COMMUNITY NOTICES

GRADUATION - AGASSIZ SCHOOL, Tuesday, June 9th, 2:00 p.m., in the Agassiz School gym. No school all day, no Community School Programs.

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING, Wednesday, June 10th, 8:00 p.m. in the Agassiz School library.

CLEAN-UP FOR OUTBACK SUMMER DAY CAMP, for parents and kids, Saturday, June 13th, 10-12 a.m., behind the Agassiz Community Center, 20 Sacramento St.

SACRAMENTO STREET GALLERY - KALEIDOSCOPE WORKSHOP: Children's Art - OPENING, Saturday, June 13th, 12-2:00 p.m., 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge.

LITTLE ORCHESTRA - FINAL CONCERT! Monday, June 15th, 7:30 in the Agassiz gym. FREE! Fun for kids and adults!

JUNE RELEASE DAY - Tuesday, June 16th. Half day of school. No Activities Programs; Day Care Program open from 12:30-6:00.

LAST DAY OF AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES PROGRAM for K-4th Grade, Wednesday, June 17th.

LAST DAY OF AFTER-SCHOOL DAY CARE PROGRAM, Friday, June 19th.

GALA BENEFIT FOR SACRAMENTO STREET GALLERY! Friday, June 26th, 7:30 p.m. in the Agassiz gym. (See article for more information).

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

UPDATE ON THE LAYOFF OF AGASSIZ TEACHERS

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO CAME OUT TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING ON MAY 19th AND SUPPORTED OUR TEACHERS!

At the crowded meeting of the School Committee on May 19th, two Agassiz parents made statements about the situation at Agassiz. Also, fifty-two Agassiz parents in attendance signed a statement, copies of which went to School Committee members and relevant School Department administrators.

In the days since Tuesday, we have remained in touch with Alice Wolf of the School Committee, Director of Elementary Education Mary Lou McGrath, and Superintendent William Lannon. People seem to understand that Agassiz philosophy sets it apart from other local schools in Cambridge, and that low seniority of staff at Agassiz means that Agassiz could suffer more than its fair share of the pain of budget cuts. (The number of teaching positions would not be reduced more than at other schools, but as many as ten of the current twelve teachers at Agassiz - teachers chosen over the years with parent input - could be replaced by more senior teachers from other parts of the system.)

We are at work on two fronts at once:

First, we are doing all that we can to have as many of our fine current teachers as possible returned to Agassiz. Not all the teachers in Cambridge who received pink slips will ultimately be laid off. In fact - if the City Council approves
TEACHER LAYOFFS, Cont.

the School Committee's proposed budget, roughly 140 teachers will be "recalled". We have asked the School Committee to "conduct the process of recall...so that priority goes to returning laid-off staff to schools like the Agassiz, where lay-offs far exceed the citywide percentage." Partly with our situation in mind, Alice Wolf has introduced a School Committee motion which - among other things - might lead to a fifty percent limit on turnover in a school.

Also, we are trying to get the School Department not to finalize teachers' assignments to specific schools until July or August, so that we don't find we have already committed ourselves to new staff when current Agassiz teachers are still being recalled to the school system. (They would be assigned to other schools if assignments to Agassiz were already final.)

Second, we are getting to know the senior teachers who may be assigned to Agassiz to fill vacancies. Even if all our efforts above succeed, there will be a few vacancies at Agassiz next year - and these will probably have to be filled by Cambridge teachers with more seniority than most of our current staff have. We need to meet these teachers, two or three or four of whom will end up teaching our own children.

Some of these teachers came to an Open House at Agassiz on Monday, June 1, at 3:30. Also, nearly 20 Agassiz parents have signed up to visit the classrooms of prospective Agassiz teachers, as part of a process of parent input. Mrs. Cox makes the official recommendations for new staff at Agassiz, but she takes parent input very seriously.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP NOW: Write a letter to School Committee members, to Supt. William Lannon, or to Director of Elementary Education, Mary Lou McGrath. Call Larry Weinstein at 661-1256 to volunteer to visit the classes of teachers who may be as-

TEACHER LAYOFFS, Cont.

signed to fill vacancies at Agassiz.

