

THE NEXUS

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Schilling Students Explore San Francisco

By Seth Ficke

It was the Friday after winter break. Twelve exceptional people, later to be joined by two more, were gathered near the check-in counter at Cincinnati's international airport. In only five hours they would be in one of the most exciting, diverse cities on earth.

This may sound like the start of a great book, but in reality, it was the start of the annual high school trip. Every year Dr. Schilling holds an assembly, asking the students for requests, then works tirelessly for months,

negotiating ridiculously low prices. If you see her, make

sure to thank her for her effort!

We spent five days in San Francisco, negotiating the public transportation systems and the maze of streets in our rental van to go to places as varied as the Exploratorium (founded by Frank Oppenheimer, the brother of the man who worked on the atomic bomb), the U.S.S. Hornet (one of the most distinguished ships in history), Lombard St. (the most crooked street in the U.S.A.), Alcatraz (the prison in which Al Capone died), Winchester Mystery House (just plain insane), and the Golden Gate Bridge (you know, the red one).

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Sights of San Francisco: (left) Dr. Schilling, Mrs. Mink, and the students on Lombard St.; (right) the U.S.S. Hornet. (photos courtesy of Michael Wriston)



Upcoming Events

March 22 - Third Quarter Ends
March 23 - Fourth Quarter Begins
March 29 - Spring Break Begins
April 7 - Classes Resume
May 19-20 - No School, Facility Closed
May 31 - No School, Memorial Day

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And Much More...

The Nexus is produced by: James Colmar, Editor-in-Chief ~ Michael Wriston, News Editor ~ Claire McMahon, Community Editor ~ Amanda Haering, Photo Editor ~ Seth Ficke, Reporter ~ Katherine Guilford, Resident Artist ~ Eric Guilford, Chief Designer ~ Anne Cooper, Faculty Advisor

San Francisco (continued from page 1)

The Exploratorium, part of the Palace of Fine Arts, is a hands-on science museum similar to Columbus's COSI (Center of Science and Industry) or Syracuse, NY's MOST (Museum of Science and Technology). It is full of hands-on exhibits, such as the Van de Graff generator, which generates a static charge that causes one's hair to stand on end. It is right next to the Golden Gate Bridge, and there is a beautiful beach adjacent to the parking lot.

A giant behemoth towering over Alameda Island, The U.S.S. Hornet is an aircraft carrier commissioned during WWII, which saw action in the Pacific theater of the war, and later served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. It has one of the most distinguished records of any ship in history, with over 600 planes shot down and over 50 ships sunk. It was retired in the early 1970s and sat dormant for approximately 25 years until some historians got together and restored it and turned it into a museum.

With burgundy bricks and green gardens, Lombard Street is notable as the most crooked street in the U.S.A. It has a natural grade of 27%! If you want a testament to this, just ask Zach, who once rode a bike with no brakes down it! It has 8 sharp switchbacks paved with, you guessed it, brick.

Alcatraz Island is a very interesting island in San Francisco Bay. It has a long history from its pre-



Alcatraz

historic lack of carnivores (natives called it bird island) to its modern development into a tourist destination. These intermediate steps include years as a military fort

for two different countries and as a prison for two different judicial systems.

Now as to the Winchester Mystery House, Mrs. Winchester, the heir to the Winchester rifle fortune, was stark raving mad! She built a giant house with hundreds of extraneous features such as doors that open onto brick walls, stairways to nowhere, and cabinets with .5 cm of space inside. While touring the house we walked over three miles. Michael Wriston, when asked for a com-

ment, replied in his typical manner, "Ridiculous!"

Last, but most definitely not least, is the Golden Gate Bridge. It is over a mile long and spans the mouth of the San Francisco Bay, where the water is unsuitable for ferries due to its chopiness.

Remember to tell Dr. Schilling, "Thank You!" and sign up for next year's trip!

Birthdays!

A belated "happy birthday" to all of our friends with January and February birthdays!

