Spring 2014

A Publishing Tradition of The Unquowa School

## A Message From the Head of School

About U.S.

Summers at Unquowa are almost as busy as the school year in their own way. Camps and clinics usually begin a week after school closes and hundreds of children from Unquowa and the larger community spend their summer days with us. This summer will be different, however. The day after closing ceremonies and graduation, our school will come alive with the exciting sounds of

our dining project renovations, but the bittersweet adjustment we must make, as a small school undergoing a major building project, is that there will be no camps.

It is usually in early fall that I give a rundown of what summer at Unquowa was like, but as we plan this summer's work and the changes it will require, I find myself thinking about how strange it will truly be to spend a "campless" summer.

Certainly, Basketball Clinic, a one-week tradition in the first week of summer, will be missed. Believe it or not, the incessant bouncing of basketballs is a kind of "music to my ears" and watching boys and girls hone their skills off-season is a true delight. The best part of day one, of course, is the unveiling of that year's t-shirt with logos like "fear the gator." Basketball Clinic, along with other year to year clinics like yoga and musical theatre will be missed. summer.

But strangest of all is the notion that we will be without Farm Camp this summer. For seven summers, kids from all over Fairfield County have enthusiastically piled onto the bus in front of our school each morning to plant and pick at Sport Hill Farm just up the road. They come back tired and satisfied at noon to have lunch, cook a

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Fifth graders Lola and Alexandra plant Easter Egg radishes in our school's gardens on Earth Day.

few things from the morning's harvest, study related science and make art. A summer without that will be as strange for us as it will be for farmer Patti Popp. I will especially miss hearing the "Sweet Peas," our youngest farm campers, laughing and working in the curricular gardens outside my window and watching them lovingly water a row of peas or pull a carrot from a bed with amazement. Perhaps, most of all, hearing the announcement over the loudspeaker on summer Friday afternoons inviting all of the adults in the school to Farm Camp's communal lunch, cooked from the week's harvest, will be missed.

Don't get me wrong. This one summer hiatus traded for the incredible improvement in our community's dining room and kitchen it will bring to our school is certainly worth the sacrifice. These new facilities will benefit our school year round. In the meantime, we will just have to keep — amidst the

It will also be strange not to host Chamber Music Central's Summer Music Festival this summer for the first time in many years. The melodic strains of trios and quartets practicing classical pieces all over the building, and the gleeful chirping of Sebastian — resident goldfinch of CMC Founder (and grandmother of Charlie McGlinsky, class of '08) Millette Alexander — are a natural part of our summer soundscape. Most of all, sitting in on master classes where gifted students perform pieces they have been honing and seasoned teachers give subtle advice to make those performances pop is something that many of us look forward to witnessing each excitement of pounding and painting and plumbing — the usual things that make Unquowa summers so special on hold for the moment.

Never fear, though. Our curricular gardens are being planted and cared for by Mrs. Curran and her students this spring. They will be watered and weeded all summer, and will be ready to support the first meal of fall in our new dining room. Stop by to check on both the growing gardens and the evolving dining project when you're in the neighborhood, and watch for updates on our website as work progresses.

## **Trimester II Honor Roll**

#### **Unquowa Honors**

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

#### Grade 5

#### Grade 7

**Rachel Albenze** 

James Blasius

**Benjamin Chapin** 

Siddharth Sunder

Akash Jyothish

Gianna Pinto

Grade 8

Claire Abate

Elysse Cadoux

Conner Calzone Maria Katsetos

Olivia Seymour

Alexander Stein

Alexandra Starovoitov

Ryan Cawley Daniel DeGirolomo William Geary Aaron Gruen Alexandra Halas William Hansen Sophia Mughal Lola Panagos Drew Slager Carrie Smith Ella Stalowir

#### Grade 6

Lucille Panagos Ava Vinton

#### Honors

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

#### Grade 5

Thomas Brennan Lisi Chapin Remington Cheffer Adam Jehle Ethan Klein Naia Kocsi Stephen Daniel Mezei Abigail Nevins Patrick Phelan Grace Rosow Maya Rubino

