

# Pilgrim Alumni Association News

Keeping you a part of the Pilgrim Community.

Dear Pilgrim Alum:

Here we are in the thick of Chicago wintertime! While the kids are busy with their school work, the auction committee is planning this year's event for **March 7**. See the far right column for further information and plan to join us!

Although we try to plan for everything, sometimes there are more classroom needs that aren't quite met by the budget. So, we now have a Pilgrim **Teacher's Wish List** on our website. If you are able, any donation (big or small) would be appreciated. Here is the link: <http://www.pilgrimchurchandschool.org/pinkpages/wishlist>.

At a time when school art programs across the country are finding themselves winnowed by lagging funds, Pilgrim is running in the opposite direction. Pilgrim is feeding its pupils' spirits with **ARTsmart**, a program that takes art class to a new level by combining history, appreciation and creative hands-on experience. Come see the works of our blossoming Pilgrim artists at their spring show, **Gallery 4300, held at Belle Plaine Studio on May 16, 4:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Help us build our community**—please tell any alums that you know of to register on the Pilgrim website at <http://www.pilgrimchurchandschool.org/school/pilgrimalumni.php4>.

Best regards,

Nancy Liljedahl & Jule Uddfolk

Pilgrim Alumni Association Coordinators

## Pilgrim Kids Helping Others

Once again the Pilgrim Community delivered over 120 gifts to Pablo Casals School in December. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class truly embodied the meaning and spirit of Christmas. They walked into a room, rolled up their sleeves and shared Christmas joy with two classes of new friends. Here's a reflection written by a parent: "I knew we were bringing gifts to Pablo Casals--they were piled pretty high in the back of church--and I knew we were bringing cheer. After all, we had crafts and songs and kids in Santa hats and jingle bells. But I didn't predict everything I'd see, or learn, in Humboldt Park Tuesday afternoon. First, there was the shy Pilgrim first-grader who barely said a word when she met her Pablo Casals partner--then warmed up as she and the girl took turns stringing beads to make a candy cane ornament. Then there was the second-grade boy who led his partner to the Letters to Santa station--his arm cradled firmly around the other boy's back. I saw Pilgrim students walking the halls of an unfamiliar school, sharing songs and neatly wrapped presents. I saw them hunched over craft projects with new friends, sharing ideas and stories and thoughts on how to spell words. At the very end, I saw a Pablo Casals student walk up to my own daughter and say, "Thanks for coming." And I saw my daughter lean toward her and whisper something I couldn't hear. Then, as if they'd known each other for months instead of minutes, the girl raised her palm, and my daughter raised hers. They smiled and smacked hands: High Five. Children really do make it seem simple."

Then in February, the Pilgrim Kids Care cookie baking kicked off! The Kindergarten class baked 140 cookies, the 1st/2nd grade classes along with their chapel partners from 5th/6th grade baked 2,532 cookies between school and at-home baking, and the combined pre-school classes, with the help of 7th/8th grade helpers, baked 660 more. The cookies are delivered to First Slice which distributes them to the homeless.

## Pilgrim Alum Profile: David Heppner, Class of 1999

David Heppner attended Pilgrim from 1989-1999 and graduated from Luther North High School in 2003. He received his B.S. in Chemistry Summa Cum Laude from the University of Minnesota in 2007. Currently, David is working towards a Doctor of Philosophy in Inorganic Chemistry at Stanford University. His research interests are focused on spectroscopy and magnetism of transition metal ions (e.g. copper, iron, nickel etc) and the application of said methodologies in the mechanistic study of dioxygen reduction by copper containing enzymes. He spends most of his free time playing piano and organ, attends church in Palo Alto where he sings in the choir and serves on the Outreach Committee. David also enjoys camping and hiking in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

His favorite memories include being on the basketball and track teams and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Toronto. David particularly enjoyed having Dave Maring, Theresa Sparlin and Michael Knuth as teachers because of their unadulterated ebullience for teaching young people. He has special regard for Cheryl Saiki, his learning disabilities teacher, who he credits for giving him the tools needed to succeed at all levels of learning!

David has kept in touch with Sean Kreyborg since their days at Pilgrim. He lives in Palo Alto and would love to hear from any old friends or teachers. [heppner@stanford.edu](mailto:heppner@stanford.edu)

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It's party time!

## PILGRIM SCHOOL & CHURCH AUCTION

We hope to see you at this year's Pilgrim School & Church Auction and Dinner which will take place on Saturday, March 7, 6:30-11:00 p.m. at D.A.N.K. Haus, Chicago's German-American Cultural Center located at 4740 N. Western. This event is always a lot of fun and a very important fundraiser for Pilgrim. It's a Mardi Gras theme, so feel free to dress up for the occasion. Come join us for a buffet Cajun dinner, drinks, games and silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$50 each (cash bar) and can be purchased in the school office. Or, you may want to donate an auction item—let us know!

