



The Wilson School
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Clayton, MO 63105

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Confident. Passionate. Smart.



The Wilson Word

A publication of The Wilson School, Founded 1913

Celebrating Our 97th Year of Excellence!

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Visit us online at www.wilsonschoo.com

September 18, 2009

Welcome New Wilson Students & Families!

By Laura C. Hartung, Director of Admission



Many new faces can be seen in the classrooms and hallways of Wilson. Students new to the school were added to every grade level except for one. Forty-one new students from 36 families, including 11 siblings enrolled for the 2009-10 academic year. A hearty welcome is extended to the following children and their parents:

Pre-Kindergarten

Katie Carmody
Brad & Kathy Carmody
Carter Conners
Christy Conners

Alana Doherty
Sean & Christy Doherty
Ryder Greene
Mike & Melissa Greene

Daniel Greene
Dominic & Anne-Marie Greene

Gerard Gunther
Peter & Monica Gunther
JT Halcomb
Jim & Eliza Halcomb
Brielle Hartmann
Ray & Kerri Hartmann
Anne Marie Khoueir
Antoine & Betsy Khoueir
Lara Memisoglu
Esat & Elif Memisoglu

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September/October Events

Saturday, September 26	Wilson School Trivia Night
Friday, October 2	Cosmic Bowl
Thursday, October 15	Speaker Series Event - Dr. Michele Borba, "Building Moral Intelligence"
Friday, October 16	Parent/Teacher Conferences

Message From The Head

Thank you for your cooperation in following our carpool procedures. As a point of safety, please be sure to drive carefully through the neighborhood as there are many children going to and from school. The speed limit is 20 m.p.h.

Thanks!
Thad

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Cover Story, continued

Gabrielle Moody

Stephen Tillery & Christine Moody

Cohen Panneri

Nick & Melika Panneri

Audrey Rogler

Bill Rogler & Jane Moul

Na'ilah Simmons

Luther Simmons & Toni Autoomp

Konner Wigglesworth

Jake Wigglesworth & Sheila Stewart

Connor Woods

Jason & Jennifer Woods

Junior Kindergarten:

Whitney Akred

Rob & Heather Akred

Reagan Bierman

Jeff & Melinda Bierman

Carter Cashen

Matthew & Amanda Cashen

Kaitlin Lattinville

Bob & Pam Lattinville

Eleanor & Stuart McKown

Michael & Mary McKown

Colin & Julian Prakken

Joel & Robin Prakken

Tyler Rush

Mark & Tiwi Rush

Senior Kindergarten:

Zoe Clark

Stephen Clark & Nuviah Shirazi

Benjamin Hartmann

Ray & Kerri Hartmann

Lillian Jersan

Chris & Adrienne Jersan

Phoebe Martyn

Bob Martyn & Marni Dillard

Thomas Newhall

Phil Newhall & Betsy Tuttle-

Newhall

Gared Roby

George & Linda Roby

Aidan Shelledy

Nicole Shelledy

Josephine Strauss

Steve & Bettina Strauss

First Grade:

Catherine Akred

Rob & Heather Akred

Ewan Maynes

Jason Maynes & Jessica Rezunyk

Third Grade:

Grace Newhall

Phil Newhall & Betsy Tuttle-

Newhall

Jessica Wendel

Tom Wendel & Deb Butterfield

Fourth Grade:

Nathan Phan

Mary Phan

Fifth Grade:

Perrin Salewood

Ned Wood & Hillary Sale

Sixth Grade:

Jendaya Christmas

Jerryl & Jackie Christmas

Kickin' Off The Monthly Marathon In PE!

By Rachel Simpson, Physical Education Teacher

Physical Education is off and running. September is the kick-off for our monthly "marathon." Each week students are working on improving their cardiovascular fitness. Each month a goal is set in which the students try to continue jogging for a specified amount of time. At the end of the month we will have our marathon challenge, and students that complete the goal will sign the monthly marathon poster on the bulletin board outside the gym. The September goal for First through Third Grades is three minutes of continuous jogging. Fourth through Sixth Graders are challenged to jog for five minutes continuously. Each month the challenge will increase by one minute. By the end of the year the First through

Third Grade students will be doing an 11-minute marathon and the Fourth through Sixth Grade students will be doing a 13-minute marathon. The key to mastering the challenge is pacing. Running for time allows the students to choose their pace, and they can challenge themselves further by increasing the pace on their own. All students are moving for the same amount of time to promote personal achievement.

A new unit, Field Hockey, has been added to the curriculum for First through Sixth Grade classes. Field hockey can be played in the gym or outdoors. Our

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First Grade Friends

By Andrea Jamison & Penny Lyles, First Grade Teachers

Students in First Grade had an impressive beginning to the school year. They have been settling into the routine and schedule of "older" students and the First Grade teachers are quite excited to begin a new year together.

