The Pacific Primary Sun

in loving memory of Roxie Jones

WWW.PACIFICPRIMARY.ORG

WINTER 2012-2013

ROXIE A Celebration of Life

By Tara Siegel and Kory O'Rourke

From Tara Siegel:
"When I think of Pacific Primary, I think of Roxie. To me, they are one in the same. When Roxie passed away this past summer, it felt like we lost a member of our family. While my heart feels an incredible loss, it is also filled with a lifetime of wonderful Roxie memories from my days as a child at Pacific Primary 35 years ago, and more recently as a parent and board member. Roxie was such a calm and loving person that it resonated throughout the entire school. She exuded a natural grace with children, and her secret to teaching was rather simple: "Let them play, and let them be themselves." She made every child feel equally important and loved, and to do that for 38 years is just incredible. In a celebration of Roxie's life, and her dedication to children and the Pacific Primary community, we honor her today and always, for leading the way in our community that so many of us have joined and loved.

Roxie Jones was a beloved founder of Pacific Primary, who not only founded the school in 1974, but worked at the school for nearly four decades, both initiating the constant stream of newcomer families to the traditions and philosophy that sustained the school from its' beginning, while also threading together the multiple generations of children (some descended from their own Pacific Primary parents) into an inter-connected web. An entire community was woven into a family by the presence of Roxie - especially her beautiful smile and remarkable spirit and love for the children that she expressed and shared each day. Roxie truly is a part of the heart of every student who has passed through the school's doors.

"Roxie was one of the most influential adults in my life as a young child-her smile, warmth and support have always stayed with me," shared **-Yakira Teitel, Class of '86**

Roxie was born in Alabama in 1934, one of ten siblings, and later moved to California with her husband, Walter Jones. The longtime Potrero Hill residents married in 1959. After Walter Jones started a maintenance business in the city, the couple opened Pacific Primary with a band of like-minded parents who sought to create a homespun preschool, complete with a garden, organic cooking, and a focus on arts and crafts. "We wanted to come up with our own curriculum and not have to answer to the state government," Walter Jones said in a 1995 interview. "It was the 1970s, we wanted to do our own thing, and we were all young and foolish. If we had known how hard we had to work, well, thank goodness we didn't have a clue." As founding members left Pacific Primary, as their children grew up, Roxie continued to work with preschoolers and showed an indefatigable spirit for teaching and nurturing kids. Roxie's daughter Paulette says that her mother forged a network of friends that spanned the city. "I don't know how she did it, but she has been a best friend to a lot of people," Paulette Jones said. "She was a treasure."

" It truly takes an entire community to raise a child, and at 32, my earliest memories of happiness, and community were when I walked through the doors of Pacific Primary. It was the teacher's love, nurturing and caring for me that is engraved in my mind. Over the years, the faces might have changed, however the core of Pacific Primary is the same. I will never forget the infectious smile and unforgettable laugh of Roxie; she had the innate ability to make you feel like you were her favorite. I would always run into her arms, feeling safe and full of love, and Roxie was never just a "teacher"; she was everyone's parent, confidante, and became one of my mother's greatest friends. Together they watched me grow into the woman that I am. These life-long friendships between teacher and parents, and student-to-student are the core of Pacific Primary, and what I want for my daughter, Kennedy. I want her to grow up understanding that she has an entire village of people who are responsible for her, who she is responsible for, and who will always be there to support her. I want her to experience the nurturing and caring I felt when I walked through the red door, and saw the yellow sun." – **Myesha Brown, Class of '85**

Continued on Page 2

Inside This Issue

1. ROXIE A Celebration of Life
2. Board President Message
3. Directors' Message
4. How to Foster Creativity at Home and Beyond Pacific Primary
6. Memories of Roxie
8. The Art of Love: Mentoring and the Expressive Arts
10. Creating a Mural: "ROXIE, ROXIE, ROXIE"
12. Alumni Notes

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2012-2013

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Newsletter Commitee

This Newsletter is written and produced annually by current parents and board members of Pacific Primary, under the guidance of the school's directors. We are deeply grateful to the following parents and staff for their hard work and contribution to the Newsletter:

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Melissa Chadwick Dunn
Amy Cebrian
Elyse Jacobs
Connie Huang
Nadia Jaboneta

A message from the Board President

Hassan Zaidi

There are many words to describe a Pacific Primary child, but one that seems to rise above the rest is "creative." As we look at our rapidly changing world with all its challenges, it becomes abundantly clear that creativity will be a key life skill for success. Our kids are well equipped to handle not only their future academic lives, but also their careers by learning how to be creative thinkers, so early in their formative years.

I have often heard the anecdote about Pacific Primary alumni who can take recycled materials and create beautiful and functional objects from them. I have also heard time and again about how our alumni are creative, not just with materials, but also in solving problems and handling conflict.

