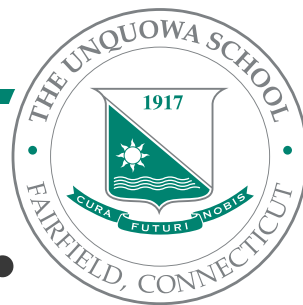


# About U.S.



A Publishing Tradition  
of The Unquowa School

## A Message From the Head of School

In 1982 I visited the newly installed Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC. Almost 1500 ideas had been submitted for the memorial, but it was Maya Lin, still an undergraduate at Yale at the time, whose proposal was chosen. From a distance, the memorial was merely two long slabs of highly polished igneous rock placed at 90 degrees representing a wound in the earth that began as 8 inches high at the far corners and grew to 10 feet high where they met. Even now, I can recall that as I walked along one wall of the memorial, it was empty of names at its start and as the path next to it descended, the wall grew higher and the names mounted. I experienced the escalation of the Vietnam conflict simply by walking next to the wall. It was my first visceral experience with the impact of architectural form.

This fall, with the opening of our school's new dining room, our community experienced a similar architectural surprise. We had done an incredible amount of planning for the project, anticipating and solving many problems and making many conscious design choices to bring the outdoors into the room.

But an amazing thing happened that we hadn't planned for when we opened the dining room; it welcomed people and became a community space for learning and gathering that it had never been before because its new form invited that use.

While the dining room project has been the most dramatic architectural change in our school, it is actually not the first time we have "moved the walls" of our school over the past ten years. In one way we have expanded our classroom walls by taking learning outside on our own campus. Building curricular gardens and birdcrafting stations on our campus and extending science work into our woods and brook have been the first steps in that direction.

We've also moved the walls of our school outside of their physical perimeter by creating relationships that expand both our human and physical resources. Our Museum Collaboration with

the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, the Fairfield Audubon Center and The Fairfield Museum and History Center and our rich relationship with Sport Hill Farm expand our school beyond its five-acre campus. Our eighth grade year-long service learning project that pairs our students with partners at two special needs schools, Giant Steps School and Feroletto Children's Development Center, is a reverse inclusion program that has received the NAIS Leading Edge Award. Our eighth graders have had the opportunity to give to another in deep, personal ways while receiving themselves

an understanding of human compassion that will never leave them. These hotspots of experiential learning, both on campus and off, connect to and amplify the classroom work of our children and teachers.

Our dining room project has helped us to see concretely that even past our intention, "form informs function." We know that our upcoming new performing arts spaces will speak out to new uses. Yes, they will serve their intended purpose of providing classrooms for instrumental and vocal music, movement and

yoga classes and an inspiring performance space where music and drama learning can culminate in powerful public ways for our students. Beyond that, however, there is no doubt that these spaces will invite new purpose that we have not yet imagined.

Design thinking identifies needs and asks, "What if?" The upcoming performing arts project marks the last building project in The Campaign for Unquowa.

After the construction dust settles, we will return to the design thinking questions that have always led to our more modest reconstructing, deconstructing and repurposing of spaces - "What do we need and what if?" - because there is no doubt that in the world of education the walls, both concrete and psychological, are moving. The walls of Unquowa have been and will continue to be no exception.



