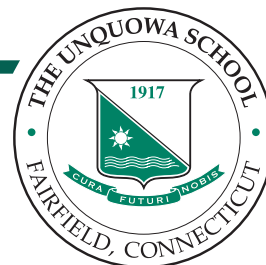


About U.S.



A Publishing Tradition
of The Unquowa School

A Message from the Head of School

My twelfth grade English class read, among other things, *The American Scholar* by Ralph Waldo Emerson. The text of this speech, which was first given by Emerson to Harvard's Phi Beta Kappa Society in 1837, was a challenging read for most of my classmates and me, but one image from it struck me clearly and has remained in my mind ever since. Emerson spoke about the need for the scholar to be able to wiggle his feet through the accumulated sands of the ocean's floor to touch bedrock; that is, he must sift through the accumulation of minutia and reach the solid floor of what truly matters. It was a piece of advice that offered me comfort as a student and has stuck with me and served me well through life.

I would dare say that if you ask any parent to sift through the sand of accumulated wishes for their child's future to the bedrock of what will make their child the best version of the adult self they could become, most parents would agree that, at bedrock, they hope for their child to become personally happy, professionally satisfied and morally ethical. The road between a child's birth and that spectacular outcome is a long one, and it's easy for parents to lose sight of this obvious hope as life's minutia piles up. Schools, on the other hand, must keep such hopes for children in mind as they teach knowledge and skills. Schools that focus on the "how" and the "why" as well as the "what" can instill the habits of mind which lead to kids becoming happy, professionally satisfied and ethical adults.

This past summer, four Unquowa faculty members joined me to participate in a progressive school symposium at The Putney School in Vermont. Keynote talks by noted educators Howard Gardner, Alfie Kohn and Tom Wessels on the face of progressive education in the 21st century were provocative. Equally exhilarating, however, were the conversations that each of us had during this symposium with other independent school

educators from all over the world around the topic of habits of mind - how they underpin *what* we teach with the *how* and the *why* we teach, and the lifelong impact these habits have on children.

Habits of mind like managing impulsivity, appreciating the mystery and beauty of nature and learning how to persist in the

face of adversity are some of the characteristics that support a happy life. Taking responsible risks, thinking innovatively, and "thinking about your own thinking" help a young adult to figure out what they really want to do with their life.

Learning to listen with understanding and empathy to others, practicing how to do what's right as opposed to what's easy, and building the confidence to admit mistakes and to suffer the consequences create the young adult whose



Sixth grade students, Lily and Abby, create environmental art inspired by Andy Goldsworthy.

moral compass is steady.

These are the goals beyond all schooling that we as parents and teachers want for our children, and it is in the situational world of learning where these habits are acquired - the fourth grader's frustrating first moments of knitting hats for newborns before running off to Spanish class, the eighth grader's tenuous beginnings of building a friendship with an autistic student at Giant Steps on a Thursday afternoon after taking a particularly tough algebra test that morning, the fifth grader's powerful feeling of removing invasive species from the woods which are her school's natural world before coming back inside to finish an essay about the book she is reading, and the ordinary act for a first grader of setting the table and eating lunch with the same seven kids and teacher each day for a month. These acts quietly underpin the acquisition of knowledge and skills and, over the years, build the bedrock of a child's being that supports all of the vast and interesting minutia that will fall upon it through his or her life.

Sharon Lauer

Welcome New Faculty and Staff



Katie Brenna
*Lower School & Upper
School Spanish*



Desirée Galassi
Upper School Spanish



**Megan Kirk, Pre-K -
Grade 2 music, Upper
School vocal and chorus.**



Tina Boccamazzo
Teaching Assistant



Katie Maguire
Teaching Assistant



Lauren Issaef
Resident Chef

We are pleased to welcome three new teachers to our school this year: **Katie Brenna** and **Desirée Galassi** for Spanish and **Megan Kirk** for Music and Chorus. We have also added two new teaching assistants: **Tina Boccamazzo** in grades 1 & 2 and **Katie Maguire** in Pre-K.

