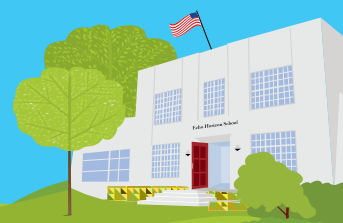




GREAT TEACHING. GREAT VALUES. GREAT KIDS.

ROOTS & WINGS



The Newsletter of Echo Horizon School / Fall 2012



30 YEARS OF COMMITMENT & UNIQUE VISION

For 30 years, the story of Echo Horizon School has been one of vision and determination. In 1983, twenty students entered our doors for the first time, the result of the commitment of Carol Proctor Landsberg and her late husband, Kent H. Landsberg, to fulfill their vision of a school where children with hearing loss could be mainstreamed with their hearing peers in a manner that benefited both and made a stronger whole.


Today we continue to value character education as highly as we do academic accomplishment, just as we did in 1983. We believe that in today's fast-paced, high-pressure world, wholesome values and the time to slow down and think matter more than ever. We continue to act out the Landsbergs' vision every day by teaching bright kids how to think critically, see the connections between themselves and others, and claim their unique gifts. We see ourselves as a safe haven in a complicated world.

It is rare to find a learning environment where every single child knows s(he) is seen and valued by the adults around her/him. Since up to

10% of the students in every Echo Horizon class are either deaf or hard of hearing, teachers feel the importance of connecting with each student, ensuring that each understands what is being taught and is fully engaged in learning. That individual connection may be particularly important for children who are deaf or hard of hearing, but, of course, building those connections is the best way for every child to learn!



Imagine teachers who are trained to be completely tuned-in to each and every student. Imagine what a great learning experience it is for children to be truly seen and heard by adults they care about and who they know care so much about them...

So, 30 years and 700 graduates later, we offer a deeply felt thank you to Carol and Kent Landsberg for having the wisdom and commitment to envision such a unique and impactful learning environment. 

Principal Matters



It is astonishing to realize that Echo Horizon School is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year – and even more astonishing to think that I have been here for nearly 27 of those 30 years.

What changes we have seen in that time! In 1983, the year Echo Horizon School was founded, the United Nations' General Assembly proclaimed World Communications Year to stimulate worldwide development of communications infrastructures. In 2013, our students can have face-to-face communication with their peers anywhere in the world via the powers of video-conferencing. In 1983, compact audio discs, developed by Philips and Sony, were first released in the United States. In 2013, Echo Horizon students will make music on their iPads.

However, as the saying goes, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." Technology races ahead and enables our students to do more in creative and innovative ways. This they have done consistently under the tutelage of our faculty, helping the

school to earn two awards as an Apple Distinguished School along the way. Classes have flipped and we followed suit with our flipped math classroom. The importance of mathematical knowledge and understanding in today's world caused us to incorporate Singapore Math into instruction to ensure that our students are competent and comfortable with mathematical thinking. In the last 30 years, ecology and sustainability have become more than just an esoteric thought; we now know that future generations depend on our stewardship. So, we make sure that our students understand the challenges and engage them in finding solutions.

Yet, with all this change, our core values and goals remain, purposefully, unchanged. The nearly 700 students who have graduated from Echo Horizon School, from our first Class of 1991 to last year's Class of 2012, learned and benefitted from our emphasis on our core values - mutual respect, inclusiveness, self reliance and best educational practices. In fact, I firmly believe that the character development resulting from the practice of



these core values forms the springboard from which our students enthusiastically dive into and embrace our changing world. 🐦

Paula R. Dashiell
Head of School

*Paula Dashiell (B.S., Indiana University
M.A.T., Harvard University)
has been Head of School at Echo Horizon for 27 years.*

Opportunities for Thinking Bigger

Every day here at Echo Horizon School we teach bright kids how to think critically, see the connections between themselves and

others, and claim their unique gifts. Learning to embrace their gifts and differences and meet their challenges, gives our kids much confidence and power. In our classes up to



10% of the students are deaf or hard of hearing, and because of this, our students learn to support one another's needs and more importantly, advocate for their own needs. The true value of these lessons was driven home to me over summer break.

Last summer I was fortunate to have been selected as one of 700 (out of 135,000

applicants) to attend the TEDGlobal 2012 Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland. This year's theme, "Radical Openness," evolved



from a focus on considering the following statement: "As the world becomes interconnected, the ways we relate and learn about one another (and the rules about what we share) are changing."

Being in the company of so many people who think outside the box encouraged me to not just accept things as I think they are, but to always question "why can't this happen?"