We were lucky enough to come in as new parents when the Orange Sun School opened and were amazed at the level of creative output from the children. It seemed natural for them to explore concepts and ideas that would be complex, even for adults, such as designing a wall garden using old shoes as planters, building musical instruments and kaleidoscopes from cardboard rolls, and creating incredible sets for classroom plays. Our son Adam experienced all of these things and we will never look at a used toilet paper roll the same way again!

We have an environment at Pacific Primary that fosters creative thinking through the classroom experience and expressive arts. The children are encouraged to try new approaches to solving problems and learning from each other. It is wonderful that our kids are experiencing the beauty of collaboration, as well as the concept of risk-taking at such a young age.

Belann and Lynn and the rest of the incredible team of teachers are experts at helping each child realize their creative genius. I cannot thank them enough for their dedication and commitment to every child, that is a part of this unique learning experience.

I know that our kids go out into the world retaining the values and skills they learned at Pacific Primary as young children and are more than equipped to make the world a better place. We can all celebrate this enduring legacy!

Thank you,
Hassan Zaidi

ROXIE A Celebration of Life

Continued from Page 1

Pacific Primary was started in 1974 by a group of nine families who faced the closure of the Phoebe Hearst Preschool Learning Center and founded Pacific Primary to serve working families in the Western Addition. The school is anchored to this strong and vital beginning, and we give thanks to the founding families who were so absolutely committed to the families of their school and their community.

The vast and expansive group of families that make up the Pacific Primary community, often describe the incredible gifts that Pacific Primary has given them and their children, as a deep and powerful feeling of "family" that has lasting endurance. "She dedicated her life to children," says her daughter, Paulette Jones. "And when they got older, after college and marriage, they always dropped by the school, because they knew she would be there."

When alumni parents move on to other schools, they can appreciate the academic program and the dedication of the teachers. But they never again feel quite the same feeling that envelops you as you step inside the doors on Grove Street – the feeling of security, the feeling of love, the feeling of family – feelings that originated with the founders, and continued with Roxie's daily dedication for nearly 40 years. Pacific Primary is larger in scope than any of the founders would have thought possible! This Pacific Primary family is grateful to have been able to claim Roxie as our own for so long. We know that no one truly leaves the Pacific Primary family and we acknowledge and honor Roxie as being one the schools most extraordinary cornerstones. She will always be here with us, in the building, in the classrooms, in the kitchen, in the Sunroom, in our stories and memories, and always, always in our hearts.

A message from the Directors

Belann Giarretto and Lynn Turner

Belann Giarretto

Lynn on her horse La Dueña with Coyote Lola petting during the summer bus trips

For the first time in 38 years, we started our school year without Roxie Jones – one of our founders, alum parent and teacher. Roxie was our light - she knew our past and helped ensure that in the future, we would continue to put the needs of the children first. It is still difficult to believe that Roxie is not here to greet the children, teachers and parents every day. We miss her more than we can convey in words.

Every graduate remembered Roxie when they visited the school and she always remembered them. How many preschools have that kind of continuity and presence? Pacific Primary was so fortunate to have Roxie's dedication, love and support.

Roxie loved art projects, from clay to collage, and cooking projects, especially sweet treats. Outside, her favorite spot was the monkey bars. She would say, "Show me what you can do." Children were always eager to show Roxie their latest accomplishment. Roxie also loved to have breakfast with the Sandpipers and made toast with them.

Roxie's smile, and warm encouraging presence was apparent throughout the school. All that knew her, sorely miss her laugh, her clear expectations of behavior and her love of the children.

We appreciate how Roxie could tap into the pulse of Pacific Primary and let us know when areas of the school needed additional support. We remember Roxie often and love seeing her face in the beautiful mural that the Coyotes created under the direction of Coyote Lead Teacher, Nadia Jaboneta, and the other Coyote teachers. There will never be another Roxie and we are so lucky that she was a part of the Pacific Primary community for such a long time.

Warm Wishes,

Belann and Lynn

Pacific Primary Staff

2012-2013

Executive Director,
Orange Sun School Director
Belann Giarretto

Yellow Sun School Director
Lynn Turner

Finance Director
Amie Haiz

Business and Development Manager
Diana Mead

Office and HR Manager
Alexis Ortiz

Yellow Sun School

Sandpipers

Eric Wilson	Lead Teacher
Hanna Alemayehu	Teacher
Tammy Barchas	Teacher

Gray Whales

Mahroushka Papazian	Lead Teacher
Anna Vongvixay	Teacher
Keiko Shimozaki	Teacher
Jane Kolb	Afternoon-Teacher

