

Foothills Focus



Foothills School provides a vibrant learning community where students develop personal, academic, and social responsibility – leading to a lifetime of discovery.

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618 South 8th Street
Boise, ID 83702
208.331.9260
www.foothillsschool.org



Congratulations to the Nines Graduates!

~A Farewell from Ray Vizgirdas & the 2011 Nines Class~



Another year has come and gone. Like the Green Day song goes, “I have the photographs and still frames in my mind...and for what it’s worth it was worth all the while.” I am both happy and a little sad to see another group of students move on in life. But life will continue, and as I have tried to instill in all my students over the past 20 odd years of teaching, “life is a journey, not a destination.” The same goes with education.

In short, what an incredible year this was with another group of incredible students. Every day was unique and as much as the teacher was teaching, the teacher was also the student. Rather than hoard the stage, the Nines wanted to say something regarding their overall experience at Foothills, their 9th grade class, and what paths they are thinking of pursuing. As you read what they have to say, keep the song by Green Day reverberating in your mind.

– Ray Vizgirdas, Nines Faculty

● **Carly Dodson** – My experience at Foothills has been outstanding. For the many years I have been enrolled here, I feel very proud about what I have accomplished. Ever since pre-school I have had an amazing time. Not every school has the opportunity to have incredible teachers. My year in the Nines was enjoyable. The Nines class helped me prepare for the years ahead. The Nines class has been an amazing experience for me, and because the classes are so small, you can have one-on-one time with your teacher if you have any questions. My future plans beyond high school are going to a good college and to make a difference in the world.

● **Camille Dodson** – Foothills is a great school. My overall experience here has been amazing. I’ve been at this school from the very beginning. You have a lot of freedom and the teachers are great. They help you get through your school work and answer any questions you have. I have learned so much from going to this school. Foothills teaches things at a high level and they challenge us. I love going here and everyone is very friendly. My year in the Nines has been great. Ray is a great teacher. He really helped me with the questions I had. He has helped me through this whole year. The Nines class this year was a small class, and the good thing is that we all knew each other; we’re like a big family. It’s fun being in the Nines because you get to do independent work and group activities. My future plans beyond high school are to go to college. I am not sure exactly what I particularly want to do but my idea is to do something that involves helping people.

● **Madeleine Kim** - I have had an exceptional experience at Foothills School of Arts and Sciences. I have always loved the freedom and options that are afforded to students here. The flexibility of the teachers and their willingness to help each individual achieve their goals has made the experience extraordinary. The schedule and curriculum are tailor-made for each student. Any extra courses or another area of interest are accommodated. My wish to read War and Peace was worked into the curriculum. The conviction that knowledge is important has pervaded my experience here. All of the teachers and students have a desire to learn. The teachers here are not only mentors, but also friends, people you can joke with. The coursework has encouraged the development of each individual’s own creative process. This development is encouraged by the outstanding arts program, which is tied in with other areas of coursework. I wished to study human rights in a visual way. The result was a series of seven masks portraying human rights issues throughout American History. Overall, coursework has been rigorous and interesting; I feel I have been thoroughly prepared for the remainder of my schooling. I aim to attend Stanford, Georgetown, University of Chicago, or Embry-Riddle University. I am interested in studying either Aerospace Engineering or Classic Literature.

CONTINUED on page 2

● **Melanie Hernandez** - The short year-and-a-half I've been enrolled at Foothills School has really been the most enjoyable school experience I've ever had. All of the students and faculty are always friendly to each other and every student has the opportunity to learn in a productive environment; it's an ideal school. The Nines program has been especially great. I've had the pleasure of getting to know my classmates this year, and taking academically challenging classes in a laid back setting. In fact, I would attend Foothills School for the rest of my high school career if it was possible. But all good things must come to an end, and back to public school I go next year. After high school, I think I'll probably be pursuing a career in art or math, though I haven't given it a whole lot of thought yet. But I'm so glad I had the chance to attend a school like Foothills, and I'll always remember the experiences I had here.

● **Jenna McKenzie** - There is only one word that could even come close to describing my experience at Foothills: incredible. I have never been so excited to come to school, so happy to see my teachers, and loved my classmates so much as I have in my three years at Foothills. I came to Foothills in 7th grade and loved the environment immediately. Everything about the school was comfortable and every morning I was excited for the day that awaited me. Out of my three years at Foothills, my 9th grade year was by far my favorite. If you had come up to me three years ago and said "during your 9th grade year, you will be in a class with all of your best friends and have the best teacher ever," I wouldn't have believed it. But that was the case this year. We all grew so close over the course of the year that they ended up not even feeling like peers, but more like sisters. Dan was awesome. He made L.A. the class I always looked forward to most. His humor and wit made the class so much fun. Ray was definitely amazing. He was always there to give advice about everything and anything. He always had creative ways of teaching and he added humor to whatever he taught us. All of the teachers really took care of us. I don't think I could've asked for a better experience. I will be attending Boise High School for the rest of my high school years. After I graduate and go to college, I hope to be teaching English abroad to pre-school children. I will miss Foothills, but will always remember it as the school where everyone felt like family.

