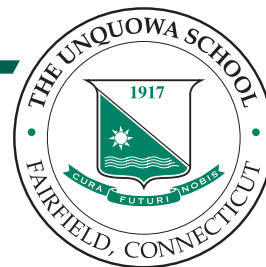


About U.S.



A Publishing Tradition
of The Unquowa School

A Message from the Head

"Creating hope in oneself as a teacher and nourishing or rekindling it in one's students is the central issue educators face today." So says Herbert Kohl - teacher, writer and National Book Award winner - in his most recent book on education, *The Herbert Kohl Reader: Awakening The Heart of Teaching*.

Understanding the complex relationship between nurturing growth in children and one's own self-growth is essential to imprinting one's passion for learning on kids in a way that lasts through their lives. The Unquowa School has been fortunate to have had throughout its history such teachers whose passion for their discipline, love of imparting it to kids, and personal growth over their long tenure immediately invoke their names when hopeful teaching comes to mind.

Robert L. Cleveland, woodshop teacher and coach at Unquowa for thirty-one years is someone whose name is spoken by countless older alums, and photos of Cleveland with his teams and woodshop students as a young teacher grace our Hall of History, as does a handwritten list of those who helped him build a woodshop in 1932.

Alison Gray, whose tenure as visual arts teacher here spanned over thirty-five years, and whose watercolors are scattered about our building, is credited by many alums - most notably our own teacher, **Kristin Sabol** - as having been responsible for their love of art and their careers in some aspect of it.

Today, we still place a premium on such faculty, and we provide teachers with the time and resources to grow and change, whether through conventional course work and workshops or through the travel that we offer through The Virginia Birdsall Faculty Grant. From Early Childhood through our Upper School, we are still fortunate to have faculty of long tenure who continue to be excited by their disciplines, who work hard to grow as individuals and who light fires in the children whose lives they touch.

Janice Shannon, whose charge it is to welcome our three year olds into the world of learning, is an extraordinary example of the hopeful teacher who continues to ask, "How can I do this better?" A veteran teacher, Mrs. Shannon continues to be an educator who imprints a sense of curiosity and appreciation for learning and life in her three year olds that they carry with them

throughout their lives. At a recent parent forum on our early childhood program, one parent of a five year old quoted a neighbor whose twenty-something son had been in Mrs. Shannon's class when he was three. "No teacher in my son's career has had more impact on the person he's become than

Mrs. Shannon." This past fall, with a Virginia Birdsall grant, Mrs. Shannon spent a week in Reggio Emilia, Italy, studying the region's early childhood program with a cohort of educators from around the globe. Mrs. Shannon had noted this world-renowned program's similarities to our own school's philosophy of early childhood learning and was eager to see it first-hand so that she could bring her observations and conversations back to her program here at Unquowa. Rather than resting on her laurels, Mrs. Shannon continues to examine, validate and improve her program, and it shows in the dispositions of the children who

have been in her classroom.

At the other end of the Unquowa experience we have **Lisa Haseltine**, chair of our mathematics department and Upper School math teacher. Mrs. Haseltine has been at Unquowa for over twenty years, and while she definitely has the reputation for being one of, if not the most, demanding teachers in the school, she is also known for lighting a fire for mathematics in its purest sense in her students in a way that is not only visible in their achievement here at Unquowa but that continues to burn throughout their academic careers. A recent student panel was asked by parents, "What is your favorite class and what is your most challenging class?" A notable number of students on the panel gave math as the answer to both, much to the amazement of their audience. Mrs. Haseltine can be credited with building a department and a classroom that led to that response.

A big part of successful teaching truly is about learning how to create and rekindle hope - both in one's self and in one's students - over and over again throughout one's career. Those who understand that secret can not only maintain their own joy and enthusiasm for living in the world of education, but they are also the teachers who shape the destinies of children.

Sharon Lauer



Unquowa students participated in Houses for Haiti. Proceeds go to Save the Children's relief efforts in Haiti. Annie McNeela puts the finishing touches on her pin.

