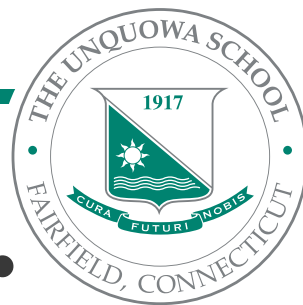


About U.S.



A Publishing Tradition
of The Unquowa School

A Message From the Head of School

The mind's eye. It allows us to visualize places and people we hold dear and it allows us to visualize places we've never seen and people we've never actually met...beyond the printed page.

Ask any parent or grandparent who was read to regularly as a child and has carried on that tradition with his or her children and grandchildren, and they will instinctively confirm the value of reading to children. From the early experience of rocking a baby and letting the words and cadence of *Good Night, Moon* wash over you both to finishing the chapter entitled "The Miracle" in *Charlotte's Web* and hearing a sleepy four year-old voice ask, "What comes next?" the act of reading together is a simple but powerful bonding experience between loving adults and loved children.

Of course, it is also well-understood that early exposure to and interaction with books — picture books and chapter books alike — has a major impact on both rich, early vocabulary acquisition and ongoing success in reading. While this is not new information, it is always comforting when science can confirm what parents and teachers have always known to be true. This past August, the *Pediatrics* journal published a study that used functional magnetic resonance imaging to study brain activity in 3-5 year old children as they listened to age-appropriate stories. Dr. John S. Hutton and his team at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center were looking for differences in brain activity based on each particular child's previous experience of being read to at home.

As expected, children whose parents reported having read to their children frequently from birth showed greater brain activity while listening to someone read during the study. What was

unexpected, however, was the observation of significantly more activity in the areas of the brain that process visual association, even though the child in the scanner was only listening to a story without seeing pictures. The study suggests that the more early practice children have in developing visual images as they look at picture books and listen to stories, read by a human being as opposed to heard and seen from a screen, the more successful their transition will be to books without pictures because they've

developed the part of the brain, the parietal-temporal-occipital association cortex if you're curious, that serves as the watershed for integrating sounds and images.

So, make wonderful books with lyrical phrases and memorable character, classics and new arrivals, your holiday gifts, and make a New Year's resolution to set aside time each evening to read to your children. You may just find that one evening soon you will not know or care where your Smartphone is and, with visions of a spider web woven with the words "some pig" tucked not just in the corner of the Mr. Zuckerman's barn door but also into the corner of your mind's eye, you'll be looking

forward to the evening ritual of the next chapter of *Charlotte's Web*. Should you assume that you must give up this habit as your children reach adolescence? Absolutely not. You will simply have the delight of choosing together from an endless list of possible titles. Some you will have read before and some you'd hoped to read and will explore for the first time with your son or daughter. You will not only continue to help them to develop a deep store of words, images and their own writer's voice, but you will also cement a relationship that will last a lifetime.

Sharon Lauer, Head of School



Trimester I Honor Roll

Unquowa Honors

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

Grade 5

Kelly Jones

Grade 6

Antara Ghai
Brooke Jones
Raphael Makhras
Meghan Miller
Keilan Rosow
Sneha Sunder

Grade 7

Ruby Coleman
Alexandra Halas
Lola Panagos
Drew Slager

Grade 8

Lucille Panagos
Jessica Price
Karli Vare

Honors

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

Grade 5

Caroline Avery
Cecilia Buono
Cooper DeGirolomo
Blake Erenhouse
Edward Kim
Amelia Lanni
Lily Panagos
Michael Roberts
Ben Stokes
Sophie Whidden

Grade 6

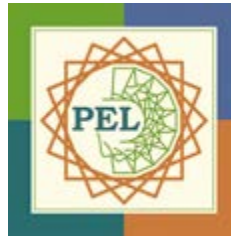
Gregory Coghlan
Maxwell Cooper
Matthew Corey
Katherine Daly
Katherine Horton
Lauren Lambrecht
Aiden Nishiyama
Margot Pitchenik
Madeline Reed
Samantha Renzulli
Abigail Russo
Daniel Vash
Will Waghorne
Hannah Whidden
Shira Zeiberg

