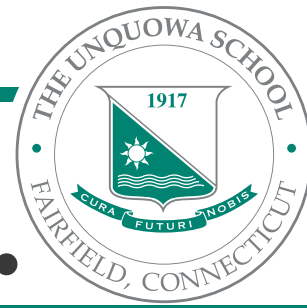


About U.S.



**1917-2017
CELEBRATING
100 YEARS!**

A Message From the Head of School

“Building a community is mundane work.” This quote by Charles Vogl, author of *The Art of Community*, has lingered in my mind for the past two weeks. In a three-hour presentation by this guru of community building, he engaged a room full of school heads to share memories and to draw conclusions on community building. My take-away was, “Hmmm. He’s right! Building a community truly is mundane work.”

Our school has just spent the last year doing strategic planning in preparation for marking our first century and for thoughtfully launching our second. We have gathered feedback from all of our constituencies in an effort to clarify our school’s guiding values and during that work the word *community* was the resounding first choice when folks were asked, “Why Unquowa?” We have spent months establishing our strategic priorities and clarifying our values. Our school has already begun tackling tasks to assure that what we already do well will be done even better, and that we what need to strengthen will

be focused on. This has been energizing work, and our school community is motivated by the path we see ahead.

While I know that Vogl’s mantra is not one for rallying excitement, it is a guiding bit of wisdom for those of us who live in learning communities and work to make them strong. Yes, eliminate the synonyms for mundane like *humdrum*, *tiresome* and *uneventful*. They are off-track. But examine the synonyms such as routine and *unvarying*, and you have probably hit the essence of why building community is so tricky - the building of community must be mundane, so that the achievement of community will be anything but. A powerful sense of community comes from the constant,

predictable moments that establish ritual and build trust, not the occasional moments of excitement that we think bind us together.

Yes, a team win is an exciting community moment but it comes only after endless routine practices, unvarying technique building and many, many runs or scrimmages. A Winter Festival that students and parents imbed in their minds as a moment of powerful community can only be experienced after weeks of routine rehearsals, countless mis-steps and weeks worth of parent costume-a-thons together. And each year of accumulated Winter

Fest memories amplify the community feel of each final performance. Of course, commencement, a day when Unquowa students stand before their school community having earned the right to move on to high school is perhaps the most powerful example of a moment of elation that can only be achieved after thousands of academic acts that count but can’t be counted, thousands of moments guided by teachers that seemed inconsequential at the time, thousands of small



In the 1920s, Unquowa students worked together to build a new kiln for the school. Strong collaboration beyond the classroom walls continues to unite the Unquowa community.

risks, small failures, and small successes that together create the learning community which allows students to graduate as a bonded class.

I hope that you will take time to read the summary of our strategic planning work on page 4 of this issue and that those of you who can will join me for a January coffee to discuss these plans in more detail. Our school has come to the end of a powerful century because of its sense of community; we are energized to be embarking on our school’s second century with an even better understanding of how mundane but committed work builds powerful learning communities that last.

Sharon Lauer, Head of School

Trimester I Honor Roll

Unquowa Honors

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

Grade 5

Alexander Renzulli
Ryley Tate-Padian
Sabine Wadadli

Grade 7

Cecilia Buono
Blake Erenhouse
Kelly Jones
Michael Roberts

Grade 6

Adriana Giachino
Claire Roberts
Luca Scarpatti

Grade 8

Brooke Jones
Samantha Renzulli
Abigail Russo
Sneha Sunder
Daniel Vash

Honors

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

Grade 5

William Jacobs
Phoebe McCance
Kate Richards
Alyssa Roberson
Henry Tanner
Madeline Werner

Grade 7

Carson Currie
Eva Dooher
Theodore Geary
Edward Kim
Amelia Lanni
Lily Panagos
Halie Perkins
Madeline Shantz

