

# Partners Unlimited Bulletin Board

Fall  
2012

D.C. PUBLIC  
SCHOOL  
PARTNERSHIPS  
PROGRAM



Roxanna, 3rd grader at West Education Campus and her reading buddy, Kiva Feldman from Goodwin Procter.

## Goodwin Procter Reading Program Makes a Difference to Students At West Education Campus

By Alex Krupp, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher

Words cannot express how grateful I am for the successful Good Read program that volunteers from **Goodwin Procter** implemented with my 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at West Education Campus this past school year.

West is a Title I school [one with a high percentage of students from low-income families]. Many of my students came into my reading class reading below grade level. Not only were they behind, but their struggles in reading resulted in lower confidence. The program allowed students to read as many books as they could on their particular level and write comprehensive book reports on each book. For the first time, many of my students felt in control of their academic achievement. Because the books each student read were on his or her independent reading level, the reading itself was manageable and fun. By offering incremental, age-appropriate prizes for every five books they read, students were motivated to read and earn these incentives. Students especially looked forward to the 25-book prize of lunch with their Goodwin Procter reading buddy.

(Continued on page 7)

## 8<sup>th</sup> City-wide GeoPlunge Contest Set for December 5 At National Portrait Gallery

DC's 8th city-wide GeoPlunge Challenge Tournament will be held on December 5 from 9:00 AM to 2:45 PM at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, 7<sup>th</sup> and F Streets, NW, Washington, DC.

Three-person teams of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be welcomed from all DC public elementary and middle schools. The Committee's Public School Partnerships Program, **Arent Fox**, and the DC Public Schools are sponsoring the tournament. The Committee is also actively recruiting coaches and sponsors for GeoPlunge teams from individual schools. This year, we expect a record number of firms to coach teams for the tournament, and a record number of teams to compete. Over 50 team sponsors are need for this year's tournament.

GeoPlunge is played with a set of cards, each representing one of the 50 states. The tournaments include three different card games that combine geography and fun. *Guess the State* encourages students to learn the names of the 50 states. Playing *Race for the Borders* teaches participants where states are located geographically. When students *Play the Ranks*, they learn how the states rank in size, population and order of entry into the union.

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**WASHINGTON LAWYERS' COMMITTEE**  
FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND URBAN AFFAIRS

# P R O G R A M

# E R S P E C T I V E



**Elinor Hart**  
**Coordinator**  
**DC Public School**  
**Partnerships Program**

We know that from the energy and enthusiasm at our very well-attended September 2012 luncheon for school principals and law firm coordinators that this will be a very successful year for our school partnerships. Contributing significantly to this success will be the remarkable ongoing commitment of many law firms and volunteers who have laid the foundation for success with their partnership work during previous years.

Among many other partnership activities, this issue of the **Partners Unlimited** newsletter features two areas in which there were important successes during the last school year. Those areas were improving students' reading skills and providing summer internships for high school students.

The successful Good Read Program created by **Goodwin Procter** is profiled beginning on page 1. The principal and teachers at the firm's partner school, West Education Campus, were excited about how well the program improved the reading skills and confidence of the school's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. The law firm volunteers who served as the students' reading buddies enjoyed working with the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and were thrilled with their progress, even though the volunteers only went to the school on a monthly basis. Goodwin Procter succeeded in creating a very low-tech program that maximizes benefits for the students while reducing the time required by law firm volunteers.

The increasingly popular on-line tutoring, as well as traditional tutoring and other reading buddy efforts that a number of other firms have undertaken are also improving students' reading skills.

The internships provided by law firms and described on pages 8 and 9 are very valuable for high-school students. Over the past summer, for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row, seven students from Columbia Heights Education Campus worked at **Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan**, and two students from McKinley Technology High School worked at **Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton**.

The internships at Sutherland are an integral part of Sutherland Junior College, a program that makes college a reality for students for whom economic circumstances and family backgrounds might otherwise be a barrier.

Thanks to all our school partners for your good work.

*Elinor Hart*  
*Coordinator*  
*DC Public School Partnerships Program*

# A PARTNER'S

Sponsoring Sutherland Junior College (SJC) for the past five years has been very rewarding for our firm.

