

MIMICL CENTER NEWS

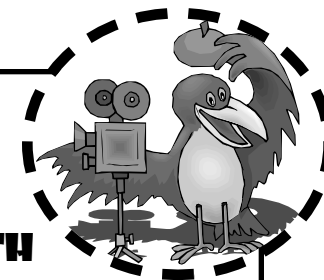
SEPTEMBER 2008

FEATURED THIS MONTH:

Debbie's Note	1 & 4
Alumni News	2 - 4
Parents Association News	4
Birthday Book Club	5
When You Prepare Your Taxes	5
Soccer Team Schedule	6
Calendars: September & October	8, 9

SCHOOL PHOTOS

ALL ELEMENTARY DIVISIONS -- THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH
MIDDLE SCHOOL -- FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH



DEBBIE'S NOTE

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you had a terrific summer and are ready for the new school year.

I am very excited about the opening of our new Middle School building at 135 Summit Street. After months of hard work, it looks absolutely fabulous. The classrooms are big and bright and the teachers are thrilled to be teaching in them. I was delighted to see so many of you at the Open House we held there on Tuesday and to hear your thoughts about the building.

Preparing 135 Summit Street for the new school year was no easy task, and without the efforts of several key people, it would never have happened. First and foremost, I'd like to thank Ginny O'Hare, our Director of Outreach. Ginny oversaw the reconstruction of the new building, and she did an unbelievable job. Thanks to her hard work, 135 Summit Street has been transformed from a turn-of-the-century former Catholic school

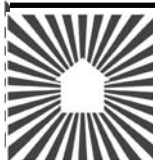
into a state-of-the-art educational facility. She gave up her entire summer to make sure that the building was painted, wired, and technologically up-to-date and was involved in every detail of the building's renovation. She now knows more about plumbing, electrical wiring, and tiling than she ever thought she would! I can unequivocally say that without Ginny, the building would never have been ready to open on the first day of school.

I also want to extend a special thank you to the Assistant Head of School, Beth Schneider. Beth organized all of the moves that resulted from leaving the Meeting House and opening 135 Summit Street. Every single classroom, all of the speech and language therapists, and most of the administrative staff had to move to a new location, and Beth coordinated each of these moves. She worked with the faculty, staff, custodians, and movers to make sure that everything was boxed up, transported to their new location, and put in place.

She also selected and ordered all of the furniture for the new building. Thank you, Beth, for all of your incredible work this summer!

In addition to Ginny and Beth, I'd like to thank Steve Conti, our Business Manager, for helping with the financing of the new building and making sure the bills are all correct and paid on time. You can imagine the amount of work that went into it! I'd also like to thank John Bender, Joe Gosler, and Susan Wolfe, members of the Board of Trustee's Building Committee, who helped us locate the space, work with the architect, negotiate with the contractors, keep everything moving, and provide some much-needed support throughout the summer. I want to point out that John was on the original Building Committee for 20 Bergen Street and negotiated with the Diocese for this space. He has been with us every step of the way. Many thanks to you, John, for your guidance all of these years.

continued on page 4



**MARY MCDOWELL
CENTER NEWSLETTER**

**PUBLISHED THE FIRST
FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH**

Alumni News

Mary McDowell Alumni Spread Wings and Take Flight

By Capt. David Berlin and Ellynn Skove

On August 26th at 12 noon, former MMCL student, David Berlin, co-piloted a plane from Martha's Vineyard to Provincetown, Mass. There he met up with former MMCL Movement specialist, Ellynn Skove who was waiting at the airport. Both pilots went to lunch with Ellynn in town and then took her up in the plane for David's first time up with a passenger. The following is a co-interview the two former MMCLers created for the newsletter.

Questions for Captain David:

ES: When did you become interested in airplanes and learning to fly?

CDB: I've been into airplanes since I was born... I've been flying with Capt. Rob since my 13th birthday.

ES: What has made it possible for you to do this?

CDB: The willingness of Capt. Rob to take me under his wing and teach me to fly and patience that he has had with me, both in the air and on the ground.

ES: Did your time at MMCL help you in pursuing your passion for airplanes?

