



# the PACIFIC PRIMARY SUN

WWW.PACIFICPRIMARY.ORG

WINTER 2007-2008



## Building the Second Site: Past, Present, and Future *By Paul Herman*

It's really happening! The Second Site is beginning to take shape across the street from 1500 Grove Street. After years of dreaming, planning, and hard work, it's hard to believe that a new school is going up right next door—but it really is. Go see for yourself!

The new building is scheduled to be completed by August 2008. Although it still seems like a distant vision to most of us, Pacific Primary will open the doors of the new school in the Fall of 2008.

### The Past: How We Got Here

Parents at Pacific Primary have dreamed for many years of expanding the school in some form. Generations of parents have fantasized about the school opening an elementary school, and many of us can relate to the feeling (usually strongest during the Kindergarten application process) that it would be great if Pacific Primary could expand just in time for our own kids to stay there. Over the years, the Board considered a variety of expansion plans, but none appeared feasible.

In the past five years, as Pacific Primary became increasingly popular, the dream of expansion shifted away from making the school into an elementary school and toward making the school more accessible. Pacific Primary's 2002-2007 strategic plan first raised the possibility of "replicating the model" by opening an additional site. The main roadblock was lack of space.

In late 2004, the Board formed a task force led by Fif Ghobadian to search for sites for a new school, but the neighborhood offered few possibilities. And it was clear to everyone that moving the school to the Presidio or a similar site would just make the school

inaccessible in a new way. It began to seem that the goal of making the school available to more families would remain a dream for the foreseeable future.

In early August 2005, the Hicks Temple—the Pentecostal church directly across the street from the current school—was put up for sale. In the face of strong interest from potential developers, Belann, Helen Powell, and several members of the Board met with the Reverend Hicks and secured his agreement to sell the building to Pacific Primary. Molly Dwyer, the Board President at the time, was on vacation at a remote lake in Canada when Fif called to tell her what was happening. Molly remembers having to wade out into freezing-cold, waist-high water to find a cell-phone signal strong enough to hear Fif announce: "We can buy the building, but we have to act now!"

From that point on, Belann and the Board faced enormous challenges in securing a bank loan, raising the funds for a down payment, determining whether an expansion was fiscally responsible, planning a capital campaign, and making sure that none of this would threaten Pacific Primary's current program or its economic stability. Former Board President Dave Lahar joined Molly, Fif, Belann, Gautham Reddy, Wendy Smith, and Chris Lord on a Steering Committee that worked diligently throughout 2005-2006 to address the many challenges.

*continued on page 6*

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Annual Auction  
Here Comes the Sun**

**Saturday, March 1, 2008**

**New Location  
San Francisco Galleria**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 - Building the Second Site: Past, Present, and Future
- 2 - Making the Magic
- 3 - Synchronicity
- 4 - The Corner of Grove and Baker: A Snapshot of San Francisco History
- 9 - Pacific Primary: Through New Eyes
- 10 - How Parents Choose Pacific Primary/Financial Highlights
- 12 - Alumni Notes/Alumni Spotlight

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2007-2008

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This newsletter is published annually by parents, teachers and friends of Pacific Primary.

## Making the Magic

*A message from Board President Fif Ghobadian*

Four years ago, when I was approached to join Pacific Primary's Board of Directors, I was both flattered and horrified. I had my perceptions of the Board of Directors based on my past experiences at other organizations. I was not overly excited about being part of what I had assumed would be a bureaucratic governing body and managing the school at a distance. I learned quickly that the Board of Directors, like all things at Pacific Primary, is another real, down-to-earth, hard-working microcosm of the school. We are a group of parents who have been given the privilege to work for our community and to make a difference.

I am often reminded that we are all working on a volunteer basis while maintaining our families, life, and income-producing jobs. I am also frequently asked what motivates us. The answer becomes crystal-clear very quickly. When you see your toddler flourish into a mature kindergartner, when you experience the magic of the Pacific Primary parent community, and when the staff and Belann help you in becoming a better parent, you want to give back. Being part of the Board is a fantastic way to give back and an excellent way to be an agent of change.

