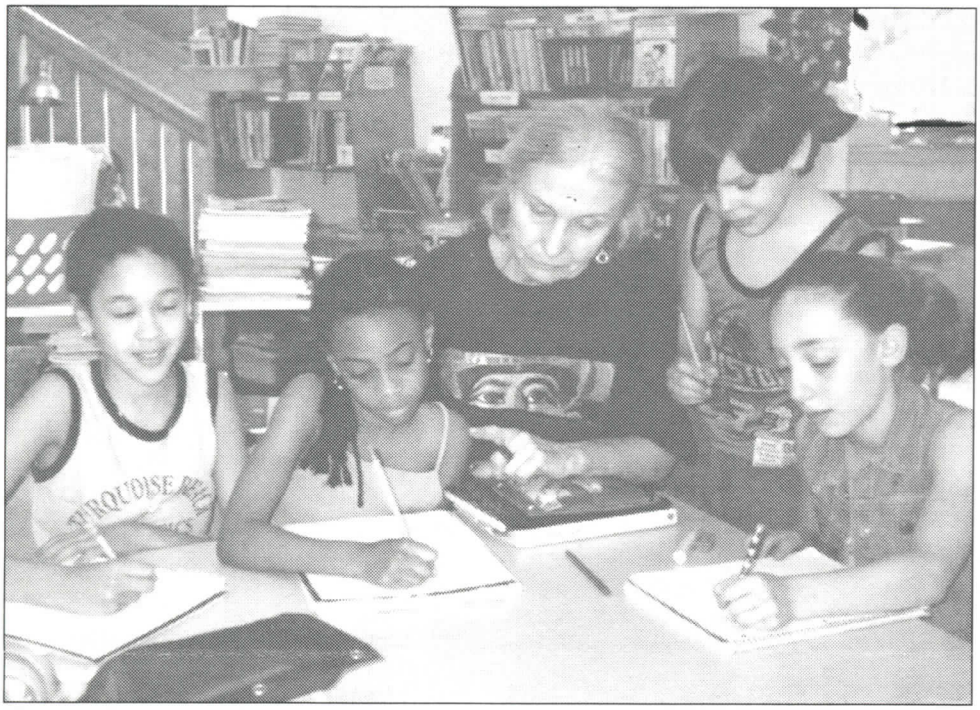
THE PROJECT LEARN NEWSLETTER
for alumni and friends
Number 8 Spring 2002

Brazil, Mexico, Japan enrich social studies curriculum



Nancy Bailey teaches her legendary math stories class with students (from left) Rahna Simpson, Brianna Brown, Gene Schultz and Emma Ditnes. Using word problems based on news stories, students gain insight into the practical application of basic math skills.

Nancy Bailey leaves full-time teaching staff

This story is not about Nancy Bailey's retirement from full-time teaching at Project Learn

It is not about Nancy's 32 years of involvement in the school, during which she served as everything from publicist, record keeper and secretary to science coordinator, Spanish director and master teacher.

It is not about Nancy's teaching hundreds of children cursive writing, times tables, the art of letter writing and the importance of a tidy, well organized homework book.

It is not about Nancy's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day teach-ins, her cheery morning greeting to children and parents as they enter the building early in the day, her annual bike hike in the Wissahickon or her monthly visits with her group to Sacred Heart Residence to "play" with the seniors.

It is not about Nancy's ability to create 32 different curriculums and lesson plans based on the needs of each child each year.

It is about marking the end of an era: Nancy is the third and last of the founding teachers to leave the full-time staff. Next year Nancy will work part time, teaching a reading and math class. She also plans to create a third-floor library in the North building.

It is about expressing public thanks to Nancy for her tremendous gifts to the school. She is a master teacher whose loyalty, commitment and organization have made PL a better place for children and adults.

And it is about wishing Nancy happiness and fulfillment as she begins the next phase of her life.

Many, many thanks, Nancy, from all of us. Enjoy!

Students, teachers, parents share varied international activities

Brazil, Mexico and Japan were the focus of the social studies enrichment program this year for all students and many adults in the PL community

It began with a mid-semester, week-long study of Brazil. Teacher Bobbi Berenbaum's mother-in-law, Fabia Leipziger, a resident of São Paulo, kicked off the event with a visit to the children and staff during which she presented stories, books, artifacts and music from her native land.

