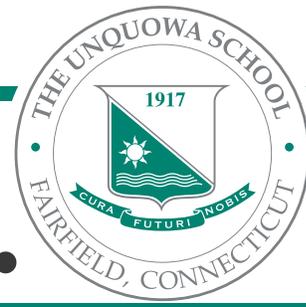


About U.S.



A Publishing Tradition
of The Unquowa School

A Message From the Head of School

The poet Dylan Thomas said, “My education was the liberty I had to read indiscriminately and all the time, with my eyes hanging out.” His declaration always comes to mind when I think of kids and reading. Reading is, in fact, a vivid window into understanding the past and can flesh out periods of history, the people who lived in them and their human experience in ways that can light up the imagination and intellect and serve as fodder for future decisions and directions, both personal and intellectual.

I couldn't help thinking about kids and their reading experience when I recently read about *Crossing*, the new opera by twenty-five year old Matthew Aucoin. The opera is based on the Civil War diaries of Walt Whitman and, as a creative project, combines Aucoin's talent as a composer, conductor, poet and pianist. As I read about his opera, my teacher self wondered where the first bits of an idea for this work came from. Aucoin's libretto explores the difficulty of moving from intransitive to transitive love - that is, it explores the Whitman known as the democratic poet who abstractly loves everyone and everything and the difficulty he encounters caring for specific individuals as a Civil War hospital worker. Did fodder from adolescent reading float to the front of Aucoin's mind to provide the gist for this opera - Civil War historical fiction, biographies, Whitman's poetry? Did he start by reading Whitman's “When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd” and wander deeper into the period and theme or did he start with Stephen Crane's *Red Badge of Courage*? The answer is immaterial but the source is probable.

For parents who worry about what and how much their children read, the good news is that, beyond reading to and with your children, providing them with big, lazy blocks of time and quiet space over the summer to get lost in books and helping them to acquire a stack of such to get lost in is where responsibility ends in the realm of encouraging reading itself. I emphasize the word

“acquire” and pick it over “choose” because it has an important relationship to the result of finding your child “reading with his or her eyes hanging out” as opposed to reading with an eye on the clock. Self-choice, or reading “indiscriminately” means just that - the reader gets to play a role in choosing his or her fare - and it has a huge impact on enthusiasm. If you want your seventh grader to read Jules Verne and he wants to read Stephen King, don't despair. King's books have the complex sentence structure, rich vocabulary and sophisticated plot that will give your child's mind a run around

the park. Make a deal - one thriller for one classic, and then trust the books. Twenty minutes into *Twenty Thousand Leagues...* and your seventh grader will be as hooked on it as he was on *Pet Semetary* (sic).

Similarly, if your fourth grader wants to read *Black Beauty* for the third time instead of reading a new book, let her. No book is ever the same twice because we are never the same reader. I recall rereading Balzac's *Eugenie Grandet* with my book group as a thirty-five year old woman, and I was struck by the characters I didn't remember from the first time I read it as a nineteen year old college student. Where did those funny old folks come from? I only remembered Eugenie and Charles, who were young and in love. So don't discourage your children from re-experiencing a book - even one that

may seem a bit young for them. They will be revisiting a friendship, revisiting a place and revisiting the language of a favorite writer - all of which will make them stronger writers, better thinkers and more interesting individuals.

When we return to Unquowa in the fall, Beach Library will have become Beach Library Trail, with rich collections in classrooms and hallways in every corner of our school and “trail maps” for browsers to find their way. In the meantime, may children and adults alike enjoy a summer on the beach, in the mountains or on the porch, reading, reading, reading.

Happy summer!



Browsers are lured as stops on
Beach Library Trail appear.

Sharon Lauer, Head of School

Trimester III Honor Roll

Unquowa Honors

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

Grade 5

Antara Ghai
Brooke Jones
Lauren Lambrecht
Raphael Makhraz
Samantha Renzulli
Daniel Vash

Grade 6

Aaron Gruen
Alexandra Halas
Lola Panagos
Drew Slager
Carrie Smith

Grade 7

Anne Marie Dooher
Lucille Panagos
Jessica Price
Karli Vare

Grade 8

Rachel Albenze
Benjamin Chapin
Akash Jyothish
Quinn Mullineaux
Siddharth Sunder

Honors

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

Grade 5

Maxwell Cooper
Katherine Daly
Kylee Faulkner
Katherine Horton
Sophia Kessler
Alexander McKinnis
Tate Mullineaux
Aiden Nishiyama
Keilan Rosow
Abigail Russo
Owen Troy
Will Waghorne
Hannah Whidden
Shira Zeiberg

Grade 6

Ryan Cawley
Lisi Chapin
Remington Cheffer
Margaret Coghlan
Daniel DeGirolomo
Charlotte Dworski
William Geary
Kurt Grosner
William Hansen
Adam Jehle
Ethan Klein
Naia Kocsi
Noah Markus
Stephen Daniel Mezei
Sophia Mughal

