodically for our citizens and invite your contributions. We welcome your involvement in our school—from See "Welcome," page 3

News from the PTO

Thanks for All Your Help in 2008

By Joanne M. Nestor, PTO president

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents, teachers and volunteers and the local businesses that worked so hard to make our fundraisers this past year such a success. Because of the help and support of everyone, we were able to raise an unprecedented amount of much-needed funds.

This money is used for a variety of programs that support the students, school and community directly, including educational field trips, our successful after-school enrichment programs and our Community Holiday programs. Two perennially favorite fundraisers are our Annual Rummage Sale at the Mill and the Art & Spaghetti Auction and Dinner. I would like to extend an extra thanks to Diane McDaniel for heading up the Rummage Sale for all of these years and Edie Sharp for letting us use the Mill. We owe a debt of gratitude to chef extraordinaire (and Stockton Resident) Melissa Hamilton and Kristen Meil and the Kitchen Team plus Sue Roseman, owner of Riverbank Arts and all of the Artists for helping with the Art & Spaghetti auction—and, of course, everyone at the Firehouse (Thanks, Tony!).

I also want to thank local business owners Dick Phillips and Fred Strackhouse for their continuing support of the school, and Bob Haas and Carolyn McGavin who let us use the wonderful Woolverton Inn for graduation ceremonies every year.

I realize that with so many great volunteers I may have inadvertently left someone off the "Thank you" list. To list all of these great people and businesses would require a newsletter of many more pages. But be assured that everyone associated with our great little school appreciates your help.

Finally, I want to thank all of the parents who continue to attend PTO meetings and volunteer for events, and my fellow PTO officers: Gregg Rackin, Kathleen Vandegrift, and Leigh Smith.

We look forward to everyone's support next year as we continue to work to make Stockton a great place to live and Stockton School a great place for our children to learn.

Junior Kindergarten

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certification," she explained.

"Additionally, she has completed her special education certification so she will be especially qualified to meet the needs of all students."

Board member David Shearer spoke of the need for a quality learning program and a structured curriculum with goals, objectives, and prescreening to ensure students are ready for an academic program. Mr. Shearer emphasized the program was not just for four-year old children. "I want to make sure parents know that we will also take five-year olds who may not be ready for a full Kindergarten program."

Parents who are interested in learning more about the program are encouraged to visit the school website at www.stocktonschool.us or contact CSA Suzanne Ivans at 609 397-2012.

Restoration

Continued from page 1

result, the larger areas of clapboard were painted a light color and the trim used the more expensive dark paint. There is also evidence that the school was later painted a straw yellow, and then white, before being painted the current blue. The project architect recommends repainting the school in its original 1870s color in order to improve our chances of receiving additional historic restoration grant funding.

HBA analyzed old photographs and drew up plans for the finials that once adorned the schools gables. Other less visible restoration work includes various structural and foundation repairs, including the construction of an "apron" on the uphill side of the school to divert stormwater runoff and prevent the flooding that has plagued the school's lower level.

A project of this magnitude requires a lot of coordination. On site "PODS" storage units will be used to hold items that must be removed from the school during the renovation.

Restoration work is scheduled to start in June, just after school lets out for the summer. All major exterior work is expected to be completed by late August 2008. We are asking our neighbors to be patient with us while we undertake this work.

Stockton School a Finalist for Smart Growth Award

The Stockton Borough Elementary School was recently honored as a finalist for the 2008 New Jersey Future Smart Growth Awards. Stockton School was nominated because it represents: a walkable school, efficient use of existing infrastructure, compact design, adaptive reuse of a historic structure, and supporting the viability of the community.

"We are honored to be a finalist in this prestigious award," said Ms. Ivans, the Stockton School Chief School Administrator. "We are pleased to get the recognition for eco-friendly practice of restoring a historic building."

In a letter, NJ Future Executive Director Peter Kasabach indicated that the Stockton School submission was among the finalists. "The jurors were very impressed with the stellar educational environment you provide to your students and the integral role your school plays in the Stockton community," he wrote. Mr. Kasabach called the School's restoration and adaptive reuse plan an "important and well-conceived project" adding his hopes that "the historic school continues to serve the children and community of Stockton."

With the push for larger schools and sprawling communities, small neighborhood schools seem to be on the Endangered Species List. Paradoxically, many educational researchers note that these same neighborhood schools not only excel in elementary education but also imbibe students with a sense of community spirit and civic responsibility.

Stockton School was edged out in the category of "Historic Building Reuse" by "Eleven 80", a restored office/condo building in Newark, supported by the Cogswell Realty Group, Bank of America, and NJ Economic Development Authority.

Efficiency

Continued from page 1

have been doing for many years; we currently share a Business Administrator with Delaware Township, and share our music teacher with Lambertville. Sharing allows us to provide the amenities of a larger school at a cost Stockton taxpayers can afford.

Over the past year, we have discussed expanded sharing agreements. Ideas that are being explored include the possibility of sharing some administrative costs, or sending some older Stockton students to Delaware Township School, where they would benefit from the greater social opportunities that a larger school setting can provide. As things develop over the next few months, we will update you on these exciting initiatives. I encourage you to attend our Board meetings for updates.