The week of January 28 was devoted to cross-aged group activities, which included playing soccer, creating art, listening to music, dancing, reading myths and folk tales, cooking, and the study of the ecology and geography of Brazil. This year's events included the creation of a *feira*, or market place, where the students could purchase treats, toys and trinkets from Brazil.

For the past seven years PL has instituted a weeklong course that has as its focus a country or continent. Teacher and co-coordinator Brian Girard said the reason the school has "Theme Week" is that "it gives the older and the younger kids a chance to work with each other, to do different things and to learn about different cultures." Teacher Nancy Bailey, concurred, adding that this year the school "was transformed with the colors, sounds and smells of Brazil."

The final assembly included a Brazilian samba band led by Jim Hamilton, a parent whose sons Andrew and Matthew are students in the school. The sounds of drums, whistles, bells, flutes, guitars and singing filled the Community Room and had everyone dancing

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SOCIAL STUDIES *(Continued from page 1)*

and clapping.

Next came the classes held for the primary grades in Japanese language, myths, dance and music. The classes were led by Connie Vandarakis, director of dance education at University of the Arts and mother of Maggie Fenning, a student in Bobbi Beranbaum's group. It is the second time that Connie has taught Kabuki dance to the youngest students. She arranged a February 28 performance by Isaburoh Hanayagi, an artist in residence at the University of the Arts. Isaburoh is considered Japan's foremost Kabuki master.

On March 9, Jim Hamilton brought the sounds of Brazil to Project Learn when his band, Alô Brasil, performed at the Sedgwick Cultural Center for the school's annual fundraiser. Complete with six dancers outfitted in authentic Brazilian Carnivale costumes, the band played for more than 250 guests. The evening was filled with food, songs, music, great dancing, and a silent auction that raised more than $7,000 for PL.

Late in March, PL played host for two weeks to a group of 10 Mexican high school students from Escuela Secundaria Tecnica in Tlaxcala. The group was accompanied by their English teacher Eduardo Flores Conde and the school's director Pablo Ortiz Retama. They spent their time attending classes with the junior high school students at PL, and field trips to the Reading Terminal Market, Top Hat Bowling Lanes in Roxborough, New York City and Washington, DC. They worked with PL Spanish students on art projects, English classes and cooking authentic Mexican food.

Mark Lyons and Irv Ackelsberg, former parents and last year's organizers of PL's Spanish students trip to Tlaxcala, worked closely with teachers Jenny Cox, Joan Fox and Debby Pollak. The students stayed at the homes of PL students, and attended dinners hosted by PL parents Kathleen Johnston, Maribel Barcan and Legrone and Sue Davis. Plans are being made for next year when the PL Spanish class will visit Mexico and keep alive a rich and growing tradition of international exchange.

Activist talks about life after Project Learn

By Jenny Cox

I started at Project Learn in the first grade in the early 1980's and graduated in 1989. Both my younger sister Alexa and my brother Daniel were also Project Learn "lifers." After PL, all of us graduated from Central High School. I went on to Swarthmore College. This is the story of my life since PL.

I think it all started with Nancy Bailey's "Protestors" elective with the songs and stories and folklore, with the study of the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglas in Lucy Miller's group and the Holocaust studies we had with Barbara Glass Sweeney in Junior High School. There were yearly studies of Martin Luther King Jr., the civil right movement and the women's suffrage movement. And there were read-a-thons and popcorn sales led by Fran Fox to support schools for the poor in El Salvador.

It seemed that everywhere you went there were biographies, posters, events or projects having to do with people's efforts to liberate themselves and others from injustice. We learned about the responsibility of every human being to play a role in these struggles.

With these basic messages, Project Learn and my family taught me to understand history, society and social responsibility on a fundamental level.

When I was a child, my family was involved in the Sanctuary movement for Central American refugees.

From there, we became involved in the solidarity movement in support of the poor in El Salvador and Guatemala who were organizing to change the system of economic and political inequality in their countries. This experience led me to my current work with the Kensington Welfare Rights Union.