*Mrs. Hall using the new dining room  
for her first grade reading group.*

*Sharon Lauer, Head of School*

## Trimester I Honor Roll

### Unquowa Honors

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

#### Grade 5

Brooke Jones

#### Grade 6

Alexandra Halas

Sophia Mughal

Lola Panagos

Charlotte Robins

Drew Slager

Carrie Smith

#### Grade 7

Dylan McCormick

Lucille Panagos

Jessica Price

Karli Vare

#### Grade 8

Rachel Albenze

Hannah Calzone

Benjamin Chapin

Akash Jyothish

Quinn Mullineaux

Siddharth Sunder

### Honors

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

#### Grade 5

Kylee Faulkner

Antara Ghai

Katherine Horton

Sophia Kessler

Lauren Lambrecht

Raphael Makhras

Alexander McKinnis

Tate Mullineaux

Samantha Renzulli

Keilan Rosow

Abigail Russo

Daniel Vash

Will Waghorne

Shira Zeiberg

#### Grade 7

Mia Auray

Chloe Coseglia

Julianna Darcy

Anne Marie Dooher

Maia Fuchs

Tess Haskel

Carolyn Kokias

Jack Long

Annie McNeela

Ryan Moss

Sean Nicholas

Juliet St. Germain

Maxwell Victor

Miriana Wasserman

Charlotte Yin

#### Grade 8

James Blasius

Nora Brennan

Garrett Cutler

Alexandra Deutsch

Walter Erenhouse

Clara Horton

Hailey Hughes

Olivia Hughes

Zander Jehle

Riley Pengue

Carson Solaz

Schuyler St. Germain

Charlie Waghorne

#### Grade 6

Thomas Brennan

Ryan Cawley

Lisi Chapin

Remington Cheffer

Margaret Coghlan

Daniel DeGirolomo

Charlotte Dworski

William Geary

Aaron Gruen

William Hansen

Ethan Klein

Naia Kocsi

Noah Markus

Stephen Daniel Mezei

Abigail Nevins

Patrick Phelan

Grace Rosow

Maya Rubino

Ella Stalowir

## 51% Qualified for the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth Last Year



Fifty one percent of last year's fourth through eighth grade students qualified for the Johns Hopkins Talent Search and were recognized at an assembly in November. These students scored in the 95th percentile or above on the ERB standardized test. This accomplishment makes them eligible to take above grade level tests, such as the SATs, to assess their math and verbal/reading talents. In addition, they are given the opportunity to attend unique education programs throughout the U.S. Congratulations!

## Faculty Additions This Fall

### Lisa Sylvestro

Lisa joined our learning support team this year and is teaching learning skills classes in grades five through eight. She holds a B.A. in sociology and elementary education from Ramapo College and a master's in special education from Fairfield University and has nine years of experience at Eagle Hill School.



### Sarah Pollex

Sarah is a new member of our PE Department. She holds a B.S. degree in exercise science from the University of South Carolina and a master's in health behavior and health education from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.



### Teresa Hsaio

Teresa has returned to Unquowa to teach Mandarin to students in PreK-3 through second grade after spending last year on the faculty of Avenues. She has a B.A. in history and German, an M.B.A. and an M.S. with a concentration in early childhood.



### Jamie Bartels

Jamie is teaching Spanish to our early childhood classes and co-teaching grades one through eight with Mrs. Tapia. Jamie holds a B.A. from Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA, has taught English in Peru and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Montessori education at The University of Hartford.



# The Campaign for Unquowa

## Final Act! Deadline for Pledges December 31!

These are the final weeks of the Campaign for Unquowa and we are sprinting to raise the funds for our last phase of projects this summer.

Our Final Act is our most ambitious:

- Renovate the instrumental room to improve rehearsal space and acoustics
- Create a new performing arts classroom on the second floor for choral and movement classes
- Build a proper and permanent stage with wings and storage

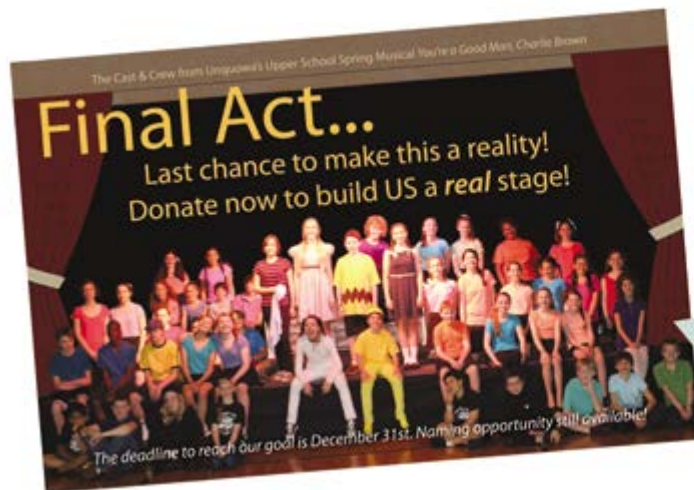
As Sharon and the faculty continue to enhance and expand the performing arts program, our young students need these rehearsal, classroom and performance spaces.

To create our "blue sky" version of each of these spaces we need to raise \$1,000,000. We have great momentum...but we're not there yet! If you are considering a first, second or even third gift to this campaign...and, yes, we have plenty of families who have made that many pledges and gifts...then we need to know your commitment before December 31. You can wait to fulfill your pledge until June 30, 2015.

We have already seen the tremendous impact of the first three phases of major campus improvements we've accomplished through this campaign. Sharon, the Board and I are committed to making the projects in this Final Act a reality for our young performers...but we need your help.

With just weeks to go, we need to hear from you soon! Please contact Kate Haviland at 203-336-9091 to learn more.

*Joan Panagos, Campaign For Unquowa Chair*



Seen this?

**I Support Unquowa's Young Performers!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

In support of The Unquowa School's goals for improvements to the campus and efforts to strengthen the endowment, I/we hereby pledge to give a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to The Campaign for Unquowa. I/we understand that this commitment to The Unquowa School may be spread out and can be fulfilled with either cash or a transfer of securities in equivalent amounts.