Paul Shreve	Jan 4
Lily Kovach	Jan 10
Dr. Clegg	Jan 18
Ms. Martin	Jan 19
Timothy Novak-D'Agostino	Jan 23
Josep Baque	Feb 15
Claire McMahan	Feb 19
Zach Felder	Feb 20

Hamster Name Poll

We are having a poll to name Mrs. Cooper's class pet! To vote: choose one of the following options, write it on a slip of paper along with your name (votes without a name will not be counted), and put it in the "ideas" box on Mrs. Cooper's desk. Your vote must be submitted by Wed., March 10.



Potential Names

Garbanzo Bean	Tesla
Horton	Hermes
Socrates	Fermi

New Year's Resolutions for Students, School

By Michael Wriston

Each new year, it is a tradition for many to create New Year's Resolutions. People create goals to improve themselves and progress through their lives, goals that must often be completed by the end of the year. In this article, we'll be examining some resolutions that students and teachers made, and a major goal for the school that Dr. Schilling wants to accomplish by the beginning of the next school year.

Many of our students have set their sights high for goals and have big plans for this year. For example, freshman Dan McMahon has stated that he wants to practice climbing more often. He also wants to climb outside more often, and spend more time climbing at the nearby climbing gym Climb Time. Sophomore Katherine Guilford wants to improve her artistic abilities, and wants to write a page or draw a picture every day throughout the year. Forrest Jeffrey Honadle, senior, has declared himself perfect and says he has no

need for resolutions.

Some of Dr. Clegg's resolutions will likely be of interest to our students; in his words this year is the start of a "leaner, meaner Dr. Clegg." He wants to continue refining his particular teaching style and curriculum that he's built upon years of experience, taking into account the needs of his students. Unfortunately for some of our high schoolers, this might mean an increase in workload.

Dr. Schilling has her own goals for the school. She's come up with a plan to draw many new students to the school, by offering incentives to Schilling families for helping other families with gifted children learn more about the school, to the point that they enroll. Dr. Schilling hopes to have 84 students enrolled by the start of next year, the largest amount of students the school can enroll at this time, based on the number of teachers and the size of our rented facilities at Ohav Shalom.

Fencing Team Begins Annual Competition

By Eric Guilford

The Schilling Fencing Team has started fencing in the Southwest Ohio High School Fencing Association tournaments, a series of fencing matches where schools in and around Cincinnati compete. This gives the Schilling Fencing Team a chance to fence against teams from larger schools such as Sycamore and Mason. Stay tuned for updates on the Schilling team's performance!



An informal bout takes place during fencing practice.

Senior Named National Merit Finalist

By Katherine Guilford

On February 4, 2010, senior James Colmar was informed that he had been named a National Merit Finalist. When asked about the method behind his success, James stated, "I took the PSAT every year of high school up through junior year." He found the test pretty easy, but hard enough to make things interesting. As a scholarship finalist, James will be able to go to the college of his choice with the cost much reduced. Teachers who know James say that his success is a testament to his hard work and natural talent. Congratulations James!



Senior James Colmar

New Semester Brings New Class Options

By Eric Guilford

The coming of a new semester has brought many new classes for all of the students at the Schilling School to enjoy. The new classes include an elaborate range of subjects ranging from Music Performance to Neurobiology. Many of the students are happy with the new classes, although some were disappointed in the termination of other classes such as History of the 1970's and Wilderness Pioneering.

There are new classes during this semester for all grades at the Schilling School. The Lower School members have a new drama class, while the Junior High students have a yearbook class. Most of the new classes, however, were offered to the High School students.

The most popular new High School class is probably the Music Performance class, in which the students learn how to play different types of musical instruments, as well as how to play effectively in a group of musicians. In the Neurobiology class, the students, as Seth Ficke put it, "...learn about the brain and how the brain's signals go through several different glands before the signals get to the heart and other peripheral organs." Film Analysis, a class offered for many years at Schilling, but only recently offered this year, has also been a popular class, and many students have transferred into it.

Although much of the attention on the new classes is good, there are a few downsides. For example, Music Performance class has been so popular that the other classes have been reduced to only two or four students in each class. However, some people see this as an improvement to those classes, as now the students can work more closely with their teachers, and the teachers can now spend more time with each student individually.

Size complaints aside, the students have demonstrated their excitement regarding the new subjects offered this semester, and we are all confident that the year is going to finish out strong.

Right: Mr. Heflin teaches Music Performance, one of the new classes this semester.