#### Grade 6

Paul Blanco Chloe Coseglia Anne Marie Dooher Sophia Fitzsimonds Tess Haskel Carolyn Kokias Jack Long Dylan McCormick Annie McNeela Ryan Moss Jessica Price Karli Vare Maxwell Victor Miriana Wasserman Charlotte Yin

#### Grade 7

Nora Brennan Hannah Calzone Mary Crooks Alexandra Deutsch Walter Erenhouse Olivia Hughes Hailey Hughes Quinn Mullineaux Riley Pengue Carson Solaz

#### Grade 8

Sara Adriani Devin Blanchette Elizabeth Halas Kyra Inston Maeve Kelly Ayana Klein Alexander Morse Delaney Murray Madelaine Register Jackson Stalowir Jared Sullivan Daniel Wisdom

## **Spring Break in the Everglades**

A group of Upper School students spent their spring break on a fastpaced expedition to Florida in search of the school's mascot and other indigenous life forms. My eleven brave companions and I began the exploration with a hike in the Everglades river basin. The adventure didn't stop there. We snorkeled John Pennycamp Underwater State Park, kayaked and raced in mangroves, visited turtle and bird rescue farms and swam with dolphins.



Each day began early and finished with downtime at the hotel pool. Mid-week we went to Key West, the southernmost point in the U.S. to experience the carnival atmosphere of sunset in Mallory Square. We returned to the Everglades for air boat rides, a gator show, trolley tram tours and some holding of reptiles, both exotic and endangered. The last stop on the trip was a visit to a working herb farm and a trip to the beach to enjoy the 80° temperatures.

Craig Knebel, Upper School Science Teacher

### In Charge for a Day





Head for a Day and Chef for a Day are two examples of auction items that will be available again at this year's UPA Gala.

Last year's winners were Charlotte Yin who was Head for a Day and Tess Haskel, Chef for a Day. Charlotte began her day on the stage at Assembly and ended the day with the announcement of a "Crazy Hat Day" where students donating a non-perishable food item could wear a crazy hat all day! Tess spent a day this spring with Chefs David and Jessica. Chef Tess's lunch menu, focaccia bread and wagon wheel pasta, was a big hit!

## **Alumna Makes Powerful Case for Performing Arts**



The lights grow dim and the curtain slowly rises. Your child has been standing behind that curtain with his/her friends waiting, eager to begin. Your child's stomach is fluttery with nerves and excitement. But she knows her lines, her moves. They have rehearsed and rehearsed and in the process of creation, this group of kids has become a team: a team of players, and/or singers, kids who are doing lighting, and stage management. All of them focused on this production.

When it's over they will be bursting with pride. And you, their parents, grandparents, and supportive alums will clap and cheer in awe of what these young people have accomplished. You never dreamt your grandson or granddaughter could achieve such heights of performance.

What is less obvious is what is going on for those children beneath the roles and the playing. A few of them may become theater professionals; most will not. All of them will learn how to become stand up citizens, unafraid to speak their minds in public. They have stepped up on a stage; they will step up again in their communities or at their employment whenever necessary.

In playing parts, your children are required to "wear another's moccasins." Your child, assisted by a drama teacher, must understand the motivation of her character. This process develops empathy—a priceless life skill that negotiators and top management people—as well as good marriage partners — must have.

Poise, presence, confidence and a capacity for empathy are being nurtured as your child or grandchild plays on stage. As parents, you may witness this subtle evolution in your child or you may never see how it shows up, but your child absolutely will over the years of his/her life. A new stage at Unquowa is the necessary and perfect addition to our students' adventure in education. Please help make it happen!

#### Cecily Stoddard Stranahan '47

To learn how to make your 3-year campaign pledge and to watch our progress, please visit www.unquowa.org/the-campaign. For additional information contact Kate Haviland in the Development Office at 203-336-9091 or kate.haviland@unquowa.org



#### Ski Club



Fifth through eighth grade Ski Club members took advantage of amazing conditions with three trips to Ski Sundown this season.

