

Alumni News

for Alumni, Parents and Friends of Welsh Hills School



Volume 4, Issue 2
Spring 2008

Reflections From the 2008 Alumni Reception & Facebook



On May 23 (just before Willy Wonka) ten WHS students, teachers and parent alums met in the school library, joining Gina and present teachers for the yearly Alum Reception. A highlight, for those of us who moved into the new schoolhouse in 1994, was to greet Helen Roose (and her father, Bob).

Helen is graduating from Grandview High School this year and heading to a northern Ohio college and a nursing career. After eating a wonderful variety of food, we toured the building as Helen reminisced and recalled her musical days with Jeff Saviors, which influenced her involvement in high school choir. Helen decided to try to find her old WHS classmates by first going to the school's website, (welsh-hills.org) and then to Facebook, she says she found everyone.

Our thanks also go to Megan and Ben Slayter (Bancroft House students and "children" of teacher Bev Slayter to whom we attribute the yearly Nature's Classroom tradition and many other spirited memories and activities) for establishing our Facebook site. Ben wrote that the group now has seventeen members and is growing. "Fans of



Bev Slayter when she taught at WHS



Ben and Erin Slayter

social network Facebook will find a group for Welsh Hills School that they can join. Use it to reconnect and network with other alumni, to post news, or for just having fun. Search for "Friends of Welsh Hills School" on Facebook to join, or send Ben or Megan a message for an invite or to request admission status." Ben

currently lives in Williamston, MI with his wife, Erin, and a terrier named Rudy. He has been the director of Marketing at SGA Production Staging for almost 12 years, where he does his "best to try to make our clients' projects look good." He also does some freelance web design, print design and photography. Megan writes, "Facebook has become a great way to connect with long lost friends and keeping in touch with current ones. Most high schools and universities have alumni pages, or groups. I think that fellow alumni would agree with me that Welsh Hills is a very special place and one that I, at least, would love to stay connected to. I am currently an Assistant Professor of Dance at Western Michigan University where I teach lighting design, dance management, history and modern dance technique. I am also the technical coordinator and lighting designer for all our departmental concerts. I love teaching! It is so rewarding to see these talented young men and women grow and change in their 4 years with us. Maybe I have a little of my mom in me after all. I have recently become engaged. Jeremy and I will continue to live in Kalamazoo, MI."



Megan and fiancée Jeremy



Our 2008 Graduates

Stephen Stein (9 years), Nate McFall Craft (8 years), Sharon Cross (teacher), Jared Brewer (2 years), Spencer Ruess (7 years), and Alisha Hastilow (recipient of the Reeb Award for 11 years)



Alumni Updates

Christos (Chris) A. Fouras graduated from Licking Heights HS. He is finishing his B.A. in Political Science and History at Wright State University. His many interests include art, aviation, history, politics and horticulture. Chris writes, “WHS allowed me to ‘feel’ the world and my education as opposed to solely ‘seeing’ it merely from the pages of books. The ability to be in a tactile learning environment led me to follow a more responsive and hands-on career choices.”

Deven Cruikshank has completed his sophomore year at Granville High School and is involved in football, Tech Club and Latin Club. He sums up his HS experiences with a smile saying, “It’s fun. I am the same old Deven (despite a beard and football).”

Melanie Cross is attending COTC here in Newark in social work. She has worked in the Stay & Play program after school this year with children of all ages.

We can thank Mark Stein (father of Stephen and Andrew, and the school’s Board President for an unprecedented number of years) for transforming and maintaining the school website. Mark has added so many things like photo albums and the alumni pages.

Alum, Carrie Forgacs Snyder Touches Base

It has been wonderful to be back in touch with Carrie Forgacs Snyder (a student in the Bancroft House from 1986-1992) and to share some of what she has written with all of you.

“I am so impressed with the new school, and, WOW, having the space to stretch into must be great. I love keeping up with the happenings at Welsh Hills, and reading about the plays that are still going on. I was in three and even played the lead in a few of them—loving every minute of my time on stage and at the school. I only wish there was a school like Welsh Hills here in Idaho for my children, but I doubt that any other school could be as unique in so many ways.

I continued my education at Lakewood High School and Licking County Joint Vocational School before receiving my BAS in Early Childhood Development, with a minor in Special Education and Psychology, at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho. I am now a teacher at the Lewiston Head Start Program and continuing to take college courses in preparation to transfer to a masters program at Oregon State.

I am married and a mom of two, Rebecca is 11 and Jason is 7. Both are musical but Jason is the actor, like his mom. Brad and I are very proud of them both, and we love living in Lewiston, a town along the Snake River. Brother Chris and my parents all live in Marshall, Michigan and are doing well.

I will always cherish my time at WHS because of the friends I made and the teachers who supported me and taught me the most amazing things about history and science. I hope to visit the new school one day when I am back for a visit.”



Carrie and her children, Rebecca 11 and Jason 7

Love to all and take care,
Carrie Snyder, AKA Carrie Forgacs

Please let us know more about you - where you are in your life and what you are doing. We love notes and articles that tell us about how Welsh Hills (and the people here) impacted your life and what you have taken with you. We know classmates like to hear about friends and what they’re doing. Log on to www.welsh-hills.org and look at our alumni section where you can share information and catch up with what others are doing. We would like to re-connect all of you as well.

We want to keep in touch!