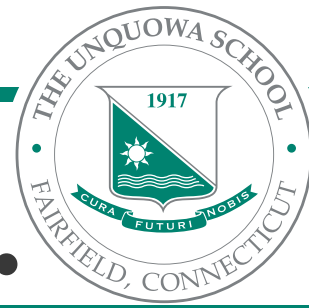


About U.S.



A Publishing Tradition
of The Unquowa School

A Message From the Head of School

I was first introduced to the concept of service learning as a young teacher when my students and I spent the day with Colman McCarthy, the Washington D.C. founder of The Center for Teaching Peace. Among other things, Mr. McCarthy engaged my students in a discussion about the difference between community service and service learning. The former is activities such as collecting food, clothes, and holiday gifts for those in need, the latter is experiences that involve working with others around a specific need in a sustained way and getting to know those in need as human beings and thus making a true difference for both them and one's self. Student involvement in community service, he said, is certainly important. It is the first practice of philanthropy. But service learning is a deeper experience because it not only provides service; it promotes understanding that leads to change.

I never forgot McCarthy's words, and when I arrived at Unquowa twelve years ago, I was impressed to find a model of service learning that exemplified this notion. I'd seen Unquowa's program receive the Leading Edge Award at the National Association of Independent Schools convention the spring before and now I understood why. Unquowa's eighth grade capstone service learning project began eighteen years ago when the first Unquowa students traveled to Giant Steps, a school for students with neurological impairments in Southport, to begin a reverse inclusion program that would continue to grow and serve as one of the most powerful learning experience of our eighth graders' Unquowa education.

At the beginning of each school year, the executive director of Giant Steps comes to our campus to provide an orientation about their school's purpose and the services they provide for neurologically impaired children. After that orientation, each of our students is paired with a Giant Steps student and travels to their

campus every Thursday afternoon to spend time with that friend and his or her teacher to simply do the things kids do. There is no magic recipe to the success of this program, simply the ongoing interaction, week after week, of two young people — one an eighth grade independent school student and one a student with severe neurological impairments whose wrap-around teacher guides their

relationship until the unpredictable day in the school year when the two become simply friends. For twelve years I have watched this program, now a half-year experience at Giant Steps and a half-year spent with students at The Feroletto Children's Development Center, grow and continue to be a life-changing experience for our eighth graders. I have listened to advisors say how nervous their students are about meeting their first new friend, whether it be at Giant Steps or Feroletto, in the fall. Will they know what to say, how to act, will they be able to communicate with each other? Each week's bus trip there is filled with questions and each week's bus trip home is filled with new observations. And each week slowly builds a change in attitude and an amazing understanding that cannot be gotten any other way.

Our eighth grade reverse inclusion service learning program is time-tested and is now serving as a launch model for service learning programs we're developing in our fifth through seventh grades with our Dean of Students and advisors. Starting by partnering with the International Institute of Connecticut, a century-old nonprofit organization that assists refugees and immigrants and promotes cross-cultural understanding and decent treatment for all, service learning experiences that begin in fifth grade and build through graduation will send Unquowa students off to high school with a demonstrated track record of service learning experience that represent a genuinely earned sense of empathy and social justice.



