



This picture captures Roger, in a very typical fashion, having fun with his class with a spirit he brought to each class through his 36 years teaching at Peninsula.

DEPARTING TEACHERS

HEAD P.E. TEACHER, KHEATON SCOTT

Kheaton Scott has been a wonderful addition to our teaching staff these past two years. Arriving on campus in 2011, Kheaton could see why students love Peninsula's unique environment with wide open spaces and trees, but also saw some challenges for a P.E. program without the usual grass fields, as well as jumping from age to age. The fact is that our dirt is much harder to fall on than a soccer field's grass. He was happy to find much help and support from the classroom teachers about popular games and age appropriate games. From the start, he bonded with the kids and his colleagues immediately due to his vibrant



Kheaton Scott

personality and willingness to make things happen. Whether he was leading staff line dancing with Math Liz, helping Nursery kids have a fun and safe time in the Playspace, or mediating Upper School kids working out a P.E. dispute, he brought his whole energy, encouraging others to do the same. Watching him with the kids, one was struck by the fact that he has a great talent for engaging kids in Nursery or 8th Grade, and each age in between. Though Kheaton has been happy at Peninsula, he felt the pull of untried options. "The future is filled with possibilities," Kheaton said thoughtfully. He wants to travel both domestically and internationally, starting with a trip to Costa Rica. It feels right, taking the chance now while he is still young,

to explore some of these possibilities and interests while also substitute teaching. He loves Peninsula, the kids, and the staff here and does intend to come back for visits, announcing, "I'll be checking in on the mud puddle!"

ASSISTANT TEACHERS

Alice Newton

It is with a heavy heart that we are saying goodbye to one of our most senior teaching assistants. Alice Newton started assisting in the fall of 1986 in Marion Conley's class, and has been a staple of our community ever since. She learned of Peninsula before she married and had children first through being a Quaker, then through her job managing the Briarpatch Co-op Market on Bay Road in Menlo Park near Peninsula. She had moved to the Bay Area in 1974 with a degree in Nursing, but had been very involved in the alternative food movement, and so was hired as the first co-manager to help open the market. The cooperative model and all members sharing in decisions appealed to Peninsula families, and Alice connected with many of our families and teachers while working there. Food for the Spring Fairs and Auctions was provided wholesale from Briarpatch. In 1984, she started son, Kenny Meehan, '94 in Dottie and Winston's kindergarten, and later her daughter, Carmela Meehan, '98 in Maida's.

Alice started working as an assistant through the participating scholarship model, defraying tuition costs, and also worked for 15 years as a summer school teacher, but stayed to work long after both children graduated because she loves Peninsula. She began working afternoons in Ann Guy's class as well as Gail's and Graceann's, then began working full-time with Graceann in 1992 and has been there ever since. "One thing I've learned from Graceann that has helped me not only in the classroom, but in my personal life too," Alice mused, "is to deal with any issue right in the moment and to try to live what we teach and expect of the kids." Alice has found both Graceann and the Peninsula community as a whole to be wonderfully caring and inspiring.



Alice Newton

"There is so much joy here," she continued, "and part of that joy is a lot of positive feedback. I think we are pretty good at thanking each other for what we do." And she includes parents and staff, as well as younger and older kids in that loop.

The legacy of such a long connection affords Alice some insight into retirement. She loves it when she meets with a former student who is now grown up, maybe working in a career already, "and there is still a bond between us. They usually remember my name and it is a magical moment." She likes seeing her early students and her children's friends at the Spring Fair, now bringing their own kids to enjoy the day, and she looks forward to more of that. She plans to continue sharing our culture at the Spring Fair by coming back to help sell our books and DVD's which show our school and discuss our philosophies. This also allows her to continue these magic moments with her decades of former students, about 750 total, while connecting with staff and parents as well. Alice is a historian at heart, so likes this way of staying connected to the school. This love of history is also a part of her future plans, as she will use her time in retirement to finish assembling historical family albums. Also, she will soon become a grandmother. Something tells me that Alice will never find herself with a lack of adventures to occupy her time. We feel honored to know she will find time to come back and visit us too.

