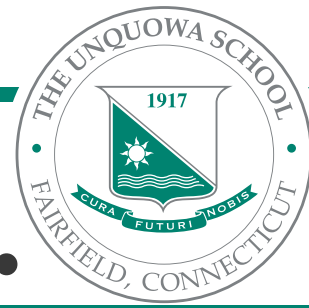


About U.S.



A Publishing Tradition
of The Unquowa School

A Message From the Head of School

In the early twentieth century when Albert Einstein decided to take a break from the rigors of his German high school to spend a year loafing aimlessly in Pavia, there was no formal gap year program.

As Carlo Rovelli recounts in his elegant new book, *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics*, Einstein's father was, at the time, installing the first electricity-generating power plants in Padua, and Albert simply decided to join him in Italy. Albert read, attended lectures at the University of Pavia and then, refreshed, went home to the University of Zurich. There he studied

physics and over a period of only a few years produced three articles which were published by the prestigious scientific journal *Annalen der Physik*, and each was considered worthy of a Nobel Prize. As Rovelli puts it in his chapter on Einstein's theory of relativity, "You don't get anywhere by not wasting time."

One could probably argue that there is wasting time and then there is "wasting time." So as we approach the months of June, July and August, I felt I had to take a stab at suggesting a few wonderful summer things kids can do during their gap between June and September that might be considered "quality time-wasting." During the days spent between posing this question and actually starting to write, someone sent me the link to an interview on leadership with noted developmental psychologist Joann Deak. I'd heard this specific talk on leadership before, but something made me make time to listen again. I am so glad that I did because Dr. Deak's talk perfectly framed my thinking on quality time-wasting. In her talk she reminded her listener that good teachers and strong school experiences focus on building competence, confidence and connectedness in their students. Just as I can certainly agree that these should be the goals of schools, I can also say that they can be used as perfect measures of non-

academic summer activities that definitely aren't a waste of time. Some summer activities that young people can devote endless days to which result in competence:

- Learn to cook with someone who knows how by wandering through a favorite cookbook
- Reread all of your favorite books
- Design, plant and care for a garden
- Write a short letter to a different family member every day
- Build a world of fairy houses in your backyard and invite your friends to play in it
- Invent your own outdoor games with friends
- Make a short film about your family's summer
- Tackle a big lego or building block project
- Design and build a tree-house or fort
- Walk an older neighbor's pet
- Write and illustrate a short picture book and share copies with your extended family



The exciting thing about these suggestions and others like them is that while establishing competence through doing them, you will feel an incredible sense of confidence as well. Because most of them are accomplished with the help of others - family, friends, neighbors, etc. a sense of connectedness follows. And if you are old enough to have electronic devices and take a vacation from them in the process - which studies show can eat up to thirty percent of one's day - you will have plenty of time to "waste" in the same questionable ways that young Einstein did and, as other studies show, develop your pre-frontal cortex, improve your cognitive abilities and return to school in the fall able to reflect and eager to learn.

Have a happy summer!

Sharon Lauer, Head of School

Trimester III 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
Samantha Renzulli
Sneha Sunder
Daniel Vash

Grade 7

Ryan Cawley
Margaret Coghlan

Grade 7

Alexandra Halas
Lola Panagos
Charlotte Robins
Maya Rubino
Drew Slager
Carrie Smith
Ruby Wilkos

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
Michael Cairo
Cooper DeGirolomo
Eva Dooher
Blake Erenhouse
Edward Kim
Amelia Lanni
Lily Panagos
Halie Perkins
Michael Roberts
Madeline Shantz
Ben Stokes
Sophie Whidden
Jack Wilkos

Grade 6

Maxwell Cooper
Matthew Corey
Katherine Daly
Kylee Faulkner
Skyler Fidel
Lauren Flamini
Katherine Horton
Sophia Kessler
Lauren Lambrecht
Meghan Miller
Tate Mullineaux
Margot Pitchenik
Madeline Reed
Keilan Rosow
Abigail Russo

Will Waghorne
Hannah Whidden
Shira Zeiberg

Grade 7

Lisi Chapin
Ruby Coleman
Daniel DeGirolomo
William Geary
Aaron Gruen
William Hansen
Adam Jehle
Ethan Klein
Naia Kocsi
Noah Markus
Stephen Daniel Mezei
Sophia Mughal
Abigail Nevins
Grace Rosow
Ella Stalowir

Grade 8

Mia Auray
Chloe Coseglia
Julianna Darcy
Anne Marie Dooher
Tess Haskel
Carolyn Kokias
Ryan Moss
Juliet St. Germain
Maxwell Victor
Miriana Wasserman
Charlotte Yin

Math Olympiad



We have just completed our 21st year of participation in the Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary Schools. The contest provides challenging non-routine problems that stretch the abilities of upper elementary students. Our fifth and sixth grade students employed a variety of problem-solving strategies to complete a series of five contests from November to March.