Ode to my Backpack

By Katherine Guilford

Oh backpack, my lovely bag
You make me stoop like an ugly hag
I know you always play your part
You hold my books but also my heart

I'll never forget that weight you bore
When you dumped my flashcards on the floor
Your cute little seams had had too much
The factory that made you was such a klutz.

Yet still do I love you ever so
Without you nowhere will I go
And even when you crush me down
Still do I adore you, you stupid clown.

I leap with joy when you crush my toes
Though it may not be joy, I suppose
But when I drop you on the ground
Anything in sight is fare game, I've found.

And even though my back doth crack
Under the strain of your flawless attack
I know you always play your part
You hold my books but also my heart.



Eighth Grader Wins School Spelling Bee a Second Time

By Katherine Guilford

On Wednesday, January 6, a lower-school spelling bee was held in the school library. The bee included all members of the school from kindergarten through eighth grade. The competition was set up so that it began with easy words and steadily worked upwards to far more advanced words. However, when the competition came down to only two participants, if one student failed to correctly spell a word, the person having spelled the last correct word was required to spell one more word before being declared the winner. Also, if both contestants failed to correctly spell the word, both were back in the game.

Most of the K-1 class made it through the first round, but quickly gave way to the older, seemingly unfairly advantaged third through eighth graders. All of the words except for a few had been given to the students beforehand to study. However, as the last two contestants, Madeleine Gold and Lily Kovach, went head-to-head in the final rounds, Dr. Schilling was forced to pull out the additional words, the never-before-seen spelling enigmas of the English language.

Back and forth the two girls battled. Dr. Schilling herself was amazed. She stated that, "There were more rounds in this spelling bee than any other spelling bee in the history of the Schilling School." After some twenty rounds with only the last two contestants, even the judges lost count of the number of words given. However, some of the words that were spelled were: "impeccable", "sinusitis", "candelabra", "phlebitis", "calliope", "ecclesiastical", and even the obscure, "muesli".

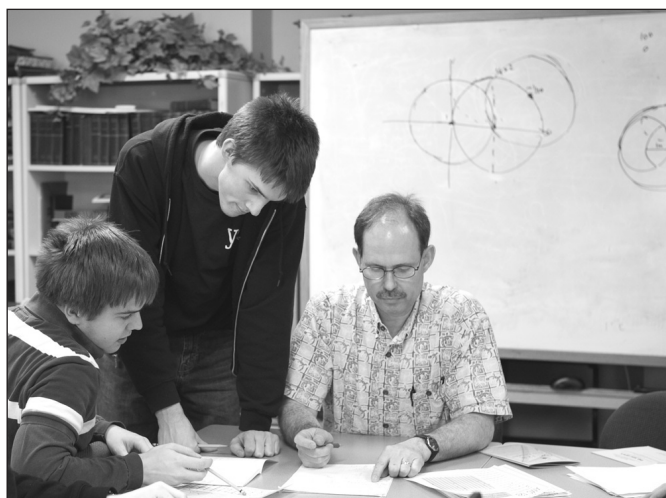
Finally, Madeleine won with the word "epilation." Lily was therefore the runner-up. It was a repeat

of last year's placement for both Lily and Madeleine! Being the winner, Madeleine moved on to compete in the citywide Scripps Spelling Bee at the Underground Railroad Freedom Center on February thirteenth. There,



Madeleine Gold and Lily Kovach, winner and runner-up in the school spelling bee.

Madeleine competed against roughly seventy-five other contestants. Though unfortunately she was knocked out of the competition on her first, cruel word, "quiche", Madeleine stated that all in all the experience was "pretty cool." Was that the end of the spelling bees for the year? Not necessarily. When asked, Dr. Schilling said that, given enough positive feedback, she would be "very enthusiastic about a high school spelling bee." Given enough interest from the high school student body, Dr. Schilling assured this writer that she would be quite willing to create a first ever high school spelling competition.



Students Take AMC 10, 12

By Seth Ficke

Schilling students in grades eight and up took the AMC (American Math Competition) exams on February 24. Students in grades 8-10 took the AMC 10 and students in grades 11-12 took the AMC 12. To put the difficulty of this test in perspective, problem 25 took Dr. Frank (top-level math teacher) and Adam Gold over an hour to figure out! Less than 100 people in the nation get perfect scores on the AMC every year. Schilling's scores will arrive in mid-March.