All three trips were filled this year, so we plan to add a fourth next year. Thank you to all our faculty who volunteered as chaperones.

## Where in the World?



The first round of the 2014 National Geographic Geography Bee took place on January 13th in the library. Classroom winners in grades five through eight competed to become the school champion. After several rounds of intense questioning, fifth grader Sophia Mughal took third place, seventh grader Siddharth Sunder was second and fellow seventh grader Akash Jyothish was our champion.

For the fourth consecutive year, Akash went on to take and score in the top 100 of the qualifying test for the state competition which was held on April 4th at Central Connecticut State University. He made it to the final round and finished in fifth place out of 100 competitors. Way to go, Akash!

## **Collection Fair**



This year's Collection Fair included student and faculty collections of coins, dolls, hair accessories, trading cards, Beatles' memorabilia, rocks & minerals and more. The Fair was organized by third graders, Blake Erenhouse and Zach Mughal and set up in the gym for all to enjoy after assembly. Thank you to all who participated.

## Museum Collaboration Update Connecticut Audubon Society

In early March, first graders traveled to the Fairfield Audubon Center to search for signs of spring. With clipboards and magnifying glasses in hand, the class braved the cold weather and slippery trails looking for clues. Even though the temperature and snow looked very much like winter, students spotted some budding trees, sprouting skunk cabbage and various birds collecting supplies for their spring nests. The class also planted some sunflower seeds and built their own bird nests using mud, pine needles, sticks and scraps of yarn. Spring is on its way!



Third graders also recently visited the Fairfield Audubon Center to investigate birds that



winter in Connecticut. First, students learned about field marking by pairing up to note some distinguishing "field marks" of fellow classmates. Students then practiced the proper way to use binoculars before taking a quiet moment in front of the fully stocked bird feeders. Using field guides to decipher the markings, they were able to identify which species were spotted. The visit concluded with a bird-watching hike through the outdoor trails where we stopped often to watch and listen for feathered friends.

#### Maureen Becker, Grade 1 Teacher Carlene Gordon, Grade 3 Teacher

#### **Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum**



As part of our ongoing collaboration with the Aldrich in Ridgefield, eighth grade students have been training to become docents for their peers. In the fall, students in 8A trained in a series of four sessions to learn how to ask open-ended questions designed specifically to elicit thoughtful conversation about the art. Their training culminated with a sixth, seventh, and eighth grade visit to the museum where the Unquowa docents led small group tours of the exhibits. This spring students in 8B are training to be docents and will lead tours for the fourth and fifth graders.

The Aldrich does not have a permanent collection which makes it the perfect destination for our students, who can visit multiple years in a row and

view completely different contemporary artists and styles during each trip. We have expanded our partnership to also include a writing component, which exposes the students to collecting ideas and inspiration directly from the galleries and rounds out the museum experience.

The museum's small size provides a sense of familiarity, and its thought-provoking exhibitions afford a richness of dialogue that connects students to the contemporary art world in a real and meaningful way. We are thrilled to be continuing this important curricular aspect of our art program and planting the seeds for life-long aesthetic appreciation.

#### Krissy Ponden, Art Teacher

#### **Fairfield Museum and History Center**

This is the fifth year of our collaborative project, Our Nation's Generations, with the Fairfield Museum and History Center. This year's project focuses on what objects can teach us about the history of a place or person. Students recently visited the exhibit at the Fairfield Museum which focuses on Fairfield's history using objects to tell the story. In the coming weeks, the eighth grade students will be choosing their own object and telling a story, through free verse, from the object's perspective. Students will then photograph their objects and create a display for their poem and photo. These will become an exhibit at the History Center, and we are hoping to have them on display in time for the Annual UPA Gala and Auction on May 3.