Grade 7

Thomas Brennan
Ryan Cawley
Lisi Chapin
Margaret Coghlan
Shepherd Currie
Daniel DeGirolomo
William Geary
Aaron Gruen
William Hansen
Ethan Klein
Sophia Mughal
Abigail Nevins
Charlotte Robins
Grace Rosow
Maya Rubino
Carrie Smith
Ella Stalowir
Ruby Wilkos

Grade 8

Julianna Darcy
Anne Marie Dooher
Tess Haskel
Carolyn Kokias
Ryan Moss
Juliet St. Germain
Miriana Wasserman
Charlotte Yin



The Progressive Education Lab (PEL) is a two year fellowship designed to give young people who wish to become teachers an understanding of the fundamentals of progressive theory while learning from their experiences at four different progressive schools. This is the fourth year of the program and, as one of the founding schools, Unquowa

is pleased to welcome four new fellows who are in their year-long rotation through the four PEL Schools - The Calhoun School, The Cambridge School of Weston, The Putney School and The Unquowa School.



Putting the Garden to Bed

PEL fellows Abby Verney-Finik, Sarah Simons and Michael Vercillo led our fifth graders in preparing our curricular garden here at Unquowa for the winter. The fellows first led students in a brainstorming discussion about the differences between annuals and perennials and why some plants are pulled and others left in the ground. Students then worked clearing out beds, gathering the last of the harvest, spreading compost for fall planting and gathering seeds for investigations and spring plantings. The students were excited and worked with enthusiasm, knowing all their hard work would lead to another great harvest next season!

Dramatic Play in Grade K

PEL Fellow, Sigal Gerson Kadden has been teamed with the Performing Arts Department during her time at Unquowa. So far, she has led both Lower and Upper school students in lessons involving the use of poetry and dramatizing words into action, as her primary focus is arts-integrated learning. In this picture she is working with kindergarteners on a lesson involving the use of dramatic play, specifically, how role playing can be incorporated into what it means to be a good friend!



The Campaign for Unquowa - Success!

Thank You! Together We've Transformed Unquowa for Our Students



Performing Arts

Sparkling Creativity

Sixth graders were feeling “stuck” with their song-writing lesson and thought - why not use the minds of the PreK-4 students to help spark our creativity? The two classes teamed up to create their own original songs about Halloween. It was a great success with sixth grade students putting the younger students’ wonderful imaginations and ideas to music. Each group felt an amazing sense of pride and accomplishment after performing for each other!



Practicing Powers of Persuasion in Drama

Using random objects picked from a bag (such as a ribbon or a rock), fourth graders worked in small groups and presented a short commercial “selling” their object. They were instructed to use their onstage skills of speaking loudly and facing their audience to convince the class to buy their product. Everyone had a lot of fun presenting to the group, and they did a fantastic job using their “actor voices,” not to mention creating some very wacky characters!



Strolling Recorders

Third grade students are studying music theory using the recorder as a tool to enhance music reading skills and ear training. In a recent class, students listened to a song and had to figure out how to play that song on their recorder. The weather was beautiful, so we took our recorders outside and students allowed the school grounds to inspire their music!



Aly Cahill, Megan Kirk, David Coe, Performing Arts Teachers



Our 35th annual Winterfest!