Rainbow Dolphins

Jamie Solomon	Lead Teacher
Bianca DiPalma	Teacher
Chelsea Hepner	Teacher

Coyotes

Nadia Jaboneta	Lead Teacher
Paulette Zaldivar-Flores	Teacher
Darby Hillyard	Teacher

Specialist: Music and Movement
Melodi Dalton

Specialist: Expressive Arts
Connie Huang

Support Teacher:
Shanté Jones

Sunroom Coordinator
Kate Long

Sunroom Afternoon Teacher
Nancy Anderman

Afternoon Supervisor
Lisa Fox

Chef
Kali Polk-Matthews

Parking Coordinator
Doug Diboll

CREATIVITY: the capacity for original thought, new connections, adaptive reasoning and innovative solutions

Neurologically, we develop our highest capacity for long-term CREATIVE THINKING in early childhood, ages 0-6.

In our current environment, children lose up to 70% of their CREATIVE CAPACITY by the age of 10.

CREATIVITY scores in the U.S. have declined 40% since 1990 and most precipitously for children K-6th.

1500 top-ranked CEO's identified CREATIVITY as THE most important 'LEADERSHIP COMPETENCY" of the future.

Books you can read with your child..

Beautiful Oops by Barney Saltzberg

Crafty Chloe by Kelly DiPucchio

Roxaboxen by Alice McLerran

If Rocks Could Sing by Leslie McGuirk

On My BeachThere Are Many Pebbles by Leo Lionni

Perfect Square by Michael Hall

Ten Birds by Cybele Young

Sky Color, The Dot or Ish by Peter H. Reynolds

Other resources and ideas on supporting play and creativity

Read *Creating Innovators* by Tony Wagner to learn about how parents and teachers can foster innovation in young people.

Watch *Caine's Arcade* video to see how a young boy transforms cardboard boxes into an arcade.
Visit www.cainesarcade.com
Your children will love this too!

Check out the website for the Center for Childhood Creativity (CCC), which is housed at the Discovery Museum.
Visit www.centerforchildhoodcreativity.org

View an amazing video about an extremely poor remote village in Paraguay where children have created classic instruments out of garbage.
Visit www.landfillharmonicmovie.com

How to Foster Creativity at Home and Beyond Pacific Primary

By Laura Foulke

Soleil watches what happens when you mix baking soda with colored vinegar.

Caio and Vanessa see how close they can get to the center of the earth.

Why children need to play and how to foster a creative mind…

- Children need to play in order to help generate a rapidly developing brain. As a parent, it's important to think about how to tap into your child's biological drive to play.
- Play cultivates creativity. Developing creativity in young children requires that they explore and experiment, discover things for themselves, immerse themselves in their play, imagine and fantasize, and connect different ideas and recognize patterns.
- Encourage play that is open-ended, meaning play that does not have an outcome or set of rules, where there are no winners or losers; most children care more about the process than the outcome.
- Provide lots of opportunities for your child to participate in play that is child-directed, instead of adult-directed.
- Allow some "rough-and-tumble" play. Adults are often too quick to step in to stop such play, and in doing so, stop kids from learning on their own and from each other. Read their faces and body language to see if they feel safe/unsafe, before stopping or changing the play.
- Balance children's simultaneous, but opposing needs for supervision and freedom, for order and disorder. Let kids play freely with some level of parental supervision, so they feel safe and protected.

Why parents need to play too…

- Recognize that work and other responsibilities often demand parents set aside play, but when play is denied over the long term, our mood darkens. We lose our sense of optimism and are incapable of feeling sustained pleasure.
- Many studies have demonstrated that adults who continue to play games, who continue to explore and learn throughout life, are not only much less prone to dementia and other neurological problems, but are also less likely to get heart disease and other afflictions.
- Remember your own "play history" – experiences and activities that got you really excited and brought you joy as a child – and look for ways to engage in play that feeds your soul.
- Put yourself in an environment that supports and promotes play. Get out there and make it a priority to stay "play-nourished."
- Realize that in the end, the most significant aspect of play is that it allows us to express our joy and connect most deeply with the best of ourselves, as well as in others. Play is the purest expression of love.
- Read "Play: How It Shapes the Brain, Opens the Imagination and Invigorate the Soul" by Stuart Brown, which provides a more in-depth look into the highlights mentioned above.

The Sandpipers and Gray Whales team up for a boat ride on the high seas (teacher Hanna bids them bon voyage)

Creative dramatic play allows Kayla, Mina and Kira to work cooperatively in their pretend restaurant

What you can do with your kids at home to foster creativity…

- Try to turn your smartphone/cell phone off for increasingly longer periods when you are spending time with you child.
- Plan a little play time before the morning rush starts.
- Let your children help with the cooking; allow them to experiment with different ingredients.
- Avoid giving your child the answers to observed phenomena. See what s/he thinks is happening. Let him/her hypothesize.
- When reading stories, stop and ask "What do you think will happen next?" Allow your child to make predictions or change the endings to stories.
- Encourage Expressive Arts at home, by saving your recycling and allowing your child to repurpose it.
- Have colored masking tape at home. It can be purchased at http://www.dickblick.com, as well as Office Depot.
- Visit SCRAP at 801 Toland Street, SF 94124 to gather interesting objects for your child to use to make new creations.

