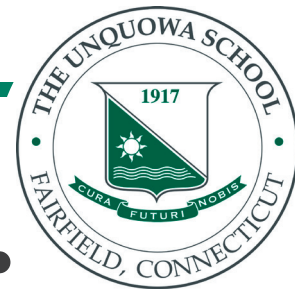


About U.S.



A Publishing Tradition
of The Unquowa School

A Message From the Head of School

Let's face it. As human beings we rarely welcome disruption. No one welcomed the shuttering of our world this past spring due to a global pandemic and as a long overdue demand for the deconstruction of systemic racism in our country arose in May, very few of us had done the personal work needed to respond to that either. But powerful change is usually born from both unexpected disruption and the acknowledgment that such crises are the unlikely partners of opportunity.

This past year, what started as a typical school year vanished as such in winter when global pandemic first loomed. What we imagined as possible weeks of distance learning after Spring Break became months. By the end of May, however, data and the opinions of experts had led us to feel that we could find a safe and reasonable plan for coming back to school in the fall, and we focused on details of preparation for that goal. That single focus was soon divided by national tragedy that compelled us to turn our attention as a school to a long overdue frank conversation around the deconstruction of systemic racism in our country.

At Unquowa, we have always taken seriously our promise of physical and emotional safety, the delivery of hands-on, arts rich and academically strong learning, and our ongoing responsibility to be a better community where equity, diversity and inclusion are seen as areas of constant growth for both children and adults. Consequently, "How can we do better?" became the mantra of Unquowa's community during both the challenge of the pandemic and the challenge of facing racism.

Our unafraid spirit took on new levels of meaning as teachers refused to let the disruption of COVID 19 erase meaningful spring learning and events. Faculty at all levels who had never stood before a camera before pumped out countless video lessons to complement live online lessons. Ariel Warshaw and her fifth grade students turned their *Be the Change* living museum into a beautiful online book and set of recorded readings by her students. Karen Engelke and her Lower School staff published a powerful online *UnquowaZine*. The 7th/8th grade *Voices of Change* project refused to turn out its gallery lights. Instead Krissy Ponden expanded this

exhibition by creating a three-dimensional online gallery and hosted a virtual opening night reception with humanities colleague Vin O'Hara that allowed student artists to reach viewers worldwide and garner coverage on the National Arts Educators Association's blog. Lloyd Mitchell produced a weekly online version of assembly, and countless faculty and students churned out vibrant content for our community to bond around, including Mr. Knebel's egg drop project, recorded by 8th graders from dangerously high places at home, mash-ups of Mrs. Kirk's talented choral groups and a two-hour Closing Ceremonies in June that included personal visits from 8th grade faculty to the home of each graduate to perform recognition paragraphs (from a safe distance) that would have been

read to them at Closing Ceremonies.

But just as our successful remote school year was coming to an end, the national conversation on how to dismantle racism was just gaining momentum, and our response as a school to that challenge was clearly not as simple. Undaunted, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Antiracism (IDEA) committee co-coordinators, Tré Kayumba and Krissy Ponden, quickly responded by planning virtual conversations for both students and parents to give them each a forum for

understanding the social/political moment and a virtual classroom for learning how to work at being an antiracist human being. Summer book reads for both kids and adults will frame ongoing conversations around this important issue.

What is ahead for fall? What powerful understanding have we gathered during our spring of coming together while staying apart that will be incorporated into on-campus learning and engender stronger community inclusion in September? Hopefully, our big take-away will be a new mentality of constantly questioning our practices and beliefs without the impetus of disruption. Yes, we have all earned a summer to recharge, but I see a fall where we will not just be returning to school. Instead, we will be returning to move ahead as a school that continues to thrive by meeting challenges head on with fresh perspective and unquestioned unafraid spirit. Wishing you all a safe and restful summer,

Sharon Lauer, Head of School



Examining and Challenging Tradition

The gift of being part of an independent academic institution is that you are able to change your mind, evolve and grow as social climates change. At Unquowa, we have always encouraged students to be critical thinkers and applaud them for their ability to assess, analyze and identify a problem and seek to resolve it. As a school, we now expect the same of ourselves as we face the challenge of our role as educators in today's national social climate of racial unrest and the unprecedented examination of our nation's past.

As one of Unquowa's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Antiracism (IDEA) coordinators, I have been working tirelessly with my co-coordinator, Krissy Ponden, to identify areas of inequity and to partner with our colleagues within the confines of tradition to ensure that both Indigenous and Neindigenous students, Black and Brown children, get the support and representation they need both in the classroom and in the academic content they are exposed to. As a school, we recognize the value of cultural competency for both adults and children and continue to seek out opportunities to offer all students a curriculum viewed through an antiracist lens.

