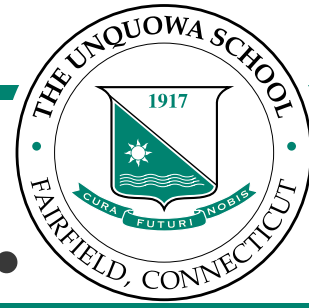


# About U.S.



## A Message From the Head of School

Anyone who is raising a family, whether their children are toddlers, teens or anywhere in between, knows that it isn't a responsibility for the faint of heart. Raising the next generation of our world's human beings is one of the most important jobs on our planet and yet it's one for which we need no degree or license and for which we receive little guidance. Most parents work hard at it and have the best intentions, and yet most wonder if their parenting is on the right track. Few of us feel confident that we actually have the secret sauce for raising happy children and, in the process, being happy parents.

When parents meet with me as part of their exploration of Unquowa for their children one of the messages I give is the following: our goal is not to get your child into the "right" high school. Yes, it's true that we do work actively with families to find the right fit for their child for high school and we have a very high rate of placement success, but our promise as a school - whether children join us in pre-school or middle school - is simply to hold hands with families to do the countless small things, academically and socially, which lead to kids becoming adults who are personally happy, professional satisfied and ethical.

I never meet parents who say that this is not their goal for their child, but we live in a culture where knowing how to achieve that goal is nebulous. The message our culture gives is that college is the goal. Get the college piece right and everything that follows will fall in line. But college is not the goal; it is only one of the stops along the way. The backwards design of raising kids by engineering them for college entrance does not guarantee happiness, professional satisfaction or ethical living. These goals must be nurtured, not engineered, in ways that require a lot of trust, a lot of patience and a lot

of decisions for children that are not about box-ticking.

Only when we see college as piece of the path and not the end point on the path can we put college into perspective and talk to our children about things of larger importance. The happiness that grows from self-confidence, self-control and empathy. The professional satisfaction that comes from learning to hear one's own voice and pursuing skills and knowledge that lead to vocations that reflect one's own interests. An ethical nature that comes from gradually learning right from wrong, making mistakes and being given the

message by loving adults that you can do the hard work of repairing things rather than avoiding them.

The good news is that when parents relax a bit and focus beyond college in their relationship with children, they can actually feel a bit more in control. With summer arriving and more time for both connecting as families and reading for pleasure on the horizon, two books that explore the secret sauce of happy parents and happy kids are worth reading. *The Secrets of Happy Families* by Bruce Feiler and *How to Be a Happier Parent* by KJ Dell'Antonia are both books that can be perused, read in part and applied to family life in ways that can slowly improve relationships and outcomes. Feiler's "Twenty Questions: The Importance of a Family Narrative" and Dell 'Antonia's "Ten Mantras for

Happier Parents" are just two of the many simple suggestions these authors offer that can be easily understood and integrated into daily family living. The best part is that these books help parents to relax a bit by focusing on family habits that really do nurture happiness, satisfaction and ethics. Important stops along the path, like a meaningful college experience, will be well-earned by-products.

Happy summer reading; happy summer living...



This spring's *Voices Of Change* exhibition, featuring works of conceptual art by our 7th and 8th graders on a plethora of social issues engaged viewers of all ages. See article on page 11.

*Sharon Lauer, Head of School*

## Trimester III Honor Roll

### Unquowa Honors

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

#### Grade 5

Ivy Lewis  
Sophia Vash

#### Grade 6

William Jacobs  
Aidan Kavanaugh  
Alexander Renzulli  
Alyssa Roberson  
Ryley Tate-Padian  
Sabine Wadadli

#### Grade 7

Daniel Gomes  
Roy Krueger  
Eden Lewis  
Claire Roberts  
Jason Yang

#### Grade 8

Madison Greenspan  
Kelly Jones  
Madeline Shantz  
Andrew Stumm

### Honors

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

#### Grade 5

Isabel Ruth Alfageme  
Elijah Ames  
Marianela Cardona  
Amanda Giachino  
Nolan Howe  
Erin Jacques  
Michael Jones  
Devin Kelly  
Lukas Keras  
Robert Krueger  
Madison Mitchell  
Maxwell Oberhand  
Ezra Schwartz  
Michael John Scotto  
Clementine Thomson  
Julia Van Der Aue  
Bryan Wilson, Jr.

