

UPATTINAS SCHOOL

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**SOLSTICE
FAIR
December 5**

11 AM TO 4 PM

Crafting Events

- **Crafting Party**
Monday 11/30
6pm—9pm
Details to follow via
email from Darling
- **Making Christmas
Wreaths with
Sandy, December
2nd and 3rd**
- **Cookie Baking,**
December 16th

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Upattinas School

NOVEMBER, 2009

Office Notes

The first quarter of the school year is such a whirlwind - orientation for students and parents, conferences, the Ice Breaker, scheduling, pictures, college applications, prospective student visits, and a Halloween Dance. Here in the office we are taking a deep breath before the next round of events. While transcripts and recommendation letters will continue for some time, we'll also be dividing our time between preparing for holiday events, the Annual Appeal, January conferences, and reviewing school documents and procedures.

As you know, we have been steadily examining and updating many of our procedures and processes, which has resulted in less paperwork in enrollment packets, smoother re-enrollments, a strong website

with accurate and timely postings, and an evolving email system for connecting with families, among others. After many months of work scrubbing our



(39 year old) data, we are about to implement new school software that will help us efficiently deal with the dozens of tasks generated by the responsibility of maintaining school records. The software conversion will take place soon and we are looking forward to using it on daily basis!

We have also created a portal for a community area of the website, which we are testing now. Once it is set up and the password created, we'll give it a trial run with our current families and students to find out if it's a useful feature for us. Many people are using the website on a regular basis for school events, holidays, and the ever-popular lunch menu; we would like to add our high school class schedule and family handbook in the future. The password to the community area will be given out when it's ready to be activated.

The Upattinas Blog is going to fall into a regular updating routine. It was originally created and maintained with spare time, but has become popular enough to need official attention!

GOOD LUCK DONNA!

Donna Madison, ('82) who has worked in the office in the "front desk" position for more than four years, left us recently for a full time position with a fabulous local dairy, [Seven Stars Farm](#). A part time yogurt maker for many years, we're happy that Donna made such a good move for herself, but sorry to see her go. Good luck, Donna, and we'll see you at school events!

A SPEEDY RECOVERY, NANCY!

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Nancy Stiles, who took a fall last week and is now mending a broken arm. Ever the organized teacher, her English, Spanish, and French classes have been fully covered by her advanced planning in the form of lesson plans and prepared work. Please join us in sending good thoughts her way!

Electronic newsletters are so fun because they contain hyperlinks. Be sure to look for text and picture links throughout this issue that will lead to more information.



“One weekend in November, thousands of students of all types flood to MIT just for ESP’s Splash program to learn anything they want. From fractal fun to Hungarian history to aircraft analysis, Splash participants are introduced to a huge variety of topics by over 400 classes taught by teachers from the MIT community. Want to take a class on Egyptian mythology? Origami? Chemical sensors? All are possible.”

From [MIT ESP website](http://mitesp.mit.edu)

Middle and High Schools at MIT

Twelve middle and high school students will be traveling to MIT for the weekend to participate in the popular Splash weekend. What is Splash? From the website....

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mythology? Origami? Chemical sensors? All are possible.

Over the course of 20 hours during Splash, you can get your feet wet with a short introduction to any number of subjects—things you always wanted to learn, or topics you never knew existed. Or you can dive head first into an in-depth seminar or intensive workshop. The whole thing happens over the course of two intense days on the MIT campus, with classes taught by MIT students and community members.

Our students and adult chaperones will be travel-

ing as a group by train from Philadelphia to Boston and then by subway to Cambridge. Their hotel has arranged a welcoming meal for their first night, and there is a detailed plan for meals, classes, and the return trip.

What a wonderful opportunity for our students—thanks to chaperones Kim Coffin, Nancy Collins, Jeremy Collins, Jon Vance, Davis Strode, and Tim Trott for making it possible for them to attend!