Grade 6

Rowan Dillon
Victoria Faunce
Krystle Garcia
Hailey Geppert
Daniel Gomes
Roy Krueger
Haley Roberts
Alexandra Schwartz
Isabelle Spencer
Travis Stuart
Duncan Van Der Aue
Jason Yang
Hudson Zamacona

Grade 8

Gregory Coghlan
Maxwell Cooper
Katherine Daly
Kylee Faulkner
Lauren Flamini
Sophia Kessler
Raphael Makhratz
Alexander McKinnis
Margot Pitchenik
Madeline Reed
Hannah Whidden

Welcome New Faculty:



Julie DeAngelis, our Upper School Spanish Teacher, has an MA and TESOL certification from Columbia University. Srta. DeAngelis passionately believes that learning about culture is integral to the foreign language learning experience, and infuses her classes with rich cultural experiences.



Helen Fernandez teaches Spanish to grades PreK-3 - fourth grade and eighth grade. She received her MAT from Sacred Heart University and most recently taught Spanish at St. Joseph's in Shelton. Sra. Fernandez is excited to join the Unquowa community teaching a language that she grew up with and loves.



Tresor Kayumba teaches fifth grade social studies and literature as well as acting as one of the class advisers. He holds a BA in Philosophy and has years of teaching experience with middle school through post grad students. He sees fifth grade as an integral period of growth and development.



Ariel Warshaw is thrilled to join Unquowa as the fifth grade writing teacher. Holding an MA in Education from Ursuline College, she brings over ten years of teaching experience to her writing seminars. Ms. Warshaw is excited to help her students grow into unafraid, inspired, and confident writers.



Peggy Chappell, a licensed clinical social worker, has joined us as our School Counselor. She has worked in Yale's Children's Psychiatric Inpatient Unit, Yale Child Study Center, Family and Children's Aid and The Country School in Madison. Most recently she has been training school staff in the areas of emotional wellness and mindfulness.

We are also pleased to welcome three interns who are working with our faculty during this school year in the following areas:

Upper School Science: Sammy Brownlow, Unquowa Class of '07, has a BA in Biological Studies from Smith College. (pictured below left)

Grades 1 and 2: Darya De Angelo has a BA in Music and is currently working towards her MA in Education, both from the University of Bridgeport. (center)

Grades 3 and 4: Janai White has a BA in Accounting/Finance from Salve Regina, and is currently working towards her MA in Education at the University of Bridgeport. (right)



2nd Century Campaign For the Future ... and for Today



As we celebrate Unquowa's first 100 years, the Board is strategically focused on the long term horizon and ensuring that the school's second century is as strong as its first. Through the *2nd Century Campaign*, we will build the school's endowment and create a fund for future campus enhancements.

A strong endowment is vital to every independent school. Carefully invested, endowment earnings provide unwavering support for curriculum, programming, financial aid, campus improvements and talented faculty.

Innovation is often the result of bold decisions. As a small school, Unquowa is in the enviable position of being able to adapt and respond quickly and effectively to creative educational opportunities and research.

Support from a strong endowment will allow the school's leadership and

faculty to continue to boldly design and enhance Unquowa's innovative programs.

Unquowa proudly awards levels of financial aid each year that consistently place our small school in the top quartile of all independent schools in Fairfield and Westchester Counties, including those schools with huge endowments. In other words...*we do more with less!* And providing financial aid to families with demonstrated need benefits our entire school community. Being part of a socio-economically diverse community expands horizons, deepens understanding, encourages compassion and nurtures empathy among all our students.

Since 1917, Unquowa's building and campus have grown in phases to support the progressive teaching philosophy of our school's founders by providing outdoor spaces for classes, athletics, playtime and programs. Building a *Campus Enhancement Fund* now will ensure that Unquowa's leadership will be in a position to take on projects to improve our building and to consider opportunities to grow our small campus in the future.

We will update you on the progress of the *2nd Century Campaign* as the year goes on and we hope you will join us!