Students scoring 14 or more points out of a possible 25 earned Olympiad patches. Michael Roberts earned the trophy for the highest score in fifth grade. In the sixth grade, Alex McKinnis, Daniel Vash and Lauren Lambrecht earned silver pins for their scores in the top 10% nationally. Antara Ghai and Sneha Sunder received gold pins for their scores in the top 2%. Sneha received the trophy for achieving the highest score in sixth grade, but that's not all. For her perfect score of 25 she received the George Lenchner medallion. George Lenchner was the founder of Math Olympiads for Elementary Schools. This is the first time an Unquowa student has achieved this accomplishment.

Congratulations to all the participants on a successful year of problem solving!

Lisa Haseltine, Math Department Chair

Quizlet LIVE

Technology: friend or foe? We can all agree that technology has its advantages and disadvantages. In the world of language learning, this certainly holds true. Online dictionaries prove to be



a convenient and helpful tool, while online translators can be a dangerous temptation for students to avoid using their brains first. This year Señora Corvese and I tried a new feature through the popular website Quizlet called Quizlet LIVE. Excited and hesitant to discover whether this would be a technology friend or foe in the land of language-learning, we were delighted to discover that Quizlet LIVE offers an opportunity for students of all levels to collaborate beyond their screens in the target language. In fact, this new program requires both technology and collaboration to be successful. Better still, students have a blast competing!

Katie Brenna, Spanish Teacher

Upper Schoolers Rock in *Seussical Jr.*



The audience grew still and suddenly the music began with a spectacular flash of brightly colored lights. A little boy, Jojo, enters reading *The Cat in the Hat* when he is excited to see a striped hat sitting in the middle of the stage. He runs to put the hat on and suddenly a cat appears!

The story unfolds with many colorful characters telling lots of stories. From Horton saving the Whos, to Gertrude wanting more than a one feathered tail, to Mazie trying to get someone else to take care of her egg! All of the students dressed in their amazing costumes put on a magical show. The Unquowa community, friends and family were blown away by their spectacular performance. Bravo!

*Alison Cahill & Megan Kirk
Performing Arts Teachers*



Seussical's Opening Act

Sixth and seventh grade instrumental students opened this year's spring musical with a sampling of the music they've been studying this year.

The sixth graders warmed up the crowd with "The Entertainer" by Scott Joplin and "Surfin' Safari" by the Beach Boys. Seventh grade students (all of those who were able to play dressed in their Seussical costumes!) followed with "Minuet In G" by J.S. Bach and "Summertime Blues" by Eddie Cochran.

All of our musicians were happy to participate and share in the excitement and craziness backstage and it was a great way to kick off an amazing night of musical theatre at Unquowa!

David Coe, Performing Arts Teacher

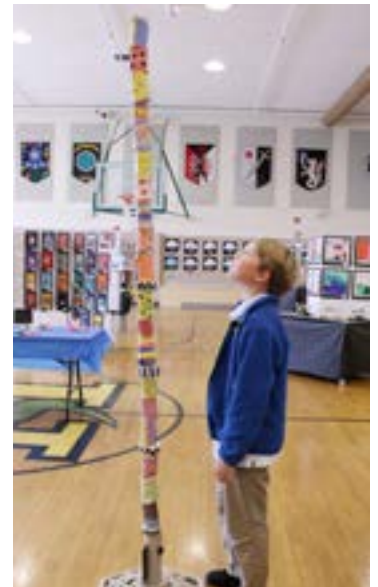


Our Artists Display Their Work at the Annual Show



Unquowa students, from the littlest to the biggest, participated in the all-school Art Show in May. Each student had a variety of their work displayed in various mediums from painting, to ceramics, and even weaving. 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 incredible all-black assemblage inspired by Louise Nevelson's Sky Cathedral, are new and created quite a buzz among students and parents alike. 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.