We all have dreams that have crystallized into reality during our term on the board. Each of us were able to express our desires and were

given the tools to fulfill them. The experience mirrors what our kids experience every day at the school. If you want to do something, the path is paved and the obstacles are cleared. The ideas have ranged from creating the Primary Talk, the Crissy Field Clean-Up Day, the Halloween Celebration, changing our diet to one-hundred-percent organic, changing our logoed merchandise, replicating ourselves, and...the list is endless. But the consistent thread throughout our efforts is that we work as a team. The Board, the staff, Belann, and the parent community—we are all part of one team that forges ahead to create the magic.

This is the magic that motivates our founders—our alumni from over thirty years ago—to come back and join us in our capital campaign for the Second Site. It's the magic of Pacific Primary that brings over 350 people to the auction every year. We are so blessed to be part of this magic. If you are reading this and are an alumnus, I urge you to come back and visit. It is a visit that will help rekindle the past and reenergize the future. We have a series of opportunities for involvement coming up as part of Second Site festivities and fundraising events. If you are a current parent and want to get more involved, don't hesitate. You can help in so many ways. Together, we will keep the magic alive and continue to make a difference.



*Architect's illustration of the Second Site.*

# Synchronicity

*A message from Director Belann Giarretto*

Watching the dream of a second site unfold has meant finding ways to embrace both risk and hope as the new school becomes a reality. The Steering Committee, under the leadership of Dave Lahar and Molly Dwyer, former Board Presidents, has worked on all aspects of this project including fundraising, working with the neighborhood, poring over design issues and finding the right construction company. Fif Ghobadian, Board President, was the first champion of the possibility of a second school, and her positive energy has been essential. The school will be a mirror program of Pacific Primary: mixed ages in a small community with a combination of new and returning teachers and families.

The school is slated to open in September 2008! When I look across the street and see our impressive progress, I think of all the events that came together to propel this project forward. Our admission numbers have grown to the point that it was almost impossible to be admitted to the school. Seeking more space, we had eyed the former Hicks Temple for years and had thought often that it would be a wonderful opportunity if the site became available. Meanwhile, we searched the city for a suitable space with no success. When we got the call from neighbor Bobby Niers that Hicks Temple was for sale, the posting was all of ten minutes old. We watched developers look at the building all day long and knew it would be sold by the end of the day. But Fif was able to get a meeting with Reverend Hicks, and when we entered the building that evening the first thing we saw on the church bulletin board was a flyer for a Pacific Primary Open House. Our meeting was quite emotional and resulted—to our great surprise—in the minister accepting our offer and turning down one for over the asking price. From that moment, despite some very real challenges, the second site project has moved forward in a manner that suggests the power of synchronicity.

Each hurdle has been faced with the same resolve that we summon when dealing with issues in the classroom: we can work this out; we can solve problems; we can find new solutions. And it has worked in ways that leave us feeling supported by our community and optimistic about the future. From the beginning, our primary motivation has been to be more inclusive by offering more spaces for the children of prospective families. The Steering Committee members Chris Lord, Wendy Smith, Gautham Reddy along with Fif, Dave and Molly have worked diligently. Their expertise and enthusiasm have made the work enjoyable and successful. Our continued connection with founder and teacher Roxie Jones and our reconnection to the other founders—Lynne and Bill Twist, Kris and Owen O'Donnell, and Roxie's husband, Walter Jones—have inspired us to face the future with courage and fortitude. Current parents, Gina Patterson and Paul Herman, are also now working on the second site and are assisting me with the myriad tasks that need to be completed.

The future of Pacific Primary has never looked brighter. We will soon honor our mission of accessibility by being able to enroll more children. Our children graduate and go to elementary schools with the confidence to be creative, solve problems, and welcome difference. Our alumni families demonstrate the same passion and dedication when they leave Pacific Primary for new public and independent elementary schools. Families are essential to the health of cities and, as we see the second site unfold with the amazing help from alumni, we know that the inspiring and somewhat amazing circumstances that have allowed us to build the new school will help keep families in the city and strengthen our community.



