



Vincent Smith School Alumni Newsletter

December 2007

Volume 1, Issue 3

From the Head of School ~ Arlene Wishnew



Dear Alumni of Vincent Smith School,

Every school year, I observe with such pride the accomplishments of our students and the dedication of our faculty. Our program at the Vincent Smith School believes in the potential of every child long before they believe in themselves.

Vincent Smith nurtures our students' strengths and supports their challenges, and in doing so, it ensures an environment that allows learning to flourish. This ongoing process defines our school as a special place where it is okay to learn differently.

Over the past 30 years my role at the Vincent Smith School has gone from classroom teacher, to Principal, to Head of School. Whatever my role has been, I still marvel at the uniqueness of our school and what accomplished citizens we send into the world. I keep in touch with many alumni, and every time I hear from you I am encouraged by your messages.

Recently I heard from a young lady who I had the privilege of teaching in my 5th grade class many years ago. She wrote, "I am so happy that I have gotten back in touch with Vincent Smith School. My early years at the school have really been the basis of a successful, happy life. The school taught me to overcome my learning disabilities and to go on to have a successful academic career. I hope to come to the reunion in June."

Please continue to keep Vincent Smith School in your minds and hearts by supporting our school. Hope to see you all in June.

VSS Receives a Major Gift to Benefit the Scholarship Fund

Mr. Waring Partridge ('51-'52) and the Partridge Foundation have generously donated \$20,000 to benefit the VSS Scholarship Fund. When asked about his motivation for giving, Mr. Partridge replied, "It is my personal policy to give back to the private schools that I attended, enough for one student in need, to take my place and attend for at least as many years as I did. I have many fond memories of the Vincent Smith School."

Mr. Partridge graduated from Yale with a BA in Economics, and Catholic University Law School. He also served in the U.S. Navy and worked for several years in Washington, DC on Capitol Hill and in the White House. Many years later, after a career in business, he retired as a VP with AT&T.

This scholarship gift will be used to assist families in need so other children will be able to benefit from the unique educational experience that only VSS can offer. Mrs. Arlene Wishnew stated, "It is only through the philanthropic deeds of individuals such as Mr. Partridge and the Partridge Foundation that we can maintain the special programs at the Vincent Smith School." Our special thanks go out to Mr. Partridge and his foundation for their generous support.

Save The Date - 2008 Alumni Reunion

Mark your calendars and join us for the VSS Alumni Reunion of 2008. Many of you requested that the next Alumni Reunion be held when there is no school in session. So keeping with that request we are scheduling our reunion tentatively for June 14, to be held at a local restaurant (location and price to be determined). This reunion is open to all alumni regardless of the years attended or whether or not you graduated from VSS. If you attended VSS at any time...we want you! Keep your eyes open for more information to follow. Don't forget to log on to our VSS website (Alumni link) and update us with mailing information so we can find you. The last reunion was such a wonderful success and so much fun. You won't want to miss this one. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Debra Galinsky, Vincent Smith School Director of Development, at dgalinsky@vincentsmithschool.org.

VSS Past Happenings

Welcome to the third edition of the VSS Alumni Newsletter – a chance for all of you to find out what’s going on at the Vincent Smith School as well as what’s happening with past VSS alumni. To stay in touch with what’s going on at VSS, we encourage you to log on to the School’s website at www.vincentsmithschool.org. You will learn about many of the exciting events that have occurred or will be taking place at the School. Our students have traveled to England and France on a School sponsored trip. We just completed our 19th year of visiting the Rocking Horse Ranch, and explored the Southwestern U.S. Each year we hold a Lecture Series and a Special Education Fair for the community and currently updated our Computer Lab with state-of-the-art equipment. Take a look at what else is happening at VSS!



Our Nineteenth Year at Rocking Horse Ranch

Principal Veronica McCue chaperoned 40 students for a fabulous weekend at the Rocking Horse Ranch in upstate NY. We are celebrating our nineteenth year of attending and the students will tell you that it is their favorite “field trip”. The students, and faculty and staff chaperones, have an opportunity to unwind and enjoy a touch of the old west. The students enjoyed horseback riding, barbeques, and plenty of outdoor activities. Above are some VSS students enjoying a night at the ranch.

A & E’s “Mindfreak” Films at VSS

Criss Angel of A & E’s Mindfreak recently taped a segment of his show at the Vincent Smith School in Port Washington. Criss Angel is well-known for his mysticism, mentalism and death defying stunts. He amazed the Vincent Smith School students with his astonishing illusions. Pictured below is Criss Angel with some Vincent Smith School students.



Mookie Wilson of the NY Mets is Guest of Honor at VSS Sports Awards Dinner

Mookie Wilson was recently the guest of honor at the Vincent Smith School Sports Dinner, courtesy of JP Morgan Chase. The dinner was held at the Swan Club in Glenwood Landing. This annual event recognizes the athletic achievements of Vincent Smith School students in basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball, and raises money for the School’s sports program. Mr. Wilson regaled the crowd with anecdotes of his years with the Mets. As pictured, Mookie Wilson graciously autographed baseballs for VSS students.