Alice Desgranges & Krissy Ponden, Art Teachers



Soweto Troupe Spends the Day at Unquowa

Twelve members of the Soweto Melodic Voices choir from Soweto, South Africa visited Unquowa and spent time with every grade. In addition to performing for the whole school, they met with PreK through seventh grade students to demonstrate their culture through traditional songs and dances. Even though they couldn't understand all the words, students were enthralled by the energetic singing and dancing!

The troupe then spent time with our eighth graders in their Humanities class talking about presidential elections, fighting racial discrimination and the 2010 soccer World Cup in South Africa and its impact on their economy. The students enjoyed comparing the similarities of their cultures and daily lives. A wonderful learning experience for all!



Celebrating Spring with Grandparents & Special Friends

It was a rainy day for our annual May Day Celebration with grandparents and special friends. However, the students brought sunshine into the lives of everyone during the event. They welcomed their guests into their classrooms for special projects and many gave tours of the school to their visitors.

Each class worked very hard on their individual performances and all of that hard work paid off in an extraordinary assembly full of music and dance. One class worked together to write their own original song lyrics, another added sign language to their performance and the Upper School students wowed us all with their *Seussical, Jr.* preview.

The highlight, as always though, was the finale — traditional Maypole dances. What a special assembly!



Earth Day Focused on Plastic in the World's Oceans



The Upper School classes traveled to Long Beach Park in Stratford to visit the marsh and beach where students explored our Earth Day theme of the world's and ocean's problems with plastic trash. Students examined the marsh as an ecosystem with a member of the Connecticut Conservation Council and got to hold Mummichogs, also known as mud minnows. Students learned how the marsh acts like a filter to trap sediment and nutrients. On the beach side, teachers led explorations on the amount of plastic in the Sound, which plastic items tend to sink or float, and how plastic micro pieces clog marine life. A marsh side clean up and plastic removal was also conducted by the students.

Our younger students kept busy here at Unquowa with projects involving recycling and reusing plastic containers as birdfeeders and planters; as well as presentations from Connecticut Audubon and the Kellogg Environmental Center. We were all happy to have the Upper Schoolers back in time for our annual all-school picnic lunch!

**Mary Faulkner, Carlene Gordon,
Mary Curran & Craig Knebel
Unquowa Science Teachers**



Demonstrating Their Scientific Research

How does a jet engine work? What is the Bernoulli Principle? Which type of drink decays teeth the most? If you attended our 2016 Science Fair you already know the answers to these scientific questions! Our fourth, fifth and sixth graders researched a topic of their choice to answer a Big Question and find support to prove (or disprove) their hypothesis. The end product was a well written lab report, a bold, creative trifold poster and an interesting model or demonstration.

Best In Show Awards were given to the fifth and sixth grade science fair participants judged “best” by a combination of several faculty reviewers and the seventh and eighth graders. Every exhibitor received at least two reviews. Winners of this award did not always have the best poster or the best experiment, but knew their project so well that the reviewers were impressed by both the level of knowledge these students had at the ready, and their enthusiasm for their project. Way to go!

Mary Faulkner, Carlene Gordon & Craig Knebel, Science Teachers



Celebrating 3.14159... on Pi Day



Unquowa students, wearing circles, polka dots or pi T-shirts, celebrated Pi Day on March 14. Eighth graders Anne Marie, Dylan, Lucy and Jessica previewed the event when they spoke about the mathematical properties of pi and its importance in the world around us at assembly. 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 nineteen seventh and eighth graders. They did an outstanding job of leading a fun-filled day.

Lisa Haseltine, Math Department Chair

17th Century Witchcraft Debate

As some of you are probably aware, Fairfield is steeped in historical stories and landmarks. Some of these stories involve the Connecticut Witch Trials. Upon beginning our study of colonial New England, I quickly learned that the witch trials were a topic of interest among the fifth grade students, so having a similar passion for this astonishing slice of history, I indulged them.

After learning about the notorious Salem Witch Trials, we began reading *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by Elizabeth George Speares who presents an historically accurate and real account of what it was like to live in a Puritan town in Connecticut in the late 1600s. In the novel, we are thrown into the world of Kit Tyler, a teenager who has recently come to the Puritan Connecticut town of Wethersfield from a privileged life on a plantation in Barbados. Her upbringing immediately raises eyebrows when she leaps off a boat on the Connecticut River and swims to recover a child’s belongings. Puritans, especially women, did not swim.