David and Beth McKinnis, Campaign Co-Chairs



Legacy Giving Society

Join these members of Unquowa's *Carl Churchill Legacy Giving Society*, established in 2012, by making a planned gift or bequest to secure Unquowa's financial foundation into the school's second century.

- ~ Georgiana Brewer Beach,* Class of 1926
 - ~ Craig Knebel, current faculty
 - ~ Bruce G. Lockhart,* Class of 1948
 - ~ Norman Morse,* Class of 1933
 - ~ Ruth Powell, former faculty
 - ~ Carolyn Gaines Ruckle, Class of 1953
 - ~ Jean Carpenter Winton,* Class of 1934
- (*deceased)



*View the
2016-2017
Annual Report
unquowa.org*

Thank You!

Strategic Plan — Moving Forward

During the past year, a strategic planning team with representation from faculty, staff and the Board joined me in collaborating with consultants from Greenwich Leadership Partners to focus on strategic planning for the next phase of Unquowa's growth.

Together we gathered and synthesized feedback from every constituency in the Unquowa community. With insights from surveys, workshops, discussion groups and activities with students, alumni, parents, faculty/staff and the Board, we are poised to enter our second century with a set of strategic priorities and goals.

Throughout our community, it was clear that Unquowa's innovative program and curriculum set us apart in an ocean of independent school competition. While competitors battle among themselves for market share in the churned up waters of the "red ocean," Unquowa is the "blue ocean" alternative.



A Summary of Strategic Priorities

Within each of these strategic priorities are dozens of action items for the Board, faculty, parents and administration to tackle together.

KNOW who we are

- ~Clearly define and articulate Unquowa's unique identity and value as a "blue ocean" school, like no other in the region.
- ~Focus on building a mission appropriate community of students, families and faculty/staff.
- ~Advance Unquowa's Diversity Statement and practices so that each community member feels valued and enriched.

SAY who we are

- ~Promote Unquowa's unique "blue ocean" identity by creating clear and consistent plans for both internal and external marketing.
- ~Develop a culture of "fierce pride" throughout the Unquowa community.

BE who we are

- ~Identify and practice the "blue ocean" design principles ("special sauce") that spark intellectual curiosity and lead to innovative program success.
- ~Promote a culture of communication, collaboration and professional growth for administration, faculty and staff.
- ~Intensify and broaden efforts to build community engagement.

GROW who we are

- ~Nurture and grow new program ideas that resonate with Unquowa's "blue ocean" identity.
- ~Continue to build a "culture of philanthropy" that aligns investment with our vision and impact.
- ~Identify, protect and grow the resources of time and money to heighten institutional stability.

Core Values

From all the feedback we gathered, including the "Why Unquowa?" cards from parents, faculty and students, a clear set of existing powerful core values emerged.

Community
Strong Moral Compass
Intellectual Curiosity
Creativity
Confidence

Join me for a *Coffee With The Head* on January 10th right after assembly to learn more about the strategic plan.

Sharon Lauer, Head of School



Fun and Learning in the Summertime



As always, Unquowa was buzzing with activity over the summer! In addition to hosting **Chamber Music Central's Music Camp**, students enjoyed a number of experiences this summer including **Camp Invention** which challenged first through sixth graders with engineering projects such as building and launching rockets and designing their own products made from duct tape. Through teamwork and creativity, their creations were amazing! During **Basketball Camp** players enhanced their game fundamentals, developed new skills, honed their philosophy of the game and made new friendships. Once again, **Unquowa Farm Camp's** young gardeners and environmentalists tended our curricular gardens at school, worked at Sport Hill Farm in Easton (our year round partner), enjoyed fun cooking lessons and relaxed with yoga and art projects. New this summer was a collaboration with a local beekeeper who has several community gardens that benefit Operation Hope. Campers visited a different community garden each week where the kids enjoyed planting flowers and vegetables and learning about vermicomposting and beekeeping!

