Our Technology Plans:  
High Tech and High Touch  

Paul Chapman, Head of School

AFTER TWO YEARS OF EXTENSIVE REVIEW, we have developed a new technology plan in conjunction with the School’s new Master Plan. Our overarching goal remains constant: to enhance student learning by providing appropriate technology within and outside the classroom. Ably led by Technology Director Ray Louie, our review involved the School’s Technology Department in dialogue with the faculty and students. Our plans were reviewed by the School’s K-12 Curriculum Committee and the Education Policies Committee of the Board of Trustees. It is quite clear that we are in the midst of a revolution in communications, teaching and learning. Our aim is that Head-Royce will continue to be at the forefront.

The current state of technology at Head-Royce reveals that we have become a high tech school. Comparative, benchmarking analysis shows that Head-Royce continues to be a leader among independent schools. When compared with over 50 of the country’s leading K-12 schools, Head-Royce is above average when measured by computers on campus per student and the number of dedicated technology employees per student. The classrooms are all wired with internet connections and projection equipment, the campus is close to becoming one integrated wireless network, and computers are widely available from Alpha Smarts in Lower School classrooms to fixed labs and four new mobile laptop carts containing 20 iBooks apiece. In addition, a large percentage of employees have laptops as do an increasing number of students.

Our Master Plan has stimulated our thinking and prompted us to review our technology plan. We have embraced an organic approach that will likely see an increasing use of laptops on campus, especially in the Upper School. The new library is set to open this fall, and it will contain an array of desktop computers, projection capabilities and laptop computers that may be checked-out to students. There will continue to be a number of fixed labs with desktop computers including the language lab for our World Language Department. The plan also calls for employees to receive state of the art technology and regular training. Given the computer resources available on campus, it will not be necessary to require students to purchase a laptop computer.

As our technology plans continue to evolve organically, it is clear that we need new policies and practices to guide their use. Recently we have revised and updated the Netiquette and Appropriate Technology Use Policies for students and employees. The wide-spread use of technology in educational research has prompted us to revise our Integrity Policies that focus on honesty, appropriate citation of sources, and disciplinary consequences for cheating. Our faculty will work in teams to examine the best practices in the country’s other leading

Helping Hands

Head-Royce Joins Team to Re-build The East Oakland Boxing Association/Smart Moves

Jeff Key, Chair, Fine Arts Department

IT’S A COLD, RAINY DAY IN DECEMBER — a perfect day to visit the East Oakland Boxing Association/Smart Moves facility in the Elmhurst district of East Oakland. The facility is comprised of two rundown buildings, and an overgrown jungle of a garden surrounded by a weathered chain link fence topped with rows of barbed wire. Water is leaking in through a wall constructed of plywood attached to a chain link fence, and the staff is walking around in rubber boots, getting ready to serve a hot snack to the 50+ kids who congregate at this community facility every day after school. The kids are used to wet floors and no heat. They come for the warmth of the people who care for them, and the mentorship they receive to help them prepare for a better future.

As the children troop in, they are directed to the library where they are required to read for at least a half hour before they can partake in any of the EOBA/Smart Moves activities, which include art, drama, dance, computer instruction, sports or boxing. The children also take cooking classes where they learn about health and nutrition. The program distributes over 100 free food bags to parents and community members each month. Recipients of Barbara Boxer’s “Excellence in Education” award, Smart Moves strives to help the young people of this East Oakland community meet challenges in the classroom, and encourage them to excel in all aspects of their lives. Working with a small, dedicated paid staff, a group of students from UC Berkeley, and community and parent volunteers, the EOBA/Smart Moves program

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Message from the Parents Association

Elizabeth Stumpf, Parents Association President

Happy spring to the HRS community! I’m so happy to report on the successful execution of one of our main HRS events – the Big Wahoo! The annual auction was held on Saturday, March 24th at Oakland’s historic Rotunda Building. The auction crew – too many people to name individually, was led by the creative inspiration of Jennifer Walker with Betsy Crabtree as her able assistant – worked for months to perfect the theme. The Rotunda was transformed, with burlap-draped corners for the bars, bales of hay and “weeds” for the entry way, and truly awesome table settings, complete with a separate brand for each table! I particularly liked “the Runaway Rain Barrel” and the “Double Bar HR” insignia – thanks to parent Steve Linden for his fine artistry! Everyone came in Western dress – square dancing clothes, jeans and bandanas, and some amazing and elaborate shirts on usually soberly-clad men! All the divisions participated in support of the event: incredible art projects from the Lower School, a very popular and valuable wine cellar from the Middle School, and a number of good-natured and fully costumed volunteer students from the Upper School.