Over the past seven years, this work has been a part of my daily life—from organizing on college campuses, churches and in welfare offices and shelters, to participating in tent cities and in civil disobedience in the struggles for affordable housing. I have participated in month-long marches and study groups. I have been involved in discussions of how to apply the lessons of history to today and most recently in a march against poverty at the Utah Olympics. In January, I took PL junior high school students for a day of organizing in Kensington as part of the school's M. L. King day of service.

I have done all of this while working with Kensington Welfare Rights Union, a multi-racial organization led by poor, homeless and unemployed families, based in Kensington in North Philadelphia. My primary role has been as Spanish/English translator and coordinator of KWRU's international relationship program.

I have participated in visits to Mexico, Chili and El Salvador, hosting visitors from Brazil, the Andes, Thailand, and Canada. As international coordinator, I have planned speaking tours in India, Germany, the Netherlands and helped coordinate participation by landless and homeless organizers from England, Nepal, South Africa, Columbia, Indonesia in the Poor People's World Summit to End Poverty held in New York City two years ago.

KWRU, along with the national Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, has built tent cities for homeless families, set up shacks on vacant lots, "reclaimed" abandoned government-owned houses and staged sit-ins in hospitals. We have led discus-

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The Project Learn Newsletter

The Project Learn Newsletter is published annually for the alumni and friends of Project Learn. To submit alumni news, send information to: *Alumni Office, Project Learn School, 6525 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19119.*

Staff: *Nancy Bailey and Francine Fox;* **Layout and graphic design:** *Walter Fox.*

PL People

It's that time again!!!!! We love collecting news from alumni over the past year. The more you tell us, the more we can print. This mailing goes out to over 600 people and the more alumni news, the merrier.

Isabel Steubel-Johnson graduated from Springside School last June and is currently attending New York University. She is interested in Theater Education for middle school students.

Max Cantor-Liebersohn is in his first year at Central High School and is involved in the school newspaper, the Simpsons Club and Boy Scouts. **Tess Cantor-Liebersohn** is doing well at Masterman Middle School and is active in choir, tennis and gymnastics.

Megan Thorne Fitzgerald graduated from Strath-Haven High School in 2001. She played field hockey and did community service. She is currently a freshman at Loyola College in Baltimore and is majoring in psychology. **Matthew Thorn Fitzgerald** is a sophomore at Strath Haven High School and plays football and lacrosse.

Kara Cephas is at Central High School. Kyle Cephas is a freshman at Central and works in the after school program at PL as his community service project.

Kate Janoski is a sophomore at Haverford College majoring in history. She volunteers at the National Service Center and loves it there.

Chris Angel has worked at Omega Institute and is currently working at the restaurant NXNW (North by Northwest) in Mt. Airy. He is getting ready to go to cooking school.

Graeme McHenry graduated from Oberlin College with a BA in Biology. He is still involved with Aikido Kodikai, which he began when he was in the after-school program at PL. He obtained his black belt in the fall of 2001.

Hilary Robbins Hellerbach who graduated from PL in 1971 is currently living in Baltimore with husband Dan and their three children, Mikhail, 9, Alonzo, 7, and Eva, 3. Hilary is a school social Worker at a special ed school. She balances her outside job with PTA meetings, NASW meetings and community work. The Hellerbach family welcomes contact from anyone from the old PL days that may be visiting in the Baltimore area. **Zachary Robins** graduated from Bates College with a BA in Political Science. He is currently working in the physics department at the University of Maryland. He married Laila Van Eyck in 1996 and they have Ramsey, 2, and one on the way, due in June.

Noam Szwergold graduated from Central High School and is currently living and working in New York City. He is studying at the New School in New York and working playing guitar with a band. **Nava Szwergold** will graduate from Central High School in June and has been accepted at the University of Chicago, Vassar and Brown. She plays bass in the orchestra and enjoys diving and robotics. She works for **Josh Rubinski** , a former PL parent as a legal aide.

Eva Fertman graduated last June from Central High School and is currently a freshman at Smith College. While in high school she enjoyed horseback riding, was captain of the cross-country team and worked on the yearbook. She is on the varsity equestrian team at Smith. She is considering a career in education or counseling. **Noah Fertman** is attending Saul High School of Agricultural Science where he is a solid honor roll student. He takes accelerated math and science courses and ranks in the top 5 of his class. His interests are baseball and tennis. On off times he works at the Weaver's Way Co-op. This summer he hopes to work for a landscape architect in Amherst, Mass. He is considering the University of Massachusetts after graduation from Saul.

