

# What's Brewing

Winter 2010-2011:  
Volume 7, Issue 2

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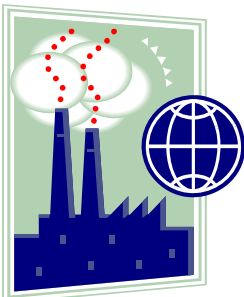


## A Message from Our Head of School, Donna Kennedy

Over the years, despite the downturn of the national economy, Gillen Brewer has been fortunate to maintain our fundraising goals. This newsletter is dedicated to all of you who continue to support Gillen Brewer and the programs we bring to our children that go above and beyond what most educational settings can provide, but which we know benefit our children so much. We feel that a comprehensive, well-rounded education must include the arts and sciences, as well as a robust physical education program. We also believe that in a therapeutic program, the skills learned in therapy must be generalized to the classroom—and that requires staffing beyond what another school might feel is “adequate.” Therapists are seen as partners in the teaching process; collaboration between our teachers and therapists greatly enhance what either could do on their own. Staff development is key to educating teachers and therapists. We ensure that our staff is kept abreast of the latest research-based practices and has the opportunity to learn from those who are most experienced in our field. All of these components are greatly valued and are an integral part of what we do at Gillen Brewer—but they come with a price tag. We aren't shy about asking for your support, because we know the investment is worth it. But we also have to do a better job of showing you how much your support means to our community. The following pages will give you a snapshot of how our fundraising efforts have paid off. We hope that you agree with us that your dollars have reaped big dividends, and what better way to spend those dollars than on the children we serve. We couldn't do this without your help; but *together, we are making a difference, one child at a time.*

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## Gillen Brewer

**r** We're happy to announce that Gillen Brewer is going green!  
**e** Through a partnership with Green Mountain Energy, 20-50%  
**e** of our energy will come from wind power, saving us  
**n** approximately \$5,000 per year and helping the environment.



## Note from the Parents' Association Co-Chairs

Happy New Year to all of the Gillen Brewer families!

The start of a new year is a perfect opportunity to reflect on how grateful we are for the wonderful support that Gillen Brewer offers our children, and how we can all help the school continue its incredible programs.

As you probably know, there is a \$10,000-15,000 gap *per child* between funding provided by the state and the actual cost for each student to attend. Many of the "extras" we have come to expect from Gillen Brewer—the sports program, the family program, the sensory gym, the new rooftop play area—would not exist without the money raised from generous donors. We hope you'll share in our commitment to help close the gap as best we can through fundraising.



To that end, we are beginning preparations for the upcoming spring auction, our most important fundraising event of the year. This year's theme is New York State of Mind. We are once again grateful to Phillips de Pury for hosting the auction. Stay tuned for more information from us and from your class reps about the event and how you can become involved and help make it a success!

A great time was had by all at this year's Winter Family Fun Day and the accompanying toy sale and book fair. Many thanks to all who attended and volunteered! We're looking forward to VIP Day in March, which will give your children a chance to invite a "very important person" in their lives to visit them at school and learn more about GBS. More information will follow as the date approaches.

As always, if you would like to learn more about our events and what's happening in our school community, please visit [www.gillenbrewer.com](http://www.gillenbrewer.com).

Happy Winter and stay warm!

Holly Berfield and Fern Robles



*Benjamin, Joshua and Jacob (left to right) visit with teacher Laura Brandt of the Monarch Butterflies, as they distribute holiday gifts to staff*

## Mark Your Calendars!

February 21-25	Presidents' Day Break
February 28	School resumes
March 1	Noon dismissal (staff development)
March 16	VIP Day
March 21	Gillen Brewer and Autism Speaks Fundraiser
March 31	Noon dismissal (staff development)
April 18-22	Spring Break
April 25	School resumes
May 16-27	Parent Conferences
May 30	No school (Memorial Day)
June TBD	Alumni Panel
June 16	Achievement Ceremony at Asphalt Green
June 20	Noon dismissal (last day of school)



