

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

By **Briel Schmitz**

On July 12th the entire Spruce Street School community gathered together on the first floor as part of our moving on ceremony. The very next day over 200 guests joined together in the same space to honor Spruce Street School founder, Harvey Sadis, as he retired after 40 years in education.

For most of the party I stayed in the back of the room, listening as Harvey's friends, family, colleagues and former students and parents shared stories and regaled Harvey. Along the way I learned a great deal about the early history of Spruce Street School. More than anything I was reminded that history plays a strong role in forging the future.

It became clear to me that Spruce Street School continued to exist during turbulent times and times of calm due to the community. Board members, teachers, parents and even the students worked together to maintain this organization. Throughout its history many individuals have generously stepped in to keep the school moving forward.

Over the past seven years I have been witness to the power of this community on numerous occasions. Sometimes it is small things, such as flowers brought to brighten the front desk, a kind word or some treats for the teachers, and other times it has been something larger: carrying heavy rubber tiles to and from the roof for hours, supporting staff as they become parents or spending at least three days (and two nights) camping with students. Each of these instances builds the community in a positive way.

It is clear to me that from its inception to the current day Spruce Street School has included a diverse group of people, all committed to the educational mission of the school. Thank you, Harvey, for starting us on this course. Thank you, all past and current board members, for keeping the school's mission in place, and thank you, families and staff, who make this a community I am proud to be a part of every day.

MISSION STATEMENT

Spruce Street School is a nurturing educational community that instills in a broad range of children the social, emotional, and intellectual skills for lifelong participation in a diverse society.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Briel Schmitz



Kate Schultz



Harvey Sadis

WHAT IS NEXT FOR SPRUCE STREET SCHOOL?

By **Kate Schultz, Board Chair**

I have been a part of Spruce Street School for over 10 years. During that time I have watched the school undergo rapid growth and change: from a small school with close to 60 students without a permanent home to an elementary community of nearly 100 children in a downtown location, secured for the next 25 years.

Along the way the Board of Trustees has maintained its role as the visionary leader of the organization. The board believes that having a strong vision and clear plan provides essential guidance. In looking back at all the school has accomplished through its last Strategic Plan, completed June 2006, it is clear that it is time for a new Strategic Plan!

The board is excited to announce that in September we will begin the year-long task of envisioning the next

25 years for Spruce Street School. Working with parent and strategic consultant, John Smith (Social Market Strategies), we are setting out to define the school's short, middle, and long-term goals. At the heart will remain our commitment to the school's mission and core values.

The Board of Trustees will challenge itself to imagine the possibilities and think outside the box in order to define what is next for Spruce Street School. What do you imagine for the school? Property ownership? A financial aid endowment? A language immersion program? A leader for green education? Whatever you imagine, I hope that you will share your thoughts with the board and follow along with our visioning process throughout the next year.

SPRUCE STREET SCHOOL IS OPENING NEW DOORS!

By Steve Griggs and Mary-lynn Ballew, Board Members

Spruce Street School is getting a new entrance!

The Board and staff are excited to announce improvements that will benefit students, teachers, families, and visitors. The first floor will change from a single-use recreation space to a multi-use area including recreation, reception, office, conference room, parent room, and art gallery.

The Entry Way

This entry way and reception area project completes Spruce Street School's move to its location on Virginia Street. By moving the reception desk to the first floor, the students and teachers gain much needed space on the second floor for learning without interruptions by visitors and office administration.

Safety First

The primary benefit will be to improve security for the school community by locating the reception desk and business manager's office on the first floor. Upon entering the building, students and visitors will be greeted by a receptionist in a lobby containing seating and visiting space, plus displays of student art. The first floor play space will be enclosed so that students will not be visible from the street.

Great Timing

First, the landlord invested \$2 million to make the building earthquake safe, then the school community contributed \$1 million to build out the top two floors and rooftop playground. Now a final phase of \$200 thousand will complete the first floor build out. The project is being financed by reserves set aside by the board and by contributions from several members of our community. The goal is to have the new doors open when school starts in September.

Planning and Funding

Over the past year, Spruce Street School parent architects Stephen Starling and Jim Burton developed the floor plans. Turner Construction is contracted to complete the work this summer. Briel Schmitz and Mercedes Sanchez have been organizing the funding. The Board of Trustees approved the plans, budget, and use of funds. Everything is in place to complete the home for our school community that we envisioned four years ago!

How Can You Help?