This commitment will be fulfilled in accordance with the following schedule:

| PLEDGE SCHEDULE      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| By December 31, 2014 | \$_____ |
| By June 30, 2015     | \$_____ |
| By June 30, 2016     | \$_____ |

☐ Yes, my company has a Matching Gift Plan. (If you please complete your company's gift form to match your Campaign pledge amount.)

Please make checks payable to The Unquowa School.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

For More Information Contact: Kate Haviland, (203) 368-0092, [kate.haviland@unquowa.org](mailto:kate.haviland@unquowa.org)  
 Please Sign and Return to: The Unquowa School, 981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06424

Done this?



## Performing Arts

### Junior Chorus is “Happy!”

The Junior Chorus is a group of third, fourth and fifth graders who love to sing! This fall we have been working on singing with emotion and learning how to project our sound while performing. These skills were put to the test at a recent all-school assembly where the chorus sang Pharrell Williams' popular song “Happy” to their classmates, teachers, parents and friends. The chorus did a fantastic job - their performance definitely put the school in a very happy mood to start the day!

*Megan Kirk, Choral Music Teacher*



### Guitar Ensemble Rocks!

The after-school guitar ensemble for students in grades four through eight has really been rocking the music room this fall! After learning how to properly hold the guitars and look cool doing it (see photo, did we nail it or what?), our budding musicians have been learning single notes and chords. They have progressed to playing classics like “Ode to Joy” and “Twinkle, Twinkle.” Another favorite activity is playing “Name that Tune!” I’m happy to report that attendance has hit an all-time high, both in numbers and enthusiasm! Many of our younger students are eager to start learning guitar and to perform with the ensemble.

*David Coe, Instrumental Music Teacher*



### Well, What Do You Know? We Did Tableaux!

Upper School drama classes have been learning what it means to be in an ensemble, which is a group of theatrical performers working together. We did an ensemble-building activity that allowed us to explore our commonalities and differences, both individually and as a group. We then each shared a moment when we felt that we had accomplished something.

These moments became a series of tableaux — frozen pictures — that the students created themselves. The results were wonderful!

*Alyson Cahill, Drama Teacher*



## COME TOGETHER



### A WINTERFEST TALE

Our 34th annual Winter Festival will feature the music of the Beatles!

**December 10**  
Coronation Assembly - 8:45  
Partridge Announcement

**December 15**  
Knighting Ceremony - 2:45

**December 17**  
Afternoon Performance - 1:30  
(Grandparents, younger siblings, etc are strongly urged to attend this performance)

**December 18**  
Alumni Reception - 5:30  
Evening Performance - 7:00

## Progressive Education Lab



PEL is a two year fellowship (a training year followed by an internship) designed to give young people who wish to become teachers an understanding of the fundamentals of progressive theory while learning from their experiences at four different progressive schools. As one of the founding schools, Unquowa is pleased to welcome four new fellows who are in their year-long rotation through the four PEL Schools - the Calhoun School, The Cambridge School of Weston, the Putney School and The Unquowa School. We welcome back second year Fellow, Alice Lloyd, who remains at Unquowa for a year-long internship. Alice continues to work closely with her PEL mentors as she gains experience which will prepare her for a career in teaching.

### Welcome New PEL Fellows



This is our third year welcoming four PEL Fellows to Unquowa for two months of intensive, hands-on classroom teaching experience with our master teachers. This year our Fellows come from a variety of backgrounds and interests including art, mathematics, science, and English. Caleb Colpitts is working with Krissy Ponden in Upper School art and graphic design, Jacob Northcutt is teaching alongside Mary Faulkner in fifth grade, Stephanie Shieh is partnered with Maureen Diallo in grade one and Natalie Naranjo is working with Craig Knebel in Upper School science. We are excited that the Fellows will be at Unquowa through Winter Festival!

*Alice Desgranges, PEL Coordinator*

### Second Year Fellow, Alice Lloyd '05, Teaching in Upper School



We are thrilled to have Alice Lloyd at Unquowa for the second year of her PEL Fellowship. Working with Upper School teachers, Debbie Leidlein and Michelle Lamb, Alice is immersed in both English and history classes. In eighth grade English, she began by teaching a unit that analyzed speeches as literature and has since been working with eighth graders to edit and revise their speeches before delivering them at assembly. She then guided the eighth graders through an independent novel unit that covered a variety of topics from their novels and included literature journals and group discussions. In seventh grade history class, she and Mrs. Leidlein team taught a unit on writing responses to literature after reading *The Red Scarf Girl*, a memoir by Ji-li Jiang about the cultural revolution in China.

