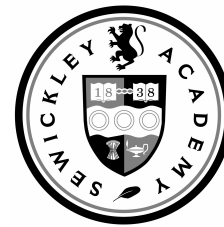


# Summerbridge Pittsburgh Fall 2008 Newsletter



Students always have fun during Alumni Day

## RECENT & UPCOMING EVENTS



### November 6

Meet and Greet the Summerbridge staff @ Cardinal Wright (6 - 8 pm)

### December 6

Mentoring partnerships (with Pittsburgh Cares) Time & location: TBA

### December 14

Musical: A Christmas Carol @ Byham Theatre (6 - 8 pm)

### January 10

Summerbridge Student Day @ Sewickley Academy (11am - 4 pm)



Teachers support their favorite Pittsburgh team

## Another Extraordinary Summer!

This year's theme for the 2008 summer program was *Extraordinary*. Our students and teachers took this to heart and found new ways to perform extraordinary acts, both inside and outside of the classroom. The six-week summer academic enrichment program continues to combine learning with fun, as

teachers and staff encourage students to perform at a high level. Students took academic courses in math, writing, wellness, and public speaking, but also supplemented their academic experience with afternoon club activities. These activities included clay sculpture, charcoal and pastel painting, pencil and ink drawing, step team, computer club, and plyometric exercise training.

In addition to normal curricular activities, Summerbridge students took the opportunity to volunteer and visit local organizations such as World Vision, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Police Department, Animal Friends shelter, FedEx, Robert Morris University, Fern Hollow Nature Center, and Masonic Village retirement home and life care community. All of these trips are a part of our Community Service and Career Day, which exposes kids to different career possibilities, but also allows them to participate in a service-related activity.

Summerbridge Pittsburgh also took steps to integrate some of its student data with that of the Breakthrough



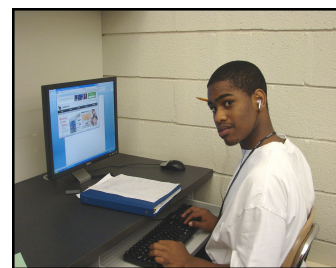
Seventh graders participate in this year's Spelling Bee

Collaborative, the national organization with which Summerbridge is affiliated. The joining of a national database will allow the program to compare itself against national trends seen in the other sites located throughout the US and in Hong Kong.

For students that have already participated in the Academy's on site portion of the Summerbridge program, Ms. Tiffany Craig, High School Program

Director, continues to develop innovative and exciting programming for the school year, including tutoring for students with academic need, workshops on financial literacy, standardized test preparation for college admissions, and the college selection process. Both middle school and high school students will have the opportunity to experience the electric spirit of the summer program year-round!

Now in its sixteenth year, Summerbridge Pittsburgh, with the generous support of Sewickley Academy, remains one of the best summer learning programs both locally and nationally.



Students like DeAndre recognize that writing is serious business

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Desks of the Directors .....	2
Celebration 2008, A Night to Remember.....	3
The Summer in Pictures; SB Inspirational Corner.....	4
List of Contributors .....	5

## FROM THE DESKS OF THE DIRECTORS

I am excited about joining Summerbridge Pittsburgh (SBP). Not only does it represent an opportunity to work with some great students and teachers in the Pittsburgh area, but it also represents something of a homecoming for me as a native Pennsylvanian.

The youth of Pittsburgh are its future, and if the Steel City is to prosper, that prosperity will depend upon the types of citizens that the school systems produce. Our students are the future engineers, programmers, doctors and other professionals that will make Pittsburgh, and the US, a better place to live.



As some of you may already know, SBP is a member of the Breakthrough Collaborative, an innovative academic-enrichment program started some 20+ years ago in San Francisco. Our association with the Collaborative, and its 28 other sites across the US and Hong Kong, allows us to connect with others that share the same mission.

You will read in Tiffany's and Sarah's comments, we have some new programs. All of these programs have our students in mind: to offer them help during their middle school and high school academic year, and to offer them a voice in steering Summerbridge Pittsburgh to new heights.

### **Bill Gellman, Executive Director**

Contact Bill at 412.741.2230 ext. 3142 or [bgellman@sewickley.org](mailto:bgellman@sewickley.org)

Happy Fall, all! I hope that all of you are achieving great things both in and out of the classroom! Summerbridge continues to create programming to help you gain academic assistance and cultural exposure. We're excited to announce that we will be offering formal tutoring services after the start of the New Year! This will be one way for you to keep the SB spirit going throughout the year! In addition to this academic support, middle school students will have opportunities to attend the Andy Warhol Museum, the Carnegie Science Center, and to attend art workshops run by the Sweetwater Arts Center.