Abigail Nevins
Patrick Phelan
Charlotte Robins
Grace Rosow
Maya Rubino
Ella Stalowir

Grade 7

Mia Auray
Chloe Coseglia
Julianna Darcy
Tess Haskel
Carolyn Kokias
Dylan McCormick
Annie McNeela
Ryan Moss
Sean Nicholas
Maxwell Victor
Miriana Wasserman
Charlotte Yin

Grade 8

James Blasius
Nora Brennan
Hannah Calzone
Mary Crooks
Alexandra Deutsch
Walter Erenhouse
Olivia Hughes
Zander Jehle
Carson Solaz
Charlie Waghorne

Exploring Costa Rica



Ms. Tortora and I led fifteen intrepid souls on a nine day sweeping dash through Costa Rica's towns, forests, beaches and mountains. Students explored rain and cloud forests, black sand Pacific beaches, volcanoes and waterways. We visited a coffee and chocolate plantation as well as a working ornamental wood crafting museum. Our guide was wonderful and kept us on our busy schedule of ziplining, horseback riding, kayaking, hiking to waterfalls, river boating, swimming and relaxing in volcanically generated hot springs. Along the way we met tree sloths, howler monkeys, crocodiles, macaws, iguanas, and millions of termites. The people we met were gracious, generous and welcoming. This was especially true of the children we met at a local school and foster home. Even the most apprehensive students began to enjoy conversing in Spanish with the locals as a result of this amazing trip. PURA VIDA!

Craig Knebel, Upper School Science Teacher

Making Cultural Connections

The dance troupe, Rios de Encontro, visited Unquowa as part of the 2015 International Young Performers' Tour. The Brazilian troupe put on a great show and then led dance workshops for our students. In between workshops the dancers joined the eighth graders for lunch. Both groups of students were excited to meet in person after having connected via Skype earlier in the year. They enjoyed comparing the similarities of their cultures and daily lives. What an interesting day!



The Campaign for Unquowa Work Begins on Our New Performing Arts Spaces!

After exceeding our fundraising goal for the final phase of campus improvements in December, we went from planning mode to building mode! Over March break temporary walls went up, demolition was completed and work began on the new permanent stage, performing arts classroom and instrumental classroom.

The impact of the generous support from Unquowa families, alumni, board members, grandparents, corporations and foundations is tremendous! Watch our construction progress at Unquowa.org. Work will continue all summer, so mark your calendars for the ribbon cutting on the first day of school, September 9th.

Kate Haviland, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs



The structural framing is going up and the supports under the floor are being built for the new permanent stage in the gym. The instrumental classroom is already being framed for new walls and floor. In addition, the new ceiling structure is going in and will become part of the floor for the new performing arts classroom above. Things are really taking shape and looking good!

Upper School Rocks *Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr.*



The annual Upper School Spring Musical is the culmination of the sixth, seventh and eighth graders' musical theater unit in performing arts class. Every student played an important role in the performance as both actors and musicians, as well as members of the stage, tech, props and costume crews. This year's show, *Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr.*, was a huge success! The students did a great job of bringing classic educational songs like *Just A Bill*, *Conjunction Junction* and *Interplanet Janet* to life. We are extremely proud of all their hard work and commitment to making this a fantastic show!

Megan Kirk, Alyson Cahill and David Coe
Performing Arts Teachers



Museum Collaboration

Adventures in Ponding at the Connecticut Audubon Center



We couldn't have asked for a better day to go ponding, that is exploring the flora and fauna that make up a pond ecosystem. We headed to the Audubon Center and were outfitted with nets and field guides to see what we could find. We practiced walking quietly, immersing ourselves in the beauty of our surroundings. Once we arrived at the still waters of the pond, we carefully set up stations with buckets to collect our findings. Students took turns scooping buckets of pond glop and then digging through to see what treasures they could uncover. What first appeared to be just a pile of mud, revealed many squirming creatures like insects, worms, tadpoles, newts and snails. On almost every rotting leaf there were eggs, so we were careful to get them all safely back in the water. Next, we took a hike through the lovely grounds and made our way to a vernal pool teeming with tadpoles. When they were quiet and still, the kids saw many frogs just peeking out of the water. Opening our eyes and ears to these animals hidden in plain sight was a great mindfulness exercise!

Faith Barbuto, Kindergarten Teacher

Becoming Docents at the Fairfield Museum & History Center

Fifth grade students learned about the Ogden Family, a typical middle-class colonial family who lived in Fairfield in the 18th century. Working with members of the Fairfield Museum and History Center, fifth graders spent the last part of this school year learning how to be docents at the Ogden House. To prepare, the students visited the house several times and the Ogdens were the focus of many classroom activities and discussions. After one of their visits, I led students in a mindfulness activity to review what they had just learned, and also to pause, reflect and express gratitude for what they have compared to the hardships colonial families in the 18th century suffered just to survive.

