

# WISH INSIDER

WISH CHARTER ELEMENTARY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

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## Principal's Corner

### Let the school year begin

Dear WISH Families,

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! I am thrilled to welcome back our returning families and it is with great enthusiasm that I extend a warm welcome to our new WISH Families. We at WISH Charter Elementary School are committed to making this school year another positive experience for you and your family. Your active support combined with our best professional efforts, will ensure academic and social-emotional success for your child.

The beautiful, blissful days of summer have come to an end and we are in full swing at WISH! What a delight it is to greet students each morning who are so eager to come to school! Thank you to our WISH teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents for making our first few days of school run smoothly!

Thank you to our custodial staff for providing us with a shiny clean school to begin the new school year! Thank you to our Office Staff for the efficient manner of mailings, class placements, and overall warmth and energy! Opening day went very smoothly because of the combined efforts of everyone working together for the benefit of the children.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to the parents of WISH who continue to go above and beyond to ensure ALL children in our WISH community have an exceptional public school experience. Thank you for volunteering to be room parents, serving healthy lunches, hanging projectors, refining the website, posting news updates, joining committees, picking up sardine fertilizer, teaching us how to sort our trash responsibly, reading to

children, making apple pies, weeding the garden, painting the walls, cleaning the kitchen, leading community circle, filling the refrigerator, bringing fruit to share with the children, and so much more! You make WISH a fabulous place to learn and teach!

I look forward to seeing each of you on campus. Please stop by the office and let me know how things are going for your child.

Sincerely,

Shawna Draxton

Principal, WISH Charter Elementary



# WISH Charter

Westside Innovative School House

# FEATURED TEACHERS

## Adrien Murphy Introducing our 2nd grade Teacher

**Q. Give us a little background on your childhood and where you grew up.**

A. I was born and raised in Culver City and went to the Spanish Immersion program from Kindergarten to Fifth grade. I loved going to gymnastics and ballet class. I couldn't wait to come home every day and play games with my little sister.

**Q. What did you want to be when you were a kid?**

A. When I was really little, I told all of my friends that I wanted to be a veterinarian because I loved animals and wanted to take care of them. My fourth/fifth grade teacher had more than 20 animals in our classroom! I would always volunteer to take care of the birds, guinea pigs, and rats over the Winter break. I even ended up keeping 2 rats as pets! I now have the most amazing and adorable cat-dog, Tivona. I call her a cat-dog because she acts just like a dog and even barks.

**Q. Who/what was your biggest inspiration when you were growing up?**

A. I always looked up to my mom, and I still do! When I was little, I would watch her teach Mommy and Me classes, and I wanted to be just like her! My mom is now a Resource Specialist, and we talk



all the time about education and fun lesson ideas.

**Q. What made you want to work with kids?**

A. When I was fourteen years old, I had my first job as a camp counselor. I noticed that some campers didn't feel confident in sports, arts and crafts, and other activities. It reminded me of how I felt when I was a camper. I would hide every time we had sports because I didn't know how to play. I decided to tell the campers that I would do the activity with them and we would learn it together. I have to admit, I was a bit nervous because I had never played soccer or football before but somehow, playing and learning with the campers made all of us feel more comfortable. I started to notice that campers were actively involved in the activities, and instead of sitting on the side they were now showing others how to play. After that summer, I knew that I wanted to

help kids believe in themselves that they can be anyone and do anything.

**Q. What's the nicest surprise you've experienced since working at WISH?**

A. I feel so lucky to have so much support from the parents and families. Everyone is so excited to get involved and be a part of our second grade community. I also love the energy, teamwork, and dedication that all of the teachers have. But the best surprise is how fantastic my class is and how much we laugh and learn from each other every day.

**Q. What advice would you give to anyone who wanted to become a teacher?**

A. I would say that teaching is the most rewarding job! I would advise aspiring teachers to laugh and smile every day with students. Try to emulate the teachers that made a positive difference in your life and to be open to change.

**Q. What's one thing ( some things) people probably don't know about you?**

A. In High School, I played the flute for the orchestra and was in marching band. I was a camp counselor for 15 years! I created Mad Science, Messy Art, and Edible Art programs. I also love hiking, camping, and going on adventures. I have been parasailing, river rafting, and skiing, and I even went on a hot air balloon ride! I can't wait to try zip lining and other fun outdoor activities!

**" I now have the most amazing and adorable 'CAT-DOG', Tivona."**

# Steve Brostowitz

## An interview with Mr. B



**Q. Give us a little background on your childhood and where you grew up.**

A. I haven't grown up yet. That's why I fit so well in TK, Kindergarten and First grade! In all seriousness, I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. From age 6-18, I lived in the suburbs of Chicago. I did my undergrad at Illinois State and started teaching high school in Chicago in 1999.