#### Grade 6

Jack Barbuto  
Massimo Cacciatore  
Meryl Cooper  
Cecibel Hanson  
Margaret Looby  
Daniela Lujan  
Karleigh Schmidt

#### Grade 6 (cont.)

Henry Tanner  
Colin Walker  
Madeline Werner  
Beatrice Zorub

#### Grade 7

Rowan Dillon  
Victoria Faunce  
Krystle Garcia  
Hailey Geppert  
Adriana Giachino  
Haley Roberts  
Luca Scarpati  
Alexandra Schwartz  
Travis Stuart

#### Grade 8

Caroline Avery  
Carsen Currie  
Blake Erenhouse  
Amelia Lanni  
Lily Panagos  
Halie Perkins  
Michael Roberts  
Ben Stokes  
Jordan Werner

## Introducing *UnquowaZine*

We are so delighted to present the first edition of *UnquowaZine* to the community. A student led, authentic literary and art magazine filled with work from students in PreK to Grade 4, it speaks to the Lower School's commitment to the written word and artistic expression.

From the PreK Frida Kahlo portraits to the Grade 4 poetry, Lower School students are consistently finding ways in which to express themselves. The third and fourth graders who worked to edit and gather all of these pieces were continuously in awe as they surveyed the work of their fellow students. We, the faculty advisors could not be more proud.

***Karen Engelke, Wendy Kerr and George Seferidis***  
***UnquowaZine Advisors***



## *Pen & Paper*

This year's magazine features sophisticated and well-crafted poems and short stories with powerful themes. We have a few satires whose QR code you can scan to experience online. Our art staff has produced stunning photography. Student poetry displays wonderful imagery, lyricism, and wonder. Enjoy student work from the 2018-2019 academic year.

***Vin O'Hara, George Seferidis***  
***Pen & Paper Advisors***

#### ***Excerpt from Issue 10:***

Fly through an infinite azure sky,  
Navigate through the toughest  
of storms,  
With the lightning bolts striking  
the cold, rigid ground,  
And the rumbles of thunder  
revealing a story,  
An indestructible shield against  
all that is wrong,  
A powerful fight for all that is fair.  
A vibrant rainbow,  
Puncturing a grey cloud.  
A world of words,  
Telling your story.

*Kelly Jones, Co-Editor-In-Chief*



**Visit our Around Campus blog on [unquowa.org](http://unquowa.org)  
to read the *UnquowaZine* and *Pen & Paper***



## A Taste of Guatemala

As the sixth grade Spanish students began their in-depth study of Guatemala, they found themselves particularly interested in the process of making chocolate. From picking, drying, and fermenting the beans to roasting, grinding, and tempering the chocolate, the students researched the process of chocolate from start to finish. We discussed whether we would accept chocolate beans as currency, the way the Aztecs did (we would) and whether or not we would drink hot chocolate with corn and spicy peppers (one brave soul said yes!).

The best way to learn about something is to do it, so the sixth graders collaborated with Chef Jess and ground their own beans! Though we couldn't get an authentic metate, a cutting board and rolling pin did the trick.

We fast-forwarded the process and shaved some chocolate into hot milk, mixing it with honey and agave to make our own hot chocolate; rich, frothy, and all the more sweet for having it made ourselves!

*Julie DeAngelis, Spanish Teacher*



## Practicing Mandarin Over Lunch

Ni Hao! Fifth through eighth grade Mandarin students visited Ginko restaurant in Fairfield for lunch, and most importantly, everyone ordered their meal in Mandarin! We were so excited to see how shocked the waiters were when our students spoke Mandarin to them.

Learning a language is all about using it! In addition to practicing their Mandarin, the students had a wonderful lunch and enjoyed showing off their language skills. One said "the more Chinese food you have, the more you love Chinese culture!"

*Wenyi Che and Yajuan Zhang, Mandarin Teachers*



## Discovering Density

Fourth graders have learned that density is a property of matter that compares an object's mass to its volume. Different objects may have different mass but the same volume, as we saw in class when we compared a baseball and a Wiffle ball.