Patty Moran

After 19 years of association with Peninsula School as parent and teacher, Patty Moran accepted a new position as a Child Development Coordinator at the Community Childcare Council of Santa Clara County. Over the past nine years Patty has worked at Peninsula as an assistant in Josie's, in Nursery Green, as well as in Childcare and teaching in Summer School. Her longest and final role at Peninsula was as a part of the Nursery Blue team. She brings a love and affection for nursery age children that helps them grow and blossom. Our community will be glad to know we can still expect to see her at school events in the coming years. Happily, Patty is very excited about her new job and



Patty Moran

will enjoy increased responsibilities and the chance to promote good care of children. She hopes to spread the knowledge held at Peninsula about nurturing young children and supporting their development with those she meets in her new role for Santa Clara County. We think they are lucky to have her! "Patty is one of those rare souls whom others are always happy to encounter, even if just in passing and to share a quick hello. Patty has touched and inspired many children over the years. She made the children feel special and greeted them every morning with a warm smile and kind welcoming words. Thanks for your hard work Patty, for your many contributions, for your personal integrity, and for your friendship. You will be missed deeply by the children, teachers and parents of Nursery Blue," shared Megan Hart. We will certainly miss Patty's presence, and kind and joyful manner, and of course wish her the best of luck in her new pursuits.

Jason Cirimele

Jason graduated with the class of 2001, and came back to work as an assistant in Roger's class in 2010. He worked there one year, and moved to assist in Marcella's 6th Grade this past year. Growing up here as a student and a staff kid, he fit in easily. It just made sense to him, to come and give back to the place that gave him so much. He likes the idea of giving today's kids what he got from his teachers, in respect, encouragement, and space to grow – and it felt fulfilling. Getting to teach alongside some of those very teachers he knew as a kid was an interesting experience, allowing him to become, "a member of the council," as he put it. He has brought great energy and care to both classrooms as well as the Choice Program, supporting students in their creative and academic endeavors, and truly partnering with both head teachers to make great classroom environments. In addition, he brought his musical talents to help many kids at the rock concerts and other performance events, as well as collaborating with staff members and on the front porch with



Jason Cirimele



Akash Pandey

parents for all to enjoy. Jason is a philosopher and was thoughtful about this next chapter in his life, "I will never be done with Peninsula, but need to step out to explore other interests. I have known since 5th or 6th Grade that music was probably what I wanted to do." We are glad to know he will keep his connection with us, and are equally glad to see him following his dreams.

Akash Pandey

We have been very fortunate to have Akash Pandey as our Upper School assistant since 2011. He has brought energy, humor, and caring connections to the students in his teaching role. Throughout his time at Peninsula he aided Mel and Brian ably, instantly making him a staple in the community. "He brought a wide breadth of knowledge - ranging from current events, to sports, to music - but more importantly, he brought his incredibly amicable personality and an innate sense of how to connect with kids," reflected Brian Adams. Akash's Choice offerings, from the very first in 2011, were unique and intriguing. He often teamed up with fellow teachers to create multifaceted units, like the History of Hip-Hop with Jason Cirimele. We are glad to say that Akash will be continuing as an educator and is off to further his skills by joining the Urban Teacher Education Program (UTEP) at the University of Chicago. We wish him well and are glad to know he won't be a stranger when he visits the Bay Area.

Mikel Kovach-Long & Abby Chen

Big changes are afoot in Josie's classroom in the lovely cottage at the entrance of our school. Two of her wonderful assistants are moving on this year, though neither is leaving the community altogether. Both Mikel Kovach-Long and Abby Chen will no longer be in Josie's starting in the fall. They have each brought unique skills, interests and fun, not



Mikel Kovach-Long

only into Josie's room, but the many spots we have seen them around campus. We will miss them both as Josie's assistants.

