



## Endowment: A Key to Distinction

by Terry Edeli, Head of School



Visitors often ask what is unique and special about The San Francisco School. Rarely do they ask what is fundamental. And although I relish exploring the distinctive and exceptional qualities, it's actually one of the most universal characteristics that provides the greatest challenge: The financial resources to do the job!

One reality shared among independent schools is that the money to be unique and special comes mostly from three sources: Tuition, fund raising, and endowment. Every independent school charges tuition; nearly every independent school relies on the additional generosity of parents, alumni and friends; and fortunate schools enjoy an annual stream of additional income from endowment. The more balanced the three sources, the better prepared a school



SFS teacher, Yoon Hee, and Luis work on a preschool project.

is to meet the demands of the present and the uncertainties of the future.

The San Francisco School also relies on these three sources. Tuition is the largest source of operating income, followed by annual giving and finally income from the budding endowment. And looking forward, it is the endow-

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## Music Department Showcases First Opera

by Niels Swinkels, SFS Parent

The music program at The San Francisco School is well known for its exceptional quality and high standards, but the performance of a complete children's opera is not an everyday occurrence. This past March, with two performances of Hans Krasa's opera *Brundibar*, the music department scored another huge success.

Written by Czech composer Hans Krasa (1899-1944), *Brundibar* tells the story of two children, Anika and Pepicek, who are on a mission to buy milk for their sick mother. They try to raise money by singing in the market square, but their earnings are stolen by an evil organ-grinder named Brundibar, who is not very happy with the competition. The children get the help of a Sparrow, a Cat and a Dog and manage to outsmart Brundibar.

The entire cast of the opera *Brundibar* consisted of members of The San Francisco School community. The solo parts were performed by Middle Schoolers, the chorus of the village children were third, fourth and fifth graders, with support of the 20-member adult chorus which consisted of teachers and parents. The set was designed by alum Abo Greenwald '90, who works for the San Francisco Opera. The conductor was music teacher Sofia Lopez-Ibor who enlisted teaching assistant, Melodi Dalton as the singing and acting coach for the main characters. All together there were close to one hundred performers on stage.

### Incredible

How did Sofia choose this ambitious project? "Working with Orff Schulwerk [The School's Music Program] the focus is mostly on instrumental music, and when we sing we do a lot of world music, and some classical and jazz", stated Sofia. "I have been interested in opera for children for a long time, and I remember what an incredible experience it was to sing

with a chamber orchestra for the first time. It was fantastic."

Sofia heard about *Brundibar* from an acquaintance in Spain who had worked on it. "The musical style of this opera and the melodic ideas resemble what the kids get offered through Orff Schulwerk", she says. And then things just came together. "The story of the opera is perfect for younger kids, but the larger theme of *Brundibar* is interesting for seventh graders, who study the Holocaust from a historic perspective."

When Sofia asked about funding for the special costs of this project, The School was able to respond with money from two endowment funds: the Lawton Family Fund For Jewish Performing Arts (set up by former Math teacher Mark Lawton) and the Patty Wright Memorial Arts Fund.

### Good and Evil

However simple and fairytale-like the story of *Brundibar* is, this opera cannot be separated from its historical background. On the surface it is a straightforward tale of the triumph of good over evil. Two kids, Anika and Pepicek are trying to get some milk for their sick mother, but they have no money. They see how people give organ grinder Brundibar (Czech for 'bumblebee') coins for his music and try to raise money by singing. Nobody can hear them over Brundibar's noise and the organ grinder chases them away. Night falls, and a sparrow, a dog and a cat come to the rescue. The solution is to round up all the village children and make a larger choir. Their combined singing is louder than the barrel organ and the people listen and give coins. Infuriated, Brundibar steals the money and tries to run away. The children chase him, get their earnings back and sing a song of victory and friendship.