A partnership that kindergarten teacher Faith Barbuto and I developed exemplifies the type of work that teachers can properly and



constructively create to ensure appropriate representation, in this case in teaching Native American culture. When our students learned about colonialism, we partnered with the Akomawt Educational Initiative, a program committed to teaching Native American history and contemporary social issues from the perspective of Native educators. This approach was recognized as so progressive that it was featured in *The New London Day's* "Stories Untold" series.

We are hopeful that while the current national climate has shined a spotlight on existing racist structures, we can take this opportunity to re-evaluate our own educational practices and ensure that they are supportive and representative of all of our students. Together we can strive toward antiracism and educate our children to be compassionate, ethical, and equitable leaders of tomorrow.

Tré Kayumba, Unquowa IDEA Co-Coordinator



Art, Thought and Community: Voices of Change 2020

This is the third year that Unquowa students have explored issues that matter to them, examined areas of injustice, delved into topics usually reserved for contemplation and debate by adults, and created works of art to reflect it.

The depth of thought, the care and diligence of the research, and the resulting concepts that ask you to consider your views on a topic without telling you what to think are indicative of the true and lasting learning that these students gained from participating in this project. These are the issues that matter to them, this is what is on their minds, and this is what they seek to change about their world. To say that young people do not have the ability to enact change is myopic, to assume they can not have opinions on controversial issues is naive; they see problems and they seek solutions, sometimes without the preconceptions of the adult world. The vision of our youth offers a fresh and real perspective. View the exhibit online at: unquowa.org/art-thought-and-community-voices-of-change-2020/

Krissy Ponden, Visual Arts Teacher - Debbie Leidlein, Vin O'Hara & Eric Snow, Humanities Teachers



2020 Virtual Art Show

Announcing the launch of the 2020 Unquowa Virtual Art Show featuring work from students in PreK - 8th grade! While we weren't able to experience the art work together in person this year, I know everyone will be delighted to see the incredible art projects hanging in the virtual galleries where you can zoom in and read details of each piece.

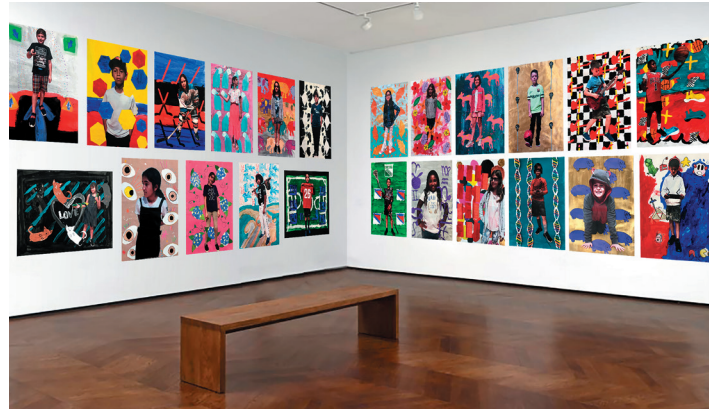
Since Mrs. DesGranges and I have been away from the art studio for the past two months, our assignments have had to be creative to utilize everyday objects our students were likely to have on hand while at home during distance learning. You will see some of these works as well as a few surprises hidden among the galleries - tiny surprises!

The resilience and creativity of our students is admirable and the work they have produced at home is inspired. It has been a joy and a tremendous opportunity to explore new ways to create art together using previously unthought of materials.

It is disappointing that so many incredible projects remain unfinished in the art room including dozens of clay pieces, intricate quilts and weaving, but the silver lining is that this virtual art show can be shared with family and friends both near and far!

To view the show visit: unquowa.org/2020-virtual-art-show/. Note that the show is best viewed on a laptop, desktop or tablet and please be patient if it takes a moment to load - there is a lot of work on display!

Krissy Ponden, Visual Arts Department Chair

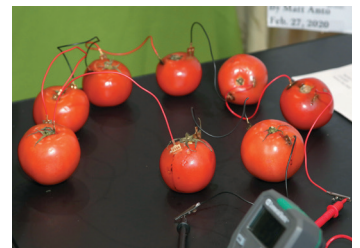


Science Fair

Did you know that Saran Wrap will not prevent mold on cream cheese; coffee with milk will reduce the likelihood of stained tooth enamel; a rocket propelled by vinegar and baking soda can lift ten times its weight in vinegar; vegetables can provide electricity; that you can, in fact, train a fish and nylon socks produce less foot odor than cotton ones?

