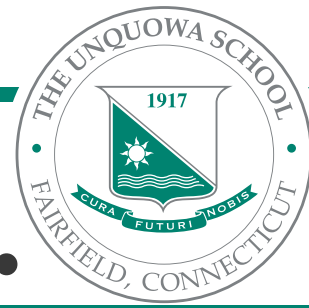


# About U.S.



A Publishing Tradition  
of The Unquowa School

## A Message From the Head of School

I've spent a lot of time this summer thinking about "the unafraid spirit." Maybe it's because we here at Unquowa have been living in the midst of construction this summer that is all about providing spaces for unafraid activities: performing arts classrooms, a stage for public performing and a makerspace where the most daring ideas will be able to fly or fail.

Since 1917 our school's mission has been "to develop, educate and prepare our family of children with an unafraid spirit to achieve their personal best in a changing world." The parents who founded Unquowa in the second decade of the twentieth century were keenly aware that the world their children would grow up in was not the sleepy agrarian world of the nineteenth century. They saw ahead a world of burgeoning invention and the subsequent need for a school with a changed vision. They knew that their children needed a different environment if they were to become adults who were self-reliant, emotionally sound and academically creative and fearless — that is, able to participate notably and confidently in a changing world. Memorized skills alone would not serve their children in the world they saw coming. And so Unquowa's earliest students performed plays in the nearby woods, they bravely herded logs down the Horse Tavern Brook and they wrote screenplays and shot movies, using the latest film technology in a decade when feature-length films were still a novelty in the larger world and hardly a staple in the classroom.

The wording of our school's mission statement has not changed in close to a century and matters even more today than when it was first written. The second decade of the twenty-first century world is changing even faster than its twentieth century partner, so we must respond even more strongly to that fact than

our school did a hundred years ago. In all aspects of school, at all ages, teachers must delicately balance navigating between guiding and trusting, giving and expecting, supporting and setting free their students. Teachers must plumb their own courageous instincts every day to create the laboratory experience for kids which develops the unafraid spirit. Implicitly through the environment of their classrooms and the learning activities they construct and explicitly through instructions to and conversations with students,



Winterfest performers with unafraid spirits shining through

teachers must say, "I am here to open new worlds to you and to teach you the skills and knowledge you need, but I'm also here to honor the curiosity you've brought with you and to make sure that you hear the message that I expect that curiosity to guide you as much as I do."

We keep our mission in mind each year as we review successes and as we work to improve our campus and curriculum. My faculty and I cannot wait to open our completed

performance spaces and makerspace to students this fall. These new facilities dovetail beautifully with the curricular work our Upper School humanities teachers have been doing this past spring and summer in the areas of interdisciplinary teaching and student-led inquiry. Buttressed not just by better facilities but also by a more flexible daily schedule, this work will expand the learning environment that builds the "unafraid spirit" in each of our children.

We will be launching a new website this fall, and prominently placed will be ever-changing photos and blog posts by faculty, staff and students that say, "The unafraid spirit is alive and well here at Unquowa!" Watch for an email to announce the launch, and check in often to follow our "unafraid" adventures. How has Unquowa instilled the unafraid spirit in you or your children? Please share with us by note or at [sharon.lauer@unquowa.org](mailto:sharon.lauer@unquowa.org).

**Sharon Lauer, Head of School**

## Summer Farm Camp is Back!



After a short hiatus last summer due to our renovation projects, we were thrilled to have Farm Camp back in action for four weeks this summer, under the leadership of new Camp Director, Faith Barbuto.

The older campers' days were filled with visits to Sport Hill Farm where they experienced first hand what it takes to run a farm by harvesting crops, planting seeds and seedlings, feeding chickens and more. Our younger Sweet Pea campers learned about farming on a smaller scale by helping to maintain our curricular gardens here at Unquowa.

