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Giddens e-news

Week of Feb. 1, 2010

Giddens School provides an academically excellent curriculum enriched with a commitment to critical thinking and social responsibility. Staff and families create a community that nourishes diversity, sense of self and love of learning.

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Tuesday, Feb. 2:

Meet Head Search Finalist Carol A. Coram for coffee with families, 8-9am, North Room - Everyone welcome to attend!

Wednesday, Feb. 3:

Auction "Table Skipper" Meeting, 9a-10a in the Library

Monday, Feb. 15:

Presidents' Day, No School, No RKC

Feb 16-19:

Mid Winter Break, RKC Available

Dear Families and Friends,

Parents and students seemed to be having a great time at the Family Math Night last week. I enjoyed watching the interaction between the adults and children and it was satisfying to see children teach their parents math games.

We are down to our last finalist visit of the Head Search process. Carol Coram will be at the school Monday and Tuesday of this week. Your opportunity to meet her and listen as she answers questions is Tuesday from 8 to 9 AM. Your opinion is important so please fill out the survey form online. The links are provided below.

This Tuesday, Reba's class will be sponsoring the bake sale for Haiti earthquake victims. The bake sale will be in the Gym, from 3:00-3:30pm. Bring your donations- this is the last opportunity to buy sweets to benefit Haiti.

The Annual Giddens School Auction is coming soon! The official deadline for turning in procurement items was last Friday, but Janet will continue to accept all items. Check out her office to see many of the items that will be up for bid the night of the event.

We are continuing to examine our practices and look for ways to improve. A good example of this approach is our before & after school program (RKC). We have added staff, which will allow each group in the afternoon to have 2 people to work with the students. In addition, Alison is meeting with the RKC Staff each week to maintain consistency between the regular program and the RKC.

We have a strong commitment to professional development. We are sending 2 teachers to New York to learn more about writing. They will be attending a workshop at Columbia University. In addition, three teachers and Alison will attend a one day

Wednesday, Feb. 24:
 Parent Education Night:
 Talking With Children
 About Sexuality
 6-8:30pm (Tentative
 Date)



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workshop in Seattle with Lucy Calkins, the originator of the writing program from Columbia. Several of our RKC Staff are planning to attend an anti-bias, anti-bullying workshop held in Seattle. This will be useful as they interact with all the students and work with them to resolve conflicts and develop healthy relationships with their peers.

Thanks to all of you who are involved with the Head Search process. It was great to see a large group at the coffee on Friday morning. Having a strong, committed group of families is one of the cornerstones of a strong school. Take care and have a great week.

**Robert,
 Interim Head**

SCHOOLWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE HEAD SEARCH COMMITTEE:
Candidate-Community Forums:

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the Head Search process by attending the Candidate-Community Forums and providing your input. **The last of our forums will be held Tuesday, February 2 in the North Room from 8 am - 9 am and will be with Carol Coram.** The link to the online survey for Carol will be emailed to all participants soon after forum and is also shown below. Free morning RKC is available during this time, but please pre-register so that David Guzman can ensure there will be sufficient RKC staff scheduled.

The links for input based on all three Candidate-Community Forums are:

Carol Coram: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WVKW7SH>

Robert Kogane: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WLHKL3S>

Karen O'Meara Pullen: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WLMX9MG>

Please note that the above links are only for families. The links for the faculty and staff surveys are on the Giddens intranet and the links for Board and Committee members have been sent via email.

Deadline for Providing Input

All input via the online surveys must be provided by 10:00 pm on February 4 to be included in the information provided to the Head Search Committee in formulating our recommendation for the Board. After that time, the information will be compiled for the Head Search Committee. All comments will be provided verbatim to the Committee, with only the names of the respondents removed to preserve confidentiality.

Timeline

The Head Search Committee Workplan is still posted on the Giddens

website and shows an overall timeline for the selection process. The Committee will be meeting on Saturday, February 6 to formulate a recommendation. This recommendation will be formally presented to the Board of Trustees for final decision-making at a joint meeting of the Committee and the Board on Thursday, February 11. After the candidate has been notified and has formally accepted the position, an announcement will go out to the Community. **The Committee hopes to make the final announcement sometime in the last two weeks of February.**

If you have any questions or concerns about the Head Search Process, please feel free to contact me directly.

Many thanks,

Hania Younis
 Chair, Head Search Committee
 Trustee, Board of Trustees
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 206-551-7066 (cell/voicemail)

Thank You, Math Night Volunteers!