All of their studying culminated in an interesting project in which fifth graders led our fourth graders on a tour of this historic house. The members of the museum were impressed by the outstanding performance of our student-docents, complimenting them particularly on the depth and breadth of the research they had done in preparation for their roles. By the end of the day, the fifth graders were proud of their accomplishment and the fourth graders were excited about continuing this tradition as fifth grade docents next year!

Iman Rasti, Fifth Grade Teacher



Classroom in Residence at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum



As part of our ongoing collaboration with The Aldrich, fifth and sixth graders participated in the museum's Classroom in Residence program and spent a day learning in the galleries. The program utilizes the museum's resources and allows teachers to lead academic classes amid the current exhibits.

The students were split into sections, and they rotated through the galleries: Mrs. Cahill led an improv class in Virginia Poundstone's Flower Mutations gallery; Dr. Rasti had students write prose inspired by Nancy Shaver's Depression-era Photography collection and recycled fabric sculptures; Mrs. Haseltine taught a math lesson on Mobius strips in front of Ruby Sky Stiler's plaster casts; Mrs. Faulkner took students on a mindful journey through Elif Uras's *Nicea* exhibit of Turkish pottery and tiles; and Mrs. Ponden had students respond to B. Wurtz's quirky aluminum pan paintings through art.



It was an absolutely fantastic day that took the students out of their usual element and encouraged them to think in different ways. The connections the kids made between the artwork and broader concepts were inspiring and a testament to the power of the arts to convey ideas in a personal and meaningful way. We look forward to continuing to expand this program with The Aldrich in the future and exposing our students to the work of inspiring contemporary artists.

Krissy Ponden, Upper School Art Teacher

Student Art Show



Unquowa students, from the littlest to the biggest, participated in this year's all-school art show. Each student had a variety of their work displayed in various mediums from painting, to ceramics, and even origami.

Throughout the year students work on developing their artistic skills while learning about different artists, art forms and art movements. Their best work is then collected and hung in one large-scale exhibit for the whole school community to experience and appreciate.

Some traditional projects are anticipated by classes rising through the grades such as the seventh grade Lichtenstein self-portraits and sixth grade clay whistles. Others such as fourth grade's Alice in Wonderland-themed ceramic tea party are new this year and even had special guests dressed in their whimsical best. It was a wonderful display that truly demonstrated the importance that Unquowa places on the arts, and the skill and excitement with which our students rise to the challenge.



Krissy Ponden, Upper School Art Teacher

Transforming The Box

The box has been a constant in the PreK-4 classroom this year and has helped the kids learn about recycling, using their imagination and all about the word transform. What started out as a wardrobe box has taken on six different forms over the course of the school year. First, it was a brightly colored house as part of our lesson on the letter H. Next, in honor of Thanksgiving, it was transformed into the Mayflower, complete with sails and pilgrim passengers. Third, it became a gingerbread house for the holidays. Fourth, it was a castle with a working drawbridge and was a critical part of the set for our *Paper Bag Princess* show. Fifth, it transformed into a rocket, which fit in perfectly with our units on the letter R and transportation. The final form was up to the children. They stretched their imaginations and transformed the box into the ocean. The possibilities for a used cardboard box really are endless!

Ann Palm, PreK-4 Teacher



Will it Survive the Drop?



One of history's best thinkers was Issac Newton. Newton's laws of motion are, in brief: 1. *An object in motion stays in motion, and an object at rest stays at rest.* 2. *Force depends on the mass and acceleration of an object.*

Students demonstrated these two laws in the annual eighth grade egg drop contest this spring. Clever students used food products, tissue paper and parachutes in wildly designed contraptions to allow an egg to survive a seven meter fall. The whole school gathered to watch and cheer as Mr. Doug dropped each invention from the roof. Most of the eggs survived, though it was still a sunny side up kind of day.

Craig Knebel
Upper School Science Teacher



I Feel the Earth Move!

In a study of rapid changes to landforms, third graders created models to make careful observations. First, students formed model volcanoes and watched as pressure built up until "lava" flowed out, covering everything in its path. Later in the week, students were presented with the task of creating a landform able to withstand an earthquake. As we shook the earth, modeled by a pan of gelatin, students discovered that all their formations were affected at least somewhat when the ground beneath moved. In the end, students discovered that although it may take hundreds or thousands of years for landforms to be created, they can be changed almost instantly.

Carlene Gordon
Third Grade Teacher



Designing Rube Goldberg Machines

Second graders studied forces and motion. The basics of physics come alive while students worked in small groups endeavoring to construct an imaginative path for a marble or two to coast along. Students spent a few days working and building with supplemental text and videos. Once they'd constructed a final sequence and design, they drew and labeled their sequence with the forces at work. They also wrote out parts of the scientific method. This was a fun project that the kids loved and learned a lot from.