Sharon Lauer, Head of School

Trimester I Honor Roll

Unquowa Honors

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

Grade 5

Claire Roberts

Samantha Renzulli

Sneha Sunder

Daniel Vash

Grade 6

Cecilia Buono

Blake Erenhouse

Kelly Jones

Lily Panagos

Sophie Whidden

Grade 8

Aaron Gruen

Alexandra Halas

Abigail Nevins

Lola Panagos

Charlotte Robins

Grace Rosow

Drew Slager

Grade 7

Brooke Jones

Raphael Makhraz

Honors

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

Grade 5

Jack Blasbalg

Rowan Dillon

Brynn Fleisig

Krystle Garcia

Hailey Geppert

Adriana Giachino

Daniel Gomes

Elizabeth Gonnella

Alex Lele

Isabel Levi

Alexandra Schwartz

Isabelle Spencer

Travis Stuart

Duncan Van Der Aue

Grade 7

Gregory Coghlan

Maxwell Cooper

Matthew Corey

Katherine Daly

Kylee Faulkner

Lauren Flamini

Sophia Kessler

Alexander McKinnis

Meghan Miller

Aiden Nishiyama

Margot Pitchenik

Madeline Reed

Keilan Rosow

Abigail Russo

Will Waghorne

Hannah Whidden

Grade 6

Caroline Avery

Cooper DeGirolomo

Eva Doohar

Theodore Geary

Madison Greenspan

Edward Kim

Amelia Lanni

Avery Newkirchen

Halie Perkins

Michael Roberts

Madeline Shantz

Ben Stokes

Andrew Stumm

Jordan Werner

Jack Wilkos

Grade 8

Thomas Brennan

Ryan Cawley

Lisi Chapin

Margaret Coghlan

Ruby Coleman

Shepherd Currie

Daniel DeGirolomo

Charlotte Dworski

Jenna Foote

William Geary

William Hansen

Adam Jehle

Ethan Klein

Naia Kocsi

Sophia Mughal

Maya Rubino

Ella Stalowir



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.

Introducing This Year's PEL Fellows

We are excited to welcome a new cohort of Progressive Education Lab fellows to Unquowa this fall.

Caleb is working with Upper School math classes and making hands on math activities come alive.

Emma is focusing on tolerance and social justice through poetry, literature and our native American studies unit in fifth grade.

Kyle is working with the sixth graders on a conceptual drawing activity to create visual "soul maps" representing their personal identities. She has also led a creative writing activity on nature and will be helping students create sculptures out of natural materials.

Jeff is working to help the sixth grade humanities class learn about early river valley civilizations and is coordinating a makerspace project in which the students are building a model of an early river farming community.



*View the 2016 Annual Report
at www.unquowa.org*

Strategic Planning Underway



Strong independent schools dedicate time every few years to thinking about strategic goals and plans for the future. Having recently met the goals set forth in Unquowa's previous strategic plan, including a successful major capital campaign, we are working with an educational consulting firm, Greenwich Leadership Partners, on the school's next phase of strategic thinking. A team from Unquowa, including members of the faculty, Board and the administration, is collaborating closely with GLP this year.

This fall we have been gathering information and feedback from many of our constituents — parents, young alumni, students, faculty, staff and the Board — and will continue to update our community as the priorities and strategic goals take shape for Unquowa's entry to its second century.

Annual Meeting

The Board of Governors welcomed faculty and parents to this year's annual meeting in November. After enjoying a wonderful cocktail reception, we gathered for a presentation by Board President Joan Panagos on the 2015-16 fiscal year and a screening of the documentary film, *Most Likely to Succeed*.

Sharon Lauer gave an overview of the school's current strategic planning process and introduced the film. The award-winning documentary offers a thoughtful examination of the underlying assumptions about the real skills and habits of mind students need to live meaningful intellectual lives in today's world. The Q&A session afterwards showed that this provocative film certainly resonated with our audience and sparked interesting conversation.



Our 36th Annual Winter Festival!



December 7

Coronation Assembly
Announcement of Partridge & Friends

December 12

Knighting Ceremony - 2:45

December 14

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

December 15

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

Propaganda, Misinformation and Disinformation



Corey Flintoff, NPR's former international correspondent based in Moscow, was gracious enough to visit recently with Unquowa's seventh and eighth grade humanities classes. While his experience as a journalist is vast, he spoke to our students specifically about the misinformation, disinformation and propaganda utilized by the Russian government. To prepare, the students studied Russia's geography, history, and politics and learned how propaganda techniques and bias can influence the way information is presented and perceived.

