

## Our History is Our Future

The fact that after twenty-five years Hamlin Robinson School remains a regional leader in educating children with language-related learning difficulties can mean only one thing: It works! One look at our history and it's clear that HRS consistently seeks to sustain itself as an institution and to attract a community of students, staff, parents and board members who reflect our goals.

From the start, HRS has been a groundbreaking school. Hamlin Robinson, the first chairman of the Board of Directors of the Slingerland® Institute, always hoped for an elementary school which could serve as a model of Slingerland® instruction. The Slingerland® Institute and the Robinson family founded HRS in his memory.

### The First Slingerland Institute Board of Directors



Back Row: Henry & Patty Sherrill, Mary Helen Robinson, John Slingerland, Jack Morgan, Bob Hall

Front Row: Marty Aho, Beth Slingerland, Ham Robinson

In 1983 the Board of Directors of the Slingerland® Institute, under the leadership of Dr. Winston Addis and Lee Lewis, acquired space in a surplus elementary school on Mercer Island and the school became a reality. Hamlin's widow, Mary Helen

Robinson-Wells, a psychologist, trained Orton-Gillingham teacher and pioneer in the field of dyslexia, was an active member of the Hamlin Robinson School Board until her death in 2002. Her family continues to support the school by serving on the board and attending the auction

### Annual HRS Picnics Begin a Tradition of Community



Slingerland Institute Dean of Faculty, Marty Aho, smiles while the ever gracious Dee Dee Curran (Alumni Parent and former HRS Development Director) presents Director Deborah Davis with flowers.

and other special school events.

It was an exciting time for the small, yet growing school. Dr. Deborah Davis and Clara McCulloch were teaching directors during those first three years on Mercer Island. In the spring of the school's third year, Beverly Wolf, Dean of the Slingerland® Institute, was appointed as half-time director of the school.

By the fall of 1986 the school was in a position to operate independently. Bev became a full-time director and the school, in a friendly split from the Slingerland® Institute, legally and financially diverged but retained a close professional relationship with the Institute. The Board leased space from the Bellevue School District and the school continued to

grow and flourish for the next four years at this location. During that time Hamlin Robinson held its first auction, received its first grant, and became a Slingerland® summer school location for both teachers and dyslexic students.

The school moved to its current location in Seattle in the summer of 1990 and was awarded the Medina Foundation Management Excellence Award. In 1999, the middle school grades, 7 and 8, were added. Since 1991, Hamlin Robinson has maintained accreditation by the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools (PNAIS).

Today and over the past quarter century, HRS receives the support of an active board of trustees, talented teachers, and other committed staff members. From eleven students in 1983, the school has grown to a student body of 115 students. More than 600 students have been successfully returned to conventional classrooms.



Our history is our future. You can rest assured that at Hamlin Robinson School we will build on our rich experience. We will continue to succeed in our programs, in enrollment, in maintaining a mature, insightful Board of Trustees, in financial stability, in development, in visibility and credibility within the community, and most of all, in giving a growing number of dyslexic children successes in school and in life.

# Our History