



August 5, 2011

#### Quick Links

Paideia Website

[www.paideiaacademy.org](http://www.paideiaacademy.org)

PIE Committee

[pie@paideiaacademy.org](mailto:pie@paideiaacademy.org)

SchoolView Questions

[mnufer@paideiaacademy.org](mailto:mnufer@paideiaacademy.org)

Lunch account balances

[FeePay \(replaces](#)

[PayPams\)](#)

Attendance

[swatkins@paideiaacademy.org](mailto:swatkins@paideiaacademy.org)

952-953-6200

#### **August 8 - First Day of school!**

**\* Students are to be in their classroom**

**by 8:15 AM.** (Plan ahead for proper arrival time!)

There should be no cars in the line after 8:10 AM.

#### **Club Registrations Are DUE Monday!**

Log on to the website to view Fall Club options.

Please Note: Chess club is offered for K-8.

#### A letter from the Paideia Academy Board Chair

Dear Paideia Families,

In an effort to dispel misconceptions and rumors, I feel it is important that I take a moment to clearly communicate the current work of the Board surrounding the issue of discrimination and bullying.

In November, 2010, the Board approved the formation of an ad hoc committee, later named the Diversity Equity Committee (the "DEC"), to review the school's current policies regarding discrimination and bullying. The impetus for forming this committee was due to a growing concern that some of our families were experiencing discrimination and bullying tactics by other families. As a school, Paideia Academy does not tolerate discrimination or bullying by its students, employees, staff and administration to all those who are stakeholders of the school. We would like to believe this basic form of respect extends to families and how they interact with representatives of the school as well as other families. Unfortunately, this has not always been the case.

To be very clear, the school is in compliance with State and Federal law and is not engaged in nor will it tolerate discrimination. Paideia Academy does have anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies in place, notably in the Paideia Academy Personnel Policy and Procedure, the Paideia Academy Volunteer Policy, and the Student Handbook, and the Board has made public statements clearly expressing that it does not condone any form of discriminatory behavior. However, the Board

knows that an opportunity has been presented to review the school's current policies in these matters and to clarify and strengthen them where appropriate.

At the July 20, 2011 Board meeting, the Governance & Long Range Planning Committee of the Board was tasked with researching other schools' policies and to work with the Minnesota School Boards Association, Charter School Partners and other resources to learn of best practices on this issue. The Governance Committee will meet with the DEC to review the research and to develop new language that will support a stronger and clearer policy for Paideia Academy. The work of the Governance Committee will ultimately be presented to the Board at a subsequent Board meeting together with its recommendations and next steps. This is a priority of the Board at this time to respond to these issues.

The DEC has taken it upon itself to begin the process of researching curriculum that would support an anti-discrimination policy. However, I want to clarify that the use or adoption of any specific curriculum has not been approved nor is it awaiting implementation. As a matter of procedure, the DEC would need to present their findings to the Curriculum Committee for review. The Curriculum Committee, in turn, would accept or reject the proposed curriculum or consider other options. If the curriculum is supported by the Curriculum Committee, that committee would then present the proposed curriculum to the full Board for review as well as present arguments for the adoption of such curriculum and/or alternatives.

As it stands today, Paideia Academy does not have any such curriculum in place nor is one being reviewed at the Board level. The Board is focused, first and foremost, on the implementation of a stronger and clearer anti-discrimination/bullying policy for the school. Once a policy has been considered and adopted, the Board will thereafter review the tools and resources available to the school to support the new policy. Curriculum is one such tool but it is not the only tool worthy of consideration. The Board, made up of elected representatives, is the only entity authorized to approve new curriculum or programs, which it will do with full transparency and input from all stakeholders of the school.

As families attending the school, I encourage you to attend Board meetings, educate yourself on the issues and options, respectfully express your opinions and respectfully listen to the opinions of others. I will endeavor to keep the Paideia community informed of the Board's discussions and options, and ultimately will make certain that approved policies are published.

It is my long-held opinion that Paideia Academy should be first and foremost a high-performing school of choice in our community focused on academic excellence and supporting its founding principles, mission and vision. Thank you for your continuing support in making Paideia Academy a truly welcoming school for all families, staff and the community.