CDB: Yes, because MMCL allowed me to open my mind to the blue sky.

ES: What is the biggest challenge for you, and how do you work with it to pursue the things you are most interested in?



CDB: Staying focused on where I'm going when I'm in the air. I tell Capt. Rob to be quiet and let me fly because I can't fly when he's jabbering away. I fly where he wants to go when all is quiet (except for the loud roar of the engine).

ES: What are your favorite subjects at school? Least favorite?

CDB: I am 16 years old and I go to The Summit School in Jamaica, Queens. My favorite subject is language Arts. My least favorite subject is math.



ES: When are you happiest?

CDB: I am happiest when I'm in the Cockpit of a Cessna 172SP.

ES: What was it like to have a former teacher witness you flying a plane?

CDB: Ellynn was amazed to be sitting in the back of a Cessna 172SP that I flew. She was amazed by the beautiful views of Cape Cod at 2,500 feet. I was not a bit nervous with Ellynn in the back of the plane. My first radio transmission when Ellynn was in the airplane was: "Provincetown Traffic, Cessna 730 Sierra Pop, taxiing to runway 7, Provincetown"

Questions for Ellynn:

CDB: What did you experience while flying with me?

ES: Flying with Captain David Berlin was one of the biggest thrills of my life! David was relaxed, talkative, funny, focused, and clearly in his element.

CDB: What was it like for you to sit in the back of a plane that I flew?

ES: We had to wear headsets with microphones in the plane as the engine made it too loud to talk without these devices. When we first started up the engine, we could hear each other and everyone else in a plane on the flight radio. David began to taxi the plane down the runway for take off. I heard a voice over the headset announcing a plane with our call numbers on it. I did a serious double take when I realized that the voice

was David's. I loved being up at two thousand feet in the plane. Usually I am afraid of flying but I was not with Capt. David. I loved seeing all the geographical places I know on Cape Cod as if I was a bird. And I was happy to share the history of places with my two pilots. I always wanted to try being a bird for a day. David enabled me to feel like a bird on this flight. Even though I was cramped into a tiny little seat in the back of a loud plane, I felt in my body as if I were free in the sky with my wings spread wide and my heart open, the breezes taking me where they may, and the glorious silence of the blue blue sky above and turquoise waters below. I was not afraid of falling. David helped me SOAR!!!!

Ellyne was our Movement Specialist until June, 2008 and is now an MMCL parent. Her son Jackson is in the Fox Room.

ISAAC INKELES

Isaac Inkeles moved on from The Mary McDowell Center for Learning in 2005 and has just entered the ninth grade at York Prep. According to Mom, Isaac has done very well at York, earning top-tier grades in the top track. "Isaac loves to write creative stuff, but his passion is math and science - he got the best of both from his parents." (Dad is a physician, and Mom was a math major in college.) Isaac still has some time to decide, of course, but it's looking like he'll follow his father into medicine - he's currently leaning toward psychiatry. "Isaac has always been interested in medicine and how things work.

This is one area that has been effortless for him." Mom notes that Isaac basically just loves learning and researching things - his current object of interest constantly changes and varies widely. Isaac's investigations have included learning how to make cigars and studying the Rosetta Stone. He's currently very interested in politics - and anything else involving history. An avid chess player, Isaac is a member of York's baseball team, a former member of the soccer team, and plans to play basketball this year. Mom is very pleased with his accomplishments and quick to credit Mary McDowell Center's contributions. "When we learned Isaac was learning disabled, I visited Mary McDowell Center. I was just doing my due diligence (we lived on the Upper West Side), and I couldn't imagine sending my second-grader to school in Brooklyn. But I fell in love with the place.

Three years later, Mary McDowell Center was preparing to open the middle school the year that Isaac reached the traditional age for moving on. I just assumed that we would continue on, but Debbie came to me and said that Isaac was ready to move on outside of MMCL. Mary McDowell Center has always done what was right for Isaac!"