Abby's perceptive care of some of our youngest students will be missed, as will the amazing gifts she brought to our admin team, helping in the office and as a past editor of News Notes. Her smile and kind attention to kids and grown-ups alike will be remembered by all. Luckily we will still see her around in her role as a Peninsula Parent. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

Abby Chen

Mikel is not leaving the school, as he will continue the role of Woodshop Teacher he has held since 1982, but after 20 years with Josie, and another eight prior with Maida, he is moving on from his classroom role. Living in San Jose, traffic has gotten notably worse in the past 30 years, and it now takes him almost as long to get to Peninsula at that time of day, as he spends in the classroom. Mikel is giving up his beloved role with this Kindergarten/1st grade group to replace that traffic time with increasing attention to his own art, and to come in refreshed for Woodshop each day. As he notes, he sees kids getting overscheduled, and would like to lead by example in the concept of valuing free time to follow what you love. His parting wisdom from this role is that kids need more time to play, and, what he learned from Maida, "Always listen to what kids have to say and respect what they are saying. Listen with a kid's point of view. Then the adult makes the final decision, but the kid knows they were really heard." We are glad that both kids and adults can still visit Mikel in the basement of the Big Building for Activities!

KATHY KOO

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as an affirmation and appreciation of many of the key components of a Peninsula education.

This Staff Inservice day was an opportunity for our staff to achieve greater visibility into the educational world outside of Peninsula School, and was highly successful and beneficial for all. I know that everybody looks forward to another similar development and outreach opportunity in the future!

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

J. Christina Smith, '63

I'm a librarian at Boston University, where I select the books for anthropology and sociology. In a previous life I was an archaeologist for a consulting firm in San Diego and taught ESL in California and Japan. I'm studying Danish (a heritage language) and doing genealogy.

Kris McClanahan, '75

Hello Peninsula School! And Hi to my classmates. It's been a looong time, I'm over due for a visit....I live a full and creative life these days, making sure I find enough time for being outdoors, doing some kind of art, traveling, dance, Qi Gong and yoga practice. I began my acupuncture practice this year and am grateful to be a part of a great circle of healers in my neighborhood! Very cool, this part of Lexington, KY is quickly becoming known as the place for complimentary health and wellness. Peace, Love, Light- Kris.



Kris McClanahan

Hillary Heard, '82

I moved at the end of third grade and I think I would be in the class of 1982. Susan was my teacher. Hi to anyone in graduating class of 1982.

David Sloan, '85

I'm currently living in Singapore and working as head of product at Bubble Motion, a social voice network. My wife Meg runs marketing for APAC for Facebook. We have two kids: Jack, 8, and Lindy, 5. We are enjoying the expat lifestyle and traveling a lot around Asia. So far we've taken the kids to various spots in Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia and Taiwan. My kids are loving their large international school here. There is a very diverse student body of 4,000 students and they wear uniforms! The school features



David Sloan

lots of art, theater, and creative writing. After school I've been teaching my kids computing basics like HTML / CSS and we even make Minecraft video tutorials together.

Owen Pike, '89

My college sweetheart and I have been together for 20 years this September. I've been working in tech since college graduation, in various capacities, living in the Bay Area, San Diego, and Los Angeles. We moved to Portland, OR from Orange County in late summer of 2010. My wife, See, started her own mobile software strategy and design business in 2007, and after the birth of our daughter, Ciel, in 2009, I joined the company as a project manager to help shoulder the workload (both of the business and child-rearing). A merger with a Portland company precipitated our move to Oregon, and I transitioned to full-time Dad. Currently, I'm finally indulging my long-held desire to be a writer, and am working on a novel on the days when Ciel is in daycare. We're also expecting our second child, due this August, so the pressure is on to finish the book soon while I can still think.



Owen Pike

Holly (Sabelman) Miller, '92

I miss the Bay Area but have adjusted to the Upper-Midwest and really enjoy it there. After serving as a family pastor I have enjoyed the transition to serving as a counselor at a youth treatment facility. I also enjoy my coaching jobs with girls basketball and soccer. I married a wonderful man, Jason Miller, in December 2011 and had our first child, Kayla, in March 2013!



