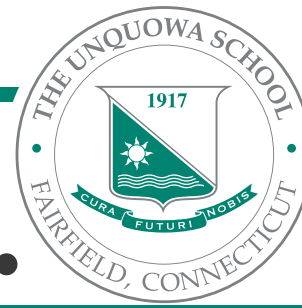


About U.S.



**1917-2017
CELEBRATING
100 YEARS!**

A Message From the Head of School

We keep a collection of yearbooks in the Unquowa main office. They live in a big basket just inside the door and they are in no special order — this year's glossy Centennial edition is mixed with dogeared copies from the eighties and nineties. They may look like a display for visitors, but they are really there for our kids, who browse through them regularly while waiting to be picked up early for an orthodontist appointment or another early pick-up. Second graders love to leaf through old yearbooks and find themselves and their classmates "when we were little." Fourth graders love to spot their teachers in decade-old yearbooks "when they were young." While a seemingly mindless activity to pass time, browsing through these tomes allows kids to revisit their Unquowa family's story and to slowly build a part of their own intergenerational self.

If I ever doubted the existence of this phenomenon, my skepticism disappeared at this past June's graduation, when our valedictorian talked about when her class was in Mrs. Shannon's PreK-3 room, even though only three of them had actually been at Unquowa for PreK-3. The stories she and her other classmates had heard about Mrs. Shannon had become part of their Unquowa family story.

In a time when we all feel the need for a better sense of control over our lives, and families and schools are striving to help children build stronger self-esteem, the good news is that one of the simplest ways to do both is to develop a strong family narrative. Emory University researchers, Marshall Duke and Robyn Fivush tested this hypothesis almost twenty years ago when they developed a "Do You Know?" test, a set of twenty questions for kids about their families. They discovered that the more children know

about their family's history, the stronger their sense of control over their lives, the higher their self-esteem and the more successfully they believed their families functioned. The scale, whose questions were a collection of fairly pedestrian questions, turned out to be the best single predictor of children's emotional health and happiness.



Students enjoy browsing through the basket of Unquowa yearbooks in the Main Office.

Dr. Duke and Dr. Fivush concluded that children have the most self-confidence when they have what Duke and Fivush termed a strong "intergenerational self." That is, they know they belong to something bigger than themselves.

Please be relieved to know that there is no one set of questions that's gospel, and none of us should see this as yet one more task to feel bad about not accomplishing. It's just an ongoing attitude to develop and a truly simple way to bind our families, both our personal and our institutional families. Bruce Feiler talks in more detail about this and many other simple strategies in his book *The Secret of*

Happy Families: How to Improve Your Morning, Rethink Family Dinner, Fight Smart, Go Out and Play, and Much More. As the title suggests, Feiler's book is more a reference than a read-through, and the collective organizational wisdom he researched and describes in his book, offers solutions to age-old problems that are spot-on and achievable.

As for working on your own family's narrative, you may want to start by taking the Emory University "Do You Know?" test yourself and then custom building a starter-set for your own family. The long days of summer offer plenty of opportunity for family conversations, and there's no time like the present to get started.

Wishing you happy storytelling and a restful summer,

Sharon Lauer, Head of School

Trimester III Honor Roll

Unquowa Honors

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

Grade 5

Ryley Tate-Padian
Sabine Wadadli

Grade 6

Adriana Giachino
Claire Roberts
Jasper Russo

Grade 7

Blake Erenhouse
Kelly Jones
Madeline Shantz

Grade 8

Brandon Faunce
Brooke Jones
Samantha Renzulli
Abigail Russo
Sneha Sunder
Daniel Vash

Honors

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

Grade 5

Jack Barbuto
Massimo Cacciatore
William Jacobs
Aidan Kavanaugh
Phoebe McCance
Alexander Renzulli
Alyssa Roberson
Karleigh Schmidt
Madeline Werner

Grade 6

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

Grade 7

Caroline Avery
Cecilia Buono
Cooper DeGirolomo
Eva Dooher
Theodore Geary
Madison Greenspan
Amelia Lanni
Lily Panagos
Halie Perkins
Michael Roberts
Andrew Stumm
Jordan Werner

Grade 8

Kylee Faulkner
Sophia Kessler
Raphael Makhratz
Aiden Nishiyama
Margot Pitchenik
Madeline Reed
Hannah Whidden

Newest After School Club

Bookmaking Club had an imaginative and productive spring at Unquowa, making our own comic books!

