Lamplighter Celebrates Museum Partnership
Cover story starts on page 8.
Calendar of Events

First Day of School
August 21, 2013

Labor Day, School Holiday
September 2, 2013

Carnival
October 4, 2013

Columbus Day, School Holiday
October 14, 2013

Parent Conferences
October 24-25, 2013

Halloween Parade and Picnic
October 31, 2013

Thanksgiving Vacation
November 25-29, 2013

All School Program
December 20, 2013
*School is dismissed following the program for Winter Break

Winter Break
December 23 – January 6, 2014

Classes Resume
January 7, 2014

Note: All dates are subject to change. Please log on to www.thelamplighterschool.org to view the most updated school calendar.
Science Night event held after-hours at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science as result of the School’s partnership.

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Dear Members of the Lamplighter Community,

This school year has been memorable in many ways. The relationship between teachers and students in the construction of learning gives meaning to this enterprise called “school.” Over the course of this year I watched the interactions: students working collaboratively, building new knowledge, exploring, communicating, creating, and perhaps most importantly, developing self-confidence in newly acquired skills. From the youngest student in Early Childhood to our Senior class, boys and girls enter North or South Carpool ready for the day.

From those first days of school last August, Lamplighter students reached out globally through community service and within classroom studies. Social media and technology have created new linkages across the globe, and our students are connecting with their contemporaries in distant places. The seniors connect across the globe by participating in World Math Day. The social studies curriculum actively involves students in learning about life in Madagascar, Italy, Mexico, France, India, China, and a host of other countries. Classroom visits by special guests sharing artifacts, information, and pictures fuel their curiosity to learn more. Community service projects like Souls4Soles brought Lamplighter students in touch with others by collecting new and gently worn shoes. Everyone was part of the effort!

The partnership that Lamplighter has with the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is by all measures the gold standard for cultural institution/school collaborations. The National Association of Independent Schools has urged its member schools to team with cultural institutions and universities to create new opportunities for students. We are so fortunate. The entire community has benefitted from this endeavor. Lamplighter joined with the Dallas community in celebrating the opening of the fantastic new museum. Our students attended science nights and field trips, while parents listened as the Dolores Evans Speaker Series guest, Bill Nye, the Science Guy challenged us to care for the environment – all at the Museum.

On other fronts, the Strategic Plan is being implemented, and the visit by the Reaccreditation Team has been completed. The strategic plan is on the Lamplighter website. Phase 1 of the academic plan is being put into motion with newly formatted classroom observations and a focused look at each area of the curriculum. The faculty reports positive results from the new spelling program. In my fall missive in September, an update of the status of the entire plan will be communicated. The Lamplighter reaccreditation occurred in early April. As soon as those results are available, I will let everyone know.

Your continued support of Lamplighter and our students is deeply appreciated. Parents, grandparents, alums, faculty, staff, and friends have given, generously. Your gifts to the Annual Fund; attendance at the Auction and Parent Perks; purchases of books at Media Center Open House and the school store; attendance at fun events like Carnival, Halloween, and International Night – in fact – your presence at all things Lamplighter makes all the difference.

Over the summer we will complete the branding study and investigate ways to refresh the website. The portable science classroom will be placed on campus and stocked with materials for the start of school. Students will have the opportunity to participate in Camp Lamplighter and Fun Camp, and both programs promise to be great!

Have a wonderful summer!

Joan Buchanan Hill, Ed. D.
Head of School
In 1980, 50 LOGO-loaded TI computers were installed at Lamplighter and it became the main center for LOGO teaching and instruction in the nation. Lamplighter has been associated with innovation in myriad forms since its birth. J. Erik Jonsson, a former Mayor of Dallas, was one of the founders of Texas Instruments. He was also one of the founding fathers of Lamplighter.

In the mid 1970s, Texas Instruments and the MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab, under the direction of Seymour Papert, developed a project using TI hardware and the LOGO computer programming language. The goal of one branch of this project was to develop a curriculum that could use TI computers to teach elementary age children computer programming. This first-of-its-kind innovation was piloted at Lamplighter. In 1980, 50 LOGO-loaded TI computers were installed at Lamplighter and it became the main center for LOGO teaching and instruction in the nation.

Sometimes great ideas are developed with lots of money and brainpower. Sometimes they are as simple as an egg. There are very few schools that teach third and fourth graders true entrepreneurship as the Lamplighter Layers program does for our kids. To find children this young organizing and running a functional business is breathtaking. The faculty advisors do an amazing job of letting the kids make their decisions, correct and incorrect, with confidence and independence.

Underpinning a great first-of-its-kind technology initiative like LOGO, or an amazing entrepreneurial venture like Layers, is Lamplighter’s real enduring strength: its innovative spirit.

The building that your children go to school in every day is a piece of living, breathing innovation. Designed by O’Neill Ford and expanded by Frank Welch, it is a space whose primary directive becomes imminently clear at first glance: the education of young minds housed in small bodies. To remain truly innovative requires constant self-scrutiny and a steadfast refusal to rest on past accomplishments. Dr. Hill and her great faculty and staff are the most important key cog in Lamplighter remaining truly innovative.

Our recent partnership with the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is one with great potential. The Perot is an amazing facility, one that, to our great fortune, is headed by Lamplighter alum and parent Nicole Small. Joan and Nicole worked early on to forge a meaningful partnership that has endless possibilities for Lamplighter. The museum has an education liaison who works with the Lamplighter science faculty to develop new and exciting programs for our science students at all grade levels.

Our Dolores Evans Speaker Series has now become a great forum for bringing in global thought leaders for the whole city to enjoy. In the past year, Carol Dweck, Tom Kelley, Wendy Mogel, and Bill Nye have all shared their cutting-edge wisdom at Lamplighter.

The future brings many further opportunities with other civic institutions, whether it is the Dallas Arboretum or a public or charter school. The right kind of outreach can make our own school better and bring in new ideas, as well as help those in need.