# The Corner of Grove and Baker: A Snapshot of San Francisco History

By Ben Elgin

Pacific Primary has been nestled at the northwest corner of Baker and Grove Streets for more than thirty-three years. Many of the children who attend the school today most likely feel that it has been here forever. But the intersection, once nothing more than wind-blown sand dunes and gnarled shrubs, was settled first settled more than a century ago. With our school soon to occupy two corners of Baker and Grove, it's an excellent time to look back at this location's history.



When San Francisco's early planners sought places to bury their dead, they looked west—far west—far beyond the city's fast-expanding borders. Cemeteries and a couple of sprawling ranches were the primary occupants of what was then called "The Outside Lands"—the western half of present-day San Francisco.

The City's western expansion appears to have first reached Baker & Grove in 1886. The San Francisco's Boys and Girls Aid Society, a reformatory for orphans, abused children, and juvenile delinquents, badly needed a new home to accommodate its growing numbers. Juvenile law-breakers, at the time, were regularly thrown into jail alongside adults. Seeking a more humane solution, moral reformers established the Boys and Girls Aid Society to provide both discipline and an education. The institution's motto: "It is wise and less expensive to save children than to punish criminals."

With a \$33,000 gift from the estate of railroad baron Charles Crocker, the Society built a cavernous three-story building on the southeast corner of the intersection, where the Beverly Manor convalescent home now stands. The dormitory was capable of housing more than one-hundred children, or "inmates"—as the 1910 census described them. Once settled in at 460 Baker Street, the reformatory included a school with classes in math, music and carpentry, a 5,000-volume library, baseball, soccer and track teams, as well as summertime work camps picking berries in Sonoma County.

A few years after the Society's arrival, dozens of residences—and even a sprawling stable—had popped up around the intersection of Baker and Grove. The first building constructed at Pacific Primary's current site was the large mahogany-wood home of Mary and Billy Emerson, which contained fourteen rooms, three bathrooms, running water, and stately spires reaching skyward.

Billy Emerson was no ordinary citizen. When he built his grand home, Emerson was one of California's highest-paid and best-known performers. As *The Call* noted, Emerson was "lavish in the expenditure of his money and generous beyond reason." Like many performers, however, Emerson's popularity eventually faded. In the end, the paper reported, "he died in poverty."



*A 1920 photograph of Billy Emerson's home.*

Emerson's widow, Mary, stayed in the home until her death in 1930. Across the street, where Pacific Primary's second site is now being built, a modern, art-deco style building was erected in 1918. It initially housed a Ford dealership. By this time, the area around Grove and Baker Streets housed a densely populated, working-class community. Unlike Emerson, most of the neighbors were renters. Prices were affordable. The monthly rate for a ten-room home at 425 Baker Street was only \$70.

By the 1920s, the neighborhood had developed into a middle-class neighborhood that reflected San Francisco's rich ethnic and cultural diversity. The 500 block of Baker Street alone was home to foreign-born and second-generation immigrants from Ireland, Germany, Italy, Scotland, Russia, Chile, Denmark, and China. These residents held a variety of working-class and middle-class jobs, including positions as shipyard laborers, cooks, nurses, bookkeepers, street-car operators, school teachers, and seamstresses.

In the 1940s, the jobs created by World War II drew a large influx of African-American residents into the Western Addition at the same time that many Irish and German families were moving to the newly developed neighborhoods in the Sunset and the Richmond. During the next two decades, several of the area's aging Victorian mansions were torn down to make way for "modern" improvements. Pacific Primary's current building, constructed by the State Department of Public Health on the northwest corner of Baker and Grove in 1952, was one such improvement. It replaced Emerson's crumbling mansion, and housed offices for the Bureau of Social Work for several years until the state transformed it into a psychiatric clinic for children in the 1960s. In 1974, a group of neighborhood parents bought the property and started a preschool that thrives to this day.

Across the street, the Ford dealership of the 1920s had given way to an ambitious sandwich maker named Ivan Branson, who purchased the property in 1944. His business, dubbed Morning Glory Sandwich Co., was actually more like a sandwich factory. It supplied the Pacific Fleet during World War II with as many as 65,000 sandwiches each day. On a smaller scale, it also catered longtime-teacher Helen Powell's wedding.