Trimester I, 2009-2010

Unquowa Honors

(no grade below A and no effort grade below 3)

Grade 5

Sydnee Blanco
Ian Chapin
Tristan Murray
Evangelina Scianna
Spencer Solaz

Grade 7

Jennee Blanco
Katherine Halas
Tatum Hughes
Elizabeth Kremer
Gemma Lein-McDonough
Deborah Leszczynski
Abigail Winter

Grade 6

Keelin Fitzsimons
Daniel Leszczynski

Grade 8

Bailey Cooke
Marc Thomas Greenawalt
Charles Jersey
Erica Meno
Mackenzie Murray

Honor Roll

(B+ average with no grade below B and and no effort below 3)

Grade 5

Michael Brennan
Grace Haviland
Abigail Knopf
Jace McKenzie
Brandon Omisore
Katherine Phelan
Paul Pinto
James Roland
Rebecca Ryan
Annie Lyn Sheketoff
Brienne Simmonds
Lily Stumpf

Grade 7

Kathryn Adriani
Chelsea Byrd
Vikram Chaudhuri
Josh Gantt
Andrew Godfrey
Jennifer Godfrey
Nicole Grabe
Danielle Greenawalt
Morgan Hansen
Isabel Jordan
Spencer Jordan
Jack Rider
Winston Stalowir
Paul Stumpf
Christopher Taylor
Claire Tetenbaum
Jack Weiss

Grade 6

Jessica Anzalone
Rachael Anzalone
Justin Blanchette
Mark D'Ostilio
Hannah Kehoe
Sassine Makhraz
Jaeden McKenzie
Michael Proto
Erin Reilly
Patrick Tennant

Grade 8

Kai Burton
Stephen Cadoux
Grace Carapezzi
Peta-Gay Clayton
Alexis Genovese
Charles Haviland
Tristan Schietinger
Jeremiah Starke
Timothy Steckler

Geography Bee



Geography Bee winners: Charlie Jersey - 2nd place, Ian Chapin - 3rd place, and Vikram Chaudhuri - 1st place.

The National Geography Bee competition took place on Monday, January 11th. After winning their classroom competitions, the contestants this year were fifth graders, **Ian Chapin and Brienne Simmonds**; sixth graders, **Justin Blanchette and Sisso Makhraz**; seventh graders, **Vikram Chaudhuri and Josh Gantt**; and eighth graders, **Charlie Jersey and Marc Thomas Greenawalt**.

The alternates were fifth graders, **Brandon Omisore and Lily Stumpf**; sixth graders, **Keelin Fitzsimons and Hannah Kehoe**; seventh graders, **Jack Weiss and Elizabeth Kremer**; and eighth graders, **Timmy Steckler and Davis Baer**.

The first two rounds contained some of the most difficult questions I have come across in all the years I have been coordinating the Bee. After a number of rounds **Vikram Chaudhuri** was announced our first place winner. Second place went to **Charlie Jersey** and third place to **Ian Chapin**. Vikram will now take a written test to see if he qualifies for the state competition.

Congratulations to all our contestants and the best to Vikram in the upcoming written test!

Debbie Leidlein

Miss CT Jr PreTeen

Congratulations to **Evangelina Scianna**, grade 5! She recently won the Miss Connecticut Junior Pre-Teen contest. We enjoyed seeing her sash and crown!



Welcome New Unquowans

Brandon Omisore, grade 5, is thrilled with the addition of two brothers to his family! Aiden and Adrian Omisore were born on January 19 at 8:30 a.m. Mom & Dad (Joanne and Ade) and the twins are all doing well!



Grandparents' & Special Friends Day has been rescheduled!
Join us on Friday, May 7 for our Grandparents/Friends/May Day celebration!

Celebrating Thanksgiving



Our Thanksgiving celebration began with prayers in many languages followed by music and songs. We all enjoyed our delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings and pies for dessert. After the feast, our kindergarteners and fourth graders loaded up a bus with the donations we had collected for the Connecticut Food Bank. They delivered them to Stop and Shop and sang a song on the local radio station! Thank you to our eighth graders for set up and serving and our spectacular kitchen staff - Chef Peter, Chef Dan and Jeffrey.

American Mathematics Contest



Back in November, our seventh and eighth graders participated in the American Mathematics Contest along with 2200 other schools. The AMC is a 25-question, multiple-choice test. The related high school contest is part of the series of competitions that leads to the International Mathematical Olympiad.

At assembly in January Mrs. Haseltine announced the results. In third place and second place we have eighth-graders **Charlie Haviland** and **Charlie Jersey**. In first place, our school winner is seventh grader **Debbie Leszczynski**. Her score of 17 out of 25 places her in the top 5% of all contestants nationally, so she earns a place on the AMC Honor Roll. She received a school winner pin and her name is now on the school AMC plaque.

Congratulations to everyone who participated for their excellent effort and achievement!

Lisa Haseltine

Beautiful December

"Beautiful December" our 29th Annual Winterfest was spectacular! Directed by **Lisa Strmecki**, the script was written in conjunction with **Amy Hellman**, who is currently at Oxford University working on her master's.