Our most recent strategic plan, completed in 2012 under the great leadership of Board Vice-Chair Catherine Rose, has been a vital exercise in self-reflection for Lamplighter. We always say we want to be cutting-edge and innovative. A strong strategic plan is a great report card for making sure that our actions are in line with our words. The fruits of the strategic plan will be unrolled over the coming months and years, and there will be many opportunities for the Lamplighter community to get involved. Up first is a branding exercise that will help Lamplighter more clearly define itself within its own school community and to Dallas at large.

With technology in every classroom, what does the elementary science room of the future look like? What does the math or environmental science room look like? We have begun the long process of trying to figure some of this out so that our wonderful campus and grounds will always be ready for the next great idea. We look forward to sharing new ideas and initiatives as Joan and her team keep Lamplighter squarely pointed toward the future.

Best regards,

Alex Nila K. Sharma
Board Chair

OnBoard
Senior Tribute

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Avery Antes
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Dulany Bloom
Evan Brown
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Josh Chabria
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Klyde Warren
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Nathan Weisoly
Lydia Williams
Jack Yarbrough

Lamplighter Class of 2013
Lamplighter, in partnership with the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, welcomed Bill Nye as the second speaker of the School’s 2012 - 2013 Dolores Evans Speaker Series on January 30. This was an exclusive opportunity for more than 300 members of the community to hear the famed TV host and noted “Science Guy.”

Mr. Nye, host of the long-running “Bill Nye the Science Guy” TV series, appeared after guests explored the new home of the Museum, which opened on December 1. The enthusiastic Mr. Nye used humor to make science and technology entertaining and accessible. The winner of 18 Emmy awards for his TV series, Nye has also written five books, including his most recent work, *Bill Nye the Science Guy Considers the Big Blue Ocean.*

According to Head of School Joan Hill, “We could not have anticipated a more appropriate presentation when considering Lamplighter’s mission.” Bill Nye’s lecture, based on “the joy of discovering - we have the drive to know more,” mirrors the School’s mission to actively engage children in the joy of learning, teaching them to be tomorrow’s problem solvers, and laying the foundation for lifelong learning.

Dr. Hill then described how Mr. Nye enjoyed touring the Museum prior to his performance. “He was blown away with the Museum and had a great time; he especially loved the full-body flight simulator that lets you fly around as a bird avatar in the Rose Hall of Birds exhibit.” She then added with a smile, “The spirit of Lamplighter was alive and well at the Perot Museum tonight!”

Nye was introduced by Perot CEO Nicole Small who described the relationship with Lamplighter as a “wonderful example of collaboration.” She said they were thrilled to have Nye visit and explore the Museum. “We hope that his visit inspired many minds!” Earlier the Science Guy was welcomed by the Museum’s Vice President of Programs, Steve Hinkley, who believes Nye’s passion for science education has inspired countless young innovators. “He pioneered the idea that being a ‘science nerd’ is cool and reminds us all that science is always around us, an inextricable part of our daily lives, and that exploration always yields discovery and adventure,” Hinkley said.

While patrons were familiar with Nye because of his TV program for kids, many didn’t realize that his love of science ran so deep. Nye is the executive director of The Planetary Society whose mission is to “create a better future by exploring other worlds and understanding our own.” This was the theme of Nye’s lecture as he addressed the hundreds of “Lamplighters” in attendance. Nye spoke about his father’s fascination with sundials, his mother’s interest in math, and how they ultimately led him to a career studying science.

Many in attendance were impressed by Nye’s presentation including Lamplighter teacher Ana Casanova, who thought it “was incredible to hear such an inspiring man talk about his passion for education and science literacy.” Casanova called the Science Guy the “ultimate lifetime learner, which is what Lamplighter is all about!” She said he “certainly left his mark on me” as she grew up watching him on TV and, as a teacher of young children, she still finds him “fascinating and so entertaining.”
Moon Struck

In January Lamplighter Science teacher Bill Burton and Heather Wood, the School’s Perot Museum of Nature and Science liaison, invited families to the School for an informal evening of stargazing as part of the third grade unit on space. They looked at the moon, Jupiter, and the solar system, plus infinity and beyond! The Three Rivers Foundation for Arts and Sciences set up its mobile astronomy lab with two high-powered telescopes. The group was thrilled to explore some of our neighbors in the sky.
The Lamplighter School, in partnership with the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, held a joint Science Night at the Museum’s new home in downtown Dallas. More than 100 second through fourth grade families participated in hands-on exhibits and activities. “Our many exhibits allowed intimate parent-child exploration all over the building,” said Heather Wood, Lamplighter’s liaison with the Museum. Through the school year, the pair has hosted three Science Nights for Lamplighter families.

Lamplighter and the Museum formed a partnership last year and have been collaborating on lesson plans, integrating curriculum, and implementing professional development programs for Lamplighter teachers, in addition to planning events such as Family Science Nights. “Science Night showcased science education for our young learners in a unique way,” commented Lamplighter Head of School Joan Hill. “Our partnership is instrumental to the success of these events. The remarkable activities at the Museum give students an opportunity to construct new knowledge. Plus, having Heather Wood, a dedicated educator from the Museum, on-site at the school to work with faculty allows us to infuse science into the classroom experience in an authentic way,” she added.

As a result of the partnership, the event was held after hours and the Lamplighter group had special access to the popular new Museum. The configuration of the event encouraged parent-student interaction. According to Assistant Head for Academics Vicki Raney, the event was designed to be a night “where parents could experiment with activities together with their children.”

In November, Lamplighter and the Museum held a joint Science Night for pre-K families at the School. More than 120 pre-K families participated in hands-on experiences focused on STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. “The 14 activities allowed intimate parent-child exploration at stations that teachers facilitated,” said Wood. “We also included paleo stations, which were led by Hannah Moots, lead paleontologist educator with the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

“Our family had a great time together at Science Night,” said parent Denise Marshall. “My son Jack was very excited to try Mrs. McCullough’s car ramp, because he could see how far an object will move if you change the height of the ramp.” McCullough concurred; “Anytime you’ve got fast racing cars the children are going to love it!”

