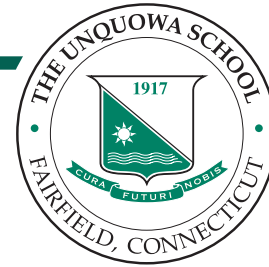


About U.S.



A Publishing Tradition
of The Unquowa School

Message from the Head of School

It is amazing how the smallest act can trigger powerful memories. A few weeks ago, on our way to Maine, my husband and I stopped to get coffee and doughnuts. There is just something childlike about eating doughnuts while driving that says, "Yee hah! Our vacation has begun." When our last doughnut was gone - number not to be disclosed - I wrung the bag tightly to keep the crumbs and sugar inside and shoved it into the pocket of my car door for tossing at the next stop. In the act of wringing, I was transported to an earlier summer moment...

This summer, The Guggenheim mounted a retrospective of the work of Louise Bourgeois, a French sculptor who has spent the last half century plus living and working in the United States. At the age of ninety-six she is still a prolific artist, and her studio in Brooklyn still serves as a magnet for younger artists who wish to show their work and be mentored by this fascinating, talented woman. In tandem with the Guggenheim show, the film *The Spider, The Mistress and The Tangerine*, a documentary by Marion Cajori and Amei Wallach about Bourgeois's life and work, was shown at a nearby New York theatre. Seeing it with a friend who was a fellow fan before we went to the Guggenheim show with her daughter and friends allowed us to spend - through the magic of film - two intimate hours with Bourgeois before seeing the collection of her work, and it added layers of meaning to the viewing for us both. Now, you ask, where does the doughnut bag come in?

Fair question. One of the magnificent aspects of the retrospective for me was to see that in over fifty to sixty years of working, Bourgeois explored and developed several images and themes over and over. Yes, her representation of them grew and intertwined. The images, however, never disappeared from her work or, as her interviews indicated, from her mind.

One such image was that of cloth being wrung dry after being dyed, an image tied to significant childhood memories and the act of which Bourgeois demonstrated in the documentary. I recalled it as I watched my own hands wring the waxed doughnut bag into the same form. The beautiful spiral that such a pedestrian act creates reappears again and again in Bourgeois'

work - from the bodies of many giant metal spiders she builds to the large, shining aluminum objects that hung in the lobby of the Guggenheim as the entrance to her show.

I first came upon Bourgeois' work in the mid-eighties, and I went to the film and exhibit out of love for it. I came away from them, however, with an unexpected gift - the reminder that creative thought and subsequent product do not dart from notion to unrelated notion. Folks who seriously explore ideas and subsequently produce valuable work from

those ideas - be they artists, scientists, or mathematicians - obsess on those ideas and return to them through related and often odd and unpredictably connected paths. In a world where more and more "content" stacks up for us to impart to children, it may seem counter-intuitive for schools to care about this observation. On the contrary, however, it is our obligation to recognize this crucial pattern that most remarkable adults exhibit and to continue to build the opportunity for practicing such habits into our curriculum from early childhood on. It is the way in which we encourage children to explore and build on the specific images, ideas and themes they are drawn to and curious about.

I welcome everyone back from a restful summer and look forward to another school year of vigorous thought, creative exploration and the meaningful work that such authentic learning produces.

Sharon Lauer



Solar birdbath and garden tiles - a gift from the Class of 2008 - are happily situated in the butterfly garden.

Graduation 2008

As you read this newsletter, members of the class of 2008 have all moved on to their respective high schools and are learning the ropes of ninth grade. Here at Unquowa, however, it feels like just a moment ago that each of them participated in this past June's commencement ceremony, from showing up in their finest clothes to be pinned with boutonnieres or handed bouquets to walking across the stage to receive their certificate of graduation from our Board Chair, Dr. Taylor.

To mark the close of our school's ninetieth anniversary, our commencement speech was given by John P. Blessington, our school's headmaster emeritus, and honorary diplomas were awarded to two esteemed alumni, Jean Winton, class of '34 and Betty Shaw, class of '30, in recognition of their tireless support of our school.

This year's students were accepted at the following schools: Center for Global Studies, Cheshire Academy, Fairfield Preparatory School, Forman School, Greens Farms Academy, Greenwich Academy, The Gunnery, Hamden Hall Country Day School, Hopkins School, King & Low-Heywood Thomas School, Notre Dame Catholic High School, Sacred Heart Academy, St. Joseph's High School, St. Luke's School, and Wooster School.