We began by folding and cutting one sheet of paper to make a mini-book and quickly moved up to learning traditional Japanese

Stab Binding techniques. We then looked at different ways graphic novel illustrators tell their story by using pictures of settings, layouts of imagery, and styles of speech bubbles. After working on our comic books every Friday after school, we celebrated by exchanging our books!



Mary Janacek, Bookmaking Club

Ugandan Dancers

Umbundu Mu Buntu, a troupe of young performers from Uganda spent the day at Unquowa in early May. The troupe performed traditional dances for our community, led workshops for students of all ages and visited with Humanities classes. Thank you to Creative Connections for bringing these young performers to our community!



New Unquowan

Phoebe Seferidis was born in March to our humanities teacher, George Seferidis and his wife Miriam.

Phoebe's brothers, Uly and Isaac, were thrilled to meet their new sister. Both boys will be attending Unquowa in September and are looking forward to having Phoebe join them in a few years!



2nd Century Campaign Brings Total Endowment to Over \$1.1 Million



In 1917, five families boldly came together to found a new school — one guided by a vision of innovative teaching and programming through a close partnership between educators and parents. In short, a place of learning and community.

As we celebrated the school's Centennial this year, Sharon and the Board embarked on another bold endeavor — building an endowment to ensure that this amazing school's second century is as strong as its first. When we were asked to help lead this effort, we very enthusiastically said "Yes" because we had seen what a wonderful home this was for our son Alex and wanted to ensure that it would remain strong 100 years from now.

The wonderful conversations we had during this campaign with parents — past and present — alumni, grandparents,

and friends of Unquowa clearly showed that many people have had a similar experience at Unquowa and feel the same as we do.

It is with deep gratitude and delight that we announce that this year our community raised (so far!) over \$720,000 for the Second Century Campaign. Together we have grown Unquowa's total endowment to over \$1.2 million.

As Unquowa's Centennial school year now comes to a close, we would like to express our deep gratitude to the entire Unquowa community for your support of the *Second Century Campaign*. Like every successful project, it took a team of dedicated and generous members of our community to plan and oversee this campaign. We would like to thank the Campaign Committee for their extraordinary stewardship of our school — Alison Roberts, Marcie Lapido, Cecily Stranahan, David Cooper, and Joan Panagos.

We are so grateful to everyone who has supported Unquowa through this campaign.

David and Beth McKinnis
Campaign Co-Chairs, Parents of Alex '18



During this campaign, the **Carl Churchill Legacy Giving Society**

has grown as more families remember Unquowa in their wills. If you have made a bequest or included the school in your estate planning, please let us know so we can recognize you as well.

Steve Aikenhead '54
Kate Haviland
Craig Knebel
Bruce Lockhart, '48
Norman Morse, '33
Joan & Steve Panagos
Ruth Powell
Carol Gaines Ruckle, '53
Jean Carpenter Winton, '34



We Will Miss You Kate

It was over nine years ago that Kate Haviland - mother of Charlie '10 and Grace '13 - came on board to head our advancement efforts here at Unquowa. The rest, as they say, is history. Kate launched our multi-year Campaign for Unquowa, which raised almost \$3 million dollars and funded projects that have transformed our campus. Having just completed our centennial year Second Century Endowment Campaign, Kate is now moving on to work in the larger world of social justice.

On behalf of the Unquowa community, it is with endless gratitude that I wish my good friend Kate all the best as she launches her next adventure. We know that her family ties to Unquowa are strong and that she, Sandy and their kids will stay connected to Unquowa and we to them for a long time to come.

Sharon Lauer, Head of School

There is still time to support the 2nd Century Campaign!
Email sharon.lauer@unquowa.org or donate online at www.unquowa.org/giving

A Journey Through Ancient Greece

"The unexamined life is not worth living." Socrates changed the course of history by challenging the status-quo, pushing his students to ask the difficult questions to find true knowledge. The sixth grade humanities students have spent this school year examining how ancient cultures shaped the modern world we live in today, and our most recent travels through time took us from ancient Egypt to Greece. Students explored how geography separated the people, making each Greek city-state a unique civilization, and how the competition among them was the driving force behind the innovations in government, military, philosophy, and the arts that scholars cite as Greece's great legacy.

We read Greek mythology as a class, which offered a glimpse into the people of the time's spiritual beliefs and understanding of nature. Furthermore, the students completed a research project on a mythological character, and, as extra credit, some students even dressed as their characters!

As a culminating assignment, our sixth grade scholars completed essays on what they believed are ancient Greece's most innovative contributions to Western civilization. In the spirit of Socrates, we know there isn't one answer, but a little argument couldn't hurt, right?