At the 2020 Unquowa Science Fair, before our school was closed due to COVID-19, our fourth, fifth and sixth grade scientists presented the science behind these facts and so much more! After months of research, planning procedures, trial and error and forming conclusions, student scientists proudly educated the Unquowa community. Visitors to each science fair booth were impressed by the extraordinary display of fascinating scientific research. Congratulations to our budding scientists and a great big THANK YOU to all who came together to make this event a success!

Carlene Gordon & Craig Knebel, Science Department Co-Chairs



Dedication of the Dining Room

On Tuesday, February 18th, Joan and Steve Panagos and their daughter, Lily, '19, stopped by to have lunch with us. While we often have lunch guests, this was no ordinary pop-in. In fact it was a long overdue event - the naming of our dining room six years after its renovation! Joan and Steve were one of two families who spearheaded the 2010 Campaign for Unquowa and through that campaign had generously made the dining renovation possible. Their wish, however, was to postpone the naming until after all three of their daughters, Lucy, '16, Lola, '17 and Lily, '19 had graduated from Unquowa.

Naming day lunch was served properly on a white linen tablecloth with a flower centerpiece, but the main course was stromboli, Lily's favorite Unquowa recipe. As lunch began, a flash mob of Junior Chorus members popped out of their seats and sang "Be Our Guests."

Lucy and Lola were not able to get away from classes at Hopkins to join their parents and sister, but we hope they'll be able to stop by on Founders Day this fall to see the "Three L Dining Hall," dedicated in their names.

Sharon Lauer, Head of School



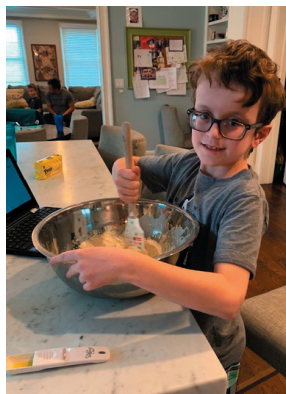
From the Kitchen

While the last portion of the school year was certainly not what I expected, the Unquowa Kitchen had plenty of behind the scenes work making videos for the school, creating cooking demonstrations for students, and most of all working on a cookbook for release next school year. Beginning back in October, I asked every student, faculty, and staff member about their favorite Unquowa dishes. Now, the kitchen staff and I, along with some volunteers have begun testing recipes that have been adjusted for home cooking. Soon those recipes will be organized and put together so that all of the flavors of Unquowa can be right at your fingertips. Here is a sneak peek - one of our students' favorites!

Jess Toebe, Head Chef

"Chef Jess Presents"

During lessons on ancient Indian and modern Middle Eastern countries and cultures in Humanities, sixth and seventh graders had a special visiting teacher - Chef Jess! The goal was to deepen their understanding of culture, and, since everything is better with good food, Chef Jess supplied recipe videos for Sheer Berenj (Afghan Rice Pudding) and Chapati (Roti) bread for students to cook at home. What a fun way to keep our community life as vibrant and connected as possible during these uncertain times!



Eric Snow, Humanities Teacher

Penne With Broccoli

This recipe has been adapted for cooking at home, and may be slightly different than what we have at school. Usually we serve this with "sausage on the side," Fleischer's excellent sweet Italian sausage!

Ingredients:

- 1 head broccoli
- 1 lb penne pasta (can substitute with GF pasta)
- 1 head garlic, thinly sliced
- ½ cup olive oil
- ¼ tsp red pepper flakes
- ½ cup finely grated Parmesan cheese (optional)

Procedure:

1. Cut broccoli into florets and either steam or roast to desired doneness.
2. Bring a large pot of water to boil, add at least a tablespoon of salt and cook pasta according to instructions, usually 8-10 minutes.
3. While pasta is cooking, heat olive oil in a small saucepan with chili flakes and garlic. Cook until the garlic is soft and starting to turn golden brown.
4. When pasta is finished cooking, drain pasta reserving ½ cup of pasta water.
5. In a large saute pan over medium heat, mix together pasta, broccoli and garlic oil, adding pasta water a tablespoon at a time to create a sauce. You may not need all of the water. Top with parmesan cheese if desired.

Organic Portraits

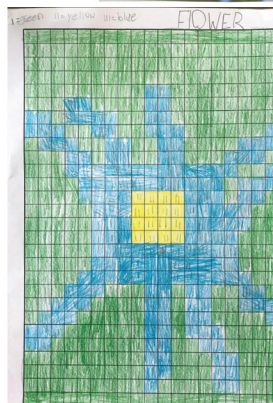
Lower School classes studied the work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo, the Italian Renaissance painter. He is best known for his creative portrait heads made entirely of organic objects such as fruits, vegetables, flowers and fish. His whimsical portraits were designed to amuse the court. Our distance learning provided the perfect opportunity to create portraits by raiding our kitchens and gardens for materials to create art.

