

PARK ACADEMY

THE DISCOVERY OF INTELLECTUAL GIFTEDNESS



January 2010

Issue No. 1

Park Academy Newsletter

2010 Application Deadlines

*Re-enrollment Deadline is March 31. Forms will be mailed by January 29.
Financial Aid Deadline is March 1.*

After School Enrichment Classes Starting in February **New Parents Group Recruits International Artist to Teach**

The new group for Park Academy parents met for the first time on January 6. Discussion was animated as ideas bounced around the room. Ten committed parents gathered to discuss priorities and establish an action plan to create enrichment opportunities for students.



After school enrichment classes will start in February. We will begin the enrichment series with an Art class suitable for all grades. The class will be taught by South African artist [Ian Yallop](#). Ian taught high school art for three years and private lessons for over a decade in South Africa. He is a good friend of Park parents Rich & Cindy Millock. The classes will be held once a week in February (3:30 - 4:30 p.m.) and the fee is \$25 per student. In March the series will continue with a Music class. Registration forms will be e-mailed or you can pick up a form in the office. Scholarships are available.

The next parent meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3, at 6pm at Park Academy. Join us as we work together to create new opportunities and experiences for our kids. Contact co-chairs [Anne Gray](#) 503.344.4090 or [Brenda Braxton](#) for more information. See you there!

"Leopard in a Tree" by Ian Yallop. Pastel on matte board.

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Directors Letter

Dear Friends, Board Members &
Colleagues,

The New Year provides an opportunity to reflect on where we have been, where we are currently and the opportunities ahead. Many milestones have been achieved since the school first opened in 2005. We continue in our commitment to provide students with a school that meets their unique learning challenges and ensures their emotional and physical safety.

In 2005, our vision was simply to prepare students to graduate from high school. In 2009, our vision expanded to prepare **every** graduating senior for post-secondary education. In 2010, we will have six graduating students who are all heading for post-secondary education! You can read their stories in the article below.

The vision for Park Academy continues to evolve. In future newsletters I'll share more about the strategic plan for our school. I look forward to engaging with you all in advancing our vision and mission for 2010 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Paula Kinney
School Director

P.S. This month I'd like to send a special thank you to Ms. Gray and Ms. Braxton for getting our parent group started. I know this group will be a great asset to Park Academy and will make us even stronger as a "whole" school community!



Songwriting with Kids

Save the Date! March 31 Music Workshop for Students



[Steve Seskin](#) helps children of all ages to create their own songs that speak to issues that affect the entire school community, such as bullying, respect, peer pressure, diversity and self-esteem. When students write their own song, they're more apt to live by the words and quietly convince other students to do the same.

Steve is "one of country music's most successful songwriters" and his compositions have been recorded by many well know artists. "Grown Men Don't Cry", recorded by Tim McGraw, was nominated for a 2002 Grammy award.

Seskin is known for performing at schools in support of a tolerance program named after a song he wrote performed by Peter, Paul and Mary, the [Operation Respect](#)/Don't Laugh at Me project.

Seniors Plan Next Steps

All Six Seniors Plan for Post-Secondary Education

Bill Westphal, Student Support Coordinator, works closely with seniors to plan each student's next step after graduation. All six graduating seniors at Park Academy are preparing for their transition to college next fall with a clear understanding that education beyond high school is more critical than ever before. Here is a brief recap of their plans.



Nate Arnold plans to enter [Portland Community College](#) in the fall to pursue his interest in the field of psychology. He earned a scholarship to attend the Landmark College Institute for Rising Juniors and Seniors this past summer.



Will Cheng plans to enter either Portland Community College or [Marylhurst University](#) to study music. Will is already an aspiring musician and composer. He is currently taking a music technology class at Marylhurst University through Park Academy's dual enrollment program.



Jack Cornelius plans to attend [Landmark College](#) in Vermont to begin his study in Liberal Arts. Jack's interest in history and political science, combined with his passion for playing the electric guitar, will make him a good fit for this small liberal arts college. Landmark is the premier college in the nation for students with documented learning disabilities.



Steven Davis will attend [ITT Technical Institute](#) to study Computer and Electronics Engineering Technology. Steven is focused on a career that fits his interests and aptitude in the area of software design and has already been awarded a "Careers That Work" scholarship to cover part of his tuition next year.



Alexia Horovak will attend Portland Community College to study elementary education. Her love of children and great people skills landed her a job this year at a Day Care Center in Tigard. This job has given her hands-on experience in preparing for her next steps to college and career.



Patrick Meadors will be attending Portland Community College to fulfill his undergraduate requirements before transferring to a 4-year college. Patrick is interested in political science, community service, and student leadership. Patrick attended two National Student Leadership Conferences this past year and is active in student leadership at Park Academy.