Vin O'Hara, Humanities Teacher



Biomimicry in the Makerspace

Over the course of the year, seventh graders completed a thorough study of Life Science units on bones, muscles and connective tissues.

The students took this textbook knowledge to the makerspace and used nature's examples of hinge joints and ball-and-socket joints, as well as contracting flexor and extending relaxor muscles, to make prosthetic hands, arms, and grabbing devices using wire, wood, cardboard, drills and jigsaws to create a working device.

Cameron Ross-MacCormack & Craig Knebel, Upper School Science Teachers



Solid or Liquid?

This spring, while second graders were studying matter in science and Dale Chihuly in art, a visit to Dylan Cotton's Hotspot Glass Studio was the ultimate field experience. Students learned about the properties of glass and after an overview of the studio and glass-blowing process, each student had the chance to try their hand at making something.

Working side by side with the professional glass blowers, second graders learned how to form and shape glass with tools and how to add colors. In the end everyone went home with a gorgeous finished product and a great appreciation for the magical properties of glass!

Karen Engelke, Second Grade Teacher



Wonka Jr. Was a Smash Hit!

Upper School performing arts students spent the spring learning about musical theater and what goes into creating a production. First, students researched the genre of musical theater and pitched their suggestions for the Spring Musical. Once *Willy Wonka Jr.* was announced, students dove right in to learn the music. Then, it was time to add choreography and begin blocking scenes. In addition to being in the cast or crew of the show, each student acted as costume and/or set designers by creating either a costume plot or stage design for a scene in the show. The process was one of hard work, fun, and growth. The show, and the students' final exam, took the audience to a world of pure imagination, ending with wonderful golden confetti raining down on the actors as they took their bows. Safe to say, these Upper Schoolers aced their final!

Megan Kirk, Performing Arts Teacher



Phenomenal Fifth Grade Storytellers



Forty-seven days, over 52,300 minutes, 406 typed pages, 102 illustrations, 16 published authors.

The fifth graders have worked tirelessly to craft incredible stories for their end-of-year capstone project in our Writing Seminar. The students spun tales of space exploration and deep sea adventures, unexpected romance and evil villains set on global domination, shipwrecked explorers and globe trekkers, complex family dynamics and pet rescue, haunted houses and intrepid competitors, and the triumph over adversity — both real and virtual. Not only did our students create beautiful works of fiction, but they also designed gorgeous illustrations and learned how to bind their books. We meticulously glued, stitched, and taped each tale by hand; our authors are now able to add their very own stories to their bookshelves.

To celebrate all of this hard work, we invited families to attend our Authors & Artists Capstone Event on May 29. We sipped on lemonade and nibbled on treats as fifth graders shared excerpts from their books to a beaming and engaged audience. It was a very special

morning filled with pride and accomplishment. Our year together may be coming to a close, but the skills and joy we found together will be treasured for many years to come.

Ariel Warshaw, Fifth Grade Writing Seminar



Celebrating May Day with Grandparents & Special Friends

Students welcomed guests into their classrooms for special projects and were delighted to give personal tours of the school. Our students then put on a very special assembly full of music and dance for this year's special guests!

It was evident that each class worked very hard on their individual performances. We heard classics like the PreK students' interpretation of Sinatra's "High Hopes" and the kindergarteners' rendition of "Thank You For Being a Friend." The Junior Chorus brought everyone to tears with their performance of "Million Dreams." Upper Schoolers gave us a preview of their upcoming Spring Musical, *Willy Wonka, Jr.* and fourth and fifth graders closed the program with the traditional Maypole dances. What a special day!



Angles are Everywhere!

After learning to use a protractor and identify angles as either right, acute, obtuse or straight, our students headed outdoors on a beautiful spring day to find, measure and draw as many angles as they could.

They discovered angles on tables, benches, the swing set, playscape and fences. Fourth grade mathematicians identified a vertex anchor and baseline of each angle so that they could measure, draw and label it accurately. Now that's applying skills learned in the classroom to the world around us!

Carlene Gordon, Fourth Grade Math Teacher



Conversational Skills



Our Upper Schoolers have been busy sharpening their conversational language skills in both Mandarin and Spanish classes. In Mandarin class, seventh graders created a fruit market and worked with other students to develop a script for conversation about buying and selling fruit.

Students in Spanish 8A enjoyed learning vocabulary for all the different rooms in the house along with the items that furnish each room. The lesson inspired fun conversations, in Spanish, about the different responsibilities we share as family members, such as taking out the trash, washing the dishes and the unanimously favorite job of all, "cleaning our bedrooms!"