In addition to her work during the school day, Alice has started an after-school writing lab for eighth grade students, meeting twice a week, where students can drop in to compose or continue revising their written work, including high school application essays. The students truly appreciate her suggestions and guidance in both English and history classes this year.

*Michelle Lamb, Upper School English Teacher*  
*Debbie Leidlein, Upper School History Teacher*

## Project FeederWatch Underway



For the seventh year, The Unquowa School is participating in Project FeederWatch, a winter long survey of birds conducted by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Third, fourth and fifth grade volunteers meet every other Monday and Tuesday morning from November to April to count birds at the feeding stations located in the woods behind the school. Binoculars, field guides and tally sheets are provided to assist students in the identification and documentation of bird sightings. Tallies are sent to the FeederWatch database at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to help scientists track winter feeder trends and develop a better understanding of bird populations. In early November, students identified seven species of birds including white-breasted nuthatches, tufted titmice, downy and hairy woodpeckers, black-capped chickadees, mourning doves and American goldfinches. Thank you to our young citizen scientists for a great start to the Project FeederWatch season!

*Mary Curran, Environmental Science Teacher*



## Museum Collaboration

### Connecticut Audubon Center

#### Digging in the Dirt - Third Graders Investigate Soil Types

On a trip to the Audubon Center's woods, third graders investigated soil types in our area, compared soil characteristics and drew conclusions about local plants and animals. The visit included an experiment on soil's ability to hold water as well as a hike where students stopped at meadow, swamp and woodland habitats to make observations of the different types of soil and plants growing in each.



#### Rockin' 'n Rollin' - Fourth Grade Geologists Study Rocks



The fourth grade's visit to the Audubon Center began with a review of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks and a discussion of their make-up and usage in daily life. Then it was time to hike, observe and apply the lesson by identifying rocks collected along the way. The hike led to a cave where students made observations and discussed how old the cave might be, which led to the conclusion that glaciers made both the cave and a nearby pond. A discussion about which animals might use the cave and observations about the different plant life growing on and around it encouraged our young geologists to make connections about habitats.

#### Following the Sun - Fifth Grade Meteorologists Observe Weather

As part of the fifth grade Earth Science unit, the students traveled to the Audubon Center for a field experience focused on weather and climate. The young scientists investigated meadow, swamp and woodland habitats and recorded air temperature, wind speed and checked rain gauges. After comparing the data from each site, students made inferences about the fluctuations in information they gathered. They also learned how to use a compass and plotted the sun's location in the sky over a three hour period.

#### All Wet - Seventh Graders Analyze the Health of Wetlands

Seventh graders visited the Larsen Sanctuary at the Audubon Center to begin their exploration of ecology and the environment. Within this wetlands habitat they visited a stream, fresh water, marsh and pond ecosystems. Students first observed abiotic factors such as soil texture, water quality and topography in each ecosystem. Next, they observed and collected some of the biotic factors, in this case macroinvertebrates, such as insects, to compare the "health" of each ecosystem. Students learned that since these animals live in the water for all or part of their lives, their survival is related to water quality and that the presence of a more diverse population of macroinvertebrates indicates a healthier ecosystem.



### Fairfield Museum & History Center

#### Unquowa Time Machine - First Graders Visit the Ogden House



One of the first units the first graders studied in social studies this year was about early settlers in our area and what life was like for families and children who lived during that time period. Students stepped back in time as they explored the Ogden House at the Fairfield Museum and History Center.

The class learned first hand about the life of the Ogden family and all the hard work the children were responsible for each day. The first graders learned about cooking, making clothing and other various daily activities in the 1700's. They explored the kitchen, family room, bedrooms and the garret, where the Ogdens dried the herbs from their garden.

This is another example of field experiences working in conjunction with our Museum Collaboration to reinforce the lessons begun in the classroom.

## How Do You Solve a Geometry Problem Logically?



By using Circular Reasoning, of course! This was just one of the more than seventy activities encountered by fourth, fifth and sixth grade families on Family Math Night, as they explored how the varied aspects of mathematical thought are represented in the curriculum.

For the forty-five families who 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. Two of the new activities this

year were inspired by exhibits at the National Museum of Mathematics.

A special thank you to the hard-working seventh and eighth grade student assistants, who spent the afternoon setting up all the activities and then returned in the evening to provide encouragement and much-appreciated hints to the families.

*Lisa Haseltine, Upper School Math Teacher*



## Ways We Learn Mandarin Chinese

Second graders have been exploring different ways to sharpen their oral and written language skills in Chinese as a team. They practiced counting fluently in Chinese by playing patty cake and exercised their brain muscles with rounds of the Heart Attack card game in Chinese! They have also been racing to learn how to write Chinese characters in proper stroke orders to earn money for their “bank accounts.” It is impressive how our eager learners incorporated various Chinese characters they know or want to learn while decorating their piggy banks and how quickly they learned to maintain their bank account ledgers by recording dates and adding up the balance in Chinese. This fall, the class has come together as a cohesive learning community where students feel safe to take learning risks together and are ready to help each other to learn more Chinese!