● **Naomi Savin** - My experience at Foothills was definitely something that I will remember for the rest of my life. Not everyone has the opportunity to be taught by excellent teachers, participate in thought-provoking classes, spend lots of time with your best friends, and have actual input on what sort of activities go on in the classroom. Foothills was a great place for me to learn, to mature, and to have lots of fun! This year as a Nine was probably my favorite year at Foothills. Ray is a great teacher, I got to spend lots of time with my friends, and we finished off the year with an amazing trip to D.C.! We had a lot of fun in and out of the classroom (and sometimes we had to balance it out with some not-so-fun things). In my non-immediate future (i.e., after high school), I would like to go on to college and pursue a degree in something that I am genuinely intrigued by. I feel like since I have had the opportunity to go to a lot of great schools (such as Foothills) that I have lots of doors open to me. I have explored different fields of interest and subjects at Foothills, and I can honestly say that I have no idea what area of study I would like to zero in on when I get older. I haven't closed myself off to anything yet. Well, maybe some things, but you get the picture.

● **Lily Yasuda** - Coming back to Foothills is probably one of the best decisions I have ever made. I have had an amazing year in the Nines with all my closest friends and phenomenal teachers. Ray has been such a helpful and supportive guide in all of my classes, and never fails to bring a positive attitude and a plentiful supply of cookies to keep us motivated. Spring Trip was a blast and we were able to plan the entire itinerary, and had complete freedom when selecting our activities for the day, right down to the places we ate dinner or wanted to shop. Language arts is honestly the best class I have ever had in my life, and if I was to give out an award for best English teacher (or maybe best teacher ever, period...), Dan would win by a landslide. Simply put, Foothills is just such a positive environment, both in an academic and social sense, that I really can't imagine how I will cope without the constant support from my teachers and peers. Ray has prepared me (well, all of us, really) excellently for high school and all of the things – good, bad, and ugly – that lie in the future. I have always been excited for college, but now I am beginning to feel truly prepared, and hope that I can live up to the great things my teachers believe I can do.

This is Ray again ... I have always avoided good-byes, better to say, "see you in a while."



Not pictured: Melanie Hernandez

SCHOOL NEWS FOR SUMMER!

Summer Hours & Important Dates:

June 17 - Last day faculty are on-site.

June 20-30 - Full Administrative Team on-site.

July 1-31 – Full-time Administrative Team on-site from 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily (Shawn Shepherd, Head of School; and Cassie Angelos, Director of Operations; Melissa Murar, Bookkeeper, maintains Tuesday and Thursday hours).

July 4 & 5 - Office closed for Holiday.

August 1 - Full Administrative Team on-site; return to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. hours of operation.

August 17 – Faculty back on-site.

September 6 – 2011-12 School Year Begins.

Summer Class Parties

For the past several years, Foothills has hosted summer class parties at nearby parks so that families have a chance to get together before the new school year starts to talk with teachers, eat some food, and have some fun together! We'll send out a reminder later in the summer with party details, but please add upcoming summer class parties to your calendars. Hope to see you there!

- 2011-12 Early Learners – Tuesday, August 30
 - 2011-12 Primaries – Tuesday, August 23
 - 2011-12 Juniors – Thursday, August 25
 - 2011-12 Intermediates – Tuesday, August 30 (same night as the EL party)
- 2011-12 Seniors and Nines – Thursday, August 25



Come Out for a Day of Family Fun!

The Second Annual Street Fair and GIANT Garage Sale
Saturday, June 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*In front of Foothills School of Arts and Sciences in downtown Boise,
 618 South 8th Street*

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Garage Sale

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Food Court (pancakes in the morning and BBQ in the afternoon!)

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Street Fair

Main Stage Entertainment:

10-11 a.m. - Piers Lamb, Guitar/Singer-songwriter

11-Noon - Boise Rock School

Noon-1 p.m. - Ajose Dancers and Global Lounge Organic Beat Ensemble

1-2 p.m. - John Hansen, Folk Guitar and Vocals

1-3 p.m. - Tropical Cowboys, a great party band!

*Tickets for the carnival & food court can be purchased early at the Front Desk,
 \$10 for 25 tickets or \$25 for 60 tickets!*



News from the Classes



Early Learners Bring Wildlife Into the Classroom!

Recently the Early Learners had a special guest from the M.K. Nature Center brought in by Deniz Aygen, Ayla’s mom. The guest was a burrowing owl named Digger. Digger was hit by a car and can no longer fly. His new role is to help educate the public about his species. The students were able to learn about him and ask questions. Many of the children were fascinated by having a live owl in the classroom, as well as listening to the information Deniz provided. One interesting fact we learned was that burrowing owls surround their burrows with cow manure (or other farm animal waste) in order to keep predators away and to attract bugs! The students also learned that female owls are bigger than males and burrowing owls’ nests are underground. These owls are protected in Idaho and other states because their homes are threatened, and the owls are getting sick from pesticides and other harmful chemicals in the environment. We learned so much about this small owl and we were glad to have an expert come in and share with us!