In the spirit of our continuing partnership with Breakthrough Collaborative, our middle school students will have the chance to apply to be a BAM (Breakthrough Advisory Member). BAMs will assist the professional staff in steering both the summer and year-round middle school programs. In addition to their roles as student advisors, BAMs will also aid in event planning and various community service activities related to SBP middle school students. If you are interested in applying for a BAM position, please contact Ms. Sarah.

Best wishes for another awesome academic year. I look forward to seeing you all soon!

### **Sarah Bachner, Middle School Program Director**

Contact Sarah at 412.741.2230 ext. 3143 or [sbachner@sewickley.org](mailto:sbachner@sewickley.org)



With the memory of such an extraordinary summer, the high school academic year program is off to another invigorating start. In only its second year of existence the high school program has helped many students develop and enrich skills necessary to propel them into a successful future. Although much of what we do in the high school program is intentionally designed with the feeling of academic rigor, all workshops, seminars, field trips, etc. are intended to be captivating as we continue to excite each student and help them learn about the importance of furthering their education.

Looking ahead, I know the upcoming programs and events for high school students will be extremely beneficial. We have some great new initiatives and partnerships with WYEP radio station, Kaplan (test prep organization), the University of Pittsburgh, Sweetwater Arts Center, Pittsburgh Cares organization, among others.

One of my most exciting endeavors has been creating the Breakthrough Executive Council (or BEC) for high school students. This council will give older SBP students a voice in steering the high school program. In addition, we have maintained programs ultimately geared toward college preparation, such as, financial aid workshops, NACAC college fair, college tours, academic and cultural field trips, community service opportunities, and real life counseling. I advise all students and parents/guardians to take advantage of as many events as possible throughout the year. This is your year for excellence!!

### **Tiffany Craig, High School Program Director**

Contact Tiffany at 412.741.2230 ext. 3141 or [tcraig@sewickley.org](mailto:tcraig@sewickley.org)





# Celebration 2008 - What A Night!

We, the community of Summerbridge, have come together to celebrate six weeks of success. 15 years ago someone selected Pittsburgh as a haven for summer education. Since then, Summerbridge Pittsburgh has continued to introduce its motto to engage and challenge young people in an educational setting. "Students teaching students" with high expectations, open minds, willing hearts, and caring souls, this I know is everlasting.

They say that you know you're destined to become a teacher when you have that moment, that moment of pure joy, the kind that makes you want to cry. I was lucky enough to experience this feeling for the first time last summer. I was able to experience that same feeling again this

summer. I thought really hard one day about all of you. I thought back to my summers as a middle schooler, they consisted of summer camps and beach vacations. When I think of all of you, I am just so proud, so taken back with admiration. You read each night this summer, you calculated math problems, practiced speeches, and learned about anxiety and stress.

I wish for you to take every opportunity to better your education, ask questions to those who teach you until you fully understand. Read what you're interested in, read the newspaper or read magazines. I dream for all of you to be life-long learners by realizing that education doesn't stop when class is over. I pray for you to be a leader in your neighborhood, school,

community and country. I challenge you to grab hold of your dreams and fulfill them all!

*Excerpts from teacher testimonial by Brittany Austin*



**Brittany with seventh grade girls just before Celebration**

Summerbridge expanded my world, brought me friends of all ages I never would have had, taught me lessons I needed to learn. There's an old saying that, 'when the student is ready, the teacher appears'. However, Summerbridge taught me that the students appear, and the teacher better be ready for his world to be expanded, to be energized, and to encompass every extraordinary student!

When I first started teaching, I couldn't imagine being part of this program. Now, standing before you, I can't imagine NOT being part of it. I always

thought that it would be too hard, that I was too young for such a responsibility. I recall standing in the Senior School Commons on Orientation in 2007, watching my first-ever Spirit Stick presentation. The first thought to pop in my head was, "Yikes, what have you gotten yourself into?!" Yesterday was our final Spirit Stick presentation, and

the thought that popped into my head then was, "Yikes, how did it go so fast?". That's what Summerbridge does to you.

***"When I first started teaching, I couldn't imagine being part of this program. Now, standing before you, I can't imagine NOT being part of it."***

*Excerpts from teacher testimonial by Patrick Joyal*



Kids shared with me that Summerbridge Pittsburgh provided 'a safe and happy home away from home'. Many of them

noted that they did not want the six weeks to end. However, the best was yet to come. The capstone event, Summerbridge Celebration, is an evening to remember.