Alice DesGranges, Lower School Visual Arts Teacher



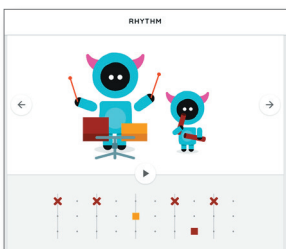
Information Transfer

This spring fourth graders studied the concept of 'Information Transfer' as part of a distance learning science lesson. Students learned that patterns are used to communicate information electronically and that text and images are transferred through a pattern of 1's and 0's. Patterns of 1's and 0's are sent and received by microchips in our devices. Music is also transferred through 1's and 0's, in both CDs and music players. To apply this knowledge, students were asked to choose a simple picture and pixelate it.



*Carlene Gordon,
Fourth Grade Science Teacher*

Music Technology



Distance learning gave us an excuse to explore many areas of music technology, and Chrome Music Lab was everyone's favorite! Students across all levels were able to use this Chrome extension to enhance their understanding of many elements of music. The younger grades worked

on their steady beat and rhythm through this program while the older students put together melodies and rhythms to create their own short songs. Students enjoyed expressing themselves through these lessons and I had a lot of fun listening to all the creations!

Megan Kirk, Performing Arts Teacher

Eight students took to the stage to compete in our school's **National Geographic Geography Bee** this winter. The competition was exciting at the classroom level as many tie-breaker rounds were required to identify those who would represent their grade. They included eighth graders Travis and Daniel, seventh graders Aidan and Legare, sixth graders Sophia and Lukas, and fifth graders Ty and Charlotte. Sophia placed third after some intense world geography questions and Ty and Lukas advanced to the championship round. While Ty impressed the audience with his geographic knowledge, in the end, it was Lukas who became this year's Geography Bee Champion.



Some weeks later Lukas took a lengthy and challenging test to qualify for the State-level Bee. Unfortunately, the Bee was canceled due to COVID-19 but all the qualifiers were celebrated in a virtual recognition ceremony and tried their luck at "Kahoot" and "Stump the Geographer!" Congratulations to Lukas and to all our competitors who demonstrated the importance of being a knowledgeable world citizen!



Fairy Tale Mashup Theatre! Who Needs Netflix?

In drama class, my students took this distance learning assignment to a whole new level! The assignment was to choose six of the most important parts of a fairy tale plot and either do six tableau (eg, comic strip format) scenes, or film the story using family members or



stuffed animals, pets included! They also had the option to do a “Fairy Tale Mashup.” The Unquowa drama students fully committed themselves to the story by getting into character using props, costumes, music, character voices & character walks, and so much more! What I loved most is that they told THEIR story, after all that’s what acting is all about... storytelling!

*Jennifer Kenny,
Drama Teacher*



Shakin’ Up Shakespeare

Fifth grade writers celebrated William Shakespeare’s 456th birthday with word invention, sonnet parodies, and a virtual party (festive attire encouraged)!

Students learned all about the Bard’s prolific career. He wrote at least 37 plays, penned 154 sonnets, and invented more than 420 words! After learning a bit about Shakespeare’s life, and finding that he invented words like “cold-blooded,” “flowery,” and “beachy,” we investigated words from other languages that do not have an English translation. We then considered what words we could add to our language to capture specific feelings, emotions, actions, or things.

Have you ever experienced either of these new words?

tightstring (n): the feeling you get when you’re all anxious and giddy inside, like when you are waiting in line to say your poem out loud to a big crowd.

screamtastic (adj): describes the feeling you get when you go on a roller coaster - scared and excited at the same time.

Thursday is William Shakespeare's birthday, but... You are cordially invited to celebrate "The Bard" during our [Live Class on Friday!](#) Please come in your most festive party clothes/accessories and be prepared to create funny sonnets!

*Be sure to RSVP by accepting the Live Class invite!

We then examined Shakespeare’s Sonnet 18, “Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer’s Day?” After analyzing the original, and understanding the structure of an English sonnet, we decided to get a little creative. Using our knowledge of the parts of speech, we crafted parody sonnets using a “Mad Lib” technique. These sonnets were a humorous way to celebrate the Bard’s big day!

