



**Room 5**

Interview with Susan Jensen

*Why did you want to be a teacher?* I wanted to be a geologist and loved learning about geology. I thought it would be fun to teach geology and science to children.

*Why did you want to teach K/1?* I taught 4th grade for 3 years and thought it was the best grade ever, but when I had my son, I learned that children learn more when

they are young than any other age in life. I started taking courses in early childhood education and applied to be a K/1 teacher.

*What is your favorite color?*  
Purple.

*How do you “be a teacher?”* I think about kids and what they need to learn and where do they need to go. I also consider what the parents have to offer and how we can make it fun for kids to learn. I think kids learn best by doing, so I devise ways to teach so kids are learning as they are doing.

*What was it like when you were in Kindergarten?* My childhood was very different than most of yours. I grew up on a dairy farm in Illinois. It was a lot of work. I didn't go to kindergarten because I

lived too far from the school for someone to take me. I started school in 1st grade.

*Do you enjoy all the kids in your class?* Absolutely! I love getting to know each of you and what makes you special.

*What is your favorite food?*  
Dark chocolate.



Mrs. Jensen by Sol

**Room 9**

**From Rachel:**

Almost 44-year-old Cathy Patterson gets to live out her dream as a teacher after 5 years of teaching school. She always wanted to be a teacher but her parents had a different idea. “My parents wanted me to be a lawyer, but I knew it was teaching for me.” Teaching isn't all that easy, but language arts “is what I do best,” she quotes. “You have to be prepared for the job. It's always better to be overscheduled for the kids rather than underscheduled.”

**Questions from Kat:**

*What is hardest for you to teach?* Chemistry. “I never learned it in college.”  
*What are your teaching tips?* “Make school fun and interesting and kids will behave!” As a child, Mrs. Patterson disliked teachers who talked a lot.

**Joey asked about these favorites:**

*Type of Candy:* Starburst, Skittles (can't eat chocolate!)  
*Thing to do:* Read (favorite author: John Grisham)  
*Food:* Chicken Teriyaki

**Yamilet inquired about the following favorites:**

*Restaurant –* Red Lobster  
*Place to visit –* Mount Rushmore

*Holiday celebrated –* Christmas, as it is the only holiday her oldest daughter is home for.

**Xochitl noted the following:**

She has a 7-month-old Cairn Terrier named Mayzie (after “Suessical” musical character), who she loves to play with and walks twice a day. She does not like coffee! (Starbucks gift cards are given to her husband ☺)

**Aliyah learned:**

Mrs. Patterson first taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, then 8<sup>th</sup> grade before arriving at her current 4/5 class. She doesn't like boring teaching. Her favorite part of the classroom day is the class meeting (first part of school every day).

*Favorite Adult movie:*  
Shawshank Redemption

*Favorite Kid movie:*  
Bedknobs and Broomsticks



**Festival of Lights:**  
Thursday December 14th  
6 pm to 8:30 pm  
A celebration of the holidays from around the world. All kindergarden and first graders perform with their class.  
Pot Luck; every one make an authentic dish from a country of your choice.  
At the Mountain View Community Center on Rengstorff Ave.

**PACT Coffees**

From 7 - 9pm, Starbucks, 750 Castro St. Mountain View  
\*Wednesday, 12/6  
\*Wednesday, 12/13  
\*Tuesday, 1/9

We have scheduled a number of informational sessions in the next few months. These are informal coffees where prospective parents can meet with current PACT parents and learn about our school. We'd like to get a few PACT parents to attend each event along with our committee members to present a varied perspective on the school. Please invite your friends who might be considering PACT to attend a coffee!

Room 9



- A: What does "Escuela" mean?
- B: Where did the name Castro come from?
- C: How many total students go to Castro?
- D: What school did our principal come from before Castro?
- E: How many classrooms are at Castro?
- F: What year did Castro first open?
- G: What does the "P", "A", "C", "T" stand for in PACT?
- H: Can you name the five subject areas of Arts Focus?  
(see box below for answers)

Room 13

Jokes by Teagan Goddard

Knock, knock!  
Who's there?  
Boo.  
Boo who?  
Don't cry, it's only a joke!

Why was the broom late for school?  
Because he overswept.

What did one snowman say to the other snowman?  
"I smell carrots."

Where do crackers get their eggs?  
At the store.



(Mr. Adermann and his class at Bob's Pumpkin Patch)

O Pumpkin  
O Pumpkin  
So big and small  
I can't carry you at all

O Pumpkin  
O Pumpkin  
How can it be  
Your twice the size of me

Room 14

(updated from article written on 11/2005 by Colleen Dante)

Mrs. Terri Hygate has taught at PACT for two years.

Terri was born in Southern England in the town of Devon. When she was 6 years old, she and her family moved to the island nation of New Zealand. Terri says, "New Zealand is the last bus-stop on the planet! - a long way from EVERYTHING!! "

Mrs. Hygate has a few secrets you might not expect! Not only is she an elementary school teacher, she is also trained as a librarian AND has a law degree! Although she has never practiced law, she says she would have wanted to be a family lawyer.