Morning Glory stayed put for nearly three decades, eventually shuttering its factory in 1975. The property was vacant for several years, before it became home to the Cleaver Memorial Church of God in Christ, later called the Hicks Temple. Noted San Francisco author Rebecca Solnit recalled standing in the church doorway on Sundays, soaking up the powerful gospel music. "Even barbarians like me can walk by and listen to incredible gospel music coming out of the walls," she told an interviewer.

With a preschool now going in to the new building, passersby are likely to hear a different kind of music emanating from the walls.



*The San Francisco Boys and Girls Aid Society circa 1910.*



*Grove and Baker in 1920. The short white building in the foreground became the Hicks Temple in the 1970s.*

# Building the Second Site: Past, Present, and Future *continued from page 1*

Under Dave and Fif's leadership, the school undertook a five-million-dollar capital campaign. The Board selected architects Tom Eliot Fisch to design the building and general contractor Plant Construction Company to build it. The permit approval process went more smoothly than anticipated, in large part because the Board's outreach and communication led many neighbors to support the school's purpose.

With permits in hand, the bulldozers moved in on October 1, 2007, and began the demolition process.

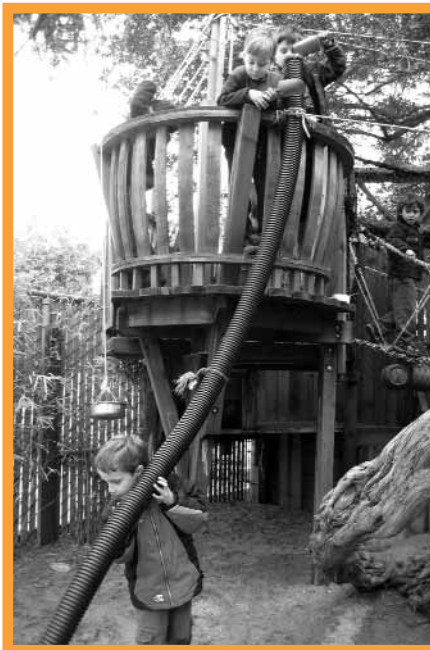
**The Present: Where Things Stand**  
Despite January's rainy weather, the project is on schedule.

The admissions process is well underway, and Belann is thrilled to be able to open Pacific Primary to more families this year. The school will admit students to the new school for the Fall of 2008, though the precise start date has yet to be determined. The number of tours has increased, and Jeanette, Shante, Daniela, and Kali have put countless hours into managing the expanded application process.

The children have been following the process closely, and the teachers have used the construction as an opportunity for creativity and learning. As you walk the halls at 1500 Grove, you can see reflections of the events across the street. In December, the Coyotes drew "blueprints" of their classroom, and the entire school enjoyed a construction day. More recently, Coyote teacher Jocelyn Halili set up several plastic tubes in the sand area to mimic the large, crane-like cement machines that have fascinated the students.



October 2007 — a bulldozer clears the way for the Second Site.



January 2008 — Coyotes using the "cement crane" in Pacific Primary's sand area.



January 2008 — students watch cement mixers pouring the foundation.

On January 31, workers erected the first section of wood framing, outlining the new school's North wall. Framing will continue in the following weeks. By the time you read this, the building's wood skeleton will be nearly complete. You can watch the process develop by clicking on the "Construction Photos" button on the school's website: [www.pacificprimary.org](http://www.pacificprimary.org)

*continued on page 8*



*February 2008 — the first floor of the East wall, on Baker Street.*



*February 2008 — builders lift the South wall into place.*



*October 2007 — children engaged in construction play.*

## Building the Second Site: Past, Present, and Future *continued from page 7*



### **The Future: What We Can Expect**

The school across the street has been designed to be a “mirror campus” of 1500 Grove. It will have roughly the same number of students as the current school, four classrooms, a Sunroom, an outdoor area, a kitchen, an art/music room, and an indoor multi-purpose room. From the outset, the school’s goal has been to re-create the magic of 1500 Grove, which depends in part on its small scale, rather than making Pacific Primary feel like a much bigger school. The new school will have its own staff, complete with a music-and-movement specialist, expressive-arts specialist, chef, Sunroom coordinator, Afternoon coordinator, and teachers. Belann is already interviewing candidates to fill the new staff positions. But not all the new faculty will start at the new school. Each school will have a mix of current staff and new staff, so that both schools can benefit from continuity and institutional memory.