*Wenyi Che, Mandarin Teacher &
Helen Fernandez, Spanish Teacher*

Eighth Grade Year in Review

As is our tradition, this year's graduating class kicked off their last year at Unquowa with an adrenaline-pumping trip down the Deerfield River and an opportunity to reconnect with friends. It was great to be back, and as the saying goes, you can never go into the same river twice. Eighth graders took on different roles and different perspectives, going down these familiar rapids.

The fall was busy with high school applications, preparation for interviews and the first of their capstone eighth-grade speeches. They organized the children's activities at Founders' Day, decorated for the Thanksgiving Feast and had more than a little fun of their own at the fall social.

The fall was also full of trips and experiences, including the Westport County Playhouse's dramatic reading of the private correspondence between John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev during the Cuban Missile Crisis and a virtual field trip to the International Spy Museum where the students assumed roles as CIA analysts in a simulation of the crisis. Students also visited the Museum of the City of New York and Ai Weiwei's installation art titled *Good Fences Make Good Neighbors*.

December brought the traditions of Winterfest, including their much anticipated candle dance. This year's show, "The Lost Treasure of Unquowa," was a great way to celebrate the fact that our school is 100 years old! It was exciting to celebrate with alumni knowing that next year they will be welcomed to join in the celebration as alumni too.

In the spring, we were proud to see the eighth graders set a positive academic example for seventh graders during a visit to the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, working together to interpret and analyze the art installations. The students continued to impress us by taking the leadership role in all aspects of the spring musical, *Willy Wonka, Jr.*

We ended the year the same way it began, with a chance to bond as a class, on the annual eighth grade trip. Everyone had an amazing time at Woodloch Resort with (endless) delicious food and non-stop activities. We barely noticed the storm that came through, taking down trees and cutting off the power for two days, because the students were busy playing their own version of beach volleyball and singing karaoke and, of course, who could forget ... the lip sync battle and the Chopped competition! The bus ride home was filled with nostalgia and tears as the students began to reminisce and realize that in just a few short days they would be graduating. The lines "take me to the place I love" could be heard in different voices and tones on the way back and during homeroom days later. Unspoken, they had discovered something significant about their bond as a class and their ties to Unquowa.

We celebrated the end of a memorable eighth grade year with tearful goodbyes at Closing Ceremonies and Commencement as we recognized each of the students and their achievements. What a year! We will certainly miss the Class of 2018 and look forward to hearing about every success in their future.

Debbie Leidlein and George Seferidis, Eighth Grade Advisors



100th Unquowa Closing Ceremonies

On the last day of school, The Unquowa School community gathered to celebrate the end of the school's centennial year and to honor the Class of 2018. In the morning, the entire school gathered for our Closing Ceremonies — a joyful event filled with traditions including the recognition of summer birthdays and the reading of personal tributes written by the faculty for each of the graduates. This year our faculty and staff surprised the graduates with their performance of "YOU are the Champions," an adapted version of Queen's familiar song. With our performing arts teachers leading the way, everyone joined in the chorus, singing to the class, "But it's time for you to move on, to the path that you choose, remember Unquowa is always your home, and we're all here for you! And we can go on and on and on..."

Awards announced at the Closing Ceremonies included *The Unquowa Parents' Association Award*, which was given to Kelly Jones and Halie Perkins as the seventh grade students with a "strong moral compass who lead by example within the school community." The physical education teachers presented the *Margaret Travers Award* for "outstanding physical skills and sportsmanship" to Adriana Giachino. The *Costume Closet Key* was handed down by last year's recipients to two seventh graders for their demonstrated passion for the performing arts, both on stage and behind the scenes: Grace Pisanelli and Jordan Werner. Mr. Mitchell recognized Margot Pitchenik and Aiden Nishiyama for their dedication to their roles as *Backstage Crew* members. Lastly, PreK-3 teacher Mrs. Shannon presented *Ultimate Unquowan Awards* to three graduating students who started at Unquowa in her PreK-3 class: Kylee Faulkner, Raphael Makhraz and Abby Russo.

After a special video slideshow devoted to the Class of 2018, the eighth graders formed a receiving line in front of the stage and Ms. Lauer invited the seventh graders to "take the eighth grade seats." This symbolic move marked the change in school leaders from the outgoing class to next year's eighth graders, the Class of 2019!

The emotional morning ceremony ended with our instrumental teacher, Mr. Coe, playing "Edelweiss" as every student and teacher in the school passed by the line of graduates to wish each one a personal goodbye and good luck - ending the ceremony with high fives, a few tears and big hugs.