There are some tasks that will require help from volunteers and we may need assistance with fundraising. Please talk to Briel to learn the details.



SPRUCE STREET SCHOOL AWARDED 2009 SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL MINI GRANT

By Laura Montagner and Shawna Wilson, Teachers



Perhaps you were a member of your school's safety patrol growing up or maybe you had friends who were. Safety patrol is a national program that hundreds, if not thousands, of schools participate in each year. This year teachers Shawna Wilson and Clint Collins submitted a grant application to the City of Seattle Department of Transportation 's Safe Routes to School program. In December the school was awarded \$1,000 to start a safety patrol program.

The decision to form a safety patrol was made for many different reasons. Spruce Street School is the only elementary school in the downtown core and safety of our children is a top priority. Safety patrol is a way to help provide visibility of our school and safe crossings of a busy thoroughfare for our community members while also developing conscientiousness and pride in our children.

The first season of the Spruce Street School safety patrol was an enormous success for all involved. It was truly inspiring to witness the young patrol officers take ownership and responsibility for their community.

The first step to becoming a patrol officer was to complete the application form and interview with Briel. During this initial step students showed an emerging sense of confidence, pride and awareness of the great importance of the task that lay ahead of them. After being selected to join the patrol squad, the students received special safety training from a police officer and teachers. The new equipment—hats, flags, vests and the brilliant orange rain jackets—arrived and the students' excitement was further ignited for getting out to the corner of 9th and Terry and putting their newly acquired training and skills into action.

Students worked in small groups or pairs both before and after school to safely cross children, parents and other members of the community. They each showed increased leadership during this task that could be seen throughout the day in other areas of school life. Congratulations to our first Safety Patrol Officers: Catherine Carr, Daisy Emminger, Erik Rinn, Japera Burren, Mac Snyders, Margaret Henry, Max Dixon, Nick Mocha, Sadie Robb and Simon Schwartz.

ALUMNI NEWS

By Suzie Hanson, Assistant Director



Each year Spruce Street School invites its alumni who are graduating from middle and high school to come back and visit. This year alumni and their families joined us to have dinner and enjoy our Shakespeare production: *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Alumni moving on from middle school are planning on attending a variety of high schools next year, both public and private. The high school graduates are moving on to many different colleges all around the country including the University of Washington, Bennington College (Vermont), The New School for Liberal Arts, Barnard College (New York) and

Lewis and Clark (Oregon). Alumni have stayed in touch with one another through middle and high school either on a daily basis, working at the same restaurants or running into one another at events like Prom!

All of the students who were able to attend our alumni dinner event filled us in with delightful stories about their lives now and fantastic memories of their time at Spruce Street School. The teachers and staff enjoyed spending time with them all.

If you are an alumni student please visit us on our fan page on Facebook or contact us at alumni@sprucestreetschool.org.

Catherine crosses students safely.



Nick on Safety Patrol



Sienna H., Melora, Laura D., Decker O., Ryan M., Felipe, Kaitlin S. and Allyn catch up on Spruce Street School and share stories from their current lives at the alumni dinner.

SPRUCE STREET SCHOOL MOVING ON CLASS OF 2009

The Spruce Street School staff has supported me, cared about me, laughed with me and taught me many interesting things!

- Kallie Eng
Moving On Student



Top row: Elisa Aitoro, Elise Poindexter, Japera Burres, Ben Richards
Bottom row: Kallie Eng, Isabella Gardner, Daisy Emminger, Nick Mocha

Highlights from the Year

Based on a report in the Spruce Street Herald

Camp! Islandwood, Camp Kirby and Camp Seymour • PE with John • The Living Museum of leaders, past and present • Walking to Cascade Park with buddies • Electives! • Making tortillas with Señor Felipe • Building a model city and sharing cookies with neighbors • Green Commute Week (teachers riding the conference bike!) • All of the plays - *Dear Mr. Rosenwald*, *The Trojan Horse*, *Pandora's Box*, *King Midas*, *Orpheus and Eurydice*, and *Much Ado about Nothing* • Gargantuan Arts Week • All School field trip to the Sculpture Park • Performing on marimbas and making conversation at the Elders' Tea • Studying and visiting the Duwamish • Creating a yoga deck of cards with Amy and Kate • The Moving On kids performing on marimbas at the Folklife Festival • Pool Day! • The first Safety Patrol



DIRECTIONS NEWSLETTER NEWS from School to Community

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2009 SUMMER