Primary Students Learn About Horticulture

The Primary students have been growing, looking at, and experimenting with plants over the last few weeks, and have discovered a lot of interesting facts. They looked at a plant’s life-cycle, parts, uses, and what plants need to survive. They have used what they learned to answer the question: “What do plants do?” Their culminating project is to create a museum display that shows information about a specific plant that they have been studying. To give you a better idea of what the students are learning, we interviewed one of our Primary students, Grace Hinkle:

What project are you working on?

Grace: The sunflower.

What have you learned?

Grace: Well, I know that sunflowers have the seed inside you can eat. Animals eat them too.

What is the life-cycle of the sunflower?

Grace: When the seed gets heavy it falls out, then it sprouts, then when the seed comes off it looks like a hat. It grows until the stalk gets so big the green thing covers the little florets holding the petals, and then the florets come out. The petals stick up then and then it gets really heavy because it’s full of seeds and it falls down.

How can it be used?

Grace: As decoration. I saw red seeds that make red and purple flowers. Purple and red are so interesting. I like the different colors. You can use it for sunflower oil for cooking.

What was your favorite part?

Grace: My favorite part is the floret. If you take the florets out, it doesn’t hurt the plants and there are buds.

What are you most excited to show?

Grace: I really like all of it, but I most like the uses.



Amazing Arthropods

Juniors have been studying arthropods in our classroom, in our neighborhood, and in the wilderness during Spring Trip. You may be asking yourself, “Arthro-whats?!!!” Basically, they are crunchy creepy crawlies with lots of legs. However, to be more precise, arthropods are invertebrate animals with segmented bodies, exoskeletons, and paired jointed legs. Insects, spiders, crabs, lobsters, cockroaches, shrimp, millipedes, and pill bugs are a few examples. Some questions the students have been delving into include: “How do ladybugs walk on walls?” “What’s the biggest arthropod?” “How do caterpillars make a cocoon?” and, “Do all arthropods shed their skin?” As the presence of certain arthropods, or lack thereof, is a significant indicator of a healthy habitat, arthropods are an important creature for all of us to get to know, even if we don’t want to cuddle up with any of them. Come on in and meet our classroom cockroaches – we’ve become quite fond of them!

Just a friendly reminder that our school hours change to 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. from July 1-31.



Intermediates Explore the Pacific Coast

Our trip to the Oregon Coast yielded positive experiences for the students. In a first for the Intermediates, students were initiated in coastal marine ecology by dipping into Boiler Bay's tide pool (this typically is a culminating project). The weather cooperated and students pondered and explored species of sea urchins, mussels, several crabs, sea anemones, sea cucumbers, sea stars (including the amazing 20-armed sunflower sea star), periwinkles, chitins (a marine-like gastropod), limpets, and nudibranches (no one went there – amazing!), and many other organisms. Students also jumped into Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center's labs and considered predator-prey relationships between mollusks, sea-stars, barnacles and zoo. We then went inside the anatomy of a squid with real dissections and scientific study. Of course the aquarium was a hit, where a broader view of Pacific Northwest coastal flora and fauna was on

display, and most students sampled seafood in port-side Newport. The estuary trawl provided students with another “hands-on” maritime experience, as students were permitted to steer the ship 'Discovery' in the bay area while pitching plankton nets and trawl lines, and sifting through the on-board live-tanks for estuary bottom-dwelling denizens. Whale watching was unfortunately denied by an outgoing tide, a southwest swell, and a northwest squall – producing Professional Bull Rider-like experiences for everyone (like moments on deck as the captain sought a calm space in which to turn the Discovery back into harbor, some green faces and understandable discomfort were mixed in with sheer glee). All-in-all, it was a trip to remember!

Senior Science Rocks!

The end of the school year often brings a flood of emotions for many of the Seniors. While some students become saddened at the thought of not seeing friends, classmates, and teachers for three months, others are excited for the prospect of a summer filled with fun and adventure. For some Senior students, the end of the school year means the end of their time in the Senior class. Those 8th graders recently took the time to reflect on what they will miss about the Senior class and some of their most memorable personal, academic, and social experiences as Seniors. Here is a portion of what they had to say:

“The best part of the Senior class is how comfortable everyone is with everybody else.” Billy B.

“I have grown confident in the Seniors; I'm no longer afraid to share my opinion.” Jackie L.

“I learned a lot about math and science. Every class I've been in I have grown.” Matt G.

“I will miss the teachers and the students in the younger grades.” Mackenzie S.

“What I will miss most about the Senior class are the people: my friends, the teachers, everyone.” Emma T.

“The best part of being in the Senior class is having all the privileges like being able to go out to lunch every week... and going on amazing Spring Trips.” Lulu A.

“There are many good things about the Seniors, such as Spring Trip, seminar, science, lunch out, creative writing, stamps, 1984, fruit break, Dan's chairs, Fall Trip, brown bag skits, spring performance, art class, science projects, history debates, CHOICE class, freedom, Dan, Kevin, Emily, Tara and everyone in the Seniors.” Hannah M.



The Nines Final Countdown!

