

# Peninsula Bridge Connections

## dream · believe · achieve

Volume 8, Issue 3

Fall 2011

### New Beginnings



8th Annual Bridge Breakfast  
Date: Thursday, October 20th  
Time: 7:30 - 8:30 am  
Location: Sharon Heights  
Golf and Country Club

**RSVP Now**

www.peninsulabridge.org  
or rsvp to Sherri Shaner  
650-473-9461

### Valparaiso Bowl Sacred Heart vs Menlo



Date: Fri November 11, 2011  
JV Game @ 4:00pm  
Varsity Game @ 7:00pm  
Foothill College, Los Altos  
Gate proceeds benefit Peninsula Bridge

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## New Beginnings

by Deirdre Marlowe,  
Executive Director

This continues to be a year of New Beginnings for Peninsula Bridge. After a five day, nearly three thousand mile drive, I arrived in Palo Alto from Baltimore, MD, to serve Bridge as its fifth



Executive Director. I arrived while our program was in session, which gave me the opportunity to visit sites, and catch some of each one's closing celebration. To paraphrase Roman philosopher Seneca, "Every new beginning comes from some

other beginning's end." I believe that participation in our summer program gives our middle school students a good beginning to their next school year. Now I am beginning to get to know members of the Bridge community.

This year, too, Bridge saw the implementation of several new program initiatives which Chloe Kamprath, Program Director, came out of retirement to complete for us. Chloe developed a Family Resource Manual and companion-training piece. She also orchestrated the development of online pre- and post-tests aligned with CA State Standards in the areas of mathematics and language arts. Finally, she supervised the

development and implementation of a program-wide Teacher Assistant training program. I'd like to thank Chloe for her work with Bridge, and the support she provided in my first days, all of which will prove more than helpful as Bridge prepares for its next two New Beginnings.

Saint Francis High School, Mountain View, and Pinewood School, Los Altos and Los Altos Hills, will begin hosting the Bridge summer program in June 2012. The new Site Directors are already working with their feeder schools and colleagues at other sites in order to get things off to a good start for our students.

One of the things that called me to Bridge was its guiding principle that "As active members of our community, we are responsible for enhancing and improving the education of young people. We are accountable for the quality of our programs and the outcomes of our work." In the meetings I've enjoyed thus far with members of the Bridge community, the excitement that this commitment breeds has been clear from the physical math warm-ups at St. Matt's to the proud mother of her third Bridge graduate at Priory – and all sites and encounters between. I look forward to serving Bridge as I continue my new beginning.

#### 2011 Summer Program Statistics

- 356 students served (171 boys, 185 girls)
- Rising 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders
- 19% more students than in 2010
- 51,264 program hours
- 3.5:1 Student/Teacher Ratio

# Learning at it's Best

by Jakari Perry, St. Matthew's TA

At St. Matthew's Bridge program students raise their hands in excitement, yelling that every problem has a solution and one small



action can make a big difference! All 23 fifth grade students come into the classroom workbook in hand, smiling and eagerly asking what is on the agenda today. Our ONE HEN program teaches students about microfinance and how to run a

business. The program starts with students reading "One Hen", which is about a boy named Kojo and how with one small loan he was able to change the lives of everyone in his village. Towards the end of the program students create their own businesses, and apply the concepts of profit, revenue, and cost. These businesses earn actual profits that are donated to the charitable organization of their choice.

ONE HEN is more than a simulation of how the business world works. It is a microcosm of how corporations establish themselves and obtain enough income to stay in business while paying everyone's salaries. However, ONE HEN teaches the students much more than microfinance. It teaches them life lessons, which they can take with them in and out of the classroom. Through teamwork and perseverance they can accomplish anything.

*"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation" - Plato*

## Collin Cohen

2011 Board Member

Collin is one of our newest board members, and is active both in the non-profit sector and as a private investor. In addition to his work with

Peninsula Bridge, he is the current president and Board chair of Congregation Kol Emeth in Palo Alto. He is passionate about youth education, also having worked with Peninsula College Fund. Collin was President and a Board



member at NorthStar Systems and an EVP at Advent Software. Prior to Advent, Collin worked in the private equity business and was a consultant at Bain and Company in San Francisco and Boston. Collin earned a B.A from Stanford University and an MBA from Harvard Business School. He and his wife Shoshannah have two children: son Riley, and daughter Meredie. In his spare time, Collin coaches basketball and plays piano. Welcome aboard Collin!

# Behind the Scenes

Lupe Ortiz - Bridge Summer Intern

I first heard about Peninsula Bridge through a friend who had been a TA for Crystal Springs Uplands. I was familiar with what he did at that specific site, but had no idea there was more than one

campus involved in the famed "summer program." All I knew was that he used to come home tired, happy, and talking about all of "his kids." I was curious to learn more about why both he and his students loved the program so much. I am currently a graduate student at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service in New York. My specialization is policy and non-profit management, so this internship



provided an excellent chance to work behind the scenes and understand the inner workings of a non-profit organization.

As an intern, I helped set up and run the summer tours. The tours provided an opportunity for interested individuals to see the program in action. Since I was familiar with one site, I assumed that there was a specific model that each site had to follow. This was a great learning opportunity because I observed that each site carried out Peninsula Bridge's mission statement differently. It was interesting to see how each site had its own unique personality, which was shaped by the different site directors, teachers and teacher assistants.

Prior to this internship, I had never met students who enjoyed a summer program as much as they enjoyed their time with Peninsula Bridge. Most students tend to think that summer programs are just a continuation of school, and would much rather spend their time at home. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that this was not the case with the Bridge students. If you read the TA blogs on the Peninsula Bridge website, you will be able to see that the kids love the program, and are sad that it is only five weeks long. I attended the Crystal Springs celebration at the end of the summer program, and found it very moving that the kids had tears in their eyes when the celebration was over. Visiting each site really helped me understand why kids love the program so much. They love their TAs and teachers, dissecting hearts and lungs, hearing campfire stories while eating s'mores, starting their own businesses, water balloon games, working in the gardens, and so much more!



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