

Notes from the Administration SETTLING IN

Some members of the faculty were a bit surprised at opening meetings when I announced that, even after working for twenty-eight years in education, I still have a sleepless night or two at the start of the school year. In fact, if truth be known, every Sunday night, I toss and turn a bit in anticipation of a new school week. All of this is relevant insofar that some anxiety at the start of the school year is to be expected from both students and parents. With the new building this year, there was an added element to the settling-in process. I suspect some parents are still finding themselves slightly disoriented in trying to determine what rooms are on which level.

After three weeks of school, the students, I am happy to say, have sorted out these levels quite easily. Traffic patterns are establishing themselves as the children discover where the nearest bathroom is, much less which doors to use to go out to the playing fields for recess. Likewise, they are settling in with their classmates and their teacher.

One fourth grade girl proclaimed after two weeks, "It seems like we have been at school soooo long." (Adults should be so lucky to adjust to change as quickly as most children do!) I also find reassuring the ease with which even our youngest students pop out of their cars during morning drop off to walk with self-confidence into the building and to their classrooms.

All of that says much about the students' sense of security and comfort at their school. Tower is for them a safe place. This is a fundamental quality, important for any child in his or her school. And while we have not finalized the play equipment for the Lower School children, we have been able to section off areas of the athletic field so that all the children, big and small, have a chance to pursue their various activities in an exuberant as well as a safe manner.

We have, in short, made a wonderful beginning. The students are acclimating well, and needless to say, it is a joy to see the School abuzz with lessons and learning.

My best,
Jim Bonney

Tower's (Inter)Net Gain JANE LUEDERS

Looking to fill the vacant sixth grade teaching position, Ann Cook, Middle School Head, noticed that one promising resumé included an e-mail address. Ann, being a net neophyte, bravely decided to give the e-mail a try. It seemed especially appropriate as the applicant was working halfway around the globe, in Istanbul, Turkey. In a "wow-the-future-is-really-here-and-happening-at-Tower" kind of way, the interview process was conducted via e-mail and faxes, and when the outlook was favorable for both Tower and the candidate, human contact was finally made, via that antiquated instrument, the telephone.

Well, it may be a great big wide web out there, but it turns out it's a small world after all! (This being the 25th anniversary of Disneyworld we just had to throw that in.) Upon hearing each other's voice, Ann and her candidate, Jane Lueders, both had that "don't-I-know you-from-somewhere?" kind of feeling. They soon determined that they had met several summers ago when Jane, on a stateside visit, had taken part in a conference Ann had conducted at MIT!

For Jane Lueders, coming to teach Tower's sixth grade is a bit of a homecoming. Her father grew up in Marblehead, and she spent lots of time here as a child, growing up not too far away in Needham. With Marblehead in her blood, she has a love of sailing and swimming. Jane attended Boston College as an undergraduate, did her student teaching in Madrid, Spain, then taught in the private sector in the States for a year. She then returned to school to pursue a master's degree in Critical and Creative Thinking at the University of Massachusetts. During this time she substitute taught extensively, and at the completion of her degree she accepted a job in Istanbul, Turkey, at the International Community School, her taste for foreign living having been whetted by her student teaching experience.

Jane spent four years in Istanbul teaching fifth grade. The school, on the shores of the Bosphorus was in an historic part of the city, in buildings comprising a fortress dating from the 1500s. In that historic district, altering



Jane Leuders, "You can if you think you can!"

buildings is not allowed, so Jane was teaching in classrooms which would make last year's sixth grade clubhouses seem spacious!

The international teaching experience allowed Jane to indulge her love of travel and during her stint overseas she was able to visit much of Turkey, except where fighting was going on, Egypt, parts of Eastern and Western Europe, and England. She found that the pace of life was much slower in Turkey than here in the U.S. and that her diverse body of students seemed to be very accepting of the cultural, racial and religious differences among themselves, drawn as they were from all over the globe.

"America is just a big island, isn't it?" Jane asks with a laugh, observing the microcosm of students who have grown up in homogenous surroundings. "You like to think you can make a difference, especially for students at this age. It's a pivotal time where students really start to think for themselves. They become more independent and responsible, and it's that age where they start to know where they want to go and what they want to be."