Cameron Ross-MacCormack
Second Grade Teacher

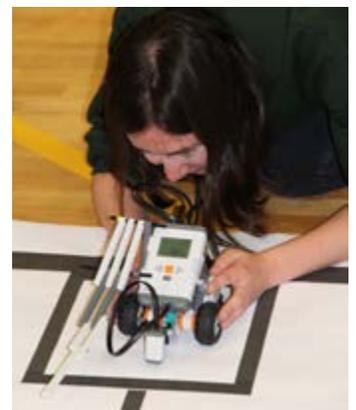


Meeting the Challenge at ROBOnanza

In May, eighth graders Hannah, Rachel and Clara traveled to Greenwich Academy for their annual robotics competition. These three students worked hard to prepare for the event, coming in early and finding every spare minute in the day to finish tweaking their projects. Their efforts paid off and they were well prepared for the competition.

The theme this year was "Bots of the Round Table" and the competition was made up of a series of medieval inspired challenges. Our team easily completed all of the beginner, squire challenges - Follow Ye Ole's Merry Lines and Escape the Dungeon, another name for the classic "get out of the box challenge" - with flying colors. They moved on to the more complicated knights challenges of jousting, archery and castle siege. The girls should be very proud of their tremendous effort and representation of Unquowa!

Lloyd Mitchell, Technology Director



Grandparents & Special Friends Celebrate May Day



On May 1st, students invited grandparents and special friends to join us in celebrating May Day at Unquowa! Grandparents enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with their grandchildren and to visit their school.

Our guests began their visits in the students' classrooms and were excited to see what the children have been up to this year. They then enjoyed a special snack together — a buffet of baked goods from Chefs David and Henri. As always, the sticky buns fresh from the oven were the biggest hit!

A special assembly included a musical performance by each class, as well as a preview of our Upper School Spring Musical, *Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr.*

Everyone was then invited outside to the field for our grand finale — the maypole dances by our fourth and fifth graders. The dancers demonstrated complex weaves like the “Barber’s Pole,” “Spider’s Web” and “Braid,” and were accompanied by the Upper School instrumental ensemble playing Bach’s *March in D Major*. What a fantastic way to welcome and celebrate spring!



Earth Day

We celebrated Earth Day as a school in April with environmental science activities for each grade. PreK-3 and PreK-4 students enjoyed learning about birds - they made their own bird wings and bird feeders out of bagels and were able to observe a broad-winged hawk brought in by the Audubon Center. Presentations on recycling and vermicomposting as well as visits from High Touch-High Tech and the Maritime Center kept Lower School students actively engaged with scientific investigations throughout the morning. Upper School students prepared their own presentations and activities to raise awareness about the importance of rainforest preservation.

Everyone came together for a picnic lunch before turning the afternoon activities over to the Upper School students who educated the younger students on what they'd just learned about rainforests and the effects of deforestation. They created posters with their Lower School buddies; some showed the different layers and inhabitants of the rainforest and others focused on bringing attention to the need for traceability in palm oil production.

This day long event closed with an all-school assembly featuring a performance of *Nothing More*, a song the choral students learned from the band Alternate Routes about kindness, and a speech entitled *Global Habitat Destruction (And Farming with Goats!)* by eighth grader Quinn. Thank you to all the faculty, staff and students for making Earth Day 2015 a success!



Mary Curran, Mary Faulkner, Debbie Leidlein, Unquowa Teachers

97th Unquowa Closing Ceremonies



The Unquowa community came together on the last day of school to celebrate the end of another fantastic school year and to honor the graduating Class of 2015. In the morning, the entire school gathered for our Closing Ceremonies - an event filled with traditions including the recognition of summer birthdays and the reading by faculty of touching tributes written collaboratively about each member of the graduating class. The last tribute read was dedicated to our longtime Upper School Math Teacher Lisa Haseltine in honor of her retirement from the classroom.

Awards announced at the Closing Ceremonies included the Unquowa Parents' Association Award which was given to Charlotte Yin as the seventh grade student who "has shown the most significant growth in intellectual discipline." The Costume Closet Key was presented to two seventh graders for their dedication to the performing arts: Dylan McCormick and Lucy Panagos. Upper School faculty members, Debbie Leidlein, Craig Knebel and Lloyd Mitchell received The Virginia F. Birdsall Faculty Award to support their summer travels to New Hampshire for a workshop on designing makerspaces. Lastly, PreK-3 teacher Janice Shannon presented The Ultimate Unquowan Award to Carson Solaz, a graduate whose first year at Unquowa was eleven years ago, in her PreK-3 class.

After watching a special video slideshow devoted to the Class of 2015, the eighth graders formed a receiving line in front of the stage and Ms. Lauer invited the seventh graders to "take the eighth grade seats." This symbolic move marked the change in school leaders from the outgoing class to next year's eighth graders, the Class of 2016.