Does this sound like fun to you? Just take a look at the catalog (<http://esp.mit.edu/learn/>)

YOGA

El Sybesma, yoga instructor and mother of five Upattinas grads, has been offering gentle Traditional Yoga classes at Upattinas for several years.

The class meets on Mondays at 4:45 pm in the Big Room. El is a

patient and experienced teacher and welcomes all levels of participants. No

previous experience is necessary, and there is no

need to preregister. The monthly fee is \$10 per class, payable at the beginning of the month, or \$12 per class as a drop-in student.

Try it out—Namaste!



Upattinas at Longwood Gardens



Upattinas students are working at crafting natural materials into ornaments for the annual Christmas Display at Longwood Gardens. The ornaments will decorate one of the

outdoor nature trees and will be identified as “our” tree during the display.

Plan to visit during the holidays and find the tree!

Have you seen our sidewalks?

Thanks to a generous donation from the Hankin Foundation, we have two new lovely walkways covering both paths from the parking lot to the Stone Building.

As a bonus, our lower school students had a great time watching the work, and it’s a safe bet that the workers had a great time watching the lower school students!

We love our parents!

Upattinas is known for being a community of helpful, involved people. We would like to thank these parents who continue to help out in a variety of ways. The risk of thanking people is, of course, the possibility of being unaware of the contribution of some kind soul. Please forgive us in advance if you should be on this list!

Our thanks this month to:

Julie Morris for all her help with gardening and painting.

The Lower and Middle School parents who made the **Halloween Dance** such a success

Kim Alabovitz for all of her extra help in the kitchen.

Mike Tischler for teaching our students blacksmithing skills.

Judy Frey for all of her help during **Picture Day**.

Tim Trott for chaperoning the upcoming **MIT** trip.

Brenda Goldberg for the fun community soup project.

Jennifer Moquin for being so willing to help in the office.

Sam Hankin for the Lower and Middle School field trips to **Wellington Square Bookshop** and lunch at the **Brickside Grill**.

Thanks to our grant from the *Valley Forge Music Fair Trust* we will be attending a production of **Snow White** on November 24th.

The Trust has allowed us to routinely attend shows at People’s Light & Theatre. Last year we enjoyed **The Persians**,

Cinderella, A Tale of Two Cities, and **Eggs**.

We have been the grateful recipients of The Valley Forge Music Fair Trust for more than 5 years and have been able to attend a variety of events from Radio City Music Hall to our

own People’s Light and Theatre.



Alumni Corner

CONGRATULATIONS Andrew Esser-Haines ('03) and Erin McDougall, who married on October 31. Andrew is a well-remembered graduate and former Co-Chair of the Board.

We really enjoy seeing former students when they visit. Recently we were able to catch up with:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Guer Alvarez ('73) | John Salvino ('09) |
| Sean Galczyk ('04) | Jeff Silverman ('79) |
| Kevin Gareau ('09) | Cori Trice ('09) |
| Ted Lynch ('08) | Sharif Valentine ('09) |
| Patrick Miller ('04) | Jeff Winter ('09) |
| Margo Pollett ('08) | |

Sandy Hurst is planning an alumni picnic at school, tentatively slated for May, 2011. Stay tuned for further details about committee chairs, volunteer opportunities, and a firm date.

Alumni who grew up to be staff...

Leila (Rodgers) Buss, ('81), Lower School Teacher
 Kim (McNabb) Coffin, ('82), Home Education Coordinator
 Jeremy Collins, ('95), Middle/High School Teacher
 Taka Nagai, ('95), High School Teacher
 Schuyler (Miller) Vance, (73), Kitchen Manager
 Jon Vance ('09), Davis Stode ('09) and Gabby Eisenhower ('08) TEP Interns



Spotlight on the Lower School

What do you get when teachers Leila and Justin help you make applesauce and bread by hand, dip candles, and dress up in Colonial garb? Of course - a unit on Early American Settlers.

The Lower School is, as always, a happy and happenin' place to be, what with dressing up in Colonial clothing one day and Halloween costumes the next. Monster Bingo was a hit at the Monster Ball, followed by the ever-popular annual donut-on-a-string contest.