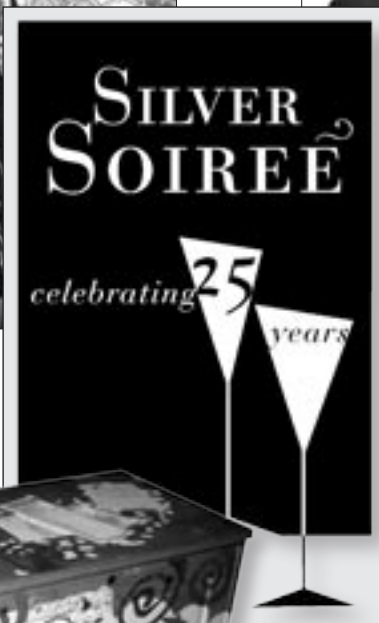
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# The San Francisco School Auction Celebrates 25 Years!

On March 20th of this year The San Francisco School celebrated its 25th year of raising important funds for the financial aid program with the Silver Soiree. With the help of the entire San Francisco School community we were able to raise over \$90,000 making this the most successful auction in San Francisco School history.

These funds help to provide an opportunity for nearly one quarter of our student population to benefit from the superior education offered at The San Francisco School who otherwise might not be able to do so.

Congratulations to The San Francisco School community on such a wonderful accomplishment. See you next year! ●



## The San Francisco School

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The San Francisco School cultivates and celebrates the intellectual, imaginative and humanitarian promise of each student in a community that practices mutual respect, embraces diversity and inspires a passion for learning.

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**The San Francisco School's  
2005 Auction will be held  
Saturday, March 12, 2005.**

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ment leg that has the greatest potential to Shape the Future of The San Francisco School!

### Foundation

This spring, The San Francisco School Endowment surpassed \$1,000,000, thanks to a long history of supportive dreamers



Pre-schooler Jason playing chess.

and donors. The first contribution to the Endowment came from Doug Tompkins, during the Herbst Building Campaign in the late 1980's. Parent Joan Kahr and teacher Susie Korn were also early champions of the concept of endowment as one of the keys to continued vitality and accessibility of The School. The largest single contribution to date came from the Ayrshire Foundation, a \$100,000 grant to sponsor innovative professional development for faculty. Most recently, parent Bob Burkhead, who with his wife Gloria Lau, established the first family fund, has spearheaded a renewed focus in growing the endowment.

These early believers in endowment brought us to the one million dollar level, but it is now going to take the wisdom and generosity of many to bring The San Francisco School Endowment Fund up to \$5,000,000, an amount that will fund 5% of the annual cost of running The School.

\$5,000,000 will allow The School to offer more unique programmatic and professional opportunities. Plus, an endowment of this size allows The School to maintain an economically diverse community by offering strong financial aid. It will also move The School into the range of other independent schools in San Francisco.

### Impact

Endowment funds make a major impact at The San Francisco School. The School is noteworthy in teaching students to think and work much like disciplinarians practicing in an academic field; for highlighting the big ideas in a discipline and providing regular opportunities for students to connect their daily thinking to such important questions; and for helping students identify and nurture their passions in a learning environment that is safe for each student to bring their 'whole self' to school.

The School is extraordinary, too, in the depth of its multicultural sensibilities and curriculum; in the cultivation of creativity and imagination; in the spirit and passion of its community; and in its commitment to equity, justice and social action. Such special qualities of The San Francisco School education are inspired by the professional development, and such professional development is one of the goals underwritten by endowment income, in this case, from The Teacher Fund.

Likewise, the Tuition Assistance Fund helps The School be unique and special in its socio-economic diversity. The Arts Fund supports our renowned art and music programs that are so thoroughly integrated in the student experience. The Gym/Performance Fund underwrites the costs of renting professional venues for our stellar music, drama, and ath-



SFS students in art class.

letic performances. The Library Fund keeps the Library-Technology Program current and flourishing. And, the Head of School Fund provides discretionary resources to implement innovative and experimental programs.

Rarely do people ask how The San Francisco School is similar to other independent schools. Never, in fact, has anyone asked me, "How is The San Francisco School the same as other independent schools?" But if we want the student experience to be unique and special; if we want to inspire big thinking; if we want to raise passionate young citizens with the skills and commitment to build a just and equitable world, The San Francisco School must have an endowment to match the best endowed schools. A strong and growing Endowment will certainly Shape the Future, not just of The San Francisco School, but of our children as well. ●



James Harding teaching music to first grade students.