It was held on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and what I observed and experienced was truly AMAZING! Impressive student decorations and projects adorned the walls, doors, and tables. The spirit in the air was electric. It was an evening of laughter, reflection, tears and gratitude. 7<sup>th</sup> graders, Darcel Johnson and Chelsea Shields were the MCs, and they were unbelievably poised and funny. A heart-wrenching poem, *The Perfect Father*, written and read by 8<sup>th</sup> grader DeAndre Johnson, left not a dry eye in the audience. 7<sup>th</sup> grader

Horace Pope gave a testimonial on his SB summer that was so emotional, he was unable to finish his remarks. There was infectious stepping, dancing, and singing by all the students which made you want to jump out of your chair. One of the teachers, Brittany Austin, gave a testimonial that was truly inspirational. There were many, many other wonderful moments! It was truly a special evening.

*From Summerbridge Advisory Committee Chair, Susie Keller*



# Summerbridge 2008 - The Summer in Pictures



This is what awaits the students each morning



Clay sculpture allows students a form of earthy expression



Seventh grade Spelling Bee winners



Students (above) and staff (below) all enjoy Crazy Dress Day



Close bonds are formed between students & teachers



Field Trip to World Vision on Career and Community Service Day



ASM (below) is all about motion and sound



Water fight during Field Day



Painting windows at Children's Hospital as part of Career and Community Service Day

## SB Inspirational Corner

### Excitement by Brandon Hicks

Excitement tastes like sweet cotton candy on a summer day.

Excitement looks like hugs and kisses from your gram-gram.

Excitement feels like little butterflies in your belly.

Excitement sounds like little kids laughing.

### Quotes

*The will to win, the desire to succeed, the urge to reach your potential ... these are the keys that will unlock the door to excellence.*

**Coach Eddie Robinson**

*People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing, that's why we recommend it daily.*

**Zig Ziglar**

*There are two cardinal sins from which all others spring: impatience and laziness.*

**Franz Kafka**



# Summerbridge Supporters 2008

Summerbridge thanks all donors, whose time, resources, and support strengthen our program and changes the lives of Pittsburgh youth.