Lauren Issaef has joined us as our Chef in Residence. This new residency was created by our school in recognition of the need for culinary training in sustainable school dining and will allow Lauren, and each subsequent resident, to spend a year or two learning the various aspects of what "farm to fork" means in the world of school dining.

Dan Lawrence, who has served as our assistant chef since 2007, has moved to the faculty side of Unquowa this year as Wellness Coordinator. Dan is splitting his day between P.E./athletics and health and science units that apply to nutrition in all grades.



Dan Lawrence
Wellness Coordinator

43% of Last Year's 4-8 Graders Qualified for the 2010-2011 Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth



Each year the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth conducts a search which identifies students who score in the 95th percentile and above on a National Standardized Test such as the ERBs. Mrs. Sabatini, the coordinator, is pictured with 30 of the 43 students who qualified.

Art and Culture in Bali, Indonesia



Ms. Sabol carving a shadow puppet in Bali

Through the Unquowa Virginia F. Birdsall grant, I was able to travel to Bali, Indonesia in July of 2010. It was an incredible program that exposed me not only to the traditional arts of this culturally-rich island, but also to the people who have kept these traditions alive for hundreds of years. I was able to spend three weeks living and learning alongside professional artists at the top of their craft and enriching my own skills and teaching practices.

The tour was designed for artists and art enthusiasts who wanted to be immersed in the culture of Bali. Bali is unique in Indonesia, as it is the only island to remain primarily Hindu after the invasion of the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century. The island became a kind of refuge for many artists and artisans, and as such it evolved and flourished in the arts.

There are many and varied art

forms that are still practiced in Bali from traditional dance, weaving, carving, painting, and puppetry to orchestral music. During my trip I had the opportunity to attend performances of masked dance, theatre, music, trance, and shadow puppetry. I also chose to further study Balinese dance, shadow puppets, and batik with expert teachers in their home studios.

My time in Bali greatly expanded my art curriculum and exposed me to a wealth of cultural and artistic experiences that were far richer than any that I could have simply culled from a book. To live among the Balinese and be able to spend time getting to know them and their culture first hand was an incredible opportunity that completely broadened my scope and understanding. I am excited to be able to bring part of this culture to my students this year through education and projects influenced by Balinese art.

Krissy Sabol, Art Teacher



James, grade 6, working on his shadow puppet.

Botany on Your Plate

Third and fourth graders are investigating plants that we eat in an environmental science unit called Botany on Your Plate. The young botanists are learning about the structures and processes of plants and discovering new foods as they study edible roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits, and seeds. They



have dissected fruits and vegetables, examined the inside structures, and then documented their work with detailed botanical drawings.

The Botany on Your Plate curriculum also includes a tasting component. Students are not only identifying the different parts of each plant but eating them as well. We had many brave students willing to experience raw and roasted beets, carrots, broccoli and peppers, to name just a few; lending credence to our new lunchroom mantra "eat a rainbow."

Dan Lawrence & Mary Curran

Summer Fun at Unquowa

We had a busy summer here at Unquowa beginning with a one-week **Basketball Clinic** in June for students in grades 5 - 8.

Students worked diligently with Coach Boccamazzo, Coach Burton and Coach Lawrence to improve their passing, dribbling, shooting and defensive skills. In the afternoons they applied their newly learned skills in competition with their peers, working on their team offense and defense.



The sounds of music again filled our school in July and August. Chamber Music Central, whose summer home is Unquowa, held its annual four-week **Summer Music Festival** here.

The program provides intermediate and advanced string, wind and piano students ages 8-18 the opportunity to work in ensembles. Auditions are held in March and students work in trios and quartets with master music coaches.