“What is Science?” was the theme of the first family Science Night of the school year, in September. With 18 stations set up in the school auditorium and gymnasium, parents and their children were able to discover and explore together. The activities took from 3-5 minutes to complete and encompassed most of the core concepts in the School’s science curriculum.

Lamplighter’s kindergarten and first grade family Science Night was designed so that parents and their students could experience an engaging evening exploring the various exhibits and hands-on activities together. According to Raney, the event was designed “so families could experiment with STEM activities.

All of the stations were designed to be student/parent-centered, “allowing families to explore the core concepts we experience in everyday life,” explained Raney. Although the children were excited to participate in the event, there was an added incentive, as every child was “thrilled to receive a certificate of completion as they left,” she added.
“I was so excited thinking our third graders were not only talking to scientists in Switzerland, but they were also talking about the Higgs-Boson particle!” exclaimed Lamplighter Assistant Head of Academics Vicki Raney. “Through this incredible experience, our students were able to learn firsthand about science exploration.”

Lamplighter parent and SMU physics assistant professor Dr. Pavel Nadolsky arranged for the students to participate in the videoconference with CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) which was instrumental in discovering the Higgs-Boson particle made public last summer. Nadolsky’s formula was used in helping to solve the mystery of this particle. According to Discover, Science, Nature, and Time magazines, this was the most important science story of 2012. SMU physicists, including Nadolsky, played the leading role in the observation of Higgs-Boson in their primary decay channel.

CERN is one of the world’s leading centers for scientific research. Its business is fundamental physics finding out what the universe is made of and how it works. The largest and most complex scientific instruments are used to study the basic constituents of matter - the fundamental particles. By studying what happens when these particles collide, physicists learn about the laws of nature.

“I wanted to convey that science exploration is fun and exciting, that astronomy explores the frontiers of outer space, and that particle physics explores the frontiers of inner space” said Steve Goldfarb, Outreach and Education and Collaborative Tool Coordinator with the ATLAS Experiment, who represented CERN on the videoconference. He described how using high-energy colliders and high-precision detectors “allows one to see the smallest possible objects, and thus also to look back in time.”

Along with Lamplighter science teacher Bill Burton, Nadolsky was instrumental in arranging the third-grader’s virtual visit to the ATLAS control room. He told them that they witnessed amazing technology for streaming high-quality video across the ocean “that was impractical even ten years ago.” Burton also helped prepare the students for the skype. The class reviewed the concept of matter, molecules, atoms, protons, neutrons, and electrons, as well as Nadolsky’s work on learning about particles that are even smaller than those (Higgs-Boson). He explained how CERN studies those tiny particles which also “help us understand the universe better.” Then Nadolsky explained about the showers of particles that are produced in each collision that can occasionally reveal “a new fundamental force or a particle like Higgs-Boson.” He described how CERN has done 4 quadrillion total collisions but it took 500 trillion collisions before they found the Higgs-Boson particle.

According to Goldfarb, the experience was “amazing and fun” for the CERN people. He was fascinated how attentive the kids were and by their questions and answers and said that “their enthusiasm was contagious.” He encouraged them to write him about their impressions.

“We were so fortunate to have Dr. Nadolsky, father of a Lamplighter third-grader, help the kids understand the significant contributions he and SMU made regarding the discovery of the Higgs-Boson,” remarked Head of School Dr. Joan Hill. “This discovery was a milestone seen maybe once in a lifetime for these researchers – after nearly 50 years of study.”
International Night is “World Class”

Tenth annual event celebrates global customs and cultures

Following tradition at the pre-K through grade four School, Scottish bagpiper Don Shannon greeted Lamplighter families and friends as he led a parade of students through campus. Shannon and the children kicked off the School’s “world class” trip around the globe for the Lamplighter Parents’ Association’s 10th annual International Night event. Students “toured the world,” sampled food, participated in craft projects, and enjoyed live entertainment. After picking up a passport, travelers young and old made their way through nearly 20 “countries,” studying maps and photos, creating artwork, sampling exotic foods, and learning a few words of a new language.

While parents greeted one another, took photographs of their kids, and toured exhibits of the countries, the students enjoyed having their passports stamped at the “Tour the World.” Then they rushed to the craft tables to learn the Japanese art of origami from a member of the Japan-America Society and received temporary tattoos of their favorite countries from parent volunteers.

The Parents’ Association Chair of the event, Erika Burkhardt, thought the 10th anniversary night was a success. “It’s no wonder International Night is one of our most-loved Lamplighter events. It showcases the diversity and generosity of our community, with 23 families taking the time and energy to host country tables from around the world,” Burkhardt said she was proud to welcome performances by local entertainers representing global cultures who “love to come back every year to share their unique talents with our students.”

Master of ceremonies and parent of a fourth grader, AJ Chabria, introduced Head of School Dr. Joan Hill and announced the lineup of entertainers. The crowd of more than 400 enjoyed spirited performances ranging from African drummers, the Ayubu Kamau Kings and Queens, to guitarist David Quintana and flamenco dancers Isabel Quintana and Mercedes Padron. Other performances included Scottish and Chinese dance troupes.

“What a wonderful family event,” Dr. Hill remarked. She explained that there was much anticipation for this year’s program. “The children have so much fun, they’re learning without even realizing it!” She described Lamplighter as a school that “is respectful of cultural differences and seeks broader understanding of the world. That’s what International Night is all about,” she said.

Parent Karen Lobdell said her kids thought this International Night “was the best one ever!” She believes that experiences such as this “add to their lives” and that the value cannot be measured. She continued by saying, “To learn, at such a young age, to not only embrace other cultures but also to celebrate their differences is an amazing gift to give a child. It thrills me to see our kids also learning about the world outside Lamplighter.”