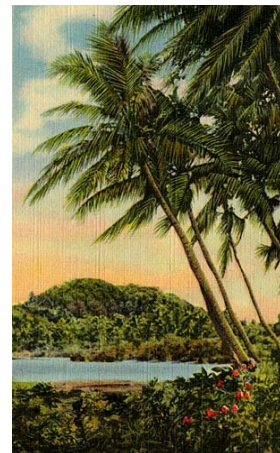
Family Math Night was a wonderful evening! Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with the event and helped teachers prepare for it. Special appreciation to Kathy Lindenmayer, Mahilet Bekele, Roda Mutongwizo, Shelly Newcomer Yuly, and the 4th-5th grade families who assisted the students with pizza sales, which went a long way toward meeting their spring trip goals! And, of course, many thanks to all of you for attending with your children!

Giddens Island - 37th Annual Fundraising Auction

UPDATE:

Thank You: We are most grateful to all of the families who have procured items for this event - thank you!

This Week: Mark your Calendar for the **Table "Skipper"** meeting **Wednesday, February 3rd from 9-10am in the Giddens Library.** Do you like to be the captain of the ship? Do you like to get your friends together for food, fun and to support a cause you believe in? Do you like to reach out to fellow parents to help make sure everyone in our community feels included? Then Giddens Island may be your final destination! We are recruiting Table



Skippers (aka: Table Captains) to host tables for the event to make sure everyone from the school makes it on the boat to Giddens Island!

Next Week: Look for your invite in the mail:

RSVPs due March 1st! The auction is on Friday, March 19th from 6:30 - 10:30pm.

Admissions Calendar:

-Admissions applications for siblings are due February 5th.

If you would like an application emailed or "snail mailed" to you, please contact [Christy Haven](#) at ext. 30 to receive one.

-The deadline for turning in Financial Aid applications for next year has passed. If you have questions, please contact [Christy Haven](#) at ext. 30.

Parent Education Program: Talking with Children about Sexuality

The next FSA Parent Education program will focus on how to discuss sexuality with your children. It will be presented by parent, Sheila Capestany, and preschool teacher, Christa Kriesel-Roth, both of whom have professional experience in this area. This program will take place the week following mid-winter break, rather than February 10th as previously scheduled on the Giddens calendar. The program is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, February 24th; stay tuned for confirmation in next week's School News.

RKC News:

RKC Classroom Changes

*Group 1 (Pre School) will move to Steve T.'s classroom on Weds.

*Group 2 (Pre-K) will remain in Samara's classroom until Mid-Winter Break and then will move to Steve E.'s classroom

*Group 3 (K-1) will move to Beth A.'s classroom on Weds.

*Group 4 (grades 2-5) will still be in Reba's classroom.

MAKE STUFF! Class

will be in Mandy's classroom 3:30pm-4:30pm
We still have 6 spots available if you are interested.

Both Creative Dance classes begin next week in the GYM.

-RKC is available during mid-winter break, Feb. 16-19 (school closed Feb. 15). Click [here](#) or on the Giddens home page for a registration form.

Please note that mid-winter break does not have an option to sign up for individual days!



Flamenco, Arte Y Paz

Saturday, Feb. 6th, 7:30 p.m., UW's [Ethnic Cultural Theatre](#)

All-ages show; special \$12 tickets for Giddens community

Giddens parent and flamenco dancer, Savannah Fuentes (Mayte's mom), invites Giddens families to attend *Flamenco, Arte Y Paz* for only \$12.

For these specially-priced advance tickets, go to the [Brown Paper Tickets event page](#), enter code word "Giddens" and the \$12 option will appear. (General tickets are \$23.)

Flamenco Arte Y Paz, an evening of Spanish flamenco featuring the voice of Vicente Griego ("El Cartucho") of New Mexico, debuts in Seattle on February 6th at the Ethnic Cultural Theater. Having devoted his life to the study of *cante flamenco*, the art of flamenco singing, Griego is one

of the premier flamenco singers in the U.S. He will be joined by San Francisco guitarist Ricardo Diaz and local flamenco dancers, Savannah Fuentes and Veronica Barrera. The program is sponsored by the University of Washington's Department of Spanish and Portuguese studies. The show starts at 7:30 and is open to all ages. Advance tickets at [brownpapertickets.com](#). Remember to enter code word "giddens" for your \$12 special rate.

Click [here](#) for pictures and bios of the artists, or [here](#) to see Vicente Griego in performance with dancer Fanny Ara. Flamenco singing is a rare art in the U.S. and he is one of the best!

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