

**Margaret celebrates 54th birthday**



On March 6<sup>th</sup> Margaret celebrated her 54<sup>th</sup> birthday with a party at her home. We were treated to snacks, drinks, and than a great buffet dinner, with lots of everything, all tasting great. Family members and friends gathered to wish her the best for the future. We somehow got the impression that she spent a lot of time fixing all of the food, although we know Bud pitched in with



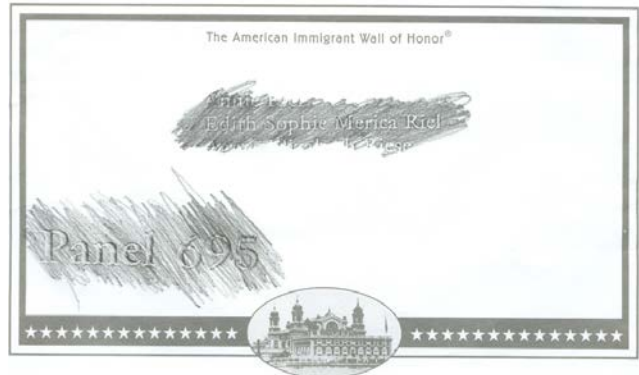
some of the cooking. Everyone had a great time, and we join the others in wishing many more happy ones for Margaret and her family. The following pictures tell the rest o the story.



**Annie visits New York and Ellis Island**

Recently Annie Gillingham visited New York City, and one of the attractions she visited was Ellis Island. There she was able to locate the plaque listing Grandma's name as one of the many immigrants who entered the United States through this now famous New York landmark. She was able to reproduce the inscription with the help of a pencil and paper, as shown below. Thanks, Annie, for this record of Grandma's arrival in the USA back in the summer of 1946.

Ellis Island Immigration Museum • New York, NY



**Some more Annie news**

Recently we received a copy of the spring 2004 issue of PARKER magazine. One of the feature articles describes how Parker staff and students participated in the annual 2003 NAIS People of Color Conference (POCC), held in Honolulu. Annie was one of thirteen staff and students who represented Parker.



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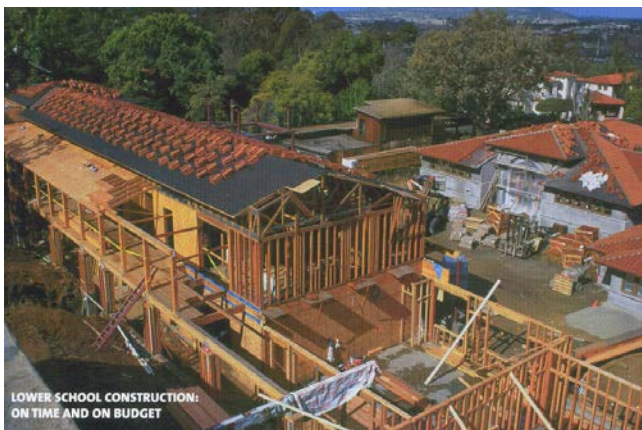
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The theme of the conference was “Let’s voyage together: Exploring a majority of minorities”. Teachers, students, and administrators representing NAIS schools from all over the country met to discuss issues of diversity in independent schools. NAIS brought in top speakers to address the conference. Groups from NAIS schools facilitated workshops on issues of curriculum, hiring, leadership, and all other areas of school management and diversity. The conference also organized affinity groups to allow educators from all over the country to openly discuss issues of diversity in small groups. However, despite all that NAIS provides for this conference, the people, and the conversations that arise from them, are what make the PoCC such an inspiring four days that many attendees have come for sixteen straight years. We congratulate Annie for being chosen to participate in this conference.

## Parker School expansion news



As you can see from the above photo, the new addition to the lower school is moving along, and looks like it is well on the way to completion.

## Long range birthday celebration

April 3<sup>rd</sup> was Dustin’s 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, and his family was ready to celebrate. The only problem was that he was in Chicago, a long ways away. Since it was a Saturday Ed was joining us for lunch. Also, Listy and Birdy came over for a shopping spree, and Carol and Jeff joined us. We enjoyed a birthday lunch at Sizzlers, and afterwards we gathered outside. Jeff called Dustin on the cell phone, and we all joined in to wish him a long distance HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



## Dinner at the Gillingham home

Recently we were invited out to dinner with Listy and Bob. This was no special occasion, but just a get together with them plus Francie and Lyle. We were treated to shacks and drinks, followed by baked ham, stuffed mashed potatoes, salad, and raspberry pie for dessert. We were shown the



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new hutch, prominently located in the living room. In addition to the usual items, it displayed a relic from the past, Grandpa's old slide rule. For those of you too young to know what a slide rule is, it is a ruler-like device with a sliding center section. Logarithmic scales are

imprinted, so that one can multiply or divide by adding or subtracting distances on adjoining scales. Back in the 40's and 50's the slide rule was the main tool used in science, and Grandpa used it throughout his time in college and graduate school. Once the pocket size calculator became available the slide rules were rendered obsolete.



