

November/December  
2008

# TCS Times

*The Children's School/ 208-343-6840  
Nicole Shadduck--editor*

## From the Director

By Cindy Finch

We've had a great start to the 2008-2009 school year. Great things are happening for children in classrooms (Group life! Rocks! Bugs! Families! Helicopters! Animals!). We've already had great P-TCS fundraising and community building events. We've had a great annual board meeting where we were able to welcome six new board members. And, finally, we've already experienced great professional development opportunities for teachers. That's a lot of greatness!

TCS is very connected to the world outside our walls—both in the challenging and in the exciting times we are experiencing in our country. We know that many of our families are impacted by events that have occurred during 2008. We take very seriously the confidence you show in us as your child's school. I hope it is evident through all our interactions with you that our real focus, day-to-day, is solidly built on our 28 year history, our philosophical foundation that points us into the future, and our commitment to do our best for young children and their families today. We are very glad you and your children are here.

I have just spent a week at our national conference (NAEYC) in Dallas Texas with Nicole Shadduck and Mark Zimmermann. The Children's School made a significant investment in sending the three of us to this annual gathering, as it does most years for one or several faculty/staff members. Look for comments from Mark and Nicole in this issue—and read on for some of my thoughts.

What is the value of an out-of-town conference? For me, it is the opportunity to learn and reflect on information and ideas, new and old. Some of my greatest points of clarity about my work with children, families, teachers, and board members have come about during travel that includes university coursework or conferences.

One session in particular extended my understanding of a familiar concept. A small part of a four hour session focused on socioconstructivism. My ears perked up because constructivism is a process that we talk about often at TCS. Constructivism refers to building meaning and knowledge through interactions with an environment or elements in an environment. Constructivism is central to what happens in our classrooms everyday—in

block areas, at easels, on the playyard, with the ramps and pathways materials, and the dramatic play scenarios that occur throughout the school in various ways every day. Each interaction with those materials provides opportunities for children to understand something—themselves, others, relationships, information, ideas—more deeply. It is a valuable process in the kind of education The Children’s School values for young children.

What is added to constructivism by starting the word with “socio” is this— dialogues with peers. Specifically this conference session centered on the work of the school administrator with other adults, and it got me to thinking about my work at TCS. Certainly I reflected on my work with teachers and how we spend 3 ½ hours a month in staff meetings talking about the details of working in this school community, sharing our experiences and ideas with colleagues, and enriching our effectiveness by learning together. I also reflected on my own experience as an adult learner.

In addition, I also spent some time considering the other adults in our school community—parents. I thought about the way that the parent-toddler program is structured to include reading and facilitated parent (peer) discussion. I also considered the line-up of parent education events that we will be offering this year. We begin our parent education opportunities right away with an evening of conflict resolution, move into a book discussion group, a series on siblings in the spring months, and more. Stay tuned as information continues to become available about these opportunities to gather new information and new perspective.

During this busy time of year (yes, you’ll find some holiday related reading in this issue too) my wish for you is much the same as my wish for children in our classrooms: meaningful engagement, relationships, and activities. In addition, for the adults in our community, I add these wishes: that you take time to reflect on the quality of the engagements, relationships, and activities that this time of year brings. Children and families benefit when parents take the time to think, read, talk, and reflect on all the activity involved in being a family. At TCS, we hope to provide a setting for your family where this can happen.

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*“The thing that strikes me most positively about the conference is how it sparks a rejuvenated spirit for learning in me, no matter how long I teach.”*

*-Mark Zimmermann, reflecting on the NAEYC Annual Conference, Dallas, TX*

## Thanks to...

Jenny W. (M., 3-4-5s) for the beautiful design work on the Fall Carnival invitations and poster.

Susan S. (J., 4-5-6s) for the donation of office supplies and furniture.

Sarah W. (I., Primes and J., All Days) for the donation of the computer.

Amy S. (L., Primes and S., 2-3s) for the design work on the P-TCS stationary and the capital campaign materials.

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Jane L. (K., 3-4s) for the successful and very fun Fall Carnival. The school received a check for \$3221.78 to use for teacher continuing education!

Heidi B. (Z., 3-4-5s) and Kacy B. (L., 4-5-6s) and all the cooks: the conference day meal was delicious and very much enjoyed by teachers.

Amy S. and Julie M. (D., Primes and B., 4-5-6s) and all the hard working parent volunteers who came to our Fall Work Day: we got so much done and we really appreciate all the work that went into our school facility projects.