Students were asked if liquids could also have different mass and the same volume. To find the answer, students poured various liquids (maple syrup, corn syrup, oil, colored water) into a container and were amazed to see layers form. Students quickly concluded that these liquids must have different densities in order to form layers. The most dense liquids sank to the bottom and the least dense remained at the top.

Seeing the results made learning about density a homerun!

*Carlene Gordon, Fourth Grade Teacher*





## Ah Camping We Will Go!

The PreK classes had an authentic camping experience this spring which even included some rain! We set up a tent in the Unquowa woods and the children were amazed that a bag of material could make an “outside house.” The kids hammered in stakes, held poles and watched as the center pole went up to finish our house in the woods. Then everyone got inside, opened windows and learned about different camping equipment. Without water, toilets and electricity, life is different outside: everything is compact and easy to carry. The nesting pots were a favorite as the kids pretended to cook. Another favorite activity was finding worms for fishing. Unfortunately we didn’t catch anything but one child proudly announced, “I caught a leaf!” The classes spent the whole day outside. Mrs. D brought art class to us and the students made wood fairies out of clothespins and then found homes for them on trees. During makerspace time, we rebuilt an old shelter with sticks and leaves. The highlight of the day, though, was the s’mores cooked on the fire pit! What a day!

*Ann Palm, PreK-4 Teacher*



## Yes, Ponding is a Verb

Here is a question to ponder, have you ever ponded? Yes, ponding is a verb, and on a lovely, sunny, April day, our kindergarten class set off to the Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Fairfield to do just that. After a brief instruction, we were armed with nets ready to head to the pond to scoop. In class, we had been studying the pond ecosystem and this was our chance to experience it in action. We found nymphs, snails, scads of eggs, tadpoles and even newts! The rest of our time was spent meandering through the pristine trails and observing many pond plants and animals. We also got to see some marsh and wetland habitats. You have never seen such excitement over a wetland! Although this trip is an annual kindergarten tradition, I am always amazed by the interesting things we find. This year, the pond was literally teeming with newts!

*Faith Barbuto, Kindergarten Teacher*



Fifteen third graders mapped 12 raised beds and recorded 46 varieties of fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs in the Unquowa Garden this Spring.



## A Black Woman's Strength During Civil Rights



The fifth grade social studies class has continued to approach American History with a deliberate interest in understanding the depth of events in order to enrich our understanding of modern society.

At the beginning of Women's History Month and the ending of Black History Month, the class had an opportunity to listen to Mrs. Nina Sells' experience during the Civil Rights period. Mrs. Sells spoke candidly to scholars about growing up in the South during segregation and the effects of Jim Crow laws. Students found inspiration in her conviction that love and compassion truly are the hallmark to ending discrimination.

One student shared his thoughts on the event, "It was educational and usually we read about events in history from textbooks, but this time we got to hear it and speak to someone who actually experienced it. It offered new depth. It allowed us to understand that actual people had experienced this, people you might know. In this case, a classmate's grandmother." It was an invaluable experience for all!

*Tré Kayumba, Fifth Grade Social Studies Teacher*



## "Be the Change" Wax Museum



In our Informational Writing unit, fifth graders selected inspiring change-makers to research, report on, and embody. Their historical impact essays were not simply biographies. Instead, writers explored the societal conditions of their figure's life, and how those experiences influenced them to act and make a change. The students considered the long lasting legacies these inspirational people have left on our world.

To cap off this unit, the fifth graders created a "wax museum"

filled with these influential people from history and today. Our writers dressed up as their selected figures, and "came to life" as student and parent tour groups visited their exhibits. This simulation truly served to bring their historical impact essays to life — it was a really special and empowering morning!