A final interesting note: We learned that when William Shakespeare was forced to quarantine during an outbreak of the plague, he turned to poetry writing as his plays could not be performed. Perhaps we’ll produce the next Bard when we finally emerge!

Ariel Warshaw, Fifth Grade Writing Teacher

UnquowaZine, Volume 2

We are pleased to announce the release of *UnquowaZine* Volume 2, the Lower School literary magazine run and created by an editorial staff consisting of third and fourth grade students. They have worked tirelessly on the various stages of magazine development. All Unquowa students in Lower School (PreK - Grade 4) were invited to submit their work, and the editors-in-chief Virginia Murphy, Ava Sylvestro and Michael Toolan, together with their staff, edited their peers’ work with compassion and respect. The result is a volume the entire Lower School should be very proud of. Kudos to all of their hard work!

To view visit: unquowa.org/unquowazine-volume-2/

Karen Engelke, UnquowaZine Advisor



Gators On The Porch

Our take on the #FrontPorchProject portrait features Unquowa families photographed from a safe distance during the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting self-isolation period. Our talented photographer, Jacqui Mudre, first photographed Head of School, Sharon Lauer and her husband Jerry Joseph on their front porch. They drew the name of the next subjects out of a hat, and every week Jacqui (and the gator) visited a new, randomly selected Unquowa family. And every week she was greeted by enthusiastic, smiling faces, unafraid to show their Gator Spirit! The result is an amazing community project that made us all feel more connected this spring!

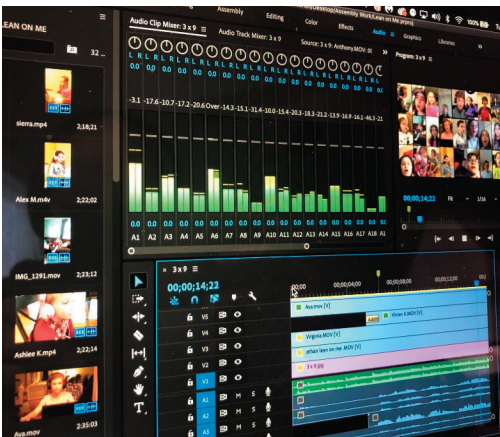
Karen Williamson, Community Manager



The Unquowa Broadcasting Network

At the start of distance learning, it was apparent that we would require a new form of delivery for assembly, our weekly in-person production, and other hallmark events like Closing Ceremonies. The challenge with a live, in-person event is that you get only one take, and while the idea of a “virtual” assembly solved that issue, there were other hurdles. Coordinating multiple presenters and performers from different locations, getting the take just right and then editing a production proved to be challenges that Unquowa was prepared to meet! Producing a virtual singalong with 27 different videos? No problem. Coordinating seven people in seven different places to seamlessly appear together? Not an issue. Maintaining the routine of weekly assemblies brought our community together in ways we never imagined and we are so happy with the powerful impact this work has made for everyone!

Lloyd Mitchell, Director of Operations & IT



Engineering From Home

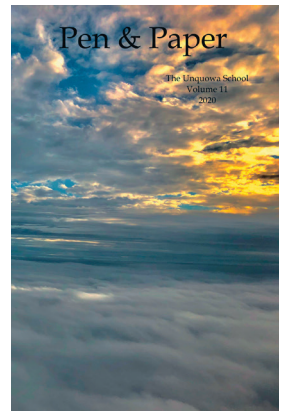
The seventh graders wrapped up their trimester review of the Human Body in Life Science class by constructing artificial hands at home using the concept of Biomimicry - copying our own design of flexors and tendons in the human hand.



Pen & Paper

Pandemic or not, *Pen & Paper* is coming! While we cannot produce the typical print copy due to the restrictions of COVID, we are in the process of creating an abridged digital magazine that we plan to publish this summer. Gandhi said, “In times of darkness, light persists,” and this year’s edition, the 11th Volume of *Pen & Paper*, will be further evidence of that truth.

Cover by seventh grader, Legare Charney



Commencement 2020

The Unquowa School's graduating class gathered on the evening of June 2nd for a ceremony of recognition and closure to mark the end of their time at Unquowa and to celebrate their transition to high school. This year's commencement ceremony was unlike any other. After nine weeks of distance learning caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting school closures, we were thrilled to celebrate the Class of 2020 in person!

The weather cooperated marvelously with our plan for a drive-in graduation. Head of School, Sharon Lauer, Board of Governors President, Joan Panagos and Eighth Grade Advisors Debbie Leidlein and Vin O'Hara led the ceremony from a stage on the field. With 19 chairs spaced appropriately apart, one for each graduate, and each family enjoying their vantage point from their car, Daniel Gomes, Class Salutatorian, welcomed everyone. In his speech, he said "If there

is one thing I've learned in my Unquowa experience is that we must always look towards the future, and the positive in every negative."