Schilling Enters MathCounts

By Claire McMahon

On Saturday, February 20th, three sixth graders from the Schilling School competed locally in MathCounts. MathCounts is an American competition for sixth to eighth graders that is sponsored by a national organization. This competition allows students to challenge and stretch their mathematical thinking by drawing on all different areas in math in the form of mathematical word problems. The competition is split into three rounds: the sprint round, where students attempt to answer 30 problems in 40 minutes, the target round, where more difficult problems are given to the students two questions at a time, and the team round, where the students are allowed to work together to solve the problems. After these three rounds, the top students compete with buzzers in the countdown round. The first student in each pairing to get two out of three problems right moves on to the next level, until an overall winner is determined.

Grace Ficke, a sixth grader who competed, enjoyed this competition and being able to get a squishy brain as a bonus!

All of Schilling's sixth to eighth graders were given a choice to compete, but it was the sixth graders who were most enthusiastic. Three of Schilling School's sixth-grade students (Grace Ficke, Lily Kovach, and Connor Weeks) participated in the local competition at the University of Cincinnati. Although



Schilling fifth and sixth graders at the MathCounts practice session at St. Margaret of York.

none of our students advanced to the state competition, Connor was in the top 25% of the students at the competition overall. Only about ten percent of the students in the competition are sixth graders, with the rest being seventh and eighth graders.

Connor's performance was even more impressive given the intensity of the local competition. Cincinnati is known as a math powerhouse: in the past twenty years, eighteen of the statewide competitions have been won by Cincinnati teams.

In the weeks leading up to the competition, Mrs. Cooper had been training her students with warm-up sheets and they had attended a practice competition on February 11th, at St. Margaret of York in Loveland. Fifth grader Matthew Shaw took part in the practice competition, but due to his age, he did not qualify for the actual competition this year.

The prizes for winning the Cincinnati chapter of MathCounts for the top two students were two \$5,000 scholarships to UC's Engineering School. The winners of the Cincinnati district go on to compete in the state competition in Columbus, and from there have a chance to go to nationals in Disneyworld.



The Schilling Mathletes with Mrs. Cooper before the competition.

Schilling Alumni: Where are They Now?

Part 3 of a Series

By James Colmar

One of the most recent graduates of the Schilling School, Jared Lord, now resides at Wittenberg University in Springfield Ohio, twenty-five miles northeast of



Schilling graduate Jared Lord

Dayton. He is studying Psychology, the intent of which he expressed long before he graduated from Schilling's noble halls. He says he plans to make a full career of it by establishing a private psychology practice, becoming a school therapist, or something of that sort. While he admits to not having

any projects that really pique his interest as of yet, he says he is pretty content in his current surroundings.

However, he also shows a certain nostalgia for his time in high school. He recounted memories of his buddies at school, and recalled his role in the 2005 production of The King and I. He has a bit of advice for the current students about their scholastic lives. He asserts the credo "Don't slack off. Seriously." and leaves off with "Keep on keepin' on."

Former Schilling Teacher Assists in Haiti

By James Colmar

On January 12, the Caribbean nation of Haiti was ravaged by a tremendous earthquake and a series of powerful aftershocks, the epicenter of which hit Leogane, about 16 miles west of the capital. The main earthquake registered at an astounding 7.0 on the magnitude scale, with as many as 52 aftershocks rating over 4.5 and even more below that mark. The casualty rate is shocking, with over 200,000 confirmed dead and over 300,000 treated. Estimates also show the collapse or severe damage of over 280,000 buildings. Infrastructure vital to speedy rebuilding has also been badly damaged.