# Parent Education: Enriching Our Own Learning Experience for the Benefit of our Children

by Laura Rafferty-Jacobo, SFS Parent

*“Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another.”*

G.K. Chesterton, *The Observer*, 6 July 1924

Thinking about what I wanted to write for this article, I came across this quote in my handy Dictionary of Quotations that I keep in my office, and it resonated with me. While our SFS teachers so beautifully handle a big chunk of the task, all of us in the community share in the responsibility of educating our children. And as a parent, while I feel I have much to offer my child, there is always so much more to learn—which is why the parent education programs at SFS have been very meaningful for me.

## Building Community Film Series

The SFS Culture and Community (C&C) Committee—which supports the Room Parent Network, the new-family buddy system, neighborhood relations, and more—has been very active in sponsoring parent education programs at our school. These programs have been delivered primarily through the Building Community Film Series, a 4-year-old program that has brought New York filmmakers and award-winning documentaries directly to our humble activity room.

Enhancing our ability to educate and parent our children in a complex world is the ultimate goal. The film series endeavors to accomplish this by presenting evenings that nurture our sense of community, our appreciation of diversity issues, and our commitment to social justice.

The film series combines documentary films with “meet the director” and expert-speaker presenta-



tions, panels, or moderator-led group discussions. Some of the films the committee has selected to screen have been instructional in nature and some have been groundbreaking works that push us to explore our innermost thoughts and feelings. All of the film events have encouraged community conversation and provided an opportunity for SFS families to come together and share in a safe environment. And all of them have provided additional resources such as books and information links so that we can keep the dialogue going and

pass on these positive values to our children.

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## Take Three!

The Building Community Film Series is funded through a mini-grant from the San Francisco Children and Families Commission. This grant is part of the Commission's Parent ACTION project, which is funded by Proposition 10, the California Children and Families Act that was sponsored by actor Rob Reiner. Prop 10 increased the tax on tobacco products to fund local health care and early care and education programs that promote early child development.

The Commission's Parent ACTION project empowers parents and community members to take action and develop their own solutions to make San Francisco a better place to raise young children. The project is unique in that it puts monies directly into the hands of parent-led groups. Our school's C&C Committee is one of the groups funded by the Commission as part of this groundbreaking effort.

Parent ACTION was conceived as a three-year project, and C&C has applied and been awarded grant monies in all three rounds. The grant has enabled us to purchase films, fund event expenses including childcare, and purchase resources. For example, the C&C Committee has donated over \$1200 worth of books to the SFS Library.

## Working together to nurture the intellectual, imaginative and humanitarian promise of our children

Grant monies have also been used by the C&C to reach out to other SFS committees in support of their agendas. For example, the C&C and Diversity Committees share several objectives in terms of fostering community and heightening awareness of the breadth of diversity issues. Thus, the two have collaborated on several events, including bringing the World Café concept to SFS. C&C grant

monies also supported this Spring's Learning Services Group event, which was designed to educate us all on the learning challenges faced by some of our children and families.

## What goes on behind the scenes

It's the teamwork, dedication and creativity of a core group of parents that has enabled this series to contribute to the SFS community dialogue. Their efforts include everything from film researching and pre-screenings, to speaker sourcing and conversation shaping. From chair setting and snack buying, to floor sweeping and child minding. The administration has also lent support, as have a number of teachers who have helped source books, suggest topics, sit on panels and participate in the conversations. It's a

rich and rewarding program to work on, and the film committee hopes to bring you more compelling works in the future.

## Keep the conversation going

Video cassettes of most of the films are available for parent checkout through Development Director Charlie Meade. Books covering a variety of subjects for the 0-5, elementary, and middle school age groups are part of the SFS Library collection. Adult-level books can be found on the Building



Community Film Series shelf in the SFS Library.