*Ariel Warshaw, Grade 5 Writing Seminar Teacher*

### Wax Museum Exhibits

Harriet Tubman (Lukas Keras)  
 Helen Keller (Erin Jacques)  
 Bronislaw Huberman (Nolan Howe)  
 Jackie Robinson (Bryan Wilson)  
 Ruth Bader Ginsburg (Ruthy Alfageme)  
 Mae Jemison (Sophia Vash)  
 Nelson Mandela (Michael Jones)  
 Magic Johnson (Henry Cooper)  
 Eliza Hamilton (Clementine Thomson)  
 Willie Eldon O'Ree (Robert Krueger)  
 Dolly Parton (Elliott Goodman)  
 Frida Kahlo (Madison Mitchell)  
 Major Taylor (Ezra Schwartz)  
 WEB Du Bois (Matthew Anto)  
 Mother Teresa (Amanda Giachino)  
 LeBron James (Max Oberhand)  
 Eleanor Roosevelt (Ivy Lewis)  
 Rosa Parks (Devin Kelly)  
 Jane Goodall (Julia Van Der Aue)  
 Pete Seeger (Eli Arnes)  
 Princess Diana (Marianela Cardona)  
 George Weah (Michael Scottot)





## May Day Celebration

Our students were delighted to welcome their grandparents and special friends to Unquowa for our traditional May Day celebration with classroom visits, tours and a very special assembly!

It was evident that each class worked very hard on their individual performances. Upper Schoolers gave us a preview of their upcoming Spring Musical, *Shrek Jr.* with their performance of "I'm a Believer" and the instrumental ensemble moved us with their rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah." Fourth and fifth graders closed the program with the traditional Maypole dances, impressing us with their Spider Web and Braid Weaves! What a special day!



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## Schoolwide Poetry Celebration

In April, Unquowa held its first ever whole-school poetry celebration. Seventh and eighth graders planned and led a variety of poetry sessions for the rest of the school. Students traveled in small groups and worked collaboratively with those from other grades in each workshop. The goal of this event was to expose everyone to a variety of poetic forms and devices, including new and fun ways to make poetry. Sessions included "Found Poetry," "Haiku Station," "Music and Poetry," "Spine Poetry" and various listening stations, where students enjoyed classics as well as new voices. We concluded our celebration with an open mic session inviting all students to share their writing.

We loved seeing the incredible creativity and fluent delivery of powerful pieces from all grade levels! We hope students have been inspired by this very special day.

*Karen Engelke and George Seferidis*  
*English Department Chairs*





## Eighth Grade Year In Review '19

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 step 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.

December brought the traditions of Winterfest, including their much anticipated candle dance. This year's show *This is Me* came together as it always does with eighth-grade leadership. It was exciting to celebrate with the alumni knowing that next year they will be welcomed to join in the celebration as alumni too.

In the spring, we had the exciting opportunity to visit New York City where we saw *To Kill A Mockingbird* on Broadway. This was the perfect culminating activity to our study of the novel by the same name. 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, *Shrek, 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. Students continued the tradition of playing their own version of beach volleyball and singing karaoke and, of course, who could forget ... the lip sync battle! 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 2019 and look forward to hearing about every success in their future.



*Debbie Leidlein and George Seferidis, Eighth Grade Advisors*



## Closing Ceremonies 2019

School life has a rhythm that very few other parts of our world do. In general, school's rhythm is predictable and comforting and important. School is a world where things can come to tidy ends in spring and begin again with fresh promise in the fall.

As Ms. Lauer reminds us, our school's closing ceremonies are part of that rhythm. They are about acknowledging academic accomplishment, celebrating a year well-spent together, and they are about proper good-byes. This 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 was held in the morning on our last day of school.

Awards announced at the Closing Ceremonies included **The Unquowa Parents' Association Award**, which was given to Krystle Garcia as the seventh grade student with a "strong moral compass who leads by example within the school community." Our athletic director, Coach B, presented the **Margaret Travers Award** for "outstanding physical skills and sportsmanship" to Ryley Tate-Padian. 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: Roy Krueger and Tori Faunce. Ms. Karow recognized our eighth grade student ambassadors, thanking them for their enthusiasm and willingness to showcase our wonderful school. Mrs. Barbuto, our kindergarten teacher, presented the **Ultimate Unquowan Awards** to five graduating students who started at Unquowa in PreK-3: Caroline Avery, Blake Erenhouse, Kelly Jones, Lily Panagos and Halie Perkins. Lastly, Ms. Lauer presented the **Virginia Birdsall Faculty Award** to Mrs. Leidlein and Mrs. Ponden. This award comes with a grant "to allow faculty to pursue summer projects that go beyond the realm of expected summer work."

After a special video slideshow devoted to the Class of 2019, 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 2020!