Rachel Harvey-Sanchez graduated from PL in 1977. After graduation from CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts High School), she traveled and attended SUNY at Purchase, N.Y. She married Arturo Sanchez in 1999 and has two stepdaughters, Isis, 8, and Tonahui, 6. She is currently teaching 4th and 5th grade in a Seattle public school. David Harvey, after graduating from

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New staff teacher for youngest group

Jane Laties, the new K-1 teacher, comes to PL with a varied and unique resume.

She taught K-1 at the Philadelphia School, which is a private elementary school instituted about the same time as Project Learn and with a similar philosophy.

Then, after ten years of teaching, she became founder, proprietor and chef of an independent catering company for three years. Jane left many heart broken and hungry clients when she realized that she really missed teaching.

Since joining the staff at Project Learn in September, she has been called upon to use both of her vocations. She teaches the youngest group, heads up the science program for the primary grade groups and has becoming the resident chef, cooking with the entire school during the Brazil Week. She also lent her expertise in preparing authentic Brazilian refreshments for the Alô Brasil Concert at the Sedgwick Cultural Center.

. In addition, she has helped the French class to create wonderful French meals and worked with her own group on many cooking projects through out the year. She headed the team of bakers on the M. L. King day of service producing bread for KWRU.

Jane grew up in Philadelphia, attended Friends Select School and graduated from American University in Washington, D.C.

In Memoriam

The Project Learn community extends sympathy to Alexis Young and her father, David, on the death of her mother, Rochelle Carlton, and to Rachel and Rebecca Fishman and their father, Roger, on the death of their mother, Jane.

PL PEOPLE *(Continued from page 3)*
Ferndaly High School in Washington State, attended the University of Washington in Seattle. He graduated in 1989 with a degree in psychology and in 1993 with a degree in medicine. He is currently working at the SeaMan Community Health center, a Latino clinic in south Seattle, as a family physician with a practice in obstetrics. He was married in 1999 to Mahvash Khajavi, and they have one son who is 6 months old.

Milena Belasco Hynes graduated from PL in 1978 and GFS in 1981. She attended Clark University for one year and graduated from Temple University. She got her MA in Education at Drexel University. She married Patrick Hynes in 1997 and has two children, Liam, 3, and Molly, 15 months. Milena is currently a manufacturer's representative for paper products. She maintains her interests in pottery, rowing and cooking.

Courtney Malley graduated from PL in 1979 and went to Saul High School. She attended Manor Junior College and Villanova University. She is a paralegal with Flamm, Boroff and Bacine, P.C. She is currently a board member and membership chair for the Philadelphia Folksong Society. She also is involved with XFS, and sings with two bands, Full Frontal Folk and Something Black. Her daughter Rosemarie just turned 11 and is a Girl Scout, a soccer and basketball player, and is on the cover of the M.S. Read-a-Thon kit, having raised over $1,000 for the cause last year.

Kate Eady is in her third year of teaching at the Ethical Culture School in New York City. It is her first year of teaching art exclusively. This summer, Kate is committed to riding her bicycle for 350 miles in four days to raise money for the Northeast AIDSRide fund- raising event. She and her mother Judy built two benches in the back yard at PL this past spring to enhance the playground named in honor of her brother, Chris.

Dan Fox completed his law degree at Northeastern University in Boston in June 2001. He passed the New York and Conneticut bar exams and is currently living and practicing law with the firm of Shipman and Goodwin in Stamford, Conn. He and his wife, Maura, have a 2-year-old daughter, Isabella.

Shai Ben-Yaccov is graduating in May from Brandeis University in Boston with a degree in philosophy and linguistics. He has worked in the Summerbridge program at GFS, teaching inner-city children in a tutorial program. His interest in fencing continues. **Tal Ben-Yaacov** spent a year in Israel before entering Brandeis University. He is in his sophomore year and is on the varsity fencing team.

Sara Allender is graduating in May from NYU where she majored in politics. While at NYU, she participated in crew for four years and water polo for two. She will take a year or two off after graduation and then attend grad school for educational policy. She is currently working at the Institute for Education and Social Policy. **Rebecca Allender** is a junior at The College of New Jersey majoring in Elementary Education and Sociology. She will student teach in the fall. Both women are lifeguards at Beachcomber Swim Club in the summer.