To learn more about the films and view the resource lists associated with each, visit the SFS web site at [www.sfschool.org/programs/outreach/film/index.shtml](http://www.sfschool.org/programs/outreach/film/index.shtml)

*If you are interested in the San Francisco Children and Families Commission's work, go to: [www.sfkids.org](http://www.sfkids.org)*

## THE SERIES AT A GLANCE

The Building Community Film Series has screened works on a broad range of topics:

*Aging in America* — explores the social issues of longevity.

*Boys Will Be Men* — How do boys become men? How do they learn courage, the difference between right and wrong, and the meaning of love?

*Discovering Dominga* — a young woman's odyssey from the cornfields of her adoptive Iowa to the Mayan highlands of Guatemala.

*The Divide* — a story of race, immigration and identity in small-town America.

*Fat City* — viewers experience the same frustration, anxiety and tension that children with learning disabilities face in their daily lives.

*Merchants of Cool* — explores the symbiotic relationship between the media and today's teens, as each looks to the other for their identity.

*Outside Looking In: Transracial Adoption in America* — explores the issues of race, family, belonging and identity.

*Promises* — seven children in Jerusalem — some Palestinian, some Israeli — strive to express their own ideas of religious and national conflicts.

*Secrets of the SAT* — exploring our National obsession with testing.

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## Competition

Unfortunately, there is a grimmer side to Brundibar. The Jewish Czech Composer Hans Krasa (1899-1944) composed and scored the piece shortly before World War II -in 1938- as an entry for a children's opera competition organized by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Education and Culture, on a text from Adolf Hoffmeister. It is possible that the competition was canceled because of the impending war, or that Krasa and Hoffmeister did not get the prize because they were Jews. The fact is that Brundibar was performed only once in Czechoslovakia, in a Jewish orphanage in Prague. And by that time Hans Krasa was already transported to the ghetto of Theresienstadt. This small garrison town in North Bohemia was a transit camp for Jews from Central Europe on their way to the extermination camps like Auschwitz.

Thanks to a piano score that was smuggled into the camp, Hans Krasa managed to create a new instrumentation for Brundibar and the opera was performed more than fifty times between 1942 and the end of the war at Theresienstadt. These performances took

place due to the fact that Theresienstadt was a 'model ghetto' where the inmates were treated relatively well, were allowed a kind of self-government and could hold all kinds of cultural events. The Nazis used Theresienstadt as a way to deceive the outside world and create the illusion that life in their camps was not too bad. During all performances the part of the Cat was sung by Ela Stein Weissberger, who is now 73 and lives in Tappan, N.Y. In a 2000 interview she recalls how the children interpreted Brundibar, and especially the Victory Song at the end: "When we sang, we forgot where we were. We forgot hunger, we forgot all troubles that we had to go through...The Nazis did not know that the Victory Song at the opera's end had a double meaning. In our eyes, Brundibar was Hitler. We wanted a vic-

tory over a terrible man", she said. Ela Stein Weissberger is one of only four cast members who managed to live through the war. Hans Krasa was transported to Auschwitz and died soon after his arrival in October 1944. An estimated 140,000 people passed through Theresienstadt between 1941 and 1945. Fewer than 20,000 survived.

## Revival

Brundibar will, in part or as a whole, most likely remain part of The San Francisco School repertoire. During the Spring Concert the Elementary and Adult Chorus sang the Lullaby from this opera, and Sofia has indicated that the 35-minute production might be revived during the next school year. ●



A backdrop from the set of Brundibar

## Help Support SFS by Purchasing Your Copies of the New School Community Cookbook *Food for Your Brood!*

This spring, we launched a fabulous new version of the SFS cookbook titled *Food for Your Brood*. Edited and designed by current SFS parents, the cookbook features more than a dozen of School Cook Patty Corwin's greatest hits, including Spaghetti Carbonara, Turkey Tetrazini and her famous Mac & Cheese! More than 100 additional recipes from many families and cultures are included, as well as informative essays on nutrition and organic food labeling.

Get some fresh ideas on salads, pastas, breakfasts and side dishes for your summer fare. Contact us now to get your copies before they're gone!