Belann will remain the director of Pacific Primary as a whole, with responsibility for leading both schools. The Board will also appoint a new “Associate Director,” who will have day-to-day responsibility for one of the schools. The precise details of this arrangement are still to be determined, but the Board has made it clear that Belann will continue to direct both schools. As for the Board itself, the plan is to have one Board made up of parents from both schools.

Students will not move between the two schools during the day, though there will be several all-school events throughout the year to help build community. Also, since young children thrive on stability and predictability, students will stay at the same school throughout their tenure at Pacific Primary. When a student enrolls, Belann will assign the family to one of the two sites, and that school will remain the student’s “home” until graduation. In keeping with this policy, students who are currently enrolled at 1500 Grove will not move to the new school. New families will be admitted to both schools. Next year, alumni families will enroll at the new school to help with continuity.

Both schools will be called Pacific Primary, but new “school names” will help differentiate the two sites. The Board will hold a school-wide contest to name the four new classrooms.

Although much remains to be done, Pacific Primary will soon take a bold step into the future. New opportunities and new challenges await. It’s a very exciting time to be a part of the school community, as we become a second generation of “founders.”

It’s really happening. And I, for one, am delighted that there will soon be one more place where we are all encouraged to learn empathy, kindness, peace, and how to “use our words.” So let the adventure begin!



### ***Happy Birthday, Heidi!***

Heidi Tzortzis, Music & Movement Specialist, is celebrating her 70th birthday on February 24, and more than 20 years at Pacific Primary, in 2008.

In the tradition of Karl Orff, Heidi has brought the joy of music & movement to a generation of Pacific Primary children.

The vibrant music program developed by Heidi will inspire its counterpart at the Second Site and guarantee that music education continues to be a vital part of our Pacific Primary community.

# Pacific Primary: Through New Eyes

By Brian Silveira

Alyssa Chazen-Richards has been working in the Coyote Room for only six months, but already she feels a part of the school community. Although her experience with emergent curriculum at her previous school prepared her to “hit the ground running,” Alyssa has taken the time to appreciate the depth of thoughtful teaching that is practiced every minute at Pacific Primary. The perspective of a new teacher is extremely valuable, especially as we strive to articulate our best practices during the school’s expansion. Alyssa is a testament to how our core values are transferred within a short time of coming to the school. The school communicates its values to new staff not only through formal staff-development training, but also in the many daily interactions a new teacher has with staff, parents, and children.

Alyssa was blown away by the level of commitment she has seen in Belann and the staff. “Everybody here seems like career teachers. They are knowledgeable and reflective.” She attributes this dedication to our respect for the field of child development. She views parent involvement as one of the most remarkable aspects of the school. “Even parents whose children have gone on to elementary school have stayed or come back to work on the Second Site.” And current parents are equally as impressive to her. As Alyssa notes about Coyote parent, Paul Herman, “He’s always here helping out. He takes pictures of the construction on the second site and posts them daily on the internet.”

Although well versed in emergent curriculum, Alyssa has found that Pacific Primary practices the theory on a whole new level. “We have the freedom to let a project go on. Other schools have a one-month limit on the length of a project.” This allows staff, in Alyssa’s view, to “go deeper, extend more, and have flexibility for transitions.” Even the confidence and importance we place on our conversations with children have had an impact on Alyssa. Recently, a class discussion about why there aren’t many female construction workers at the Second Site brought up many misconceptions the children had about manual labor. With Elyse and Belann, the Coyote teachers listened carefully to the children and then responded honestly and appropriately, respectful of the children’s ideas and feelings while challenging

some stereotypical images of gender-specific work. “We would never have had the conversation about women construction workers [at my other jobs],” Alyssa observed.