A wide variety of items were auctioned off – from gift certificates at local eateries to packages for the fillies at salons to incredible vacation opportunities in Idaho, London, or Stinson, and of course, the “only available here” front row seats for promotions and graduations.

Final numbers are not yet in, but we certainly will be in a position to make a nice donation to the Parents Association’s Scholarship and Faculty endowment funds, as well as a smaller but important donation to the Going Green project. And, while the bottom line is important (and no matter how we dress this event up, the primary purpose is FUNDRAISING for the best cause ever, our School!), I am so pleased that the event was truly a fun evening for our entire community. We had alums, staff, members of the architecture and construction teams who are transforming HRS for the future, and wonderful parents, all coming together to support their school AND have a great time. If you missed the event, enjoy the photos in this newsletter, and mark your calendars NOW for next year – March 29, 2008. Don’t miss it!

Now is also our time to start planning for next year’s effective managing of the Parents Association. If you are interested in serving, email me at stumpf_elizabeth@hotmail.com. We are a VOLUNTEER group, and this is the very best way to support your student’s education, not only with your donations and tuition dollars, but with the most valuable gift of your time. I look forward to thanking you all as the spring moves to summer!
**Math is Cool!**

*Paul Chapman, Head of School*

**THIS YEAR’S SCIENCE, MATH AND TECHNOLOGY conference** featuring Stanford professor Keith Devlin gathered some 150 people to celebrate the beauty and joy of mathematics. In a day filled with workshops, a keynote address, and much good conversation, the motto of Math Department Chair Chris Davies, “geekitude is good,” was clearly in evidence as people demonstrated that it is cool to love math. Significantly, we school people benefited from good feedback about how to make our math program even better.

Professor Devlin, author of *The Math Gene*, explored how humans acquired the ability to do mathematics. Contrary to common belief, there is no single “math gene” but rather a number of intelligences — such as number sense, numerical ability, the ability to abstract, and relational reasoning — that enable us to learn and apply the language of mathematics. While numbers themselves are a relatively recent invention dating some 10,000 years back to ancient Sumeria, and advanced mathematics emerged with the Scientific Revolution, the ability to do mathematics evolved over several hundred thousand years. All human beings have the ability to learn mathematics, he said, despite a commonly offered observation, “I just can’t do math.” Indeed, a comment by one of our eighth grade math whizzes, Riva Kahn Hallock, spoke volumes: “How can you hate something that is so much a part of everything in life!”

At our Forum on Mathematics, more than 50 people—students, alumni, faculty from math, science and technology, parents and past parents, administration and staff—gathered to reflect on why they love math, how they use it in their lives, and how Head-Royce could further improve its teaching of mathematics. Scientists, urban planners, engineers, computer programmers, physicists, businessmen, and educators spoke about how they learned to love math and why it is essential that we prepare the rising generation of leaders to embrace mathematics. While there was strong praise from graduates for their math preparation at Head-Royce, there were several good suggestions for improvement, including that we take the time early on to demonstrate to students how they can apply math in their lives.

For me, the day reinforced my belief that preparing successful mathematicians requires a school culture that encourages risk taking, provides emotional support for learning, maintains a proper balance between aspiration and education, ensures that the basics are covered while also fostering critical thinking, and reinforces the development of multiple intelligences. The fact that virtually all our students take mathematics through their senior year and that so many achieve high levels of competence is one testament that our Math Department is doing their job well. My thanks to the math teachers from kindergarten through calculus, Math Department Chair Chris Davies, Owen von Kulgelgen and the Science, Math and Technology Committee, and Alumni Director Betsy Ringrose for organizing a great day. Indeed, math is cool!

**New Technology at Work for Little Shop of Horrors**

If you saw *Little Shop of Horrors* last month, we know you were impressed by the talents of our students as they acted, sang, and danced their hearts out. What may not have not been so apparent was that behind the scenes, the technical crew was hard at work. And for one particular aspect of production, sound, Michael Beck ’95 was putting new technology to work, achieving a clarity of sound that may not have been matched in previous musicals.