At the end of the evening, students left with stamped passports featuring countries from India to Italy, multiple tattoos on their arms, smiles on their faces, and according to Dr. Hill, “a new appreciation for the many cultures both within their school community as well as those around the world.”
Hundreds Celebrate 43rd Annual Carnival

The annual Lamplighter Carnival came to town in October. This year’s event, the western-themed “Roundup Carnival,” was a fun-filled affair that many in the Lamplighter community attended. Carnival-goers stepped right up and tested their skills on the midway with games such as Tip-a-Jug and Lasso Longhorn. They had their faces painted or tattooed with fun designs and Roundup Carnival logos, and munched on culinary carnival treats including mouth-watering Mooyah hamburgers and yummy Slurpees from 7-Eleven. It culminated with the traditional Senior Jacket Ceremony. As in previous years, fourth grader Seniors at Lamplighter were awarded red and black letter jackets that they proudly wear – regardless of temperatures.

Laughter and thrills abounded as families enjoyed the petting zoo, students danced to the DJ’s favorite tunes and hula-hooped, and volunteers used face paint to transform children into farm animals and superheroes. According to new Lamplighter parent Denise Stewart, “As a new family, we appreciate all the work that goes into Carnival to make it such a fun day for our daughter and the other children. Knowing one day our four-year-old will receive her Senior jacket at Carnival makes this tradition all the more special to us,” she added.

“Seeing the interaction between faculty, staff, students, and parents, it was clear that the importance of family is recognized and celebrated by our extraordinary school,” said Dr. Joan Hill, Lamplighter Head of School. “The atmosphere didn’t just feel like a school carnival – it had the warmth of a long-awaited family reunion. It is truly a wonderful memory that children and their families will keep for a lifetime.”

The event is a “great way to meet other Lamplighter families, and is, of course, a blast for kids,” Carnival Chair Jackie Katz described. As a Lamplighter alum, she considers the Carnival to be a special event to the Lamplighter community. “It’s something that I remember looking forward to every year as a child, and now I get the pleasure of seeing that excitement on my own children’s faces and those of every child who attends the Carnival,” Katz added.
Explorer Lyda Hill Shares Adventures With Students

“As real lifelong learner” shares photos and stories of animals from around the world

As part of an evolving relationship, well-known Dallas humanitarian Lyda Hill visited with Lamplighter students five times this school year, including a day in February. Because the School teaches children to be “tomorrow’s problem solvers, laying the foundation for lifelong learning,” Head of School Dr. Joan Hill saw a real opportunity in having students learn from “someone as dynamic, generous, and accomplished as Lyda Hill, a true lifelong learner!” One of Dallas’ most prominent philanthropists, Hill’s foundation supports enhancing the understanding of nature and science which is exemplified by her support of Lamplighter partner, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

In an effort to further the relationship with Lamplighter, Hill visited third graders. The students had previously met with Hill in her downtown office to observe her “amazing” mineral collection explained third grade teacher Jody Stout. On this particular visit, Hill shared photos and stories describing her personal experiences with animals of the world. Having forged many adventures across the globe, Hill modeled for Lamplighter students “the kind of rewards earned by this life long learner,” remarked Stout.

Students challenged Hill to produce pictures of polar bears in Canada, a koala in Australia, and a brown – not black and white – panda in China. Stout described how Hill was not only able to satisfy their curiosity, but in showing pictures of her face-to-face encounters with the natural world, she was able to “inspire our students to consider their role as caretakers of the planet.”

Later that day, Hill also spent time with Lamplighter fourth graders, impressing them with her advanced technology. “Lyda Hill enthralled the students with fascinating pictures from places she’s visited around the world,” explained teacher Marty Melton. Hill shared a huge collection of pictures, some from as far back as the 1960s and many current, using the latest digital technology.

“The students enjoyed colorful pictures of exotic animals, beautiful scenery, native people, cultural traditions, and famous landmarks,” Melton added. When asked about their favorites, the fourth grade children said observing a giant turtle from the Galapagos that has since become extinct, the tectonic plates dividing in Iceland, the sunset in South Africa, and, of course, the brown and white panda in China, topped the list. Forever “lifelong learners, they also asked when they would see Ms. Hill again!”

Starting From Scratch

Lamplighter alum Sarah Lochridge ’11 is learning computer programming from “Scratch.” Sarah, now a sixth grader at Good Shepherd, is learning a programming method called Scratch that was started by students at MIT. “I created this game for one of the activities at school that needed to be educational, so I made it for my little brother Collin,” she explained. Then she showed it to Lamplighter second grade teacher Ana Casanova, for her after-school “Scratch Camp.”

Casanova believes the “best part about Scratch is that there are no mistakes.” Students and teachers learn that there is more than one way to communicate with digital characters (called Sprites). “All they need is a laptop, their imagination, and of course, some inspiration,” she added.

Students can use this software to create interactive stories, games, and animated art/music. According to Casanova, Scratch is “a student-friendly software platform used by teachers and children all over the globe to create interactive artwork, animated stories, and video games to be played by other users.” In her experience, students “really enjoy” using these “building blocks (similar to Legos) to problem-solve, explore and collaborate.”

As part of her class, Lochridge was assigned to create an educational program, so she decided to put her learning to work and help her brother learn the letters of the alphabet. “Sarah designed a program that teaches our youngest children the ABCs,” said Casanova.

Trained in Scratch programming, Casanova works with students during Lamplighter’s after-school program, called Night Light, to teach them the fundamentals. In March, Lochridge returned to her alma mater to “share her knowledge along with a few pointers with the enthusiastic Lamplighter students,” explained Casanova.