The morning ceremony ended with our instrumental teacher, David Coe, playing *Edelweiss* as every student and teacher in the school passed by the line of graduates to wish each one a personal goodbye and good luck - ending the ceremony with high fives, handshakes and big hugs.



2015 Awards

The William J. Grippin Award
Akash Jyothish

The Unquowa Award
Riley Pengue

The Headmaster's Cup
Nora Brennan

The Board of Governors' Cup
Mary Crooks

The John P. Blassington Award
Clara Horton

The Robert L. Cleveland Award
Hannah Calzone

Unquowa Parents Association Award
Charlotte Yin

Class Agents
Rachel Albenze
Walter Erenhouse

The Ultimate Unquowan Award
Carson Solaz

Costume Closet Key
Lucy Panagos
Dylan McCormick

The Virginia F. Birdsall Faculty Award
Craig Knebel, Debbie Leidlein
Lloyd Mitchell

The Jean Carpenter Winton
Distinguished Alumni Award
Alice Lloyd '05

97th Unquowa Commencement



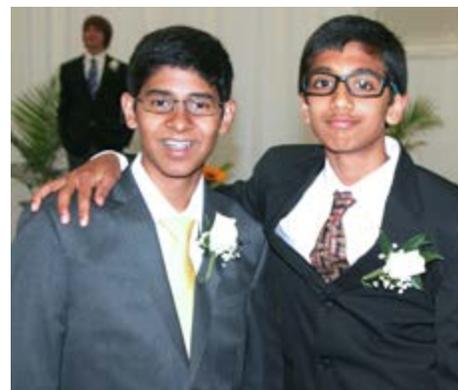
Unquowa's 97th graduating class gathered in the evening of June 2nd with family, friends, alumni, the Board of Governors and the faculty and staff for a ceremony of recognition and closure to mark the start of their transition to high school. Reverend David J. Rowe offered the invocation and Salutation, Siddharth Sunder, welcomed everyone to the celebration.

The ceremony included the announcement of several awards. Valedictorian, Akash Jyothish, received The William J. Grippin Award for the highest academic average. Riley Pengue was given The Unquowa Award for the "most significant growth in intellectual discipline." The Board of Governors' Cup for "outstanding school citizenship" was given to Mary Crooks and the Headmaster's Cup was awarded to Nora Brennan. The John P. Blessington Award for "steadfast concern for classmates and the school" was given to Clara Horton and The Robert L. Cleveland Award for a "keen mind, sound body and unafraid spirit" was given to Hannah Calzone. Rachel Albenze and Walter Erenhouse were named Class Agents. The Jean Carpenter Winton Distinguished Alumni Award was given to Alice Lloyd '05 in recognition of her participation in the Progressive Education Lab and her desire to teach which has brought her back to Unquowa as an Upper School writing teacher next fall.

After receiving their diplomas, the graduates heard from guest speaker, Sasha Mack, also a member of the Class of 2005. Sasha encouraged them to keep a positive outlook and not to dwell on negative thoughts. She reminded the graduates not to worry too much about the details of the future and instead to do something they enjoy. Most of all, she emphasized how well her years at Unquowa prepared her for success.

Valedictorian Akash Jyothish thanked all his teachers for his academic success. He went on to say "Unquowa gave us a great environment that let us think and express ourselves freely, and was a place where we were exposed to a little bit of everything: technology, sports and the arts."

With a closing benediction from Rabbi Evan Schultz, we said a final goodbye to the Class of 2015. While we will miss this class tremendously, we wish them all the best in this next part of their school journey and look forward to their return to Unquowa on Founders' Day in the fall.



Our graduates will be attending the following high schools:

Canterbury School
 Cambridge School of Weston
 Fairfield Ludlowe High School
 Fairfield College Preparatory School
 Fairfield Warde High School
 Greens Farms Academy
 Hamden Hall
 Joel Barlow High School
 Lauralton Hall
 Miss Porter's School
 Notre Dame Catholic High School
 Stratton Mountain School
 Stratford High School
 Vermont Academy

Mrs. Haseltine Retires After 28 Years



It has been said that the mark of successful diplomacy is when both parties leave the table having both sacrificed something and won something. When Lisa Haseltine surprised me with her decision to retire after twenty-eight years in the classroom at Unquowa, I knew that I had a serious diplomatic challenge on my hands. After talking, we came to that place where both of us conceded and both of us won: Mrs. Haseltine will leave the classroom, but she will remain at Unquowa for an additional year as math department chair, scheduling guru and, most importantly, Mathcounts team coach.

Of course, Mrs. Haseltine's eighth grade students felt strongly about the fact that, if she was going to leave the classroom this year, she should be part of

the same recognition ceremony that they, as graduating eighth graders, go through. Eighth grader, Clara Horton's recognition speech, a surprise to Mrs. Haseltine, follows, as does Mrs. Haseltine's response.