2018 Awards

The William J. Grippin Award
Sneha Sunder

The Unquowa Award
Alex McKinnis

The Headmaster's Cup
Daniel Vash

The Board of Governors' Cup
Samantha Renzulli

The John P. Blessington Award
Raphael Makhraz

The Robert L. Cleveland Award
Brooke Jones

Unquowa Parents Association Award
Kelly Jones, Halie Perkins

Class Agents
Brandon Faunce, Abby Russo

Elizabeth Curtis Award
Brooke Jones

Margaret Travers Award
Adriana Giachino

John F. Turlick Award
Brandon Faunce

Gator Bowl
Brooke Jones, Raphael Makhraz
Daniel Vash

The Ultimate Unquowan Award
Kylee Faulkner, Abby Russo
Raphael Makhraz

Costume Closet Key
Brandon Faunce, Abby Russo

Backstage Crew
Aiden Nishiyama, Margot Pitchenik

The Jean Carpenter Winton
Distinguished Alumni Award
Don Turlick

100th Unquowa Commencement

The Unquowa School's 100th graduating class gathered on the evening of June 5th with family, friends, alumni, the Board of Governors, faculty and staff for a ceremony of recognition and closure to mark the end of their time at Unquowa and to celebrate their transition to high school. Reverend Dr. Vern Swett offered the invocation and salutarian Brooke Jones welcomed everyone to the celebration introducing her fellow classmates as "students who feel prepared to move on to high school, but who are held together by an unbreakable bond of love and memories from this incredible place."

The ceremony included the announcement of several awards. Our valedictorian, Sneha Sunder, received the *William J. Grippin Award* for the highest academic average. Alex McKinnis was given *The Unquowa Award* for "perseverance and intellectual growth and curiosity across disciplines." *The Board of Governors' Cup* for outstanding school citizenship was given to Samantha Renzulli, *The Headmaster's Cup* was awarded to Daniel Vash and *The John P. Blessington Award* went to Raphael Makhraz who shows "through her current actions, the promise of continued stewardship of the school." *The Elizabeth Curtis* and *John F. Turlick Awards*, given to the eighth grade girl and boy "whose skill and accomplishments in athletics have been matched by true understanding of good sportsmanship," were presented to Brooke Jones and Brandon Faunce. *The Robert L. Cleveland Award*, for a student who exhibits "a keen mind, sound body and unafraid spirit," was awarded to Brooke Jones. Brandon Faunce and Abby Russo were named *Class Agents*, responsible for helping the class stay connected to each other and to the school. A devoted member of the Class of 1949, Reverend and Doctor Donald Turlick, received this year's *Jean Carpenter Winton Distinguished Alumni Award*. Beyond attending every alumni event each year, he continually shows a deep interest in Unquowa and its programs.

The commencement address was given by alumna and descendant of one of the school's five founding families, Cecily Stoddard Stranahan, Class of 1947. Speaking directly to the graduating class, she urged the eighth graders to trust themselves and to continue to build on the "art of collaboration" that they developed at Unquowa. "Will you make mistakes? Of course you will. But, please, hear this now! In a consciously aware life there are no mistakes. There is only learning."



High School Acceptances & Destinations for the Class of 2018

Canterbury School
Fairfield College Preparatory School
Fairfield Ludlowe High School
Fairfield Warde High School
Greens Farms Academy
Hamden Hall Country Day School
Hopkins School
Joel Barlow High School
Lauralton Hall
Notre Dame High School
St. Joseph High School
Staples High School
Winston Preparatory School

Valedictorian Sneha Sunder shared stories and spoke of the remarkable sense of community and connection at Unquowa and within the graduating class. She reminded her fellow graduates that "One hundred years ago, five families founded a new school with a vision to foster unafraid spirits in students and future generations...My fellow classmates, we made that vision a reality. Now, it is our turn to carry forth that legacy, because after all, the future is in our care."

With a benediction from Rabbi Rachel Bearman, we said a final goodbye to the Class of 2018. While we will miss this class tremendously, we wish them all the best and look forward to their return as alumni on Founders' Day!

Voices of Change

In June Unquowa showcased a conceptual art show, *Voices of Change*, at Robert Valle Designs in Bridgeport's Arcade Mall featuring exemplary works from 18 seventh and eighth grade students. As a final collaborative humanities and art project, students were challenged with the opportunity to connect art and a personally relevant social issue. This was the culmination of historical, analytical, and creative thinking skills cultivated by our two departments, as our students have been analyzing conceptual art in the field throughout the year.