Colin Dickerson is a sophomore at Central High School. He does community service in the afterschool program at PL and is a core member of Central's Robotics Team. A group called FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) annually sponsors a robotics competition where corporations and/or university team with a high school in a high tech sporting event that pits gladiator robots against each other. The robots are designed by teams of students, parents and engineers. Colin competed for the second year in the event held in March. **Sarah Dickerson** is a freshman at Central High School. Her love of drama found her in a one-act play called *The Lottery* this season.

Patrick Beegle who graduated from Carver High School, works for the Philadelphia Water Department as an engineering assistant. He is attending Drexel University and is pursuing a degree in engineering.

Robert Plummer had a fine article written about him in the April issue of Philadelphia Magazine. From baggage handler at Philadelphia International Airport—which earned him cheap fares, flexible hours and a steady income—to baseball agent. Robert has turned his middle school hyperactivity into adult hustle and has become a successful representative for many well-known ball players. Read the article—it's great.

Iris Litwin is in her sophomore year at the Maryland Institute of Art near the charming section of Mt. Vernon in Baltimore. She recently had her own show in Ellicott City, a suburb.

Colin McLaughlin-Alcock graduated from CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts High School) where he was active with Bread Not Bombs and was a camp counselor and director of canoeing. He worked for a year as a canvasser for Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group and also at Video Library in Mt. Airy. He will graduate in May from Friends World (College) Program where he was involved in interdisciplinary studies. He spent this past semester traveling and writing. He went from China on the Trans-Siberian Railroad across Ruissia, then to Turkey and Eastern Europe and finally to London. **Zachary McLaughlin-Alcock** is at Central High School and does his community service at PL in the after-school program.

Giga Shane graduates from Temple University's School of Music this spring. **Ana Marjanovic Shane**, mother of Giga and Elie, who is in the junior high school, delivered a paper at the AERA (American Educational Research Association) convention in New Orleans in early April. The paper, "Where Educational Practice Meets Educational Theory," used Project Learn as its model.

Stephanie Hough deTrevino graduated from Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science (now Philadelphia University) with a BS in Business Administration. She was involved with the John Heinz Dance Company, the Black Women's Network in Los Angeles, and ESL classes while living in Japan. She also worked in tile exports from Mexico. In 1995 she married Rodrigo Trevino and is currently living

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in Mexico where she organizes early-music concerts to support musicians. She teaches English on occasion to business people.

Barry Feinstein who attended PL before moving to Dresher reports that he continues to enjoy poetry and loves to read.

Walter King is in his first year at Central High School and participated in jv soccer and track. Although only a freshman, he was drafted to practice with the varsity soccer team. Walt is the freshman class representative to the student council. His favorite classes are math and world history.

Yoni Liebling is also a freshman at Central High School where history tops his list of interests.

Kate Borneman Ayers is teaching 5th grade at the Concord School in Seattle, Wash. Her class wrote to PL, asking for a postcard from Pennsylvania to complete their postcard collection from every state in the union.

Jessie Myron will graduate first in her class from Roxborough High School. She is thinking about taking a degree in engineering.

Jacob LaMay will graduate from GFS in June and has been accepted in the engineering program at Drexel University and Carnegie Mellon. **Leco LaMay** has completed his second year at West Point

Kate Deaux, one of a dozen graduates of the Project Learn High School, is living in Japan and teaching English to students in preparation for study in the United States. She enjoys traveling.

Georgie Pochepstov is now 9 years old and attended PL for two years in Fran Fox's group. He is considered by many art experts to be a prodigy. He is currently attending school in Potomac Maryland and has recently appeared on Good Morning America and the Today Show. His artwork has been exhibited in Chicago, New York and New Orleans and in many other cities. In a recent e-mail to **David Adams**, who he considers his very first art teacher, Georgie said he loves school, has a bunch of buddies and draws and/or paints daily. Look for news about him and his artwork on his own Web site: www.georgiepocheptsov.com.

Bethany Ditnes and **Rachel Barag**, both students at CAPA (Creative and Performing Arts High School) have made TV commercials in the past year. Bethany, who is a sophomore, shot a spot for King of Prussia Mall in April. Rachel, who is also a sophomore, did a commercial for A.C.Moore that appeared on local TV this past winter.