“It was such a treat to have Sarah Lochridge, an older student that my ‘Scratchers’ can look up to,” smiled Casanova. She said Lochridge was helpful and inspiring in front of the group and told her, “You could definitely teach a Scratch class yourself!” Casanova also said that she plans to include Lochridge’s program in her presentation to colleagues Casanova is giving this June in Galveston at a national Scratch conference.
**New York Times Best-Selling Author Brings Down the Schoolhouse**

Parenting expert Wendy Mogel uses humor to explain her 13-step “Overparenting Anonymous” program

“We treat our kids as royalty...our parents barely knew what grade we were in,” quipped Wendy Mogel, the popular speaker who lectures widely at conferences and schools across the country. In November Lamplighter welcomed Dr. Wendy Mogel as the first speaker of its 2012 – 13 Dolores Evans Speaker Series. This event was an exclusive opportunity for more than 400 members of the community to hear a dynamic speaker and parenting expert. Dr. Mogel, an internationally acclaimed clinical psychologist, is the author of the New York Times bestselling parenting books, *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee,* and *The Blessing of a B Minus.*

Mogel’s presentation offered information useful for parents to meet the day-to-day challenge of raising self-reliant children. It centered on her 13-step Overparenting Anonymous program for those who feel “powerless over overindulgence, overprotection, overscheduling, and expectations of perfection.” A few of the steps include: “Resist taking the role of sherpa, butler, crabby concierge, talent agent, a crack team of defense attorneys, an ATM, or the secret police. Your child is hard-wired for competence.” And maybe most important, “Give your kids time to play...lest they sue you for stealing their childhoods.” To illustrate further, Mogel cited the example of the parents of a pre-kindergartner, both physicians, who asked their son’s teacher if he was on the pre-med track, and she replied after a pause, “Kyle peed his pants today.”

Lamplighter parent Monica Purdy said she enjoyed Mogel’s humor and words of wisdom. “I really enjoyed the 13-step program as it relates to raising children. It was reminiscent of all the things my mother says when she comes to visit me and watches me interact with my children.” Purdy said the bigger point was to actually implement the program into your daily interaction with your children. “It was comforting to know that if you institute the 13-step program, your children will still turn out just fine!” she smiled.

While most of Mogel’s Overparenting Anonymous program focused on overindulgence, overprotection, and perfection, overscheduling was also examined. Lamplighter drama teacher Jeff Peck said he appreciated that Mogel addressed the issue. “I worry that kids are loaded up with so many extracurricular activities that their academics and home lives suffer,” he said. He believes one or two high school activities, preferably at different times of the year, “can easily show a prospective college admissions director that your child has diverse interests and a wide range of skills.” But for elementary and middle school, he says “let the kids be kids and let them try one thing at a time. If they like something, they will stick with it. If they don’t, let them try something else. And above all, don’t force them into an activity for your own [the parent’s] interest.” Sometimes it’s the parent who needs to slow down. Mogel quoted a young daughter, who, upon learning her high-strung father just returned home, said soothingly, “Daddy, daddy, sit down. Lie back.”
In March, Sarah Weeks, author of more than 50 picture books and novels for children and young adults, visited Lamplighter as a guest of the Dooley Author Series hosted by the Media Center. She is best known for writing *So B. It*, which won the Rebecca Caudill Young Reader’s Book Award and the William Allen White Children’s Book Award.

Between telling stories, reading her book, and answering the students’ questions, she discussed the best thing about being an author: “I get to spend all day doing what I like best – writing. From the time I was a little girl, the two things I enjoyed most were playing music and writing,” she said.

Weeks claims she became an author by accident. While attempting to sell original songs to Disney and Sesame Street, someone told the aspiring songwriter that her songs would make good picture books. So she did just that and has not stopped writing books since. She later said that describing how she writes is “not an easy thing to do” because she claims she is not ever sure where the ideas come from.

For the older students, he discusses children’s picture books but also integrates “some of the middle-grade illustration work that I do, such as *Percy Jackson, the Flint Heart*. I tell them when they write, they should use the starter ‘What if.’ Such as, What if your teacher was an alien?” According to Vermillion, third graders liked what Mr. Rocco said about not giving up and improving drawings more than once. “Mr. Rocco was so positive and humble,” remarked a student.

Midday, Rocco enjoyed lunch with Vermillion, Head of School Joan Hill, and the School’s dozen language teachers. Marilyn Halpin and her daughter, Elizabeth McLamb, created the Dooley Fund in memory of Elizabeth’s father in 1996, and it is used to support the author series. “Mr. Rocco’s visit was inspiring not only to the children, but also to all of us,” Dr. Hill remarked.
Putting Lamplighter on the Map

In November, Lamplighter hosted a meeting with Rubicon, the Oregon-based education technology services firm known for its leadership in the field of curriculum management for schools. Vicki Raney, Lamplighter’s Assistant Head for Academics, persuaded the group to meet at Lamplighter despite other plans. “We were thrilled to welcome the group from Rubicon,” she explained. “They think we’re exceptional,” she smiled. Rubicon partners with public and private schools throughout the world to plan and implement web-based curriculum mapping using Atlas, the curriculum management program they developed. Along with representatives of Rubicon, attendees included teachers and administrators from Dallas Area members of the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS). Because the event was held at the School, more Lamplighter faculty than usual attended the meeting held in the School’s Klyde Warren Auditorium.

Rubicon’s Atlas curriculum-mapping system is designed for administration, teachers, and parents to view the School’s curriculum on any subject taught at Lamplighter. “They provide templates for schools to document written curriculum [online] as a way to document what we teach,” explained Raney. “Parents can see what is happening in classrooms and learn what the learning goals are for next year. Above all, Rubicon provides what’s expected of students such as ‘tell time to the minute,’” she continued. “And it is all easily accessible for parents on the School’s Web portal.”

While there are real benefits for parents, the system creates an opportunity for teachers to consider how curriculum mapping can offer “new options for evaluating the spiraling of skills and discovering areas for cross-curricular connections,” according to Lamplighter third grade teacher Jody Stout. New options will allow teachers to utilize Atlas “to help improve communication between teaching teams and grade levels.”

Atlas operates worldwide, and subscribers can use it to view other participating schools’ curriculum maps online. In March, Lamplighter music teacher Claude White received a request from a music teacher in Shanghai who was new to the process. “He wanted help getting started,” so White let him know that while mapping takes time, “outlining the broadest standards and concepts is the way to begin. Fill in the details later,” he explained.

Lamplighter science teacher Linda Cauley was notified that one of her units was given “exemplary” site status. Rubicon Atlas listed her Decomposition Unit as such and Cauley “felt honored.” Exemplary units represent well-written curriculum units for all teachers to view for best practices and new ideas.