SJC is part of Sutherland's commitment to increasing diversity within the legal community and grew out of our Sutherland Scholars program. Launched in 2005, Sutherland Scholars is designed to prepare college graduates from historically underrepresented backgrounds for law school. As we expanded the scholars program, we realized that supporting young minority students who have the potential to become lawyers should start earlier than college.

Sutherland already had a relationship with Bell Multicultural High School (which later merged with Lincoln Middle School to form Columbia Heights Education Campus). We were involved in Street Law and other activities with students from Bell. Consequently, we knew these students had a thirst for learning that made it the ideal place for us to work with high school students to help them prepare for their future education.

After asking a lot of questions and consulting experts – faculty, staff, and students at Bell, as well as our younger attorneys – we developed the Sutherland Junior College Program and began working with Bell students in Fall 2007.

Throughout the history of SJC, the students have been hard-working, courteous young men and women who are sorely missed when they return to school at the end of the summer that they spend working at our firm.

Significant credit for the success of the program goes to our young attorney mentors who remember well the challenges they faced when



**Lewis Wiener**  
**Partner**  
**Sutherland Asbill & Brennan**

applying to law school and welcome the opportunity to help motivated high school students move to the next level of their educational experience.

We are very proud of our Sutherland Junior College Program and the students who have participated in it. We are grateful for the rewards it provides, not only to our attorney mentors, but to our entire firm.

SJC makes us part of the Columbia Heights community, and the internships make the students part of our Sutherland family. The achievements of the SJC students are ours as well, and we look forward to sharing many more of them.

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*Two teams "Race for the Borders" during the 7th City-Wide GeoPlunge Tournament.*

## Calling GeoPlunge Teams, Coaches, and Sponsors For 8<sup>th</sup> City-wide Tournament (cont'd)

Alan Fishel, a partner at Arent Fox, invented the geography game and created the set of GeoPlunge cards. GeoPlunge was such a success with students at the Arent Fox partner school, Randle Highlands Elementary, that Alan and his law firm persuaded the Washington Lawyers' Committee to co-sponsor the first two GeoPlunge Tournaments. For the second tournament, they were joined by 28 law firms that sponsored individual schools. The third tournament had a total of 48 team sponsors. The DC Public Schools will be publicizing the tournament among elementary and middle schools.

As in past tournaments, the competition in 2011 was fierce. A J.O. Wilson Elementary School team again captured the winning school trophy. The level of skill in last year's competition was so high that there were several teams that won a high percentage of rounds, even though they were not among the highest scorers. These teams were recognized with explorer awards. Shaw Middle School at Garnet-Patterson, coached by **Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton**, won the Theodore Roosevelt Award. The Daniel Boone Award went to the Bancroft Elementary School team coached by **K&L Gates**. The Thomson Elementary School team, coached by **Sidley Austin**, received the John Smith Award.

Five teams coached by their partner law firms received Teamwork medals. They were: Bruce Monroe Elementary at Park View, coached by **Reed Smith**; Garfield Elementary, coached by **Paul Hastings**; Orr Elementary, coached by **Zuckerman Spaeder**; Tyler Elementary, coached by **Akin Gump**; and West Education Campus, coached by **Goodwin Procter**.

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## Law Firm Volunteers Provide Help On DCPS Beautification Day

Volunteers from several law firms helped to make their partner schools more attractive and more functional on the DC public school system's annual Beautification Day on August 25.

A team from **Pierce Atwood** undertook to beautify the courtyard at Patterson Elementary School. As Natalie Huddleston reported, "We were a small team but we worked long and hard with beautiful results."

Attorneys and staff from **Goodwin Procter** took on a variety of projects both inside and outdoors at West Education Campus. They painted doors, weeded and planted, decorated bulletin boards, and organized books.

Volunteers from the **Federal Highway Administration** undertook several landscaping efforts at Payne Elementary School. They removed weeds, trimmed trees and bushes, and planted flowers around the front of the school.

Attorneys and staff from the Federal Highway Administration worked alongside volunteers from the U.S. Green Building Council. Both agencies are exploring ways they can collaborate on future environmental projects at Payne.