## Faculty Biographies: Consultant Teachers

### **Shelley McCarl-Art Consultant Teacher**

Shelley began teaching at The Children's School in 2000. She and her husband Bob, who teaches cultural anthropology at BSU, and their two children, have lived in Boise for 20 years. Shelley received her BFA at the University of South Carolina, and previously worked in graphic design and packaging design. She also teaches art to children and adults through the Boise City Parks & Recreation Community Center. In addition to teaching art, Shelley paints in pastel and oil, and her work has been included in a number of national and international shows and publications. Currently, she has two paintings in the Pastel Society of the Northern Rockies Annual Show in Idaho Falls, and she recently returned from New York City, where her work was displayed in the annual Pastel Society of America show.

### **Lilia Byrd—Spanish Consulting Teacher**

Lilia was born in Texas and raised in Nampa. She has a BA in Spanish and has had the pleasure of teaching in Boise for over 25 years, and at TCS since 2002. She believes that learning languages is important for all of us, especially our children. Learning a second language helps us appreciate and respect our cultural differences. Being bilingual or multilingual allows us to expand our social awareness and prepares us for working and living with people from diverse backgrounds. Her focus has been to help students develop conversational Spanish skills much the same way as most of them have learned their first language. Usually when learning a language we learn to speak it, before we learn to read and write it. We'll spend a lot of time using the language and having fun learning about different cultures that use Spanish as their first language. She is excited to have the opportunity to teach your children and meet you.

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*"I am struck by many thoughts and feelings about my time at this year's NAEYC conference. Attending this conference as a 'first timer' to both Texas and a conference participant was exciting and a bit overwhelming at times. What I walk away with from this experience, don't ever stop trying new things, learn from others as well as yourself, but don't forget to have a little fun along the way."*

*-Nicole Shaddock,  
reflecting on the  
NAEYC Annual  
Conference, Dallas, TX*

**Jodeen Revere—Creative Movement Consulting Teacher**

Jodeen Revere has been teaching yoga and creative movement at TCS since 2002. Her daughter is a TCS alum. Jodeen has also been involved at TCS as an assistant teacher in the Young 3s, 3-4s, Primes and All Days. She has been a yoga practitioner for 12 years and a teacher for 7. She has studied with teachers such as Shiva Rea, Rodney Yee, Micheline Berry and Sean Corne. Her primary teacher and biggest inspiration is Max Strom. She is also a Thai Massage Therapist and teaches adult yoga classes at The Muse Building. She is an actress as well, who does commercials, voice over, industrial films and theater. She has worked with Boise Contemporary Theater, Open Door Productions and Idaho Theater for Youth. She teaches story theater classes for The Idaho Shakespeare Festival Education Program. Jodeen loves her daughter, her cats, watching movies, reading, traveling, dancing and eating chocolate.

**Will Martin—Music Consulting Teacher**

Will has been singing and teaching most of his life and has shared his talents with TCS since 2003. He earned a B.A. in Vocal Performance at the University of California at Santa Cruz and earned a Master's degree in Music Education from the University of Oregon. He has taught in public schools in Oregon and Washington, mostly as an Elementary General Music teacher. Will was a conductor with the Oregon Children's Choir for 12 years. Over the years, Will has greatly enjoyed collaborating with many teachers on a wide variety of musical and theater projects and performances, and has done many classroom visits and presentations and school assemblies as well. Will has also taught music workshops for Head Start teachers and their students. Will and his wife, Susan have two grown children, and three small grandchildren. Susan and Will served in the Peace Corps in 1995-1996, helping train English teachers in the Philippines. Will loves baseball, hiking, traveling, and swimming. You can often find him at work in his yard, and especially in his vegetable garden. Will is working with the teachers at The Children's School, and greatly appreciates the opportunity to teach, learn from, and share Music with your children.

## Student Teacher Biographies

**Jennifer Scharff – BSU Student Teacher**

Jennifer is currently a student at Boise State University. She is finishing her last year in the Early Childhood/Special Education program. Jennifer has a Bachelors of Science degree in Health Science Studies with a minor in drug addiction studies. She has just completed her teaching experience with birth to three year olds at Early Head Start and is excited to start to work with preschoolers. Jennifer has lived all over the United States and settled in Boise 13 years ago.

**Victoria Beyder – BSU Student Teacher**

Victoria received her first Bachelor's of Science in Psychology from Brooklyn College, in Brooklyn, NY. She has volunteered at Head Start, worked at Boise State University Children's Center, and interned at Early Head Start. Victoria is currently finishing her second Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood with an endorsement in Special Education. She was born in Ukraine but has spent half her life in New York City. She is happily married and lives in Boise.