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.



## 2019 Awards

The William J. Grippin Award

**Kelly Jones**

The Unquowa Award

**Amelia Lanni, Maddy Shantz**

The Headmaster's Cup

**Blake Erenhouse**

The Board of Governors' Cup

**Halie Perkins**

The John P. Blessington Award

**Caroline Avery, Michael Roberts**

The Robert L. Cleveland Award

**Ben Stokes, Jordan Werner**

Unquowa Parents Association Award

**Krystle Garcia**

Alison D. Gray Award

**Carsen Currie, Andrew Stumm**

Janice Shannon Award

**Lily Panagos**

Elizabeth Curtis Award

**Kelly Jones**

Margaret Travers Award

**Ryley Tate-Padian**

John F. Turlick Award

**Theodore Geary**

Class Agents

**Madison Greenspan, Grace Pisanelli**

The Ultimate Unquowan Award

**Caroline Avery, Blake Erenhouse,**

**Kelly Jones, Lily Panagos,**

**Halie Perkins**

Costume Closet Key

**Tori Faunce, Roy Krueger**

Backstage Crew

**Eva Dooher, Michael Roberts,**

**Lily Panagos**

The Jean Carpenter Winton

Distinguished Alumni Award

**Cecily Stoddard Stranahan '47**

Virginia Birdsall Faculty Award

**Debbie Leidlein, Krissy Ponden**





# Graduation 2019

The Unquowa School's graduating class gathered on the evening of June 4th 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. Rabbi Michael S. Friedman offered the invocation, and salutatorian Andrew Stumm welcomed everyone to the celebration describing Unquowa as "a place beyond."

The ceremony included the announcement of several awards. Our valedictorian, Kelly Jones, received the **William J. Grippin Award** for the

highest academic average. Maddy Shantz and Amelia Lanni were 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 Halie Perkins, **The Headmaster's Cup** was awarded to Blake Erenhouse and **The John P. Blessington Award** went to Michael Roberts and Caroline Avery who show "through their current actions, the promise of continued stewardship to the school." **The Elizabeth Curtis and John F. Turlick Awards**, given to the eighth grade athletes "whose skill and accomplishments in athletics have been matched by true understanding of good sportsmanship," were presented to Kelly Jones and Theo Geary. **The Robert L. Cleveland Award**, for a student who exhibits "a keen mind, sound body and unafraid spirit," was awarded to both Jordan Werner and Ben Stokes. Madison Greenspan and Grace Pisanelli were named **Class Agents**, responsible for helping the class stay connected to each other and to the school.

One of two newly dedicated awards established to honor the memory of beloved colleagues and teachers, the **Alison D. Gray Award** was given to Andrew Stumm and Carsen Currie "whose sense of wonder and creativity empowers them to have a unique perspective on life and allows them to make valuable and unexpected contributions to class across disciplines." The second, the **Janice Shannon Award** was awarded to Lily Panagos, a student who, "like Mrs. Shannon, is bold and confident with an unafraid spirit, ribald sense of humor and a strong will, determined to pave their own way." Cecily Stoddard Stranahan, Class of 1947, received this year's **Jean Carpenter Winton Distinguished Alumni Award**.

The commencement address was given by Dr. Doug Lyons, Executive Director of CAIS, who encouraged the graduates to remain open to opportunity while following their passions.

Valedictorian, and Ultimate Unquowan, Kelly Jones shared stories from her 11 years at Unquowa. She spoke about her teachers, emphasizing lessons in leadership, kindness and gratitude. Kelly described the class as "well-prepared for the next chapter in our lives," and went on to say that while they might be graduating, she is "positive that Unquowa will always be a part of our lives as we move on to high school and into the future."

With a benediction from Mr. Rob Laughton, we said a final goodbye to the Class of 2019. While we will miss this class, we wish them all the best and look forward to their return as alumni on Founders' Day!