All of the presenters amazed me. In fact, to present at TEDGlobal, you must truly be an AMAZING individual. However, Neil Harbisson's "I Listen to Color" struck a chord

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We have Two Gifts to Give our Children One is Roots, the Other, Wings.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Echo Horizon School and its Echo Center is to educate children in a collaborative environment that is academically challenging and developmentally appropriate. We actively promote mutual respect, individual responsibility and ethical action. The Echo Horizon graduate is an inquisitive and critical thinker who brings creativity, kindness and self-reliance to the lifelong journey of learning.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2012



We will watch with pride as the Class of 2012 moves forward at their chosen schools:

Archer School for Girls
Brentwood School
Campbell Hall
Crossroads School
Marlborough School
Milken Community School
Oakwood School
Turning Point School
Wildwood School
Windward School

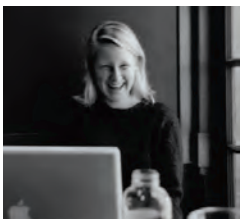
THE CLASS OF 2006 IS OFF TO COLLEGE!

Congratulations also to the Class of 2006 who have now ventured out to schools across the United States to pursue their dreams at the following institutions:


Bard College	Ohio State
Boston University	Ohio Wesleyan University
Carleton College	Reed College
Colorado College	Santa Monica Community College
Columbia University	Tempe University
Connecticut College	Tulane University
Cornell University	Tulsa University
Emory University	U.C.L.A
Gonzaga University	U.C.S.B.
Goucher College	University of Arizona
Indiana University	University of Colorado
Johns Hopkins University	University of Oregon
Kenyon College	University of Pennsylvania
Lehigh University	University of Richmond
Menlo College	Wagner College
New York University	Washington University (St. Louis)
Oberlin College	



Alumni Corner



Anna R. (Class of 2002) received a Bachelor of Arts in History with a Financial focus from Stanford University and accepted a position in the Legal Department of Google at their Mountain View, CA headquarters. After representing the United States in the 2008 Pan-American Rowing Games as a nationally ranked Junior Rower, Anna joined Stanford Women's Crew, helping the team to win its first ever NCAA

Team Championship. As a sophomore, Anna sang with Stanford Talisman, an a cappella vocal group dedicated to diversity and cultural exchange through music. On a trip to South Africa, the group recorded a joint music album with an indigenous children's music group called Peace Africa, the sale proceeds from which are dedicated to Ugandan orphans. She also studied in Berlin for a year with the Stanford Bing Overseas Studies Program. 

Stanford Women's Crew, helping the team to win its first ever NCAA

Opportunities for Thinking Bigger

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close to home because of the community I am a part of here at Echo Horizon School. You see, Neil was born completely color blind, so for most of his life he experienced his world in grayscale. That was until he teamed up with a cyberneticist and a software developer to create an "eyeborg," a prosthetic device worn in front of his forehead that transposes color frequencies into sound frequencies. So, instead of seeing colors in the way that you or I do, he hears a symphony! Neil saw an opportunity to embrace his challenge and create a way of experiencing the world in a completely new and revolutionary way.

It's not just our deaf and hard-of-hearing students who embrace challenges and claim their uniqueness – it's ALL of us at Echo Horizon School. And, as inspired as I was by the presenters at

TEDGlobal this summer, I am equally as inspired each and every day by the ideas, accomplishments, victories, and, most importantly, the character of all students and teachers here at Echo Horizon School. 🐦

Martha Schuur
Assistant Head of School

To learn more about Neil Harbisson's amazing story, visit:
www.ted.com/talks/neil_harbisson_i_listen_to_color.html

Say Hello to Dr. Noah!



We are very proud to congratulate 5th grade teacher Tolulope Noah on receiving her Doctorate from USC last spring, with a concentration in Teacher Education in Multicultural Societies (TEM). Her degree focuses on preservice and inservice teacher education, curriculum and student learning. Dr. Noah joined the Echo Horizon School faculty in 2007 and shortly thereafter received her

Masters in Arts & Elementary Education from LMU. Previously she earned a BA in Liberal Studies with a concentration in English and also participated in the Teach for America Program.

"For my dissertation," Dr. Noah shared, "I studied middle school teachers' perceptions of cyberbullying, an issue which is of growing significance in the digital age. My dissertation committee members have asked me to publish an article in an educational journal about my study. Completing my doctorate while teaching full time was challenging, and I could not have succeeded without the encouragement and support of my Echo Horizon family."

Congratulation, Dr. Noah! 🐦



Facebook "Like" and
"Favorite Echo Horizon
School Memory"

We're turning 30 and we
want YOU to help us celebrate!

So much has happened over the
past 30 years here at Echo Horizon
School and we think you can help
us share our story best. "Like" us
on our Facebook page and then
post your family's favorite Echo
Horizon School memory on our wall.

Thanks!



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