December 9

Coronation Assembly

Partridge Announcement

December 14

Knighting Ceremony - 2:45

December 16

Afternoon Performance - 1:30
(Grandparents, younger siblings, etc. are encouraged to attend this performance)

December 17

Alumni Reception - 5:30
Evening Performance - 7:00

Upper School Chorus “One Short Day”

The Upper School Chorus was so excited about their first performance on the new stage, and they wanted it to be very special. The students had the idea of adapting “One Short Day” from the musical *Wicked*, so they put on their lyric-writing hats and began brainstorming, working through several versions until it felt just right. The audience agreed — they got a standing ovation!! Here are a few lines:

*There are shelves full of books to read,
Makerspace, Humanities,
students on this stage 100 strong.
There are wonders like I've never seen,
It's all grand and it's all green!
I think we've found the place where we belong!*



Animales de la Granja



PreK-3 students have been learning about farm animals. First Sr. Bartels introduced them to the Spanish names for common animals and the noises they make. The three year olds learned that some sounds are quite different, for example, in Spanish el gallo (the rooster) dice “ki kiri ki” instead of cock-a-doodle-do - how amazing! They were able to put his lesson to practice on a trip to Sport Hill Farm to visit real, live *animales de la granja*! Students cleverly disguised themselves with chicken hats so as not to startle the hens as they explored the coop to see how they lay eggs and roam around the yard looking for food. We then went up the hill and saw two families of big fat pigs with eight piglets each! We watched with amazement as Farmer Patty fed them whole heads of lettuce and pumpkins. Then it was time to say “adios gallinas (chickens) y cerdos (pigs)” — what a lovely fall day!

Janice Shannon, PreK-3 Teacher

Letters of the Week

Mondays are very exciting for PreK-4 students - the chance to begin studying their next letter of the week! Using multi-sensory tools, like magna boards, letterbooks and playdough, the kids learn the initial sound of each letter, practice writing the uppercase form and begin to recognize the lower case. Students brainstorm a list of words that begin with each letter of the week and then use those words to remember the letter sounds later. We painted our feet for letter F, used our bodies to make an H and cut out a tracing of our hand to craft an Octopus. The letter of the week is even involved in the math lesson! For example we each counted the spots on a cow and then put two cows together to introduce the concept of addition. The only day better than Monday is Friday, when each student brings something for “show and tell” that begins with the letter of the week!

Ann Palm, PreK-4 Teacher



Expanded PreK-3 Enrollment Options

We are offering new expanded PreK-3 enrollment options for 2016-2017:

- **3-Day Option - Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:30 to 12:00**
- **5-Day Option - Monday through Friday 8:30 to 12:00**

Optional Daily Lunch Bunch - Available from 12:00 to 3:30

Contact our Admissions Office with any questions 203-367-3151

Learning to Communicate in Mandarin

Activities that require communicating are core to learning a second language. Our fourth grade Mandarin students learned to describe their age and the grade they are in and then practiced this vocabulary and pronunciation through mini-dialogues with different partners in the class. This is just the beginning of their practice of conversing in Mandarin. To make it more connected to the students' real life, students also did an art project that included their descriptions in the Mandarin characters.

Singing is another way to help students to open up and practice speaking a different language. In singing, all the words of a different language have a rhythm and all the challenging sentences are easier to express with the music. Therefore, all of our Mandarin students are learning to sing different songs as a way to boost their self-confidence and to make them less anxious about speaking in another language.

Yajuan Zhang, Mandarin Teacher



Makerspace

Maker In Residence

We are pleased to welcome our first Maker In Residence: potter, Jonah Stepakoff. Mr. Stepakoff has been throwing clay since he was in elementary school and now shares his love of this challenging and rewarding process with students. During the fall, our students have watched demonstrations of wheel throwing and have had opportunities to work with the spinning clay themselves to make pots. Pairs of students go down to the pottery station during visual arts periods to create simple bowls with Mr. Stepakoff.

Krissy Ponden, Art Teacher

3D State Maps

Fourth graders have begun an exciting cross-curricular unit on our nation. They are building plywood representations of their assigned states and will use the 3-D printer to add physical features. They traveled first to the Home Depot for supplies where they learned about different types of plywood and stains. Math lessons leading up to the trip were fruitful brainstorming sessions about dimensions and budget planning.