Amy Hellman returned this summer to lead another **Improv Theatre Clinic** for students. The week-long clinic taught students the core components of Improvisational Theatre. They learned the key components for building improvised scenes and stories while having fun with their peers.

Ms. Hellman, former Unquowa teacher who recently returned from studying at Oxford, arranged for guest instructors to join her in the clinic. The session concluded on Friday with a student performance for parents and friends.





The four weeks of our **Summer Farm Camp** this year were nothing short of sensational! Mary Faulkner, Farm Camp Director, noted that with a full enrollment each week for both the Sweet Peas and our older campers, and the the help of an amazing staff, everyone had a fantastic time.

Sweet Peas enjoyed caring for the vegetables and herbs in our raised beds, cooking with Chef Peter, science studies, arts and crafts projects, and some fun water play in our wacky sprinklers!

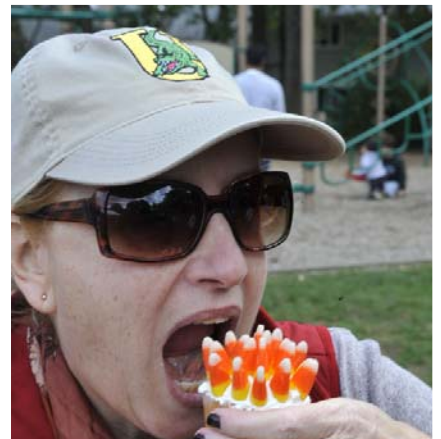
Older campers worked hard at Sport Hill Farm in Easton, where they experienced first-hand the trials and joys of farming on an organic farm — planting, harvesting, composting, preparing produce for market and even gathering chicken eggs. Fridays were always a favorite, starting with fun at the farm (zucchini baseball) and ending with a delicious meal the campers prepared with Chef Peter using some of the produce they harvested that week.



The two-week **Creative Art and Yoga Workshop** in June encouraged Upper School students to stretch their bodies and minds while they explored and expanded their inner selves. Led by Holly Tortora, fifth grade teacher, and Krissy Sabol, art teacher, the participants met each morning, with yoga mats in tow, for a lesson on one of the seven chakras. They experimented with partner yoga and fun games designed to help their dexterity and flexibility.

Students then explored the stability of red, the creativity of orange, the sunny side of yellow, the green of the heart with a variety of art and writing projects. They finger painted, collaged, designed, and wrote, both indoors and out and increased their understanding and appreciation for the beauty all around us.

Founders' Day 2010





Your Support is Needed

The process of helping my eighth grader look at high schools has made me pause and reflect on the experiences and valuable life lessons he and his siblings have learned while at Unquowa.

It is because of my commitment to the school that I agreed to chair this year's Annual Fund. Every independent school relies on its annual fund to provide vital support to the operating budget.



This year's goal of \$115,000 is a modest increase over last year's annual fund. We are also hoping to have 100% participation from our current parents. Any donation, large or small, is greatly appreciated and will help to support the innovative programs Unquowa offers its students. Pledges can be made using the enclosed envelope or online at www.unquowa.org.

Thank you for your support and remember, a strong annual fund can make the difference between a good program and a great program.

Laura Baytos
Annual Fund Chair

Annual Report Goes Digital!