Holly Miller

Bailey Griscom, '03

Hi Peninsula!! I am currently in Brooklyn, NY, living with my boyfriend Kieffer and working in a microbiology lab. I absolutely love my job and getting to hang out with fellow science nerds! As a lab tech, I am in charge of planning/executing a number of molecular genetics projects. These projects are focused on developing



Bailey Griscom

drugs targeted for alternative malaria therapies, potentially to be used in combination with other current drug treatments. I will be applying to grad school for fall of 2014, and will be pursuing a PhD in parasitology/microbiology. Other than work, I have recently become passionate about acquiring different species of orchids and caring for them (or in some cases just desperately trying not to kill them). I like NYC more than I expected to, and am surprised at how easy the adjustment was to living on the east coast. However, I miss California and wish I could come to the reunion! I will not be able to make it because it is the same day as my sister's (Laura's) senior art show at Bard College, but I hope everyone has fun!

Keaton Tips, '03

After graduating from the Academy of Art University last year, two of my friends from school and I started a company this January. We are a small motion graphics house called ATMG Studio. It is located a block from the AT&T Ball Park. We are very much in the early stages of our little San Francisco start-up. But we are staying afloat in the deep end, where we decided to dive in. Along with a number of clients, we like to collaborate with the Tips-Bellomo VFX & Film Production venture out in NYC known as Space Division. My brothers, Travis '97 & Zack '01, and Brendan Bellomo '99 are doing well in their movie making exploits. Feel free to follow our adventures at www.facebook.com/ATMGStudio or www.ATMGStudio.com or www.linkedin.com/company/atmg-studio. I'm excited to see what happens next. Thanks to Peninsula, what most people view as problems, I see as opportunities and another chance to collaborate. I just want to keep making stuff, just like my parents and Peninsula School encouraged me to do. Fortunately, I've been in contact with the majority of my graduating class and see some of them regularly. It's fun to see how they are all heading off in their new careers after college. I'm proud of you, class of '03! Let's show the real world who's boss. And much love to the Peninsula community.



Keaton Tips

MARION

Continued from page 1

Like many Peninsula teachers, Marion Conley came to Peninsula first as a parent, bringing her daughter Kathy and, two years later, daughter Kristy. She worked as an assistant in kindergarten; then she was enrollment chairman, then first grade assistant, and later a classroom assistant in Ethel Young's primary class. When Ethel left to join California's Head Start program, Marion, whose background prior to coming to Peninsula was in nursing education, became the teacher. She earned her California teaching credential and later her California reading specialist credential after receiving her M.Ed..

In many ways, Marion's childhood prepared her for Peninsula. She was born on a 20-acre farm in Minnesota and from a young age had the freedom to roam and play in what she calls a "not overly supervised way", well out of range of her mother's voice. When she went to school it was in a two-room schoolhouse with four grades in each room. She remembers her teachers as good people who read stories to their classes and encouraged the singing she enjoyed. When she came to Peninsula, she says, it was like coming home: the feeling of country, the freedom, the friendliness, the small classes.

Over the years Marion evolved a number of traditions that were treasured by students and parents alike. Witch Wilma, the diminutive alter-ego for several hundred children, not only helped children learn to read but also helped them understand and express their feelings and see different ways of resolving social issues. Morning circles, birthday ceremonies, and hip-hip-hoorays were opportunities to acknowledge the importance and uniqueness of each individual member of her classes. Music and hugs were fundamental ingredients of her class and of her personality; many adults spoke at the MarionFest of carrying her songs and a love of singing into adulthood and returning even now for the reassurance and warmth of her hugs. Marion taught her hundreds of children that mistakes aren't the end of the world; they can be turned into pictures, for heaven's sake! And the stuffies of many, many children still wear the sweaters Marion crocheted for them, a very special gift which acknowledged the specialness of each child and the importance of his/her "friend."