Karen Zaga will graduate from Saul High School in June. **Dor Zaga** is currently attending Community College of Philadelphia where he is studying photography.

Casey Thomasson will graduate from Creative and Performing Arts High School and is considering a major in theater at Ithica College.

Sebastian Soltis Hardiman, a June 2001 graduate of St.Joseph's Prep, is a freshman at Marquette University.

Danny Rosales is working in the after-school program on Fridays.

Sally O'Doherty taught 2nd and 3rd grade at Project Learn from 1987 to 1991, and her children, **Hannah** and **Brendan,** were students at PL for seven years.

Sally left PL to work in the public school system in Jenkintown. Five years later, she moved to rural Vermont and became director of The Mountain Top School near Rutland.

In a recent visit to PL, Sally told of her new job as early literacy improvement specialist with the Vermont Reads Institute She works closely with Vermont College, and the Vermont Department of Education. She is mentoring teachers in several small public schools which have between 60 and 100 students.

She has recently purchased a charming house in Poultney, Vt.

Hannah who completed high school at Creative and Performing Arts, will graduate from the Maryland Institute College of Art in June as a painting major.

Brendan finished at Jenkintown High School , graduated from the University of the Arts in June 2001 and has moved to Paris, where he has been playing in clubs and teaching ESL.

Sally described Brendan as a professional Parisian "jazz guy." He is taking advantage of his time, immersing himself in the language, food and culture.

ACTIVIST*(Continued from page 2)*
sions about the lessons learned by M. L. King's Poor People's campaign and met with organizers of the landless. We have met with homeless and unemployed people in Brazil, England and India, sharing strategies for gaining basic human rights.

And now I am also teaching Spanish at PL part-time. I hope I am able to give back at least a small part of what was given to me and to offer to a new generation the experiences that meant so much to me.

PL now has families in which up to three generations are active at one time, has alumni sending their own children to the school and has alumni coming back to teach.. PL is becoming a stronger and thicker fabric of families who are being woven together over time into a community of people who know and care about each other.

My path, which in so many ways started at Project Learn so many years ago, has led me to Kensington and the Kensington Welfare Rights Union and it, in turn, has led me full circle back to PL. To me, both of these commitments are the natural paths from the values and legacy of my family and of those early years at Project Learn. I am grateful to PL for the lessons in community, history, responsibility and human rights that have guided me to the KWRU, and for being a place that has welcomed me "home."

A thank you note from Fran Fox

Thank you all for the great retirement celebrations held last spring.

The wonderful gifts, kind words, funny stories and thoughtful notes have filled my soul for a lifetime.

The May Town Meeting "roast" was a great surprise and the special graduation honors were so much fun.

I think Project Learn makes the world a better place for children and adults. I know the school will continue to serve the community for many generations to come.

Alumnus' film chosen for Philadelphia festival

By Fran Fox

Chris Deaux, an honorary PL "lifer," is making history as the school's first independent filmmaker. His documentary, *Talk Fast*, was selected to be shown during the prestigious Philadelphia Festival of Independents, which took place in early April at International House.

Chris, who is director, producer and editor of *Talk Fast*, and Chris Emmanouilides, who is director of photography and co-producer, have chronicled the lives of five aspiring screenwriters as they struggle to "make it" in Hollywood. It follows a puppeteer, a cult film star, a fallen starlet, a former stockbroker and a new mother as they prepare for a two-minute audition with studio executives. It portrays what it is like to spend years chasing a dream that may never be realized.

According to Scott Johnson, curator of the Philadelphia festival, the film was chosen for screening "because the characters are interesting and complicated and the editing is artful."

The film was chosen "because the characters are interesting and complicated and the editing is artful."

"In addition," he said, "it is a classic tale of the trials and tribulations of trying to make it in show business."

The film was also selected by The Foundation for Independent Video and Film for a screening at the Prince Theater in November 2001 as a part of their Maestro! Event, and it played to sold-out audiences. It was a part of the 2002 DC Independent Film Festival and Market, and the Reno Film Festival. Solid Entertainment, the LA-based international distributor of documentary films, has acquired the rights to *Talk Fast.*

"Talk Fast," Chris said recently, "was a labor of love financed by savings and credit cards, and begging and borrowing from friends. It was a story we wanted to tell."