Plywood and safety goggles in hand, students headed to the makerspace to cut their state lines. They measured the dimensions of their plywood using a caliper, focusing on the thickness of the material. Accuracy and precision matter when using the CNC router to ensure a clean cut. After converting their state images from bitmaps to vectors, more easily scaled and converted into clear instructions for the router, they learned how to use the software, VCarve Pro.

Students then arrived at the fun part: drilling their plywood onto the work area, opening their toolpath, confirming the type of bit in the CNC router spindle, and turning on the spindle. At the end they get to sit back and watch the machine turn their design and measurements into a precisely milled image of their state!

Jamie Bartels, Makerspace Coordinator

Assembling Our Own Workspaces

During the first week of school, our very eager kindergarteners went down to the new makerspace and were instantly transformed into capable engineers! First, we learned some important safety signals for our new workspace - two fingers in the air means attention and quiet, an important thing to look out for in what will surely be a noisy space! Then, Mr. Bartels explained the difference between tools and materials. The last lesson was on how to build a table, first a quick demo and a reminder to choose all matching legs. The children quickly embraced this new way of learning. They amazed themselves, and me, by cooperatively carrying large pieces of wood, screwing their legs on and lifting their newly made tables all by themselves!

Faith Barbuto, Kindergarten Teacher

Robotics in the Makerspace

Sixth grade is off and running with their robotics unit in technology. They began in the makerspace by exploring the construction process and assembling a project with no directions or guides. After this opening experiment, they moved into constructing a simple bot that could move with simple commands. As they progressed, they learned how to calculate exact distances traveled. Currently, they are exploring the Mars Rover challenge which requires a lot of math calculations and the use of ratios for the precise turns necessary to navigate the simulated surface of Mars.

Lloyd Mitchell, Director of Information Technology



Field Experiences

In the Realm of Fairies

At the Florence Griswold Museum in Old Lyme, set among stunning views of the Lieutenant River and historical gardens, are 32 fairy houses, each painstakingly crafted by artists and enthusiasts. With a different theme for each exhibit, guests are invited to explore these miniature worlds and look for a specified hidden object. Seventh and second grade students toured the fairy garden together and then had the wonderful opportunity to paint “en plein air” at the river’s edge after a lesson on foreground, background, color mixing and landscapes. It was a memorable and imaginative experience for students and teachers alike!

Krissy Ponden, Art Teacher



Rafting Down Deerfield River

Seventh and eighth graders kicked off the school year with adventure! Learning to work together to steer a raft through class II and III rapids requires focusing on each other to keep the raft on course. Led by guides, the students had the opportunity to really understand what it means to work together. This was a terrific trip that helped begin the school year on a high note as a team.

Lloyd Mitchell, Grade 7 Advisor



Investigating Rocks/Minerals at the Audubon

Third and fourth graders began their visit to the Audubon by creating “human” rocks and minerals. Once they understood how the two substances are created, students opened their tool kits and worked to identify various rocks by testing luster, streak, color and hardness and then searching field guides for the name and type of rock. They hypothesized about how various rocks were formed. Student then hiked through the beautiful trails at the Audubon with stops along the way to listen to bird calls, observe nests and of course, identify some more rocks!

Carlene Gordon, Grade 3 Teacher



PreK-3 Students Visit the Firehouse

On a beautiful day PreK-3 students walked around the corner to the Jackman Firehouse. The firemen met us outside and described their jobs and how they protect us in case of a fire. Firemen can look a little scary in their suits, so Riley's mom dressed in a full suit to show that although she was unrecognizable she was friendly. Students practiced stop, drop and roll and sang a song to the firemen. Most exciting of all, each student got to sit in the drivers seat of a real fire engine!

Janice Shannon, PreK-3 Teacher



Getting to Know the Ogden's

First graders have been learning about colonial herb gardens with Mrs. Curran, our Environmental Studies teacher. They learned practical uses for different herbs, such as thyme for a cough, lavender to repel insects and mint for a stomach ache — the same herbs in *our* Unquowa garden. While exploring the Ogden House, students felt as though they'd stepped back in time. They learned about the life of the Ogden family and the work the children did each day like cooking and making clothing. They were most excited to see the garret, where the Ogden's dried the herbs from *their* garden. Making their own lavender sachets, just like the Ogden's did, was a fun final project.