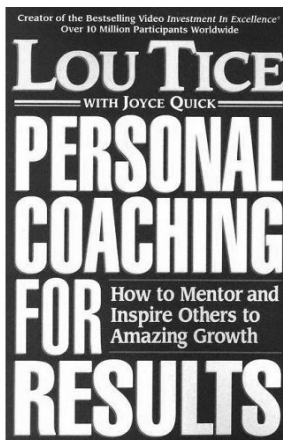
Humanitarian reaction from other countries has been swift, with a great deal of aid sent soon after the disaster from the adjacent Dominican Republic. Rescue and relief efforts are slow, but are meeting with some success in the evacuation and relocation of refugees, as well as the influx of supplies. However, not all of the help has been on a national basis. In fact, one of the former teachers of the Schilling School, Mr. Jeff Langley, is currently in Grand Goave providing spiritual and physical support through Lifeline Christian Mission. Mr. Langley had been on previous mission trips to Haiti and quickly volunteered to return to that area in light of the current situation. He plans to stay there for at least four months.

Although much aid has been offered, it will still be a rough year for Haiti. So keep them in your thoughts in the coming months.

Dr. Schilling Launches School-Wide "Reading for Success"

By James Colmar

Over the past weeks, many Schilling students, parents, and teachers have been reading Lou Tice's book Personal Coaching for Results in an experiment that Dr. Schilling hopes will enrich the student body's learning experience. Every week, from now to the end of the school year, we will be reading a different chapter from the book and discussing it. The junior and senior high school discussion of chapter 1, led by Dr. Clegg, took place



on Friday, February 26.

The first half of the book is mainly about the clear visualization of long term goals and the development of discipline in order to achieve those goals. The second half seems to mainly be based on coaching and mentoring others to bring success to them through the same means. The book has caught the interest of many of the students so far, and we all hope to see positive results by year's end.

Swine Flu Panic Abates; Some Risks Remain

By James Colmar

Now that the H1N1 scare is finally dying down, people are starting to be more at ease about their chances of contracting a serious illness. However, putting the flu out of sight and out of mind may not be the best way to go. The flu is still circulating (especially in the New England area), and although the vaccine is being swiftly proliferated, ignorance can still cause drastic problems.

Luckily enough, over the last year, epidemiologists have found the H1N1 virus to not be much more deadly than the standard seasonal flu. The peculiarity

of its primarily young adult and middle-aged victims makes it stand out, but besides that, there is little to panic about.

There are still problems being predicted for the future of the flu. Mass congregations of people, such as the Hajj, the great pilgrimage to Mecca, are worrying disease control officials. However, things are still looking optimistic, with vaccine extremely plentiful and preparations being made for further possible outbreaks.

Teens: Add Volunteering to Your Schedule!

By Amanda Haering

As many high school upperclassmen know, colleges love to see that you have been involved in the community. Volunteering is a great way to do this.

The Cincinnati Zoo has an interesting “volunteer” program over the summer for people between the ages of 13 to 17. Some of your options are garden assistants, garden ambassador, caretaker at Lorikeet Landing and education teacher’s aide. Garden assistants weed and stock the gardens as well as water the plants. Garden ambassadors work with the botanicals, help with crafts and tell people which plants they can and cannot touch. Volunteers at Lorikeet Landing are in charge of feeding the birds, putting them in their cages, and making sure they do not leave Lorikeet Landing. Lastly, teacher’s aides work with young kids around the ages 4 to 8. If you become a teacher’s aide, you may have to take a child to the bathroom, hold their hand when you walk around the zoo, keep them quiet and make sure everyone follows the teacher’s orders. For more information go to the The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanicals Gardens website (<http://www.cincinnati-zoo.org/support/volunteer.html>).



If you don't like volunteering at the zoo your

nearest SPCA (there is one in Sharonville and one in Northside) would be another great place to volunteer if you are 15 or older. You are required to attend one of their monthly orientations. Possible positions would include working in: greeting, dog or cat socialization, development department, mobile adoption unit, humane education, CAAP program, foster program, environmental enrichment, and events. You must volunteer for a two-hour shift twice a month for six months. Encourage people to get pets from the SPCA. To find more information, go to their website (<http://www.spcacincinnati.org>).



If you don't get along with animals but love art and people, you might try applying to volunteer at the Cincinnati Art Museum to be a part of their teen advisor board. You have to be 14 to 19 years of age to participate in this fall volunteering. This really helps you get out in the community as well as meet new people.

There are of course more opportunities to volunteer than the places mentioned above but those three are very popular, and it is very likely you will get the job if you apply. Good Luck.

Schilling Humor

By Katherine Guilford