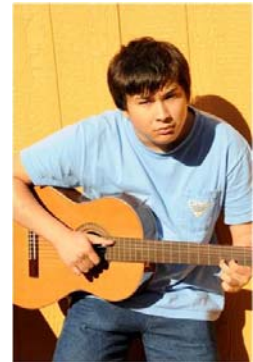
Milestone for Park Academy

First Student to be Dual Enrolled at Marylhurst University

Congratulations are in order!

Will Cheng is now dual enrolled as a student at Park Academy and Marylhurst University. He is taking Introduction to Music Technology. Will is a senior and he has already completed his science and social studies requirements and has more than enough credits to graduate, so he is continuing to upgrade his knowledge and skills in anticipation of taking a larger class load next year in college.

The partnership between Park Academy and Marylhurst University provides seniors the opportunity to earn college credit while finishing high school, and provides a gentle transition into college life. We plan to expand this partnership with Marylhurst in the future and get more of our seniors dual enrolled and on their way to achieving their college dreams!



Middle School Staff Update

Welcome Ms Patton & Ms McCarthy - Farewell Ms Weekes



From the start of her time at Park Academy we knew Ms. Lauren Weekes would be leaving for Chicago in the new year to pursue her career in Art History. Ms. Weekes is an incredible teacher and was very committed to her work and to the students. Good Luck Ms. Weekes- we know you'll be a great success wherever you go - but we miss you!

Ms. Ivy Patton joined the faculty in October and has fit in so beautifully it's almost like she was always here! Ms. Patton graduated from the University of Georgia and is completing her Masters in Teaching with Board Certification as a Behavior Analyst. She studied literature at Oxford University in England, photography at the Lorenzo de Medici Art Institute in Florence and psychology at City University of New York. After a brief career in radio and TV in New York City she taught at Savannah Country Day School in Savannah Georgia. Ms. Patton worked closely with Ms. Weekes prior to her departure and the kids love her. Welcome Ms. Patton!



After the holiday break middle school students enthusiastically welcomed their new teacher, Ms. Jennie McCarthy. Ms. McCarthy has been observing classes once a week for the past month to get acquainted with the students and their learning styles. Ms. McCarthy has an elementary teaching license in multiple subjects, including teaching students with



learning challenges. She comes to us with a rich background including substitute teaching in the Beaverton School District since September 2008, and directing and teaching in an afterschool program at Hazeldale Elementary School. In addition to her education background, Ms. McCarthy spent five years serving in the United States Army as a Medical Logistics Captain, serving in Iraq - thanks for your service Jennie. Welcome, we're excited to have you join our team!

Theatre Class Demonstrates Improvisational Skills

Peter Yarrow Drops by to Sing "Puff The Magic Dragon"

The Theatre Class, which is composed of both middle and high school students, presented their first show, IMPROVISE! Improvisation is a form of acting that requires quick, in-the-moment thinking and action. Students had the audience in stitches with their clever characters and off-the-top comments. Everything from interviewing aliens to dancing with broomsticks showcased the student's wit and imagination. Alexia acted as hostess and a good time was had by all.



An impromptu visit by [Peter Yarrow](#) delighted the audience as he performed a modified rendition of ["Puff the Magic Dragon"](#) with a much happier ending. We all learned that Puff still lives by the sea and were quite relieved and joined enthusiastically in the chorus. Peter also performed ["Don't Laugh at Me"](#) and provided an update on the activities of ["Operation Respect"](#).

Schedule of Upcoming School Tours

All Are Invited to See Learning in Action at Park Academy!



Word of mouth has been our most powerful method for recruiting new students. We welcome referrals and appreciate your help spreading the word about our life changing school.

Upcoming tours are at 10:00 a.m. on January 27, February 10 and 25. Please visit the Web site for more dates (www.parkacademy.org) ALL are welcome to visit.

Contact Kim Barton 503.635.3088 kim@parkacademy.org.

Winter Weather Reminder

Follow Lake Oswego School District Delay & Closures

During inclement weather Park Academy follows Lake Oswego School District's decision on late starts or closures. Please check your [local news station](#) about school closures on any morning we have ice or snow. Then check again before you leave the house. Stay warm and safe!



Annual Appeal Nets \$10,000 and Sets Record for Parent Giving!

Annual Spring Plan Sale Coming in March



A hearty THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our year end fund drive a success. Parent participation this year is up 83% over last year! Parents and staff contributed and pledged nearly \$4,000 which will be used to help purchase document cameras for classrooms. We're really excited about the enthusiastic attitude and willingness to participate that was exhibited this year.

Overall our year end fundraising generated more than \$10,000 in new money for school programs and scholarships!

Thanks everyone!

April Harris, Development Director

P.S. Get ready to breathe in the fresh scents of our "Bloom into Spring" Annual Plant Sale - March 11-29. The plants are gorgeous. Check the nursery Web site (http://www.newleafgreenhouse.com/Spring_Plant_Fundraiser/) for a list of packages and look for your order form via email and in kids' backpacks.



Park Academy empowers students with diverse learning challenges to reach their highest potential of giftedness while excelling academically and becoming responsible citizens and community leaders.