**Celebrate the bountiful foods of summer with the new San Francisco School community cookbook, *Food for your Brood*. On sale now by calling 415 239 5065 or send an email to [ameade@sfschool.org](mailto:ameade@sfschool.org).**

**\$20 per book/3 for \$50.**



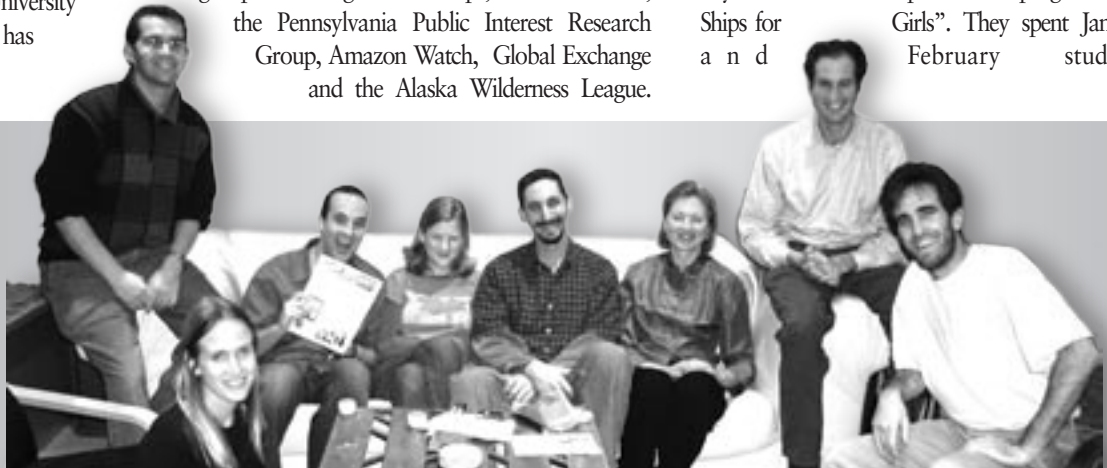
# Alumni News

by Robin Basalla, Development Associate

**Daniel O'Connor '75** emailed in recently to update us on his whereabouts. It's wonderful that after all this time, Daniel still keeps The San Francisco School close to his heart. He is currently living in Sandy, Utah and is the VP and co-founder of a software company there. Tom Carter and Ellen Bunning wrote in to tell us about **Ben Bunning '86** and Maggie who are living in Jefferson, MA, and had their first child in December. Maggie is a manager at Applebees and Ben is working in X-Ray machine repair in the surrounding areas. Both Ben and Maggie are playing a lot of tennis together. **Emily Marsh '86** is just completing her Masters in Social Work, with a focus on School Social Work, at the University of Washington in Seattle. She has plans to move back to the Bay Area to look for work. **Katy Barnhill '91** is teaching dance in Manhattan. **Robin Oetinger '89** is teaching English at Dominican College in San Rafael, CA. She is living with her long time boyfriend in the Rockridge district of Oakland, CA. Robin had become active in Green Party politics after spending a year in Zimbabwe, a semester studying in Costa Rica and another year as a Rotary International Exchange scholar in Rio de Janeiro. **Evan Oetinger '91** graduated from Chico State with a degree in Management and Information Systems. He is currently running a small company offering technical support for business and residential computers in Chico. Last Summer you may have seen him hiking along the John Muir trail. **Abo Greenwald '89** is doing set design and theatre work in San Francisco. He designed the set for this year's production of Brundibar

(see front page article). Nice job, Abo! **Dina Greenwald '91** is currently studying child psychology at San Francisco State University. Jamie Howell and his son **Matt Howell '90** were spotted recently where we found out that they are in the real estate business together. Matt is living with Abo Greenwald. **Daniel Sapoznick '91** is working for a local family service agency, which is his first job after getting his Masters in Social Work. Daniel writes to us, "I finished my degree last Fall after having spent two years back East in Massachusetts and southern Vermont." A final characterizing blurb: "I commute to work exclusively by bicycle, in short, I'm Green and ever-left leaning." **David Edeli '91** is a contract political organizer who has worked for a variety of environmental and human rights groups including Green Corps, Pesticide Watch, the Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group, Amazon Watch, Global Exchange and the Alaska Wilderness League.