Places you can visit in the Bay Area with your child…

- SFMOMA: Every Sunday, kids get in FREE from 11am-3pm. Offered three times per year, Free Family Days are a great way to enjoy hands-on art activities, performances and exhibitions, films and book readings. Check out www.sfmoma.org/visit/families
- Exploratorium: The Exploratorium is dedicated to science, art and human perception with explore-for-yourself exhibits. Admission is FREE for all visitors on the first Wednesday of each month. Note: The Exploratorium is moving from the Palace of Fine Arts to Pier 15 on the Embarcadero and will re-open in its new space in April 2013.) For more information, visit www.exploratorium.edu/index.php
- Bay Area Discovery Museum: The museum encourages children ages 6 months to 8 years to develop into curious, creative, adventurous lifelong learners and explorers. The museum offers FREE admission every first Wednesday of the month. For more information, visit www.baykidsmuseum.org

The Gray Whales turn orange cones into mike stands and sing their hearts out

Pacific Primary Staff
2012-2013

Orange Sun School

Penguins
Saeda Fuller — Lead Teacher
Patricia Phillips — Teacher
Dylan Turner — Teacher

Prairie Dogs
Leanne Foley — Lead Teacher
Lisa Koester — Teacher
Aimée Scorza — Teacher
Andrea Henriquez — Afternoon - Teacher

Pandas
Kelly Fox — Lead Teacher
Alyssa Chazen-Richards — Teacher
Kathleen Hernandez — Teacher

Polar Bears
Brian Silveira — Lead Teacher
Daniel Gill — Teacher
Shirin Kelley — Teacher

Specialist: Music and Movement
Kevin Gerzevitz

Specialist: Expressive Arts
Elyse Jacobs

Support Teacher:
Sean O'Connor

Sunroom Coordinator
Sabrina Brewer

Sunroom Afternoon Teacher
Sean O'Connor

Afternoon Supervisor
Rebecca Walsh

Chef
Amy Fernandez

Permanent Full-Time Substitute (OSS/YSS)
Sarah Watkins

I remember Roxie every day.
I have a special memory for Roxie.
-Della

You Are Loved! This is the message that Roxie shared with the children every day.... and I will continue to spread this message to all the children that I teach. She'll be missed, but the love that she shared is forever. XO♡
Kelsey Siegel

Dear Mr Jones-
Blessings to you and your family. Roxie is with us everyday-her legacy and spirit goes on and on.
With deepest sympathy, Christine

Roxie and her granddaughter Kendall

Lovely Roxie- my wish for you is that Kendall lives a happy, healthy and abundant life. I know that you loved her tremendously. Thank you for all the motherhood stories and tips. I miss your laugh and smile!

Amie

Roxie, I love you!
-Ashna 2010-2011

Thank you for your dedication and hard work. Without you Pacific Primary would not exist. You are the reason so many parent's and children's lives have changed for the better.

The Art of Love: Mentoring and the Expressive Arts

By Elyse Jacobs

Adele and Sora snip and measure the green crepe paper for their tall tree.

Large wooden blocks set the stage for Eli and Andrew to engage in cooperative play with a focus on grocery shopping.

KJ at the light table interconnecting bristle blocks.

I began the Expressive Arts program at Pacific Primary over two decades ago, when the school had only one site, the Yellow Sun School. When the school expanded to the site across the street, the Orange Sun School, it presented a dream opportunity for me to have a new space to facilitate expressive arts with the children, and to have plenty of room for supplies and materials. However, it also presented a new challenge – and that was the need to hire another artist to continue leading the program at the Yellow Sun School. After many years of creating and developing the program, I now found myself in a mentoring position. This new role has brought another level of aliveness to the program that began 27 years ago. From its beginnings-using puppets to act out the children's developmental conflicts and allow them to find their own solutions has expanded into what we know as the Expressive Arts Program, now housed in both Pacific Primary sites.

As a mentor, I had to unpack 27 years of learning from and with the children, to get back to both the roots and core of the program. What differentiates the Expressive Arts Program from more traditional art programs is the core concept that children are the initiators of their art making and play. As one child said, they are given an opportunity to "do what they want."