# Alumni Corner: Alumni Return for a Visit



Head of School Donna Kennedy with Emma



Max



Pre-school teachers Netty Morales and Mary-Vicki Algeri with Tommy



Leo



Paraprofessional Kimkisha Clark and Aniyah

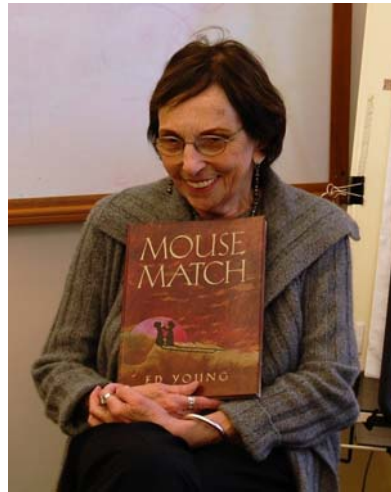


Esti (right) draws with current student Nichelle

## Grandparent Visitors



Zion's grandmother, Troy (right), and mother Gloria visit the Bumblebees



Marsha reads Mouse Match to her grandson Henry's class



Lina with her grandparents, Bonnie and Harry



Connie, grandmother of Jake, reads to the Bumblebees

## Thanksgiving Feast



Anthony smiles with his guest



Lots of delicious food and drink was shared at the Hawks table



Kye and Langston share a book together at the feast

# The Importance of Fundraising: Your Investment



*Classroom manipulatives*



*Student laptops*



*Art materials and supplies*



*New playground equipment on the roof*



*New, permanent, three-faucet sink in the art room*



*OT equipment*





Smartboards in classrooms



Skill-building games



Science partnership with Art Farm



Science materials



Class trips



Professional development for teachers



Sports program at Asphalt Green



Musical instruments

**Every dollar counts!**

**Please give generously to the annual appeal.**

**Your gift makes a difference and is greatly appreciated.**

## Introducing the Morning Announcement Project!

By Braque Hershberger, Science Teacher

To enhance our use of technology in a meaningful and social way, we wanted to create an experience for the children that gave them a sense of being a part of the larger community, as well as a way for the older students to take on more of a leadership role in the school while developing critical skills. As the oldest students in the school-age program, the Hawks, Eagles and Pigeons are producing “morning announcements” that are shown after the Pledge of Allegiance, during morning meeting each day. Eventually all of the students will be viewing the morning message as a part of their day. The “reporters” work on their scripts by gathering information about the weather, school news and current events. Each student then shares a “fun fact” at the end of his or her news segment. The taping of each newscast is done the day before, “on location” with me, using a Flip camera. The children have an opportunity to research their news, organize their newscast and practice public speaking as they create a product of which they can be proud. The students take great pride in developing and producing these segments and it has been a real confidence booster for many who are uncomfortable speaking in front of a larger group. Creating something that will be viewed by so many other children also gives them the opportunity to consider their audience and another’s point of view. We look forward to continuing this project and making it an essential part of every child’s Gillen Brewer school experience.



*Braque films John's morning announcement segment*

## The Penny Harvest

by Linda Delaney, Head Teacher of the Hawks



*The Hawks proudly display their certificates for their hard work*

This fall, for the fifth year in a row, Gillen Brewer students and staff raised over \$500 during the CommonSense Penny Harvest. The Penny Harvest is a unique program that gives children direct experience in philanthropy, leadership and community outreach. By collecting pennies (and other coins) from family, friends and neighbors to donate to charities they care about, children come to see how “small change” can make a real difference.

Last year alone, New York schoolchildren raised and donated almost \$800,000, and Gillen Brewer children played a proud part. Even the youngest children love watching the pennies pile up. A “kids vs. staff” contest keeps spirits high—every year the kids win by a mile!

This year The Hawks class was the Penny Harvest leader. They made posters, gave speeches and kept track of donations on the “Penny-O-Meter” chart. Marco, of the Eagles,

continued his tradition of collecting from his entire condominium and brought in about 50 pounds! Marco says, “It makes me happy and I feel proud that it is helping people.”

The Penny Harvest program is run on private fundraising—every single penny collected by the children goes straight towards charitable grants. The future of the program is very uncertain. CommonSense is seeking city funds to ensure its continuance, but so far has been denied. The personal, social and academic benefits of the Penny Harvest cannot be overstated and the feelings of belonging and empowerment that come from helping others in active, concrete ways can make a big difference for many of our learners. If you are interested in finding out more about the Penny Harvest, you may contact Linda Delaney at GBS, ext 330, or log on to [PennyHarvest.org](http://PennyHarvest.org).



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*The 2010-2011 Annual Appeal ends June 30, 2011.  
 Thank you for your generosity!*

**I wish to support Gillen Brewer in the following capacity:**

- Founders Circle:** \$50,000 and up
- Community of Learners:** \$25,000 to \$49,999
- 15+ Association:** \$15,000 to \$24,999
- Mattie Gillen & Virginia Brewer Sponsors:** \$10,000 to 14,999
- Danny Fiddle Arts Enrichment Alumni Parent Fund:** \$10,000  
Donations by alumni parents to the Danny Fiddle Alumni Fund are payable over 10 years
- Director's Circle:** \$5,000 to 9,999
- Benefactor:** \$2,500 to 4,999
- Patron:** \$1,500 to 2,499
- Sustainer:** \$500 to \$1,499
- Contributor:** \$1 to \$499

**Amount I wish to donate: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

A check made payable to The Gillen Brewer School is enclosed.

Please charge my:

AMEX             Security Code

Mastercard             Security Code

Visa             Security Code

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

My employer has a matching gift program; the form is enclosed.

Please contact me about making a gift of appreciated stock. (You may also call the Development Office at 212-831-3667 x207 to make a gift of stock.)

This gift is in \_\_\_ honor \_\_\_ memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the following person of my gift:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name (as it should appear in our Annual Report): \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to be listed anonymously.

I am a \_\_\_\_\_ Current Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Alumni Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Grandparent \_\_\_\_\_ Friend

Mailing address:

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card billing address if different from above:

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

The Gillen Brewer School is exempt from taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions to it are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. In the event of questions, please contact Penny Arnold at 212-831-3667 x207 or [penny@gillenbrewer.com](mailto:penny@gillenbrewer.com).



Please address comments, corrections or address changes to 212.831.5667 x207 or [development@gillenbrewer.com](mailto:development@gillenbrewer.com).  
Please think of the environment and contact us at [development@gillenbrewer.com](mailto:development@gillenbrewer.com)  
to receive your newsletter by email instead of regular mail.



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