## Our graduates will be attending the following:

Caroline Avery .....	Notre Dame High School
Carsen Currie .....	Kent School
Eva Dooher .....	Lauralton Hall
Blake Erenhouse .....	Hopkins School
Theodore Geary.....	Forman School
Madison Greenspan .....	Lauralton Hall
Kelly Jones .....	Lauralton Hall
Amelia Lanni.....	Cheshire Academy
Lily Panagos .....	Hopkins School
Halie Perkins.....	Fairfield Warde High School
Grace Pisanelli.....	St. Joseph High School
Michael Roberts .....	Hopkins School
Maddy Shantz .....	Lauralton Hall
Ben Stokes.....	Fairfield College Preparatory School
Andrew Stumm .....	Hamden Hall Country Day School
Jordan Werner.....	Greenwich Country Day School



## “I’m a Believer”

What an amazing show! The Upper School students really came together to put on this year’s spring musical, *Shrek Jr.* The evening started out with the instrumental ensemble showing off their talents. Each grade’s ensemble performed one song from a past Unquowa musical and one song from *Shrek*. It was a great way to set the tone!

Lights up and the story began: seven year old Shrek was being sent on his way to find a swamp to call his own. Throughout the show we meet many characters and through their adventures, realize that each of them is special, unique and wonderful just the way they are. This musical theater project, that all Upper Schoolers participated in, showcases student strengths as individuals and as an ensemble. From the instrumentalist, to the tech crew, to the actors on stage, everyone worked together to put on an excellent show!

*Megan Kirk, Alyson Cahill and David Coe, Performing Arts Teachers*



## “Everybody Wants To Be A Cat”

Inspired by the Upper School students, second and third graders were so excited to learn all about what it takes to put on a musical. We started with the music. Students had to use all of the music theory we have been working on all year to help them read and learn the music to their mini-musical. We added choreography and students were able to help with the creative process of choosing the right dance steps. Next, we learned all about the script and how to follow stage directions. After each child received their character, we talked about how an actor makes character decisions based on what is happening to their character both on and off stage. Soon it was time for blocking. This was the students’ favorite part — putting the show on its feet! The students decided on their own costume pieces, then came joint rehearsals and finally, the big day! The students did an amazing job on stage and all looked right at home as their characters. Great job, *Aristocats* cast!

*Megan Kirk  
Performing Arts Teacher*





## Featuring Unquowa's Student Artists

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, seventh and eighth grade students displayed their *Voices of Change* projects, conceptual art in various media that speaks to an issue they researched and care about. Sixth graders collaborated on a multimedia installation complete with video and sound that draws attention to the problem of plastic in the ocean. The students created a dynamic underwater scene with prints, soft sculptures, and clay. It is always a treat to see all of our students' artwork displayed together and to have the opportunity to celebrate their creative growth throughout the year.

*Krissy Ponden, Visual Arts Department Chair*



## Voices of Change

For the second year, the *Voices of Change* art show, featuring a selection of seventh and eighth-grade students' artwork, was on display for the public, both as a one-night "pop-up" at Robert Valle Designs and for two weeks at Blends Gallery in Bridgeport. Their art was the result of a trimester-long collaboration between the humanities and art departments.

The students traveled to the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield and to the Walsh Gallery at Fairfield University to learn about how to decipher meaning from works of art. Then, they were tasked with identifying a part of the world they want to change, thoroughly researched that topic, developed their own opinions, and synthesized a meaningful way to display it. Unabashed and sophisticated, their pieces focused on a wide range of issues, from gun violence to income inequality, and took on a variety of forms, such as installation, performance, and embroidery.

*Voices of Change* was a celebration of our seventh and eighth-graders intellectual capacity, maturity, and global knowledge. It was a message of hope, for the world cannot solve these problems without awareness, humanity, and a desire for a change. Wise beyond their years, our students once again reminded us of why the future is so bright, and we could not be more proud of them, the leaders of tomorrow.

*Vin O'Hara, Humanities Teacher*



## Field Day Fun

Fueled by an amazing pancake breakfast, Unquowa students were eager to enjoy some healthy competition and showcase their sportsmanship. While every Field Day event, especially the water games, basketball arcade, and scavenger hunt continued to be super fun, it was the creative hurdle races that became the favorite this year. The classic game of Capture the Flag was the day's big event and the Lower School and Upper School competitions were thrilling to watch. Our students' agility and speed was impressive as they worked together to enter the opponent's territory and steal flags, as was their ability to anticipate an opponent's move to defend the flags. The cheering ("Go green!" Go white!") that broke out from the bleachers kept the teams motivated!