To accompany our reading, we participated in a walking colonial tour of Fairfield and a workshop given by the Fairfield Museum and History Center with a focus on the witchcraft debate of the 17th century in New England. Throughout the workshop, I was in awe of the students’ knowledge of colonial New England, specifically the role that religion and Puritan culture played in our state’s history. Walt Matis, from the History Center, taught us about witch trials in our own communities and provided context for Salem. Students read transcripts of testimony and had to be the jury deciding if the empirical evidence was enough to accuse one of witchcraft.

The best conversations the students have had in their studies on this topic and in the workshop were the reminders that when people label a group, they can cause fear. As Americans and members of the global community, we all want to feel safe, but at whose expense? What does fear look like? It looked like a witch in the 1600s.

Michelle Lamb, Fifth Grade Teacher



8th Graders Go Out With a Bang



Beginning with a rafting trip down the Deerfield River, the eighth grade class sailed into their final year! They met the demands of being school leaders with tremendous energy and hard work.

Academically, they were filled with excitement and nervousness as they anticipated the change to the new combined structure of our humanities classes, but they quickly adapted and enthusiastically met the challenge. We continued the tradition of the eighth grade speaker series during Assembly and this class never failed to impress us with both the content and confidence in delivery of their speeches.

During their year-long service learning project at The Feroletto Center and Giant Steps School they volunteered weekly with a group of students with autism or severe learning/medical disabilities. This powerful experience pushed them to develop even greater levels of patience and empathy and will help them as they continue to grow into kind, thoughtful and generous young adults.

A Halloween pancake breakfast, organizing the activities for Founders' Day and decorating for the Thanksgiving feast were some of their responsibilities in the fall. With December came Winterfest, when we went *Back to the Future*, and performed the eighth grade candle dance. The class experienced government in action by attending a town hall meeting for a possible presidential candidate. With spring came the annual egg drop where we saw the class's creativity in action as they designed ways to protect eggs from being dropped from the school roof ...and fly and get caught in the trees!

Who could forget the eighth grade trip to Woodloch in the Poconos, with go-karts, paintball, and Dr. Rasti's foosball victories? Another right of passage, the physics final exam at Lake Compounce, rounded out the year. Closing Ceremonies and Commencement were a chance for us to say our tearful goodbyes. After a year like that, we know our eighth graders are well prepared for high school! We'll miss you, Class of 2016!

Debbie Leidlein & Iman Rasti, Eighth Grade Advisors

98th 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 2016. In the morning, the entire school gathered for our Closing Ceremonies — an event filled with traditions including the recognition of summer birthdays (43) and the reading by faculty of touching tributes written collaboratively about each member of the graduating class. The final tributes read honored three retiring members of our staff — Mrs. Bruno, Mrs. Haseltine and Mrs. Gombos.

Our ceremony also included the dedication of our makerspace — now called the Greenberg Gator Garage — after Paul, Ellen and Amy Greenberg '10. Their service and generosity to the school, and their guidance and enthusiasm during the launch of the maker space last year, have been extraordinary. The Greenberg family has a long teaching tradition and Amy is currently studying to become a teacher. As a former engineer, Paul appreciates the importance of learning through building and innovation. His advice to Unquowa's students included "go make some stuff and go break some stuff!"



Our musical interlude was provided by the fifth grade who sang, "For Good" from *Wicked* to their departing eighth grade friends.

Awards announced at the Closing Ceremonies included *The Unquowa Parents' Association Award* which was given to Maya Rubino as the seventh grade student who "has

shown the most significant growth in intellectual discipline." *The Robert L. Cleveland Award* for a student who "demonstrates a keen mind, sound body, and unafraid spirit" was presented to Sophia Mughal. *The Costume Closet Key* was presented to two seventh graders for their dedication to the performing arts: Aaron Gruen and Maya Rubino. Upper School faculty members, Katie Brenna and Krissy Ponden, received *The Virginia F. Birdsall Faculty Award* to support their summer travels to Oaxaca, Mexico. Lastly, PreK-3 teacher Janice Shannon presented *Ultimate Unquowan Awards* to Annie McNeela and Lucy Panagos who both started at Unquowa in her PreK-3 class.