Much of Mr. Flintoff's presentation focused on his first-hand experience reporting on the Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 (MH17) that was shot down over Ukraine in 2014 and how the Russian government handled accusations that they were responsible for the tragedy. Mr. Flintoff's experience searching for the truth was a dramatic and, at times, unsettling narrative. However, our students were mature, composed and intellectually engaged. They asked insightful questions about other stories Mr. Flintoff had written — chasing Somali pirates with the French Navy, reporting alongside US troops in Iraq, and covering the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

We couldn't have been more proud watching our

students in action, making conversation with such a recognized and celebrated journalist. In a note to Ms. Lauer, Mr. Flintoff said, "Your students are terrific! It was far and away the most stimulating school visit I've had. I was really impressed by the quality of the questions, because it was clear the students had really researched and thought seriously about the issues of disinformation and misinformation." What a great experience!

Vincent O'Hara, Humanities Teacher



How High Investigations

Fourth grade scientists created their own investigations and lab reports based on this big question: How high will a ball bounce on various surfaces?

Students developed hypotheses and designed investigations. Data was collected, analyzed and presented in graph format. Finally, conclusions were drawn and their hypotheses were either confirmed or rejected.

Although they all started with the same big question, student groups altered the controls and variables in their individual investigations.

In the end, they learned how to use the scientific method accurately and share the outcomes effectively with fellow scientists.

*Carlene Gordon
Science Teacher*



Spray Paint Artist Visit

Thank you to artist and Unquowa grandfather, Miguel Pamas, for spending a day at Unquowa teaching all of our students how to create spray paint art!

Using various unusual materials, such as newspapers and tin cans, Mr. Pamas demonstrated different techniques to create planets, comets and a spattering of stars. We were grateful to see an accomplished artist at work and to try an entirely different method of creating art.



The Kindness Rocks Garden

Having come across a *Kindness Rocks Project* garden on a beach over the summer, I was intrigued by the instructions to “take one, leave one, start one.” I chose my favorite inscribed rock, “Life’s a journey, not a race,” and kept it in my pocket for the rest of the day. I immediately thought of Unquowa — a school with kindness embedded in its walls and community. What a perfect project for me to bring to my fifth grade class.

The students researched the *Kindness Rocks Project* and immediately understood its purpose. The two fifth grade classes were excited and teeming with ideas about how to build such a rock garden at Unquowa. Students worked together to gather supplies, decorate and inscribe rocks and prepare an installation space near the school’s curricular gardens. They created a special presentation to share with our community at assembly to encourage others to take one, leave one, and start one of their own.

The point of the project really hit home when one of the fifth graders said to me, “Mrs. Lamb, someone chose my rock!” with a look of complete satisfaction knowing that her message connected with someone. What a great way for the fifth graders to bond as a group and for our community to share and celebrate kindness!

Michelle Lamb, Fifth Grade Teacher



Kindergarten's Quest for Kindness

It all started with kindergarteners writing kind notes to each other in class. Then we wrote some for others and sneakily left these notes of kindness on all the cars in the parking lot. We heard from so many people that they were touched by our simple messages that we decided to write a kind note for every student at Unquowa! We really enjoyed writing the notes and then tiptoeing around to leave them in cubbies or slip them into lockers!

When students found a note from us, they were asked to post them on the shared bulletin board in the main hall and then to take a blank heart to pay the kindness forward by leaving a note for someone else. We were thrilled to find notes in our own cubbies, showing how an act of kindness can come full circle! Turning this concept into a science activity, we watched drops of water as they hit the surface in a water tank and saw how even tiny acts can cause ripples! Last, but certainly not least, we used yoga and positive thinking to practice being kind to ourselves.