While the Lower School and Upper School games ended in a tie, the PreK and Kindergarten team dominated the eighth graders in the grand finale game. Crossing into the eighth grade territory, our youngest students brought each and every flag safely back to their own side without getting tagged! The eighth graders were great sports and led us all in team handshakes and a school cheer. Go Gators!

*Sarah Pollex, PE Department Chair*



## Eighth Grade Math Project

This spring, eighth grade Algebra and Geometry students collaborated on a massive construction project. Over the course of two months they crafted an 8.5 foot tall R2D2 out of plywood and steel hinges. Beginning with small-scale card-stock models, students developed their own plans to measure, cut, drill, and raise the giant wooden structure during math class and any other available time they could find during their school day. The final product consisted of a geodesic dome composed of 75 tessellating isosceles triangles, 15 rectangular side panels, over 300 hinges connecting each panel, and a healthy amount of blue, white, and silver paint.

The project culminated with a movie night in May where R2D2 greeted Unquowa families with beeps and boops before they got cozy in the gym to watch *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*. The project has already inspired our rising eighth graders to dream about what to build next year ... stay tuned!

*Eric Werner, Upper School Math Teacher*





## Spring Sports Update

Our Cross Country team was the strongest it has ever been. At every race we had a significant percentage of runners place in the top five in their respective categories and at every meet we had two or three first place finishes. For the overall Fairchester season standings, Sophia placed first among grade 5 girls, Ezra placed fifth among grade 5 boys, Robert placed fourth among grade 5 boys, Ryley placed first among grade 6 girls, winning every single race, including her race at the championship meet, Kelly placed first among grade 8 girls, and Ben placed first among grade 8 boys. That's four first place finishes!

We also spent some time this spring working on skills that will help our teams for next year with our second annual soccer clinic and our first ever spring basketball clinic. Gators in Training Soccer was a huge success as well, with our kindergarten through second graders learning the game with the help of three student coaches. 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 2019 Athletic Dessert

Our final Athletic Dessert of the year was a great celebration. We broke out our two undefeated banners for both white basketball teams and paid tribute to our soccer and basketball athletes who participated in the spring clinics. We honored our 31 cross country runners and their coaches who had our most successful cross country season ever. We also recognized the eight members of the Class of 2019 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*



## Awards Given at Athletic Dessert

Perseverance  
**Madison Greenspan**

Most Improved  
**Caroline Avery**

Commitment  
**Halie Perkins**

Attitude  
**Matthew Anto**

Most Promising  
**Clementine Thompson**

Fastest  
**Connor Jacques**  
**Kelly Jones**  
**Robert Krueger**  
**Ryley Tate-Padian**  
**Haley Roberts**  
**Ben Stokes**  
**Henry Tanner**  
**Sophia Vash**

Gator Bowl 2019  
**Eva Dooher**  
**Blake Erenhouse**  
**Theo Geary**  
**Madison Greenspan**  
**Kelly Jones**  
**Lily Panagos**  
**Michael Roberts**  
**Jordan Werner**

Unquowa Dedication Award 2019  
**Kelly Jones**



Team Unquowa — Aidan Kavanaugh, Ryan Kavanaugh, Lara Kusche, and Max Kusche — competed in the Connecticut State Taekwondo President's Cup in Newtown this spring. They placed third out of 26 teams in the competition. Congratulations!

## From the UPA

Although it never really felt like spring, we were hopping at Unquowa! The Unquowa Parents' Association and their dedicated volunteers were busy beginning with our spring socials. Our sixth through eighth grade students were entertained by a great magician. He engaged the students in each of his tricks leaving them asking, "How did he do that?" The evening ended with the traditional s'mores around the fire pit. The fourth and fifth grade students ventured to Urban Air in Orange for a fun-filled afternoon together.

Our spring sports dessert recognized our cross country team and their coaches for a record-breaking season. And, this year's book drive for the Hall Neighborhood House was a huge success with a total of 1,552 books donated for the children.

Finally, our Starry Night themed Annual Gala was a tremendous success. A special thanks to Marianna Erenhouse and Jenna Venditto for leading a group of dedicated, hard-working parents and teachers who made this event possible once again. The attendance this year was incredible, which demonstrates how our Unquowa community supports and loves our little white schoolhouse.