Debbie Leidlein, Upper School History Teacher



## Unquowa Mathematicians Are Everywhere! Pi Day

Unquowa students, wearing circles, polka dots or pi T-shirts, celebrated Pi Day on March 13th, one day before the official 3.14 date. For the younger students, bubbles, pattern matching and compass designs provided the circles for the day. Fifth



graders created pi code bracelets, while sixth graders competed to see who could memorize more digits of pi. By measuring the radius and circumference of a variety of circular objects, seventh graders endeavored to verify the relationship "circumference divided by diameter = pi."



Eighth graders used the internet to discover answers to pi trivia questions.

The activities for each grade were enthusiastically presented by Ayana, Elizabeth, Olivia, Sasha, Clara, Conner, Patrick, Carson, Christopher, Ben, Akash, Quinn, Walter and Siddharth. They did an outstanding job of presenting a fun-filled day.

#### Mathcounts

After months of preparation, ten of our very talented students assembled at Fairfield University for their one opportunity to compete against other local teams at the Mathcounts Chapter competition. MATHCOUNTS is a national enrichment club and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement by providing creative problems that promote critical thinking skills. At Unquowa, Mathcounts has been a part of the mathematics curriculum since 1991.

After participating in two individual events and one team event, the Unquowa team surpassed sixteen other teams to finish 10th. Unquowa was one of the smallest schools competing, and most of the other teams are from large public middle schools. Seventh-grader



Ben ranked 30th out of 180 students and qualified to advance to the state competition as an individual.

It is a pleasure to work with these talented and enthusiastic students and they did an outstanding job of representing Unquowa. The seventh graders are already discussing how to improve their performance next year.

Lisa Haseltine, Upper School Math Teacher

## **Can You See Color Without Light?**

What is a chemical reaction? How are viruses spread? If you attended The Unquowa School 2014 Science Fair you already know the answers to these scientific questions and many more! The fourth through sixth graders worked carefully over the past several weeks researching a topic of their choice to answer a big question and find support for their hypothesis. The end product was a well-written lab report, a bold, creative



trifold poster and an interesting model or demonstration.

Fellow students and adult visitors alike were impressed with the in depth knowledge, confidence and poise demonstrated by every participant and everyone



who attended said they learned something new from Unquowa's young scientists.

Carlene Gordon, Grade 4 Science Teacher; Mary Faulkner, Grade 5 Science Teacher; Craig Knebel, Upper School Science Teacher

## **Unquowa's Beach Library is Full of Activity**



March is a short but busy month at Unquowa, especially in the Library! In celebration of his birthday, kindergarteners, first, sixth and seventh graders gathered in the library to honor the literary works of Dr. Seuss. The day's activities included a short biography clip about the author, trivia questions,

silly hats and shared reading of Dr. Seuss books among Upper and Lower School students. The older kids were excited to re-visit some classic favorites and the younger children were eager to show off their reading skills.

Lizzy Rockwell, our visitor for Author's Day, offered insights to the craft of both writing and illustrating books.

Ms. Rockwell, an author and illustrator of more than twenty-five nonfiction children's books, fielded questions from students and also gave a drawing lesson to Unquowa's Cartooning Club. Each student who attended the presentation received a signed, autographed copy of Ms. Rockwell's book *Presidents' Day.* The Unquowa School Library has many of Ms. Rockwell's books in its collection and two more titles, *Good Enough to Eat* and *St. Patrick's Day,* have been added as part of the visit.



## **Unquowa Chefs Intern at Chez Panisse**



A forty-year old wisteria in full bloom covers the entrance of Chez Panisse in Berkeley, CA. When you walk through it you know you've stepped into a special place, Alice Waters's "house." The restaurant remains at the forefront of the "farm to table" movement, as a pillar of the local, seasonal and sustainable approach to cooking. For us, interning there during spring break was a once in a lifetime event.

As interns, we were welcomed as part of the kitchen team for the week. Every day before dinner service, we sat with the team to discuss the menu and collaborate on procedural ideas and options to highlight peak seasonal produce, just in from the farm. After prepping for dinner, we'd move back to the butchering room to break down an assortment of meat from local producers including whole lambs, chickens, pork and seafood, often a task left only to the most skilled chef in the restaurant. Halfway through dinner service we joined the team at a set table, to dine on the evening's menu. This is a rarity in the

restaurant world, as most "family meals," are usually leftovers thrown together. Sitting down to eat together and discuss the highlights of the meal, as we do after lunch at Unquowa, always gives us the chance to reflect on technique and continue to develop our craft.