We look forward to seeing our recent graduates at Founders' Day this fall. In the meantime, we will think of them each time we pass by the school's butterfly garden, where their eighth grade gift of a solar birdbath and garden tiles with each of their names now resides.

Awards Given at our Graduation & Closing Ceremonies

William J. Grippin Award: **Sara Arthurs**

Unquowa Award: **Jason Raymond**

Board of Governors' Cup: **Douglas Brown**

Headmaster's Cup: **Charlie McGlinsky**

Robert L. Cleveland Award: **Jessica Kremer**

John P. Blessington Award: **Caitlyn Elliott**

UPA Award: **Catherine McNeela**

English Award: **Crisara Smith**

Mathematics Award: **Sara Arthurs**

Science Award: **Connor O'Brien**

Science Award: **Jason Raymond**

History Award: **Jessica Kremer**

Dr. Gerard McDonald Foreign Language Award: **Sara Arthurs**

Spanish Award: **Connor O'Brien**

Art Award: **Charlie McGlinsky, Crisara Smith**

Drama Award: **James Brogan**

Music Award: **Charlie McGlinsky, Douglas Brown**

Public Speaking Award: **Quentin Upshaw**

Computer Award: **Beau Tetreault, Quentin Upshaw**

Learning Award: **James Brogan, Jacquelyn Fritz**

Physical Education Award: **Larisa Corriette**

Physical Education Award: **Crisara Smith**

Elizabeth Curtis Award: **Caitlyn Elliott**

John F. Turlick Award: **David Novitzky**

Margaret Travers Award: **Erica Meno**

Virginia F. Birdsall Faculty Award: **Maureen Becker**



September

Wednesday, September 3

School Begins!
Back to School Coffee, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 10

Assembly, 8:45 a.m.
UPA Meeting after Assembly

Wednesday, September 17

Assembly, 8:45 a.m.
BOG Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 24

Assembly, 8:45 a.m.
Coffee with the Head after Assembly

Thursday, September 25

* Lower School (PreK-Grade 4) Back to School Night, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, September 26

Casual Day
Fall "Fun"raiser, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 30

School Holiday, Rosh Hashanah



* **New this year!** We will be having the Lower School (grades PreK - Grade 4) Back to School night on September 25. **Back to School Night for the Upper School (grades 5-8) will be on Thursday, October 2 at 6:30 p.m.**

Honor Roll

Trimester III, 2007-2008

Unquowa Honors

Jennee Blanco (5)
Deborah Leszczynski (5)
Mary Spodnick (5)
Jack Weiss (5)
Bailey Cooke (6)
Marc Thomas Greenawalt (6)
Charles Haviland (6)

Katie Kyung Jun (6)
Erica Meno (6)
Mackenzie Murray (6)
Tristan Schietinger (6)
Taylor Lopez-Balboa (7)
Nadia Makhraz (7)

Max Martone (7)
Hailey Siegel (7)
Jillian Thornton (7)
Mark Watson (7)
Vivian Zhao (7)
Sara Arthurs (8)
Crisara Smith (8)

Honor Roll

Shannon Barry (5)
Chelsea Byrd (5)
Vikram Chaudhuri (5)
Andrew Godfrey (5)
Jennifer Godfrey (5)
Nicole Grabe (5)
Danielle Greenawalt (5)
Katherine Halas (5)
Morgan Hansen (5)
Tatum Hughes (5)
Isabel Jordan (5)
Spencer Jordan (5)
Lara Kazmierczak (5)
Elizabeth Kremer (5)
Hannah Levin (5)

Katherine Sommers (5)
Winston Stalwir (5)
Devin Weiner (5)
Abigail Winter (5)
Andres Ayala (6)
Davis Baer (6)
Kai Burton (6)
Grace Carapezzi (6)
Peta-Gay Clayton (6)
Alexis Genovese (6)
Amy Greenberg (6)
Jeremiah Starke (6)
Richard Walston (6)
Gregory Weiner (6)
Rajane Brown (7)

Nicole Derek (7)
Brandon Hylton (7)
Matthew Kresch (7)
Mikaela LiVigni (7)
Rachel McDermott (7)
Catherine McNeela (7)
Seth Samowitz (7)
Alex Chasin (8)
Caitlyn Elliott (8)
Jacquelyn Fritz (8)
Kayla Giampaolo (8)
Jessica Kremer (8)
Charlie McGlinsky (8)
Connor O'Brien (8)
Jason Raymond (8)

Morning Drop-Off

Dropping your child off? Please pull up to the front of the school and let your child out at the sidewalk. Parking in the front of the school is unsafe, as this is a drop off/pickup zone for buses. It is crucial not to park there.