The Purpose and Power of Play



I was fortunate enough to receive Unquowa's Virginia Birdsall Faculty Grant to support my travel to Denmark last summer. I spent a week visiting six different "Forest Kindergartens." Although the settings were vastly different, the concept was the same — children learn best through play. To us, it might seem like these children are dangerously playing in the woods all day — and, to some degree, that is true — but they are also developing gross and fine motor skills, learning to cooperate and problem solve and, perhaps most importantly, developing confidence by not avoiding tasks they may not succeed at.

Upon my return to America and my classroom at Unquowa, I set the goal of spending at least one hour a day outside with my students. Some of that time is purely for enjoyment and play and some of it

is to teach an academic subject in nature. So far we have spent time building, climbing and swinging — things that may look like play but that are also helping students to develop spatial and motor skills while learning how to navigate the complexities of social interactions. We have also been writing, observing and working together outdoors, laying the groundwork for future scientists, authors and engineers while deepening students' respect for the natural world.

Faith Barbuto, Kindergarten Teacher



Seventh & Eighth Graders' Adventure Down the River



The seventh and eighth grade classes opened their year with Unquowa's traditional excursion to raft down the Deerfield River in Massachusetts. Their adventure took them down class 1, 2 and 3 rapids and the first half of the ride ended with a challenging ride through Zoar's Gap! The weather was slightly chilly, but everyone had an amazing time, learned to work together and enjoyed getting soaked!

Lloyd Mitchell, Seventh Grade Advisor



Kicking Off Sixth Grade at Brownstone Park

In their first week of school, the sixth grade class traveled to Brownstone Park, the quarry site for the original Brownstone homes in New York City built between 1870-1930. The unique feldspar sedimentary rock was once at the bottom of an inland sea near the end time of the great Pangaea supercontinent. Students brainstormed theories about how the rock may have gotten to its current location, a nice introduction to the sixth grade Earth Science focus. The class then participated in team bonding experiences involving climbs, jumps, zip lines and adventure park fun. Luckily sunny conditions complemented the 78 degree water!

Craig Knebel, Sixth Grade Advisor



Fifth Grade Scientists at the Eli Whitney Museum



The fifth grade traveled to the Eli Whitney Museum in Hamden, Connecticut for workshops on our solar system and engineering design.

Students constructed an Orrery (sun, moon, and earth kinetic model) that allowed them to produce and observe the very same Newtonian laws that they have studied in class this fall. They understand that the laws that govern the motion of objects here on Earth are the same as those that push and pull our planets and stars

beyond. In another project, they built a robotic arm and learned how elastic potential energy and simple machines function. This trip was an impactful start to our STEAM and design-thinking focus in fifth grade science.

Cameron Ross-MacCormack, Fifth Grade Science Teacher

Clase en la Cocina



Speaking only in Spanish, eighth graders worked on a cooking lesson to prepare a Spanish tortilla with eggs, potatoes, onions, peppers and chorizo. They had fun chatting while sauteing the ingredients and flipping the pan to cook both sides of the tortilla. The best part was eating together and sharing with others! Gracias to Chef David for his guidance and use of the kitchen!

Helen Fernandez, Spanish Teacher

Designing to Solve Problems

The first step in the design process is to identify a problem. Students discussed the pitfalls of being a fourth grader, identifying many problems and exploring possible solutions. Just a few of the solutions to life's problems included a closet to rotate clothing, a robot to play with one's little brother and shoes with lifts to reach things in a top locker.

Following the steps in the design process, fourth graders went to the makerspace to design and construct prototypes for their solutions. When one design failed, students redesigned their inventions, solving problems as they arose. Students presented their prototypes and discussed possible materials and tools that would be required for construction.



Carlene Gordon, Fourth Grade Science Teacher

Do You Feel Stressed?



At times, we all do. Optimal learning and healthy relationships cannot happen when our bodies and minds are stressed. Our Upper Schoolers have been practicing TLS for the last couple of years but new this year, is the introduction of TLS to the third and fourth grade curriculum as part of Unquowa's Mindfulness program.