Faith Barbuto, Kindergarten Teacher



Introducing This Year's Eighth Grade Speaker Series

Each week at assembly eighth graders deliver an original speech in which they share a passion, an experience, or an idea with the entire school. After years of building confidence by giving classroom presentations in the earlier grades, the eighth grade speeches are an Unquowa tradition and public speaking capstone project for our oldest students. Students work with their humanities teachers to write their speeches, with performing arts teachers on delivery and with our technology teacher to develop a multimedia presentation.

This year's eighth grade speaker series began with speeches about experiences as a junior chef, TaeKwonDo success, adopting a beloved family pet, a first summer at sleepaway camp and a meaningful father and son adventure.

As our graduating class prepares for the next leg of their academic journey in high school, they leave behind a token of themselves in their eighth grade speeches.

Miss an assembly? You can watch all of this year's eighth grade speeches on our YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/unquowavideos>

Debbie Leidlein and George Seferides, Eighth Grade Advisors



Out With the Desks!

This past summer marked the beginning of our school's move toward an even more collaborative learning space in every classroom. The traditional "oil tank" teacher desks — the hallmark of the 20th century classroom — were carried out of over a dozen classrooms that have been redesigned to give students and teachers workspace that better serves the way our students and teachers actually interact throughout the day. Sharon is pictured to the right with the old desks which were stacked in the gym awaiting repurposing.

Check out our new humanities classrooms where large, oval-shaped tables for discussion live with sofas and other "soft seating" for break-out work. Peek into our Spanish and Mandarin classes where round, light tables make for an easy flip from individual and group work to full-class open space for dramatic target language practice. We are re-thinking the needs of students and teachers at all ages and all disciplines and won't rest until every space echoes that thought.

Thanks so much to Doug McCabe and his facilities crew who did an unbelievable job of hauling out the old and assembling the new to get these vibrant spaces ready for the start of school and to faculty who embraced the notion and willingly spent part of their summer reconfiguring their classrooms.



Loose Parts Shed

Children of all ages are drawn to the versatile and beautiful building pieces housed in our new "loose parts" shed. PreK-4 and sixth grade students are seen here exploring the possibilities of these dynamic learn-through-play loose parts materials which inspire creativity and support imaginative play.



Celebrating *Día de los Muertos*

The Spanish and Visual Arts Departments worked together to celebrate *Día de los Muertos* or Day of the Dead. To unify us in our efforts, we created an *ofrenda* (altar) to celebrate the life of Mexican artist, Frida Kahlo.

In Spanish class, eighth graders served as project managers for the design of the altar and researched the essential components of an *ofrenda*. As project managers, they paved the way for students in other grades to contribute to the altar. Upper School students researched Frida's life and created captioned visuals of her most famous artwork and small displays about her family life.

All of the happenings in Spanish class were enhanced through the visual arts. Seventh graders cut delicate *papel picado* banners out of tissue paper and created intricate and adorned *nichos* (shadow box-style shrines). Fifth graders designed paper sugar skull masks, and the PreK-3 class decorated actual sugar skulls, inspired by eighth grader Will's complex designs. Many students helped make paper pom poms, flowers and paper masks to add to the altar.

The collaborative building of this *ofrenda* helped our students to see that many hands make light work. They also learned to appreciate how *Día de los Muertos* can be lively and festive, while honoring those who have passed. For Mrs. Ponden and myself, the project gave us the opportunity to reflect on our Oaxacan travel experiences this past summer, supported by a Virginia Birdsall grant from the school, and to infuse them into our teaching.

Katie Brenna, Spanish Teacher



Exquisite Corpse: A Surrealist Drawing Game

As a special Halloween treat, sixth grade students played the Exquisite Corpse game in visual arts. The Surrealists, including André Breton, Man Ray and Joan Miró, invented the game as a collaborative exercise to produce unique, unusual images of composite figures. After folding a sheet of paper in thirds, the students drew a head on the top third. They then extended the lines just slightly onto the next third, concealed what they had drawn, and passed it to the next person who drew a torso and arms. Finally, the sheet was flipped once more and the last participant drew legs. It's clear our students had ghouls and goblins on the brain, and everyone enjoyed this fast-paced and surprising game!