Lamplighter Celebrates Black History Month

As part of the School’s plans to recognize the achievements of African-Americans during Black History Month, Lamplighter invited Craig Watkins, Dallas district attorney, to speak to its second through fourth grade students. The School strives to be a “genuinely inclusive community” remarked Head of School Joan Hill. Having Mr. Watkins speak to the students was one of several special programs and activities underway on the North Dallas campus this month.

Other activities at the School focusing on black history included a presentation where second graders were introduced to influential African-Americans such as jazz musicians, inventors, and astronauts. Parents Kim Henley, Monica Purdy, Vivian Williams, and Candace Martin shared information about Louis Armstrong, Guy Bluford, Wynton Marsalis, Dizzy Gillespie, and Madame C.J. Walker, among others. After a 30 minute talk primarily about the D.A’s office, Mr. Watkins opened the floor to the students for questions including what is the worst part of his job? “Handing down the ultimate sentence,” he explained. “I have to make the determination of whether to give the death penalty.”

Lamplighter parent Candace Martin, along with Lamplighter teacher Lakeshia Peters, helped plan and implement many of the special Black History Month programs and events. “Lamplighter is such an inclusive school, where ethnicities, cultures, and religions of the student body are celebrated all year long,” explained Martin. She described a faculty and staff “that are supportive of what we parents had planned to teach the students” during Black History Month. “The children were so excited and eager to learn about this aspect of American history,” She said that for the students, learning about “Black astronauts, the history of jazz, and learning who invented the Super Soaker were the highlights.”

Through the month, students were encouraged by faculty to observe posters and read books currently being displayed through the School as well as in the Media Center where several titles on notable African Americans were spotlighted.
In February, the Lamplighter Parents’ Association successfully transported the school community back to the 1930s to raise money for the School. With the theme of 1930s Hollywood, proceeds from the “Lights, Camera, Auction!” gala will help provide a permanent home for the School which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

The gala celebrated the glamour of the old Hollywood heyday. Everything, from the elegant Union Station venue to the red carpet and paparazzi, transported more than 400 Lamplighters to the days of Bette Davis and Clark Gable. Auction guests, some dressed in white dinner jackets and top hats, silk evening gowns and white gloves, were greeted by Christie’s New York auctioneer Adrien Meyer, who had just stepped off a jet from France. The partygoers were also treated with fine cuisine from Wolfgang Puck and entertained by the sounds of popular local dance band Emerald City.

The School’s annual Auction is not only a fundraiser, but also serves as a community-building event for Lamplighter families and friends. “The gala was fantastic!” said Head of School Dr. Joan Hill. She described it as “yet another example of how Lamplighter embodies the definition of community - one of thoughtful parents, inquisitive children, and a dedicated faculty and staff.”

Live auction items included vacation trips to India, the Galapagos Islands, and others. Some of the highest bidding was not for trips or Rolex watches however, but for an in-school sleepover party and “Head of School for the Day.” The top bidder’s child will experience a day in the life of the School’s leader, greeting students at carpool, visiting classes, and even placing family photos on the Head’s desk.

Headed by Lamplighter parents Laura Lear and Maura Bradshaw, the Auction committee consisted of “an impressive list of volunteers,” according to Lamplighter Parents’ Association President Stephanie Bassman.

After the bidding closed, the guests, many dressed in feathers and furs, danced the night away to the live music. They cherished the last minutes of their trip back to 1930s Hollywood before waking up the next morning with their newfound treasures and memories in 2013 Dallas.
Dear Lamplighter Families:

It has been a busy and productive year for the Lamplighter Parents’ Association! The LPA kicked off the summer by welcoming our new families to Lamplighter. The new family coordinators, Meg Graves, Shonn Brown, and Ashley Leake, personally welcomed each family with personal phone calls and emails.

Our spirit store co-chairs, Molly Sealy and Karen Reid, worked over the summer to make sure our children were dressed in the coolest Lamplighter attire. The first big LPA event of the school year was our Lamplighter ROUNDDUP carnival in October. Our carnival co-chairs, Jackie Katz and Lindi Light, worked many hours with their committee so that a fantastic time could be had by all at this traditional-favorite child event. The Media Center Open House event provided more than 700 new books to our library. Jen Lochridge and Allegra Feito chaired this important December event that dedicated books to our wonderful faculty and staff.

February kicked off the parent event of the school year, “Lights Camera Auction,” chaired by Laura Lear and Maura Bradshaw. Laura and Maura worked endless hours with their committee to raise more than $300,000 for our land fund! We wrapped our year of LPA events with International Night in March. Our children were able to travel the world at this 10th annual event, chaired by Erika Burkhardt.

In addition to these fabulous events, there are several other areas the LPA is responsible for at Lamplighter.

A special thanks to these parents:
- Friday Lunch co-chairs Karen Lobdell and Jen Ratan, for ordering and serving delicious lunches to our happy children every Friday.
- Community Outreach chairs Gretchen Pollom, Dana Garner, and Nancy Buss, for helping our children brighten the days of others in our world.
- Cultural Awareness chairs Laura Godkin and Karen Butler, for organizing enriching classroom activities such as Lunar New Year and Cinco de Mayo.
- Faculty and Staff Appreciation chairs Robyn Neuhoff, Aimee Whittaker, and Cathy Cohen, for coordinating monthly snacks, breakfasts at conferences, and special holiday and year-end appreciation events for our incredible Lamplighter faculty and staff.
- Communications chair Heather Balestri, for helping us stay up to date with LPA events in the weekly eNews and eReminders.
- Dad’s Coordinator Keller Reid, for Donuts with Dads and Popsicles with Pops.
- Volunteer Co-Chairs Debbie Wiggans and Carmen Yung, working year-round to line up parents to staff the numerous volunteer opportunities at Lamplighter.
- All of our Grade Level Coordinators (Sharon Pfaff, Traci Owen, Catie Enrico, Kim Henderson, Liz Boyce, Danielle Sealy, Monica Eastin, Monica Purdy, Natalie Oudt, Denise Stewart, and Amy Zicarelli) who emailed our parents every Sunday with weekly reminders. They also organized Moms’ Nights Out, playdates at the park, and parent parties for their grades.