Best regards,  
Erik Dove  
Board Chair  
Paideia Academy

## From the Director

Dear Families,

I hope all of you had a fantastic summer vacation and are ready to come back to school! I am looking forward to an exciting new school year partnering with families and staff focused on the Paideia mission and vision!

We have several new teachers joining our team this year. Please join me in welcoming: Dan Armstrong (UA SpEd Teacher), Katy Berglund (Counselor for students with special needs), Dena Bing (4th grade SpEd Teacher), Jenny Cooper (Art), Ben Olofson (7/8 Science), and Annie Thoraldson (1st grade Teacher). We are very fortunate to have these colleagues join our community.

Additionally, Jen Rothstein will be teaching Kindergarten.

We bid farewell to Mike Roll, Counselor, and Molly Hesselroth, 1st grade teacher, who each accepted a position at other schools during the summer. We thank them for their significant contributions to the Paideia community and wish them all the best!

Props to Bob Hanson and Dave Schelitzche who have done an excellent job with the facilities! It has come together nicely and reflects the tremendous amount of effort and care that they have expended. During the summer, the entire facility received a thorough cleaning, Smart boards were installed in several classrooms, and lockers were installed upstairs. Props to Ms. Nufer and Mrs. Sherrard for working a million hours on the scheduling and props to all staff for being flexible and making it work! Props to Anne Simon, Crystal Creighton, Jayne Largent, Erica Marshall, Zac Holm, Maggie Nufer, Beth Odegard, Ashley Gillingham, Sharon Owens, Lynne Pernsteiner (parent), Kim Pellicci (parent) and Erin Wente (parent) for helping with new staff interviews. Props to all of the teachers K-8 who wrote DDI assessments during the month of June! Props to PIE/PTO and the office staff (Sandy, Kim, Maggie, Julie and Ashley) who spent much of the summer diligently preparing for a smooth opening to the new school year.

Please be reminded that Monday morning meeting is on a different schedule this year. K-8 meetings all together in the large commons once every 3-4 weeks are on the following dates:

Quarter 1 Aug 8 (first day)

Aug 29 (kick off for Innisbrook fundraiser)

Sept 26 (last Monday of month)

Quarter 2 Oct 24 (first Mon back from long break)

Nov 28 (Monday after three day weekend)

Quarter 3 Jan 23 (first Mon back after the MLK weekend, after long break)

Feb 27 (last Mon of Feb)

Quarter 4 April 9 (first Mon back from long break)  
May 7 (first Mon of month)  
June 11 (last Mon of school year)

\*Any changes to this schedule will be announced and posted on the website.

The remaining Monday morning meetings will be held separately **K-5 in the small commons** led by Mr. Hondl and **6-8 middle school in the gym** lead by Mr. Holm simultaneously from 8:15-8:30AM.

We're also very excited to begin implementation of staff collaboration time (**2:25 release every Wednesday for students**) and Data Driven Instruction (DDI). We'll keep you informed and always feel free to contact me or your child's teacher if have any questions, feedback (constructive or positive), and/or concerns.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Warmly,  
Joyce

Ps. If you happen to see me on the first day of school, share with me me (or have your child share with me) one great memory from the summer vacation of 2011.

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### **Correction from last week's newsletter:**

Sarah Adams is the Lead Teacher for the Specialists.

### Assessment Coordinators/Data Driven Instruction Leads (DDI)

Lynda Cavanaugh, Rachel Chamley, Zac Holm, Erica Marshall, Jen Rothstein, Kristin Schnase

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### **Teacher's Corner:**

Jenny Cooper, Art Teacher K-8

*How I decided to become a teacher:* Maybe I was sitting in my mother's art classroom playing with clay. Maybe I was helping my brother draw another family Christmas card. Maybe I was with my best pal building "cool stuff" using my mother's odds and ends bin at home. I'm not sure when I decided to become an art teacher, but I do remember feeling at peace with the decision I made as a high school student to spend thousands of dollars on a K-12 Art Education licensure. It was what I wanted for my life when I was younger, as I grew up, and it's still what I want now. I am fortunate to be doing what I love!