Maureen Diallo, Grade 1 Teacher



Founders' Day

What a fantastic fall day! The Unquowa community gathered for an afternoon of fun, friends and good food. Despite the chilly weather, we had a great turnout! The eighth graders and their advisors hosted a wide range of fun activities including cupcake decorating, tattoos, face painting, two bounce houses, bake sale and more. Students and their parents were also invited inside to our new makerspace to play with the lego wall. The fabulous music of Bone Dry, sponsored through the generosity of the UPA, energized the crowd.

It was wonderful to see so many alumni and their families return to catch up with old friends and to visit the school. For our most recent alums, it was also a chance to visit with their former Unquowa teachers and to share tales of high school and college. Alumni this year enjoyed the added bonus (and excuse to warm up) of touring the school's new performing arts spaces. The "oohs" and "aahs" as they walked into the gym and saw the grand stage were a wonderful testimony to the impact of last summer's renovation.

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

Karen McClellan, Community Manager





2015 Annual Fund

*Every Year,
Everyone,
Any Amount!*

Each year the launch of our Annual Fund is stronger than the year before, and 2015 is no exception! Thank you to everyone who has already made a gift to this year's fund.

Like all independent schools, gifts to the Annual Fund at Unquowa go directly to the operating budget. Every year Sharon Lauer and the school direct the support where it is most needed - programming, financial aid, classroom materials, curriculum, technology and other initiatives (makerspace, mindfulness, etc).

Your gift to the 2015 Annual Fund has a direct impact on the school day of all our children and the faculty.

Many of you give every year and we are so grateful! If you haven't yet made a gift to this year's 2015 Annual Fund, please join us now. The deadline is June 30, 2016 and you can simply return the enclosed envelope or give online in the Giving section of www.unquowa.org.

Remember, no gift is too small and every gift makes a difference. Thank you! Thank you!

Michelle Adams
2015 Annual Fund Chair

*View the 2014-2015
Annual Report
at www.unquowa.org*

African Drumming with Infinite Roots

Seventh grade students have been studying Africa in their humanities class. To bring another dimension to their studies, Henry Jones from Infinite Roots visited our school for an African drumming workshop. Mr. Jones started by introducing the instruments by name and talking about which part of Africa they were from. He made each one of these instruments by hand and taught students not to “hit” the drum, but to play the instrument. Our seventh grade musicians learned to play two different songs as a class and performed them before teaching the sixth and eighth graders how to respect and play the instruments. This workshop was a great opportunity for our young musicians to learn traditional African drumming rhythms on authentic instruments.

Megan Kirk, Performing Arts Teacher



Constructing Birds' Nests

While investigating the needs of animals in science, our third grade students were presented with a task...think like a bird and create shelter for yourself and your young. In an on-going effort to create problem-solvers, students were given little more instruction than that. We walked through the woods to find materials and then headed into the makerspace to design, build, problem-solve, redesign and rebuild. Students soon realized that building a strong nest is no easy task. Once they felt confident in their designs we put them to the test - outside in a tree students carefully selected a branch and placed their nests. Hard boiled eggs were used to test the strength of the nests and all proved their function by holding one, two, even up to six eggs! We were so successful, we decided to leave the nests in the trees so that some lucky birds in our area may reap the benefits.

Carlene Gordon, Third Grade Teacher



A Visit from Virginia Birdsall's Grandson

This fall we had unexpected visitors — the grandson of Virginia Birdsall, Unquowa's first Head of School from 1917 to 1919. Mark Birdsall and his wife Laura spent time with Sharon Lauer touring the school and going through our archives from the school's early years. We learned that when his grandmother left Unquowa it was because she had received a grant to travel

to Germany for the summer to learn more about the work of Rudolf Steiner and she later returned to the US to help found the first Waldorf School in North America. This was a fitting discovery since each year we award the “Virginia Birdsall Faculty Award” to support a teacher's summer travel and study.