Jane's background in critical and creative thinking is her basis for teaching students to embrace the process of thinking things through, and developing problem solving abilities which will help them the rest of their lives. "They are really ready for this at the sixth grade level," she says, "and I've yet to meet a

kid without enough curiosity to want to learn something! There's our class motto..." she points to a poster above the blackboard which reads "YOU CAN IF YOU THINK YOU CAN".

An interesting sidelight to Jane's career is a part-time position she has accepted to teach Critical and Creative Thinking at Newbury College in Boston, one night a week. She finds she is teaching adults the same thinking processes she is teaching to her sixth graders, "Only using bigger words!" she laughs. How lucky are our sixth graders to learn these skills as soon as they are ready, developmentally, for them.

Jane is finding the adjustment to Tower amazing, due to the tremendous support she finds in the community. "I've never seen such support from faculty, from staff, from parents, and, believe me, I've subbed at enough schools to know that this is above and beyond what you find elsewhere. It's nice, as a teacher, to see that everyone is concerned. The continuity, too, is wonderful. It's a pleasure to teach a class which has been together for a long while. In the international schools you get tremendous turnover. It's always risky to ask, 'Remember when we were working on that last term?'"

After a week-long baptism by fire with her sixth graders at the Environmental School in Maine, Jane feels a bond with them already, as do the students with each other and with their teachers, as a result of that wonderful program. "I was

petrified that I didn't know all their names and here we were heading off for a week together!" Jane admits, "But it was excellent! The educational content was wonderful and there was so much enthusiasm. And I did learn all their names!"

We would expect no less from this adventurous teacher who headed to Turkey, five years ago, with a Turkish dictionary she had purchased only a week before! It seems Jane has jumped into the Tower community with that same adventurous spirit and we look forward to her involvement in things academic and artistic. Stay tuned to hear her vocalizing and maybe even fiddling with the faculty jazz group, "Joanie and the Biomes"!

Baywatch, Yankee Style COASTSWEEPS '97

by Matt Risch and Kristen Parker

Friday, September 20th: Ninth grade students, Kristen Parker and Matt Risch, along with science teacher, Mrs. Williamson, started an average school day by walking down to Leadmill's beach on the Marblehead and Salem line to pick up trash.

"Why?" you might ask yourself. Well, it's all part of the *Coastsweeps '96* clean up program. Every year, people from around the world get together to clean up area beaches and give them the beauty they once had. This is a great way to get people of all ages to do something for their community. It's amazing how much can be done just in one day! Every person can help so much just by spending even one hour of his or her time, and this is what the ninth graders discovered during their environmental expedition.

It's also amazing to see all the different stuff people leave on the beach. We even found furniture. Unfortunately, items like this are too big or too plentiful to be carried back.

So please, next September, remember to mark your calendars for *Coastsweeps '97* clean up, and thanks to those who have helped out in the past!

Co-Presidents Letter A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

by Karla Pingeton and Susan Robie
Co-Presidents of TSPA

On behalf of the Tower School Parents' Association (TSPA), we would like to welcome you to the 1996-1997 school year. What an exciting time it is to be a parent at Tower, witnessing all the enthusiasm of our children and their teachers as they settle into our wonderful new facilities! The faculty, administration, and staff worked extremely hard over the summer to make this all possible, and we thank them for their efforts.

The TSPA was also at work this summer. Host families were matched up with families new to Tower, organizing lunches, playdates, and other informal get togethers. Room parents were assigned for each class. The fifth grade room parents, Carol Adams and Evy Blum, worked with Linda Downes to plan the dinner for parents of new students. Many thanks to them and all the fifth grade parents who helped with the preparations. It was an enjoyable evening for all.

We have had our first TSPA meeting, which many of you attended. In a short time we covered a lot of information that may have been overwhelming or confusing. You will hear much more about the events we discussed from your room parents and in the Pink Sheet, but please don't hesitate to call Karla or Susan if you have any questions. Also, try to attend our next TSPA meeting on October 23. We will meet in the Library for coffee and dessert at 7:15, and the meeting is called to order at 7:30.

By now you will have heard about the Headmaster's Hike, organized by Sally Reiley. Now is the time to make your reservations, for this event sometimes sells out. The hike is as much fun for the parents as it is for the children, and it's a good opportunity to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. You also have received the Sally Foster gift wrap sales packet. Fifty percent of

all sales come back to TSPA, so please help us to have a successful sale. Orders are due October 4.