Walking your child in? Please park in one of the parking spaces in the back and enter through the corral door on the side of the school. (Please note that those parking spaces marked with a family name were won at our Annual Spring Fundraiser and are reserved.)

Afternoon Pick-up

PreK through grade 4 and older siblings of those students?

Dismissal time is 3:30 p.m. Parents should park in the back of the school and walk to the corral to pick up their child(ren).

Grades 5-8 with no younger sibs? Dismissal time is 3:40 p.m. Parents should pull up to the front and the teacher in charge will release students to the cars. **Please do not pull up before 3:40**, as buses will be in the front from 3:30-3:40. We rely on this delicate time table to keep traffic running smoothly.

Back to School Coffee

Wednesday, September 3



8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m

Parents ... drop off your children and join us in the gym for coffee to welcome the start of the school year. A great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones!

Welcome New Faculty

Faith Barbuto

Kindergarten



Hello, My name is Faith Barbuto and I am thrilled to be joining Unquowa as a Kindergarten teacher. I taught Kindergarten in New York City for three years, and last year I moved up with my class and taught first grade. I received my bachelor's degree in anthropology from Lehman College, CUNY. I also have a master's degree in education from the College of New Rochelle.

I am new to Fairfield, originally from City Island, New York. City Island is a nautical community and I grew up on the beach or on a boat. I will be spending a lot of time on the beach in Fairfield this summer with my son, Jack, who just turned one. I also enjoy cooking, traveling and crafts.

I love working with young children. Although I have had many previous teaching experiences, Unquowa is unlike any place I have ever taught. I am really excited to be able to give my students the kind of individual attention that children need and deserve. I am looking forward to a fun-filled and stimulating school year.

Amber O'Connell

Kindergarten



Hi. My name is Amber O'Connell and I am so excited to be one of the kindergarten teachers at Unquowa. Some of you may recognize me from substituting last year.

For the past 11 years, I have taught a variety of different grade levels, from kindergarten to middle and high school math. I graduated from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC with a B.S. in Business Management. I earned a master of arts in teaching from Queens University in Charlotte, NC.

My family and I moved to Newtown in August 2006 from Charlotte. My husband, David, and I have two daughters, Lauren and Lillian. They are both competitive gymnasts and attend school in Newtown.

In my free time, I like to travel, read, exercise, ski, attend gymnastics meets, and spend time with my family and our Golden Doodle, Belle.

I look forward to a wonderful school year and to joining the Unquowa family.

Rachel Beninati

PreK-4



I am honored to be joining the Unquowa community and am thrilled to continue doing what I love best — facilitating a love for learning in young children. I have worked with children both in and out of a classroom setting; however, early childhood has always been my passion and focus. For the past 3 years I have taught at Woodside Preschool in Manhattan.

I completed my undergraduate work at Emerson College in Boston where I majored in theatre. One of my favorite experiences was assistant-directing a production of *Much Ado About Nothing* - this was when I first realized that while I loved theatre, my true calling was to work with children! After college I obtained my first teaching position as an assistant in a third grade classroom. I earned my master's in teaching with a concentration in early childhood education from Manhattanville College. I continue to combine my theatre experience with my teaching by bringing stories to life with different voices, singing and making up songs, and working off of the energy and excitement of my students to make their learning engaging and interactive.

My husband, Joe, and I recently moved to Stamford with our two cats. In my spare time I perform in various bands with Joe, who is a drummer. I have recently discovered that I also love to cook! I am looking forward to a wonderful and exciting year at Unquowa!

Welcome Baby Unquowans!

Upper School faculty member Lloyd Mitchell and his wife, Kathy, are the proud parents of their first child, Madison. She was born on June 3.

Only weeks later, fifth grader teacher, Mary Faulkner, gave birth to Aidan on June 16. Kylee, PreK-4, is thrilled to have a baby brother!