*Teresa Hsiao, Mandarin Teacher*



## Seventh Grade Scientists Explore “It’s the Real Thing” with a Can of Coke...and It Sinks



The seventh graders wrapped up their science unit on metric measurement by exploring the density of Diet Coke, which floats in a tank of water, versus that of Coca-Cola, which sinks.

Students measured out 39 grams of sugar, the quantity a 12 oz. can of Coca-Cola contains, and then compared it to the mass of the artificial sweetener in Diet Coke. They used this information to calculate each soda’s density and determined that regular Coke is more dense than water which is why it sinks and Diet Coke is less dense than water, which is why it floats.

They also observed that Coke Zero floats even higher than Diet Coke so students inferred that it has a density even closer to that of water.

*Craig Knebel, Upper School Science Teacher*



## Founders' Day 2014

What a glorious day! The Unquowa community gathered for an afternoon of fun, friends and good food. Once again, we had our best turnout ever! The clouds cleared just in time for the first burgers to come off the grill, the band to start playing and the activities to begin!

The eighth graders and their advisors hosted a wide range of fun activities including frisbee golf, cupcake and pumpkin decorating, tattoos, face painting, a bounce house, bake sale and more. The fabulous music of Bone Dry, sponsored through the generosity of the UPA, energized the crowd.

It was wonderful to see so many alumni and their families return to catch up with old friends and to visit the school. For our most recent alums, it was also a chance to visit with their former Unquowa teachers and to share tales of high school and college. Alumni this year enjoyed the added bonus of touring the school's new dining room. The "oohs" and "aahs" as they walked into the gym and saw the sunlight pouring in through the bay windows and the glass wall were a wonderful testimony to the impact of last summer's renovation.

A special thank you to our own Chef David, Chef Jessica and their team for the delicious farm-to-fork BBQ and to Doug McCabe and his facilities crew for the beautiful set-up!

*Kate Haviland  
Director of Development & Alumni Affairs*







## 2014 Annual Fund

*Every Year,  
Everyone,  
Any Amount!*

We're off to another strong start!

Just a few days after launching the 2014 Annual Fund, two classes reached 100% parent participation! Our goal is to have 100% participation from all our parents by June 30th.

Gifts to the Annual Fund go directly to the school's operating budget. A strong Annual Fund allows Sharon and the school to direct the support where it is most needed each year - programming, financial aid, classroom materials, curriculum, technology and other initiatives.

Annual Fund gifts from the Unquowa community of families, alumni, grandparents and friends have a tremendous impact on the school day of each young student. Many of you give every year and we are so grateful! If you haven't yet made a gift to this year's fund, please join us now!

Remember, no gift is too small! Simply return the enclosed envelope or give online at [www.unquowa.org/annual-giving](http://www.unquowa.org/annual-giving). Thank you!

**Michelle Adams**  
**2014 Annual Fund Chair**

*View the 2013-2014  
Annual Report  
at [www.unquowa.org](http://www.unquowa.org)*

## Mindfulness in the Classroom

### Let's Be Grateful for Water

Sitting in their classroom and listening to the relaxing music in the background, fifth graders enjoyed a mindful moment by reflecting on and expressing gratitude for water. *Let's be grateful for water. Let's be grateful for all the major bodies of water in the world. Let's try visualizing some of them one by one. Let's be grateful for the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Let's be grateful for the Great Lakes: Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, Lake Michigan, Lake Erie, and Lake Superior. Let's be grateful for the Gulf of Mexico. Let's be grateful for the longest rivers in the United States: Missouri River and Mississippi River and their tributaries. Let's be grateful for the Long Island Sound. Let's be grateful for the Connecticut River System.* This mindfulness activity served as an introduction to a geography lesson on bodies of water in social studies, and students were very receptive!

*Iman Rasti, Fifth Grade Teacher*

### Are You Afraid of ...?

As Halloween approached, we led our kindergartners in some fear based writing activities. Using a mindful approach, we pictured our fears as bats — terribly frightening when encountered face-to-face but quick to fly away.

First, we talked about fictional fears like vampires and zombies but later delved into real fears such as being teased or not having friends. When we shared these, we realized that we all have similar fears. We read a story about nightmares in our closet and then wrote about our own. When we were done we hung them in the closet and slammed the door! We also read about a boy who leaves letters for the monster who lives under his

bed and actually becomes his friend. We created our own monsters and practiced using descriptive words to write letters to them.