Krissy Ponden, Visual Arts Teacher



Trick or Treat!

Thanks to the lobbying efforts of their class reps, Upper School students were given the option to join the Lower School students in costumes this year. This really added to the festive feel of the morning assembly ... and to the spookiness of their performance of Michael Jackson's *Thriller*!



Founders' Day

What an incredible day! The sun was shining, the farm-to-fork barbecue was delicious and a tankful of guppies found new homes through the ring toss game! It was a beautiful day to bring the community together to celebrate the fall season and the founding of our school.

Our eighth graders kept younger students busy with activities and, in the process, raised funds for their spring trip to Woodloch in the Poconos. Returning young alums, eager to show off their new high school colors, were excited to reconnect with former teachers and classmates. And, as has become the tradition, Bone Dry kept the party rocking with great music!

Karen Williamson, Community Manager



Save the date for next year's Founders' Day and our 100th year celebration
Saturday, October 14, 2017!



2016 Annual Fund

*Every Year,
Everyone,
Any Amount!*

Our Annual Fund provides vital resources that have a direct impact on the school day of every young Unquowan. Last year's fund broke all school records and we hope to keep that momentum this year!

Every year Sharon Lauer and the school direct the support where it is most needed — programming, financial aid, classroom materials, curriculum, technology, athletics, performing arts and other initiatives.

Thank you to everyone who has already made a gift to this year's 2016 Annual Fund. Many of you give every year and we are so grateful!

If you haven't yet made a gift to this year's 2016 Annual Fund, please join us now. The deadline is June 30, 2017 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!

Jenn Dooher
2016 Annual Fund Chair

Unquowa Alums Enjoying Founders' Day 2016



Take a Seat, Make a Friend

As part of the introduction to their capstone service learning project, eighth graders watched a short film, *Take a Seat, Make a Friend*, about the interactions and unexpected friendships made by strangers in San Francisco. Our students were then strategically paired with classmates with whom they believed they might have less in common. The task was to find a commonality. Amazing and honest things came out in our follow-up discussions, like “We both dream of being on Broadway!” “We are both adopted!” “We both have a relative with cancer.” “We are both afraid of the dark.”

Then, to lighten things up a bit, the pairs made up a handshake that they shared with the group. The activity was fun and the takeaway was simple, yet powerful: no matter how different two people may seem, we all have things in common and can become friends.

This lesson is especially important because the eighth graders have begun their year long service learning project at Giant Steps School and Feroletto Children’s Development Center. The Unquowa students are partnered with students from each organization and assist in learning games and projects and serve as typical peers, modeling behavior for their buddies. Pictured above are half of our eighth graders who are currently volunteering at Giant Steps; the rest of the class is going to Feroletto.

Each year the Unquowa students have a blast and learn a lot at both Giant Steps and Feroletto. Last year, a student exclaimed, “Wow! We’re really alike in so many ways!” We are confident that this year’s eighth grade will have just as meaningful an experience.

Lisa Sylvestro, Service Learning

Upper School Whitewater Rafting

Seventh and eighth graders kicked off their school year with Unquowa’s third annual whitewater rafting trip! They ran the rapids like pros, as they hit class 1, 2 and 3 rapids. This trip was all about teamwork and many great friendships were forged in the time spent together.



Budding Composers



Second graders have begun studying note values and what they mean in a 4/4 time signature. With that under their belts, they are quickly mastering the basics of creating their own short melodies. Using whiteboards, students became composers making sure to have only four beats in each measure, creating clear measure lines and endings to their original compositions! The most exciting part was when I took these short melodies and played them for the class. Each student had a great sense of pride listening to something they had written!