Mark and Laura were pleased to find that the school Virginia guided in the its early years had grown into such a vibrant learning community and that Unquowa's programming continues to be delivered with a hands-on progressive approach. They are hoping to return for Unquowa's 100th!

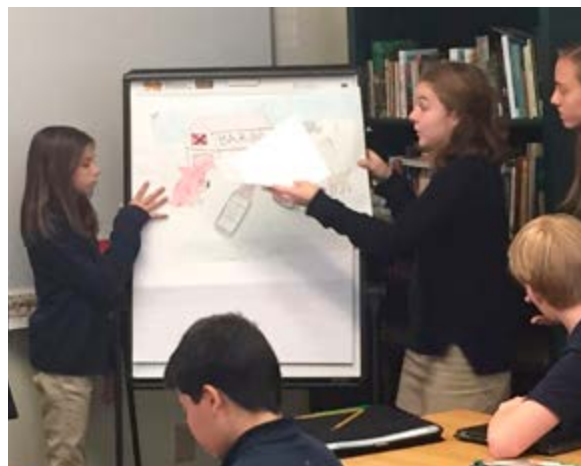
Kate Haviland, Director of Advancement



Upper School Humanities & The Seven Commandments

During our study of the government, eighth grade humanities students read *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell, focusing particularly on the themes of leadership, power and forms of government. To further their understanding of these themes, the students were given the task of illustrating one of 'The Seven Commandments of Animalism', introduced by Orwell alluding to the Exodus Commandments. Having completed their illustrations in small groups, each group then presented the analysis of their work to the class. The meaningful and organic contributions of the rest of the students to each group's presentation created a highly rich, student-led discussion around the topics. The students then wrote a literary analysis essay to complement their in-depth study of this literary masterpiece and our study of the government.

Debbie Leidlein, Alice Lloyd, Iman Rasti
Humanities Teachers



An Unquowa Halloween



Up, Up, and Away

The fifth graders started the year in visual arts on a high note...hundreds of feet in the sky to be exact! For inspiration, we watched an incredible timelapse video of hot air balloons, with their gorgeous patterns and colors, at the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta. To create their own hot air balloons, students blew up latex balloons and covered them in paper mache, a messy but thoroughly enjoyable task! Once dry, the students painted in bright acrylic colors according to the sketches they made of their designs. Come take a look — these colorful creations are now hanging around the art room!

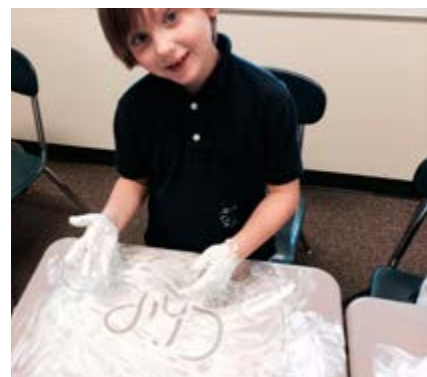
Krissy Ponden, Art Teacher



Sensory Spelling with a Clean Scent

Children in second grade had fun practicing their spelling with shaving cream! Using a different modality to practice their sound-symbol relationships was so engaging that it was easy for the kids to forget they were actually learning as they spontaneously shouted to peers, "It has a digraph!" or "It has a silent e!" Making errors, which is always part of the learning process, was quite alright because it meant smearing the whole desk to start again.