For our culminating activity we wrote about and drew a fear that we knew was not real. Then we took our papers and shouted at them "I am not afraid of you! You are not real!" We tore the papers up and threw them in the air. By voicing and writing down our fears we acknowledged them and maybe let go of a few.



*Faith Barbuto, Kindergarten Teacher*

*Samson Egilman, Kindergarten Teaching Assistant*

## Mindfulness Program Update



JoAn is pictured with Jon Kabat-Zin, founder of Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, at the fall symposium in Boston.

This past summer, I was lucky enough to attend the level two training in Mindful Education through the Omega Institute in Costa Rica, supported by Unquowa's Virginia Birdsall Grant. The training furthered my expertise in developing strategies to cultivate the inner lives of students, teachers and schools by integrating social and emotional learning with contemplative practice.

This fall, as Unquowa's Director of Academic and Social-Emotional Learning, I attended the Mind and Life Symposium in Boston, where His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama was the keynote speaker. The event brought together scientists, scholars, artists and contemplatives to explore neuroscience, clinical science, philosophy, humanities, education, economics and the arts. Presentations from these distinct, though overlapping fields of research and scholarship, focused on advancing our understanding of the human mind and examined how training the mind through contemplative practices may lead to valuable insights that reduce suffering, enhance health and cognitive/emotional functioning and increase social harmony. I look forward to sharing what I learned with my colleagues as we work together to build our mindfulness program.

*JoAn Sabatini*  
*Director of Academic and Social-Emotional Learning*



## Thanksgiving Banquet

Before Thanksgiving break, the whole school came together to celebrate with a delicious feast prepared by Chef David and his team. In keeping with tradition, our eighth graders were our hosts and were responsible for designing a seating arrangement that gave every table a mix of Lower and Upper School students and then for setting and decorating the beautiful tables with place cards made by every grade. Lower School students arrived at the banquet dressed as Pilgrims and Native Americans. Once everyone was seated, a group of students offered traditional blessings from around the world in a dozen different languages spoken by their families and/or ancestors. Our eighth grade hosts played the role of servers, making sure that every table had as much turkey and sides as we could eat. A big thank you to the chefs who outdid themselves with the feast this year!



## Annual Food Drive to Benefit the Mercy Learning Center

After our Thanksgiving feast, kindergarten and fourth grade students set to work on the exciting task of loading Mr. Doug's truck with all the food generously donated by Unquowa families to the annual food drive for the Mercy Learning Center in Bridgeport. Fourth graders also contributed handmade hats and scarves that they spent several months knitting.

After unloading the donations at Mercy, students toured the center to learn more about how the programs there educate mothers and help improve their lives and the lives of their children. It was a wonderful way to start the season of giving and gave everyone a moment to reflect on all we have to be thankful for.

*Faith Barbuto, Kindergarten Teacher*  
*Pat Bruno, Fourth Grade Teacher*



## Art & Graphic Design

### A Study of Sunrises and Sunsets at Local Art Gallery



PreK-3 students met and viewed the work of local artist Victoria Skomal Wilchinsky who specializes in recreating sunsets and sunrises in pastel. The timing was perfect, as the class had just finished studying “The Scream” by Edvard Munch and had paid particular attention to the oranges, yellows and blues. They also viewed a sunrise and a sunset with their family and reported back on the colors they observed on the horizon. Each of the three-year olds then could identify when Edvard must have done his painting.

As the children entered the gallery showcasing Victoria’s work, smiles appeared on their faces and you knew that they recognized the beauty of her sunsets. Yes, children of this age truly can appreciate the artwork of others. The artist gave a private lesson on pastels and showed the kids how she blends the colors. Another memory created at Unquowa that I hope lasts a lifetime.

*Janice Shannon, PreK-3 Teacher*

### Experimenting with Ukiyo-e

Every Lower School art lesson begins with art history. Recently the first graders learned about Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849), a Japanese painter and print maker from the Edo Period. He is most famous for his series of prints called “Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji” produced during the period 1826-1833. One of these views, “The Great Wave Off Kanagawa,” has become a modern-day icon that many of the students recognized. After studying his work, we talked about his technique, ukiyo-e, or Japanese wood block printing. Ukiyo-e are created by carving an image onto a woodblock, covering the surface of the block with paint and then pressing the block on to a piece of paper. Students designed and carved their own beautiful prints, using foam board, and were delighted to see the results.