Megan Kirk, Performing Arts Teacher



Updates from the Gator Garage

The Greenberg Gator Garage has been buzzing with activity! What if you were trapped on an island? How would you work as a team to create a structure to escape? These were the engineering problems kindergarteners recently considered. Students were given materials and tools and were asked to decide which would be useful. Using the decided upon supplies and a bit of imagination to turn a solid tiled (but blue!) floor into a pool of water, students created a rolling raft capable of carrying them to safety. Testing the “boat” was just part of the fun!

Our PreK-3 students learned about electricity, circuits and propellers...and had the chance to experiment with all three! For this project, Mr. Ross-MacCormack began by helping each child drill a hole in the middle of a popsicle stick. Using a battery, a red wire, a black wire and a small gray motor, he then demonstrated how circuits work. He carefully touched the black wire to the end of the battery and things started spinning fast! Each student got their own circuit, attached popsicle sticks to the motors, carefully touched the wire to the bump on the battery and our popsicle stick turned into a propeller! Amazing!

Building on a discussion in humanities class about the relationship between civilizations and food, sixth graders brainstormed ideas for growing food in an urban environment, where there isn't a lot of space. Students had lots of ideas from a garden on top of a food delivery truck to a floating farm barge, but decided their best idea was to design a vertical garden. Starting with a pallet as their base they have been experimenting with designing irrigation, a shelving system to hold the soil and a mechanism to tilt the garden relative to the sun. It is exciting to see the prototype come together!



Mindfulness and Munch



The PreK-3 class was excited to visit the seventh graders to share a mindfulness activity designed to help them find an inner calm. With everyone quietly watching, they took turns pouring water from a pitcher very slowly (which took practice) so they could focus on their sense of hearing. They then put one drop of food coloring in the water to create a one-of-a-kind visualization and watched the color disperse in many directions.

With everyone now feeling more calm and peaceful, the PreK-3 students paired up with the seventh graders to discuss the painting “The Scream” by Edvard Munch. Specifically, the students talked about how the painting made them feel. How interesting that the younger children saw it as a happy picture because of all the bright colors while the older children described sadness and fright. Perhaps it could be that a three year old has not quite felt being frightened or scared yet. What do you think?

Janice Shannon, PreK-3 Teacher

Mastering the Ukulele

Our new set of ukuleles is here and the fourth through eighth grade musicians are truly enjoying learning to play them! Because of their smaller size and fewer number of strings, the ukes are fun and easy to learn and we've been playing everything from Beethoven to Bob Marley. We added the ukulele to the music department as an introduction to other stringed instruments — perfect for getting fourth and fifth grade students ready for guitar in sixth grade. It has been an unexpected plus that the older kids are enjoying them as well. Eighth graders recently accompanied the Junior Chorus in a rendition of *Three Little Birds* at assembly and there are more performances in the works — we may even see some ukuleles in the Kingdom of Unquowa during Winterfest. Stop by our classroom anytime you feel the need for a “mini-vacation” to Hawaii!

David Coe, Instrumental Music Teacher



Many Hands

Winterfest is in the air and all of Unquowa is buzzing with excitement! While the students and faculty are hard at work on the production, our parents are busy creating the costumes that help bring the whole show to life! Led this year by our costume designer Missy Howe, mother of two young Unquowans, our parents are working together in the Greenberg Gator Garage to sew, cut and assemble an amazing collection for our young performers. While we watch our students come together to create an incredible show, it is heartwarming to see that the magic of Winterfest is contagious and spills over to our entire community.



Giving Thanks

Thanksgiving is a time of tradition, gratitude and celebrating community at Unquowa. Kindergarten and fourth grade students began their day by loading Mr. Doug's truck with all the food generously donated by Unquowa families to our annual food drive to support The Mercy Learning Center in Bridgeport.

At lunchtime, students, faculty and staff came together for a traditional, family-style 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 over 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 everyone had as much turkey and sides as they could eat. So much to be grateful for!