Truthfully, mathematics never had a place in my life until I joined your class. You have shaped me into the person I am and I will always remember that. Whether you were giving me the death stare when I forgot to bring in my homework, or your little laugh when I swore I did it, whether it was poking fun at us or pushing us to do our best — I could always see that you cared for us and wanted us to succeed. You taught me to look around the problem, not just straight at it, you taught me what it is to push yourself to be the best you could be, you taught me there's more to life than just the formula — that there are so many ways to solve math problems and to live life.

You will be remembered here. Not for your awesome math skills, or for your strictness, not even for your death stare. You'll be remembered for seeing kids as coal and giving them the intense pressure they needed to turn them into diamonds. I know that I'll still be emailing you about a new Rubik's cube that of course you will already have and have solved, I'll be emailing you about the new question in math I'm trying to figure out, and when I need advice about life. Thank you, Mrs. Haseltine, for dealing with me, the guys and all the other crazy students over 28 years.

— Clara Horton '15

In mathematics, 28 is known as a perfect number because it is the sum of its proper factors. Here at Unquowa, 28 years is more of an abundant number, comprised of:

- 6 different heads of school,
- approx. 400 memorable math students, including my wonderful sons, Mark and Eric, my dear friend Krissy Ponden and newly-elected board member Brad Topar.
- 25 Mathcounts competitions,
- 20 years of Math Olympiads,
- 20 American Math Contests,
- 12 Family Math Nights,
- 9 Pi Days,
- 5 years of Rubik's cube solving.

Of course, not everything significant can be quantified. The math program flourished as a result of administrative support, parental endorsement, Rebecca Festa's enduring patience, Lloyd Mitchell's willing assistance and, of course, my well-established tenacity.

— Lisa Haseltine

As Einstein so aptly put it, "Not everything that counts can be counted." Added to the above list of countable accomplishments, Lisa Haseltine can add the immeasurable determination she has instilled in the hundreds of students whose lives she has been part of. We are thankful to have her with us for this final year as she hones her plan to retire.

Sharon Lauer, Head of School

Ultimate Pi Day

Ultimate Pi Day is the name given to 3/14/15 because at 9:26:53 the date and time will show the first ten digits of pi. Unquowa students, wearing circles, polka dots or pi T-shirts, celebrated a few days before. At our weekly assembly, seventh graders Anne Marie, Dylan, Lucy and Jessica spoke about the mathematical properties of pi and its importance in the world around us. 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 scoured the internet to discover answers to pi trivia questions. The activities for each grade were enthusiastically presented by Anne Marie, Dylan, Lucy, Jessica, Clara, Ben, Akash, Quinn, Walter and Siddharth. They did an outstanding job of presenting a fun-filled day.

Lisa Haseltine, Math Teacher

My Country 我的国

At their request, first graders continued their study of Chinese through geography! First, everyone learned the words for earth (diqu), ocean (hai) and continent (zhou). Next, they learned the difference between the North Pole (beiji) and the South Pole (nanji) by examining different animals found there. Some students quickly made the connection that the character for the North Pole points up while the South Pole character points down. Finally, the students learned the names of ten countries in Chinese by recognizing a language pattern. In Chinese, most countries have two characters – the first character is the first sound of the country and the second character is the word country (guo). For example, France is faguo, England is yingguo, Germany (Deutschland) is deguo, etc. However, for some countries that were formerly colonies (except for America) their Chinese names sound just like the name of their country in English. For example, Mexico, Canada and India. After the students developed a good understanding of the concept, they earned the right to create their own country (guo) and flag (guo qi)! Some new countries invented include xiao guo (little country), long guo (dragon country) and ice cream guo.



Teresa Hsiao, Mandarin Teacher

¿Donde esta Miao?



Seventh graders recently put not only their Spanish skills to the test, but their teaching skills as well when they visited the kindergarten and first grade classrooms to work one-on-one sharing an interactive story on their Chromebooks. A seemingly simple activity, seventh graders soon realized that this was a more challenging task than they had anticipated. They worked hard to develop strong pre-reading and post-reading activities and to create meaningful props to bring the story to life.

The fruits of their labor really paid off. The young students enjoyed learning about Miao the cat and others, but perhaps what they loved most was watching the seventh graders act like the cats in the story! Especially the cat Rodolfo, as he likes to play with rolls of toilet paper!

Katie Brenna, Upper School Spanish Teacher

PreK-3 Raises Butterflies



Did you ever raise your very own butterfly from a caterpillar? Did you ever get close enough to see that a butterfly has fur on its face? Did you ever touch a butterfly's wing very gently? Did you ever see the proboscis of a butterfly? Did you ever feel a little sad when you had to let your very own butterfly go find their way outside in the world? WE DID...

Janice Shannon, PreK-3 Teacher

Do You Recognize Me?