After watching a special video slideshow devoted to the Class of 2016, 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 2017.

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.



2016 Awards

The William J. Grippin Award
Jessica Price

The Unquowa Award
Carolyn Kokias

The Headmaster's Cup
Lucy Panagos

The Board of Governors' Cup
Dylan McCormick

The John P. Blessington Award
Anne Marie Dooher

The Robert L. Cleveland Award
Sophia Mughal

Unquowa Parents Association Award
Maya Rubino

Class Agents
Max Victor
Charlotte Yin

Elizabeth Curtis Award
Charlotte Yin

Margaret Travers Award
Samantha Renzulli

Gator Bowl
Dylan McCormick
Ryan Moss
Lucy Panagos
Max Victor

The Ultimate Unquowan Award
Annie McNeela
Lucy Panagos

Costume Closet Key
Aaron Gruen
Maya Rubino

The Virginia F. Birdsall Faculty Award
Katie Brenna
Krissy Ponden

The Jean Carpenter Winton
Distinguished Alumni Award
George Seeley '53

98th Unquowa Commencement



Unquowa's 98th graduating class gathered on the evening of June 7th with family, friends, alumni, the Board of Governors, faculty and staff for a ceremony of recognition and closure to mark the end of their time at Unquowa and to celebrate their transition to high school. Reverend David J. Rowe offered the invocation and salutatorian, Lucy Panagos, welcomed everyone to the celebration.

The ceremony included the announcement of several awards. Our valedictorian, Jessica Price (pictured below), received *The William J. Grippin Award* for the highest academic average. Carolyn Kokias 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 Dylan McCormick, *The Headmaster's Cup* was awarded to Lucy Panagos and *The John P. Blessington Award* for "steadfast concern for classmates and the school" was given to Anne Marie Doohar. *The Elizabeth Curtis* and *John F. Turlick Awards*, given to the eighth grade girl and boy "whose skill and accomplishments in athletics have been matched by true understanding of good sportsmanship" were presented to Charlotte Yin and Ryan Moss. Max Victor and Charlotte Yin were named *Class Agents*, responsible for helping the class stay connected to each other and to the school. *The Jean Carpenter Winton Distinguished Alumni Award* was given to George Seeley '53 (pictured below) in recognition of the many ways in which he stays connected to Unquowa, supports the school and helps other alumni to reconnect.

After receiving their diplomas, the graduates heard from guest speaker, Claudia Connor, President & CEO of the International Institute of Connecticut. Ms. Connor reminded the graduates that this may be the end of their time at Unquowa, but it is just the beginning of the rest of their path. As they begin the next leg of their journey, she asked them to remember three small pieces of wisdom. "Value your education. Commit to service. Immerse yourself in the world - with your heart and your eyes wide open."

This year's valedictorian, Jessica Price, spoke about Winterfest as a perfect example of what being a part of our community has meant to her saying that "with our Winter Festival comes the feeling of family, and the feeling that you belong somewhere. I think that's what makes not only the event, but our school special."

With a closing benediction from Rabbi Rachel Bearman, we said a final goodbye to the Class of 2016. 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 on Founders' Day in the fall.



Our graduates will be attending the following high schools:

Albany High School
 Berkshire School
 Fairfield Warde High School
 Fairfield Ludlowe High School
 Hopkins School
 King (Low Heywood Thomas) School
 Lauralton Hall
 New Hampton School
 Proctor Academy
 St. Joseph High School
 The Stanwich School
 Weston High School

“Bye Now!”



At this year’s Closing Ceremonies, we added three special tributes after those read for the graduates, one for each of our retirees.

Third grade teacher Carlene Gordon read the first tribute for Pat Bruno, her teaching partner for ten years. “For 37 years Pat Bruno has walked through the doors of Unquowa ready to teach, to listen, and to inspire.” Due to Pat’s long tenure, Carlene described her as our “Unquowa Historian.” She also described Mrs. Bruno’s classroom projects as “legendary.” “Younger students eagerly anticipated these projects as older students reflected upon them for years afterward. Whether it was a native New England recipe, a museum diorama, dressing up and presenting a biography, or a penny timeline, Pat’s classroom was always a place of fun, learning and, most of all, memories.”