With a focus on inquiry learning and collaboration, First Graders will begin the year taking advantage of the school's partnership with the St. Louis Zoo. While studying patterns in math and alphabet books as a genre study, students will be taking their first field trip to the zoo on September 28. There, they will sketch animal patterns and also research an assigned animal. The students will then make "pattern" murals in art class with Diane Signor. These murals will be displayed in the First Grade room so stop by and take a peek in early October. The young authors will also compile a zoo alphabet book based on their research and questions regarding their animal.

"Scientist of the Day" is an exciting tool to feed the curious minds of the children. Each Friday, a child has the opportunity to share something from nature or any other area relating to science that sparks

questions. They may even choose to present a simple science experiment to the class. The class "observation deck" is a designated classroom area where students can bring in show and tell items related to the sciences. So far, the students have enjoyed observing the life cycle of a caterpillar, viewing an abandoned bird's nest, a starfish, grasshopper, and a geode.

This year's MYMAGO theme is caring. First Grade began this year's MYMAGO theme with a friendship display in the resource center for the month of September. Making a friendship tree was a fun project that centered around a discussion of how to be a great friend and how to show care for others. Friendship Friday began on the first Friday of the year. Every Friday, is a celebration of friendship in First Grade. Special partners get to play math games together, partner read, share a special snack, sit together at lunch, and more. It is great to be a part of the First Grade family of friends!



Physical Education, continued from page 2



Pre-Kindergarten, Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten have been practicing their locomotor movements. We love our tag games and use galloping, skipping and running to enhance these games. Students will explore throwing and catching balls of different size and weight, as well as balloons and foxtails. Senior Kindergarten students are making great strides in mastering the skill of jumping rope. They have discovered the various patterns and rhythms that make jumping rope successful. They can jump with short and long ropes. What a great cardiovascular exercise!

Read, Right, Run Marathon

The Read, Right, Run (RRR) Marathon will kick off Monday, October 19. This is a program that is put on for schools throughout St. Louis. Wilson students in 1st - 6th grade are welcome to join. We will meet most Mondays (beginning October 19) for RRR workouts. More information on the Read, Right, Run Marathon and our participation in the program will be sent home in the next few weeks.

wonderful turf field is the perfect terrain. Students have quickly adapted to the differences between field hockey and floor hockey. In field hockey only one side of the stick can be used to hit the ball, and everyone plays the game right-handed.

The modern game of field hockey evolved in England during the 19th century and led to the FIH, Federation of International Hockey in 1924; however, the game can be traced back over 4,000 years to the Nile Valley in Egypt. Students are encouraged to do a little independent research on field hockey. Although in high school it is more common to see women's field hockey teams, I hope the students will discover that field hockey is a sport that both men and women have been playing for many years.



Welcome New Wilson Faculty & Staff!



**Elizabeth "Beth" Talbott,
Junior Kindergarten
Teacher:**

Mrs. Talbott moved to Saint Louis in June from Minneapolis, MN, with her husband Aaron. She holds a B.S.E. in Elementary Education and Unified Early Childhood Special Education from Drake University and a M.Ed. in Teaching and Learning of Education from Saint Mary's University. Her past experience includes teaching early childhood special education, Kindergarten and First Grade, in both Iowa and Minnesota. Mrs. Talbott enjoys running, cooking, traveling, scrapbooking, shopping, dancing and decorating her new house. Welcome Mrs. Talbott!



**Kevin McGinnis,
Fifth Grade Teacher:**

Mr. McGinnis grew up in Belleville, IL, where his mom worked as middle school science teacher. Prior to coming to Wilson, Mr. McGinnis taught in Belleville West School District. He is also a familiar face at Wilson as he served as a substitute teacher, summer camp counselor and Extended Day counselor for the last two years. He holds a B.A. in Education from Saint Louis University. His hobbies and interests include hiking, being outdoors and playing ultimate frisbee. Welcome Mr. McGinnis!



**Michelle Alimagno,
Science Teacher
(4th - 6th):**

Ms. Alimagno is a familiar face at Wilson as she has worked in Extended Day for eight years (serving as the assistant director the last two years), a summer camp counselor for two years, and as a long-term substitute teacher for a few different classes at Wilson since December 2007. She has also worked with Girls On The Run and Read, Right and Run the last two years. Ms. Alimagno holds a B.A. in Biology from Saint Louis University and attended Webster University for an M.A. in Teaching; Multidisciplinary Studies and Science. Ms. Alimagno enjoys working weekends at Dot-Dot-Dash boutique in Clayton, running, cooking, baking, shopping, and spending time with her family. Welcome Ms. Alimagno!