Recently, the Nines returned from their Spring Trip to Washington D.C. newly energized and counting, literally counting, the days until school ends. Currently, a great portion of that energy is being channeled to prepare for final exams – an opportunity to review all that was covered during the past year. In class, we studied events and concepts and in most instances looked at them with a keen eye to details that were needed in order to understand the big picture. How can you appreciate the Revolutionary or Civil Wars without knowing something about the many little pieces and personnel? How about genetics and how inheritance works without an understanding of chemistry and mathematics? Fortunately, final exams here at Foothills are a review meant to remind students of all that we studied – because maybe someday you will need that little factoid

in other classes or even at work. The Nines have their finals scheduled for the week of May 31-June 3. After finals is “Celebration Week” to enjoy and recognize all that has been accomplished. On June 9 at 10 a.m., the Nines are having a graduation ceremony and party. Come by and wish our Nines good luck as they head for high school next year!



News from the Specialists



Students' Beautiful Art Creations

In the art studio, classes are finishing up with the creation of pages for the 2010-11 yearbook. Students design pages for their own dyad as well as a variety of all-school pages that reflect the events, opportunities and experiences that make the Foothills community unique. While the Juniors, Intermediates, Seniors and Nines use Microsoft Publisher to create their pages, the Primaries will make illustrations and choose pictures to be scanned into the computer for completion. Artists will also design yearbook covers featuring the ancient art of paper marbling! After the completion of the yearbook, we will wrap up final activities, review the year's work in portfolios, and celebrate with parties and snacks. Finally, we'll clean the studio and prepare for summer break!

The 2010-11 year witnessed some outstanding work by all students. The Primaries created large scale paintings of the human body and of plants, and discovered the geology of ceramics. Junior students were immersed in graphic novels before exploring weather through painting and drawing, and creating clay sculptures of arthropods. Intermediate artists made journals and drew images from life, then invented sculptures from recycled materials. Seniors produced masks, self-portraits, solar plate prints and pop art, while the Nines created a mural, made prints, drawings, paintings, decorated costumes and explored their own interests. Students worked together to create some amazing work for the auction, including a tile mosaic, large paintings, wood-burned designs, and collages. There was a public art show of Senior and Nines prints at Rediscovered Books, and some of these works will travel to Sun Valley in September as part of the annual Hemingway Symposium. All artists had the opportunity to visit the Boise Art Museum and watch Trey McIntyre practice sessions, and a variety of art experiments made their way into CHOICE classes and Open Studio on Thursday afternoons. Students put their skills to work creating costumes and props for theater and Spring Performance. We had a few failures, lots of messes, some happy accidents and tons of successes throughout the year!

What a Year for Music and Performance!

What an exciting year we have had in music! We began with a great Veterans Concert, inviting veterans from the local community into our school. We had our first 'In-formance' for winter performance to show more what the students are learning, rather than solely focusing on performance outcomes. We continued with the after school musical theatre program, and this spring added a new Glee Club and two guitar classes. Foothills musically represented our school performing the National Anthem at an Idaho Stampede Basketball Game. We had our first ever Foothills Variety Show, which will certainly become an annual event. Musicians from out-of-town performed at our school to share their talents with us; Sister Monk, Old Man Markley, and the Rugare Marimba Ensemble all performed here! We closed out the year with a great "Tour through Broadway" Spring Performance that incorporated music, acting, and dancing. What a year in music!



News from the Spanish Department

In May students enjoyed the Fiestas of Cinco de Mayo school wide! Focusing on the National Foreign Language Standard of cultures, wherein students gain knowledge and understanding of other cultures. Many students were surprised to discover the largest Cinco de Mayo celebration occurs every year in Los Angeles, California, and is more widely celebrated in the United States than in many regions of Mexico. Working under the inquiry question of, "why do Americans celebrate this holiday," students discussed the rich and diverse population of the USA and how cultures and traditions are shared throughout the "melting pot" our country has become.

Teaching for Meaningful Learning

By Susan Wolfe, Director of Education

This is the first in a 3-part series of articles on Project Based Learning

Throughout the year, we have focused attention on what distinguishes our educational program and what improvements we should be making to truly be a 21st century educational environment. Foothills School does many things well; a quick review:

- We practice an inquiry-based education, leveraging a student's natural curiosity in a structured way to seek answers with instructor guidance.
- We practice differentiation, recognizing that all students are at an individual learning level and adjusting the classroom accordingly.
- We craft thinkers, not just students who can memorize data.
- We collaborate as students and teachers who work, play, and discover together.
- We foster creativity and a creative environment.
- We embody a vibrant learning community.