Chris Deaux

Chris grew up in Mt. Airy and Germantown. He attended Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School and graduated from Temple University with a degree in English. Chris spent the two years between his time at PL and Plymouth-Whitemarsh High School in China, where his father, George, a Temple University English professor, had gone to teach. Chris and his wife Eileen now live in Wyndmoor.

Chris founded DeauxBoy Productions in May 1998 with the goal of creating reality-based television programming. Six months later, the company completed production of an original television pilot called "Love at First Sight?" marketed through the N. S. Bienstock Agency in New York.

He has produced and directed a wide variety of reality-based programming for the Discovery Channel, the Learning Channel, PBS, FOX, HGTV, CBS and Lifetime Television.

In addition to running DeauxBoy Productions, he is employed with Banyan Productions in Philadelphia, currently as executive producer of "A Wedding Story," the highest-rated show on daytime cable. Prior to this, Chris served as executive producer for a 65-episode series for Lifetime Television titled "The Things We Do For Love," which premiered in June 2000.

As executive producer, Chris is responsible for all phases of production, management of a staff of as many as fifty people and oversight of a multi-million-dollar budget

The New York Daily News review of "The Things We Do For Love" noted, "It turns out you don't have to go to extravagant lengths, dump a lot of money into sets and music or invent some weird premise to produce emotionally potent reality television. ...if these shows don't put a lump in your throat at least once, the fault's yours... thanks to unvarnished, direct storytelling by a production team led by executive producer Chris Deaux."

Chris has also served as producer/director and post-production supervisor, overseeing post-production of more than a half-dozen programs including, "A Wedding Story" (TLC), "Reunion" (TLC), "Gimme Shelter" (Discovery), and "Christina Cooks" (PBS).

In addition to his experience as an executive producer Chris has also worked as executive producer of development, generating, producing and packaging reality-based original programming for sale to a wide range of cable and broadcast clients. One of these original series was optioned by Columbia Tri-Star Television and is currently in development.

"It (PL) was a formative experience and really prepared me very well for what came next."

In a recent interview, Chris said, he owed a "huge debt" to Project Learn.

"It was a formative experience and really prepared me very well for what came next," he added. "I learned tremendous negotiating and thinking skills that I use in decision-making every day in real life.

"I remember every single teacher I ever had at PL and am very grateful for what I learned at the school. I would really love to come back to teach a film- making elective at PL someday."

Donor List

Many thanks for contributions which strengthen our school: to the yard, computers, the First Saturday Art Program and our classroom programs.

The following donations were the result of our Winter Appeal: Donna and Jerry Allender, Sara and Rebecca Allender, Irv Aclkelsberg and Pat Urevick, Leona Atkinson, Michael and Christine Bamberger, Bobbi Berenbaum and David Leipziger, Anna and Neil Beresin, Carl and Constance Beresin, Mady Cantor and Art Liebersohn, Mildred Cantor, Jim and Beth Cephas, Chris and Eileen Deaux, Netta and Brian Dickerson, Martha and Bruce Fertman, John and Cathy Fisher, Eve Horowitz and Jon Perlmutter, Milena Belasco Hynes, Anne Miller, Jane Gering, Margaret Graham and Alex Moss, Rachel Harvey and Arturo Sanchez, Kate and Art Hockner, Marge Janoski, Selma Keiner, Mike Levin, Molly Mclaughlin and Bud Alcock, Arnie and Sharon Millard, Betty and Joseph Miller, Dennis and Nancy O'Donnell, Jeff Robins, Jeff Roth, Karen Rothschild, Barbara Sheehan, Arthur and Clara Stander, Elizabeth Steuble and Ed Johnson , Al Urevick

Contributions to the Chris Eady Playground Fund: Patricia Harkness

Contributions to the Endowment Fund: In Memory of Ann Barracca, mother of Maria Barracca and grandmother of Jared and Evan Kornfeld: Paul Barracca, Helena Kornfeld, and In Memory of Nancy Sheratt, aunt of Nancy Holmes and great aunt of Molly and Kate Vanden Heuvel: Kathleen Holmes, Frances and Josephine Vecchione, Sandy and Bob Olson, June Behram