Both groups also participated in activities such as yoga, environmental art and science classes as well as the popular hands-on daily cooking lessons with Unquowa's chefs. Students learned how to prep, cook and eat produce they'd picked themselves. We are already looking forward to next summer — be sure to keep an eye out for online registration next winter and sign up fast; spots fill quickly!



## Summer Robo Workshop Returns with a Bang!

Robo Workshop made its triumphant return this summer with a robust group of sixth and seventh graders. During this week long camp, the group advanced their programming skills and built their own robots.

They each designed and constructed their robots to accomplish a specific task. The students all completed their interesting designs and some were even able to incorporate motors and sensors to perform the tasks established in their initial design phase. It was a great week of botting!

*Lloyd Mitchell, Technology Director*



## The Sounds of Music Fill the Unquowa Halls

In addition to the sounds of construction, Unquowa was filled with music for four weeks with the return of Chamber Music Central's Summer Festival. Young musicians worked together in trios and quartets to perfect their assigned chamber pieces. In addition to intensive rehearsals and coaching, there were master classes led by experienced teachers and musicians. On the last Friday of each session, the students performed in a concert, often receiving standing ovations. Bravo!



## The Campaign for Unquowa

What an exciting summer! Construction crews are working hard to finish the final phase of projects in The Campaign for Unquowa. Our new stage, instrumental music and performing arts classrooms and bump-out windows with reading nooks will be ready when faculty, students and their families return in September. The impact of these improvements on our small campus will be tremendous!

### August construction updates:



The frames for the bump-out windows and third and fourth grade reading nooks are installed and awaiting glass.



The temporary wall is down and framing is almost complete on the new performing arts space and lift.



The new second floor performing arts classroom is taking shape with built-in choral risers and a mirrored wall with ballet barre.



The complete renovation of the instrumental classroom is almost done and includes a riser for guitar ensemble.

## New Faces at Unquowa



We are pleased to welcome two new faculty members to Unquowa this fall. **Eric Werner** will be joining our Upper School math faculty. While Mrs. Haseltine will continue to coach our MathCounts team and chair the department, Mr. Werner will take over all of Mrs. Haseltine's classes and serve as an advisor. Mr. Werner is a graduate of Hackley School and Wesleyan University. He received his master's degree in mathematics from Pace University. He has taught middle school math at both Hackley School and The Masters School and served as a soccer, tennis and lacrosse coach at both schools. His interest in music is a delightful plus that we know will add depth to his relationship with our Upper Schoolers.



**Elizabeth Corvese** will join Katie Brenna and Jamie Bartels on our Spanish faculty this coming fall, replacing Isabel Tapia, who is expecting her third child in September and beginning work on her Ph.D. in linguistics this fall as well. Ms. Corvese received her B.A. from Salve Regina University and her master's degree in Spanish from Middlebury College this past spring. Elizabeth is a cross-country runner and, in addition to teaching Spanish, will help to coach our cross-country team.

**Save the Date: Founders' Day - October 17 - 12:00 noon**



# THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

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

## Faculty Explore Makerspace Possibilities at Summer Workshop

Mr. Knebel, Mrs. Leidlein and I were awarded Unquowa's Virginia F. Birdsall Faculty Award to support our summer travels to the Constructive Modern Knowledge Institute in Manchester, NH for a workshop on designing and working with makerspaces.

Most of our time was spent working on group projects in the institute's makerspace. The group Mr. Knebel worked with was focused on generating and harnessing energy by the movement of a foot within a shoe. Mrs. Leidlein's group created a vertical garden with sensors to measure the condition of the soil. Using a Raspberry Pi microcomputer, my group created an arcade of classic 80's and 90's video games.

We all left with a better understanding of the potential of Unquowa's makerspace and the new learning opportunities it will provide for our students.

*Lloyd Mitchell, Technology Director*

## 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 about an hour and a half. Our fall schedule:

Thursday, September 17  
Tuesday, September 22  
Thursday, October 8  
Tuesday, October 20  
Thursday, November 5  
Tuesday, November 10  
Thursday, November 19  
Tuesday, December 8