Unquowa's humanities program is founded on the premise that middle school students can think critically and creatively about the world around them, and that they can meaningfully participate in the global dialogue. Students make meaning by studying global culture and participating in it. In visual arts, students are tasked with using artistic principles and media to elicit a truth about themselves or their world. This collaboration between the arts and humanities is a natural vehicle for students to pursue these rich tasks and contribute to the larger conversation in an authentic way.

Voices of Change featured works that discussed issues such as school gun violence, income inequality, ecological issues, teen suicide, and racial bias. With over 90 guests in attendance, students and faculty engaged in meaningful conversations about the art and the topics they presented. Art is a powerful and empowering conduit of empathy, and we, the Upper School art and humanities faculty, are so proud of the hard work and thought that students put into this project.



George Seferidis, Humanities Teacher

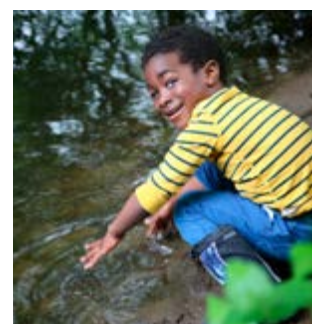


Rain Won't Stop Us!

The morning of our annual Camping Day was rainy but the PreK students kept a positive attitude and started out camping inside! They learned about sleeping bags, pack pillows, chairs that collapse into a small package and nesting pots to use for cooking. The idea of having no electricity or running water gave the students a lot to think about! The lantern would supply light, the ice chest would keep things cold, and a fire would provide the heat for cooking.

After lunch it stopped raining, so we headed out to the Unquowa woods. Seeing a bundle of material change to a tent big enough to fit the entire class inside was amazing! Students noticed that after the rain, the brook was running faster than usual and even discovered a waterfall. To top off the day we roasted s'mores and in true camping fashion, washed our sticky hands in the brook!

Ann Palm, PreK Teacher



Putting Geometry to Work

The Unquowa Planetarium has been fully constructed! After many months of hard work, setbacks and triumphs, the eighth grade class has put together every last piece of cardboard needed to build the 90-piece dome. Standing at just over 6 feet tall with a diameter of 8 feet, the planetarium can accommodate 3 to 4 adults or 4 to 5 eighth grade students plus a presenter. With a powerful projector bouncing an inverted image off a spherical mirror, the inside of the dome lights up with videos run off of chromebooks, phones, or personal computers. This is sure to be a math lesson these students will never forget!

Eric Werner, Mathematics Teacher



Pen & Paper, Volume 9

For months, our staff comprised of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders have been working tirelessly to bring you the finest of literary magazines, *Pen & Paper*. Thanks to hours of dedication put in by both the staff and contributors, we are happy to release *Pen & Paper*, Issue 9.



Pen & Paper, The Unquowa School's literary-art magazine, is published annually and offers an outlet for students to share their literary and artistic talent. Students in grades 5 through 8 submit photography, art, poetry, and other writing in order to make *Pen & Paper* a showcase of Unquowa work. Enjoy the digital copy at <https://unquowa.org/pen-paper-volume-9/>



George Seferidis, English Department Chair

Caribbean Vacation? Caribbean Conservation!

Twenty-four seventh and eighth grade students traveled over spring break with Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Knebel, Ms. DeAngelis and Ms. Fernandez, to work and vacation with the Dominican Foundation for Marine Studies, or Fundemar, in Bayahibe, Dominican Republic. As ecotourists, our students learned about and worked towards coral reef restoration and marine mammal conservation. As global citizens, our students met community members affected by the loss of the reef and learned how to make crafts and projects to help rid the reef of invasive species. They snorkeled in bleached out and not bleached out reefs to compare the levels of biodiversity – the difference was striking.

Other highlights included a cultural exchange with Dominican youth, visiting the six hundred year old first capital of the Americas and exploring underground limestone aquifers. Oh yes, practicing speaking Spanish, showing off their Salsa and Bachata dance moves and a whitewater rafting trip were also on the itinerary.