**Q. What did you want to be when you were a kid?**

A. Game show host, gas station attendant, stunt person - if you think I'm kidding, I will give you my mom's number so you can verify.

**Q. Who/what was your biggest inspiration when you were growing up?**

A. Winnie the Pooh, Hulk Hogan, Barry Sanders, and Albert Einstein, in that order chronologically. You can see the change in values as I grew older.

**Q. What made you want to work with kids?**

A. I originally decided to be a teacher because I thought it was a realistic way for me to do good things for people. But as I mentioned earlier, I started in high school. I got interested in working with younger students when I moved to San Diego and began substitute teaching in almost every type of classroom you can think of.

**Q. What's the nicest surprise you've experienced since working at WISH?**

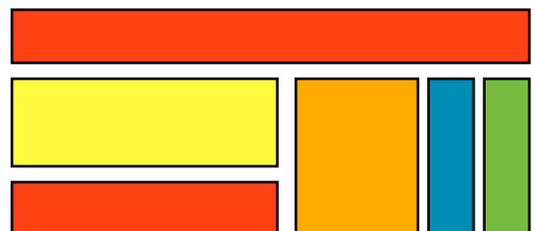
A. The support of everyone - it really helps keep me going.

**Q. What advice would you give to anyone who wanted to become a teacher?**

A. Do every summer job, internship, and volunteer opportunity you can in every occupational field you can before you decide on any career. If teaching is still the number one choice, go for it. Too many of us were expected to decide what we wanted to spend our lives doing at age 17, with no experience on which to base the decision.

**Q. What's one thing people probably don't know about you?**

A. If I answered this question each time it was asked, I would run out of things to say because eventually there wouldn't be anything left that people wouldn't know.





FLUFFY THE CHICK



Fluffy the Chicken

## Sadie Ross and Fluffy the Chicken

“When we saw how much Miss Sitrick and all the children fell in love with little chick fluffy.... We had to bring her home.”

## KIDS CORNER

### Catching up with Fluffy?

By Ivey Van Allen-Steinberg

Fluffy, the chick who hatched last year under the watchful eyes of our 1st grade students, granted the WISH INSIDER an exclusive!

**Q: Fluffy, do you remember the day you were brought home from WISH?**

A: Yes, it was very fun seeing all those faces: I was wondering what they looked like while they were talking to me in the egg! I was a little nervous meeting all the other Ross' chickens because I got pecked a lot. They weren't as gentle as the first graders at WISH. I was scared, but now I'm brave.

**Q: Ross family, what made you decide to adopt Fluffy?**

A: When we saw how much Miss. Sitrick and all the children fell in love with little chick Fluffy, we didn't have the heart to send her back to some anonymous central chicken location. We had to bring her to our home.

**Q: Fluffy, how are you getting along w/the other Ross chickens?**

A: At first, I was pecked at because they were bigger. But now I am getting along great. When Ginger came, she became a good friend. I like to be tough with the bigger chickens. Primrose and Egglantine are some of my good friends too. And I just began to follow my kid Sadie again, like I did when I was a little chick.

**Q: Ross family, what difference has Fluffy made in your lives?**

A: A big difference. Even though we don't have eggs yet, we enjoy having the chickens as our friends. They are always fun to watch and chase. Fluffy has become one of our favorites.

**Q: Fluffy, what message do you have for the kids who watched you hatch?**

A: I would like to see you again. I miss you. I always think about you. Sadie is going to bring me in to visit soon. Principal Draxton, we know you want to have me sit on your desk especially!



# NUTRITION

We are excited to introduce to you our new Hot Lunch Provider



## SCHOOL CONTACT

Feel free to contact Pragna Bhakta at: [pragnabhakta@yahoo.com](mailto:pragnabhakta@yahoo.com) if you have any question concerning the school lunch program.

## TO CREATE A CHOICE LUNCH ACCOUNT

To create Choice Lunch Accounts.