The following volunteers helped keep the LPA running smoothly all year. Their work is invaluable to the LPA:
- Treasurers: Amy Mitts and Kristen Phillips
- Secretary: Kathy Fielder
- President Elect: Courtney Plumlee
- President Advisor: Kelly Chabria

Please join me in applauding the efforts and contributions made by this dynamic group of volunteers. Last but certainly not least, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Kelli Chabria and Courtney Plumlee for their support and guidance. This has been an amazing year, and I will cherish this memory for the rest of my life. I know that next year’s LPA under Courtney’s leadership will carry on the spirit of giving, caring, and sharing while helping make Lamplighter one of the finest schools in the world!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Bassman

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Year in Review from the Parents’ Association President

Board Members of the 2012-2013 Lamplighter Parents’ Association
At a luncheon held at The Lamplighter School on February 22, Nicole Small, CEO of the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, described how the museum “is like a grown up Lamplighter. It is a place that inspires curiosity, creativity, a love of lifelong learning, and just plain fun!” Small, a 1983 Lamplighter graduate, was honored as the recipient of the 2012-2013 Lamplighter Spirit Award at an event hosted by the Alumni Association. The annual award was established in 2003 during the School’s 50th anniversary. According to Kyle Ford ’74, president of the Lamplighter Alumni Association, Small was chosen because she “embodies the Spirit of Lamplighter; a lifelong learner who is willing to take risks and displays creativity in her work.” Small and her husband, Justin, a member of the Lamplighter Board of Trustees, have two daughters attending the School.

After being introduced by Head of School Joan Hill and Alumni President Ford, Small remarked in her acceptance speech that she was “humbled and honored” by the award. “You have made an experience for me and my family so wonderful and I am grateful.” Then Small asked the crowd, “What makes a good beginning?” She answered “Lamplighter,” because the School provided her with a “wonderful opening” to her story “and it’s an adventurous one.” She described waking up every day and wondering “what the world might hold for us”...and that good beginnings “have everything to do with the way we move forward.” She then explained how Lamplighter fostered a love of learning, creativity, and fundamental curiosity. “I couldn’t wait to jump out of the car and enter the world of Lamplighter... you never knew what adventure the day might hold!”

Next Small asked the crowd, “If I told you about a training program that taught you how to work in teams, encouraged you to be a self-starter, to be accountable, inspired creative and innovative thinking, made learning and personal and professional development a priority, and still made that all fun...how many of you would sign up immediately? Well I would!” She said the answer is Lamplighter and that it should be at the top of everyone’s resume. “The important thing is that children all leave here wanting to know more about the world they live in, more about learning, and more about how to make their own mark, because Lamplighter is just their good beginning.”

Assistant Head of School Vicki Raney enjoyed listening to Small. “Nicole’s speech was the best I’ve heard in a long time – so inspirational! Raney said that everything Small talked about is still true of Lamplighter today, “especially how she described how the School instills a love of learning that sets us on a path toward the future and how it is the basis for all that comes after.”

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According to science teacher Kathey Beddow who oversees the Layers program, “Avery and Jack did a fabulous job.” She said the fourth graders really enjoyed getting the chance to sell their eggs to the guests at the luncheon and “took great pride in decorating the cartons, making the posters, and then actually selling them all!” In her speech, Small remembered the incorporated business where she served as Secretary. “I was introduced for the first time to the entrepreneurial spirit that Lamplighter fosters. How many people get to run for office, sit on a board, learn about stock, and help run a business as a fourth grader?” she asked.
1967

John D. Bicknell currently lives in Niwot, Colorado, where he is a certified rock and alpine guide. After graduation from St. Mark’s School of Texas, John attended Harvard where he played college baseball. After graduation, he earned a master’s degree from UC Santa Barbara and worked as an earthquake geologist, but found himself increasingly drawn to outdoor adventure. By 1991, he was climbing and guiding full time.

1968

Dr. Carol Cleaveland is an assistant professor in the department of social work at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. She teaches social policy, programs and services, advanced clinical practice, and immigration policy. Since 2005, her research has focused on Latino immigrants and community conflict in suburban communities. Dr. Cleaveland earned her PhD at Bryn Mawr College.

1967

George Lombardi is a litigation partner who concentrates his practice in patent, commercial, securities, commodities, and white-collar criminal cases for Winston & Strawn LLP in Chicago, Illinois. He received an A.B. cum laude from Dartmouth College in 1980 and a J.D. magna cum laude from the University of Texas in Austin where he was a member of the Michigan Law Review.

1970

Jay R. Reichman, PhD, attended St. Mark’s then Jesuit. He earned his BS in psychology/biology from Texas A & M and his doctorate in ecology, evolution, and behavior from the University of Texas at Austin. He is currently with the U.S. EPA, and his work has been featured in the New York Times and on NPR.

1979

Daniel Lowenberg lives in Montrose, Colorado where he developed his own law firm in 2007. The firm specializes in consumer rights, bankruptcy, and family law. Wife Kelli is a personal trainer. The Lowenberg’s, with their three children, love to hike in the Colorado Mountains.

1982

Royce Poinsett graduated from college in Pennsylvania then moved to Washington, D.C. to work with the CIA. She later moved to Houston and became an agent for the FBI. Currently, she works for ExxonMobil, offering her security expertise in high-threat environments.

1979

Ellen Braithwaite graduated from college in Pennsylvania then moved to Washington, D.C. to work with the CIA. She later moved to Houston and became an agent for the FBI. Currently, she works for ExxonMobil, offering her security expertise in high-threat environments.