The Buzz at Foothills... Project Based Learning:

Mindful of our place, and excited by our ability to identify and execute on cutting-edge educational philosophies, we are preparing to embark on the Project Based Learning model of curriculum and instruction. A natural progression of our inquiry method and differentiated practices, **Project Based Learning (PBL) is a systematic teaching method that engages students in 21st century skills and learning through an extended, student-influenced inquiry process structured around complex, authentic questions and carefully designed products and learning tasks.**

As we move toward PBL, students will still be performing the same good things we reviewed at the beginning of this article. They will continue to have high educational standards and a clearly articulated rubric regarding their work. What changes is the product of the student's efforts, with whom they interact and mentor, and how they work to achieve the final product. PBL assures we are building in our students the much-touted 21st century skills of collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

As an educational strategy, PBL introduces community connections, which provide students with authentic tasks, encouraging students to address community issues, explore careers, interact with adult mentors, use technology, and present their work to audiences beyond the classroom. This builds vital 21st century workplace skills and lifelong habits of learning. Research on PBL indicates these results:

- Students learn more deeply when they can apply classroom-gathered knowledge to real-world problems;
- Active-learning practices have a more significant impact on student performance than any other variable; and
- Students are most successful when they are taught how to learn as well as what to learn.

*Source: Powerful Learning: What We Know About Teaching for Understanding
by Linda Darling-Hammond and Brigid Barron, 2008*

The goals of PBL go beyond the simple development of content knowledge by enabling students to *transfer* their learning to new situations and to proficiently use knowledge in *performance* situations.

I hope you were able to attend one of the Parent Roundtable presentations. We are excited by our direction and the further crafting of our lifelong learners with the PBL approach. For further information, stay tuned... or jump ahead with these websites:

Edutopia Website: www.edutopia.org/inquiry-project-learning-research
 The George Lucas Educational Foundation Website: www.gleef.org
 The Buck Institute for Education Website: www.bie.org
 Edutopia: www.edutopia.org/project-based-learning-overview-video

Be Responsible * Be Respectful * Be Your Best * Contribute to Community

Faculty Changes for the Coming School Year

Jessica Dean is resigning her position at Foothills to travel for the upcoming year. Jessica will teach yoga in Bali, stay in Australia, and travel to India. We will miss her passion and are grateful for the wonderful music program she has crafted at Foothills. We will be posting part-time music positions to generate collaborative capacity in the Project Based Learning environment.

Jessi Haas has decided to step back from her role as part-time teacher in the Juniors to pursue her passion in outdoor education. We have enjoyed her enthusiasm and service to Foothills and we all wish her well.

Justin Brune will be moving to the Junior Teaching Team. Having recently taught in the Primary Team, Justin is an incredible talent with 15 years of elementary teaching experience. He is very involved in moving Foothills School in a positive direction through his work with the Strategic Planning Committee and Leadership Team. Justin was also recently accepted into the National Writing Project at Boise State University.

Primary Teacher **Tanya Bottarini** will be going on maternity leave this Fall. Long-time Foothill's substitute and former Foothills parent, Kit Parker, will be serving in her absence. Kit plans to attend important summer faculty development sessions with the Primary Team to ensure a smooth and well-planned start to the year.

EL Teacher **Joni Cornell** will also be going on maternity leave this Fall, and we are currently in the process of securing her substitute replacement.

A final item of note is that we are currently recruiting a **part-time Physical Education/Wellness instructor**. This addition will ensure that every student at Foothills has two days of formal physical education and wellness instruction each week.

Williams to be International Mentor this Summer!



Foothills is always proud of its outstanding faculty members. But this year, we are especially excited to be recognizing **Emily Williams** for her selection as a **Mentor for the 2011 U.S. Youth Ambassador Program**. Emily will participate in an exchange program to Ecuador this summer and is **one of only four teachers in the United States selected for this outstanding opportunity**.

As a mentor, Emily will be working with exchange students and travel to Ecuador with the State Department's Youth Ambassador Program. Participants develop their leadership skills, strengthen their ability to serve their communities, and build mutual understanding in the Western Hemisphere. In the program, hundreds of high school students will be experiencing culture and community in Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and the United States.