The Toth family, Donna, Charlie, and sons Gavin and Jarrett, welcomed their new baby, Brady William, born on July 9.

Lisa Strmecki

Music



Hello! I will be teaching music to pre-school through third grade. Music is a gift that, once learned, must be shared. I am thrilled to be working with Unquowa students and making music together.

For the last seven years, I have been teaching lower school music at Our Lady of Fatima in Wilton. My educational background is a bit different from most musicians. I attended Georgetown University in Washington D.C. and received a B.A. in Government as well as a minor in music theory. I spent the next few years working in Washington in the private think-tank world. However, ever since I spent my junior year abroad in Italy, I felt the arts were something that needed to be incorporated into my life. I was accepted as master's candidate in Voice at the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music in DC where I completed my coursework and performed my recitals. Soon after, my husband took a job in Westport, and we returned to where I had lived as a child.

This summer my three children and I are visiting my college study abroad friends in France for a reunion. I will be sure to teach my Unquowa students songs in foreign languages because it is the best way to learn about other countries. I love the classroom. I am eager to meet my new students and share with them all I know about music/movement and performance. I hope everyone has had a safe, happy and healthy summer, and I am counting the days until we meet!

Amy Hellman

Spanish



Hi! I am very excited to be joining all of you this fall as your new lower school Spanish teacher!

It is going to be such a pleasure

to work with each and every one of you, and I look forward to getting to know you all.

When I am not teaching Spanish, I spend a lot of time reading Italian and French novels. I love learning about new places and cultures, and traveling is one of my favorite past times. I adore cats, and I spend lots of time with my own calico, Tegan. I love to cook.

Hopefully, we will be able to cook up some delicious cuisine from Spain and Central and South America this year!

Familiar Faces, New Places

Mary Curran will divide her time between assisting our new kindergarten faculty and building a gardening and bird crafting program that she will add to the science curriculum up through the grades with her colleagues and their students.

Lloyd Mitchell will be teaching technology courses to grades 4-8 along with grade 5 math and social studies and a section of Grade 6 math. He will also be taking on the responsibility of advisor for grade 6.

Alice Desgranges will be adding grades 2 and 3 to her teaching schedule and will now be teaching art to preK-4 to grade 3.

Krissy Sabol has added a component to the visual arts schedule for grades six through eight that will address digital graphic arts and photography.

Michele Frenza will be joining Debbie Leidlein as eighth grade advisor.

Rebecca Festa will be joining Rosemarie Sullivan as seventh grade advisor.

A Musical Summer



Chamber Music Central held their summer chamber music festival at Unquowa this summer. Founded and directed by Millette Alexander (grandmother of Charlie McGlinsky, class of 2008) the camp is for intermediate and advanced string, wind and piano students. Candidates auditioned in March for one of the two 2-week sessions. It was a wonderful addition to Unquowa's summer — the sounds of music throughout the building, culminating with a concert at the end of each of the sessions! We are looking forward to next year's festival.

Unquowa Summer Farm Camp



Summer wouldn't be complete without Unquowa's Farm Camp! Another terrific year! With many kids returning for their second year and new campers arriving for their first experience, each day the campers took on farming with great enthusiasm.

The campers spent four mornings at Sport Hill Farm in Easton and learned what it takes to run a successful produce farm. Patti Popp, proprietor of the farm, taught the children all aspects of the daily farming — from planting the seeds, caring for the crops, harvesting vegetables, clearing the beds and starting the process all over again. The campers planted beans, zucchini, squash, radishes, cabbage, cauliflower, kale, and lettuce. The highlight for many campers was picking the heads of cauliflower, which involved pulling the entire plant out of the ground. The heads were so big — some as big as the campers!

Ever wonder how long it would take to plant 1,000 carrots? Our campers did this very project in a mere 25 minutes. As the weeks went by, the campers were able to see the seeds germinate and grow, an experience some won't forget! Each day campers returned to Unquowa and completed an exciting art activity with Mrs. Desgranges, an investigative science activity with Mrs. Sullivan, and a cooking lesson with Chef Peter.

Campers had an off-site field experience to either New Pond Farm or Stamford Museum each week. They learned about the working of an animal farm and had the opportunity to brush Betty the cow and saw a baby calf only three days old! Older campers took a day hike through the woods, following trail markers and utilizing a compass. At New Pond Farm, campers were treated to a special activity learning about bees and the role they play on a farm. Each

camper got to make a candle of beeswax.