Ms. Lauer announced the winners of all of our traditional awards before addressing the class as graduation speaker. Quoting British Headmaster J. F. Roxburgh, Ms. Lauer reflected on character development as the goal at the heart of Unquowa's curriculum and the "responsibility of our faculty to 'produce in you, young people who would be acceptable at a dinner table but invaluable in a shipwreck' as a (somewhat) glib explanation of our school's mission statement: to develop, educate and prepare our family of children with an unafraid spirit to achieve their personal best in a changing world." This spring has been one of the most remarkable examples of a changing world, a shipwreck of sorts. Thanking the graduates for the lessons they have taught her in the process, Ms. Lauer went on to say that "each of you in your way will use the lessons of the spring's unexpected shipwreck to strengthen your instincts, guide your path, and lead the life of unafraid spirit."

After the diplomas were conferred with a virtual handshake from our Board President, Joan Panagos, Valedictorian, and William J. Grippin Award recipient Claire Roberts addressed her classmates. Claire spoke about the confidence, resilience, curiosity, kindness and empathy Unquowa has instilled in her and her fellow graduates - a class with "so many uniquely talented people who care deeply about making an impact on the world."

The ceremony closed with the school song and the graduates processed in their family cars to the front of the school. As final parting gifts they received a bag filled with their favorite treats from the Unquowa Kitchen and a bag full of cards handmade for them by younger students. With that we waved goodbye to the Class of 2020, excited for everything the future has in store for them.

*Karen Williamson,
Community Manager*

2020 Awards

The William J. Grippin Award
Claire Roberts

The Unquowa Award
Victoria Faunce

The Board of Governors' Award
Daniel Gomes

The Headmaster's Cup
Rowan Dillon, Roy Krueger

The Robert L. Cleveland Award
Travis Stuart

The John P. Blessington Award
Krystle Garcia

Alison D. Gray Award
Haley Roberts

Janice Shannon Award
Claire Roberts

Elizabeth Curtis Award
Adriana Giachino

John F. Turlick Award
Jason Yang

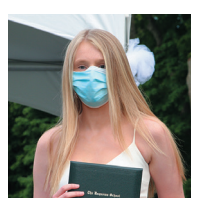
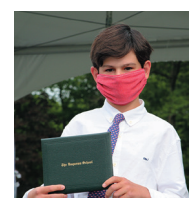
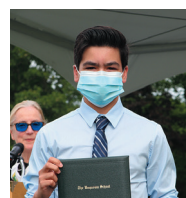
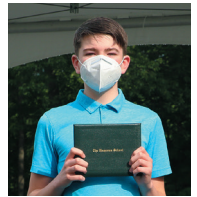
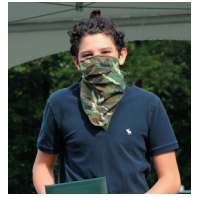
Class Agents
Krystle Garcia, Jason Yang

Unquowa Parents Association Award
Alyssa Roberson

Costume Closet Key
**Aidan Kavanaugh,
Phoebe McCance**

Margaret Travers Award
Maxwell Oberhand

Gator Bowls
**Krystle Garcia, Adriana Giachino,
Roy Krueger, Luca Scarpati
Alexandra Schwartz**



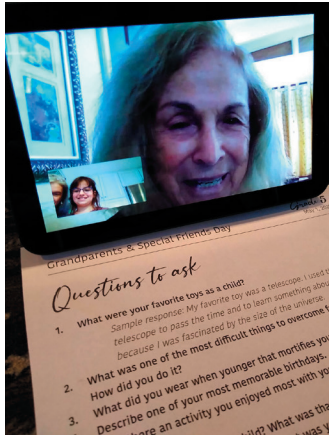


Our graduates will be attending the following:

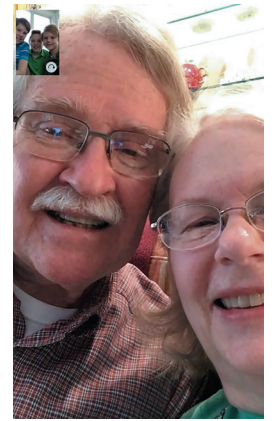
Emre Bayazit.....	King School
Rowan Dillon.....	Darien High School
Victoria Faunce.....	Fairfield Warde High School
Krystle Garcia.....	Academy of our Lady Of Mercy, Lauralton Hall
Hailey Geppert.....	Hamden Hall Country Day School
Adriana Giachino.....	Academy of our Lady Of Mercy, Lauralton Hall
Daniel Gomes.....	Trumbull High School
Connor Jacques.....	Easton Country Day School
Roy Krueger.....	Berkshire School
Christopher Lawrence.....	Fairfield Warde High School
Claire Roberts.....	Hopkins School
Haley Roberts.....	The Harvey School
Luca Scarpati.....	Hopkins School
Alexandra Schwartz.....	Pomfret School
Zoe Schwartz.....	Staples High School
Isabelle Spencer.....	Suffield Academy
Travis Stuart.....	Pomfret School
Preston Wong.....	Fairfield College Preparatory School
Jason Yang.....	Hopkins School

Building Relationships with Those Near and Far

May Day has always been an invitation at Unquowa to celebrate grandparents and special friends. Though we weren't able to celebrate in person this year, the virtual assembly opened the door for celebrations with all grandparents, no matter where they live. Students in all grades were thrilled with the excuse to connect with grandparents as they shared the special virtual assembly featuring videos of in-person assembly performances from earlier in the year.



Distance was no barrier for our fifth graders to connect with their grandparents and special friends this year! They invited their guests to a special virtual conversation, where they asked questions that went beyond the typical, "How are you?" "What was your favorite toy as a child?" "I had a doll named Ivan, which had real leather boots. Made in Mexico. It was supposed to be a Russian soldier in WWII. I remember the boots." These interviews were designed to foster meaningful conversations, strengthen relationships, and learn new and interesting things about friends and family!



Eighth Grade Parent Reception

Every spring we invite our eighth grade parents to join us for a reception toasting the graduating class. This year, we couldn't toast in person but we didn't let that stop us. Head of School, Sharon Lauer delivered the traditional treats from the in-person reception - chocolate-covered strawberries and a bottle of bubbly - to every eighth grade family's front porch. As a treat for the students, she included a congratulatory lawn sign and personalized "Class of 2020" M&Ms. Later that evening Ms. Lauer hosted a "virtual" reception on Google Meet so everyone could toast the graduates together!



Solar Panel Update

Unquowa's Green Committee, in partnership with a team of staff members, has spent over a year carefully researching and vetting viable solar initiatives for our school. This spring's installation of solar panels is the result of that work. We are truly grateful to everyone involved for making this giant leap in our school's effort to work towards carbon neutrality reality. We expect the system to be energized sometime this summer and begin offsetting our electricity use. In the fall, students will be able to walk by a kiosk in school to see real time data of the solar production taking place on any given day!



Retirement News

With everything happening "at a distance" this spring, rituals were a challenge and good-byes to retiring faculty were no exception. So it was bittersweet for faculty and staff to be wishing colleagues Mary Curran and Rebecca Festa well by GoogleMeet as they retire after long careers here at Unquowa.



Mary Curran, who has been at Unquowa for 19 years, began as a kindergarten teacher and gave many of our graduates their start as readers. But birdcrafting and gardening have always been Mary's passion and when it was clear that we needed someone dedicated to working with students in those areas, Mary was our clear candidate. For over a decade she has guided children from Pre-K on up in their love of growing gardens and participating in Cornell's Project Feederwatch. While Mary will be traveling to see grandchildren, we know that when she is in town she'll be stopping by to check on our kitchen garden.



Rebecca Festa has been teaching math here at Unquowa for 18 years and has been the calm, guiding force behind instilling confidence in hundreds of adolescents who didn't know they loved math before they met Rebecca. The title "math whisperer" would be an appropriate and well-earned honor for Mrs. Festa, any of her students would confirm. Had we all have been together, both Mrs. Curran and Mrs. Festa would have been presented with celebration bowls inscribed with Dance, dance wherever you may be... Hopefully the FedEx delivery person will hum a few bars of this Winterfest memory when he delivers these gifts.

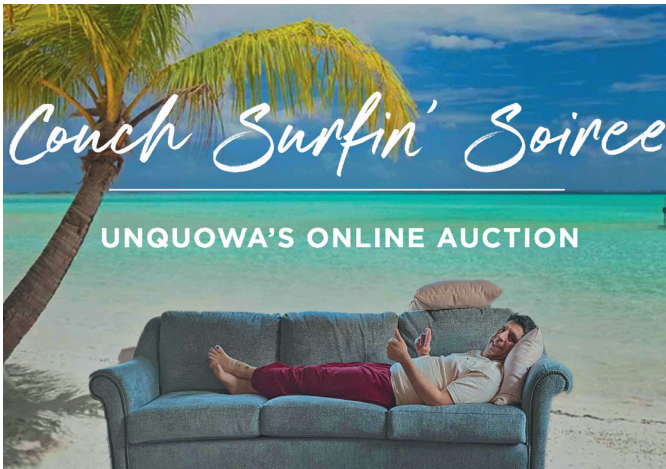
Notes From the UPA

Wow, what a spring! Although COVID-19 came along and delayed or canceled many of our traditional spring events, our UPA committees, and the Unquowa spirit kept on pushing through this pandemic to make as many events come to life as we could.