Transformative Life Skills (TLS) is an evidence-based practice in self-resilience, self-awareness, emotional regulation and healthy relationships. TLS includes active yoga postures, breathing techniques and centering meditation. Every week students in grades 3 - 8 are invited (but never required) to participate in brief lessons in how to de-stress, refocus attention and center our bodies and minds. Students are taught that the techniques

practiced in whole group lessons can be used anytime and anywhere. Already students have been spotted practicing TLS on their own around school and reflecting on the calmness they experience afterwards.

Carlene Gordon & Craig Knebel, Deans of Faculty

All Dressed Up for a Frightfully Good Halloween



Founders' Day 2017

What an amazing weekend of celebrating Unquowa's 100th! This year's Founders' Day was extra special with visits from alumni from Classes of 1945 - 2017! Everyone enjoyed exploring archival photos from the early years of the school's founding and dressing up for our #unquowa100 photo booth.

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. Our chefs outdid themselves with the farm-to-fork barbecue. And, Bone Dry kept the party rocking with great music from the past 100 years!

Karen Williamson, Community Manager





2017 Annual Fund

*Every Year,
Everyone,
Any Amount*

Gifts to Unquowa's Annual Fund go directly where they are needed most each year - directly impacting every child in every classroom. Gifts to the Annual Fund go to support programming, classroom materials, financial aid, curriculum, technology, athletics, performing arts and other initiatives.

If you haven't already made a gift to this year's Annual Fund, please join us now! The deadline is June 30, 2018 and you can give by returning the enclosed envelope or going to the Giving section of unquowa.org.

It is important to keep in mind that the Annual Fund is different from the *2nd Century Campaign*, a special effort to build the school's endowment. We need your support with both! Questions? Contact Kate Haviland at kate.haviland@unquowa.org or 203-336-9091.

Jenn Dooher, 2017 Annual Fund Chair



Not-So-Spooky Stories



At the beginning of October, the fifth graders began collaborating with kindergarten “buddies” to craft not-so-spooky stories. In our first meeting together, we listened to the short story, “The Pink Jellybean,” to get a sense for what kind of mood we wanted to create in our tales. Then, the students rolled dice to select the setting, character, and problem for each of their stories using a specialized game board. The kindergarteners loved having a part in the process, and the fifth graders excitedly began work on crafting their stories.

In our next work session, the students shared their first drafts

with their kindergarten partners and modeled a peer editing session. The kindergarteners gave them feedback - what they liked about their story, what they were confused by, what they’d like to see added, and more. The fifth graders got busy revising and editing their pieces, while the kindergarteners worked hard at illustrating their collaborative stories.

All of this hard work culminated in a wonderful autumnal event! Fifth grade and kindergarten classes, along with their families, came together around a campfire on campus. The students shared their creative and kooky stories, complete with illustrations by their kindergarten buddies, while sipping cider and enjoying a beautiful fall night.

Ariel Warshaw, Fifth Grade Writing Teacher



A Visit to the Local Firehouse

As part of learning about citizenship, the second grade class escorted the PreK-3 students on a walking excursion to the local firehouse. During the walk, the older students helped the younger students to understand road safety and they took this responsibility very seriously!

When the students arrived, the firefighters showed them the fire truck, the fire house and talked about fire safety. These brave community members were great examples of what it means to be a strong citizen... and our young students were impressed!

Karen Engelke, Second Grade Teacher



100 Messages of Hope

If it's cool to be kind, then our students are the coolest!

The seventh grade class, serving as Unquowa's philanthropy coordinators for this school year, guided students of all ages in creating messages of hope this fall for cancer patients and the Norma Priem Breast Cancer Center. The students had fun making cards and writing messages of cheer and hope. The seventh graders also displayed some of their messages at Founders' Day and gave the entire Unquowa community the opportunity to participate in the project.