Krissy Ponden, our Upper School art teacher and former Unquowa student, read the next tribute to her close friend, Lisa Haseltine. “As a teacher, Lisa sets high expectations for her students, but also instills in them the confidence to know that they can achieve whatever they set their minds to. She has given this gift to the hundreds of students she has taught over three decades, with a generosity of spirit and compassion that only comes from a true love of teaching and caretaking.” Lisa responded to Krissy Ponden’s remarks by pointing out how wonderful it is to be able to see her former student grow up to become a colleague and friend.

The final tribute, to Chriss Gombos, was read by Sharon Lauer. Most of you will recognize Chriss’s trademarked greeting of “Hi now!” particularly if you are an alum here for a visit. “Chriss is always eager to stay in touch...long after graduation. You can see her genuine excitement about our alums - each time one visits, she runs for her camera and is always eager to hear their news.” As long as she has been here, Ms. Chriss has managed many of the behind-the-scenes details and “we are so grateful to her for juggling things so beautifully for so many years and keeping us all on track.” Luckily this is not our final goodbye, as Chriss will stay on board producing our publications - like this *About U.S.*

As she was leaving the stage, Mrs. Bruno addressed our graduates. She told them that if they find a place where they are as happy to work as she has been for the last 37 years, they “should feel very blessed indeed.”

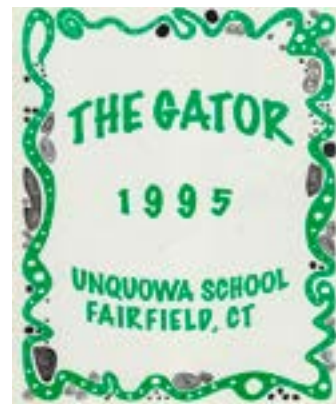


“In the beginning” from left to right:

Pat Bruno above the 1980 yearbook cover

Lisa Haseltine above the 1989 yearbook cover

Chriss Gombos above the 1995 yearbook cover



We currently use the TreeRing company to print our yearbooks. Each year they plant a tree for each book purchased. This year they will work with their partner, Trees for the Future, to plant 240 trees in Unquowa’s name.

Fifth Grader Takes the Helm

Fifth grader, Michael Roberts, proposed a project to design and construct a 16th century caravel (Spanish ship primarily used for exploration). Recently, he spent a day in the makerspace bringing his ideas to fruition. With a few classmates to help, he tried different materials and techniques. He and his assistants even led the fifth grade Social Studies classes through making sails for the ship. The best part of the makerspace is that kids can see their ideas become a reality and take charge of their own endeavors.

Michelle Lamb, Fifth Grade Teacher



Unquowa Students Help Others “Read On!”

Unquowa students donated 492 of their favorite picture books, poetry collections, early readers, and other tales suitable for children to Bridgeport Hospital's Pediatric Emergency Department.

Curious George delighted children when he careened through a pediatric ward on a run-away wheelchair in H.A. Ray's storybook, *Curious George Goes to the Hospital*. Now, thanks to Faith Barbuto's kindergarten class, the mischievous fictional monkey and characters from other children's classics will cheer young patients at Bridgeport Hospital. Her class helped to organize “Read On!” by decorating collection boxes and teaming up with the fifth grade class to make posters to promote the week-long event.

Thank you to all who so generously donated. Watch for next year's “Read On!”



Spring Sports Update & Spring Athletic Dessert

A Great Year for Unquowa's Sports Teams

Thank you to everyone who helped make our 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 games and meets and we are looking forward to another strong year in 2016-17.

Celebrating Our Year at the 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. Also, a big thank you goes out to the parents who help run the event, especially Leona Yin who has been at the helm the last couple of years. As always, what a great way to end our athletic year.

Al Boccamazzo, Athletics Director



Making a Racket



This spring we introduced a new after-school tennis program and it was a big hit with our first through fourth graders. The budding tennis players met weekly with instructors from Marcy's Tennis Academy.

Whether they were new to the sport or had played before, students learned a number of drills and fun activities to develop their tennis skills.

Kicking Off Summer at Field Day



From the UPA

The Unquowa school year came to a resounding close with the excellent news that, in addition to raising enough to cover all the many activities, programs and events that the UPA supports during the school year, the gala *also* generated \$65,000 for Sharon Lauer's "wishlist!" In the past, this list has included state-of-the-art lighting and sound equipment for our fantastic new stage, Chromebooks for all of the Upper School students, a new scoreboard and more. Stay tuned for this year's big reveal! This amazing accomplishment was the collective work of many, and our sincere thanks go out to all the parents, faculty, staff and volunteers who made the gala such a successful event! A multitude of guests enjoyed the new theme, "Gala in the Garden."