While firm limits exist pertaining to physical and emotional safety, that child was correct in describing the freedom given them. The projects they create and the skills they are mastering are theirs to choose. We are always present and available for consulting, assisting, facilitating conflicts and issues, but our role is not that of the project initiator or manager. We allow them to creatively work out the problems that come up in art making, while facilitating the social and emotional ones. Our confidence in their abilities, capacities and resourcefulness strengthens their own sense of self and trust in their own competence. We support them, encourage them, see through their eyes, observe and reflect.

As a facilitator of the Expressive Arts Program, my role is following the children's lead. Our comments, questions

and eventual scaffolding are offered after deeply witnessing the children at play. We connect to and then build on what they are investigating, exploring, creating, and mastering.

We can observe silently, imitate their modeling with materials, comment on the simple actions we are observing (ie: "I see you're poking holes in the play dough with your finger." vs. "What are you making?") This opens communication and connection, while preserving the children's sacred space.

Our intention is to connect to the child's own play and not alter it with our well-intentioned questions. Through our sensitive and respectful bridge we are often allowed into the inner world of the child. This becomes the foundation for trust and impactful interaction.

Every week I mentor the Yellow Sun School's new Expressive Arts Specialist, Connie Huang, Connie is connecting quickly to the work because of her astute questions, keen intelligence and creative instincts. In reflecting on and answering her inquiries, I am able to dive deeply into core principles and practices of the program

In having to step back and mentor, I am able to appreciate and value the Expressive Arts Program and its impact on the lives of young children and families. It has also taught me to respect the creativity of my younger self who created something that is still very much alive and thriving 27 years later. It has truly been the Art of Love.

Expressive Arts Reflections

By Connie Huang

When I accepted the Expressive Arts Specialist position, one major goal I had was to discover the fantastic ways adults could foster children's creative self-expression, that allowed them to understand their feelings and relationships with others. Initially, I was slightly overwhelmed in knowing where to begin. Thankfully, I had the opportunity to build a mentoring relationship with Elyse through observations and reflections on her best practices.

The method in which Elyse mentors is exactly how she has facilitated the Expressive Arts program for the past 27 years: in a process-oriented, nonjudgmental, and free-flowing manner. Her warm approach allows me to ask many questions that she eagerly engages in, opening up for dialogue, so that she may reflect and learn from our conversations as well.

Welcoming me into her classroom during the first two weeks, Elyse gave me space to observe her engagement with each child. She also allowed me to interact with the children, and even resolve a conflict on the second day between two children surrounding friendship and inclusion. From a reflection piece on the experience, I wrote,

"It was a very special moment because I realized the child used her experience in resolving her issue with another child to create a story [about two animals who did not want to be friends but 'solved the problem and became friends again.'] Her story helped me understand her thought process during the situation, and how effective problem-solving can go very far in giving children self-confidence and effective social skills. It also helped me understand my role as mediator to be fair and respectful in order for them to trust that I could help them resolve issues."

Furthermore, Elyse patiently explained her guidelines. One of the most important first lessons I remember was differentiating between Expressive Arts and other art that children experience. During my first month working, I had to constantly refer back to a chart I created of Elyse's points, with two lists labeled "What Expressive Arts Is" and "What Expressive Arts Isn't".

"In Expressive Arts, the creative impulse is child-driven. What children create can come from their experiences in the classroom, home, and the day-to-day. A common value of all forms of art and teaching at Pacific Primary is that our facilitation is non-judgmental. This includes creating a safe space, for the children to work free of their peers judgement.

Such moments with Elyse were extremely helpful to watch her put into practice the core values of Expressive Arts, and to learn through experience. Gradually, I have discovered my own voice and methods as an effective educator, while staying true to Elyse's and Pacific Primary's vision of the program at the Yellow Sun School.

In looking back at the past five months, I have gained many experiences to work toward my goal, thanks to the amazing mentorship and support from Elyse. Despite the hectic school week, she continues to mentor me at weekly observations and check-ins. My own process has been a great journey of honing skills that support children artistically, while building trust and continuity with how they learn in their classroom. I look forward to continue developing relationships, with not only the children, but also parents and teachers by participating in classroom art projects.

Here is a child's story about two friends, a monkey and butterfly, solving an issue after she resolved an issue with another child in Expressive Arts.

"The monkey got in a fight with a butterfly. Then they figured out the problem and the monkey got the banana. The butterfly wanted the banana, then they didn't like each other. The monkey said, "Maybe, Butterfly, you can eat the petals and water from the ground instead of eating the banana." And they are friends again."

Nina intently studies these white carnations, which "magically" turned the colors of the dye, in which each flower was placed.