Students have also been busy making ornaments for the Longwood Christmas tree. Look for their pinecone bird feeders, cranberry strings, dried fruit creations, and dried flower clusters on your visit.

The Lower Schoolers get around, too—hiking in Hibernia park, in our

woods, and their favorite hike, to the Monkey Tree. Browsing books at Wellington Square Bookshop on a recent field trip was a lot of fun, as was being treated to lunch by their host Sam Hankin, a Lower School parent. They can be spotted on campus helping Sherri with recycling, giving Schuyler a hand in the kitchen, putting on movie spoofs, impersonating interns, and playing school while at school. The computer room has been a recent favorite place to do their math work.

Whether they are visiting in the office or speaking in All School Meeting, they bring a smile to everyone's face!

Pizza Fundraiser

Be on the lookout for a [Joe Corbi's](#) pizza sale—organized by the Board Fundraising Committee. Brochures will be sent home with time enough to have food delivered for Christmas. If you are unfamiliar with Joe Corbi's products, they make a variety of pizza kits, frozen cookie dough, candy bars, and specialty foods. Upattinas will make a nice percentage of sales so please, fill up your freezer while you help support our school!

Room and Board Needed

Expand your family's horizons—and Japanese language skills—by hosting Naoka Kondo, a young woman from Japan, next semester. She is a Teacher Education Program (TEP) Candidate who would like to intern with us. Naoka can communicate competently in English, has already received her associate's degree in Japan, and wants to pursue a future in education. Naoka will be arriving sometime in January and needs housing until the end of the school year. She will probably need transportation to and from school each day. There is a room and board payment to the family of approximately \$500 per month.

Please call Nancy Collins in the school office for more information.

WANTED!

The Board is looking for volunteers to help with fundraising. You can commit to a minimal involvement or you can lead an entire drive, it's up to you!

Ellen Pillsbury chairs the Board Fundraising Committee, please email her at ek-pillsbury@yahoo.com if you can help.

REMINDER ON SCHOOL STORM PROCEDURE

We are located in Downingtown School District, therefore we follow their storm procedure.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

- When Downingtown School District #876 is closed:
 - Upattinas School is closed, do not come to school
 - The school van to the train station will not run
 - If your area public school district is closed, even though Downingtown is open, it is advisable to stay home.
 - If you choose to attend school, you will have to arrange private transportation.

SCHOOL DELAYS

- When Downingtown School District #876 is delayed:
 - Upattinas School is delayed and the school van to the train station is delayed
 - If your area public school district does not have a delay but Downingtown does, you must follow Downingtown's schedule. **DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL EARLY!**
 - There will be no staff on campus until the delayed start time. School districts will not rearrange busing to match Downingtown's schedule, so students will need to arrange private transportation or stay home. If they do choose to attend school, they must notify their own school district that they will need busing home that day.

For school closing information:

- Listen to KYW (AM 1060)
- Watch your local TV station or Action News or Good Morning America
- Log on to www.WPVI.com or www.KYWschools.com or www.6abc.com (You can sign up for e-mail alerts and telephone notification there.)
- Call the Upattinas school office (610) 458-5138 to hear if there is a message about delays or closings.

School District Numbers:

- Phoenixville 856 Owen J. Roberts 857
- West Chester 851 Great Valley 855
- Coatesville 852 Downingtown 876

Twin Valley has no number

Weather patterns in this area vary greatly. If you are an inexperienced driver please **DO NOT** drive in bad weather!

Cut & Save

T-SHIRT DRIVE

Our friend Pat Montgomery of Clonara School in Michigan is accompanying the Sisters of Divine Providence on a relief mission to Ecuador in January, and we are assisting by collecting donations of t-shirts. Please drop off or send in any new or gently used t-shirts of all sizes before our last collection day, December 18.

REMINDER

Do you know a potential student? Please fill out the recent recruitment packet you received in the mail. If you have any suggestions for additional recruitment methods, feel free to email the office!