Anonymous (1)	David and Shannon Demas	Gretchen Hansen	Mr. & Mrs. F. Joseph Marsh	Amy & Sean Sebastian
Amelia Miles Foundation	Paula J. Dillig	Nancy Hansen	Mr. & Mrs. David L. McClenahan	Alden H. J. Sector
American Eagle Outfitters Foundation	Mr. & Mrs. Gregg W. Dixon	Juergen & Julie Kloof	Mr. & Ms. Devin McGranahan	Drs. Richard P. Shannon & Barbara Clark
Mr. & Mrs. James S. Anderson	Pennsylvania Department of Education	Mr. Larry E. Hall	Glen and Diane Meakem	Mr. & Ms. Mark Sherwin
Mary and Al Barbour	DSF Charitable Foundation	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Harff	Mrs. Mary Means	Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Sponseller
Mr. & Mrs. J. Stephen Barge	Mr. Leonard E. Dulski & Mrs. Jennifer Huret Dulski	Mr. Todd M. Hartman & Ms. Vanessa Villalobos	Mr. & Mrs. George Miles	Mr. & Mrs. Frederick J. Stevenson III
Dr. & Mrs. E. Peter Benzing	Mr. & Mrs. Andrew S. Elste	Mr. & Mrs. Paul G. Heffernan, Jr.	Douglas & Deborah Millar	Dr. & Mrs. Robert M. Stiegel
Ms. Julia E. Bevevino	Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. Elste	Reg and Priscilla Henry	Mr. & Mrs. Timothy P. Miller	The Stanny Foundation
Bloomfield Bridge Circle	Mr. & Mrs. Scott M. Elste	Dr. & Ms. Edward Heres	Dr. & Mrs. John I. Moraca	Lester and Patricia Stine
James M. & Mary Beth Bonomo	Equitable Resources Foundation, Inc.	Mr. Craig Heryford	Mr. & Mrs. Steven M. Morris	David & Elizabeth Sykes
Bozzone Family Foundation	Jennifer & John Evanko and Family	Mr. & Mrs. G. W. Humphrey, Jr.	Ms. Sharon A. Nelson-Le Gall	Dr. & Mrs. Derek J. Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Braksick	Dr. Helen S. Faison	Mr. Vaughn Hurt	Hugh and Eliza Nevin	Mr. Matthew Toups
Breakthrough Collaborative	Mr. & Mrs. Wilson J. Farmerie	Mr. Mark J. Juliano	Mr. & Mrs. Kolia J. O'Connor	Verizon Foundation
Ms. Erica R. Brusselars	Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Fetterolf	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Karet	Chris & Susan Pappas	Lela & Chris Wadsworth
Kathryn and Michael Bryson	Dr. Joyce L. Ferris	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey D. Kendall	Mr. & Mrs. Kevin M. Park	Mr. Luke Ward & Dr. Barbara H. Ward
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Burnham	Mr. & Mrs. Edward V. Fincke	Chris & Susie Keller	Dr. & Mrs. Gregory B. Patrick	Ms. Ruth Ward
C&S Sports	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Frank	Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Kennedy, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Robert N. Pierce III	Mr. D. Geoffrey Webster & Ms. Christina Dixon
Mr. & Mrs. Marco Cardamone	Mr. & Ms. Simeon Friedberg	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Y. Kopf, Jr.	Paul & Kate Pigman	Dr. Linda J. Wellner
Mr. & Ms. Chris Z. Carson	Ms. Pamela Gaynor	Mr. & Ms. Scott Leib	Michael Bill Avner Memorial Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation	Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Whittemore
Ms. Kimberly L. Cass	Mr. & Mrs. Ronald E. Gebhardt	Mr. & Mrs. H. Kennedy Linge	Calihan Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation	Dr. & Mrs. James E. Wilberger
Mrs. Nancy Doyle Chalfant	Giant Eagle, Inc.	Ms. Lisa Lisanti	Casey Family Charitable Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation	Mr. & Mrs. Walter M. Yost II
Mr. & Mrs. L. Hamilton Clark, Jr.	Giant Eagle, Moon Township	Ms. Ann M. Love	POISE Foundation	Rick and Heidi Zomnir
The Conair Group, Inc.	Thomas J. & Leslie A. Gill	Mr. Scott MacLeod	Mr. Brandon K. Quinn	
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Craig, Jr.	Girl Scout Troop #605	Dr. & Mrs. George and Jamie Magovern	Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Riordan	
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Curran	Mr. & Mrs. Paul A. Giusti	Carole & Bill Markus	Mrs. Meghan O'Donnell Rogers	
Dr. & Mrs. James A. D'Antonio	Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Glass	Mr. Alan J. Malus & Mrs. Kathleen M. Foody-Malus	Scaife Family Foundation	
Mr. & Mrs. George Davidson, Jr.	The Grable Foundation	Lynn Maroon	Mr. George H. Schweitzer & Ms. Tiffany Beckwith	
Richard & Sharon Davidson	H. J. Heinz Company Foundation			

Please let us know if we made a mistake with spelling or left your name off the list.



## A gift to Summerbridge doesn't just pay the bills, it changes lives.

- Sponsor a bus for transportation of students during the summer: \$5,000
- Summerbridge summer T-Shirts: \$1,000
- One week of breakfast and lunch for all Summerbridge students: \$2,500
- Summerbridge Field Day: \$250
- Books for all summer students: \$1,500
- Teacher classroom supplies: \$100
- Student supplies: \$50

Please consider impacting the life of a young person by making a contribution to Summerbridge Pittsburgh

For more information, contact the Sewickley Academy Advancement Office @ 412-741-2230 ext. 3042

OR click the **GIVE NOW** link on the Academy's web site ([www.sewickley.org](http://www.sewickley.org))

# *Summerbridge Pittsburgh Is Extraordinary!*

**“You demonstrate selfless humanity toward the enrichment of underprivileged youth.”**

Pittsburgh Pirates (2006)

**“Your dedication to assist students achieve academic success is a remarkable example of generosity and compassion that helps to better our communities.”**

Former President George H. W. Bush (2007)

**“Summerbridge Pittsburgh combines high-energy fun and games with serious academic classes.”**

Pittsburgh Post Gazette (2007)

**“Summerbridge Pittsburgh is an exemplary program and a high quality learning experience.”**

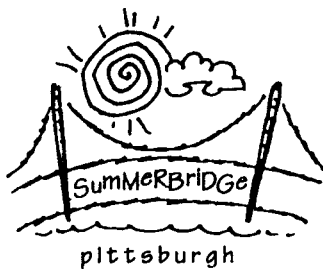
Johns Hopkins University (2007)

**“I thank Summerbridge Pittsburgh for your tireless commitment to our young people.”**

Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell (2007)

**“It’s loud. The air sizzles with excitement ... and everyone is smiling. An outside observer might never guess that these 135 students and 24 teachers are actually attending summer school.”**

The Sewickley Herald (2008)



315 Academy Avenue  
Sewickley, Pennsylvania 15143



***We are the young people who make a difference***