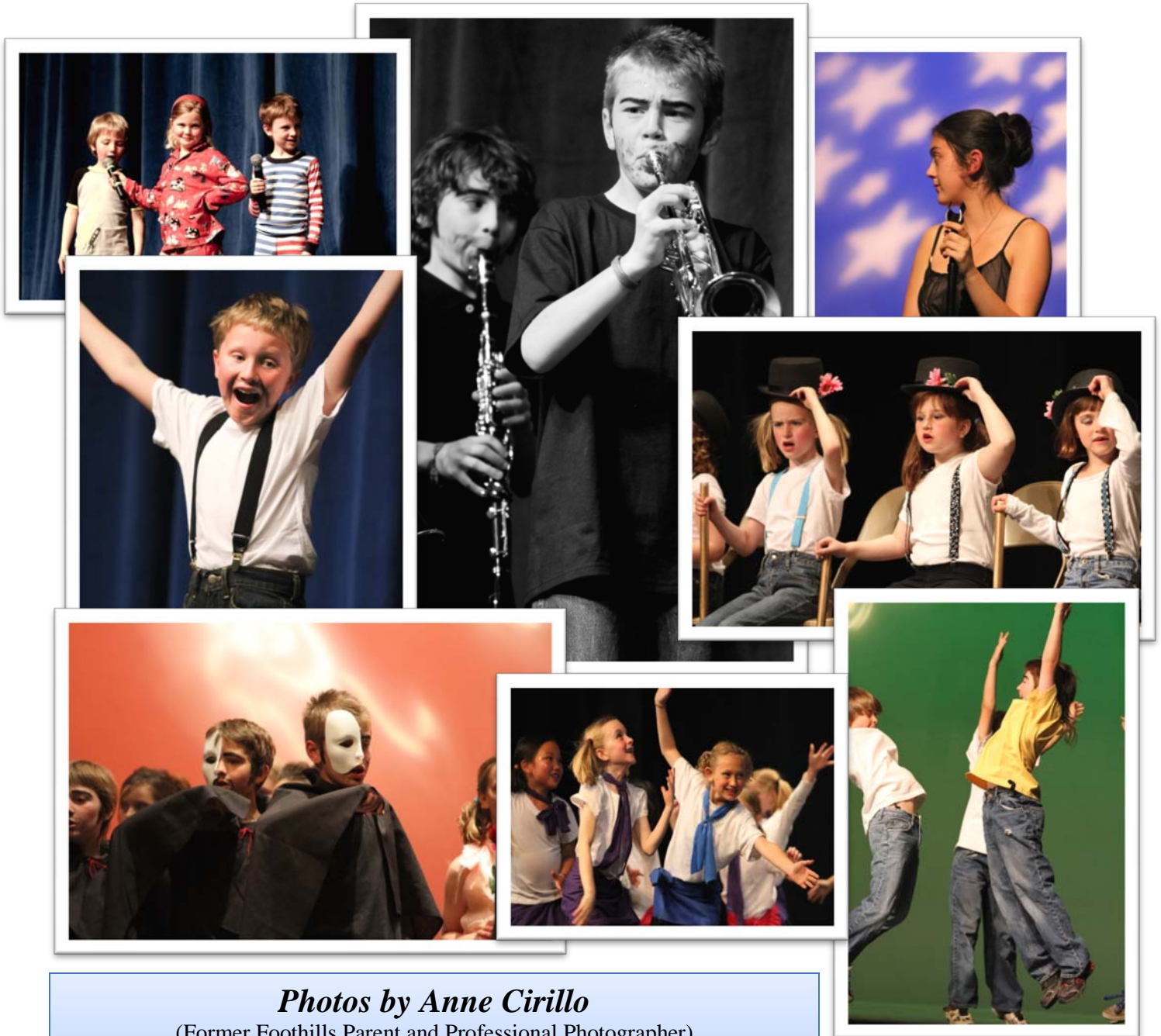
Emily and her family have been at Foothills School for four years. In that short tenure, Emily has distinguished herself as a true mentor to students, engaging children throughout the school in understanding the Spanish language and the rich cultural communities that are Spanish-speaking around the world. She has also been a strong leader and advocate for service learning opportunities with our student population, and has coordinated many of the school's most effective service efforts for the Seniors and Nines.

Before coming to Foothills, Emily was a Spanish language educator, coordinating enrichment language programs for the Boise Independent School District, an outdoor trainer, and a leadership educator. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Brigham Young University in Recreation Management and Youth Leadership, and has traveled extensively in Mexico and South America.

We are so proud of Emily's accomplishments every day and this unique opportunity recognizes her truly outstanding contribution to cultural awareness and understanding. Bravo, Emily! We can't wait to hear the stories and see the pictures you'll be taking!

Spring Performance a Huge Hit!

We want to acknowledge all of the hard work that Foothills students put into this year's Spring Performance, "A Tour through Broadway." Our students loved acting, singing, dancing and transforming into characters for the show. Not only were they confident and poised in front of a huge crowd, but they pulled off their parts with humor and incredible style! Many parents have told us that this show really captured the fun and talents of our students, and we're so proud of their efforts!



Photos by Anne Cirillo

(Former Foothills Parent and Professional Photographer)

Photos available for purchase at:

<http://www.annecirillophotography.com/SchoolsEducational/Foothills-School-of-Arts-and-Sciences>

(Please note that 20% of proceeds generated from the sale of these photos are donated back to Foothills School)

Summer Opportunities Aplenty!



June 6-July 22

Balance Dance Company offers fun and challenging weekly dance classes for dancers ages 7 and up, and all classes are held in the Trey McIntyre space next to Foothills School. For more information, visit their website (www.balancedance.org) or call 891-8704.



Sign up for Summer Camps at the Front Climbing Club. Week-long Summer Camps begin on June 20.

For more information go to:

<http://www.frontboise.com/web3/camps/registration.php> or call 345-7625.

IDAHO SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

CAMP SHAKESPEARE
June & July

CAMP IMPROV!
August 1-5

CAMP MUSICAL!
August 8-12

"BETTER A WITTY FOOL THAN A FOOLISH WIT"
-William Shakespeare

CREATIVE THEATER CAMPS FOR STUDENTS PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 12
All classes are taught by theater professionals.
Camps are held at the Boise Contemporary Theater 854 Fulton Street in Downtown Boise

WE TEACH
THE SPARK OF CREATIVITY
THE POWER OF CONFIDENCE
THE JOY OF CHARACTER
THE MAGIC OF THEATER

Festival Summer Camps generously sponsored by: Family



Families and children can have fascinating wildlife adventures this summer through programs that are both educational and FUN at Zoo Boise! Each program features a variety of activities that include animal close-up encounters, hands-on activities, in-depth investigations, games, art projects, perhaps creating a diet or enrichment treat for a zoo animal, and participating in wildlife conservation.