Kris Hallam

(mother of Andrew Corby—1999 graduate)

The following are some examples of Isaac's creativity

Poetic Imagery *by Isaac Inkeles*

My Narrative

As I open the smooth glass doors of my apartment building the cold winter air stings me like a bumble-bee. While I walk I hear the echo of my shoes against the pavement, "clonk, and clonk". As soon as turn the corner from my side street, decorated with brown stones which look like chocolate chips, and trees which look like lollypops, I am greeted with the sounds of dogs barking, cars whooshing up and down the street while beeping their horns, and friends conversing as they walk home. As I cross the street a man blows cigarette smoke into my face and continues to walk. The smoke smells like a summer morning in Richmond Virginia, the capital of tobacco. After passing the man with the cigarette I am greeted by a barrage of neon signs, "Eat here!" "Fresh Pizza!" they read. They remind me of leaves twirling in the park. I am soon greeted with the smells of the local diner. The smell of split pea soup, cherry pie, and omelets of all sorts persuade me to enter, like so many dancing girls at the Sultan's palace. I sit down and order a diet coke, and Murray's Omelet. When the coke comes I squeeze the lemon into the drink. It is soft like a pillow and oozing with juices like a piece of meat. The lemon flavor bolts into my mouth with as much anger and ferocity as the man across from me who is trying to send back his soup. The omelet taste like fresh sea air, filled with salt and fish. The omelet, which consists of onions and Nova Scotia, looks like a panting from a two year old. It is yellow with random spots of pink and

white sticking out. Suddenly, like the trumps of all the kings of old Europe, my cell phone rings. I pick up the cold lifeless rock. It is my mother, she tells me she is in the neighborhood and is willing to pick me up. I agree. I pay my bill and begin to wait for my mom. As I look out the window I see people hurrying, almost like mice, to their meetings, stores, families, etc... After several minutes my mom's car pulls up across the street. As I walk out of the diner into the cold I smell the stench of car exhaust. It reminds me of the breath of a old man on a hot summer morning. I walk into the car, like a prince walks into his chariot, and head home.

A Fiddler

Well my friend, we are all like fiddlers.
We play gay songs of merry and joy,
We play dances so somber, it makes the wood cry.
Our cases come in all shapes and colors,
But on the inside, our fiddles are all the same.
We occupy the first seat in the orchestra,
But we have the most timid and quiet instrument.
We may play in a hollowed room, with the greatest orchestra,
Or in solitude, playing in the forest, with all of G-D's creatures.
At heart we fiddlers are all the same,
But through the singing of our bow and string,
We remain apart.

Debbies Note *continued from page 1*

Finally, I want to thank Vera Donovan, our Director of Technology, for setting up and organizing the technology in the new building, and Kim Fraser, our Systems Support Technician, for installing it. Your work has brought 135 Summit Street into the twenty-first century!

I'm looking forward to a new year filled with learning and fun and will see you all at Back-to-School night.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Mary McDowell Parents' Association (PA) welcomes parents old and new!

This school year promises to be a great one.

We have several Family Fun Days scheduled. The first one is **Bowling Day on Saturday, October 4th.**

Details will follow by email and flyer, but please save the date!

Our first PA meeting will be **Wednesday, September 17th at 7pm.** Debbie Zlotowitz will be talking about learning disabilities and demonstrating how it feels to be a child with LD. Parents always find her presentation both meaningful and enlightening. PA meetings are a great place to meet other parents and become involved in the life of the school. We have an active parent body and there are always oppor-

tunities to volunteer any time you have available.

In the second MMCL summer packet there was a Parents' Association volunteer sign-up sheet. Please send it in as soon as possible so we can determine what events or activities are covered and where we may need to reach out for more volunteers. If you have not received the form, please feel free to contact Mindy Boslow at 212-662-6168 or mboslow@earthlink.net or Josephine Fischioni at 718-837-5734 or jfischio@sovereignbank.com

We look forward to seeing you at the PA meeting.

Mindy



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Birthday Book Club

The Birthday Book Club at the Mary McDowell Center for Learning offers parents a special way to celebrate their child's birthday while helping our library collection to grow. A donation of a book in honor of your child's birthday will give your child the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy at our school. We think it's a great way to share the value of books and reading with your child as you commemorate a very special occasion.