*Randy Rich and Afiya Wilkins from Pierce Atwood on the site of their completed beautification effort at Patterson Elementary.*

## Scrabble and Bridge Clubs to be Established at Partnership Schools

Last May, volunteers from the **U.S. Courts for the District of Columbia Circuit** helped J. O. Wilson Elementary School form a Scrabble Club and they coached students from the school for the first DCPS Scrabble Tournament.

(Continued on page 10)

## Committee's 2012 Celebration To Support Partnership Program

The Washington Lawyers' Committee will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Evening of Song & Celebration, including a Concert, Benefit Reception & Raffle, on Thursday, October 25.

A special concert by acclaimed Mezzo-Soprano Denyce Graves with the Show Choir from her alma mater, the Ellington School of the Arts, will take place that evening at 6:30 PM at the National Portrait Gallery.

(Continued on page 10)



*Afiya Wilkins and Randy Rich from Pierce Atwood working in the courtyard at Patterson Elementary School on Beautification Day.*

# R E A D E R S

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*Goodwin Procter volunteers with their reading buddies--L/R Back Row: Gigi Camp, Debbie Best-Schneidmill, Stephanie Da, Judy Leon, Hannah Bedard, Tiffany Payne, Tammy Schulman, Natalie Stoll, and Kiva Feldman. Front row: Alex Krupp (teacher), Chris Suedekum, Cammy Contizano, Steve Hurvitz, and Kavanaugh Livingston.*

## Goodwin Procter's Reading Program Meets Needs Of Students and Firm Volunteers

West Elementary School needed a reading program that would help the school's 3<sup>rd</sup> graders improve their reading skills. As attorneys and staff from **Goodwin Procter** brainstormed with Andria Caruthers, principal of West, it became clear that the students would need frequent support and consistency, while the firm required a structure that allowed its volunteers to limit school visits to once a month. The result was the Good Read Program. An article on page 1 describes the program from the third-grade teacher's perspective.

According to Goodwin Procter Associate Kiva Feldman, who coordinated the program for the firm, two factors were key to the success of the program: frequent communication between the law firm and the school, and the teacher's active involvement. Ms. Krupp reviewed the students' journal reports on the books they read. When the reports met her approval, she gave the students points toward an incentive prize. She also made sure the students were reading books that were at their reading level.

The reading level of the students in Ms. Krupp's third grade varied widely. At the beginning of the school year, Kiva's reading buddy Roxanna, was reading at a very low level. However, during the year, she moved up several reading levels. She also won the grand prize for the most journal reports. Her prize was a "summer fun" book bag with games, a jump rope, a "cat's cradle" book kit, and bubbles.

Toward the end of the school year, the third-grade readers went on a field trip to the offices of Goodwin Procter where they had the opportunity to participate as jurors in the mock trial of a lawsuit brought against *Curly Pig* by B.B. wolf (a/k/a Big Bad Wolf). Other firms interested in the mock trial script may contact Goodwin Procter or the Washington Lawyers Committee.

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## Teacher Thanks Law Firm For Reading Program (cont'd)

Outside of meeting with their Good Read buddies in person, once a month, my students also loved receiving letters from their buddies. This constant communication allowed my students to develop strong relationships with their Good Read buddies, and their buddies truly became role models and mentors for many of the kids. They built great friendships with adults who were consistent in their lives—a constancy, that unfortunately, due to difficult circumstances, many of them do not otherwise have the privilege of experiencing.

Thank you for welcoming our good readers on the field trip to your firm, for organizing the Mock Trial, and especially for giving my students the chance to participate as jurors. It was great to see so many Mock Trial participants who had never met my students, but clearly wanted to provide something meaningful for disadvantaged kids.

The Good Read Program has been an invaluable experience for my students, Thank you for truly making a difference in their lives this year. I hope the partnership continues to develop and thrive.



*Alex Krupp, 3rd grade teacher at West Education Campus, explains to her students what their role as jurors will be in the Mock Trial.*

## Volunteers from Other Firms Undertake Reading Projects

During the 2011-2012 school year, four volunteers from **DLA Piper** read with a dozen third-graders at Neval Thomas Elementary School once a week.