It was a very nice evening, and we all enjoyed everything. We also thank Francie for driving us there and back.

## Sold – sold – bought – bought!!



Yes – Birdy and Bruce have sold the home at Bonnie Vista, and have already closed the deal on a new place. The new home is located in the Del Cerro area of San Diego, just across I- 8 from SDSU. It is a “fixer-upper” and they plan on extensive remodeling, which will take place after they move in. The move is scheduled for the end of this month, and I am sure they

will want some family help when the big day arrives.

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This property now belongs to Listy and Bob, who closed the deal just before Easter. They plan on building a resort home for vacations, retreats, and the like. The land once had a home, which was destroyed in the recent fire. They are in the process of planning to build on he lot shown below.





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## More buying and selling!

That's not all, however. Margaret and Bud have sold the Mira Mesa home which they bought years ago from Birdy and Bruce. They thought that they had established a fair market value asking price. When the home was advertised they were overwhelmed with prospective buyers. They took bids, and finally sold at a higher price than originally asked.

Finally, Francie and Lyle are thinking about buying a condominium in the Palm Springs area, perhaps in Palm Desert. They would like a place where they can take a short or long vacation whenever they wish, and think that the Palm Springs area is just right for them. We will keep you posted.

## It's baseball time in San Diego



At last, spring is here, and the Padres are opening the 2004 season in the new ball park. We got season tickets again this year. Instead of the 1/4 option we went in with Francie and Lyle to split half season tickets. Because of our long time season ticket holder (10 years) we were able to get high priority front row seats in the upper level. Francie and Lyle went to the



opener, and report that they had a great time. They came home with a whole raft of

souvenirs, as shown in the following photograph. Tuesday, April 13 is our first game, and we are looking forward to it.

## Some more from Jessica's trip to Italy

It has been some time since we have had room to complete Jessica's report on her last years visit to Italy, so here is another chapter.

Ciao!

I hope everyone is doing well in the States. I am great and everything in beautiful Italy is better than ever. I don't have any new pictures at this point but I do have some catch up news. Two weekends ago I went on a sailing trip to Elba. It was absolutely amazing. The trip was beautiful. We left Siena Friday night and headed to the boats in a nearby harbor. The captians gave us dinner and we spent the first night there on the boats. There were about 20 of my friends and we were on 3 different boats. Saturday morning we headed out towards Elba. It was a blast. The sailing trip took about 3 or 4 hours. When we reached Elba all the boats docked together and and we went for a swim in the Mediteranean and then swam to shore and played on the beach for a bit. We stayed again that night in the boats off the shore of Elba. and we sailed back the next day. It was so much fun, and incredibly beautiful.

Last weekend I went to a little town in the north called Asti. It is famous for producing a sweet sparkling wine or spumanti called Asti. It was a nice little town but there was not a whole lot to see. The next day we went to Milan for an Opera. It was by Verdi and it was called "I Due Fiscari" It was very good. It was a La Scala production, but unfortunately the La Scala opera house is under renovations so it was at a different location. The opera was wonderful none the less. We returned to Siena to find out that the Siena Soccer team had won an important game that put the in the highest division. This is the first time ever The little city of Siena has been in this division. As you could imagine the town is still celebrating and it feels like we just won the superbowl.

I am getting sad because I only have 2 weeks left of school and I soon will have to leave all my new friends. But I am excited about traveling and then coming home and going to a new school next year. I can't wait to show my parents, Dusty and my boyfriend Matt this beautiful country I have been living in. It will defintly be a great end to a great 3 months of my life. I love you all and miss you.

## Snow in San Diego on April 1<sup>st</sup>

Once again, there was a snowstorm in San Diego, engineered by that



well known prankster, Francie, no doubt abetted by Lyle. However, once again the trick failed. As you can clearly see, it actually fell on March 31, and was quickly deleted before the first day of April! Sorry, better luck next year!