Watts, recently updated us on her children, **Matthew '93** and **Amanda '96 Watts**. Both Matthew and Amanda have attended Brown University. Matthew graduated with the class of '01 and Amanda is currently a senior. **Samantha Chen '96** graduated from Lowell High School in June of 2000 and is currently a senior at the University of Hawaii, majoring in Human Nutrition. **Jessica Young '97** will graduate from Reed College in Portland, Oregon this June and hopes to join Teach for America. **Erich Stahlkopf '99** wrote in to tell us that he is currently attending Tulane University in New Orleans, majoring in Bio-chemistry and loving living in New Orleans. **Grant Chen '00** is a senior at Lowell High School and is waiting to hear where he will attend college in the Fall. **Jessica St. Clair '00** and **Nora Hemm '00** were among 15 bay area students accepted to the program "Tall Ships for Girls". They spent January and February studying



Over a fabulous lasagna a gathering of SFS alumni enjoyed an evening of wonderful conversation about sweet memories of SFS and the ways in which time spent on Gaven St. has profoundly affected their lives. Terry Edeli hosted the dinner at his house and there was a great turn out, with representation from seven San Francisco School classes and even a visit from First Grade Teacher, **Pamela Myers**. In attendance were **Laralyn Bergstedt '88**,

**Chris Galvin, '84, Jesse Zitrin '90, Erik Weiner '91, Geoff Williams, '79, Gabe Lucas '87, Marina Hotchkiss '83, and Heather Cunningham '91.**

The SFS Alumni Association hopes to continue to offer such informal events to keep alumni connected to each other and The School. If you would like to host such a gathering, please contact Alumni Coordinator, Robin Basalla at [rbasalla@sfschool.org](mailto:rbasalla@sfschool.org).

David is now a field organizer with Moveon PAC in Florida. He invites you to join him and can be contacted at [david@moveonpac.org](mailto:david@moveonpac.org). **Lena Corwin '91** has been living in New York for 7 years and is working in the textile industry, designing patterns for fabric. She is living with her boyfriend, Josh, to whom she was recently engaged! They were introduced by fellow SFS alum, **Erik Weiner '91**. Alum parent, Meredith

Marine Navigation, Engineering, and Sailing in the San Francisco Bay. The program culminates with a six week Caribbean adventure on a large schooner crewed by the young senior sailors. Way to go Jessica and Nora! **Angelina Gomez '04** will graduate from Presidio Middle School in June and will go on to Lowell High School. She wishes all her former classmates well and congratulations! ●



## Leading the Way

by *Charlie Meade, Director of Development*

The May Board of Trustees Meeting brought to a conclusion the three-year tenure of Board President, *Terry Gamble Boyer*, who navigated The School through a period of both evaluation and growth.

“Terry was an incredibly generous Board President” stated Head of School, Terry Edeli, “she gave so much of herself to The School. She supported me, other trustees and The School in a healthy and collaborative manner. Her voice will be missed.” And her ability to move The Board through a decision-making process, where all can voice opinions will also be missed.

The School saw strong endowment growth, the completion of the North Yard re-construction and an increase in giving during Terry’s tenure. Terry truly understood and was committed to maintaining and improving the long-term financial health of The School both through sound budgeting and a commitment

to a strong development effort.

And Terry also led The School through a re-accreditation process with the California Association of Independent Schools, an updating of the bylaws, and the launching of a new marketing plan. Within the Board, Terry undertook a long-term board education process that included the formation of a Membership Committee and a series of curriculum related presentations at Board Meetings.

For the first time since 1998, Terry will not be attending Board Meetings and will be focusing on other areas of her life. Last year, Terry had her first novel published, “The Water Dancers” of which The New York Times stated, “Gamble’s voice is... fresh and assured, yielding a first novel that bodes well for her second.” And that is exactly how Terry will be spending her time, focusing not on School bylaws, but on her second novel.

## School Elects New Board President

“It is exciting and quite an honor taking on this new challenge as Board President,” states *Tamara Hicks*, the incoming President of the Board of Trustees, “but I learned a lot from Terry Gamble Boyer and feel prepared to take this leadership role.” Tamara is balancing her obligations as Board President with her active private practice as a licensed psychologist. She completed her doctorate at California School of Professional Psychology in 1997 and has been licensed to practice as a psychologist since 2001.