As a seasoned teacher, going on twelve years at Pacific Primary, I know what it’s like to have grown and thrived in a school that now feels like home. I’m no rookie, but I still have a long way to go before I’ll be an old-timer. I still look to longtime staff, like



*Coyote teachers Brian and Alyssa, with friends.*

Roxie, Heidi, Betty and Elyse for wisdom and guidance. Their historical perspective and deep experience are gifts I cherish. I remember sitting in my first staff meeting and thinking, “Wow, some of these folks have worked here for a long time; this must be a great school.” That thought was an understatement. Alyssa has so much to look forward to: a parent community that truly appreciates its staff for the tremendous amount of work they do, a boss who acts more like a mentor than a supervisor, and the opportunity to reach potentials she may not even know exist. I hope to work with Alyssa for years to come and look forward to witnessing her upward trajectory at this incredible school.

**PACIFIC PRIMARY STAFF**  
2007-2008

*Director*  
Belann Giarretto

*Business Manager*  
Jeanette Gorsira

*Program Facilitator*  
Laura Galvin

*Sunroom Coordinator*  
Daniela Capurro Hubacek

*Afternoon Program*  
Shante Jones, *Afternoon Supervisor*  
Kali Matthews, *Sunroom Coordinator*  
Emily Pinkowitz, *Coyotes & Rainbow Dolphins*

*Expressive Arts Specialist*  
Elyse Jacobs

*Music and Movement Specialist*  
Heidi Tzortzis

*Support Teacher*  
Roxie Jones

*Chef*  
Betty McMillian

*Permanent Substitute Teacher*  
Sarah Watkins

**SANDPIPER STAFF**  
Mahroushka Papazian, *Lead*  
Eric Wilson  
Saeda Fuller

**GRAY WHALE STAFF**  
Emily Wong, *Lead*  
Darby Hillyard  
Samantha Grey  
Neil Aaron, *Afternoon*

**RAINBOW DOLPHIN STAFF**  
Barbara Nelson, *Lead*  
Sean O'Connor  
Toby Branz

**COYOTE STAFF**  
Brian Silveira, *Senior Lead Teacher/ Diversity Coordinator*  
Jocelyn Halili  
Alyssa Chazen-Richards

## How Parents Choose Pacific Primary – It Just “Feels Right”

By Megan Blue Stermer

As parents, we ask ourselves frequently if we are doing what is right for our children. Are we giving them the right foods, the right activities, the right toys? Although the answer may not always be “yes,” we raise our certainty quotient and put our minds relatively at ease when we opt to bring them to Pacific Primary. Not only does it satisfy our intellectual desires for our children to have good teachers, good curriculum, good food, and good values, but it also satisfies something intangible, whether it is during a conversation with Belann, or when we first see our children integrating into an activity.

When talking with Kimberly Cluff about why she originally chose Pacific Primary for her son Kyle (now fifteen), and then again for her daughter Catie-Jo (currently a Gray Whale), she said, “Pacific Primary chose us.” Asked to elaborate, she related, among other things, that when she and Kyle first came to the school to meet with Belann, Kyle wandered into the Art and Music Room, asked Elyse for a pair of scissors, and immediately started cutting paper. Elyse turned to Kimberly and commented that it was if he belongs here. Kimberly wanted continuity between Kyle and Catie-Jo’s educations, and she received physical evidence of it when Catie-Jo first came home from school with a piece of art made with tape and staples and fabric.

I was initially drawn to Pacific Primary because it reflected the values I was raised on: art as a means of expression; a safe, open and nurturing learning environment; and a commitment to social consciousness and diversity. I wanted a preschool where my daughter Grace would not feel like an outsider for having a “non-traditional family.” We live in a diverse city in, what I hope is, an increasingly diverse national community, and yet it is not easy to find schools that embrace and affirm difference.

Ultimately, though, I knew that Pacific Primary chose my family because of the strong emotional reaction I had to it on my first visit—it was the kind of place where I would want to go. And when Grace and I first visited the school, we went out to the playground and she immediately joined a group of older kids in a game that involved climbing the steps of the play structure, sliding down the slide, and then doing it all over again in a continuous loop. Watching Grace

play, Belann turned to me and said, “She’ll have no trouble integrating.”