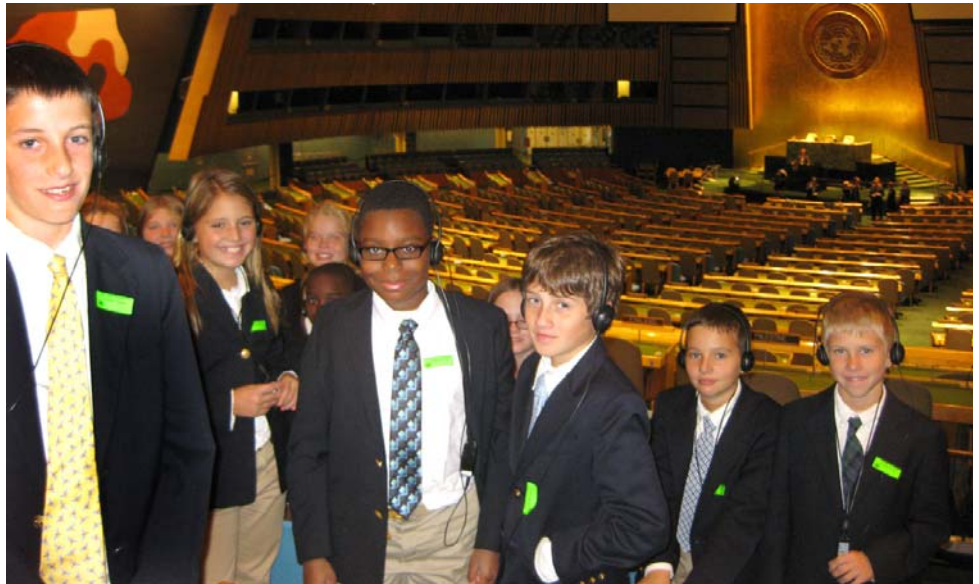
View the 2010 Annual Report online after November 4th at www.unquowa.org



Field Experiences

In October the sixth, seventh and eighth grade students traveled to New York City.

The first stop was the United Nations where students were given a guided tour of the United Nations building. They viewed gifts given to the UN from member countries and learned about the eight Millennium Development Goals the UN plans to achieve by 2015. As a result, the seventh grade is working on a project specific to these goals and how they connect with our school motto "The Future is in Our Care." Students ended the tour with a visit to the UN General Assembly Room for a more in depth discussion on the work of the UN.



Unquowa students in the UN General Assembly Room

After a quick trip across town, students visited the King Tut exhibit at the Times Square Exhibition Center. Students were able to view artifacts over 3000 years old, and to learn from these artifacts what life was like for Ancient Egyptians. Students particularly enjoyed learning about the recent discoveries made regarding the death of King Tut. The sixth grade will continue their study of Ancient Civilizations with a more detailed look at Egypt. It was wonderful to see the students so engaged in learning!

Debbie Leidlein, History Teacher

Unquowa's Graphic Designers



In addition to twice weekly studio art classes, students in grades six, seven, and eight take weekly graphic design classes in the computer lab. Using software from the Adobe Creative Suite, the students learn how to create digital artworks and manipulate photographs and graphics. The course also focuses on photography and design aesthetics, as the students learn what constitutes "good design." Projects include logo and business card design, surrealist collages, CD design, and our latest project, Google doodles, which frequently appear for different occasions on the website's home-page. The students created a version of the iconic Google logo to represent The Unquowa School using our mascot, motto, or various school-themed icons.

Krissy Sabol, Art/Graphics Design Teacher



Fall Sports Update

Our fall sports season is off to a fantastic start as all of our teams have displayed enthusiasm, team spirit and good sportsmanship and we have a record number of participants.

The **JV soccer team** is off to a perfect team start. They were all so excited to put on their uniforms and play in their first game. It was such a pleasure to witness their first win over Eagle Hill.

The **green soccer** team has begun the season with two victories. They pass, play any position asked of them, cheer and offer the best of sportsmanship. We love seeing their team spirit.



All of the **white soccer** team's games have been "nail biters." They have handled the pressure with such composure. Their collective effort and team spirit have been admirable and have resulted in victories. It was so much fun to get all of our girl soccer players together to play a rare all-girl's game against Greens Farms Academy. It was a hard fought game as the girls came away with a 3-2 victory.

Twenty-one girls showed up for the first **field hockey** practice and make up one of our strongest squads ever. We are thrilled with the turnout. They possess a fantastic work ethic, lots of enthusiasm and always display good sportsmanship.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our fans. We have more of you cheering us on than ever and your enthusiasm inspires all of our teams! Go Gators!