November promises to be a busy month. On the 21st, the TSPA is hosting a speaker, Bob Bigelow, who will discuss children and organized sports. Bob is a former NBA player, (he did a stint with the Boston Celtics), who has done a great deal of research on the topic of the effects of competitive sports on children. It promises to be an informative and thought-provoking evening. We are opening this event to the public, so please invite your friends and neighbors.

On November 23, we are holding our annual fall clean-up, where we rake leaves, clean the grounds, and gather for cider and donuts. You may wonder what we will be raking up this year, but Dr. Bonney assures us there will be plenty to do -- perhaps some outdoor painting, some bulb planting, etc.

The second half of the year is chock full of activities as well and you will be hearing about all of them. The highlight of the TSPA year, though, is our auction, to be held on April 26, 1997. Not only is this the most fun event of the year, it also is our most important fund-raiser. Its success is vital to the School, and many dedicated people are already hard at work to make the auction, GOLDRUSH '97, a night to remember. Check the Pink Sheet for upcoming meetings and join a committee. We need to rustle up as many volunteers as possible!

Besides planning all these special events, the TSPA is involved in the day-to-day events at the School. Cultural Enrichment, a program designed to bring diverse arts and cultures to Tower, is run by parents, headed by Susan Walker, and funded by the TSPA. Volunteers are also currently involved in the Admission Office, and the Library. Nancy Roos is once again working to produce our Tower phone book which will be available soon, and this newsletter, *The Lighthouse*, is published by Lisa Suydam and Janet Sheehan. As you can see, at Tower there is a place for everyone who wants to become involved. We hope you do and would love to hear from you!

Sixth Grade at the Environmental School THE MAINE COURSE

by Matt Kane

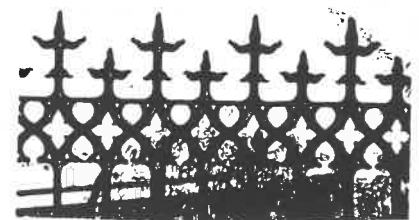
Recently the sixth grade went to The Environmental School in Ocean Park, Maine. It was about an hour and twenty-five minutes to the school. The school is located near the ocean and marsh lands.

Each day we woke up at 7:00 am., talked with others, and got dressed to go to breakfast at 8:00 am. The students who setup the tables for that day went fifteen minutes earlier. We could also learn how to tell the weather at 7:45 am. At breakfast we came in and sat down and before we ate, there were announcements and the inspiration which could be a poem or quote. While we ate breakfast, our cleanup took our plates and the setup got the next course.

After breakfast there was free time to play out on the recreation field or go back to our dorm to help cleanup. We had three free times, one after each of the meals. One of the counselors would come out and supervise a game. We had the choice of playing that game or playing something else.

We also had three lessons each day, all after our free time. Before each lesson, the counselors would put on a play about what we would learn in the next lesson. In each lesson, we went to a different place. One of the lessons was a game call Rabbit, Fox, Human, where we tried to survive without getting eaten. This is played in the woods. Other lessons were tide-pooling and going to the marsh lands.

After all of our free time, meals and lessons, we went up to our room and were told a story by the counselors. Then at 9:30 pm. we went to bed.



Getting to Know You! WELCOME TO TOWER'S NEW STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The New Parents' Dinner officially welcomed this year's additions to the Tower community with a wonderful repast, organized by Linda Downes with the help of fifth grade room parents, Evy Blum and Carol Adams. It was a delightful evening, the first such event in the new facility, and the space was transformed into a festive cafe setting, decorated with Evy's eclectic collection of cookie jars and flowers arranged by Linda Wallace.

The Tower School Parents' Association and *The Lighthouse* would like to recognize and welcome the following new students and their families:

Pre-Kindergarten: Paul Brudnick, son of Richard and Cynthia Brudnick; Eliza Clark, daughter of Laurance and Anne Clark; C.C. Collier, daughter of Howard and Cheryl Collier; Hilary Duffy, daughter of Brian and Brigid Duffy; Kate Hall, daughter of Gordy Hall and Linda Hall; Alexander Healey, son of Sean, and Kerry Healey; James Hooper, son of Jeff and Susan Hooper; Jake James, son of Lance and Moira James; Clark McMahon, son of Tim and Mindy McMahon; Phebe Moore, daughter of John and Dot Moore; Hank Myers, son of Rem and Susan Myers; Callie Naughton, daughter of George and Amy Naughton; Carl Nightingale, son of Paul and Kate Nightingale; Sam Parker, son of Joe and Libby Parker; Hayes Richardson, son of Sam and Kari Richardson; Brooke Stanley, daughter of Norman and Ann Stanley.