*Alice Desgranges, Lower School Art Teacher*



### Students iPod Themselves in Graphic Design



Eleven years ago, Apple introduced its iconic iPod ad campaign with loud upbeat music and dark silhouettes dancing on a solid neon background. Today it’s hard to remember how cutting-edge having “1000 songs in your pocket” really was. Our sixth graders have never experienced a world without iPods, and their familiarity with the ads is mostly from seeing previous sixth grade classes do “the iPod project.” Happily for us, this year Apple brought the campaign back with the release of their new iPhone. So sixth graders began the year in graphic design by learning how to transform images of themselves into silhouettes reminiscent of the original iPod ads. They took their pictures in creative action poses, and then carefully cut out the images in Photoshop and removed the color and contrast to create a silhouette. They then decided whether they would be standing, flying, or upside down! They added shadows using the gradient tool and picked a funny or descriptive word to accompany their image. Finally, accessories were added to complete the pictures.

*Krissy Ponden, Upper School Art Teacher*

### Unquowa Students Exhibit Artwork at Fairfield Audubon Center



Unquowa students were invited to exhibit artwork as a part of the Audubon’s annual *Birds and Their Habitat* show. Twenty-six students from second through eighth grade currently have their bird drawings, paintings and sculptures displayed alongside renowned botanical and wildlife artists at the museum. The Audubon thanked these students with a special reception for the artists and their families.

The artwork will be on display for a limited time, and we will mount the exhibition again here at school for the entire Unquowa community to enjoy after the Audubon’s show closes.

*Krissy Ponden, Upper School Art Teacher*



## From the UPA

The Unquowa Parents Association is focused on connecting parents to the broader Unquowa community through activities that bring together students, faculty and the administration. We're excited by the enthusiasm and involvement already apparent from both veteran and new parents. We appreciate all of your support and look forward to seeing you at our meetings, typically on the first Wednesday of every month immediately following assembly. Please check the dashboard calendar.

As the students have settled in, the UPA has been in full gear with a variety of activities. Our New Parent Committee helped to provide a warm welcome to our many new families in September. The Community Service Committee coordinated a successful coat and food drive to provide warm coats and food to families at the Mercy Learning Center in Bridgeport. And, once again, the kids' socials that we sponsored rocked! Fourth and fifth graders enjoyed a hip hop workshop in the gym, while the sixth through eighth graders had a blast zip lining at the Discovery Museum Adventure Park. The Teacher Appreciation Breakfast enabled us to support our kids by honoring all of their wonderful and devoted teachers. And many of us joined the Unquowa Book Fair at Barnes & Noble, where Mrs. Kirk led the Junior Choir in a brief performance. Most recently, our young athletes and parents celebrated their fall season and enjoyed yummy treats at the Fall Athletic Dessert.

For the parents, the annual Wine Tasting was a treat with over a hundred of us enjoying a wonderful selection of wines along with tasty food from our chefs and Garelick & Herb. Next is the **Celebrate Unquowa Gala** which promises to be another fabulous evening with a Kentucky Derby theme. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 2** at the Fairfield Museum and History Center. This is the UPA's largest fundraiser of the year and raises the majority of the funds we use to provide social events and enrichment programs for the students throughout the year, including all those listed above. We hope to see everyone there!

None of these events would be possible without the tireless work of our many parent volunteers. Thank you all for your help! There are many opportunities throughout the year to become involved. Whether you are interested in volunteering for a one-time event or an ongoing project, it's not too late to sign up and we would love to have you!

*Jenn Dooher and Tracy Stuart, UPA Co-Presidents*



## Chromebooks Are Everywhere!

### Five Reasons We Love Our Chromebooks

Our newly elected Upper School Student Reps told us what they think about Unquowa's new 1:1 Google Chromebook Initiative:

*"My Chromebook makes it so much easier to communicate with my teachers."*

*"Everyone can work at their own pace."*

*"Chromecast makes it easy to put my projects up on the screen to share with my classmates."*

*"They really open up class discussion!"*

*"So nice to have everything in one place! I love the organization of Google drive."*



## Sports Update

### Gators Take to the Field in Record Numbers



This year's fall sports season was one of our most exciting ever! We were able to field a total of six teams - two all girls' soccer teams, two all boys' soccer teams, a JV soccer team and a field hockey team - our largest number of teams in one season!

Our **Green and White girls'** squads were made up of a group of experienced eighth graders, some new and eager fifth grade girls and a talented sixth and seventh grade base. It was such a pleasure to witness their outstanding play and teamwork in every game. The **Green and White boys'** teams played our most exciting games of the year. The eighth grade boys are a talented bunch, but it is good to know we have such strong fifth, sixth and seventh graders

ready to fill some mighty big shoes next fall. The **JV squad** was made up of 27 third and fourth graders, which was almost every student in those classes! They brought high energy and enthusiasm to every game.