In celebration of Unquowa's centennial, the class set a goal of creating 100 messages. So many people opened their hearts and took the time to pen beautiful thoughts that the students exceeded their goal and proudly delivered 126 messages of hope!

Lisa Sylvestro, Dean of Students



Humanities Field Experiences



Our seventh and eighth grade Humanities students kicked off the year by attending a Westport Country Playhouse production titled *The Letter Box: The Cuban Missile Crisis*, a dramatic reading of the private correspondence between John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev during the 13-day nuclear stand-off. The students were well prepared having examined the history of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States and the cultural ideals that have divided us. It was such a joy to see our students tackle such a serious issue with maturity and vigor, and recognize how diplomacy prevailed and the world was better for it.

Our next field experience was a trip to New York City to explore how the freedom of speech is exercised

through protest and art. First, we visited The Museum of the City of New York for guided tours of the *Activist New York* exhibit highlighting the history of social activism in the city. Conversations about nuclear disarmament, environmental rights, civil rights, and women's suffrage filled the halls, impressing our docents with our students' level of inquiry and maturity. The second part of our journey was to view Ai Weiwei's city-wide multimedia installation titled *Good Fences Make Good Neighbors*. We visited his *Gilded Cage* in Central Park followed by *Arch* in Washington Square Park.

Armed with the knowledge and the experiences gained at the museum and parks, both classes discussed the historical impacts of the protests that define New York's progressive past and interpreted Ai Weiwei's exhibit. The discussions, downright scholarly, demonstrated precisely our mission in the Humanities Department: to develop critical, creative, and unafraid minds to examine and contribute to the multiple perspectives and historical conditions that shape society and culture in an ever-changing world. To foster global citizenship through cultural awareness, understanding, and empathy. We could not be more proud.

Debbie Leidlein, Vincent O'Hara, George Seferidis
Humanities Teachers



Making Their Marks



"Never write in the book!" Traditionally, classrooms held the belief that books are to be read, not to be vandalized by the pen. Not in our class. Throughout the fall, our sixth graders have been

encouraged to do the opposite. To build stronger comprehension skills, students have been implementing close reading strategies, specifically annotation. They underline, star, circle, paraphrase and react to significant events in the plot. By adding insights and connections on sticky notes or in the margins of the text, the books become individualized. As we read more novels, our sixth graders are annotating independently, extracting more meaning from each sentence, each paragraph, and each page, all while making it their own.

Vincent O'Hara, Humanities Teacher

Johns Hopkins CTY - 68% of Class of '17 & 58% of 5th-8th Qualify

Once again, Unquowa's Upper School students qualified for the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth in impressive numbers. Fifty-eight percent of current 5th - 8th Grade students and 68% of the Class of 2017 qualified for the CTY by scoring in the 95th percentile or above on the ERB standardized tests last spring.



Winter Fest Prep Underway

Winter Fest rehearsals have begun! The show is an all-school performing arts collaboration, so we build the preparations right into the curriculum. In movement, music and drama classes, students are learning all the special vocabulary, techniques and skills that they will put into their dances, songs and scenes in the show.



We can't wait to bring the traditions of our medieval castle and roles to life with a new and exciting script for Unquowa's centennial celebration...this year's show — *The Lost Treasure of Unquowa* — is all about pirates!

Megan Kirk
Performing Arts Teacher



Winter Festival 2017



December 6

Coronation Assembly
Announcement of Partridge & Friends

December 11

Knighting Ceremony - 2:45

December 13

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

December 14

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

Giving Thanks

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

At lunchtime, the whole Unquowa community 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 made sure that everyone had as much turkey and sides as they could eat.



Fall Sports Update

This November our Fall Athletic Dessert was one to be remembered. We celebrated our players and coaches, shared stories and had fabulous desserts. Our athletes this year were a gritty bunch who demonstrated hard work, dedication and a competitive spirit.

The white and green co-ed soccer groups were so team oriented and worked hard to finish as a polished unit. A big thank you to all of the girls who did double duty playing on both the co-ed teams and the girls team.