Approximately a month before your child's birthday, you will receive a list of hard cover and audio books from our library wish list. Your donation of \$25 will pay for one of three titles that your child chooses from this list. We will notify you shortly thereafter which book we have purchased and your child will receive a book mark in thanks. A permanent bookplate will be placed in the book with your child's name and birth date. Your child will also have the honor of being the first to check out the new book.

We hope that you will agree that the Birthday Book Club provides a great way for you and your child to celebrate his or her birthday as you help to bring new and wonderful books to our library. Thank you to the following families who participated in the Birthday Book Club over the summer.

Christopher & Valerie Arnade for Lucy Arnade
Denise Amse & Christopher Cosma for Gabriel Cosma
William & Patrice Curran for Andrew Curran
Denise Dahldorf for Jake Dahldorf
Velvet & Peter DiLeo for Jiana DiLeo
Michael Dorf & Sarah Connors for Eli Dorf
Michael & Fabiola Fitzpatrick for Christopher Fitzpatrick
Tracy Gross for Gabriela Gross
Zeph Grunschlag for Shalev Grunschlag
Gina & John Gutzeit for Eric Gutzeit
Vadim Khazatsky & Monica Panzani for Sasha Khazatsky
Andreas Killen & Maria Sacco for Henry Killen
Colleen & Gary Kelly for Kelly Levine
Stephen Lichtman & Amy Hausknecht for Tess Lichtman
Jeanne Arfanis & Robert McLoughlin for Nicholas McLoughlin
Myriam Juarbe & Antonio Perez for Alejandro Perez
Peter Reiner & Julie Sepkowitz for Rose Reiner

WHEN YOU PREPARE YOUR TAXES

The tax code allows for taking unreimbursed tuition as a tax deduction. The following is the relevant tax code.

INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 213, AS AMENDED

You may deduct as "medical" expenses the cost of:

1. Special school- if the principal purpose is to alleviate a handicap.
2. Special class in a regular school- if the principal purpose is to alleviate a handicap. (Revenue Ruling 70-285)
3. Special class in a parochial school- if the principal purpose is to alleviate a handicap. (Revenue Ruling 71-347)
4. Tests and evaluations.
5. Therapy, psychiatric care, and psychological counseling.
6. Special instruction or training- such as lip reading, speech instruction or braille (Review Ruling 68-212, Internal Revenue code, Regulation section 1.213-1 (e)(1)(v)(a).
7. Patterning exercises (Review Ruling 70-170, 1970-1 CB-51).
8. Medicines, drugs, and vitamins; also special foods and beverages prescribed by a doctor (these must be in addition to the normal diet and supplementation to basic nutritional needs).
9. All medical expenses, even if the child has earned more than \$1,000 annual income. You may include the medical expenses of an additional dependent, provided that that person had income under \$1,000 or is not filing a joint return. (Commerce Clearing House Explanation No. 2019-01).
10. Tutition and tutorial fees paid for a child with learning disability caused by neurological disorder (Revenue Ruling 78-340, September 19, 1978. Reported at 42 U.S.L.W. 2190, September 26, 1978).

Diana Murphy & Steve Rotterdam for Natasha Rotterdam
Joseph Wood & Jamie Smida for Jill Smida-Wood
Heather Shamsai & Basil Williams for Hayden Williams
Thomas & Bridgette Yohe for Ian Yohe



LIGHTNING

Middle School
Soccer Schedule 2008



Support our Soccer Team
Come to the games and cheer us on.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Home/ Away</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thursday, September 25th	Away (Red Hook)	Montessori	4:00 pm
Friday, October 3rd	Away (J.J Walker Hudson & Clarkson St)	City/ Country	3:30 pm
Friday, October 17th	Home (Com. Barry)	Friends Seminary	4:00 pm
Tuesday, October 21st	Away	Bank St.	4:00 pm
Friday, October 24th	Home (Com. Barry)	St. Augustine/ Loyola	4:15 pm
Monday, October, 27th	Away (Red Hook)	Montessori	4:00 pm
Wednesday, November 5th	Away (Pier 40)	V.C.S	4:00 pm
Thursday, November 13th	Home (Summit)	Thunder (MMCL Staff team)	3:30 pm