Kindergarten: Christi Bailey, daughter of Jeff and Joanne Bailey; Griff Duffy, son of Brian and Brigid Duffy; Nikola Errico, daughter of Robert and Roseann Errico; Gregory Ficcgaglia, son of Vince and JoAnn Ficcgaglia; Alexandra Glazer, daughter of Hugh and Linda Glazer; Katie Jordan, daughter of Jay Jordan and Tina Koutsos-Jordan; John Kounsaliel, son of Spiro and Demetra Kounsaliel; David Modica, son of David Modica and

Carla Santarpio; Bill Oedel, son of Dick and Marie Oedel; Katie Raskauskas, daughter of Tom and Kelly Raskauskas; Peter Reiley, son of Toby and Sally Reiley; Myles White, son of Steven and Meg White; Andrew Willis, son of Bill and Marty Willis.

First Grade: Lucas McMahon, son of Tim and Mindy McMahon; Andrew Shear, son of Bruce and Rhonda Shear.

Second Grade: Sam Johnson, son of Paul Johnson and Paula Popeo; Andrew Kurzrok, son of Steven and Laura Kurzrok.

Third Grade: Olga Ryrakhovsky, daughter of Leon Ryrakhovsky and Helen Chervits; Christopher Stubbs, son of Donald and Janet Stubbs.

Fourth Grade: Micah Alden-Danforth, son of Tobias Danforth and Alison Alden; Caroline Morrissey, daughter of Christopher and Lea Morrissey; Emma Schofield, daughter of George and Marie Schofield.

Fifth Grade: Mason Brooks, son of Ronald and Bobbie Brooks; Emily Johnson, daughter of Paul Johnson and Paula Popeo, Tom Schofield, son of George and Marie Schofield.

Sixth Grade: Lea Cademenos, daughter of Stavros and Anne Cademenos; Lauren O'Leary, daughter of Ed and Regina O'Leary.

Seventh Grade: Ilya Bourtman, son of Michael Metallikov and Alina Polyakov; Sameer Hasan, son of Faysal and Sharon Hasan; Nick Walton, son of David and Martha Walton.

Eighth Grade: Daniel McGarvey, son of John and Catherine McGarvey.

The State of the Arts CULTURAL ENRICHMENT CALENDAR

Here is a look at the upcoming events in the Cultural Enrichment Program. It promises to be a very exciting year!

Oct. 9 - Mike Williamson, Marine Biologist: Pre-K, K & 4th grade;

Oct. 21 - Historical Perspectives/Play about Helen Keller: Middle and Upper School;

Nov. 22 - Jennifer Justice/Storyteller: Lower & Middle School Assembly, 4th grade workshop, and Upper School Assembly;

Dec. 4 - Beau Jeste/Theater Group/Treasure Island: Lower & Middle School, possibly Upper School;

Jan. 17 - Ayriel/Skits and Songs about Colonial Times: Lower School & 4th grade. (Possible 2nd performance about Civil War for 5th and 6th grades)

Jan. 24 - No Exit Dance Company, Modern Dance: Lower, Middle and Upper School;

Feb. 5 - Underground Railway Theater/Play about Harriet Tubman: All School Assembly;