1970

Jay R. Reichman, PhD

2012–2013

Nicole Small ’83

2011–2012

Kate Mosle ’04
Frank Welch

2010–2011
Lamplighter Parents’ Association

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David Corrigan ’68
David Fields ’71
Jennifer Mosle

2008–2009
Teel Gray
Dr. Carmen Michael
Dr. Ludwig Michael

2007–2008
Steven Davidoff ’85
David Miller
Kevin Miller ’76
Barbara Nichols

2006–2007
Marilyn Corrigan
Jeff Mankoff ’71
Michael Wallace ’76

2005–2006
Daniel W. Cook, III
B.G. Porter ’75

2004–2005
Rolf R. Haberecht
H. Scurry Johnson ’73
Pat Mattingly

2003–2004
Sara Albert
Jennifer A. Bryan ’80
Judge Robert Porter (posthumously)
Eric M. Reeves ’74
Margaret Jonsson Rogers

Jay R. Reichman, PhD

LAMPPOST

Past Spirit Award Recipients

The Lamplighter Spirit Award was established in 2003 during the 50th Anniversary of the school to recognize individuals who embody the spirit of Lamplighter.

2012–2013
Nicole Small ’83

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Eric M. Reeves ’74
Margaret Jonsson Rogers

Jay R. Reichman, PhD
1983
Coral Ard Dawson graduated from Princeton. After receiving her degree in finance, she worked for Citigroup for 12 years. She was appointed to the Manhattan Community Board 2 to serve on the Parks Committee and Landmarks Committee. She and her husband, Chris, have a 2-year-old son, Luke.

1984
Ashley Geller Greene graduated from the University of Virginia and law school at the University of Texas in Austin. After a career as a corporate securities lawyer, she moved back to Dallas and became involved with Lamplighter to give back to the school that impacted her in so many ways.

1986
Craig Meyers received a degree from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He worked on Wall Street for 10 years and then started a small investment business with his brother, Kevin, five years ago. In June, Craig and his wife Kelly welcomed their first child, Elizabeth, into the world.

1987
Ashley Miller Botto graduated from TCU with a degree in Elementary Education with Children’s Literature as her area of emphasis. She attributes her passion for life-long learning and working with children to her early years of learning and growing at Lamplighter.

Josh Harkinson graduated from Duke University and earned a master’s degree from Berkley in 2002. Josh now lives San Francisco and writes for Mother Jones. He and wife Rinku have a son, Rohan, and a daughter born in December. He has Lamplighter’s model in mind as they search for a pre-K for their son.

1988
Michael Agnich graduated from Stanford, and he started an e-commerce company called Zazzle. Michael and his wife Kelli, also from Dallas, have two daughters, Landry, 4, and Emily, 2. The Agnich family lives in Menlo Park, California. Michael would love to hear from his classmates.

1990
Dell Miller works in his family’s oil business as Director of Marketing and Geological Support. In addition, he and his wife have an e-commerce clothing business. Dell continues his acting career and has been featured in two movies. He and his wife have two daughters, Hannah and Elizabeth Faith.

1991
Lilly Albritton attended SMU where she earned her MA in Art History, and she is currently working on her PhD in Humanities at UTD. She has completed her doctoral qualifying exams, and is working on her dissertation. Lilly and her husband, Chuck, have a son, Granville James Albritton Briant, born in 2010.

1993
Ashley Johnson and her husband, Brandon, have a 3-year-old daughter, Jordan, who currently attends Pre-K at The Lamplighter School. Ashley accepted a position at the Episcopal School of Dallas as the sixth grade science teacher. Ashley is excitedly making plans for her 20th Lamplighter reunion.

2005
Lamplighter alums who are now high school seniors gathered at the School in December. Catherine Duffy, Lauren Griffin, Peter Etheridge, Daniel Guerrero, Seth Stukalin, Katie Kerrigan, Kirby Brand, and Austin Magnuson (’04) graduate this spring from ESD.

2006
Callie Stone of Girl Scouts Troop 578 completed her Gold Award project this summer. She conducted a week long art camp, entitled “Reach for the Stars” for the resident children at The Family Place. This is the highest award a Girl Scout can earn.

Paige Hughes and Alexandra Villareal were featured in the Centennial Celebration of Girl Scouting at the State Fair of Texas. The interactive, state-of-the-art exhibit was in the Hall of State during the State Fair.

Alexandra Villareal completed her Gold Award project this summer. She plays varsity golf for The Hockaday School along with Lauren Kim’07. She directed and co-starrred in a one-act play at Hockaday that also featured Lamplighter graduates Maya Sawla and Flor Manzanares.

2010
Nicholas Villareal has reached the rank of Star in Boy Scouting. He was selected to participate in the Junior National Youth Leadership Conference held in Washington D.C., this past summer. Nicholas has remained on the Honor Roll during his years at Parish Episcopal School.
Laura Rose Brylowski has received a Fulbright Scholarship and will teach English in Brazil beginning in 2014. As a junior at Oberlin College, Laura studied abroad in Chile and volunteered to teach English to elementary school students. For the past three years, she has taught Spanish to fourth graders on a biweekly basis through the Spanish in Elementary Schools program at Oberlin.

Laura, an Environmental Studies major, recently worked as a research assistant and is a co-author on the paper, “Triple-Bottom-Line Analysis of Urban Agriculture as a Solution to Vacant Land Repurposing: a case study of Cleveland, White Paper (2012), from the study Redeveloping Vacant Land as Green Infrastructure in Great Lake Cities.” This grant studied the cultural impact of urban community gardens and farms in the Rust Belt.

No Payne, No Gain
Chair of the Young Alumnae car wash, Katie Payne was awarded the $1,000 Bruce J. Heim Foundation Leadership Merit Award. The Duke University Talent Identification Program selected Katie as one of the recipients of this prestigious leadership award because of the dedication she demonstrated with her legacy project entitled “The Bridge Kit” and her exceptional performance at the 2011 Duke TIP Leadership Institute.

Scavengers Reunite
After weeks of planning, the Lamplighter Class of 2011 gathered in January for a reunion and scavenger hunt. Although many of the students attend middle schools with their fellow Lamplighter young alums, the group enjoyed getting so many recent graduates back together.
Parents: If this issue is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent residence in your home, please send us the correct address to the school address above or email it to advancement@thelamplighterschool.org

Your gift is the spark that ignited the lamps of our students. Thank you for supporting the 2012-2013 Lamplighter Annual Fund!