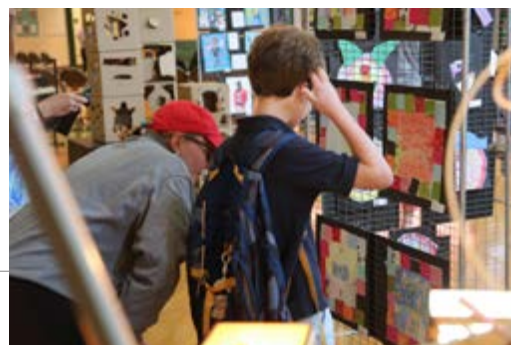
Craig Knebel, Upper School Science Teacher/Chair



Student Art Show

The all-school annual art show is a creative celebration of the work our students have accomplished in visual arts throughout the year. An exhibition of works in drawing, painting, weaving, clay, batik, digital illustration and other media, the art show is always a favorite event for the whole school. This year we were happy to have the students' work on display for multiple days to give families more opportunities to come view and discuss the projects. We also had a selection of projects that were created in the makerspace, including laser cut lamps, wooden boats, and several board games!

Krissy Ponden & Alice DesGranges, Art Teachers



Spring Visits to the Fairfield Audubon Center

At the start of the season, first graders went to the Center to search for signs of spring. With digging spoons in hand, the class hiked the Audubon trails in search of clues that spring had arrived! The rainy day lent itself to record breaking discoveries - they found numerous salamanders, worms and peeper frogs and observed budding trees, skunk cabbage in bloom and birds building their spring nests.

Kindergarteners got to experience spring in full bloom by visiting the idyllic pond at the Center. Armed with nets, the intrepid scientists were eager to get to scooping. They carefully sifted through specimens of muck and pond slime looking for all forms of life. Highlights of this year's ponding event included not one but two snake sightings, and several frogs caught along with one huge bullfrog tadpole. Investigations complete, students returned all the bits of rotting leaves to the pond with the knowledge that each leaf could be the nursery for hundreds of baby amphibians.

Faith Barbuto, Kindergarten Teacher & Maureen Diallo, Grade 1 Teacher



From the UPA

Spring was a wonderfully busy time at Unquowa and for the Unquowa Parents' Association. Our amazing parent volunteers committed their time and considerable talent to holding fun and meaningful events for our students, families, and faculty:

- Student socials were so much fun — bonding over bowling in Milford for the fourth and fifth graders, and a really cool scavenger hunt and the traditional s'mores for the sixth through eighth graders.
- The Teacher and Staff Appreciation Lunch was delicious and beautifully decorated with heartfelt notes from the children, making the whole event truly special.
- Our final Athletic Dessert brought together the families of our spring lacrosse, cross country, and soccer athletes to recognize the accomplishments, dedication and effort of those students and their coaches.
- The Book Drive to support the kids at Hall Neighborhood House was an enormous success, yielding several SUV-loads of donated books. Children will be able to take those books home with them this year, and we're so happy about that.
- Finally, our Gala celebrating Unquowa's 100th year was truly inspirational. The committee, led by Marianna Erenhouse, did such a beautiful job pulling the event together and the school community came out in full force to show their love and support of our beloved school. The decor, food, live and silent auction items, class projects and baskets, and teacher experiences were all so impressive and well-received. A special matching challenge from the Board of Governors for The Giving Tree raised an incredible \$125,000 to support financial aid at Unquowa.

We are so appreciative of everyone who volunteered with the UPA this past year, and we thank all of you who have already signed up for a committee for next year. We want to extend a special thanks to Marianna Erenhouse and Jenna Venditto for agreeing to Co-Chair the 2019 Gala, and to Kate Tate-Padian, who will be an excellent Co-President with Alison next year, as Rebekah's term comes to an end. And don't forget - most of the committees still have openings, so please jump in anytime!

Wishing everyone a beautiful summer.

Alison Roberts & Rebekah Wadalli, UPA Co-Presidents



Spring Sports at Unquowa

Athletes Enjoy a Season of Firsts

This was a season of firsts for our spring athletes! For the first time, our cross country team placed five runners in the top five and two of them finished first overall in their category. As the cross country team says, "Go Cross Country!" Another first — we held a soccer clinic in the spring in which our coaches and players put in an incredible effort to get the teams ready for the fall season. Finally, the older girls in the lacrosse clinic invited the girls in second through fourth grades to the clinic so that they could teach them the game. It is always such a special time when we have the older students interacting with the younger ones. Thanks to everyone for a great spring season!

Celebrating at the 2018 Athletic Dessert

Our final Athletic Dessert was one of our greatest celebrations ever! We paid tribute to our soccer athletes who are looking forward to a spectacular season next fall and to the girls lacrosse team who mentored our future players at this spring's clinic. We honored our 31 cross country runners and their coaches who had our most successful cross country season ever. We also recognized the three members of the Class of 2018 who played on an Unquowa team every season from sixth through eighth grade by awarding each of them a *Gator Bowl* as a reminder of their athletic careers at Unquowa. Thanks to our coaches and players for another great season. A special thank you to the parents who helped organize this wonderful event and our chefs who provided the delicious desserts!