It is important to note, however, that the Stockton Borough School will open in September 2008 exactly as it has for over 175 years, with two changes: our renovated facility will be in better shape than it has been in years, and we will welcome several four-year-old students to our new pre-kindergarten program. As always, the Board's goal is for the Stockton School to remain a dynamic educational facility that is the core of our community.

Hold the Date

Graduation Ceremony at the Woolverton Inn—June 16, 2008, 7 pm

Last day of school—June 17, 2008

School Board Meetings—June 26, August 28, September 25, 7 pm

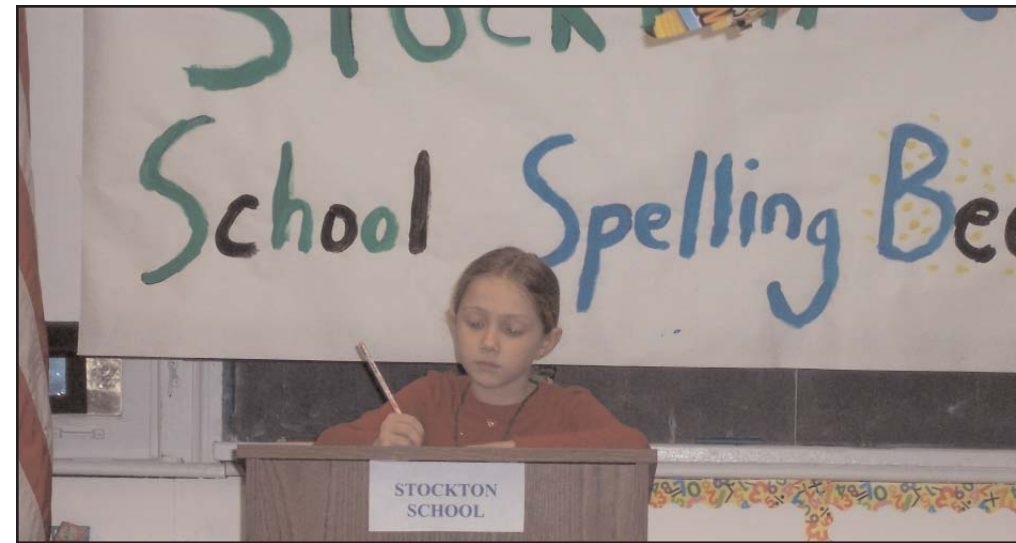
First day of school—September 3, 2008

Welcome

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being a classroom volunteer, to reading stories, to helping with our benefit events—there are many ways your contributions can enrich the educational experience of our students. If you would like to explore these opportunities, please contact me at the school.

Sincerely, Suzanne Ivans,
School Administrator
609-397-2012.



Stellar Students

The Class of 2008

It is with great pride, and a bit of sadness, that we bid farewell to our graduating sixth graders—Stockton's 176th Graduating Class. Congratulations to the Class of 2008!

Eliot Hagerty
Maggie Emge
James Barker

Olivia and the Bee

You don't need a spellchecker with Olivia Harrison around! Fifth grader Olivia represented our school in the Regional Spelling Bee Finals this past year. Not only did she represent our school (and Hunterdon County), but she advanced to 25th place competing against 8th graders! Ms. Harrison competed against over 125 students from two states at the Regional BEE at Lehigh University. We're very proud of our Stellar Speller!

A "Distinguished" Honor

Sixth Grader and recent Stockton School graduate Eliot Hagerty is the 2008 Distinguished Student.

Eliot's GPA reflects her enthusiasm and effort in all that she does. Her attendance and punctuality are commendable. She takes pride in her work, demonstrates kindness to others, and takes a leadership role in her classroom. An example of how Eliot goes "the extra mile" was shown last year when she was given an assignment that had to include an activity. Eliot enlisted her peers and together they raised over \$500 as part of a "Pennies for Poverty" program to help children in

South Africa.

Eliot was honored at a special recognition ceremony hosted by the Business Alliance for all Hunterdon Distinguished Students on May 22, 2008.

Super Science Students

When the results for last year's NJ ASK test were posted this past March, we were pleasantly surprised. Last year's fourth graders scored very well in the State tests in Mathematics and Language Skills and came in first in the state as "Advanced Proficient" in Science—ahead of schools like Princeton Charter!

(For the complete report, go to: <http://education.state.nj.us/index.html> click on "NJ School Report Card", follow the directions to get to Stockton School and click on "see all data selections.")

At Stockton School we encourage our students to explore the world around them – both in the classroom and outside. For instance, this year, with funding from the PTO and the assistance of Bill Lowry, Gregg Rackin, NJ State Naturalist Stephanie Fox, a Fifth and Sixth grade Environmental Science program was started in Mr. Hudak's class.

Using PTO funds, the school purchased "Science in a Box" kits for the children and sent the Environmental Science class on a "Floating Classroom" to test and chemically analyze water in the Delaware River. Mr. Horan's Third and Fourth graders recently visited Lost River Caverns and studied minerals to augment their Earth Science curriculum.

Congratulations to all of our Super Science Students!