The third-grade teacher selected the books, which the students enjoyed a great deal. In the spring, the students who participated in this reading buddy program got higher scores on their standardized reading tests.

Two groups of volunteers from the **Federal Highway Administration** also read to third-graders at Payne Elementary School every week. During these weekly visits, the reading was done by both volunteers and students, and part of the time was spent playing word games.

According to Jim Esselman, who coordinates the agency's school partnership, the one-on-one reading experiences were very rewarding for the volunteers who witnessed growth and improvement in the students' reading skills during the school year.

Other firms involved in reading efforts include **Steptoe & Johnson** and **Perkins Coie**.



*Mock trial adults (L/R): John Moustakas (Defendant's Attorney), Judy Leon (Courtroom Deputy Clerk), Kavanaugh Livingston (Judge), Kartik Venguswamy (Defendant Curly Pig), Tim DeBeer (Plaintiff B.B. Wolf), Chris Suedekum (Plaintiff's Attorney), and Brook Adams (Plaintiff's Attorney). Student jurors are on the floor.*



*Columbia Heights student Crystal Springer notes what equipment is in Sutherland's storeroom.*

## Sutherland Marks 5<sup>th</sup> Year of Mentoring and Internships for High School Students

This fall, seven high school seniors from the Columbia Heights Educational Campus, who recently completed internships at **Sutherland Asbill & Brennan**, are receiving professional standardized test tutoring and working with their Sutherland mentors to prepare for and apply to college. When they finish high school next spring, they will become the fifth "class" of Sutherland Junior College (SJC) graduates heading for a variety of colleges and universities across the United States.

During the course of their summer internships with Sutherland, the students worked on a variety of administrative, inventory and facilities management projects, including participating in a firm-wide asset inventory project. The students' supervisors were impressed with the interns' attention to detail, professionalism, energy, and proficiency. According to Sutherland Associate Naseem Nixon, who coordinates the SJC program, the interns were treated like all other Sutherland

employees, received a stipend, and were very enthusiastic about assuming professional roles. They were, however, the only employees who spent two hours during their workweek preparing for the SAT.

The Sutherland Junior College program is designed for students whose grades are high enough to meet admission requirements, but may believe college is financially or academically out of reach, have concerns about the cultural or familial implications of going away to college, or simply do not know enough about college opportunities to be motivated to prepare for college. Many SJC graduates are the first in their families to attend college, and many are the children of immigrants. Sutherland Junior College students are nominated by their teachers to participate in the program and are selected based on a review of their applications, grades and in-person interviews.

In October and November, the SJC students will take the SAT and ACT (another standardized test for high school achievement and admissions), and begin the college application process in earnest. When applying for college and seeking financial aid, one-to-one mentor relationships can be invaluable. Students can rely on their mentors for guidance with essays, personal statements, and navigating the world of financial aid.

(Continued on page 9)



*Columbia Heights students Paulin Miano and Gabriel Amba search for a file on a Sutherland log.*



## Interns from McKinley High School Work at Cleary Gottlieb

After launching its partnership with McKinley Technology High School last spring, **Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen, & Hamilton** hired two seniors to work at the firm. Over the summer, Dyana Neville worked in the firm's Discovery & Litigation Technology Department, where her responsibilities included data collection, data management, and data production. She primarily worked on creating evidence databases by utilizing Cleary's technology platforms. Dyana also assisted the firm's litigation technologists with evidence reviews and maintenance of evidence databases. She is now attending Virginia State University.

Samantha Brew began her internship later in the summer after completing an educational travel program. She worked in the Human Resources Department and will continue her internship this school year while she attends George Washington University. The firm has plans to hire several more interns for the 2012-2013 school year.



*McKinley student Dyana Neville works on data collection at Cleary Gottlieb.*

## Sutherland (cont'd)

A visit to a college or university, an important part of the SJC experience, is being planned for this winter. Naseem and her colleagues are in the process of selecting both a public and a private university for the current SJC class to visit.