Marion with Witch Wilma during a Halloween celebration with her class.

Marion's 1998 letter: *When I first started teaching, I played the guitar when I sang with the children. I soon realized that the more I played the guitar, the less the children would sing without some sort of accompaniment (guitar or piano). So I still have a guitar there on the wall but seldom use it. I found that if one learns songs a cappella, the songs and words are 'in the heart'. Then people sing in the car, while they draw, out in the sandbox, in bed – anywhere! There are other ways also that less is better. I want THEM to do the talking, so now I don't talk as much. I used to set up more things for them to do. Now I know that I don't need to do all that for them. The things are there and THEY choose them and set them up much of the time. The games they invent, the spontaneous ones, are incredible. I make room; I put the materials where they can get them; and they devise ways to do things themselves. I also use materials that have come out for dyslexic children and they are wonderful for all children. Of course I don't do it the way Mrs. Slingerland would do it, because I don't like to have "a way" to do it. There isn't "a" way to do anything, in my opinion – I'm an eclectic from way back. You do things to fit the child you're working with.*

It's hard to be a parent at Peninsula. One of the things that happens here is that we help the children get to the place where

they can stand up for themselves even in situations where it's very hard to do it, and that spills over into their homes. Some parents are open to that and some parents really aren't. I think if parents aren't open to that it sort of defeats what the child gets from our school. Some parents see something here that they like and come into the school wanting to get it. Not being sure how it's going to work, they find it doesn't always work for them. Maybe they want to see more "products" – like seeing what comes out of the clay room, classroom, woodshop, etc. We as teachers might want the children to be able to make something, and then 'splat' – make something else. At times the product is really important to the parents, but they want to know why the child didn't use a different color or make something look different or "better", but that's all it takes sometimes to turn off the child's enthusiasm. When we remind parents how important it is just to look and appreciate, the magic of non-judgment allows the child to be confident in his creativity. Then much more creativity unfolds and allows the child to develop his own unique vision. This is perhaps the core of Peninsula's gift to the child and family.

There was a tone set in my class so no one would ever say, "Don't you even know THAT?" It's something that just wouldn't fit. At the start of the year they might say such things. Somebody might say something

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SPRING FAIR AND REUNIONS

By Tess Peppers

ON SUNDAY, MAY 5TH Peninsula joyously celebrated its 41st Spring Fair on a beautiful, sunny and temperate day. Current families, alumni, PALS (Parents of Alumni Students), staff and neighbors all attended. Many were entertained with face-painting, henna, student and alumni music, a student and staff flash mob, the climbing wall, and a great obstacle course. All enjoyed the wide variety of treats from kebabs to candied apples.

Many alumni came to admire their work in the third annual alumni and 8th grade collaborative project, "Slap, Bang! Good Ol' Peninsula Cooking," which the class of

2013 helped to sell next to the T-shirt booth. Among the alumni who came back to school were groups celebrating milestone reunions.

Former students from the classes of 1972 and 1973 gathered on Saturday night at the home of Julie Kriegler, '73 for a pre-celebration and then met again at the front steps of the Big Building at the Spring Fair for a photo op. Several classmates from the class of 2003 enjoyed a Caribbean barbeque at the home of Dennis and Terry Tsu, parents of Tori, '00 and J.W., '03. After reuniting again at the Spring Fair, a large group of 2003 alumni rode the motorized brain cart around campus, reconnecting to their recent past as students. One alumnus from the class of 1963 was able to visit the archives and found an old piece of his writing as a student. All in all, this year's Fair was a great day to revisit past friendships and build new ones!



The class of 2003 held their 10th reunion on Spring Fair weekend, and gathered during the Fair to take a ride in the Brain Cart.

Please contact Andromeda at andromeda@peninsulaschool.org for more information about the articles, if you need additional copies of News Notes, hope to add someone to the mailing list, or no longer wish to receive future mailings from us.

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