**Heather Niemeyer,
Full-Charge Bookkeeper
& Office Administrator:**

Mrs. Niemeyer began working at Wilson last May. She holds a B.S. in Accounting from Webster University. Her past experience includes working in accounting for Mosby Building Arts, Ltd., and Koman Properties, and as a self-employed accountant. She and her husband, Doug, have four children: Maddie (freshman, Truman University), Alexis (sophomore, Cor Jesu Academy), Jack (4th grader), and Max (2nd grader). She enjoys spending time with her family, reading and running. Welcome Mrs. Niemeyer!

The Wilson School Speaker Series Brings Renowned Parenting & Education Experts in '09-'10!

An exciting new endeavor at Wilson this year is The Wilson School Speaker Series. A collaboration of the Excellence Program, Topics for Teachers and the Parents' Association, the Speaker Series is combining the three entities' efforts and resources to bring nationally-renowned parenting and education experts to Wilson. The three events this year are free and open to the community. You won't want to miss these events: reserve your seat at speakerseries@wilsonschool.com

**Thursday, October 15th, 7:00 – 8:30 PM –
Dr. Michele Borba: "Building Moral Intelligence:
Raising Socially Responsible Kids Who Do The
Right Thing"**



Michele Borba, Ed.D., is an internationally renowned consultant and educator who has presented workshops to over one million participants. She is the recipient of the National Educator Award and the author of 23 books including the best-seller, *Building Moral Intelligence; Nobody Likes Me, Everybody Hates*

Me; and Parents Do Make A Difference, which was named by *Child* magazine as an "outstanding parenting book of the year." *Publishers' Weekly* praised her as the "Moral Intelligence Pro on Oprah's Mom-Online." She is a frequent guest expert on national television including *The View*, *The Today Show* (appeared over 70 times), *Fox News* and *CNN* and is quoted in numerous national publications. Her new book, *The Big Book of Parenting Solutions: 101 Answers to Your Every Day Challenges and Wildest Worries*, was released in September.

**Wednesday, February 10th, 7:00 – 8:30 PM – Dr.
David Elkind: "Power of Play: Learning What
Comes Naturally"**

David Elkind is currently Professor Emeritus of Child Development at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. Perhaps Professor Elkind is best known for his popular books, *The Hurried Child*, *All Grown Up and No Place to Go*, *Miseducation*, *Ties that Stress*, and most recently, *The Power of Play: Learning What Comes Naturally*. In preparation is a new book tentatively entitled, *The Stages of Parenthood: Growing up with Our Children*. He has appeared on *The Today Show*, *CBS Morning News*, *20/20*, *Nightline*, and the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. He has been profiled in *People* and *Boston* magazines and was a Contributing Editor to *Parents Magazine*. Professor Elkind also co-hosted the Lifetime television series, *Kids These Days*. Professor Elkind is currently the chief scientific advisor for *JustAskBaby*, an internet service for parents.

**Wednesday, April 21st, 7:00 – 8:30 PM – Dr. Milton
Rubin: "Just Who Is Running Your House?!"**

Dr. Milton A. Rubin is a native of the St. Louis area and a well known, respected member of the professional community. He has been in private practice as a pediatric psychologist/family therapist for the past 40 years. His experiences as a health consultant, counselor, school psychologist, corporate consultant, pilot, inventor, and professional speaker qualify him as a unique practitioner. Dr. Rubin has amassed a rich experience in dealing with children and the psychology of healthy parenting. His down-to-earth approach to family life, as well as his outstanding speaking ability, has earned him the reputation of a speaker in demand.

**Don't Miss It: Dr. Michele Borba will speak at Wilson on
Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym!**

Pre-K: Happy To Be At Wilson!

By Linda Roth & Debbie Wilhelms, Pre-Kindergarten Teachers

We have had a great start to the year and have thoroughly enjoyed working with this group of children. They are definitely making some nice friendships within the class. We have worked a great deal on self-help skills and have talked a lot about how to take care of others when they need help. The children have often heard the phrase from teachers, "Our number one job is to keep you safe." We have discussed the Wilson rules and why it is important to follow them. The children are doing a super job.

We began our year with a unit called "All About Me." We talked about our likes and dislikes, our families, our pets, and we started our dictionaries. We are currently involved in our Concepts Galore theme. We learned so much and it is a great review for things that we already knew. Our next unit consists of things that take us from one place to another ... "Transportation." We will expand our vocabulary by learning correct terms for things. A large boat is called a ship. A jet is different than an airplane, etc. We had a wonderful turn out for our Curriculum Night and enjoyed getting to know all of you a little better. Please remember to check out our albums, happenings and general information on the Wilson School website. We try to post pictures of your children often so you can have a feel of what is happening in the class and see how happy your children are to be in school.

