

Letter From Paul

As I write this note, the sky is cloudy and gray, and the leaves are changing. We've started another great year at Wingra, but these words will focus on the year that we finished, just a few short months ago.

The 2010–2011 school year was a busy one, full of wonderful news and events.

In case you have not been able to follow along on a regular basis, here are just a few things that stand out in my memory.

Last fall, Wingra School hosted the Progressive Education Network regional conference. Educators from throughout the upper Midwest spent a day at Wingra participating in workshops, sharing ideas, and discussing practice.

Also last fall, we started an exciting new tradition: an annual community get-together to raise funds for the Joyce Perkins Scholarship Fund, which supports our tuition assistance program. The gathering occurred on the Epic campus in Verona where we enjoyed music provided by Ben and Leo Sidran.

In the cold months of winter, we enjoyed the steady heat provided by our hot water boilers, funding for which is being raised through our capital campaign, ably headed by our new Campaign Manager, Christen Ring.

Wingra's Board of Trustees revised our bylaws, revised the trustee selection process, and

created a trustee handbook as a guide and resource for new board members.

The theme of our All-School Unit last spring was Do It Ourselves. For two weeks, students in mixed-age groupings explored activities relating to the sub-themes, Publish It, Build It, Perform It, Make It, Design/Invent It, and Fix It. Great fun and great learning!

Our graduating senior students planned and staffed two fundraisers—sandwich sales and a Friday night spaghetti dinner. Proceeds from these two events contributed more than \$1,500 to Wingra School.

But, of course, the heart of Wingra School is not the special events but the wonderful teaching and learning that occurs in our classrooms, every minute of every day.

We are so fortunate to be part of a school community that genuinely respects children for *who* they are and *where* they are and sees learning as a dynamic and continuous process of discovery and creation.

Being part of this every day is what keeps me inspired as an educator. At a time when the wider educational discourse seems preoccupied with curriculum standards and standardized assessment, Wingra stands out as a model of progressive practice. I am so appreciative of our wonderful teaching staff and the important work they do here each day.

So, what's new in your life? Please drop us a line and let us know. Better yet, come and visit the school.

Wingra School is turning 40 this year, and we're having two 40-year celebrations: Friday Night Fever



Paul Brahce, Head of School

on September 30 and the Community Celebration on May 5. We hope to see you there!

But no matter when or where, we love to hear from longtime friends and former Wingra families.

Friends of Wingra gratefully accepts articles, story ideas, photos, "What's New with You" contributions, comments, inquiries, and address changes at the address on the back cover, attention Rebekah Bovenmyer. Or by email to rebekah@wingraschool.org.

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