- \*Log on to: [www.choicelunch.com](http://www.choicelunch.com)
- \*Click on: "Create New Account"
- \*Enter our unique school Code: wishcharter



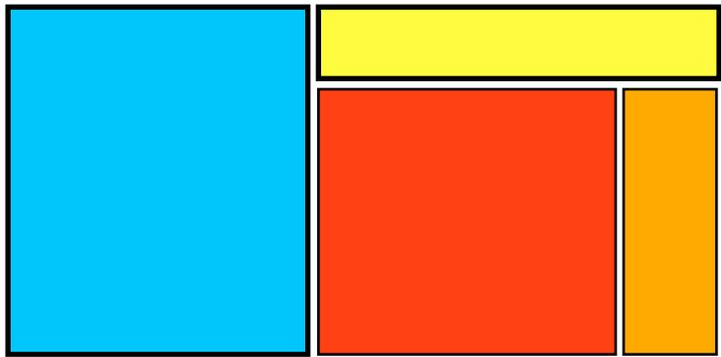
- \*Choose your Emergency Lunch and Order Type Settings
- \*Enter your personal data and add your students.

## A WAY TO MAKE MONEY

Choice Lunch will give back up to \$24 per day if we have our own lunchtime volunteers.

## SIGN-UP AS A VOLUNTEER

To sign-up as a volunteer go to: [www.signupgenius.com/go/wish3nd](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/wish3nd).  
Volunteers will help distribute lunches, help students open lunches, encourage them to eat and help them transition back to class.



# GREEN ZONE

## Trash Free Lunches

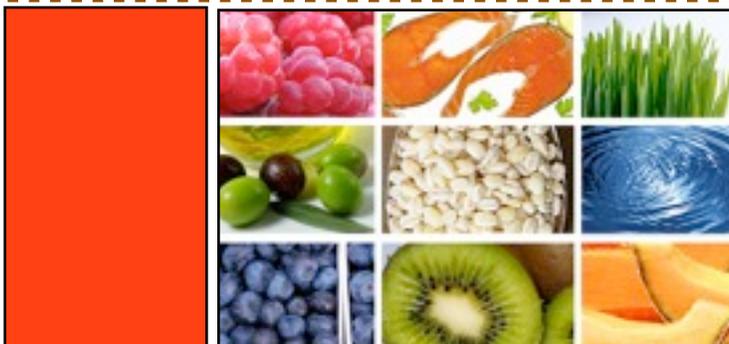
The Green Team and WISH are dedicated to reducing the amount of trash generated during lunch. We encourage parents to send students with reusable drinking bottles, food containers spoons and forks, and cloth napkins. The students are encouraged to use our compost bucket for their leftover fruits and veggies which will go directly into our compost pile. Also, keep your eye out on the Yahoo group for a list of environmental friendly websites offering green lunch products for a successful trash-free lunch.

## USED TONER AND INK CARTRIDGE, CELL PHONE, AND BATTERY RECYCLING

For those of you new to WISH, and as a reminder to those who are not, WISH recycles toners, ink cartridges, cell phones, and AA, AAA, C, D batteries for cash back to the school. Just drop them off in the WISH office.

## USED CLOTHING AND SHOE RECYCLING

WISH can now get cash back when you donate your used clothing and shoes. A large blue collection bin can be found behind the Art Hut. Every pound of clothing/shoes earns \$\$ for WISH! This will be an ongoing donation site for the entire school year, so spring clean your closets all year long! For your convenience, you'll find a luggage dolly in the side yard (next to the office) to help you with heavy loads. CLOTHING & SHOES ONLY.