The end of the year also saw the third and final Athletic Dessert where we celebrated the cross country and lacrosse players. The Community Service committee organized a day at the farm tilling the soil and helping out. Additionally, the New Parent Committee welcomed many new families to campus at a reception in early June. Many, many Unquowans came together this past year to dedicate their valuable time to the UPA events. We are so grateful to them all!!

As we reflect on our two years at the helm, we can't help but be in awe of how much "our little school by the brook" has accomplished. We are so happy and proud to have served and wish everyone in the Unquowa community a fun filled summer!

Jenn Doohar & Tracy Stuart, Outgoing UPA Co-Presidents



Progressive education at its best! PreK-4 and second graders loved working with Dr. Mattei, and students from Sacred Heart University, to measure and tag horseshoe crabs at Southport Beach. Students scoured the sandy beach and shallow tide pools in search of living fossils, 450 million years old!

Welcome New Unquowans



Alyson Cahill, our performing arts teacher, and her husband, David, added to their family with the birth of their second child, Charlotte. The seven pound, eight ounce bundle of joy arrived on April 14.

Baby Charlotte is pictured to the left on her one month birthday. Congratulations to the Cahill family.



Robert (Bobby) Brennan, third and fourth grade teaching assistant, and his wife, Caitlin, welcomed their first child on April 21. Their son, Liam Malloy was born almost four weeks early and weighed five pounds, fourteen ounces.

Liam and his parents are doing well. Congratulations to the Brennan family and to Bobby who will be our fourth grade teacher next year!

Distinguished Alum 2016 - George Seeley '53

At Commencement **George Seeley '53** received the *Jean Carpenter Winton Distinguished Alumni Award* for his extraordinary dedication to The Unquowa School. In recent years, George was part of a group that helped organize the planting of a tree in memory of his Unquowa classmate **Ellen Leeds Sturges '53** and planned a reunion the following year for alums from the 1940s and 50s. George regularly attends Founders' Day and continues to work tirelessly to help reconnect former Unquowans to each other and with the school.

In his warm and humorous Commencement remarks, George shared many Unquowa memories of his teachers, especially Mr. Cleveland, and his classmates. He advised the graduating class to stay in touch with each other because these early friendships are special...in fact, his Yale roommate was a friend from Unquowa and other Unquowans were in his wedding!

Joining George for the celebration and pictured here (left to right) are Liz Seeley, **Bill Seeley '50**, **Samuel Gilliland '72**, **Nancy Seeley Gilliland '47**, **George**, Sue Seeley and Sharon Lauer. George was eager to share that, when you add up all the years that he, his siblings and his nephew spent at Unquowa, the Seeley family legacy adds up to 35 years!

After teaching history and government at Belmont Hill School for 40 years and at Bentley University for twenty years, George is retired and lives with his wife Sue in Lincoln MA.



Class of 2012 Off to College

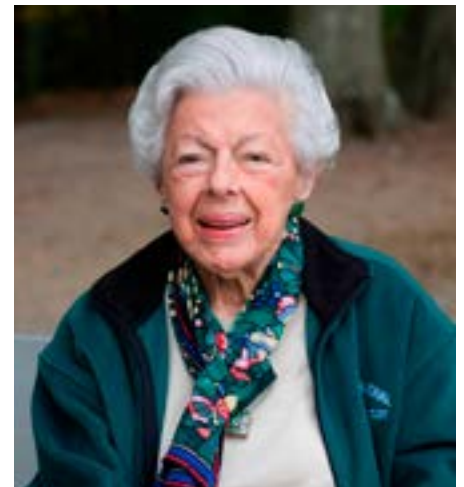
- Olivia Albenze Boston University
- Rachel Anzalone Emory and Henry College
- Justin Blanchette Franklin Pierce University
(Gap year to play pro junior hockey)
- Gwyneth Feroletto Tulane University
- Hannah Kehoe Northeastern University
- Jonathan Konecny..... Nichols College
- Daniel Leszczynski Lehigh University
- Sisso Makhraz Fairfield University
- Jaeden McKenzie University of Rochester
- Michael Proto Massachusetts Maritime Academy
- Erin Reilly George Washington University
(Gap year to play pro soccer in France)