Lisa Sylvestro, Learning Specialist



Continuing Mindfulness Training for Faculty and Parents Bringing Problem-Solving with Circles to the Classroom

The Circle approach is an excellent way to foster social and emotional learning at the middle school level because it directly addresses two crucial developmental needs of adolescents: belonging and having a voice. Marieke van Woerkom of The Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility brought the concept of Circles to the Unquowa faculty by facilitating a two-part faculty professional development course in September and October. Marieke introduced the idea of a talking piece — an object that allows only one person to speak at a time. The circle of 40 teachers took turns with the talking piece, first introducing themselves before moving on to deeper questions. Faculty members are using Circles throughout the year with their students to help them develop their listening and problem solving skills, particularly in Upper School Advisory. The respectful listening involved in Circles also encourages empathy and understanding.

“Skills for Life” Parent Workshop

Linda Lantieri, Director of The Inner Resilience Program, is leading an eight week series of classes for parents at Unquowa titled “Skills for Life.” The series touches on parenting topics, such as reducing stress and enhancing well-being. Emphasis is placed on helping parents to nurture their own inner life which can lead to more effective parenting. Linda begins each class with a mindfulness practice, demonstrating and offering techniques parents can use daily to foster a less stressful parenting environment at home.

JoAn Sabatini
Director of Social and Emotional Learning



Giving Thanks

The whole school came together to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with a traditional feast with all the trimmings prepared by Chef David and his team. Before the meal, a group of students offered traditional blessings from around the world in a dozen different languages spoken by their families and/or ancestors. As our hosts for the day, our eighth graders decorated the gym and played the role of servers, making sure that every table had as much turkey and sides as we could eat. A big thank you to our chefs who outdid themselves preparing this delicious meal.

Immediately after the feast, kindergarten and fourth grade students set to work on the exciting task of loading Mr. Doug's truck with all the food generously donated by Unquowa families to the annual food drive for the Mercy Learning Center in Bridgeport. Students delivered the donations themselves - what a wonderful way to start the season of giving!

Karen McClellan, Community Manager



Fall Sports Update



Unquowa's fall athletic season was celebrated in November at our annual Fall Athletic Dessert. We shared stories, celebrated players and coaches and had some laughs. What a party it was!

The soccer season was filled with many exciting moments. This year's **JV** team (grades 3 & 4) was full of energy and played three

exciting games. The **Green** squad (grades 5 & 6) was young, but gained valuable experience during every game and practice. The boys' and girls' **White** teams (grades 7 & 8) were experienced, team oriented and we could always count on them to be good sports.

The girls' **Field Hockey** team was a dedicated bunch who practiced hard, gave their best effort and fought to the end in every game.

Finally, thank you to all of our fans! Your enthusiasm and dedication was such an inspiration. Go Gators!

Al Boccamazzo, Athletics Director



After School Activities

The school day doesn't have to end at 3:30 — in addition to joining athletic teams, students have lots of choices for after school activities! Lower School children who are interested in practicing tiger claws and hammer strikes find their niche with Master Brenna's **Karate Club**. Our resident yogi, Ms. Tortora, is so excited to be leading **yoga** practice in the new performing arts movement classroom.

The Upper School **Improv Club**, where young actors work with Mrs. Cahill to build their acting skills by learning the basic improv concepts: acceptance, listening and working as a team, is a popular (and hysterical) favorite. **Junior Chorus**, for students in grades 3-5 who love to sing and perform meets Wednesday mornings with Mrs. Kirk and Mr. Coe's **Guitar Ensemble** for grades 4-8 gets together to jam every Friday afternoon.

Kids in **Tech Crew** work behind the curtain problem solving tech issues and working as a group to manage the school's overall technology and audio-visual components under the supervision of Mr. Mitchell, our Director of Technology. **Inventors Club** meets in the makerspace and is perfect for students who can't get enough of tinkering and creating!

Coming this winter — **Ski Club** and **Literary Magazine** for Upper Schoolers!



From the UPA

This year is off to a wonderful start and the UPA has been hard at work! Students in fourth and fifth grade enjoyed the **Fourth & Fifth Grade Social** in October and were entertained at Unquowa by the fabulous Austin Daly and his hip-hop dance party! The sixth, seventh and eighth graders, took to the road and enjoyed their **Upper School Social** at Rock N Jump in Trumbull. Students loved both of the events and are eagerly looking forward to the Spring Socials. As we heard many students say, "That was awesome!"