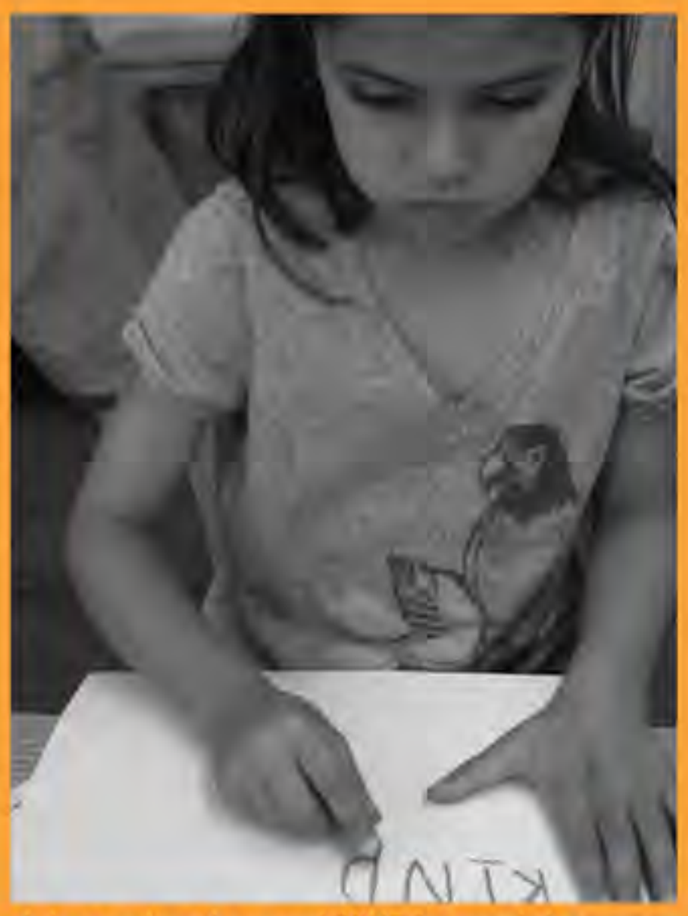
Kalin takes full advantage of these spectacular leaves, which we found in the neighborhood. After cutting them, she used the leaf pieces to create intricate designs.

Auden and Kingston build their hospital with just the right blocks to make it stable and sturdy.

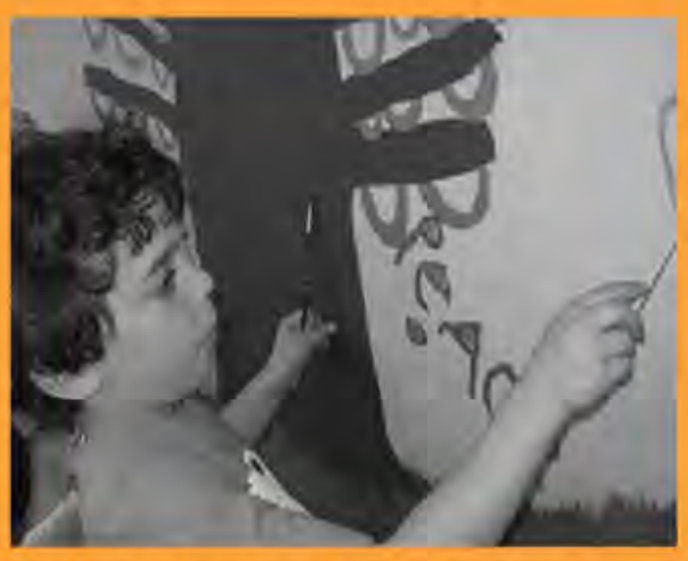
"ROXIE, ROXIE, ROXIE"

A mural created by the Coyote Kids, 2012 - Mural title by Declan Chabra
By Nadia Jaboneta

Hanna works on the mural.



Ashna writes the word "KIND", a word that reminds her of Roxie.



Declan paints a peace heart on the mural.

Coyotes work on ideas for the mural.

When our beloved Roxie Jones passed away, a wave of emotions swept over the Coyote classroom. Belann, Lynn and Elyse planned a special Circle, and we talked about Roxie's death in an age-appropriate way. The children listened respectfully, asked questions and shared stories of family members or pets they have lost.

Coyotes start painting the mural.

We created an altar for Roxie, including photos and flowers and provided creative outlets for the children to express their feelings and questions, such as drawing, painting and dictating their words. As the days passed, we continued our conversations about losing Roxie, and shared ideas about how to keep her memory alive in our school. Zuri suggested planting flowers in the garden. Declan replied "But sometimes people don't take care of the garden and we'll be too sad if the flowers die." Millie shared the idea of having a big party and sharing funny stories. "We could have popcorn, cotton candy and we could make vanilla ice cream, just like Roxie made for us." Jake replied, "We should make a big piece of art and hang it in the school, so that everyone can always see it and think of Roxie." Ashna said, "as big as our Charlotte's Web mural!" The Coyotes decided that they would create a mural dedicated to Roxie and spent three weeks working on it.