Coach B.



Family Math Night

What do you use to solve a geometry problem logically? Circular Reasoning, of course! This was just one of the more than 80 activities encountered by fourth and fifth grade families on Family Math Night, October 14, as they explored how the varied aspects of mathematical thought are represented in the curriculum.

For the families that attended, it was a busy evening full of challenges and discoveries. The excitement of building deductive reasoning skills, recognizing pattern relationships, employing spatial visualization and strengthening number sense filled the room. The Fraction Quilt activity drew lots of attention as each person attempted to add a different combination of triangles to cover three-eighths of a square.

Careful consideration enabled fourth-grader Hailey Hughes to win a prize for the best estimate of the number of dice in a jar.

Mrs. Haseltine wishes to especially thank the student assistants. Seventh graders Keelin Fitzsimons, Hannah Kehoe, Danny Leszczynski, and Michael Proto spent the afternoon setting up all the activities and arranging the balloons donated by the UPA. In the evening, with eighth graders Jennee Blanco, Elizabeth Kremer and Debbie Leszczynski, they provided encouragement and hints to the families. We have Alex Burdo to thank for the photos of the event.

Mrs. Haseltine, Math Teacher



Hailey, grade 4, the winner of the guesstimation contest pictured with Mrs. Haseltine.

From the UPA

The Unquowa Parents Association is anticipating a great year of bringing our community of families together to celebrate our school and enhancing the Unquowa experience for its students. This is sure to be an exciting year for the UPA and there is no better time to get involved than right now.

With the success of last year's Spring Auction, we proudly gifted the school with the funds needed to purchase two new Smartboards as well as classroom laptops for every student in our Language Arts lab. The new Smartboards will be used in our Music and Spanish programs, and complete the picture of every Unquowa classroom having access to this important technology. The 16 classroom laptops enable the teacher to interface with each student during class time, while creating shared documents that can be accessed from home. We are so proud to be able to say that, with our help, Unquowa can reach some of its goals a little faster, and we thank all of you who helped us get there.

Looking forward to this year, we have a full calendar of events to organize and host. We are very excited to be working with Booktopia Fairs, bringing a fresh perspective to our book fair this year. Booktopia Fairs offers a fundraising opportunity while promoting reading among our students. The Fair will run during regular school hours, November 2nd-November 4th and will also be open during the Annual Meeting on November 4th. Come shop and share the gift of reading!

Please also mark you calendars for the UPA Autumn Evening Wine Tasting on November 20th. Please join us for an enjoyable and educational evening. This is a wonderful opportunity to not only sample and purchase some very special wines, but to spend a night with your fellow Unquowa parents - sans kids! You won't want to miss this great night.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who make each of these events possible. While there are many recognizable faces, there are just as many who work behind the scenes, from their homes or offices, to make it all come together. If you haven't recently (or perhaps ever) volunteered some time to help with a UPA event, we strongly urge you to do so! There are many ways to help and any amount of time or talent you have will be welcomed. Contact Irene (irenebrennan@me.com) and/or Kim (JK3M@me.com) to get started. Come and be part of the great things we can do!

Irene Brennan & Kim Proto, UPA Co-Presidents



Fun and games, painted faces, dining and dancing - all part of the UPA sponsored Fall "FUN"raiser!



Authors' Day



Author Batt Burns and his wife, Maura, spent a morning with us in October. Mr. Burns, author and "Seanachie" (story-teller) has been traveling throughout the world sharing Irish folklore. His book, *The King with Horse's Ears and Other Irish Folktales*, won the 2010 Storytelling World Award for the best collection of folktales for young readers.

At an assembly for our fourth through eighth graders Mr. Burns shared a number of stories with us. Maura, a musician, played an upbeat, toe tapping Irish polka on her concertina. Afterwards Mr. Burns met with our sixth graders for a Writers' Workshop.