The **Autumn Wine Tasting**, now a signature Unquowa event, was executed flawlessly on a Saturday evening in November. Over 90 guests, including a number of alumni, enjoyed wine from around the world and the company of other Unquowans while raising money for the school. This event has truly become one that you just don't want to miss!

The UPA's **Community Service** projects are thriving at Unquowa with a bicycle drive (over 40 bikes donated!), coat drive and food drive this fall. Lastly, the **Faculty and Staff Appreciation Breakfast** held in November featured a delicious array of homemade goodies for the teachers to enjoy while viewing the many cards the students created to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication to Unquowa.

Winterfest is next up with an amazing *Back to the Future* theme and soundtrack being presented on December 16th and 17th. The UPA Hospitality Committee is ready to transform our beautiful dining room into a Winter Wonderland filled with treats for after the show!

Jenn Dooher and Tracy Stuart, UPA Co-Presidents



Welcome New Unquowans



Spanish Teacher, **Katie Brenna**, and her husband, Richard, welcomed their second child on September 6. Their daughter, Salome, weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and she and her family are doing well.



First grade teacher, **Maureen Diallo**, and her husband, Djibril, welcomed their first child, Quinn Louise, on November 6. Quinn weighed 6 pounds 15 ounces. Mom and Dad are thrilled with their new addition. Congratulations!

Congratulations



Cameron Ross-MacCormack, second grade teacher, was married this July to Collette Urbano at Lighthouse Point Park in New Haven.

Alumni News

Eric Haseltine '99 was married this October to Amanda Warco at the Brooklyn Historical Society. Eric and Amanda live in Brooklyn where he works for Adobe. Eric's mother is Lisa Haseltine, our Math Department Chair.



A number of Unquowans enjoyed the wedding including Eric's older brother **Mark '95**. Pictured below are more Unquowans enjoying the reception: **Reagan (Sayles) Carroll '99, Michelle May '99, Brad Topar '99, and Lauren Gabriele '98**.



Erin Reilly '12 has been playing varsity soccer at Greens Farms Academy since she was a freshman.

She also plays soccer on the highest level team for players under 18 in the CT Futbol Club. In the summer, Erin's team won the Gothia Cup - World Youth Cup in Sweden competing against teams from 73 countries. Erin (right) is pictured here with a teammate after their victory.

She will graduate from Greens Farms Academy this year and has been recruited by George Washington University where she will play D1 soccer and study international relations or psychology. But first, Erin is taking a gap year to play with a professional soccer club in France. Congratulations, Erin!



Olivia '11 and **Rachel '15 Albenze** are excelling academically and playing volleyball at Fairfield Ludlowe High School.

Rachel, on the left below, loves high school and is happy she followed her sister's footsteps and tried out for the Freshman volleyball team...and was voted captain! She is doing well in her studies and feels she is prepared for high school "because of her fantastic teachers at Unquowa."

Olivia is a senior and is balancing school, college applications and Varsity volleyball. She has been a setter on the team for four years and FLHS just won the FCIAC and State Championships! Olivia is ranked #1 in Fairfield County with 850 assists (breaking the FLHS record by 190!) and #2 in the state.

Congratulations to Rachel and Olivia!



Unquowa Alums Enjoying Founders' Day 2015





THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

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

Coming Soon ... A New and Improved *unquowa.org*



Take-A-Look at Unquowa

Our Admissions Department is happy to host Take-A-Look Days for small groups of prospective parents to visit and learn more about Unquowa. There is ample time to ask questions, and to get a sense of the school's atmosphere while classes are in session. Tours begin at 9:00 and last an hour and a half. Our schedule: *January 12, January 21, February 4, February 16, February 23, March 3, April 12.*