Our royalty, **King Christopher Taylor** and **Queens Katherine Halas, Elizabeth Kremer, and Morgan Hansen** presided over the event. Each year the seventh graders who have been at Unquowa the longest become our royal family!

This year's winter festival story told of the ceremonies and rituals performed on the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year, to bring the return of the warmth and sun of summer. The stories from around the world told of winter's mystery and magic.

Students of all grades participated, practicing their songs and dances during December in anticipation of the annual event. In an early December we enjoyed the coronation of this year's king and queens, the announcement of this year's partridge, **Lucy Panagos**, and the knighting ceremony for our first grade knights.

A special thank you to all who helped make Winterfest such a success this year: all our actors and actresses; our outstanding tech crew led by **Lloyd Mitchell**; our faculty and staff; our set up crew and design crew led by **Mark Greenawalt**; our costume closet key holders, **Mackenzie Murray** and **Matt Watson**, who worked with parents **Sara Greenawalt**, **Ellen Greenberg** and **Kristin duBay Horton** to outfit all our actors and actresses; all the parents who helped with setup, costumes, and contributed to our feast; all our sponsors who advertised in our Gatorbill; our art teacher, **Krissy Sabol**, for all the Winterfest artwork including the stunning 2009 banner; and all our alum who come back each year to join in the fun and excitement of Winterfest!

Hope to see everyone next year for our 30th Winterfest!





Namaste at the End of the Day

It's a new year and what better way to get off to a healthy start then to take a yoga class. Well, forty Unquowa students did just that! They stretched and flowed from one pose to another, practiced breathing techniques and learned how to incorporate a focused attention while maintaining balance within their bodies, all the while having fun in a supportive, safe environment. Students learned that the meaning of the word "Om" stands for "all the sounds of the universe", and symbolizes the unity of all. Students practiced centering, breathing, poses (asana) and relaxation (savasana).

Many adults in our Unquowa community have experienced yoga's life-enhancing benefits through their own practice. Yet, some ask, "Why yoga for children"? First, yoga improves physical, mental and emotional health. It provides the tools to maintain life-long wellness. Secondly, yoga is frequently translated as the union of mind, body and spirit. While many different activities can help children improve their physical wellness, yoga emphasizes the integration of the internal and external. Third, yoga helps children develop the focus and concentration skills needed for learning, and it increases their ability to work independently and productively despite the wide variety of distractions that surround them. Fourth, yoga is a non-competitive physical activity. Most physical activities that children participate in today are competition-based. Yoga presents an entirely different model that is based and rooted in the idea that practicing and improving yourself is what indicates success. In addition, yoga classes for children address the reality that children learn in many different ways. Our motto at The Unquowa School is "The Future is in our Care." What better way to care for our children, as well as ourselves, then to practice yoga. Namaste.



Holly Tortora is certified to teach children's yoga through Little Flower Yoga in New York City.

Holly Tortora

Sports Update

On December 2 all of our students and parents met in the gym to celebrate our fall sports season, and we had a ball. Our soccer teams finished with an undefeated season for the second straight year and our field hockey team was one our most determined squads ever. Trophies were awarded and we reminisced about all of our achievements. This year, The Unquowa School Spirit Trophy was awarded to eighth graders **Peta-Gay Clayton** and **Kai Burton**. The Team Spirit Award was given to the **Girls' Field Hockey team**. Great job, girls! Thank you to all of our parents for cheering us on. What great fans you all are!

We have hit the ground running with our basketball season, as we have more games, teams and players than ever. The **Boys' White Varsity** is a fine example of persistence and tenacity. Marc-Thomas Greenawalt and Tristan Schietinger are our defensive stalwarts and Chris Taylor and Matt Watson lead us in scoring. The **Girls' White Varsity** is such an unselfish bunch and work so well as a team. Chelsea Byrd is a poised leader and Bailey Cooke and Grace Carapezzi have developed into strong defensive players. Kai Burton and Katherine Viteretto exhibit a strong work ethic. The **Boys' Green Varsity** truly understands the concepts of teamwork, help defense and good sportsmanship. They are led in scoring by Justin Blanchette, Sisso Makhraz and Danny Leszczynski. Mark D'Ostilio has developed into a strong rebounder. The **Girls' Green Varsity** exudes effort and enthusiasm. They are outstanding on defense and should be very proud of their infectious energy. They are led in scoring by Keelin Fitzsimons and the point guard play of Colby Lopez-Balboa and Jessica Anzalone. We are also looking forward to the fourth grade boys and girls beginning their schedule at the end of February. Finally, we would like to thank all of our loyal fans. It is such a pleasure to have you cheer us on at all of the games! Go Gators!