We began by creating sketches and writing down the children's ideas. Wyatt suggested, "We should have an airplane pulling a banner that says "Roxie, Roxie, Roxie." Micaela shared her idea of making the mural look like a garden. The children liked her idea and drew a scene of flowers, a tree, grass, butterflies, a sun, a rainbow, clouds and a bright blue sky. Nadia cut out all the drawings and glued them on a big piece of cardboard to make a model of what the mural would look like.
Our next step was to invite the community to help us. Our artist friend,

Continued on Page 11

Walter and Paulette Jones unveil the mural at the celebration of Roxie's life.

Continued from Page 10

Veronica Orozco, drew the design of the mural on a big wooden panel and taught the children painting techniques. Using many bright paint colors, the Coyotes made the drawing come alive. As they painted in small groups, the Coyotes shared memories of Roxie and talked about how happy Roxie would be if she could see their painting. They discussed that it was okay to have different ideas about whether Roxie was watching from above, where she was and whether she could see the mural. With the support of Belann, Lynn and many Pacific Primary parents, especially Tara Siegal and Rene Garcia, the children's idea of the mural became a reality. It was installed on a wall in our yard and unveiled at our Celebration of Life, July 29, 2012, dedicated to the amazing Roxie Jones.

Coyotes mural design.

Jake said, "Now everyone who sees our mural will know how much we love Roxie and remember her forever."

We closed the street and listened to a New Orleans Jazz Band.

Room Parents and Special Events Parents

Yellow Sun School

Coyotes
Room Parents:
Lisa Coris and Katrina Rhoads
Special Events Parents:
Nicole Warner and Steven Scheer

Rainbow Dolphins
Room Parents:
Michelle Horneff-Cohen and Sarah Hale
Special Events Parents:
Heather Nelson Brame and Anjali Sharma

Gray Whales
Room Parents:
Darlene Ruiz and Liza Gleason
Special Events Parents:
Nancy Norris and Sangita Forth

Sandpipers
Room Parents:
Haddis Alemayehu and Amanda Elliston
Special Events Parent:
Monica Lopez

Orange Sun School

Polar Bears
Room Parents:
Claudia Guimareaes and Monique Kobinger
Special Events Parents:
Siu Wong and Heidi Hess

Pandas
Room Parents:
Lisa Eiger and Catherina Kim
Special Events Parents:
Jennifer Casari and Elizabeth Falk

Prairie Dogs
Room Parents:
Krystal Green and Beth Flynn
Special Events Parents:
Sara Leeder and Elena Matsis

Penguins
Room Parents:
Cameron Laughlin and Laurie Browne
Special Events Parents:
Nicole Trautsch and Marria Rhodriquez Cooper

Honoring Roxie Jones

We have created two funds to honor Roxie's 38 years at Pacific Primary.

1. A College Fund for Kendall Wickliff, Roxie's granddaughter, 2 years old.

   To contribute:
   * make check payable to Schwab 529 Plan
   * in memo add account number 717271635-01
   * mail to: Schwab 529 Plan P.O.Box 2906 Shawnee Mission, KS 66201-2906

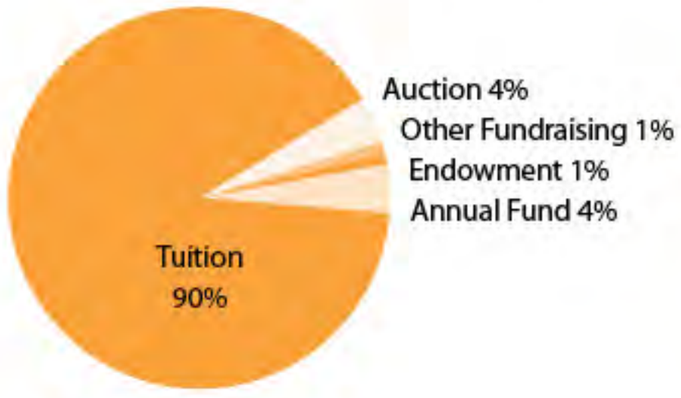
2. The Roxie Jones Memorial Tuition Assistance Fund for a deserving Pacific Primary family.

   Send checks to Pacific Primary and add Roxie Jones TA Fund in memo.

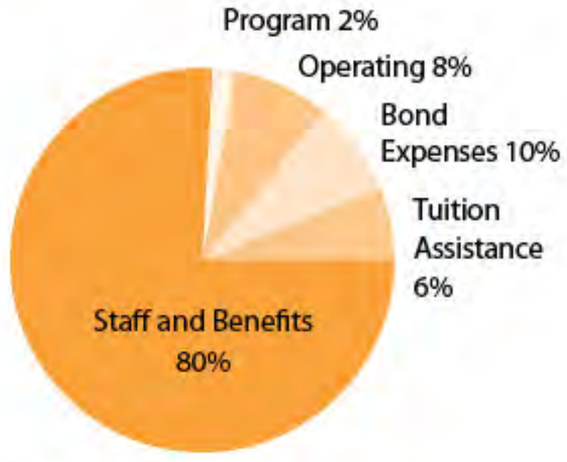
Thank you!