All the actors used wireless microphones. According to Beck, this was the first musical in which almost every person on stage had their own microphone. “For a sound technician, it’s a dream,” he says. “The sound was very balanced, and we didn’t have to worry about actors having to compete with one another — each could be heard, and heard well.” Beck credits senior Paul Meyer ’07 as his invaluable assistant. “Paul served as a microphone specialist, and he learned how every actor requires a different set-up for their mic, depending on the shape of their face, sound reflection, and the volume of their vocal parts.”

In addition, a 5-piece band was set up behind the stage, out of sight of the actors and audience. Since the musicians could not see the actors, a high tech video projector and screen were used. “In a way, they were so removed from the show, yet they were right there part of it all.” By day, Beck is the School’s Information Systems Administrator. He graduated from Head-Royce in 1995. “We’re still building the system,” he says. “But this was the first show where everything really came together well. And, it was great fun!”

*Photo by George Draper. Photo by Jim Graham.*
**Head-Royce Wins Black History Month Essay Contest**

**Head-Royce Fifth Grader Olivia Lucas ’14** was chosen as the Grand Prize winner in the Golden State Warriors “Black History Month Essay Contest.” Olivia was selected from a group of 1,000 student participants. The contest, sponsored by Southwest Airlines, invited children ages 7-12 to write an essay, in 300 words or less, answering the question, “What impact has an African American athlete had on my life?”

As part of her prize, Olivia and her family were flown to Washington, D.C. to watch the Warriors take on the Washington Wizards on March 4. The entire family also had the opportunity to meet Baron Davis prior to the game, posing for pictures and getting autographs from the Warriors star point guard. Olivia was honored by the Warriors and Southwest at halftime of a recent home game. She was also invited to read her essay at the recent People of Color in Independent Schools Conference (see adjacent column). Below is Olivia’s winning essay:

*Dominique Dawes is the African American Athlete who has impacted my life because she inspired me to always give my personal best!*

I have been doing gymnastics since I was 4 years old. I finally reached Level 4 in third grade which is the first stage of competition. Gymnastics was fun in the beginning, but then it began to feel like work. I had to be at the gym two days every week from 4-6 pm. The last two weeks of third grade I missed school and gymastics practice because I was sick. It felt good not having to go practice and I decided I didn’t want to be a gymnast anymore. My mom finally got me to agree to try a new gym and I went to a couple of practices. I decided to train for Level 5 competition during the summer. I was also transferring to a new school and would be the ONLY new girl in fourth grade. I was nervous about the challenges and changes I had to face.

After completing an “Amazing American” assignment for my fourth grade class, I realized that Dominique had to overcome some challenges too. Her self-determination and dedication to seven hour training days helped me to overcome my fears. I thought, “Surely I could train three hours for three days each week for level 5.” She helped me realize that to be great at anything took hard work! As the first African American to win an individual Olympic medal she became my role model to work hard in practice and believe in myself.

My hard work paid off! I qualified for both the Level 5 Zone and State Competition in 2006. Although I didn’t “place” at the State Competition I still gave my personal best! There’s always next year!
“Green Day” a Big Hit

On Friday, April 6, as part of the Upper School's annual SpringFest, more than twenty experts from various fields were invited to campus to lead workshops and small seminars on “all things Green.” The day was organized by Science Department faculty member Jen Brakeman and the Upper School Green Council — students Yaer Heber ’07, Kalin Werner ’08, Alejo Kraus-Polk ’08, and history teacher Paul Scott. Deborah Moore, director of the Green Schools Initiative, kicked off the day with a keynote address titled, “Schools Rise Up: Students Start an EcoRevolution.”

The morning sessions included twenty-two different workshops — on topics ranging from green buildings and global warming politics to raptor protection and careers in the environmental movement. Depending on their specific interest, students had signed up for workshops of their choice prior to the event.

Among the invited guests who led workshops were six Head-Royce parents: Steve Sherman, of the Environmental Science Associates; Allen Fish, Director of the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory and lecturer at UC Davis; Robert Infelise of Cox, Castle, & Nicholson LLP; Deni Chambers, Northgate Environmental Management, Inc.; Dick Schneider, an environmental planner and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees; and Doug Linney, a political consultant. “The School is fortunate to have a talented body of parents who are donating their professional expertise in many areas related to sustainability and green issues,” says Brakeman.