A key element of the program is helping students surmount any financial barriers to attending college. As Beverly Cruz, a graduate of the SJC program said, "SJC has changed the way I think about going to college now, because the first issue I had was about money, but SJC has made me realize that there are programs and people to help me get a scholarship for college." Upon successful completion of the SJC program, each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Sutherland to be paid to the college of the student's choice.

SJC's first class of students started college in the fall of 2008. Two students from that class received full-tuition scholarships to Wake Forest University and Hobart and William Smith Colleges. A more recent SJC graduate received a Gates Millennium Scholarship, while others have received scholarships from The Posse Foundation. SJC alumni are attending Ferrum College, Shepherd University, West Virginia University, Middlebury College, University of Wisconsin and Penn State Mont Alto. One Sutherland graduate also joined the Air Force.

The SJC experience is also valuable for the Sutherland mentors. As Naseem Nixon explains, "attorneys at Sutherland can remember all too well the stress of applications, testing, and interviews. The SJC program gives attorneys the rare opportunity to share their knowledge and experience with our city's future leaders, and, in turn, to learn from these future leaders the power of perseverance."



*Columbia Heights student Tonnisha Morris identifies equipment stored at Sutherland.*

## Scrabble and Bridge (cont'd)

Scrabble not only increases students' interest in developing a robust vocabulary, but also increases planning, calculating, and organization skills. We hope to establish more Scrabble Clubs in our partner schools so that they can participate in a significantly larger 2nd Annual DCPS Scrabble Tournament later this school year. If you love Scrabble, it will be easy to get involved – see the contact information below.

The card game Bridge improves memory, concentration and planning, and develops logic, analytical and social skills. Studies show that students who play Bridge improve their math skills and test scores. Youth Bridge clubs are popular around the country, and many colleges have competitive Bridge teams. The Committee seeks Bridge players who are interested in teaching the game to DC public school students. We believe that there may be enough coaching support between our school partnerships and the Bridge community to launch pilot clubs in several schools.

Anyone interested in getting involved with Scrabble or Bridge should contact Kent Withycombe (202) 319-1000, x 117, [kent\\_withycombe@washlaw.org](mailto:kent_withycombe@washlaw.org).

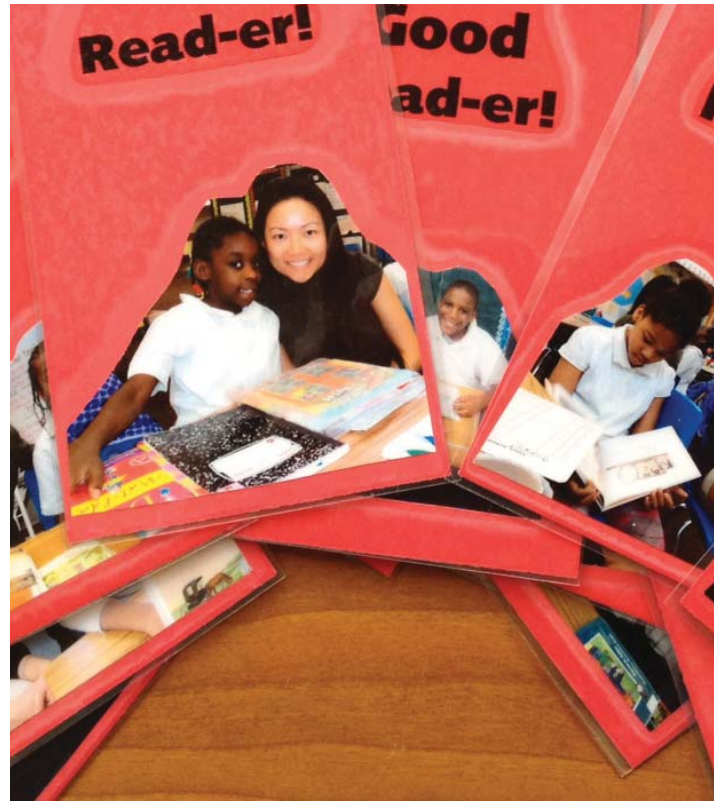
## GeoPlunge (cont'd)

The winning team in the spring mini-GeoPlunge tournament last May came from Deal Middle School. Patterson Elementary School, coached by **Pierce Atwood** also did very well in the spring competition, as did Savory Elementary, coached by **Beveridge & Diamond**.