Fall Sports Update

Unquowa's fall athletic season was celebrated in November at our annual Fall Athletic Dessert where we honored our players and coaches and enjoyed desserts provided by Unquowa's chefs. What a fabulous event!

The talented athletes who made up this year's teams surpassed all our expectations — a tribute to hard work and a love of their sports. Our White Soccer team finished with a 10-3 overall record. The girls not only had their own fantastic season, but many also contributed to the boys' solid season. Way to go, boys and girls! The Green Soccer team was a tight and supportive unit that finished their season strong with a win over Eagle Hill Southport and a tie at New Canaan Country School. What a season our third and fourth graders had in soccer! They played a total of four games and consistently displayed team play, good sportsmanship and a competitive spirit. Our first ever fall cross country season was quite a success. In the championship meet at the end of the season, Kelly Jones finished second and Ben Stokes finished fifth overall.

Finally, thank you to all of our fans for cheering us on at all of the games and meets. We are looking forward to the basketball season this winter! Go Gators!

Al Boccamazzo, Athletics Director



Fall Athletic Awards

Soccer

Defense Award: **Jordan Werner, Will Geary, Lisi Chapin**

Offense Award: **Michael Roberts, Adam Jehle, Ella Stalowir**

Outstanding Performance: **Will Hansen, Blake Erenhouse, Lola Panagos**

Most Improved: **Anna Giachino, Lexie Schwartz, Raphael Makhraz**

Good Sportsmanship: **Krystle Garcia, Michael Roberts, Sophia Mughal**

Unquowa Dedication: **Blake Erenhouse**

Cross Country

Outstanding Performance: **Kelly Jones**

Reliability: **Keilan Rosow**

Most Improved: **Brooke Jones**

Inspirational: **Drew Slager**

Unquowa Dedication: **Ben Stokes**

Checkmate

Chess Club, our newest after school activity, has also been one of the most popular this fall! Students in grades four through eight meet weekly to work on skills like critical thinking, problem solving and developing foresight to help them master the game.



From the UPA

The UPA is thrilled to have hosted a number of events this fall thanks to the hard work and dedication of parent volunteers. Thank you all!

Our fourth and fifth graders had a great time at their after school social, showing off their dance moves with a DJ, fueled by tasty snacks and even an ice cream truck. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders headed off to Sky Zone in Norwalk for an afternoon of jumping, climbing and pizza. These popular events got rave reviews!

Our annual Fall Wine Event was a wonderful success! Volunteers transformed the gym and dining room with decorations and everyone enjoyed an evening of tasting specialty wines, sampling local honey and bidding on fabulous auction items. Thank you to all who came to support the school on this special night — a portion of all wine purchased was donated back to Unquowa. And remember, if you mention Unquowa when making purchases at Kindred Spirits, they will continue to donate a portion of the cost to Unquowa throughout the year.

The Fall Athletic Dessert was a fabulous way to recognize our student athletes and their amazing coaches and to celebrate a strong season together.

A huge thank you to the parents who donated items for the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast. What a wonderful way to show how grateful we are to have such amazing faculty and staff working with our children.

The UPA supports service projects that give back to our local community each year. This fall has been busy with both a coat and food drive to support the Mercy Learning Center. It's always inspiring to see our community of parents and children come together to support those in need. Thank you to those organizing our next project, to support families through the Fairfield Department of Social Services during the holidays.

Gina Jones and Rebekah Wadadli, UPA Co-Presidents



Welcome Baby

Welcome baby Peter Rudyard Toebe! Chef

Jessica Toebe

and her husband, Christian, welcomed the newest addition to their family in September. Elly is loving her role as the big sister! Congratulations!



Congrats

Congratulations and best wishes to Karen and Dan as they begin their journey as a married couple!

Karen Williamson

(formerly McClellan), our Admissions Associate and Community Manager, and Dan were married at the Woodstock Country Club in Vermont on a perfect summer day in July!