Quite a cast of characters showed up at our fourth grade biography presentations! Aside from our parents and other invited guests, we had visits from Julius Caesar and Albert Einstein, Helen Keller and Babe Ruth. Even two presidents – Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt – stopped in. The students worked hard researching interesting information to share about the historical figure of their choice.

Bobby Brennan, Fourth Grade Teaching Assistant

Creating Lasting Memories on our Eighth Grade Trip

This year's eighth grade trip, a tradition that all Upper Schoolers look forward to, was an adventure at Woodloch Resort in the Poconos. The four days at the resort were jam-packed with activities like archery, basketball, go-carts, bumper boats, paintball, skeet shooting, paddle boating and swimming. The evenings were just as busy! Students, and their chaperones, loved the food, particularly the endless seafood buffet! After dinner, the group headed to the nightclub for dancing, shows, ping pong and Wii.

Sharing this experience and time away from home with each other was a great bonding opportunity for the class before the students move on to high school. Friendships were solidified and new memories created. They will always remember their time at Woodloch fondly!

Debbie Leidlein, Eighth Grade Advisor



Fifth Graders Share Their Poetry

Each spring the fifth graders learn about, read and write various forms of poetry in their language arts classes. Out of the many poems each student writes, they pick what they feel are their best ones, to share with family and friends during our spring book fair at Barnes & Noble of Westport. The opportunity to speak publicly, outside of the comfort of their school environment, is both challenging and rewarding! Year after year, the audience members are amazed and touched by the thoughtful, funny and sometimes deep prose produced by our students. This year, of course, was no different. Bravo to all those who participated!

Mary Faulkner, Fifth Grade Teacher



Unquowapalooza!



As construction continues on the music wing, the sixth grade instrumental class took advantage of the warm weather to hold an impromptu outdoor concert, Unquowapalooza! The class was practicing the music of JS Bach in preparation for their performance at this year's Closing Ceremonies.

David Coe, Instrumental Music Teacher



Thank you to Mary Curran, our Environmental Science teacher, and her students for doing such a good job of getting our curricular gardens blooming. The Sweet Peas will take good care in maintaining them during Farm Camp this summer and are looking forward to harvesting for their Friday camp feasts.

Sports Update

Another Great Year for Unquowa’s Sports Teams

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 2014-2015 athletics season such a huge success — our spectacular players who always gave it their all, our dedicated coaches and, of course, our fans! Our players could always be counted on for their best effort and a competitive spirit balanced with good sportsmanship. Unquowa continued to be a strong presence at all the Fairchester meets and look forward to another strong year in 2015-2016.

Celebrating at the End of Year Athletics Dessert

Our final Athletics Dessert this spring was a great time. We paid tribute to our spring lacrosse and cross country athletes and their coaches. In addition to recognizing each of the players on our spring teams, special awards were given to some of the athletes for their accomplishments this season. We also recognized those graduating students who played on an Unquowa team every season from sixth grade through eighth grade. They each received Gator Bowls as reminders of their athletic career at Unquowa. What a great night for our players, coaches and fans!

Al Boccamazzo, Athletic Director

Sports Awards

Elizabeth Curtis Award
Hailey Hughes

John F. Turlick Award
Siddharth Sunder

Margaret Travers Award
Abigail Nevins

School Spirit Award
**Clara Horton
Nora Brennan
Hannah Calzone**

Gator Bowl
**Clara Horton
Nora Brennan
Rachel Albenze
Hannah Calzone
Collin Baker
Zander Jehle**



Field Day

With the weather finally in our favor, the green and white teams arrived for our annual Field Day ready to play! Each team was made up of students from every grade and eighth graders led their teams around each of the eleven stations which were run by sixth and seventh graders.

The scavenger hunt, musical chairs, bubbles, face painting, cup stacking and lacrosse stations brought on much laughter! Students demonstrated their agility at the water relay, track and field events and an obstacle course. Teams showed great enthusiasm for the jump rope and chalk stations. Even the oldest participants remarked that the parachute was their favorite. Giggling, wet and with painted faces students finished the festivities with the traditional tug of war matches between the grades. PreK-4 continued their tradition of “domination” of the eighth graders, who took the loss in good humor. Such a nice way to kick-off the long weekend and an unofficial start to summer!

Sarah Pollex, Physical Education Teacher



From the UPA

The Annual Unquowa Gala and Auction was an outstanding success generating record-breaking numbers. Thank you to all our generous parents, faculty, staff, board and community members! The Kentucky Derby-themed event in May at the Fairfield Museum and History Center was a fun-filled evening. The Unquowa Winterfest Band played during cocktail hour followed by a wonderful live and silent auction. The Teacher Experiences remained a huge hit with the parents and students and the Class Baskets and Class Projects were once again very well received. Everyone agreed that it was a great evening! A special thanks to our Gala Chair extraordinaire, **Jill Pengue**, and to **Betsy Price, Alison Bevan, and Kate Haviland** and to the many, many people who helped make this evening such a huge success for Unquowa. We can all take great pride in a terrific event which will directly benefit our children!