To sponsor a team from your partner school and/or another school, contact Elinor Hart at 202-387-2966, or at: [hart1651@juno.com](mailto:hart1651@juno.com).



*Kendall Evans, J.O. Wilson teacher, with the school's winning GeoPlunge team.*



*Bookmarks created for West students by their Goodwin Procter reading buddies.*

## Goodwin Procter's Reading Program (cont'd)

Kiva found the Good Read program to be rewarding, and she was grateful for the opportunity to get to know other colleagues at the law firm who participated in the program. Goodwin Procter and West Education Campus will continue the Good Read Program during the 2012-2013 school year.

## Committee Benefit Planned (cont'd)

The Benefit Reception and Raffle will be held afterwards at **DLA Piper** from 7:30PM – 9:30PM. Grand prizes for the lucky raffle winners include travel and accommodations for a week in Paris, France; a New York weekend; a Virginia countryside getaway, and a Washington DC extravaganza, among other prizes. This fundraising event will benefit the School Partnerships Program and other Washington Lawyers' Committee projects. For ticket information, visit the Committee's website at [www.washlaw.org](http://www.washlaw.org).

**PARTNERSHIPS**

**Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld**  
Tyler Elementary School

**Arent Fox**  
Randle Highlands Elementary School  
Eastern Senior High School

**Beveridge & Diamond**  
Savoy Elementary School

**Bracewell & Giuliani**  
Brightwood Elementary School

**Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton**  
McKinley Technology High School

**Coburn & Greenbaum**  
Incarcerated Youth Program

**Crowell & Moring**  
Davis Elementary School

**Covington & Burling**  
Cardozo Senior High School

**Dickstein Shapiro**  
Ellington School of the Arts

**DLA Piper**  
Thomas Elementary School

**Drinker Biddle & Reath**  
Ann Beers Elementary School

**Epstein Becker & Green**  
Langley STEM Education Campus

**Federal Highway Administration**  
Payne Elementary School

**Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson**  
School Without Walls

**Fulbright & Jaworski**  
Malcolm X Elementary School

**Gilbert**  
Eliot-Hine Middle School

**Goodwin Procter**  
West Elementary School

**Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton**  
Shaw Middle School at Garnet-Patterson

**K&L Gates**  
Bancroft Elementary School

**Mayer Brown**  
Garrison Elementary School

**McDermott Will & Emery**  
Cleveland Elementary School

**Paul Hastings**  
Garfield Elementary School

**Patton Boggs**  
Francis Stevens Education Campus

**Paul Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison**  
Spingarn Senior High School

**Perkins Coie**  
Powell Elementary School

**Pepper Hamilton**  
Stanton Elementary School

**Pierce Atwood**  
Patterson Elementary School

**Reed Smith**  
Bruce Monroe at Park View Elementary School

**Shearman & Sterling**  
Ketcham Elementary School

**Sidley Austin**  
Thomson Elementary School

**Steptoe & Johnson**  
H.D. Cooke Elementary School

**Sutherland Asbill & Brennan**  
Columbia Heights Education Campus

**TD Bank**  
Kimball Elementary School

**U.S. Courts for the District of Columbia  
Circuit and U.S. Equal Employment  
Opportunity Commission**  
J.O. Wilson Elementary School

**Williams & Connolly**  
Dunbar Senior High School

**Zuckerman Spaeder**  
Orr Elementary School

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## **2012-2013** **SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP** **DATES**

**Thursday, October 25, 2012**

Evening of Song & Celebration Concert  
at National Portrait Gallery

Benefit Reception & Raffle  
at **DLA Piper LLP (US)**

**Wednesday, December 5, 2012**

GeoPlunge Tournament VIII  
at National Portrait Gallery

**January 30, 2013**

School Partnership Luncheon

**April 25, 2013**

School Partnership Luncheon

Partnership Luncheons will be held at  
**Akin Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld**

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

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