Debbie Lietuvninkas, Library

Welcome

Congratulations to the Leitner family! Baby Ray was born on September 26 he is pictured below with his big brother who is in first grade.



Alumni News



Norman Morse, '33 visited Sharon on his way home to Portland, ME after a long visit with family and friends in Europe. Norman has fond memories of his time at Unquowa and on this visit he enjoyed walking around the school's building and grounds.

Celine Schiott Knudsen, '33 wrote to say that she was sorry to miss Founders' Day but as she lives in Oslo, Norway it was a little far to travel! Celine still remembers the songs she learned in French at Unquowa. She said of her time here, "The ground-work was right from grade one...Unquowa has meant more to me than prep-school...it is a real 'learning age'." Celine was happy to have a visit from classmate Norman Morse during his visit to Oslo this summer.



Jean Winton, '34, had a wonderful time on her recent cruise on the Columbia and Snake Rivers in the Pacific Northwest. She was sorry to miss Founders' Day but was enjoying all there was to see, do and eat on her cruise and commented cruising is "a wonderful way to travel!"



Lauren Winer Beck, '69 Lauren (Lolly) and her husband Jeff joined us for Founders' Day and enjoyed viewing old class photos. Lolly is an attorney in Stratford, Connecticut.

Keep in touch!

Please contact Kate Haviland in our Development & Alumni Office!
khaviland@unquowa.org



Condolences

Susan Bullard Hall, '33, passed away in July of 2010 in Wyoming. Her passion in life was animals; she bred and trained many breeds of dogs, was a member of the American Kennel Club, was active in dog agility and animal rescue. Our condolences to her friends and family.

Ellen MacArthur Bedford, '35, passed away in May at Broad-Mead, a retirement community in Cockeysville, Maryland, where she had been a resident for a number of years. Our condolences to her family and friends.

Paul Gibian, President of Unquowa's Board 1970-78, passed away in September 2010 in Gwynedd, PA. Mr. Gibian was a dedicated member of the Unquowa community and two of his sons graduated from Unquowa - **Andrew, '74** and **Kevin, '76**. Mr. Gibian moved to the US from Prague during WWII. He kept residences in Southport and Nantucket for many years, even after moving back to Prague to work during the 1990s. Our condolences to his family and friends.



Jessica Kremer, '08, at the Great Wall of China. She is an 11th grader at Greens Farms Academy and is currently doing a School Year Abroad attached to Beijing Normal University High School #2. Jessica's parents, Marcie and Alton, and sister, Elizabeth, Unquowa grade 8, will be off to China to visit in December.

Visits from the Class of 2010



Greg Weiner, '10 came to the Fall FUNraiser where he caught up with Mr. Mitchell. Greg is at Staples in Westport.



Matthew Watson, '10 stopped by to say 'hello' to his former teachers. Matthew is on the football team at Warde.



Charlie Haviland, '10 came by to watch his sister Grace in a field hockey game and chat with his former coaches. Charlie is very happy at Ludlowe High.



THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

*Cura Futuri Nobis ~
The Future is in Our Care.*

Take-A-Look at Unquowa

Our Admissions Department hosts "Take-A-Look Days" for small groups of prospective parents to visit and learn about our school.

The tours provide the opportunity to see our classrooms and get a sense of our school's atmosphere. Ms. Lauer meets the group to answer any questions. "Take-A-Look Days" begin at 9:00 a.m. and last about an hour and a half.

November Take-A-Look dates scheduled:

Thursday, 11/4

Thursday, 11/11

Thursday, 11/18

Tuesday, 11/30

*Suellen Hansen
Director of Admissions*

This Winter Festival is our

30th

**Come join us for the show!
Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Reserved seating and recognition for all
former Kings and Queens. Contact
Miss Chriss to reserve your royal space!
cgombos@unquowa.org**

Plus ...

**Special reception for Kings, Queens and
ALL alums at 6:00 p.m. in the Library.**