# Committee News: Purpose & Contacts

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Committee	Purpose	Contact	Email
Arts at WISH	The ARTS AT WISH committee will support the growth and development of the arts program - music, visual art, theater, dance, and more - through fundraising, working with the events committee, coordinating arts events and visiting artists, and creating a long-term vision for the arts at WISH. Please join this vital, blossoming committee and help us grow!!!	Lisa Vitello Erika Higgins-Ross	<a href="mailto:bohemilee@aol.com">bohemilee@aol.com</a> <a href="mailto:erikahigginsross@yahoo.com">erikahigginsross@yahoo.com</a>
Community Education	Our intention for this committee is to provide a supportive space for WCA members to come together, share experiences, explore parenting/ educational topics, and be in partnership with our school. Ultimately, this will allow our children to continue to flourish and we will have the opportunity to get to know each other! It'll be the "Wish Village" for us all to participate in if we choose.	Anna-Pia Hubacher	<a href="mailto:annapiahub@yahoo.com">annapiahub@yahoo.com</a>
Events	Works with all of the other WISH committees to help raise additional much-needed funds to cover all of the things not provided for by the state budget. They also plan many fun activities each year including the Holiday Boutique, WISH clean-up day, Spring Carnival and many other wonderful events. Committee members meet regularly to brainstorm and they also staff the various events.	Amanda Swanlund Sheri Steinman	<a href="mailto:castamanada@yahoo.com">castamanada@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:sherimaria@aol.com">sherimaria@aol.com</a>
Fundraising	Fundraising includes: Passive income streams (scrips, grocery programs), direct donations (WISH families, business partnerships, friends of WISH), events and catalog fundraisers (Fundraising and "Fun"raising opportunities to promote WISH community building while raising money).	Christy Skura	<a href="mailto:cskura@sbcglobal.net">cskura@sbcglobal.net</a>
Garden	Mission: To provide an education in horticulture, educate and inspire our children to become successful in the garden, extend our children's knowledge of vegetables, fruits, and landscape plants, raise awareness of what it means to grow your own food, teach children that gardening is possible, even in an urban environment, use gardening as a tool to encourage children to make good food choices, build a love of nature while socially interacting, and create an education tool for all teachers at WISH.	Jon Ross	<a href="mailto:rraven88@yahoo.com">rraven88@yahoo.com</a>
Grants	A subset of Fundraising, the Grants committee is responsible for all aspects of grant based funding including coordinating with staff, WCA committees and outside partners, identifying new opportunities, completing applications and reporting back to funders on how the money was used.	Wayne Goldstein	<a href="mailto:wgold47@gmail.com">wgold47@gmail.com</a>
Green Team	Our WISH Green Team goal is to inspire and educate our students and the WISH community to care for the environment by implementing conservation practices and promote environmental awareness. By greening our school we have the opportunity to impact our surroundings in a positive way - we protect our environment, save money, inspire positive change and build community.	Alison Sideris Susy Dornberg	<a href="mailto:alisonsideris@gmail.com">alisonsideris@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:chabela@mindspring.com">chabela@mindspring.com</a>
Library	Volunteers needed. If you would like to be with your child at library time to read and help the children check in and out their books please contact me. The library has many books to choose from and our goal is to have a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books for TK- 5th grade. To achieve this we will hold book fairs/fundraisers as well as accept donations from families.	Jane Anderson	<a href="mailto:cdninca@sbcglobal.net">cdninca@sbcglobal.net</a>
Room Parents	Coordinates many functions throughout the school year, including scheduling and delegating teachers' needs to other parents for classroom volunteers, creating the classroom roster, creating and following a budget for events and class gifts during the school year. The Room Parent committee will also assist with classroom parties as well school functions such as special events and fundraisers	Ivey Van Allen-Steinberg Julie Reina Gwen Marucci	<a href="mailto:iveyv@c.rr.com">iveyv@c.rr.com</a> <a href="mailto:julie@reinafamily.com">julie@reinafamily.com</a> <a href="mailto:gwen720@gmail.com">gwen720@gmail.com</a>
Service Learning	Service projects occur throughout the year and the committee is always looking for parents to help produce and manage these events.	Eve Keller	<a href="mailto:ewkeller@sbcglobal.net">ewkeller@sbcglobal.net</a>
WCA	<i>The WISH Community Association (WCA) works to maintain the close relationship that exists between the school teachers, the students, staff, school administration, and the parents. We are all members of the WCA. We also invite the participation of extended family members, friends, neighbors and other community members. Our culture is one of volunteerism, and we ask that families contribute in ways which match with their own talents and resources, in order to help to enrich the educational experience of our students.</i>	Christy Skura Marie Kim Sylvia Monares	<a href="mailto:cskura@sbcglobal.net">cskura@sbcglobal.net</a> <a href="mailto:marie@teagardin.com">marie@teagardin.com</a> <a href="mailto:sylviamonares@gmail.com">sylviamonares@gmail.com</a>
Website	Our focus is making the WISH Charter website more beneficial to the students, the teachers, staff and the larger community. Upcoming features to include: Vendor Descriptions (5 Star Sports, Choice Foods, etc.). Online Calendar of Events, Important Links, Donations through PayPal, Online Forums, and more.	Michael Scott	<a href="mailto:mike@scottml.com">mike@scottml.com</a>
Wellness	Mission: to engage Students, Parents, Teachers, and Community Member's in developing a school environment that promotes and protects our children's health, well being, and ability to learn by supporting Healthy Eating and Physical Activity.	Pragna Bhakta Amy Washburn	<a href="mailto:pragnabhakta@yahoo.com">pragnabhakta@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:Amyz_mail@yahoo.com">Amyz_mail@yahoo.com</a>
Yearbook & Newsletter	This committee is committed to providing an enjoyable, fun yearbook for the WISH families as well as informative, monthly newsletters.	Marie Kim Danielle Busse	<a href="mailto:marie@teagardin.com">marie@teagardin.com</a> <a href="mailto:dbusse@gmail.com">dbusse@gmail.com</a>