" I am so happy to support having Roxie's legacy remembered, by continuing to ensure that Pacific Primary is home to a diverse and thriving community of small people." Yakira Teitel

School Income (2012/2013)



2012/2013 Income



2012/2013 Expenses

Alumni Notes

By Melissa Chadwick Dunn and Tara Siegel

Asante Munson (2000) is now a Gateway Charter High School junior. Asante has become an accomplished artist, and thanks to his uncle, obtained permission to work on some temporary art pieces on several buildings in San Francisco. He credits his interest in art to his preschool years at Pacific Primary: the school was "very open and hands-on," explains Asante, giving him the confidence and experience to take risks with his creations.

Recently, Asante used a drawing of "scribbles" that he created while at Pacific Primary as inspiration for a high school art project. Asante is likely to attend college on a basketball scholarship, and intends to study science or law, rather than a formal arts program. However, he plans to maintain his interest in creating art - whether drawing for friends or continuing to work on a bigger scale.

With fond memories of Roxie Jones and his pre-school teachers, Asante keeps Pacific Primary very much in mind. In fact, Asante worked as a Summer Assistant last summer in the Gray Whale classroom. Last November, Asante returned to Pacific Primary for a week to help in the kitchen alongside Chef Kali. He explained, "I like to cook, but have never cooked in such big quantities before." Even for those who left long ago, Pacific Primary continues to offer useful skills and continuing inspiration.

Yakira Teitel ('87) is currently living in Oakland and finishing her second year of medical school at UCSF. She is in the PRIME-US program, which is a specialized track for medical students committed to working with urban underserved communities. One of the things she most loved about Pacific Primary was that she was taught to embrace and explore the urban environment around her. She has since cultivated that love for cities and the diverse communities within them throughout her life. Every time she passes by Pacific Primary, she remembers all of her teachers fondly; Roxie, in particular, holds a special place in her heart. "Her example of how to be a nurturing and caring adult guided me through years of work as a teacher and counselor. Now, as a future doctor, I hope to treat patients with the same warmth and kindness that Roxie showed us every day at Pacific Primary," says Yakira.

Ezra Berman ('85), is the co-owner of a new restaurant, The Corner Store at Masonic and Geary. Ezra graduated from UCLA with a MBA and has been in the hospitality business for years. He attended Roxie's funeral and, after hearing of Roxies love of crab cakes, told alum parent Paula Fracchia that he wanted to create a crab cake in Roxie's name for the menu. Paula called him later that day and asked if he would unveil the crab cakes at a benefit for the Roxie Jones Memorial Tuition Assistance Fund. Ezra loved the idea and last January, we had the first Crab Cake Benefit for Roxie's Fund at the Corner Store.

There was a sell-out crowd of alums from the 1970's -80's who had a wonderful time remembering Roxie, enjoying delicious food, including the famed crab cakes, and they raised $10,000 for the fund. Roxie's family attended - Walter, her husband, daughter, Paulette and son-in-law, Donald Wickliff, but the star of the night was Kendall, her granddaughter! We greatly appreciate Ezra's generous and thoughtful donation!

Philip Rosenberg - Larry Rosenberg, a Pacific Primary alumni parent, shared that his son, Philip has recently been in New York rehearsing for the "Pippin" revival. Philip is a circus performer and has been traveling the world for the last five years. The Tony Award winning director Diane Paulus is doing a revival of Pippin and Philip was cast as one of the acrobats- an opportunity he could not pass up. He is 26 now, and his parents are very happy to have him back on this continent.

Basil Twist, age 43, was one of the first students at Pacific Primary. His parents, Bill and Lynn Twist, were co-founders of the school, along with Roxie and Walter Jones and seven other families. Since childhood, Basil has worked with puppets and this interest led him to a fascinating career in modern puppetry. He creates iconic, visionary puppetry worlds with a remarkable range of style and scope, appearing in intimate nightclubs to large orchestra halls. Basil has been involved in a number of different theater productions ranging from a puppet opera to many works integrating puppetry with live music. He also has collaborated with many film and theater directors to integrate puppetry into films, such as the third Harry Potter film and the national tour of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. Currently, Basil is the director of The Dream Music Puppetry Program at HERE Arts Center. He also is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and is a United States Artists Fellow.

As we prepare for our 40th Anniversary in 2014, we are updating our Alumni database. If you have new contact info or have reconnected with a former Pacific Primary friend, please let us know at info@pacificprimary.org