We have been so lucky to have such involved and supportive UPA volunteers this year. The number of people who have already signed up for the many committees for the 2019-2020 year is wonderful. There are still openings, so don't hesitate to join this great team.

A special thanks to Alison Roberts for her commitment over the past two years as co-president. Alison's term has come to an end, and Heather Winkleman has graciously agreed to be my new co-president. Enjoy your summer and we will see you in September!

***Kathy Tate-Padian***  
***UPA Co-President***



## Spring Break in Greece

This year's seventh and eighth grade spring trip took us to Greece! After arriving in Athens, we spent some time visiting the Parthenon and other historic sites. We learned about Greek mythology and how it influenced the lives of the ancient Greeks. There was also a cooking lesson, where we explored the foods of the modern Greeks followed by some souvenir shopping in the Plaka. We then set sail for the islands of Mykonos, Patmos, Samos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini. Each stop was an opportunity to learn about the unique culture and history of the individual islands. Finally, we returned to Athens and traveled to Delphi and the temple of Poseidon. Our last evening in Greece was filled with traditional Greek dancing and music. It was an amazing experience for all with memories that will last a lifetime!





## Alumni News



**Erin Foley '02** and her husband, Steve, recently welcomed their second child, Christopher. They are pictured above with two-year old Ryan. Erin and Steve will be married five years this summer. She is an occupational therapist in the school system. They enjoy traveling throughout the US and spending summers at the beach.



**Maggie (Reid) Fitch '04** and her husband, Albert, are the proud parents of twin boys born on May 23. Elliot weighed 3 lbs. 15 oz, and Oliver was 5 lbs. Both boys and mom and dad are doing well!



Congratulations to **Chelsea Byrd '11** on her graduation from Loyola University Maryland this May. She will be studying in the UK this fall at the Hult International Business School in London where she was accepted into their one year Master's program in International Business.



The **Reverend Cecily Stoddard, '47**, spent the morning with our kindergarten and eighth graders in late spring to prepare for receiving The Jean Carpenter Winton Distinguished Alumni Award at this year's graduation ceremony. This award was established eight years ago in honor of the **Jean Carpenter Winton, '34**, to be given to an alumnus or alumna who, like

Jean, exhibits a strong sense of loyalty to the school and a personal commitment to our school's motto, the future is in our care.

Cecily's dedication to our school as a past board member and an alumnae who has not only personally supported our school's recent efforts to grow but has also compelled others to follow in her path made her an obvious candidate for this award. The inspiration plaque — Go out there and shine — placed by Cecily behind our new stage just a few years ago - is a touchstone to encourage unafraid spirit in all Unquowa students.

Cecily's relationship with our students has continued to grow over the years and she continues to be an inspiration to and a sounding board for me as head of school with respect to our school's future path



## Next Year's Plans for the Class of 2015:

Rachel Albenze.....	George Washington University
Nora Brennan.....	Northeastern University
Hannah Calzone.....	Rhode Island School of Design
Benjamin Chapin.....	Boston College
Mary Crooks.....	Kenyon College
Garrett Cutler.....	Stevens Institute of Technology
Alexandra Deutsch.....	University of Colorado, Boulder
Walter Erenhouse.....	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Clay Horton.....	Gap Year
Hailey Hughes.....	University of New England
Olivia Hughes.....	University of California, Los Angeles
Zander Jehle.....	Franklin & Marshall College
Akash Jyothish.....	Tufts University
Stuart Martin.....	Deferred acceptance at St. Lawrence University to play Jr Hockey for Smith Falls Bears in Ontario, Canada
Quinn Mullineaux.....	University of California, San Diego
Riley Pengue.....	University of Vermont
Carson Solaz.....	University of Colorado, Boulder
Schuyler St. Germain.....	University of California Berkeley
Siddharth Sunder.....	University of Texas at Austin
Charlie Waghorne.....	Fairfield University



# THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

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

## Collections Fair

This Unquowa tradition was the brainchild of Blake Erenhouse '19. Each year this fair allows students to showcase their collections - from rocks to stuffed animals to electronic devices. The sky's the limit!