Each week culminated with Friday fun day! Campers began the day at Sport Hill Farm playing zucchini baseball — a favorite for many! Upon returning to Unquowa, they worked with Chef Peter to prepare lunch from all the various crops they picked throughout the week! These lunches culminated a fine week of fun had by all and a chance for the campers to try different foods. One tasty lunch prepared by them included pizza made with fresh tomato sauce, vegetables, a delicious salad and fresh herbal lemon basil iced tea.

Thank you to everyone who made this year's camp such a success. We are looking forward to next year's farm camp — hope to see you there!

Lloyd Mitchell
Camp Co-Director

A note from the UPA ...

Welcome back to school! We hope you all had a great summer vacation.

The Unquowa Parents' Association (UPA) includes each one of you. As parents of children at Unquowa, you are automatically members. We are supported by a group of parent volunteers, who work tirelessly and with enthusiasm to create an atmosphere which supports "fun and fund raising" during the school year. Whether you are a new parent at Unquowa or a seasoned UPA veteran, we hope that you will join our activities throughout the year. Your support of our endeavors will help to enrich your child's learning experience as well as our

social environment! Most importantly, it will create the welcoming sense of community that we have here at The Unquowa School.

We invite you to join us at the **Welcome Back Coffee**, on the first day of school in the gym immediately following drop off — from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Fellow

parents and room representatives will be mingling as the coffee is steaming.

Don't miss our family "fun" raiser on **Friday night, September 26** from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the Unquowa school gymnasium. Chef Peter will create an assortment of themed dishes for dinner, and children and parents alike will be entertained with music, dance and fun activities. This is a school wide event and siblings are welcome!

The efforts of the UPA rely solely upon the dedication, hard work and creativity of our parent body - we encourage you to attend the school-wide assemblies each Wednesday morning at 8:45 a.m. to learn more about upcoming events and ways to volunteer. On **Wednesday, September 10** we will hold our inaugural UPA meeting in which we will discuss our upcoming events. Your support and participation in attending will help to bolster our community spirit and deliver a variety of creative and enjoyable events! Go Gators!

Joan Panagos and Marcie Lapido
UPA Co-Presidents



Alumni News

Christina (James) Moore, class of 2000, stopped by Unquowa this summer for a visit. She and her husband, Dayne, who live in North Miami are expecting their first child in November.

Christina graduated from Johnson & Wales in Miami with a degree in Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management. She and Dayne plan to start a restaurant/ catering business in Miami.

Great to see alums come back to visit! Congratulations to Christina and Dayne — we're looking forward to seeing photos of the new addition to your family!



Abigail Walworth, class of 2004, graduated from Hopkins School with 3 prestigious awards this June: The Paul W. Schueler Art Prize for excellence in the visual arts; The Mary Brewster Thompson Award in recognition of fine scholarship, intellectual maturity, enthusiasm for academic pursuits, and the ability to share that enthusiasm with others; and The Hopkins Award for achievement, leadership and character. Congratulations, Abby!

Shannon Cain, class of 2000, graduated from Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island this May. She graduated with a bachelor of arts in graphic design and will continue at Salve Regina University in their Accelerated Five Year Master's Degree Program for her master's in business. Congratulations, Shannon!



Tatum Fraites, class of 2001, was one of only two students from the junior class at Bates College selected for membership in the College Key, the honor society of Bates alumni. She has distinguished herself as an active member of the student government, serving as the Vice President of the student body and as a member of the distinguished Student Conduct Committee.

Tatum has been very involved in the Admissions Office, having served at the Tour Guide Coordinator and Hosting Coordinator. Since entering Bates in the fall of 2005 she has held internships with MTV in New York City, Save the Children in Westport, and the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. this summer. Congratulations, Tatum!

Alumni ... Keep in touch!!! email Anne Cain at acain@unquowa.org

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THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL



Class of 2008



Alex Chasin, David Novitzky, James Brogan, Grant Smith, Quentin Upshaw, Crisara Smith, Sara Arthurs, Jacquelyn Fritz, Larisa Corriette, Caitlyn Elliott, Jessica Kremer, Kayla Giampaolo, Alexis Palazzo, Connor O'Brien, Luke Finlay, Jason Raymond, Charlie McGlinsky, Beau Tetreault, and Doug Brown

see Graduation article on page 2