When Scott Rubin and Stephen Moore (fathers of Stella, Sandpiper) were first seeking a preschool for their son Zeke (class of 2006), they were surprised to find that Pacific Primary was one of the few places “in this progressive city in which we would find our values and family reflected.” Though they wisely applied elsewhere to cover their bets, Pacific Primary was their first choice. It had what they wanted—the values, the focus on social skills development and creative arts, and the basic logistical needs. They also recognized that the school “met each child wherever he or she was, and then helped them develop into socially aware human beings.” Scott related the story that when Zeke was a new Sandpiper, he told his parents that they had to “work it out with words during a particularly frustrating moment with him.” When it was time for their daughter Stella to go to preschool, they knew that “she needed Pacific Primary.” According to Scott, the school is the “Annie Sullivan to her Helen Keller.”



During her search for a preschool for her son Juanito (class of 2006), Kimiko Burton (mother of Mikala, Gray Whale), knew she needed a school that supported working parents, but also wanted a school that opened its doors to families that had the full range of diversities. She found at Pacific Primary

that everybody was welcome and that there were no “types”—it had, in Kimi’s words, “all the good things about a commune.” She was even more committed to the school when Juanito commented to her during a rainstorm that “it must be hard for the homeless,” and, after visiting a trash-strewn neighborhood, “we need to do a street clean up here. [We] are not being kind to the environment.” These are the sorts of things socially and environmentally conscious parents dream of hearing from their children. At Pacific Primary, these dreams are realities.

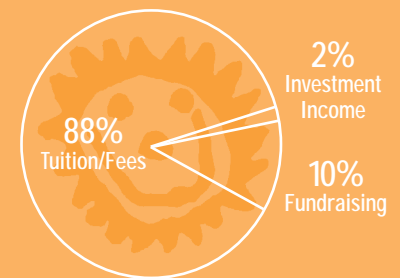
Like so many of us, Daniel Rowan and Stuart Sproule (fathers of Parker, Sandpiper) wanted a school with a reputation for diversity, an emphasis on teaching children to problem solve in a safe and nurturing environment, and a committed staff. Most importantly, they wanted a school that “just felt right.” Pacific Primary impressed them on every level, and, according to Daniel, “overwhelmingly seemed like the optimal environment and community for our family.”

Ultimately, Pacific Primary chooses our kids and then they incorporate themselves into it as if it had always been part of them; as if they are the missing pieces to the puzzle that had finally been found. Just by the very act of entering, each child makes the ever-changing puzzle whole. It’s a symbiotic relationship born of a visceral reaction. Not only does it feel right, it is right. As Saeda Fuller (Sandpiper teacher and mother to Amina, Rainbow Dolphin) puts it, “it’s a program for children. . .to be their own perfection.” Who could ask for more?

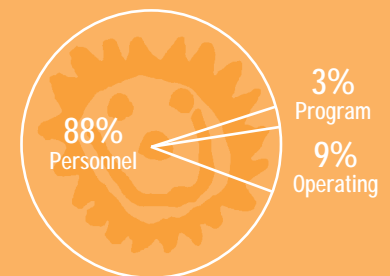
## Financial Highlights

- In fiscal year 2007-08, Pacific Primary anticipates total revenues of \$1,386,511. Tuition and fees account for 88% (or \$1,215,080) of that total.
- The 2007 annual auction raised \$113,000.
- Staff payroll costs comprise 88% of the \$1,371,948 in projected operating expenses for 2007-08.
- In 2007-8, Pacific Primary has 25 staff members.
- The endowment fund now has close to \$1 million. Endowment investment income pays a portion of our tuition assistance fund each year.
- 22% of students receive tuition assistance this year, totalling \$84,361.