At the end of the day, after walking out past the wisteria, we were most struck by how similar the values of Chez Panisse are to those of Unquowa's Farm to Fork program. Working at the restaurant among welcoming, talented chefs reinvigorated a passion for both our craft and the mission of the school.

We look forward to continue bringing this passion to the kitchen where we encourage kids to try new foods, and remain excited to create new and varying dishes for the whole school. Additionally, this experience drives us to keep sourcing our ingredients as locally as possible in order to support the community and wonderful farms and purveyors in our area. Ultimately, we are committed to keeping Alice Waters's philosophy alive and well, thousands of miles away, to inspire a whole new generation of advocates and eaters.

Chefs Dave Brann & Jessica Wood

# Eighth graders celebrated the countdown of 100 days to graduation with a surprise pizza lunch and cake.



## **Developing a Unique Writing Style in Upper School**

I always tell students that their writing style is like their fingerprint; no one has the same one. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students are using their personal touches to produce exciting writing this spring.

The eighth grade recently completed a collaborative writing assignment in which they composed vignettes about underage soldiers either leaving their family to fight for the Confederacy or Union in The Civil War or realizing the harsh reality of the war after enlisting. The scenes involved developing historically accurate characters, detailed and dramatic writing and using facts from Jim Murphy's non-fiction book, *The Boys' War.* Southern dialect, historical references and some creative twists were used to execute these scenes. It was an enjoyable and challenging writing and acting experience!

After reading two historical fiction novels, Out of the Dust by Karen



Hesse and *For Freedom* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, seventh grade students are writing their own fictional pieces inspired by a time in history. Students have selected a wide range of topics that include The Hundred Years' War, The Battle of Iwo Jima, The Challenger, 9/11 and the war against terrorism. Students researched, planned and began composing their stories, and they are already looking fantastic! Ask your seventh grade students about their stories.

The sixth graders used themselves as inspiration for their writing and are putting the finishing touches on their memoir drafts. These pieces wrap up our descriptive writing unit. Students learned to make careful word choices including specific nouns, strong verbs and descriptive adjectives in their writing. They also learned to use figurative language and imagery to enhance their pieces. In choosing topics for their memoirs, they were guided to choose something specific; they would be writing about a grain of sand, not the whole beach. They brainstormed, developed a main idea and chose a hook technique to begin. These pieces demonstrate snapshots of our students' lives.

Michelle Lamb, Upper School English Teacher

## **Preparing for Our Spring Musical**

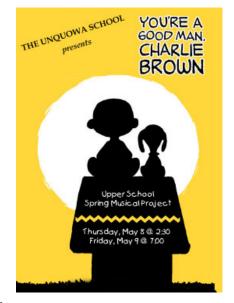


Above: Northeast Children's Theatre Company performing *A Year with Frog and Toad.* Below: The Duke's Men of Yale working with Upper School students.



The sixth through eighth grade choral and drama students are excited to perform *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* later this spring — the school's first spring musical show in years!

Students began rehearsals after winter break and Mrs. Kirk organized two enrichment workshops to enhance their studies of performance style and musical theater. The first, led by The Northeast Children's Theatre Company, focused on improv techniques and how to perform for different age audiences, especially children. The visiting actors also performed *A Year with Frog and Toad* for the whole school. Everyone was



impressed to see the six actors bring the show to life with only a piano and very minimal sets.

The second workshop involved singing with a visiting acapella group, The Duke's Men of Yale. Choral students sang with The Duke's Men and learned how to use their voices for percussion. After the workshop, the group put on an entertaining show for the whole school. Their strong, acoustic sound was remarkable and filled the gym! These lessons will definitely pay off come May — mark your calendars for our show, Thursday, May 8 at 2:30 p.m. and Friday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m.