The **field hockey team** was a determined and competitive group who we could always count on to give their best effort in every game until the final whistle.

Finally, thank you to all of our fans for rooting us on at our home and away games. Go Gators!

*Coach Al Boccamazzo, Athletics Director*



## Alum Happy Hour



The day after Thanksgiving, Unquowa hosted a Happy Hour gathering for alumni at the Old Post Tavern in Fairfield. It was a wonderful chance for alums to reconnect with each other and with some of their former Unquowa teachers. Finding themselves and classmates in a collection of the school's old photo albums and yearbooks sparked lots of memories and led to the sharing of many Unquowa stories.

Stay tuned for news of the next Unquowa alumni event!



## Keep in touch!

*Alums, please share your updates!*

*Kate Haviland*

*[kate.haviland@unquowa.org](mailto:kate.haviland@unquowa.org)*

 Find us on  
Facebook

 LinkedIn



## Alumni News



Pat Bruno, our fourth grade teacher, was thrilled to spend time this summer with her daughter, **Elizabeth '99**, and her new grandson, Carson. The new parents live in London where Liz is a veterinarian on a year-long maternity leave. Congratulations!



**Max Martone '09** and UCONN's men's Tae Kwan Do team recently competed in a tournament at Cornell. Max unleashed "the unafraid spirit" he developed at Unquowa and led the UCONN team to a second place finish (sparring), third place (individual forms) and the overall Division II victory. This was a first for UCONN!



**Christopher Taylor '11** met with our eighth graders as part of the admissions group visiting from St. Joseph's High School. This is Chris's final year at St. Joe's and their football team will certainly miss him when he heads off to college next year.



**Alex Burdo '11** is currently a senior at Hopkins and is deep in his college search. He still manages to find time in his busy schedule to pursue his passion, bird watching. Some of his stunning photographs of birds were recently on display at the Audubon's annual *Birds and Their Habitat* show.



**Spencer Solaz '13** visited Unquowa this fall before heading off to his sophomore year at the Stratton Mountain School. Spencer balances academics and an intensive ski training program at SMS.



**Jackson Stalowir '13**, a freshman on Easton's Joel Barlow varsity soccer team, was named Most Valuable Player in the SWC boys soccer championship. The team shut out Bethel 1-0 in the final game. Prior to that, Jackson notched 3 shutouts in as many playoff games. What an amazing start to his high school soccer career!



Having decided to take a year to travel before enrolling at the University of Vermont, **Mackenzie Murray '10** is spending three months in Central America. She is hiking, doing a variety of community service projects and living with local families in Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. Continuing the Spanish studies she began at Unquowa and followed through high school, Mackenzie hopes to return from this adventure truly fluent. Buen viaje, Mackenzie!

The following is a poem she posted online during her first week in Nicaragua.

*Why do we trek?  
We trek because we can step into  
someone else's shoes.  
We can lose ourselves, then find  
ourselves.  
We can walk with las vacas, our only  
companions on the vast, verde sheets of  
montanas.  
Because nothing replaces the sweaty  
sensation of a steep incline.  
Because by car, we pass it all too quickly.  
Because we take mobility for granted.  
Because the vistas are more beautiful  
when you've hiked up their neighbors.  
We trek because we can experience hot,  
sticky air, cool mountain breeze, and  
thundering lluvia, all in the same day.  
Because water has a special flavor for  
those who sweat for it.  
Because the clay caked to our shoes  
clings for a reason.  
To see how far we can push ourselves.  
We trek to be one with our world,  
which we so often forget to appreciate.*



# THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

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

## Eighth Grade Speaker Series



about. Eighth graders spend time planning, composing, editing, and revising their written speeches; developing a visual component; and practicing their public speaking skills while preparing to deliver their speeches. It is a challenging process with great rewards.

*Michelle Lamb, Upper School English Teacher  
Alice Lloyd, PEL Intern*

Eighth graders have eagerly begun delivering speeches at our all-school Wednesday assemblies this fall, beginning our Eighth Grade Speaker Series. Students choose their own topic, making each speech a sort of personal statement. Some focus on favorite hobbies or sports, others on memorable trips or a particular interest. The common thread is that every speech addresses a topic the student is passionate

## Take-A-Look

Visit and tour while classes are in session:

**Tuesday, January 13**

**Thursday, January 15**

**Thursday, January 22**

**Thursday, February 5**

**Thursday, February 12**

**Thursday, February 19**

**Thursday, March 5**

**9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**

*Sign up online:  
[www.unquowa.org](http://www.unquowa.org)*

*or contact:*

*Holly Tortora,  
Admissions Director  
[holly.tortora@unquowa.org](mailto:holly.tortora@unquowa.org)*

**203-367-3151**