Student and teacher models enjoyed the Fashion Show Brunch held at the Brookville Country Club. Through this gala event thousands of dollars were raised to benefit the VSS Scholarship Fund. Our next Scholarship Brunch will be held again this year at the Brookville Country Club on April 6, 2008. If you are interested in attending this wonderful event or making a contribution to the VSS Scholarship Fund please contact Debra Galinsky, Director of Development, at dgalinsky@vincentsmithschool.org.

Alumni Class Notes

Did You Know that...

Andrew Berman ('89-'90) is married and he and his wife, Barbara, just had their first child, daughter, Ava Jayne...**Todd Bethea** ('86-'89) drives a cab here on Long Island and is also a minister while attending NY Theological Seminary in a certificate program... **Nora Bowles** ('90-'94) lives locally and is a full time pre-school Assistant Teacher...**Sara Crescas** ('89-'93) is an EKG Tech at Long Beach Medical Center...**William H. Davis** ('69-'77) is a senior archivist with the National Archives and Records Admin. in Washington, DC specializing in the records of the U.S. Congress... **Arthur Geoffrion** ('43-'48) is a retired faculty member of the business school at UCLA and enjoys spending time with his 5 grandchildren and activities such as genealogy, reading, fitness and renewing contacts with classmates from primary, middle and high school. **Michelle Greenberg-Bornemann** ('83-'87) is married and has a 10 year old son and a 5 year old daughter. She resides on Long Island and is surrounded by wonderful family and friends...**William Guggenheim III** ('45-'49) is co-author of a best-selling book about life after death called "Hello from Heaven" and presents lectures and workshops world wide on after-death communication. He has 5 grown children and resides in Florida...**James Henefeld** ('76-'80) lives in the UK and is a manager for the Probation Service... **Jamie Mann** ('90-'94) works as a vascular technologist at two local hospitals and travels extensively...**Barbara McCarthy** ('61) has been a teacher, is now a Magistrate Judge in Florida and has fond memories of Mr. Archer and Mr. Jamison...**Jill Baena-Medina** ('86) is married with 2 sons and is an Accounting Manager in the corporate office of Sam Ash Music Corporation...**Regine Mevs** ('00-'04) is currently attending Nassau Community College and just got a new dog in her family...**Kirsten Johnson-Myers** ('74-'81) is married with 2 children and lives in Louisiana where she is an Registered Nurse. She holds a BA in History and a BS in Nursing...**Bruce Neumann** ('74) is a Producer Editor for the ABC television station in Philadelphia, PA...

Waring Partridge ('51-'52) holds a BA from Yale in Economics and Catholic University Law School. He has also worked in Washington, DC and retired as a VP with AT&T. He fondly remembers French lessons and boxing matches on May Day...**Julieann Ramos** ('80-'84) lives in Los Angeles and is a Junior Vice President of teen programming for Nickelodeon. She is engaged to be married and will be relocating back to the NY area in 2008...**Shari Kostrinsky-Raduazzo** ('89) was a teacher at VSS in 1989 and is now teaching English at Seaford High School. She is married with 3 children and would love to know how some of her former students and colleagues are doing...**Denis Roessiger** ('54) is a collector and custom grower of orchids and deals in orchids around the world. He gives lectures and teaches classes on orchids and has been married for 41 years...**Jaelyn Rubin** ('99) graduated from Queensborough Community College with a Liberal Arts Degree and works locally...**Sara Sochalski** ('91-'96) will be graduating in May of 2008 with a Masters in International Relations and Diplomacy and is engaged to be married on October 5, 2008...**Katherine Southard-Heimbold** ('88-'89) lives in Los Angeles and NYC and is married with one daughter, Sofia. She has a Law Degree from Brooklyn Law School and owns her own law firm. She is also a volunteer at Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization... **Kimberly Wade** ('90-'96) lives locally, is a world-wide traveler and works part-time at a school on Long Island...**Kimberley Wolk** ('94) is employed at the NY Veterinary Specialty Center and is scheduled to take the Veterinary Technician National Exam...**Garret Zucker** ('81-'83) resides in Phoenix, AZ with his wife Stef and their 4 children. He is a full-time Marketing Manager and also owns his own freelance corporate imaging company.

What have you been up to?

We would love to hear what you have been doing since you left VSS. If you would like to be included in our next Newsletter please log on to our website, link to our Alumni page, and submit your update to us online. We look forward to hearing from you!

Vincent Smith School
322 Port Washington Blvd.
Port Washington, NY 11050
(516) 365-4900
www.vincent-smith-school.org



GET INVOLVED with VSS!

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cash Donation• Corporate Matching Gifts• Appreciated Securities• Memorial and Honoring Gifts• Bequests and Other Planned Gifts• Donate Goods or Services (for use as raffle prizes - such as TVs, autos, hotel weekends, airline or theater tickets) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteer to Serve on the Special Events, Development or Alumni Committee• Donate free advertising for VSS through your media contacts• Through your celebrity contacts help VSS with special fundraising events• Join the Alumni Association or become a Class Rep |
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The Mission of the Vincent Smith School is to provide a small, supportive, educational setting for reluctant learners and students with special education needs where they can achieve academic success and learn valuable life skills in order to become participating members of society. The school is committed to providing a well-integrated program of studies and activities necessary for social adjustment, individual development and sound academic learning.