#### Megan Kirk, Performing Arts Teacher

## Earth Day-A Day of Environmental Study & Campus Work







The Unquowa School community celebrated Earth Day on a very sunny but unseasonably chilly April 17th. Both Lower and Upper School students spent the morning rotating through a series of three programs all led by a different presenter. Younger students learned about bird migration, met a broad-winged hawk, Bella, and decorated their own bird wings with our friends at the Audubon. They also made "snow" with the chemists



from Sacred Heart University and investigated different biomes with the presenter from High Touch-High Tech. Environmental problem solving with the group from Earth Place, testing water from Horse Tavern Brook with the Kellogg Environmental Center and making models of wetlands in recycled bottles with a specialist from the Audubon Center reinforced our older students' environmental knowledge.

Morning programs were followed by older students pairing with younger buddies for a delicious picnic lunch. The whole school picnicked in the gym before going outside for recess. Lower School students enjoyed the film *Happy Feet* while the students in Upper School divided up by grade for campus work and related activities. Fifth graders worked on the grounds to restore the trail along the Horse Tavern Brook and mulched the gardens, sixth graders created environmental art with Mrs. Ponden, seventh graders hunted and removed invasive species from the grounds with Mr. Knebel and the eighth graders worked with Mrs. Lamb to write persuasive poetry after watching *The Lorax* for inspiration.

This all-day event closed with an all-school assembly including musical performances and one of our eighth grade speeches delivered by Patrick Watson entitled "Fishing for the Mind." Thank you faculty, staff, parent volunteers and students for helping make Earth Day 2014 a success!

#### Mary Curran, Environmental Science Teacher

## **Spring Sports Update**

Our spring season has started with strong results. Our teams are made up of many seasoned veterans with a large group of first time participants mixed in. It has been such a pleasure watching all of our older players helping and encouraging our first time participants.



The girls' lacrosse team is a well disciplined and determined group who have played nail biters against the best the Fairchester League has to offer.

The boys' lacrosse team is a strong and competitive bunch who have been successful against a difficult schedule which includes a 7-5 victory at home over local rival Fairfield Country Day.

For the third straight year the cross country team has had top finishers in nearly every age group and we have more participants than ever.

As usual, we look forward to seeing all of our fans at each of the season's games and meets!

Al Boccamazzo, Athletics Director

### **Wedding Bells**



Maureen Becker, our first grade teacher, was married over spring break to Djibril Diallo! Our best wishes to the happy couple!

## From the UPA

It's hard to believe that spring is here and we are so close to the end of another school year! I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard on the many UPA sponsored activities this year. Parents volunteer in ways large and small all year long, in the classrooms and in the parent community, and we are so grateful!

Our winter athletic desserts, celebrating the success of our four basketball teams, were a hit. A special thank you to Julianne Seymour and Katia Pierre-Louis, for helping with this and so many previous desserts. Their children, Olivia and Tyh, are graduating in the spring and we'll miss their gracious support on the committee.





The UPA also sponsored a number of recent enrichment events including the Upper School workshop with The New England Theatre company and their all-school performance of "Frog and Toad" as well as Author's Day with local author and illustrator, Lizzy Rockwell.

Students in grades four through eight enjoyed the UPA's annual spring socials. The afternoon spent playing on the giant inflatable obstacle course in the gym was a big hit with the fourth and fifth grades. Upper School students had a great time with a DJ, karaoke and bonfire at their evening social.

These are just some recent examples of the support the UPA gives to the school each year. We are all excited to celebrate Unquowa and honor Sharon Lauer's first ten years as Head of

School at our upcoming **2nd Annual Kentucky Derby Gala and Auction on Saturday, May 3** and invite you to attend and support the UPA. We have lots of fantastic auction donations for both the silent and live auctions and are planning a contest for best hat! It promises to be a fun-filled evening for all! Friends and family are welcome to attend!