You also may be surprised to know that she once had a job where she was paid to watch T.V.! It's true - in Australia the government has laws requiring a certain amount of children's programs of high quality, so she was paid to watch programs and "classify" them as appropriate or not. She was hired due in no small part to her legal degree, so you never know where a great education will lead you!

Mrs. Hygate moved to the California seven and a half years ago. She has a husband and two daughters. Her daughters are in 8th and 11th grades. The biggest difference for her daughters in school here is that in New Zealand EVERYBODY in EVERY school wears a uniform, and the first day of school in New Zealand and Australia is in JANUARY!!

Yes, you read correctly, school starts right after Christmas there!! She says this is due to the fact that summer in Australia and New Zealand is from September to December. Quite different from here in California, huh? Also, every school in New Zealand has a pool and all of the children are taught to swim.

- A: It's the name of the street that Castro School is located on. It also means school in Spanish!
- B: Named after Mariano Castro, who is considered the father of Mountain View.
- C: 523
- D: Carmen Mizell was the manager of student information and technology from the Sunnyvale School District.
- E: Including the preschools, there are 40 classrooms. 26 classrooms are for K thru 5th grade.
- F: 1949
- G: PARENT, Child, Teacher
- H: Clay, Drawing and Painting, Paper Arts, Textiles, and 3-

Dimensional Art (compiled by Debbie Sato, Social Committee)

## Room 34



The all-kindergarten class in Room 34 is lucky to have Bonnie Malouf (better known as "Miss Bonnie") at the helm. Miss Bonnie has been part of PACT since its beginning, both as a parent and a teacher. Her son and daughter are teenagers now,

## Room 35

(Mrs Katrina dressed as a Spelling Bee for Halloween.)



**Alec:** *Do you play any instruments?* I play guitar.

**Journey:** *What is your favorite color?* Green.

*Why do you have 3 kids and who is the oldest?* I have 3 kids because I like kids and we like to have lots of fun together. Cisca is the oldest. We love to have family music parties, when everyone performs. Rory plays guitar and piano. Cisca plays trumpet and played a lot of guitar, until she got too much homework. Anja plays flute and sings. Most evenings we are usually all doing homework.

*Did you decorate your house for Halloween?* We carved pumpkins and put out some decorations. Halloween is my husband's birthday. He likes to scare everyone!

**Connor:** *Do you ever have too much work to do?* I often have too much work to do, but I do the best I can, because I like to do a good job.

but she tells great stories about their childhoods and school days. In fact Miss Bonnie tells great stories, period -- she is a professional story-teller! She also loves art. The kids have enjoyed painting the Castro landscape in the style of Claude Monet, and seeing their paintings mounted on the wall. They drew self-portraits with Miss Bonnie's set of "people-colored crayons" (which come in all shades including Almond, Sand, Copper, Toast, and Coffee). Room 34 has quickly become a community held together by empathy, creativity and love. The kids are always learning to enjoy their similarities and differences.

Miss Bonnie believes that

*What things make you laugh?*  
People who are funny and

sometimes the funnies. I also think books like *Anguished English* are very funny.

*Do you ever feel like you need help teaching?* I love to have so many parents helping in the classroom and I love to see the olders helping the youngers.

**Ian:** *What does your house look like?* We have a fireplace and lots of books in the family room. We have a baby grand piano and instruments in the living room. We have a big yard with three grapefruit trees.

**Alex:** *Are you married?* Yes, Jim and I got married in 1990. We will have our 17th anniversary in February.

**Anna:** *Where do you get all the ideas of what we draw at school?* Most ideas come from books and places I've been and sometimes I just think them up.

*Where do your parents live?* In Berlin, Germany, across the street from where Albert Einstein lived for 30 years.

**Morgan:**

*When did you know you wanted to be a teacher?* I



kindergardeners learn through playing and that learning happens all day long: kids don't just learn from adults, but from observing the world and from working, writing, drawing, and building together. The class has gone on field trips to the pumpkin patch, to the recycling bins, and around the neighborhood. This month they'll go to a park and to the public library.

Room 34's garden patch is well underway, under the dedicated guidance of parents John and Stephanie. The kids "planted" earthworms, picked grubs out of the soil, and planted lettuce and flowers. The newest project is the Worm Bin full of red wigglers, which will grow fat on lunch scraps.

started teaching when I was still in college and I really

enjoyed it.

*Who is your hero?* Stephen Ambrose. He was my professor (teacher) at U.C. Berkeley. He filled the

auditorium to overflow capacity. His students would sit on the floor and in the aisles to hear him talk. In a hall with over 200 college students, there were times you could hear a pin drop! He was an amazing storyteller.

**Miranda:** *What is your favorite food?* I love Indian food.

**Claire:** *Why are you so smart?* Because I read a lot of books.

*Do you have brothers or sisters?* I have one brother.