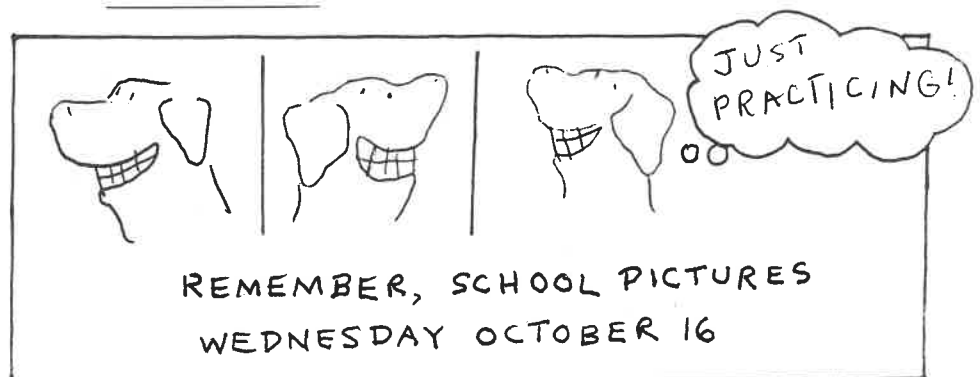
Feb. 18 or 19 - Paul Janecsco/Poet: Writing Workshops for 5th - 9th grades;

Feb. 26 - Mr. Magnet/Science Demonstration: All School;

Apr. 7th - Birds of Prey/Program about Owls: Lower and Middle Schools;

May 7 - Chinese Cultural Connection/Workshops: 3rd grade;

May 22 - Dennis Kobray/Actor Who Portrays Mozart: All School.



Attention All Fairy-Godmothers! FACULTY WISH LIST

This year we are adding a new feature to *The Lighthouse*, the Wish List. In past years a faculty "wish list" has been passed on to the TSPA at the end of the school year, and while some of these items had to be purchased new, others existed in our community. Therefore, rather than waiting until the end of the year we would like to publicize the faculty's wishes in the hopes that the community will be made aware of these items and be able to supply them as they are available. (In case you missed spring cleaning, fall cleaning is a great time to purge your attic or garage!)

Please contact the faculty member listed if you have any of the items and would like to donate them.

Suzi Van Ness - Blow hair dryers, working irons, blenders (like the kind you have in the kitchen)

Whitney Slade - photographic enlargers for black and white photography, and other photography supplies; ALSO we are looking for promotional artists who could teach an Arts Block class to Upper School students

Music Dept. - Stereo components, cassette player, tuner, amp, c.d. player, unwanted guitars

Nancy Bernard - The loan of an ironing board for Sewing Arts Block during Term III (late January to early April)

Beth Cohen - Computers, Macintosh LCII or newer, Printers - Imagewriters, Stylewriters, Lasers SP, Canon Epson, Mac Compatible, DOS computers, Pentium running Windows 95

Jean Behnke - a copier for Lower School resource room, a 3-hole punch, a small paper cutter

Many thanks to anyone who can fill any of these wishes!

The Lighthouse Staff

Janet Sheehan

Lisa Suydam

Cover Art this issue:

*Gregory Ficaglia and Katy Raskauskas,
Kindergarten*

Have space will write THE FOREST OR THE TREES?

by Janet Sheehan

Thinking back on where we left off last spring, I was indignant to the point of almost writing a letter to *The Marblehead Reporter* after that paper printed a poetically woebegone ode to the fallen trees cum diatribe against the "capitalist institution" that the poet considered Tower School to be. I mentally composed a rebuttal, questioning the author's vilification of a non-profit educational institution and her one-dimensional view of the necessary removal of trees. "Were no trees removed when the Marblehead public schools were built?" my letter would so pointedly ask. "Have no trees been felled in clearing the land for the new Council on Aging Center? Did the poet never bother to find out what the plans were to re-landscape at Tower? Hmmm?" Oh, I could have gone on and on, but instead I had to force myself to let it go.

I recalled my old yoga and meditation teacher who would intone "Just let go! Just let go!" as we attempted to reach a state of serenity. I can still hear her gravelly voice. I also hear the gentle southern accent of an old friend of mine who used to capture the essence of this challenge with her aphorism, "You just have to pick your battles!"

My energy, I decided, would be better spent helping the Tower building project through to completion in ways that I can, rather than indulging in argument in a public forum. I've got my spade ready and even though my thumbs aren't too green, I don't mind dirt under my nails.

Another facet of the "letting go" process faces me here at the beginning of the school year. That is the challenge of letting go of my children as they embrace the academic process. I find I have to stifle the urge to check the work they are doing. They disappear to their rooms and I must be satisfied with the perfunctory answer to the routine question, "Have you done your HOMEWORK?" I try to rephrase it for variety, "How's the HOMEWORK situation?" or "Everything under control on the HOMEWORK front?"