#### Marianna Erenhouse, UPA President

## **Brainstorm: The Power and Purpose of the Teenage Brain** A Summer Read Invitation to Unquowa Parents and Teens

An Inside-Out Guide to the Emerging

# BRAINSTORM

THE POWE<mark>R</mark> AND PURPOSE OF THE TEENAGE BRAIN

DANIEL J. SIEGEL, M.D. bestselling author of *The Whole-Brain Child* and *Parenting from the Inside Out*  Between the ages of twelve and twenty-four, the brain changes in important and, at times, challenging ways. In *Brainstorm*, the renowned psychiatrist and bestselling author of *Parenting from the Inside Out, The Whole-Brain Child*, and *Mindsight*, Daniel Siegel busts a number of commonly held myths about adolescence—for example, that it is merely a stage of "immaturity" filled with often "crazy" behavior—to reveal how it is in fact a vital time in our lives in terms of charting the course for the adults we ultimately become. According to Siegel, during adolescence we learn important skills, such as how to leave home and enter the larger world, how to connect deeply with others, and how to safely experiment and take risks, thereby creating strategies for dealing with the world's increasingly complex problems. In this groundbreaking book, Siegel offers teens and parents a road map for understanding the adolescent mind that will help families not just survive but also thrive through the "teenage years" and beyond.

Parents, we hope that you and your middle and high school children will read this book together this summer and join the Upper School faculty on Thursday, September 11th for an evening that will include both a video lecture by Dr. Siegel connected to his book's theme and follow-up discussion among parents, students and their teachers.

## Join Those Supporting the 2013 Annual Fund!

We are thrilled with the momentum of this year's Annual Fund and grateful to those who have already given. Our goal is 100% family Lisa and Fred Knopf, 2013 Annual Fund Co-Chairs participation — the deadline is June 30!

#### 2013 Annual Fund donations as of April 10, 2013

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Laura & Robert Jacob Sharon Lauer & Jerry Joseph Jennifer & Craig Knebel Lisa & Fred Knopf Rose & Simon Knott Leslie Miller & Barry Kresch JoAn Sabatini & Ronnie Magnusson Lynn & Karl Martone Sally & Bruce McDermott **Richard McKinley** Sharon & Brian Miles Linda Christiani & Louis Novitzky Amber & David O'Connell

Neil Klein .....Ethan & Ayana Klein Ellen Knepper ......Cooper & Daniel DeGirolomo Shirley & James Love ......Drew Slager Angelina & Michael Martone ...... Max Martone '09 Georgia & James Miller .....Hank Miller Margaret & John Moran .....Jared Sullivan Linda & Steven Moss ......Ryan Moss Mona Mulvey ......Katherine Viteretto '10 Brian O'Connor '49 ......Maggie Rosow Janet & Robert Poll .....Jack Blitzer Jeanne & David Rosow ...... Maggie & Grace Rosow Jacquelene & Richard Solaz ..... Carson & Spencer '13 Solaz Wendy & Radford Stone ...... Adam & Zander Jehle Lee & Byron Stookey ...... Grace '13 & Charlie '10 Haviland

Donald Ryan Jessica Ryan Marlene & Karl Schmidt Julie & Scott Seymour Lisa & Christopher Slager Gail & Matt Smith Tanya & Robert Smith Mary Jean Basileo & Dan Solaz Rebecca & Garfield Spencer Sheila Gates & Jean-Paul St. Germain Kristen & John Staikos Laura Baytos & Val Stalowir Lena & Igor Starovoitov Monika & Eric Stokes Tracy & Timothy Stuart Mary & Terrance Sullivan Subhashree & Sankar Sunder Hilary & Gregory Tanner Isabel Tapia Alice Salem & Dan Van Der Aue '84 Nancy & Allan Vare Alla & Serge Vash Rebekah & Aryn Wadadli Mary & Robert Waghorne Maureen & Scott Watson . loel Whidden Doni & Stephen Wisdom Lee & Daniel Yin

George Seeley '53 William Shelton '55 Winston Stalowir '11 Jon Richard Turner '48 Dan Van Der Aue '84 Webster Walker '45 Elinor Wilber '35 Jean Carpenter Winton '34