Contribution of co-op shares: Sue and Legrome Davis, Mady Cantor and Art Liebersohn, Jennifer and Trevor Douglas

Gifts in Kind: Sue and Legrome Davis, Christine and Michael Bamberger, James and Lena Adams, Phyllis Hockenberg, Robert Pollack, Judy and Kate Eady, *Marc Barag*

Special thanks to local business firms for contributions to the Silent Auction at the Alô Brasil Concert at the Sedgwick Cultural Center: Inn at Penn, Wissahickon Woods Cottage, Gwendolyn Bye Dance Center, Kokikai Akido, Moving Arts Studio, Anna Crusis Choir, Video Library, Sedgwick Cultural Center, YWCA of Germantown, Glass Eye Gallery in Seattle, WA, Weaver's Way Co-op, Kilian's Hardware, Chestnut Hill Sports, Organic Planet Dinner Club, Starbucks, LeBus, Cin Cin, Yu Hsiang Garden, Chresheim Cottage Café, Night Kitchen, North by Northwest, Goat Hollow, Cafette, Friends of Wyck, Color me Mine, Casual Cuts, Fred's Foreign Cars, New Spring Cleaners, Chapline's Electronics, Charles Holmes, CPA, Dan Brody Photography

Thanks to the following individuals for their contributions to the Silent Auction held at the same concert: Barbara McDermott and Jeanne Buckley, Gayle Weiand, Jim Hamilton, Susan Deutsch, Chrysti Cannon, Karen Rothschild, David and Jenny Heitier-Klevans, Bruce and Linda Pollack-Johnson, Chris Taranta, Robert Pollack, Tamar Magdovitz, Grace Gardner, Lyvette Brooks, The Beresin family, Martha Firney, Anna Herman and Robert Dudnick, James and Lena Adams, Sharon Millard, Wayne Stander, Peter, Applebaum, Bill Simpson, Lucia DeGiovanni, Mordechai Liebling

Special thanks to: Lynne Iser, Lyvette Brooks, Jane Laties, Monique Laws, Candice Price and Susan Deutsch for their tireless and enthusiastic efforts on behalf of this landmark event and to all the members of the fundraising committee for their help.

News from the Classrooms

By Brian Girard and Lisa Pack
Co-Coordinators

As you can see from the accounts of our international studies emphasis, we have had a busy year. Our students were also a part of the Manna project which supplies meals to home-bound AIDs patients. Children from several other local public and private schools joined PL students in create gifts of art works which are included in the Thanksgiving meal delivery. Before the art was distributed, an exhibition was held at the Woodmere Gallery.

The PL soccer team, coached by teachers, Brian Girard and Roni Anton, had a very successful season.

Teachers Liz BenYaacov and Doug Moses are preparing students for the traditional spring play. This year's play is *Beauty and the Beast.* It will be held May 16 at the Allens Lane Art Center..

On June 6, we will graduate 11 eighth-graders. Five have selected Central High School, four, Creative and Performing Arts, and two students have yet to choose from several public, private and charter schools to which they have been admitted.

Our pursuit of PAPAS (Pennsylvania Association of Private Academic Schools) certification is on track. After months of curriculum work and administrative descriptions, we will have a team of teachers from other PAPAS schools here to evaluate the program in late winter.

Grandparents' Day was a great success with more than 50 grandparents, special friends and parents. They saw regular classes and participated with the children in a poetry reading.

We have received many responses to our alumni questionnaire that we mailed out in January. We are working on building our database and appreciate all who have added their information to our lists. Please send yours if you have not already done so. If you did not receive a questionnaire, please call the office at 215-438-3623.

And lastly, a word of thanks to you for the many, generous donations sent as a result of our winter fund-raising appeal. Every penny is used to improve our educational program or to add to our endowment fund. You cannot begin to imagine how much hearing from you matters to us all.

If you are in the area, please drop by. We would love to see you and show you around the school.

Your annual donation to Project Learn

will help support

the Endowment Fund, free Saturday Art Classes for neighborhood children, the renovation and equipping of the photo lab, playground improvement, the renewal of Community Room equipment.

Please make your tax-deductible contribution today!

Alumni Office
PROJECT LEARN SCHOOL
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