Our cross country team may be the strongest we have ever had as we consistently had runners finishing near or at the top in all age groups.

Finally, thank you to all of our fans for cheering for us at all the games and meets. Next ... Basketball! *Go Gators!*

Al Boccamazzo, Athletics Director



Fall Athletic Awards

Soccer

Defense Award: **Sabine Wadadli, Kate Daly, Abby Russo, Raphael Makhraz**

Offense Award:

Lexie Schwartz, Jordan Werner

Outstanding Performance:

Maggie Hanson, Sophia Kessler

Most Improved:

Luca Scarpatti, CC Buono

Good Sportsmanship:

Ryley Tate-Padian, Amelia Lanni, Lily Panagos

Unquowa Dedication: **Sophia Kessler**

Cross Country

Outstanding Performance: **Connor Jacques**

Reliability: **Roy Krueger, Alex Renzulli**

Most Improved: **William Jacobs**

Effort: **Kelly Jones**

Unquowa Dedication: **Halie Perkins**

Welcome

A new Unquowan was born on September 1st! Calder Evan Ponden was welcomed by his proud mom Krissy (Unquowa alum and art teacher), dad Tim and his big sister Claire who is in our PreK-4 class. Many of us got to meet Calder at Founders' Day this fall!



Gators in Training



competitive soccer game. They finished each practice with a cheer and "good game!" Special thanks to our fifth grade assistants who helped coach and organize throughout the season. *Go Gators!*

Al Boccamazzo & Sarah Pollex, PE Teachers

This fall our future soccer stars got together weekly to train for their upcoming Unquowa athletic careers. They gained firsthand experience in teamwork, sportsmanship, and balancing competition with fair play. Our athletes began each practice with a warm-up game and moved on to stretching, drills and ended with a

From the UPA

The UPA was delighted to welcome back so many familiar faces and new parents. As always, UPA volunteers jumped right in and got to work! Committees have already organized and supported fantastic events including the Fall Athletic Dessert to celebrate our athletes and coaches, the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast to express our gratitude for our amazing teachers and the Fall Student Socials. We had a record turnout at our Annual Wine Social (committee pictured) for parents and friends — an evening with wine, cocktails, craft beers, delicious food...and fun tarot card and palm reading! Planning is already underway for the UPA's biggest fundraiser, our Annual Gala and Auction in the spring which will continue our celebration of Unquowa's 100th!

Also busy this fall, our Community Service Committee worked with students to organize support for Mercy Learning Center with a coat drive and Thanksgiving food collection. Our annual holiday gift card drive will support our neighbors in need through Fairfield Family Services.

A new initiative this year for UPA meetings is to include parent-focused presentations. So far they have included Technology at Unquowa, Mindfulness, Study Skills/Time Management and, coming up in December, All About Winter Fest. We are also very excited to announce the formation of a new UPA Green Committee to collaborate with the school in Unquowa's ongoing efforts to investigate and implement more ways to reduce our environmental impact — at school, in our homes, and in our broader communities.

Alison Roberts and Rebekah Wadadli, UPA Co-Presidents

Alumni Gather to Celebrate the 100th

They came from near and far to celebrate together! Alumni from the 1940s up through the 2000s gathered at Unquowa the night before Founders' Day to raise a glass to the school's centennial. They poured over old photos, yearbooks and other memorabilia from the school's archives, reconnected with old friends, explored the school and entertained us with stories from their Unquowa years! Did you know that the Gator Goods closet in the gym used to be a door to a stairway? That students sat on hard wooden benches at lunch to teach them good posture?

We were honored to have a few special guests join us for our celebration — two grandchildren and a great-granddaughter of Virginia Birdsall, Unquowa's first Head of School, and Head of School Emeritus, Jack Blessington and his wife Pat.