*How long have I been teaching, what subjects, where?* For the past three years, I have been teaching art to first through fifth graders within the Lakeville Area School

District. I began my teaching career at Crystal Lake Elementary where I fell in love with elementary art. The following year, I was asked to teach at both Oak Hills Elementary and Christina Huddleston Elementary, which I accepted and enjoyed for two years.

During those years, my students and I went through countless pencils, markers, and crayons, many gallons of paint, thousands of pounds of clay, countless other materials, and nearly 200 projects! We described, analyzed, interpreted, and enjoyed hundreds of notable and famous artworks. We debated about what makes art "good", "beautiful", and "valuable". We learned, we laughed, we had FUN!

*If I could have one wish, what would I wish for* Kindness is key. If I could have one wish, it would be that people would think of others before themselves and be kind!

live in Farmington with my husband Scott and my Puggle Baxter. Outside of teaching I really enjoy playing in various soccer leagues year-round. I am a utility player on a competitive women's team, as well as a forward on a coed team. I also enjoy working out, mountain biking, canoeing, ceramics, reading, and watching movies. Due to my husband's culinary degree, I am also a huge foodie that enjoys dining out and eating in.

Art Teacher's Newsletter:

Dear Paideia Academy Families,

Hello! My name is Mrs. Jennifer Cooper, and I am Paideia's new Art Instructor. Originally, I am from a small town called Mosinee, which is located in central Wisconsin. I grew up in a family of art teachers and couldn't seem to stay away from the draw of color, composition, and creativity! Thus, I enrolled in the art education program at Winona State University where I graduated in December of 2007. For the past three years, I have worked in the Lakeville Area School District.

I'm extremely excited to begin working with the families, staff, and teachers of Paideia Academy, so please feel free to stop by the art room to say hello and to see what our art students are up to. If you're interested in volunteering for the art program this year, email me using the information below. If you'd like to start helping immediately, I've included a list of materials I'm attempting to gather so students can participate in certain projects.

**Any of the following items can be dropped off at the art room during the school day:**

- T-shirts sizes youth small to adult medium
- Cereal boxes (and boxes of similar material)
- Old calendars with pictures
- Plastic containers with lids
- Gallon ice cream
- Old puzzles
- Magazines
- Yarn/string
- Large plastic garbage bags

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Cooper  
Art Instructor  
Paideia Academy

[jcooper@paideiaacademy.org](mailto:jcooper@paideiaacademy.org)

From the Office

The 7th and 8th grade class trip to Washington D.C. is scheduled for May 10th - 12th, 2012. There is still time to sign up for this wonderful and unforgettable educational adventure! Ms. Hanson and Ms. Hood will be chaperoning the trip, and parents are welcome to come, too. If you would like more information about this trip, please visit our informational D.C. website <http://paideiadctrip.webs.com/> or contact Teri Hanson by phone or e-mail: 952-953-6200 ext. 123 or [thanson@paideiaacademy.org](mailto:thanson@paideiaacademy.org).

If you hear anything contrary to what is posted on the website or what you hear from Ms. Hanson and/or Ms. Hood and are wondering whether or not it is true, please contact Ms. Hanson and she will be able to give you accurate information. Thank you.

### **Volunteers Needed**

**Teacher Help Days** are on the 9th and 11th from 9am-2pm. Please contact [pie@paideiaacademy.org](mailto:pie@paideiaacademy.org) if you are able to help.

### **Generation Green!**

**Generation Green** will meet on Mondays during lunch and recess (1st Monday K-2, 2nd Monday 3-5 and 3rd Monday 6-8). Sign-up on the Club registration form.

#### **~ Our Vision ~**

We envision a new generation of engaged, productive global citizens.

#### **~ Our Mission ~**

The Mission of Paideia Academy is to challenge and inspire learners by providing a rigorous, content-rich, classical education incorporating languages, music, and the arts while nurturing positive character.

[Forward email](#)



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