Coach Al Boccamazzo



Athletic Awards and Trophies

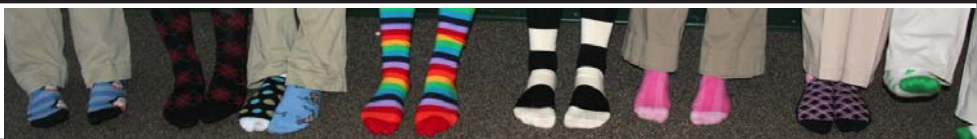
Outstanding Performance: Charles Jersey, Bailey Cooke, Kai Burton, Katherine Halas, James Roland, Danny Leszczynski

Defense: Mackenzie Murray, Gemma Lein-McDonough, Justin Blanchette

Most Improved Player: Matt Watson, Morgan Hansen, Erin Reilly, Sisso Makhraz

Good Sportsmanship: Grace Carapezzi, Tatum Hughes

***Crazy socks?
New 8th Grade Privilege!***



Alumni News



Robert L. Cleveland (left), former woodshop teacher and coach, with a championship Unquowa team from 1947. Do you recognize the other coach or any of the players? We'd love to hear from you.

Alum Tidbits

Sharon Lauer attended a surprise birthday celebration for **Jean Winton**, class of '34, in January. Jean stays in close contact to Unquowa and many of her classmates.

We were delighted to hear from **David Bray**, who attended Unquowa in the early 40's. David has fond memories of his time at Unquowa and currently lives in Florida.

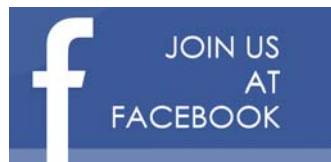


Jason Raymond, class of '08, visited this winter. He is attending Ludlowe High School in Fairfield and enjoyed seeing Unquowa and his former teachers!

Keep in touch!

Contact Kate Haviland in our Development & Alumni Office - khaviland@unquowa.org

Join "The Unquowa School Alumni Association" on Facebook



Mike Malve, who attended in the mid 70's, has fond memories of the fun times he had at Unquowa. He loved the pet fairs and other activities going on at school. He is currently living in Phoenix, Arizona and is the Head Honcho at Atomic Comics.

Here he is at one of the recent events he hosted with the Grammy winning band, Fall Out Boy. He noted that he is the "old guy in the middle."

We were saddened to hear of the passing of **Jennie Lou**, class of '02 on January 12. Jennie attended Notre Dame in Fairfield after graduating from Unquowa and had been attending the School for Visual Arts in New York City. Our condolences to the Lou family.

Remember the Annual Fund

I want to thank those of you who have made a donation to this year's annual fund. We already have participation from almost 40% of our current families! If you have not yet joined us, pledge envelopes are available in the main office. You can also donate on our website (www.unquowa.org) - click "online giving".

If you have questions, you can reach me at sghalas@mac.com or 203-556-3004 or contact Kate Haviland at khaviland@unquowa.org or 203-336-9091. Thank you!

Steve Halas, Annual Fund Chair

Summer Internship Opportunity

Alums...Are you (and maybe a friend?) looking for a part time internship this summer? Consider helping in our Alumni & Development office to learn the ins and outs of running an alumni office.

Contact Kate Haviland at 203-336-9091 or khaviland@unquowa.org.

Please note that we will not be having our **Spring Golf Tournament** this year. We hope you will join us at our Auction, "Dancing For Our Stars", on Saturday, April 24.



THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

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

Read the *About U.S.* on our website — in color! www.unquowa.org/convenient-links/newsletters

Dance the Night Away

Planning is underway for the UPA's annual spring fundraiser, to be held this year on Saturday, April 24. Please mark your calendars and join us for a night of "Dancing For Our Stars", where we will enjoy a live and silent auction, delicious food, and fantastic entertainment! Come and see professional ballroom dancers from the Maria Fiore Dance Studios, and prepare to be amazed as five of our own faculty and staff members compete against each other in a Dancing For Our Stars contest. You will not want to miss this!

We are currently seeking volunteers to help us make this night a great one, as well as collecting items that can be used in our auction. If you can help or have an auction item to donate, please contact Mindee Blanco (mblanco2@metlife.com), Jessica Ryan (jessicaryan@optonline.net) or Andrea Pinto (ppintofamily@optonline.net).

Dust off your dancing shoes and join us
Saturday, April 24 ... See you there!