Vivian Perez Ruth Powell Anne Peters & Michael Proctor Elizabeth Hayes & Joe Saint Janice & Brian Shannon Madonna Sacco & Brian Smith Stephanie & Harald Stavnes Symetra Financial Harry Tompkins June & Stanley Topar United Technologies Corporation Judy Wilkinson Yasmin von Schirnding & Derek Yach

## **Alumni News**



In March **Brandon Stoddard '50** was inducted into The Television Academy Hall of Fame for his career in television production that included *Roots, Winds of War, The Thorn Birds, The Day After* and more.

In accepting the award, Brandon spoke of growing up without a television because his parents feared that "television would destroy all culture as we knew it." But in 1953 they purchased a small set for the sole purpose of watching

the McCarthy trials. Unbeknownst to them, late at night Brandon would watch more television and was "dazzled."

When he was an undergraduate at Yale in 1957, Brandon's father was an attorney defending "communists" in New Haven Federal Court and Brandon visited the trial. His father took the risk of losing the bulk of his practice in order to defend this group that Brandon recalls looking "about as scary as a knitting group." After a year, they were found innocent.

Brandon studied law at Columbia but followed a path that led him to ABC in the late 1970s. Like his father, Brandon took extraordinary risks in his career. Despite threats to his family and a lack of advertising for some of the groundbreaking programs he developed, Brandon held to his belief that television should not just entertain but enlighten and bring new ideas to the audience. "The subconscious themes of freedom and justice planted by my father that afternoon in a New Haven courtroom began to emerge" in his programs.

On behalf of the Unquowa adults who are familiar with the programs Brandon developed and the young students and alums who will, someday, watch those same shows and feel their transformational personal impact, we congratulate Brandon on this recent honor.



Brandon is pictured here on the far left in front of Mr. Cleveland with Unquowa's champion midget baseball team in 1947

#### Sibling Alums Are Grandparents of Unquowans!

Jill O'Connor Kelly '45 and Brian O'Connor '49 both attended recent Unguowa assemblies to see their



granddaughters perform. Jill came to listen to her granddaughter Maeve give her "Eighth Grade Speech" on the importance of extended family and family traditions. Brian came to hear his



granddaughter Maggie join her kindergarten classmates as they sang "The Pirate Song." How wonderful to have two generations of Unquowans here together! Lauralton Hall juniors **Morgan Hansen '11** and **Nicole Grabe '11** spent their February break with "School the World" helping to build a three-classroom school for their new friends in the Choaxan community of Guatemala. The girls report that they plan to return and help build another school next year as well as visit the students they became so attached to on this trip.



Liz Bruno-McClung '99 and her husband, Jamie, stopped by Unquowa this spring

while visiting the US from London. They are expecting their first child in July! Liz's mom, fourth grade teacher Mrs. Bruno, is looking forward to meeting her new grandson.

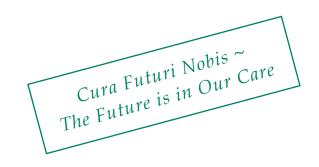


Fairfield Prep freshmen **James '13** and **Michael '13 Roland** stopped by to see their former teachers, pictured below with Mrs. Leidlein. Both are having a great year and enjoy playing on Prep's soccer team.





**THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL** 981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697



## An Early Introduction to Art Appreciation

In PreK-3, students learn about many famous artists and their work during the school year. Children are very visual and tactile at this age, so we use all their senses when talking about these artists. There are songs we sing or poems we learn to help remember each artist and sometimes there is even a snack that will remind the children of the lesson. For example, we listen to Jazz music while reproducing Jackson Pollack's style on a blank cake and dress like Andy Warhol as we cut out and count the 100 pictures of tomato soup cans. The kids always seem to remember our featured artists and I love when older students stop by the classroom and say things like, "Oh, you're studying the Mona Lisa – I remember learning about Da Vinci!"

#### Janice Shannon, PreK-3 Teacher