### Source of Funds



### Use of Funds



## Alumni Notes

I recently received this letter from an alumni parent, Terri Hupfer. Her son Lucio attended Pacific Primary 12 years ago. I was deeply moved and greatly appreciate Terri's willingness for me to share this with you. —Belann

Dear Belann,

In the 10 years since Lucio attended Pacific Primary, I have often read the newsletters and felt saddened by all the news of the graduates and their amazing accomplishments. This one is in college, that one studies in Paris, the other one is an accomplished musician, many of them attend the best schools. I have struggled with what to say about Lucio's legacy from Pacific Primary, and what it has meant to our family. Finally, as he enters his teens after a very arduous journey through the rigors of special education, I have at last been able to see what it was he took away from that special environment that was Pacific Primary.

Lucio has outstanding social skills. He is kind, gentle, enthusiastic and loved by all who meet him. Some of that is his basic personality, but some of it comes from having spent two years as a preschooler in an environment where he was always celebrated for all that he is (visionary, artistic, funny, empathetic) and never squashed for those things he struggled with. Not only that, he has a resiliency and a basic belief in himself that many children with a learning disability don't have. It has often been remarked upon by teachers over the years that despite his significant learning challenges he has remained positive and hopeful and interested in learning.

So, I want you, the staff, and the board to know that Pacific Primary can provide an amazing foundation for the brightest most privileged children, but it also provides a foundation for ALL children, some who might need it even more in life when they encounter the obstacles ahead of them.

In gratitude,

Terri Hupfer, mother of Lucio, a Grey Whale and Rainbow Dolphin

## Alumni Spotlight: Stefan Lyon *by John Aquino*

Few authors write two books by the age of twelve. Even fewer have raised thousands of dollars to build schools in Africa.

Pacific Primary alumnus Stefan Lyon (class of 2001) has done both.

When Stefan was nine, his third-grade teacher told the class that they could build a one-room schoolhouse in Africa for very little money. Inspired, Stefan and his mom convinced the manager at their local Albertson's to donate free cookie dough to their cause and raised over \$2,000 selling cookies in front of the store.

To raise additional funds, Stefan wrote his first book, *My Adventures with Stitch*. The book was filled with pictures of Stefan and Stitch, his pet rat. Sales of the book financed the construction of a two-room schoolhouse in Kakamega, Western Kenya. The school was completed in 2007 and named "Stefan's Wing."

"In 2007 my mom and grandma went to Africa to see "Stefan's Wing" and said that it was beautiful and the children were very happy going to school there," said Stefan. "Now the children in my schoolhouse use my book to learn how to read English." During their visit to Kenya, Stefan's mother and grandmother noticed other children studying outside on benches, using the trees as protection

from the hot sun. "These children really needed a school too, so that's why I wanted to build a larger school, grades one to eight. My dad said I needed to raise \$39,000 more to build this school so I wrote my second book, *Stitch and Molly Tour San Francisco*."

This book continues the adventures of Stefan and Stitch, and Stitch's daughter, Molly. One of the chapters includes photos of Stitch and Molly visiting Pacific Primary in 2007.

One-hundred percent of the profits from both books will go toward building a new school in Bungoma, Kenya. Construction of the school began in 2007 and on January 14, 2008 students started attending classes in the first two classrooms. The school is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

"Stefan has always been a very sensitive, loving and compassionate boy," said his mother, Denise. "As parents we have tried to nurture these qualities by involving him in community service at a very young age. Since he's been one-and-a-half-years old he has helped pass out lunches, and cookies and blankets to the homeless people in San Francisco. He went on to raise money for various causes by selling cookies from his wagon which was once his baby crib."



*Stefan and Stitch visit the Rainbow Dolphins in February 2007.*

"After September 11, 2001, Stefan wanted to help the orphaned children in New York. He decided they needed cookies and blankets for comfort and in less than two hours he raised one-hundred dollars for these children. In 2002 Stefan raised another one-hundred dollars for children living in poverty. This money went to his school's mission project." In 2006 and 2007, the sales of Stefan's books have funded the cost of building more than four classrooms in Africa.

Stefan's work has been noticed and rewarded by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, Carolyn Tyler at KGO Channel 7 News, the Disney Corporation, Benefit Magazine, and many others.

To purchase Stefan's books, visit [www.stefanlyon.com](http://www.stefanlyon.com) or call (415) 309-4046.