

Post Apartment Era Update

This Post Apartment Era update is intended to bring all Role Models up to speed on current offerings, happenings, and pipeline projects that have been enabled by moving into and renovating a home-office.

Brief Background

In January 2015, 10BH relocated from Founder & CEO Paul Thiebaut III's apartment into a home-office in the center of East Palo Alto at 1238 Westminster Ave. (Paul remained in his apartment). The relocation was part of broader strategy to increase accessibility and community among residents and volunteer Role Models. Over the ensuing 5 months, 10BH has renovated its home to include a Preschooler Library, Lesson Planning Room, staff offices, and multipurpose areas and storage.

Teaching Resources for Role Models

Lesson Planning Room: The newly renovated LPR brings the teaching materials of the preschool classroom to the Role Model's fingertips. Managed by Advisory Board member and Role Model, Vicky Shoemaker, the LPR features a growing stock of high-quality lesson activities (with usage instructions) that can be borrowed by Role Models and returned when the Learner is ready to move on. New activities are added, at minimum, once a month and many activities are highlighted at monthly Role Model Meetups.

The LPR is open during 10BH drop-in hours (Mon-Fri, 10AM-6 PM). Please try to call our office ahead of time to notify us of your drop in (650-485-4877).

Activity Suggestions: Vicky Shoemaker also volunteers as 10BH's Activity Coordinator. Role Models can seek advice about new activities to try with their Learners, ways to scaffold activities up or down in complexity depending on the Learner's skill level, and can meet with Vicky during Role Model Meetups (which she organizes) and Book Week.

Just ask for activity advice in the new [LEF](#). It's the last question in the form ("Activity Suggestion")

Preschooler Library: 10BH renovated a two-car garage into its Preschooler Library, which maintains a growing stock of 5,000 donated books. The Preschooler Library is managed by Advisory Board member and Role Model, Laurie Hastings. Her and her team have created a very easy to use library system with more than 40 subjects and featured sections such as "Books for New Learners with Limited Vocabulary" and "Holidays/Special Occasions" (e.g. Father's Day). Our library is always open to Role Models for book browsing and picking.

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Role Model Meetups: Want to meet other Role Models? Want to see activity demonstrations? Want to talk about how your lessons are going? Join other Role Models once a month at 10BH's office for our meetup. Email announcements are sent out each month and meetup details are posted on the Role Model Community Board.

Role Model Community Board: We now invite all Role Models to join our [community board](#) (hosted on Google's Google Plus). This is a great place to scout new lesson activities that other Role Models have success with, and more! You can also post lesson pictures here, ask the community for feedback, and get updates on things like Role Model Meetups, exciting 10BH news, and more.

Book Week: We have been working hard to make [Book Week](#) another opportunity for Role Models to take advantage of 10BH's teaching resources. May's Book Week featured a special drop-in day where our Activity Coordinator and Executive Library were available to give guidance about lesson activities and book selections appropriate for each Learner. We hope to be even more organized by our July Book Week. Stay tuned for our Book Week email announcement in late June.

Blogs/Newsletter/Social Media/Website

E-Newsletter/Blogs: On a monthly basis, 10BH publishes a newsletter replete with current 10BH developments and news. This newsletter is edited by our E-Newsletter Editor and writer, Kate Carey (10BH Board Secretary and former Role Model). Each edition features three sections: (1) main, community-focused story, (2) secondary, program-related story, (3) [Research Corner](#).

Each story is also published throughout the month on 10BH's main social media sites: (1) [Facebook](#), (2) Role [Model Community Board](#), (3) [Linkedin](#), (4) [Twitter](#). And, all past stories can be accessed on our [blog webpage](#).

Family Newsletter: In February, we began publishing a bimonthly newsletter just for our families. This newsletter is a print edition that is mailed to enrolled, alumni, and waitlisted families. The newsletter features a (1) profile on a 10BH Learner, (2) easy to implement activities families can do at home, and (3) news and updates relevant for our community.

Our Family Newsletter Editor and Role Model, Maria Gonzalez, writes and edits each newsletter. We also publish the newsletter in a digital form on our Role Model Community Board, Facebook, and [News Webpage](#). Read [May's Family Newsletter](#).

Website: Our website has been rearranged to include a [Blog](#) and a [News webpage](#). All past blogs, newsletters, media coverage, press releases, etc. can be accessed on these webpages.

Family Resources

Weekly Preschooler Storytimes: In April, 10BH began offering weekly storytimes in its Preschooler Library. Coordinated by Executive Librarian Laurie Hastings, these storytimes offer

the community an opportunity to enjoy a half hour reading session with books, songs, and dancing. And, everyone gets to take home a book for free! Storytimes are currently offered every Wednesday at 10:30 AM.

Family Events: In January, 10BH launched bimonthly Parent-Staff Conferences (read our recent [April Parent Conference blog](#)). Conferences help 10BH:

- stay abreast with Learner progress
- teach parents how to engage in “educational talk”
- improve its programming

Beginning in May, 10BH began announcing a family event during Parent Conferences. For May, families were shuttled in a luxury bus to Stanford to watch a production of Charlotte’s Web (stay tuned for this story in June’s blog series). During June’s Parent Conferences, a Nature Walk will be announced, which will take place in July. These events help families strengthen the socio-educational fabric within their community by encouraging interactions among enrolled, alumni, and waitlisted families.

Projects in the Pipeline

2015 Learner Graduation: Our Learner Graduation Committee, headed by Board Member and Role Model, Lisa Olson, and Lucy Zou, is planning 10BH’s second annual Learner Graduation. The graduation will be held at Mid-Peninsula High School on August 15. Invitations are being prepared and all Role Models and Learners will be invited. More than 400 10BH family members have RSVP’d already!

Reschedule App: 10BH wants to make Role Modeling as convenient as possible. With this in mind, Advisory Board member and Role Model Kris Doherty is working with staff to develop an app that will allow Role Models and families to simply press our Bookhouse Logo button on their iphone or android in order to initiate a lesson reschedule request.

Saturday Preschooler Storytimes: We are planning the launch of a Saturday storytime. This will allow families to attend who may not be able to make it to our Wednesday storytime.

Home Ownership Endowment Fund: As part of 10BH’s strategy to develop a scalable program model, 10BH intends to purchase its current home-office. 10BH is currently seeking individuals and organizations interested in discussing how to fund the endowment. Each site 10BH opens will start with a home it purchases that can embed the organization in the community and provide the same resources and supports to families and Role Models.

Data Analysis on 10BH: 10BH has innovated the first home visiting program model in the U.S. to target the preschool child while requiring parent participation. Advisory Board member and Learning Science PhD, Muffie Waterman, has recently been approved for a research grant to study various aspects of 10BH’s intervention. Part of the analysis includes a pilot study in partnership with Head Start to evaluate the school performance of 10BH Learners, as well as documentation of 10BH’s program model for eventual citation in academic journals.