**Fernando:** *Do you have any pets?* 4 cats, Sascha, Siren, Sadie, and Sarah.

**Maria:** *Did you have any cavities as a girl?* I'm afraid so.

*What was your favorite candy?* My grandmother used to walk my brother and me to Tressidor Union at Stanford to get a candy and then visit the library. He always got black licorice and I always got M & Ms. Now, I prefer black licorice. In Holland we have a candy that I liked, called Drop.

*What was your favorite book?* I had 3 books in Dutch by Astrid Lindgren. Pippi Langkous, Pippi Langkous gaat aan board, and Pippi

Langkous in Taka-Tuka land.  
They are called Pippi  
Longstocking in English.

**Room 36**

Ms. McCleary's K/1 students wanted to know where she grew up and what she liked to do when she was not at school.

Ms McCleary answered, "I grew up in Sunnyvale and lived in the house that my mom grew up in since she was 9 years old. I went to Cumberland Elementary, Sunnyvale Middle School, and Fremont High School, Sonoma State University. I started Kinder when I was 4 and started college when I was 17.



(Ms McCleary walking the whole walkathon with her students)



Some of my hobbies include: Reading! I love mysteries, autobiographies, short stories, books that are made into movies (I like to get more of the story beyond the film!), etc.

I love the arts! I love painting and drawing and I love going to art museums -- well all museums! I also love watching films, including independent films.

I love the outdoors! I enjoy hiking, spending time with animals at the zoo, swimming, going to the beach or lake, playing sports, throwing frisbee, etc.

I also like to collect books, particularly children's

literature from now and from the 30's, 40s, 50s. I have a huge bookcase with some really interesting books.

Other than that, I simply like spending time with my family! They are my best friends! My father is a horseshoer, my mom is a writer/consultant/content analyst, my brother Casey (21) is in Chico pursuing real estate, and my other brother Travis (17) is finishing his senior year in high school and plans to go to UC Davis in the fall to become a vet."

The PACT Newsletter is published four times each school year. Questions, comments and suggestions for future editions should be directed to Tanya Bishop (tcbishop@aol.com ). Thank you to our newsletter coordinators: Tracy Wingrove, Mark Goodwin, Patricia Goates, Jenny Murray, Heather Hadlock, Jeni Fujita, and Liza Levin.

**PACT Annual Report, school year 2005/2006**

**Total Income:** **\$32,104.15**  
Donations made from about 70% of families:\$17,427.00  
Company Matching Donations from 4 families:\$900.00  
Other income, such as PTA,  
Klutz & make a plate: \$ 4,375.90  
Reserve from 2004-2005: \$ 9,401.25

**Total Expenses:** **\$25,555.62**  
**Social Committee spent** \$977.94

(Some of the highlights included PACT's 10-year anniversary party; the Festival of Lights and a bunch of other social events)

**Publicity spent** \$ 2,647.24

(PR obviously did a great job last year, getting us about 70 new students. They created a "Parent Lecture Series" for the public, made new, exciting brochures, and lots of flyers that people saw all over Mt View & Sunnyvale.)

**Others** including Garden, Parent Ed, and more \$ 1,656.66

**Classrooms expenses** \$20,273.78

Teachers were given a budget of \$130 per child, and they spent it throughout the year on things such as:

- classroom supplies & books: approx \$4,800
- cooking projects approx \$ 900
- photography approx \$ 900
- Science / Math approx \$2,800
- Social Studies/Language Arts approx \$1,000
- Other items (pets, computer, art, etc) approx \$2,300
- Field trips approx. \$7,500

Some of these field trips included:

The K/1 classes went together to San Francisco to see the orchestra. They received a CD there, and played it in class where they had many sessions of music and movement. They also combined this experience with the Zun-Zun

assembly and made musical instruments out of recycled materials. In addition, they learned about all the sections of the orchestra and how to be a good audience.

For each class's share of the bus and tickets, the cost was approximately \$300.

The 2/3 classes took field trips to several outdoor venues including Deer Hollow Farm and Redwood Grove. They learned about habitats and the lifecycles of animals and plants, as well as the culture of the Ohlone Indian tribe. These are all part of the state standards for these grade levels. These field trips cost a class approximately \$ 500.

The CA state standards for 4<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies is CA History, so the class went on a field trip to Sacramento last year. They visited the state capital, Sutter's Fort, the California history museum including an exhibit of the Japanese internment camps, and the railroad museum. This trip, which was 2 days and 1 night, cost approximately \$1,000.

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade class was working on their Science standards when they took a trip to the Tech Museum of Innovation in San Jose. They were able to choose one exhibit to walk through in the museum, and do a science lab. They chose the Chemical Properties lab, where "the Tech brings the periodic table to life." Since they were studying the human body in class, they walked through the "Life Med Tech" exhibit, which focuses on the connection between man and machine in the medical industry, including using an ultrasound on your hand or perform keyhole surgery. The students took the light rail (which is free) to the museum. This trip cost approximately \$200.

All the teachers I spoke with reminded me that the class typically has language arts and literacy assignments after the field trips, either by writing in their kid journals,

reading small books, practicing writing paragraphs, reading books or doing a report about a portion of the field trip.

**Reserve for 2006/2007: \$ 6,548.53**