Alumni News

Scott Kreidler '96 was married in October to Alicia Neuberger. The couple lives in Holly Springs, North Carolina. Scott works for BAE Systems as a Senior Network Engineer and his wife is a teacher's assistant. While we congratulate Scott and Alicia, we also add our condolences, as Scott's mom, Patricia, recently passed away.



Ian Chapin '13, a senior at Joel Barlow High School, has had a busy year. Last spring he was awarded *The Eisenhower Award for Excellence in Math and Science* ("Thanks to his Unquowa teachers," says his mom Lynn). This summer he went on a cultural immersion trip to Morocco and studied the traditions of Ramadan and also worked on a school building project. As a co-captain of the Barlow Varsity soccer team, he helped lead his team through to the CT state finals this fall!

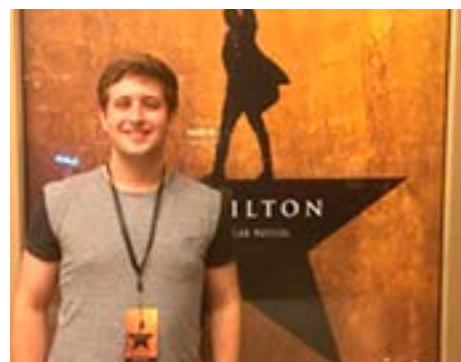
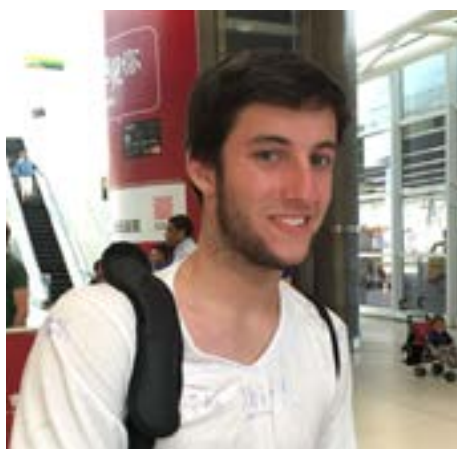
In September, Unquowa alum and Board member **Brad Topar '99** married Gabriele Hammond. They were joined by many Unquowa classmates as they celebrated in a beautiful ceremony in Deep River, CT. Brad and Gaby live in Bridgeport, CT.



Lauren Gabriel '98 and her husband, Steve, welcomed Dexter Ray Diforio in August. The proud parents and Dex live in New York City where Lauren works in business development for a growing digital media company.



Matt Kresch '09 is majoring in communications at Northwestern University, and hopes to become a Broadway lighting designer. He recently completed an internship with the lighting designer for the opening of *Hamilton* in Chicago. He traces his interest in lighting back to Unquowa's Winter Festivals and being on Mr. Spranklin's Tech Crew.



Fairfield Ludlowe High school senior **Grace Haviland '13** (pictured left) founded and leads a chapter of BuildOn, a Stamford based non-profit, which raises funds to build schools in the developing world. In its first year the FLHS chapter exceeded their \$45,000 goal and underwrote the entire cost of building a secondary school in the mountains of Nicaragua. Fellow Unquowa alumna, **Rebecca Ryan '13**, (pictured right) joined in these efforts



and together they traveled with their FLHS chapter to Nicaragua to build the school's foundation over the summer.

The school they funded is now complete and will educate hundreds of students who, until now, have not had the opportunity to attend school beyond 8th grade. The FLHS chapter has now grown to almost 100 students and is raising funds to build another school!



THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

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



Take-A-Look at Unquowa

Love Unquowa? Help us spread the word! Anyone interested in learning more should contact the Admissions Office at (203)367-3151 or admissions@unquowa.org to schedule a tour or sign up for our Take-A-Look Day group tours. Upcoming Take-A-Look Days:

December 8, 13; January 10, 19, 23; February 9, 16, 23; March 7. Tours begin at 9:00am.