Our Sports Banquet was canceled but celebrating our athletes and sports teams was not. Our athletes were recognized for their achievements during virtual assemblies and we were able to give each of them their awards on the last day of school.

Our Teacher Appreciation Lunch was canceled but not forgotten. Our committee created a Kudoboard giving all parents and students an opportunity to express their thanks via photo, words, or both. The board was then shared with all of our wonderful faculty, staff, and administration. We also made two charitable donations on behalf of our teachers in place of lunch.

Changing the Celebrate Unquowa Auction and Gala from an in-person beach themed party to an online auction coined the "Couch Surfing Soirée" was a phenomenal success. This event could have easily just been canceled but not with Jenna and Anthony Venditto at the helm of this committee. There are no words to express our appreciation for their determination, creativity, and dedication to this project. They clearly could not have been so successful without

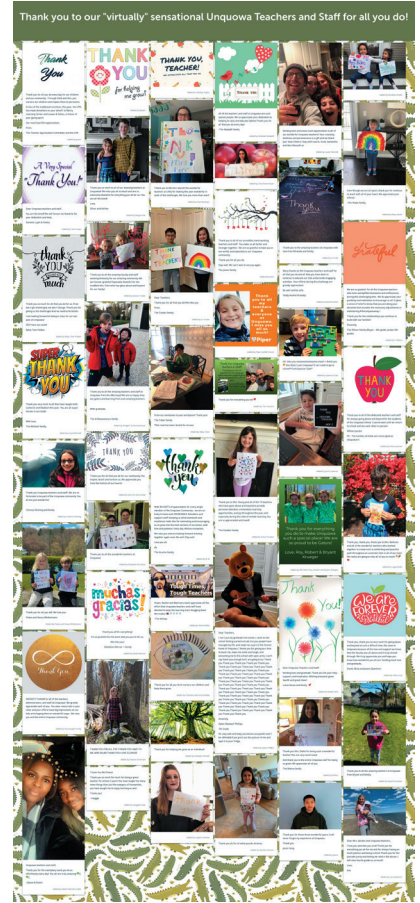


help from their committee members, countless parents, teachers and so many other Unquowans.

We were very fortunate to have such involved and supportive UPA volunteers this year! It is during times like these that you see how

lucky we all are to be a part of this strong community called Unquowa. Enjoy your summer and we will see you in September!

***Kate Tate-Padian & Heather Winkelmann,
Unquowa Parents Association Co-Presidents***



Alumni News

Amidst these uncertain times, our Unquowa students from the Class of '16 have recently graduated High School and are now preparing to follow these paths in the Fall. We wish them the very best of luck as their next chapter unfolds!

- Mia Auray** - Fairfield University
- Annie McNeela** - Elon University
- Chloe Coseglia** - University of Miami
- Hank Miller** - Full Sail University
- Julianna Darcy** - Roger Williams University
- Ryan Moss** - Elon University
- Anne Marie Dooher** - Colby College
- Lucy Panagos** - University of Southern California
- Lily Gardella** - Tampa University
- Jessica Price** - McGill University
- Tess Haskel** - University Of Vermont
- Karlie Vare** - University of Connecticut
- Carolyn Kokias** - Marist College
- Max Victor** - Emergency Medical Technician
- Dylan McCormick** - Drew University
- Charlotte Yin** - Northeastern University

Baby News!

Upper School Science and Mandarin Teacher, Wenyi Che and her husband Max Chen welcomed baby Sophia Chen on June 4th. Congratulations to the new parents - we can't wait to meet baby Sophia!



The Fund For Unquowa 2020-2021

Join our community of splendid donors whose generosity underwrites the extraordinary programs which benefit every student, and every teacher every day at Unquowa. Give now to support the unique experiences our students receive throughout their year with experiential learning, cultural and creative activities, performing arts and our STEAM hub, the Makerspace.

Peter Lanni and Melody Waterhouse, 2020 Fund For Unquowa Co-Chairs

Go online at unquowa.org/giving or use the enclosed green envelopes



THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

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The Future is in Our Care*



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