After an all-organic lunch, the afternoon session included eighteen different on-campus and off-campus activities. While some students participated in a tour of a waste water plant, or a trip to the zoo, or checking out the solar cars at Chabot Space & Science Center, or a clean up project in Sausal Creek, others stayed on campus to create a green-themed improv drama exercise for Lower School students, view movies such as Inconvenient Truth and Who Killed the Electric Car? or help beautify the campus through the native plant project, “Operation Sunflower.”

“I'm delighted that our students, teachers, staff, and parents are embracing our new Green School mission, and our effort to integrate sustainability into all aspects of school life,” says Head of School Paul Chapman.

Juniors Earn High Marks in Science Fair

Junior Camden Louie ’08 earned 1st place in the biological science division at a science fair held recently in Sacramento. The award qualifies her for the California state fair to be held in Los Angeles later this spring.

Camden’s project was titled “Whet Your Whistle with What? — What is the effect of different beverages on the vocal pitch accuracy of homo sapiens?” In the same category, fellow junior Courtney Peters ’08 brought home a 3rd place prize. Courtney’s project was “Adventures in Ascorbic Acid: How much Vitamin C is present in different fruits and vegetables?”

And Michela Isono ’08 won 3rd place in the environmental science category for her project titled “Constructive Carbon: What is the effect of elevated CO2 levels on Brassica rapa?”

Boys Hoops Squad Make Regional Finals for First Time in Ten Years

For the first time since 1997, the men's varsity basketball team advanced to the regional finals. The Jayhawks entered the North Coast Section playoffs ranked #11 and in the first two rounds, defeated the #6 seed, Berean Christian, the #3 team Stuart Hall, and finally, the #2 team St. Elizabeth. The last of these three wins were played in front of hundreds of fans in the HRS Pavilion.

Thanks to their success, the team earned a berth as the #7 seed in the Northern California Regional tournament. In a game played on the road, the Head-Royce squad were beat by the Modesto Crusaders, 85-53.

Car Wash Helps Support Heads Up

A car wash held late last month raised $848.50 to support the Heads Up Program. “We had a constant stream of cars all day long,” says organizer and Upper School parent Briony Bax. “And some families brought more than one car!”

Upper School students who volunteered included Natasha Bax ’08, Robert Fahey ’08, Reilly Keenan ’08, Anton Miller ’08, Madeleine Nelson ’08, Bobby Sleeth ’08, Rebecca Smith ’08, and Taylor White ’09.
Auction Round Up... The Big Wahoo! Sponsors

The Parents Association is proud to report that this year’s auction earned more than $100,000 that will be invested in the endowed Parents Association Scholarship and Faculty Funds, investing in our students and faculty.

**Sponsorships**

**Big Valley ($5000 & up)**
Cahill Contractors, Inc

**Bonanza ($2500 - $4999)**
Anonymous

**High Chaparral ($1000 - $2499)**
Dan & Lily Chao
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Peter & Kathy Drake
Steve & Liz Isono
Michael Keenan & Jennifer Walker
Jon Streeter & Dorine Holsey Streeter
Joan Bradley Wactor ’76 & Jon Wactor
Sandy Walker

**Gunsmoke ($750 - $999)**
Robert Stein & Jessica Pers

**Lone Ranger (up to $749)**
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Joseph Chan & Helen Tang
David Clayton & Gayle DeKellis
Joseph Curley & Clytia Curley
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Doug Smith & Jennifer Hughes
Bob Stein & Jessica Pers
Robert & Elizabeth Stumpf
Scott Verges
Stephen Wong & Laura Truffaut

Weston and Lisa Settlemier with Sheriff Paul Chapman

Dorine Holsey-Streeter and Jon Streeter

Shelby and Erich Tupper

The Big Wahoo! Co-Chairs Betsy Crabtree and Jennifer Walker
William Hirsch is all smiles after being honored for his outfit.

Past HRS parent Gig Codiga and a friend ready their paddles.

Bernard Smits and Theresa Nelson

All auction photos by Claire Bloomberg
CAMPUS BEAT

Be part of the
Head-Royce School
Global Trips Program

June 13 — July 3, 2007

Make your plans now for this wonderful opportunity.
This year, the group travels to
China, Tibet, and Thailand.

Ariane Chee ’08 and Danielle Purkiss ’08 during last year’s summer study trip to Asia.


Welcoming our New Families

All faculty, Board members, administrators, and current HRS parents are warmly encouraged to attend a welcoming reception for new parents to Head-Royce School, Thursday, April 26 at 7 pm in the Library. Dessert will be served. Come and welcome new members of our community!