Tamara lives in Noe Valley with her husband, David Jablons, and her two daughters who attend The School, Josie who is a fourth grader and Emmy who is a 5 year old in the South Class Preschool.

## School Welcomes New Assistant Head

by *Charlie Meade, Director of Development*

The San Francisco School is pleased to announce that *Steve Morris* has been hired as the Assistant Head of School. Steve takes over for Ann Jaquith, who has been with The School for six years and is leaving to pursue a Doctorate in Education from Stanford.

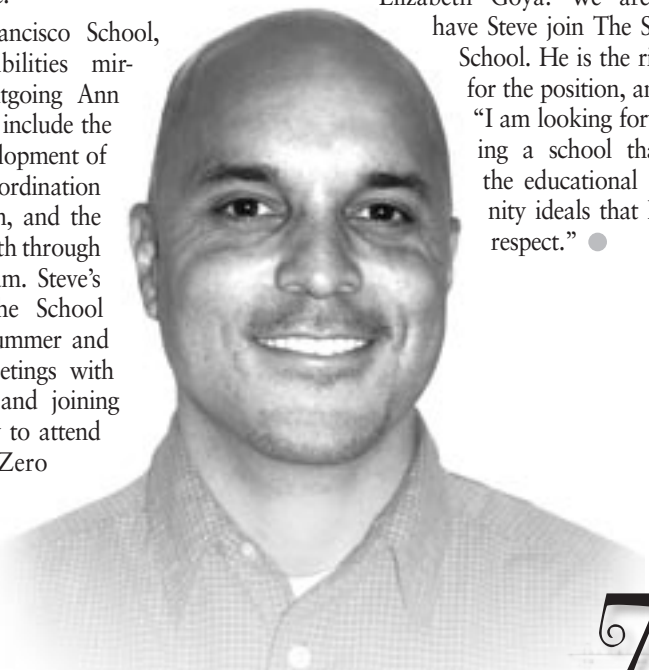
Steve Morris is coming to The School from San Francisco University High School where he was the Dean of Multicultural Affairs, an English Teacher, and the assistant soccer coach. Steve has a BA in English with a minor in African-American Studies from The College of Wooster, and an MA in Educational Administration from Stanford. Prior to his time at UHS, Steve worked at Sewickley Academy in Pittsburgh as a teacher, administrator, and executive director for Summerbridge, a summer program that provides academic preparation to 6th, 7th and 8th graders. He also worked at Summerbridge National. Steve currently serves on the boards of directors for San Francisco Day School and Youth Speaks, and he formerly served

on the board of POCIS (People of Color in Independent Schools). Steve has coordinated and presented at several recent conferences including the POCIS and National Association of Independent Schools, People of Color Conference.

At The San Francisco School, Steve’s responsibilities mirror those of outgoing Ann Jaquith, and will include the professional development of the faculty, the coordination of the curriculum, and the oversight of the 4th through 8th grade program. Steve’s transition to The School will begin this summer and include both meetings with Ann and Terry and joining a team of faculty to attend the Project Zero Institute and a conference

on Differentiated Instruction. His official duties start on August 16th, when the full administrative team arrives back on campus to prepare for the 2004-05 school year.

Steve resides in San Francisco with his wife, Elizabeth Goya. We are thrilled to have Steve join The San Francisco School. He is the right educator for the position, and as he said, “I am looking forward to joining a school that represents the educational and community ideals that I admire and respect.” ●



*Steve Morris, new Assistant Head of School.*





SFS parent, Fay Coad, with the help of fellow SFS parent Marijke Gantvoort and school cook Patty Corwin, prepares a traditional Persian lunch in celebration of Norouz, the Persian New Year.

# calendar

## August

28..... Saturday..... Parent/Staff workday

## September

1..... Wednesday..... First Day of School

6..... Monday..... Labor Day Holiday

## October

17..... Sunday..... Walkathon/All School Picnic

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