Jean Carpenter Winton '34 Carl Churchill Legacy Giving Society

As we shared in the winter issue, **Jean Carpenter Winton '34**, passed away in January. We have truly felt her absence at Unquowa since then. We missed having her enthusiasm in the audience at our spring musical and know that she would've loved the story of *Seussical Jr.* and marveled at the whole production. She was also missed at Commencement when we awarded the *Jean Carpenter Winton Distinguished Alumni Award* and, for the first time, she wasn't there to receive a round of applause and to congratulate the winner.

Jean thoughtfully and generously remembered Unquowa with a bequest to the endowment that will strengthen the school she loved for generations to come. On behalf of every young Unquowa student, thank you, Jean!

To learn more about the Carl Churchill Legacy Giving Society, contact Kate Haviland at 203-336-9091 or kate.haviland@unquowa.org.



Alumni News



Carolyn Polk '93 (right) finished her Masters in Art Education and Leadership at Boston University this year. She spent time with Unquowa's Lower School art teacher, Alice DesGranges, and observed classes to learn more about our mindfulness program. Carolyn is teaching art at the Classical Studies Magnet Academy in Bridgeport and is engaged and living in Darien.



Eric Haseltine '99 and his wife Amanda visited with his mother, retiring Unquowa teacher Lisa Haseltine. Eric and Amanda have just returned from their honeymoon to the Galapagos Islands and live in Brooklyn. Eric works as a Program Manager at Adobe.



A junior at Eastern Connecticut State University, **Ryan Taylor '06** spent a day this spring observing Unquowa's PE classes and working with Coach B. Ryan is hoping to work as a PE teacher and football coach after college.



A Syracuse University student, **Seth Samowitz '09** co-founded a company and created an app called ChaChing. The app won second place in the Student Startup Madness Tournament at the prestigious South by Southwest Interactive Festival. ChaChing is the first mobile keyboard app that allows users to send and receive money through all messaging applications, such as iMessage and Skype. Seth is a dual major in the School of Information Studies and the School of Management at Syracuse.



Debbie '11 and **Danny '12 Leszczynski**, both graduates of Hopkins, are settling into their next adventures. Debbie is transferring to Boston University from Penn State and will continue to study biomedical engineering. Danny will be studying mechanical engineering as a freshman at Lehigh in the fall. He received a four year student-scholar scholarship and will be playing on their Division 1 soccer team.



Having received her BA in Psychology and Music at UCONN, **Crisara Smith '08** is now pursuing a Masters in Music Therapy at Colorado State.



Hopkins rising juniors **Elizabeth Halas '14** and **Claire Abate '14** visited recently. Elizabeth has enjoyed being on the track and field team where she is competing throwing the discus and javelin. Claire is going to be interning at the Invention Camp in Unquowa's makerspace this summer and traveling to Italy with her family.



Juniors **Adrianna Bay '13**, **Grace Haviland '13** and **Rebecca Ryan '13** have worked together at Fairfield Ludlowe High School to raise funds to build a school in the developing world through BuildOn, a Stamford based non-profit. With their club they raised over \$40,000 and will be traveling to the mountains of Nicaragua to work with the community they are supporting and to build the foundation for the school they've funded. They are pictured here with PreK-3 teacher Janice Shannon.



THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

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

A Perfect Day for the Annual PreK-3 Monet Picnic



Did you know that Claude Monet started eating outside on his own property in Giverny, France even when most French people didn't think it was very proper to do so?

We had a beautiful day for our own French picnic! In keeping with what is now a PreK-3 tradition at Unquowa, we walked over to a neighbor's house with a beautiful yard and bridge over a stream, wearing our vintage clothes and large brimmed hats. We set up our easels and painted a picture of the Japanese bridge on a canvas prepped and given to us by the eighth grade class. Then we spread out our picnic blanket and enjoyed some grape juice and fresh cheese with a baguette and grapes.

We all enjoyed the story of *Philippe in Monet's Garden*. Thank you to all the parents

who helped and to fifth grader Halie who joined us as my assistant, an experience she "won" at this year's auction. Thank you, Claude, for inspiring our picnic and our art!

Janice Shannon, PreK-3 Teacher