Beyond the Gala, the UPA was busy this spring hosting an Upper School Social on campus where the students enjoyed a photo booth, DJ and bonfire with s'mores. Not to be outdone, the Fourth & Fifth Grade Social featured large bounce houses with slides and fun was had by all! Additionally, the UPA sponsored a Teacher Appreciation Lunch which was met with rave reviews from the faculty and staff. The UPA's Community Service outreach program remained strong with a used children's book collection for a local Bridgeport school.



With summer arriving we have much to be thankful for. The UPA is only as successful as its members and far and away we have the best parents anywhere! We hope everyone will continue to engage with us next year! We look forward to welcoming our incoming families this summer through the UPA Parent Outreach Committee. Best wishes to all our families for a wonderfully relaxing summer. We look forward to seeing you again next fall!

Jenn Doohar and Tracy Stuart, UPA Co-Presidents

Welcome New Unquowans

Chef **Jessica Toebe** and her husband, Christian, welcomed their first child, Elly Marla. Elly was born in April and has already made her first visit to Unquowa where she was admired by faculty and students!



Jamie Bartels, Lower School Spanish teacher and Makerspace C0-Coordinator, and his partner Sandra, welcomed the newest addition to their family in April — Emlyn Luca. Baby Emlyn is pictured here with his dad and his proud sister, Ainoa.



The Class of 2011 is Off to College

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Kate Adriani | Iona College |
| Eliza Arnold | Norwalk Community College Nursing Program |
| Jennee Blanco | Elon University |
| Alex Burdo | Gap Year |
| Chelsea Byrd | Loyola University |
| Vikram Chaudhuri | Vanderbilt University |
| Sydney Girasole | Penn State University |
| Andrew Godfrey | Fordham University |
| Jenna Godfrey | Sacred Heart University |
| Nicole Grabe | High Point University |
| Danielle Greenawalt | Syracuse University |
| Katherine Halas | University of Tennessee |
| Morgan Hansen | Franklin Pierce University |
| Tatum Hughes | Villanova University |
| Spencer Jordan | Plymouth State University |
| Elizabeth Kremer | University of Colorado-Boulder |
| Gemma Lein-McDonough | Simmons College |
| Debbie Leszczynski | Penn State University |
| Jack Rider | College of Wooster |
| Winston Stalowir | Fort Lewis College |
| Paul Stumpf..... | Saint Michael's College |
| Chris Taylor | Middlebury College |
| Claire Tetenbaum | Muhlenberg College |
| Jack Weiss | Ithaca College |
| Abbie Winter | Bucknell University |

Alumni News

Patrick Kelly '91 visited the school in May with his mom and former Unquowa school secretary, **Sharon Kelly**. They enjoyed reconnecting with Pat Bruno and Lisa Haseltine and were pleased to see the improvements to the school. Almost every hallway and classroom sparked a memory of their time at Unquowa! Patrick works at Affinion and lives in West Haven with his wife and new daughter, Bridget. Congratulations!



Always an animated performer in Unquowa productions, **Delaney Murray '14** is now taking intensive acting classes at The Second City comedy club in Chicago. She is finishing her freshman year at William Fremd High School and will continue acting during the summer.



Sammy Brownlow '07 received a precious gift this winter - a kidney from her former Unquowa kindergarten teacher, **Jenn Giannino**. Sammy took this semester off from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and will be transferring to Smith College next fall as a pre-med student where she will major in Biology. During her recovery, Sammy spent time assisting in Mrs. Haseltine's Upper School math classes at Unquowa.



Susanna Rodell '61 has fond memories of her Unquowa teachers. "Mr. Welsh taught me how amazing thinking is!" Other Unquowa teachers who had a big impact on her include Mr. Suter and Mr. Kartoizian. Susanna attended Hollins College and later studied East Asian Studies at Harvard. She worked in journalism in the US and in Australia, was on the editorial board of *The New York Times* and now works in communications in Long Beach, California. In 1995 Susanna published a children's book, *Dear Fred*, about complex family situations.

Mike Kosko '96, his wife Rosheen and their daughter Margaret, welcomed Michael Samuel Kosko IV to the family in April. Mike is a Prevention Specialist working with youth in Guilford. His programs help adolescents develop resiliency and coping skills by encouraging healthy habits and providing mentoring opportunities. In addition, Mike runs the Family Theater Program which just finished a production of *Willy Wonka, Jr.*



Congratulations to **Matt Kosko '99** and his wife Amanda! Their first child, Eleanor Mae, was born on March 26. Matt and his young family live in Wayland, Massachusetts where he writes software at TripAdvisor. According to Matt, "since the baby arrived, there's not much time for anything else!"





THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

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

Have a wonderful summer – see you in September!