Victoria (left)  
Jennifer (right)

## Capital Campaign Update

By Alison Tate

After thoughtful and thorough planning, TCS is embarking on a capital campaign to give the school a model environment to match our model teaching program. The capital campaign co-chairs are: John and Amanda C., John and April G., Clint and Alison T. and Henry and Sarah W. We are working behind the scenes (with a wonderful steering committee) at this point, but soon there will be opportunities to help this effort.

We now have beautiful campaign materials to assist us with this goal, created by Brian L., Richard R., Janet P., Bonnie N. and Amy S.. Special thanks to Amy as she wasn't originally even on the committee, but jumped in to help and created a fantastic design.

It is vitally important that we have the support of each and every current TCS family. In the next couple of months, we'll be contacting families individually to go over materials and discuss the campaign. You can help by returning our phone calls and making some time in your busy schedules to talk to us. We are all busy, too, but this goal is important enough to us that we are going to take the time to meet with as many of you as we possibly can on an individual basis. We look forward to these exciting discussions!

## Meet our new Bookkeeper—Bobby Jardine

Bobby joined the TCS staff in September as bookkeeper. He has a BA in Business with an emphasis in Finance from Cal State in San Bernadino, as well as AA degrees in Firefighting and Paramedics. For the past 12 years he has owned his own bookkeeping and tax business, Foothills Bookkeeping and Taxes. Additionally, he has been a Firefighter and Paramedic in Nampa for the past 10 years. Bobby is married to Stacey and they have two boys. He enjoys living and working in the North End.



## What are you most thankful for?

By The 4-5s

Jennifer, our student teacher, read the book The Most Thankful Thing and asked the children reflect on their own lives. Here is what they said:

L.: My family.

T.: Food, mommy and daddy.

M.: My mom and dad, brother and sister.

O.: All the people.

M.: My dog.

S.: Whole world healthy.

M.: Presents!

L.: My mom.

G.: Aunt Joy, because she visits on the holidays and brings trucks.

J.: My family.

M.: Mom and dad.

K.: My dad and friends.

C. W.: Mom, dad, and cousins.

C. S. and C. were absent on the day of this discussion.

Photo removed to protect children's privacy

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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*We are a community partner with Albertsons!*

*By using your preferred card we benefit by receiving a quarterly check. To register TCS as your partner:*

*1. Go to [www.albertsons.com](http://www.albertsons.com)*

*2. Enter your zip code (this may not be asked for)*

*3. Click on In The Community*

*4. Click on Community Partners*

*5. Click on Shoppers login*

*6. Enter your preferred card number and phone number*

*7. Enter Children's School as your partner*

**YOU'RE DONE!**

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.tcsboise.org](http://www.tcsboise.org)

## The Feast

By Andrea Laird

The Holiday Season has arrived! TCS celebrates Thanksgiving with a series of feasts. The day before Thanksgiving we have our traditional "Feast". We serve roasted turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, etc. The 2-3s celebrate in their own way in their classroom. The 3-4-5s and All Days have their Feast in the All Day room with the 3-4s attending for dessert and singing. The 4-5s, 4-5-6s and Primes gather in the Primes room for their Feast. We have traditional songs that we sing (you've probably heard some of them at home). Cindy goes to each class on the days before the Feast and sings these special songs with the children. Each class prepares part of the meal to share with the other classes. A fresh turkey is bought on Monday so that children can see it before we cook it: potatoes are peeled, pies baked and stuffing made by children. This is one of the few times that staff and children gather as a group. It often remains as one of the best memories of TCS for children. Ask your child to sing, "I heard Mr. Turkey Say". It's a classic (at least at TCS)!

## Important Dates

\*Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Annual School Food Drive begins benefiting The Idaho Foodbank. Donations taken until noon Dec.10th

\*Wednesday-Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 4-5s Lunch Program ends

\*Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 3-4-5s Lunch Program ends

\*Wednesday-Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, P-TCS Annual Bake Sale

\*Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2-3s Classroom Holiday Party Families Invited

\*Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, Classroom Holiday Parties Families Invited

3-4s (class meets 9:00-10:00)

3-4-5s (class meets 8:45-10:00)

4-5s, 4-5-6s (classes meet 10:30-12:00)

All Days/Primes

**EARLY RELEASE – SCHOOL CLOSED AT NOON**

\*Monday-Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, WINTER HOLIDAY, Only All Days & Prearranged Childcare Open

\*Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>-Thursday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, WINTER HOLIDAY, SCHOOL CLOSED

\*Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, WINTER HOLIDAY, Only All Days & Prearranged Childcare Open

\*Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, All Classes Resume