For more information, call Larry Weinstein at 661-1256, Ken Basler at 498-9056, or Meredith Thompson at 864-8947.

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

Both our summer day-camp, OUTBACK, and our summer gymnastics workshops are filling up fast. Be sure to register as soon as possible. Bring registration forms (plus a $5.00 registration fee for OUTBACK) to the Agassiz Community School office at 20 Sacramento St. any weekday afternoon. The deadline for registration for OUTBACK is June 10th; for the Gymnastics Workshops June 12th. For more information, call Ken Basler or Julie Snow at 498-9056.

OUTBACK CAMPERS AND PARENTS!!! We will be cleaning up the back of the Community Center in preparation for camp on Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to noon. Please plan to come help out; bring rakes, trash bags, brooms, and lots of energy!

Staffing and budget decisions within the new Department of Human Services are being made as you read this newsletter. While the overall shape and programmatic content of the Agassiz Community School will remain much the same, the positions which Ken Basler and Julie Snow will fill have not yet been finalized. When the smoke clears and all the decisions have been made, we will send out a special notice with all the relevant information included. Both of us would like to express our appreciation for all the community input and support which has been forthcoming during this transitional time.

-J. Snow and K. Basler

* * * * * * * *
THE SACRAMENTO STREET GALLERY PRESENTS AN EXCITING, ECLECTIC MUSICAL EVENING:!!

On Friday, June 26th, at 7:30 p.m., there will be a concert in the Agassiz School gym to benefit the Sacramento Street Gallery, our own neighborhood gallery in the Agassiz Community Center at 20 Sacramento Street.

The program will feature a rich variety of music, ranging from folk to blues to primitive drum rhythms. Performers will include: (our own!) Julie Snow, Robin Winter, and John Stevens singing some of Julie's songs; local parent/jazz vocalist Janice Bollman; area favorites Paul and Rosalie singing blues; the folk-jazz artists Charles Coe and Nick Norman; the unique sound of the Saxophone Quartet; and the compelling rhythms of the Cambridge Drum Ensemble.

Admission is $3.00 and delicious snacks will also be on sale. PLAN TO HELP SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL GALLERY BY COMING TO THIS TERRIFIC EVENING OF MUSIC!

COMMUNITY CLASSIFIEDS

DENNISPORT COTTAGE for rent Thursday, July 23 - Thursday, August 6. $450.00. 2 BR, LR, KIT, sunporch for eating, loft for older kids. Maximum 5 people. No pets. Fireplace. 5 minutes walk to wonderful warm water beach (semi-private) and ½ mile public beach. Great for children. Ball field across from cottage. ½-bath inside, outside (but attached and accessible from inside) shower. Cottage is in a densely populated cottage "colony". Odd dates will keep you out of traffic jams. Call 354-6553 am's or eves (except June 6-14).

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

The agenda for the next Council meeting, on Wednesday, June 10th at 8:00 p.m., will include:

1) efforts to identify members of the Community who would like to serve as Council officers. (We need a Chairperson desperately!)

2) a discussion of the TOT LOT; who is using it, how it should be used, how we can keep it clean and safe for the younger children in the neighborhood, what kinds of guidelines we might want to institute for its use by the teens in the neighborhood.

We know we had promised to have the Assessors back to explain 100% Revaluation for those who missed their visit at an earlier Council meeting this year. We have recently been told that the actual Revaluation notices will be being mailed out in the latter part of June, so we will wait until after this time to have people from the Assessor's Office back. This way, we will actually have facts and figures, and if we have questions about these, we can bring them to the Council meeting then.

WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE AGASSIZ COMMUNITY COUNCIL. PLEASE TRY TO MAKE THE JUNE MEETING. THANKS.

AGASSIZ COMMUNITY SCHOOL 498-9056
OFFICE HOURS: 1:00 - 5:30 p.m.