Registration:

To register, contact Fort Boise Community Center at 608-7680 or register online at the City of Boise Parks and Recreation Activities page. Registration for Zoo Boise and the Boise Art Museum collaboration programs takes place at the Boise Art Museum. Friends of Zoo Boise Annual Pass-holders can receive the discounted rate through phone-in or walk-in registration only.

For more information visit: <http://www.zooboise.org> or call 384-4260.



Bronco Elite offers a FUN-FILLED variety of different summer opportunities. For more information go to: www.broncoelite.com or call 389-9005.



Each summer, IDAHO WRITING CAMPS offer children and youth in grades 3-12 the opportunity to explore and engage in creative writing adventures – and to become published authors!

For more information, please visit www.thecabinidaho.org or call 331-8000.

Tuition Plans and Payment Information



By Melissa Murar, Foothills School's Bookkeeper

I just wanted to say thank you to the parents, faculty and staff for making my transition to Foothills School a smooth one. I already feel like a part of the Foothills community. I would really like to develop an open communication process with all families. If at any point you have any questions regarding your account or billing, please feel free to contact me at the school or via email at @foothillsschool.org. My office hours are 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. I will also be in the office during the summer months. I will try my best to get your questions answered as soon as possible!

A few highlights regarding tuition for the 2011-12 school year:

- Direct Debit Authorization Forms are available at the school or we can email them to you. *These direct deductions from your account really simplify our billing process! We encourage you to sign up if you haven't already.*
- If you are on one of the following payment plans, **your first tuition payment is due JULY 15, 2011**: 12-payment plan; 2-payment plan; single payment.
- If you are on one of the following payment plans, **your first tuition payment is due AUGUST 15, 2011**: 10-payment plan; 6-payment plan.
- If you are still working on paying for the 2010-11 school year, please keep in touch with me this summer, as we need to have all of this tuition paid off by July 2011.

YOUR FEEDBACK MATTERS!

Throughout the year, we ask our parent community to contribute to our school's ongoing improvement. While all of our informal feedback with you is terrific, we especially value the opportunity to hear from the majority of you about the same issues. For more than seven years, the school has utilized a year-end survey instrument to get your feedback about the progress of our program, our staff and leadership, and our direction as a school. For the last two years, we have added a mid-year survey instrument that provides an outstanding opportunity for direct feedback to our faculty members and indicates areas where we might need a course correction mid-year.

Please realize how important your feedback is to our school and take a few moments to respond to the survey you will receive this week. For families returning to the school in 2011-12, you will receive a survey that includes questions about our program for next year, as well as your assessment of this year's experience for your family. For families not planning to return, we will be issuing an assessment survey and hope you will help us understand the factors in your decision to not return to Foothills.

Capital Improvements Happening at Foothills School this Summer!!!

Thanks to our wonderful landlord, Foothills School will be getting a **new roof this summer**, eliminating the constant issues we've faced with leaks over the past few years! This major project will be scheduled for the end of July and early August.



Other improvements to look for when you return are:

- * A **door** between the Senior/Junior quiet rooms to keep these spaces even quieter.
- * **Freshly painted** Music Room; Nines classroom; south side bathrooms including boys, girls, faculty & boy/girl accessible bathroom; and the Senior/Art Room foyer.
- * A **diaper changing station** added in one of our Early Learner bathrooms.

We're looking forward to these improvements for 2011-12! Thank you to everyone who has helped make these important changes happen.

Annual Campaign Reaches the Summit!

By: Hollis Brookover and Milt Gillespie, Campaign Rope Leaders and Foothills Parents

The 2011 Annual Campaign wrapped up at the end of May with an amazing final push over the top. After a hard climb by the whole community we achieved all of our goals! **Overall community participation was 77%**, up 14% from last year. Several groups achieved 100% participation including: the Faculty & Staff, the Board of Trustees and the Nines class. Across the school every class increased participation over last year. Well done!



The **campaign raised more than \$60,000 for the school**, an increase of 35% from last year and a truly outstanding achievement. These funds will allow the school to launch the wave of initiatives recently announced by the Strategic Planning Committee and shared in community meetings and mailings last week. These initiatives will enhance our already distinctive school and fundamentally improve the education experience for our kids, staff and families.

We would like to thank all of the staff and class leaders who helped with the Campaign. You were awesome! The emails, conversations, and phone calls you made were crucial to achieving a successful campaign. As always the faculty was amazing, as shown by their participation in the campaign and their ongoing work to improve the school for our kids. We are honored to work with such a great group of families and friends.

Thank you to all of the Rope Leaders for this year's Annual Fund Campaign!