Al Boccamazzo, Athletics Director



Field Day Fun

The green and white teams spent the afternoon competing in events like water relay stations, the 50-yard dash and the most inventive scavenger hunt ever! The PreK/kindergarten team kept their 10 year winning streak alive as they once again dominated the eighth graders at tug-of-war. Thank you to the seventh graders for running the event stations. We can't wait for next year!



Class of 2014 Off to College

Claire Abate.....	Wheaton College
Sara Adriani.....	St. John's University
Austin Allen.....	Post University
Devin Blanchette	University of South Carolina
Elysse Cadoux.....	Ithaca College
Conner Calzone.....	Lehigh University
Derek Grabe.....	Fairfield University
Kyra Inston	George Washington University
Marie Katsetos	University of Connecticut
Maeve Kelly	James Madison University
Ayana Klein.....	Washington University in St. Louis
Tyh McLean	New York Film Academy
Alexander Morse	Salve Regina University
Delaney Murray	University of St. Andrews, Scotland
Madelaine Register	Tulane University
Olivia Seymour	Hamilton College
Jackson Stalowir	Loyola University Chicago
Sasha Starovoitov.....	Columbia University
Alexander Stein	Union College
Jared Sullivan	Sacred Heart University
Patrick Watson	Marietta College
Daniel Wisdom	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Alumni News



The Reverend and Doctor **Donald Turlick '49** received this year's *Jean Carpenter Winton Distinguished Alumni Award* at Commencement.

Beyond attending every alumni event each year, Don continually shows a deep interest in Unquowa and its programs. Upon receiving the award, Don spoke to the friends and families gathered to celebrate the Class of 2018 and expressed his "... congratulations to the students and their mentors but even more to their parents who had the gifted foresight to place their young people in the hands of a philosophy of educating the whole person, as stated 100 years ago in the Mission Statement."

Don is a therapist with a private practice and splits his time between homes on Cape Cod and in Stamford.



A recent graduate of Warde High School, **Olivia Seymour '14** was a member of the National Honor Society, sang in the chorus and received numerous lacrosse honors including being a varsity co-captain and named Second Team All-FCIAC, All-State and All-Academic. Olivia will head to Hamilton College in the fall where she hopes to play lacrosse, pursue her love for music and explore many areas of academic study. In her junior year, Olivia received one of the school's highest honors, the WARDE Medal, which is given to the student who embodies all of the principles of the school: Welcoming, Academic, Respectful, Dynamic and Ethical. Olivia says that she feels a big part of her success has been her years at Unquowa and the relationships she formed with her teachers here.



Kate Adriani '11 is a rising senior at Iona College majoring in Mass Communications with a concentration in Broadcast Media and a minor in Film Studies. During the spring she was an intern at HBO Sports in NYC, specifically *Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel* and *HBO Boxing*. During her internship she researched stories, logged video, pitched stories for *Real Sports*, and recently accepted a freelance job with *HBO Boxing* as a Production Associate. On campus Kate has been elected President of the College Radio Station WICR, is the Executive Producer and Co-Creator of the *IC Female Roundtable*, and serves as Executive Producer of the *Soccer Showdown on North Ave Nation*.



During her sophomore year at Hopkins School, **Lucy Panagos '16** excelled in the classrooms, on the playing field and on the stage. She competed on the varsity lacrosse and JV soccer teams, performed in the musical production of *Heathers* and sings in both the "Triple Trio" a cappella group and the school choir. Lucy is pictured here in *Heathers* (in the purple top) and on the right at a recent "Triple Trio" concert.



Haley Neidich '99 welcomed her daughter, Zinnia Atlas Bankston, in March with her partner, Ryan. Haley, a trained Psychotherapist, is now the Director of Clinical Development for ThriveTalk, a new online therapy platform. Haley lives in sunny St. Pete, Florida, with her family and three dogs.



THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

Cura Futuri Nobis ~
The Future is in Our Care

From the Archives ...

SUMMER

I think summer is the best time of year.
I swim, I play, I go away.
I go camping, I go tramping
Through the woods and by the brook.

I go boating, I go floating
Playing ball and golfing, too.
And I'd like to play with you,
In summer!

Jeff Jensen, Grade 4

from *The Unquowan*
June 5, 1959



Girls playing basketball in the 1920s