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Giddens e-news

Week of Feb. 8, 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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Monday, Feb. 15:

Presidents' Day, No
School, No RKC

Feb 16-19:

Mid Winter Break, RKC
Available

Wednesday, Feb. 24:

Parent Education Night:
Talking With Children
About Sexuality
6-8:30pm

Friday, March 19:

Conferences; No
School, RKC Available

Friday, March 19:

37th Annual Giddens

Dear Families and Friends,

We are finished with the head search visits and the committee is meeting with the board to finish the process. I have included a letter from Hania about the process.

We are quickly approaching the mid-winter break. David said sign-ups are a little low so if you are planning to use RKC, please let him know.

Christy Haven is working on admissions for next year. Please make sure all your paperwork is up to date so financial aid and acceptance letters can go out on time.

We have rescheduled the parent evening from February 10 to February 24. The evening will be about how to talk to your children about sex issues.

Finally, the Head Search process has been a long one and I want to thank all of you for your involvement and participation. I particularly want to thank all the members on the Head Search Committee for the hours and hours they have spent on the process. Whatever the outcome, I know it was a fair process and I will support the candidate who is chosen, whether it is me or someone else. The school has a strong vision and is in need of a leader to carry out that vision. The support of the community will be crucial to the success of the permanent leader and the school.

Have a great week.

Robert,
Interim Head

SCHOOLWIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPDATE FROM THE HEAD SEARCH COMMITTEE

Auction



Join Our Mailing List!

This is just a gentle reminder that an announcement for the permanent Head of School is still likely at least a couple of weeks away. The Head Search Committee met this past Saturday and worked very hard and faithfully to formulate their recommendation for the Board of Trustees. But there is still much to be done. The Board still needs to receive the recommendation, make its decision, present a contract, and reach agreement on that contract with a permanent Head of School. Only after all of these steps have been successfully completed can an announcement be made.

In the meantime, I want to encourage everyone to wait as patiently and kindly as possible. We all are eager to know the future leader of our School and to bring this process to a close. But in recent weeks this has been putting people throughout the School and on the Committee under tremendous personal strain. And this cannot help but affect the children. My personal hope is that for all of us, but most importantly for the children and for the future of the School, we will find ways to wait together compassionately and to support each other in doing so.

On behalf of the Committee, I want to wish everyone a great week and a great mid-winter break.

Respectfully,

Hania Younis
 Chair, Head Search Committee
 Trustee, Board of Trustees
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****IMPORTANT ADMISSIONS ANNOUNCEMENT****

In order to be considered for Financial Aid, all applications must be received by this Friday, March 12th!

Please contact [Christy Haven](#) with any questions.



**More Shout-Outs to
 Volunteers for Family Math
 Night!**

Many thanks to Tanya Powers and daughters, Morgayne and Kelsey, who made all those arrow signs directing you to classrooms, and to Toshi Rosenblatt, Reuben's mom, for the computer program that tracked your pet data.

Volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated at Giddens!

We are entering a busy time for volunteers with the Giddens Island Auction in full swing. If you haven't started your 25 hours of

volunteer energy, this is a good time to get involved! Please be sure to track your hours and report them through our [online volunteer form](#) - so we can thank you, too!

**Parent Education Night: Wednesday, Feb. 24th, 6:30-8 p.m.
Talking with Children about Sexuality**

The next FSA Parent Education program will focus on talking with children about sexuality. It will be led by parent, Sheila Capestany, and preschool teacher, Christa Kriesel-Roth, both of whom have professional experience in this area. Please note the new date: February 24th, the Wednesday following mid-winter break, instead of this Wednesday as previously scheduled. The format will include an informational presentation followed by small group discussions by grade levels. To register for free childcare, please sign up on the FSA board in the front hall or contact [Sheba](#) by Friday, Feb. 12th.

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.

-Monday and Tuesday we will be having **Creative Dance** classes in the gym after school.

Please minimize your movement through the gym if at all possible in respect to the classes in session. Thanks!

-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!



Check it out! There's a new column about MATH in the New York Times. Don't understand why anyone would love math? Read this! The author, a professor of applied mathematics who won an award for communicating about math to the general public, will talk about the beauty and challenge of mathematics from Pre School to Grad School.

URL: <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/01/31/from-fish-to-infinity/>

On Monday, *The New York Times* debuted a weekly column on mathematics written by Steven Strogatz, "a professor of applied mathematics at Cornell University. In 2007 he received the Communications Award, a lifetime achievement award for the

communication of mathematics to the general public. He previously taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he received the E.M. Baker Award, an institute-wide teaching prize selected solely by students. 'Chaos,' his series of 24 lectures on chaos theory, was filmed and produced in 2008 by The Teaching Company. He is the author, most recently, of 'The Calculus of Friendship,' the story of his 30-year correspondence with his high school calculus teacher. In this series, which appears every Monday, he takes readers from the basics of math to the baffling."

In his first column, "[From Fish to Infinity](#)", Strogatz writes, "Crazy as it sounds, over the next several weeks... I'll be writing about the elements of mathematics, from pre-school to grad school, for anyone out there who'd like to have a second chance at the subject -- but this time from an adult perspective. It's not intended to be remedial. The goal is to give you a better feeling for what math is all about and why it's so enthralling to those who get it..."

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