Tona Hess
 Heather Dermott
 Laura Squyres
 Alyson Lancer
 Harriett Jastremsky
 Tami Pratt
 Jennifer Stevens
 Vicky Swerdloff
 Angie Lloyd
 Anne Wescott
 Courtney Savin
 Dave Yasuda
 Karen Eshbaugh

Why We Fundraise...

*Like most independent schools nationwide, our tuition does not cover the full cost of providing our educational program. As a matter of fact, our tuition revenues only pay the expenses related to personnel – leaving program and building costs necessary to cover in other ways. As part of the Strategic Planning process, the school has made a commitment to **incrementally** increase tuition in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to assure that we are fully covering program costs by 2012-13, enabling fundraising efforts to be devoted to improvements and 21st century initiatives. The school's history has included many years of double-digit tuition increases and we are committed to that not happening. That said, we also honor the need to support increased costs and increased salaries and benefits for our outstanding faculty and staff. If you have any questions about the school's finances, please make an appointment with Shawn Shepherd, Head of School, by contacting cangelos@foothillsschool.org.*

FOOTHILLS SUMMER CALENDARS


FOOTHILLS JUNE CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 First day of “Alive After 5” Concert Series	2	3	4 Foothills Annual Garage Sale/Carnival!!! 9 am-3 pm <hr/> Greek Festival 2618 West Bannock St. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
5 Greek Festival Continues	6 	7	8 8th Grade Graduation @ 1 p.m. 	9 EL Graduation Party @ 10:30; Nines Graduation @ 10 a.m. <hr/> EL Last Day of School; Release @ 12:00 pm	10 K-9th Last Day of School <hr/> Early Release Out @ 1:00 pm	11 Boise Ironman
12	13	14	15 Faculty, Staff and Board Celebration @ 11 a.m.	16	17 Last Day On- Site for Faculty	18
19	20 Student Evaluations Mailed Home	21 Executive Committee Meeting @ 12:00 p.m. <hr/> First Day of Summer 	22	23 Finance Committee @ 12:00 p.m. <hr/> Deli Days @ 11 North Latah 6/23-6/24	24	25
26	27	28 Board of Trustees Meeting @ 4:00 p.m.	29 Office Closed for Administrative Retreat	30 Last Day for Administrative Staff	July 1	July 2

Year-end Reminders:

- Any items that remain in the “Lost and Found” box in the school by June 10 will be donated to local charities.
- Please make certain that your student/s get all personal items out of the school prior to the last day of school.
- Student evaluations will be mailed on June 20, rather than June 17 as originally planned; if you have not received your student/s’ evaluation by June 24, please contact the Front Office.
- The Front Office will be closed on June 29 for an off-site retreat of the administrative team.
- June Office Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

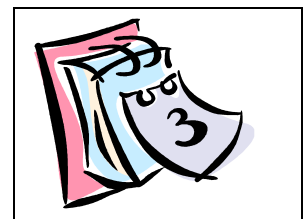
FOOTHILLS JULY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Summer Hours 10 a.m.-3 p.m. <hr/> Admin On-Site: Cassie Angelos, Shawn Shepherd, Melissa Murar	2
3	4 	5 School Closed for HOLIDAY	6	7 Shawn Shepherd, Head of School, vacation from 7-23 (please contact her before this date for any concerns)	8	9
10	11	12	13 Cassie Angelos, Director of Operations, vacation from 13-15	14	15	16 Downtown Boise Twilight Criterion
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Last Day of Summer Hours	30


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Major Calendar Dates for 2011-12: Mark Your Calendars!

- September 6 – First Day of Classes, K-9
- September 12 – EL Noon Program Start Day
- September 13 – EL 1:30 Program Start Day
- September 14 – EL 3:00 Program Start Day
- November 5 – Annual Auction Event
- November 23-25 – Thanksgiving Break; School Closed for Vacation
- December 17-January 8 – Winter Break; School Closed for Vacation
- February 3 – End of First Semester
- March 26-30 – Spring Break; School Closed for Vacation
- June 2 – Annual Carnival and Garage Sale
- June 7 – EL Last Day of School
- June 8 – Last Day of School, K-9



FOOTHILLS AUGUST CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Full Administrative Team On-Site Office Hours Resume, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 
14	15	16	17 Faculty On-Site 	18	19	20
21	22 	23 Primary Summer Class Party 	24	25 Junior Summer Class Party Senior/Nines Summer Class Party	26	27
28	29	30 Early Learner Summer Class Party Intermediate Summer Class Party	31	TO BE ANNOUNCED: 2011-12 BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE	Board and committee members are asked to stay abreast of plans via email communication!	
	September 1 Parent Orientation @ 6:00 p.m.	September 6 First Day of School K-9 th	September 9 K-9 th School Celebration			

Reminders to Prepare for School:

- ▶ Please make sure to check the school's website to catch up on the latest news and be prepared for the start of the year.
- ▶ Parent Orientation is slated for the week before the start of school; please make every effort to attend the sessions and be informed to start the year.
- ▶ Families will receive the PARENT/STUDENT HANDBOOK before the start of school and should plan to acquaint themselves with the expectations of our community. Your attentiveness to this important document is vital!