Kate Haviland, Director of Advancement



Alumni News



After meeting her husband while serving in the Peace Corp in Samoa, **Sara Zuckerman '88** moved to St. Croix, USVI where their son Taj was born. They now live outside of Chicago where she runs her own social media company. She is happy to reconnect with old Unquowa friends through Facebook. "It's amazing to think how (our Unquowa years) shaped and were the roots for the lives we have all lived since graduating." Sara tells us that her sister **Leah, Class of '86**, is also an entrepreneur and lives in Durham, NC with her husband.



Congratulations to newlyweds **Heidi Swift '99** and Jason Ronberg who were married in October on Hilton Head Island. Heidi is an Emergency Room Technician and Jason is a firefighter in Jasper County.



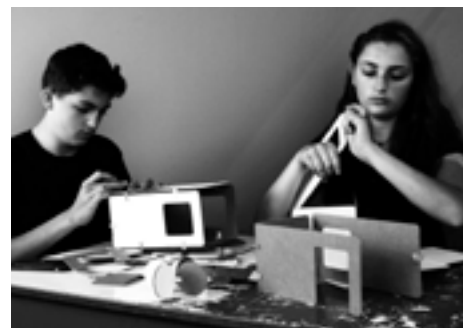
After studying abroad in Italy in 2016, when **Nadia Makhraz '09** graduated from Fairfield University last spring she hit the road again for the "trip of a lifetime" through Indonesia, Thailand and Lebanon. Nadia is excited about her new job in the media planning department of Maxus Global in New York City and says "the real world doesn't seem all that bad after all!"



Brandon Hylton '09 graduated Magna Cum Laude from Xavier University of Louisiana where he studied Biology and Chemistry. He is now working towards a PhD in Biology at Colorado State University. During a recent visit, his parents said that Brandon spent "the best two years of his life at Unquowa." Congratulations to the soon-to-be Dr. Hylton!



Dr. Cara Bernard '97 is an Asst. Clinical Professor of Music Education at UCONN's Neag School of Education, where she teaches courses in choral and elementary methods and curriculum, and supervises student teaching. In addition to teaching, Cara is on the advisory board of the National ACDA Diversity Initiative Sub-Committee, creating policy, curriculum, and outreach to make the Arts accessible and equitable for all students. She and a colleague were recently awarded a grant to research diversity, equity and inclusion by The National Assoc. for Music Education.



High Schoolers and entrepreneurs, **Ayana '14 and Ethan '17 Klein**, started a business to promote STEAM learning — science, technology, engineering, art and math. Their company, 3Dux/Design, created architectural building kits featuring pre-cut geometric cardboard shapes and 3D-printed plastic connectors. Of course, these fit in perfectly with Unquowa's makerspace and STEAM programs, so the school was one of their first customers! Check them out at 3dudesign.



Condolences

We recently learned the sad news that **Rose Bird Waterman '35** passed away at the age of 94 in 2016. Rose attended Smith College and her interest in family history led to

the publication of her book, *Maynard S. Bird, The Saga of A Maine Son*. Rose is in the back row, first on the left in this **Class of 1934** photo. Our condolences to Rose's family and friends.





THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

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

From the Archives ...

From 1928 student publication, "The Unquowan":

I am going to sail on the "Lailie" June, the first, at one o'clock P.M. I am going to Italy and France. I will be home August, the first. These are the letters that the children wrote to me for me to read on the boat.

Dictated by Geoffrey Kilpatrick,
Group One

Dear Geoffrey.
We are going to miss you a lot.
I hope you will have a nice
time and I hope the Boat Doesn't
sink. If it does tell me. And I will feel
sorry. Love From Lawrence

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 to sign up for our Take-A-Look Day group tours. Upcoming Take-A-Look Days:

January

Tuesday, 9th
Thursday, 18th
Tuesday, 23rd

February

Thursday, 1st
Tuesday, 6th
Thursday, 15th

March

Tuesday, 6th
Thursday, 15th

Tours begin at 9:00 am and last about 90 minutes.