I know that although I must let go, forcing myself to release my grasp on their learning experience, removing my clutching fingers from those mysterious backpacks, I know that their teachers do not and will not let go. This is what counts. This is what I trust in and am grateful for at Tower. The emphasis on study skills, the availability of help, the care, concern and total involvement with our children in which the Tower faculty pride themselves; this provides the safety net for our children.

In the chill of the late afternoon, as the golden September light disappeared, leaving the bleacher seats particularly cold to those of us still dressed for Indian summer, I chatted with Joan Gerster, Upper School History and Computer Science Teacher. We compared our relative states of chilly discomfort as we watched the JV boys play soccer. I asked if she was coaching this term and she said, "No, I've hung up my whistle."

"What are you doing here?" I asked, trying to pinpoint her purpose in the stands without seeming rude, curiosity getting the better of me.

"I'm killing time 'til Upper School parent's night tonight" she replied, "but I really just want to see how the JV boys are doing."

We took our hands out of the pockets of our thin coats to applaud a good save, and I thought, "There it is."

**Summer Reading Fun
THE THIRD GRADE
MOTHER/DAUGHTER
BOOK CLUB**

by Marina White and Emily Walker

Last summer, the moms put together a Mother/Daughter book club that was organized by Stephanie Andrews and Susan Walker (Marina's and Emily's moms). We met at different girl's houses for cookouts, read *Sleeping Ugly*, *Dreams of Glory*, *Long Way to Go*, *Louisa May Alcott Girlhood Diary*, and *Ben and Me*. The book that most girls liked was *Sleeping Ugly*. The book that most girls didn't like was *Louisa May Alcott Girlhood Diary*. At one meeting Stephanie Andrews brought cool book club T-shirts. The T-shirt was pink with a book on it which said "Chapter Two to Chapter Three", which meant second to third grade.

We had fun!

**Winter Writing Fun
LIGHTHOUSE CLUB
SEEKS NEW MEMBERS**

by Lisa Suydam and Janet Sheehan

Not to be outdone by the third graders, (see above), we too, have a club. It's called The Lisa/Janet Lighthouse News Club. We meet every so often at our wonderful new TSPA facility in the school conference room and make our plans to scout out the news. We ambush unsuspecting faculty, staff and administration members and interview them. We follow all leads. We grovel for copy. We haven't had any cookouts but we consume vast quantities of coffee and deny all rumors concerning donuts. (Quick, sweep up those crumbs!)

The only skills required for membership are reading and writing. (Spelling is optional thanks to spell-checker!) We have year-end bonus programs for those with typing and collating skills, and starting today, we will even waive the club membership fee for this one-time enrollment period, so call now! Telephone operators (Lisa 631-8878 and Janet 639-4551) are standing by!

We don't have club T-shirts (yet) but Lisa is trying to unload a mauve silk shirt which is not a good color for her. Be the first caller and it is yours!

We have fun, too! (Can you tell?)

**More Book News
HOLIDAY BOOK FAIR
PREVIEW**

Tower Librarian Nancy Vasilakis is looking forward to the annual Holiday Book Fair. This year it will be held in the library on Wednesday November 13 and Thursday the 14th. On Wednesday, the Fair will be open from 8:00 am. to 9:00 pm., and on Thursday, from 8:00 am. to 4:00 pm. The late hours on Wednesday will enable parents attending that evening's TSPA meeting to peruse the Fair's offerings and to listen to a presentation by Tower parent, Sheila Geraty, on Children's Literature. Sheila is a partner in a venture which presents book talks at schools.

Mark you calendars for that evening!

Nancy would also like to remind the parents of pre-kindergartners and kindergartners that they are welcome to come in to the library before or after school with their children to check out books together.

**Meet the Press
TOWER FOCUS
BULLETIN BOARD**

As you wend your way around the new layout at school be sure to have a look at the TOWER FOCUS bulletin board outside the Admission Office. The bulletin board is filled with articles from area newspapers concerning news-making Tower students, faculty, staff and administration, and their families. It's great to see the impact our community members have upon the world at large.

So what have Sarah Williamson's dad, Jenna Wells, the Lewises, Ropers, Schwartzes, and Ilya Gnedykh (to name just a few) been up to?

Stop by the TOWER FOCUS board and find out!

