

# Thank You for your Support!



Unquowa  
SCHOOL



Annual Report for 2024-2025 School Year

*"The mission of The Unquowa School is to develop, educate and prepare our family of children with an unafraid spirit to achieve their personal best in a changing world."*

*The Future is in Our Care*



## *from the Board President ~*

Good evening to our Unquowa community - faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and friends. Thank you for being here tonight. It's a pleasure to stand before you as President of the Board of Governors to reflect on a year of resilience and purpose at Unquowa School.

As we gather this evening, I want to speak to you about the landscape in which we, as a PreK-8 independent school, are operating. Fairfield County, as many of you know, is home to an extraordinary range of educational options - from public and charter schools to large independent schools with expansive resources. Families today are navigating an increasingly complex set of choices, influenced not only by cost and convenience, but also by shifting cultural expectations, new technologies, and a growing focus on measurable outcomes.

For PreK-8 independent schools like ours, this environment presents some real challenges. The pressures of affordability are felt across the board. Enrollment patterns fluctuate as families weigh competing priorities. Expectations for innovation and differentiation are higher than ever. And all of this unfolds in a world that is changing faster than any of us could have imagined - a world where the skills needed to thrive tomorrow may look very different from those that defined success less than a decade ago.

Yet amid this shifting landscape, Unquowa School continues to stand apart. We do so not by trying to be all things to all people, but by remaining steadfast in our mission - to ignite curiosity, to cultivate confidence, and to inspire each child to "grow who they are." That phrase - Grow Who You Are - is more than a tagline; it's a guiding principle. It speaks to our belief that education is not about fitting children into a mold, but about helping them discover and develop their individual strengths, passions, and voices.

Our answer to a challenging marketplace is to lean into what has always made Unquowa extraordinary: the depth and rigor of our academic program, the creativity and dynamism of our experiential approach, and the enduring value of the critical thinking, collaboration, and empathy that define an Unquowa education.

Let's start with our curriculum - one that challenges students intellectually while keeping learning joyful and relevant. From the earliest years, our students are not only mastering foundational skills in reading, writing, and mathematics but also learning how to ask thoughtful questions, make connections across disciplines, and think independently.

Our teachers design lessons that go beyond textbooks, lessons that draw students out into the world. Whether it's collecting data at the Mill River, studying ecosystems on a field expedition, or performing original compositions in our all-school performing arts program, Unquowa students experience learning that is alive, interdisciplinary, and deeply memorable.

This kind of experiential education is not a luxury; it's what prepares children for the future. We are living in an era defined by constant change: technological disruption, environmental challenges, and global interconnection. The abilities to adapt, to collaborate, to solve problems creatively are the skills our students will need most, and they are the very skills that are woven into the fabric of Unquowa's daily life.

*The Future is in Our Care*

Our decade-plus focus on social-emotional learning and mindfulness further distinguishes us. In classrooms and community engagements alike, our students practice empathy, resilience, and self-awareness. These attributes are as essential to leadership as they are to academic achievement. When our students move on to secondary schools, they bring not only strong academic preparation but also a grounded sense of who they are and how they contribute to the communities they join.

As a Board, we are not only stewards of Unquowa's resources - we are believers in its mission. Every decision we make is guided by the conviction that what happens inside these classrooms transforms lives. Over the past year, we have worked in close partnership with our Head of School and administrative team to ensure that Unquowa remains fiscally strong and operationally agile. We continue to invest in our faculty because they are the heart of our school. We continue to pursue investment in our campus and technology infrastructure - because they are the tools that make innovation possible. And we continue to invest in outreach and admissions because we believe passionately that the Unquowa story - our story - deserves to be heard more widely.

Our marketing and communications initiatives this year have focused on amplifying that story - highlighting the rigor of our academics, the vitality of our community, and the power of our mission. We are connecting with new families through open houses, community partnerships, and social media in ways that are authentic and compelling. The message we're sharing is simple and strong: At Unquowa, children don't just learn - they become lifelong learners.

Even in a competitive marketplace, that message resonates. Families who visit our campus feel the difference immediately - in the warmth of our classrooms, the energy of our teachers, and the confidence and curiosity of our students. They see that Unquowa offers something rare: a learning environment that is challenging and nurturing, structured and creative, and rigorous and joyful.

Financial sustainability and mission alignment have remained at the center of Board strategy. Working closely with our leadership team, we have clarified how we tell our story—targeting families who seek precisely what Unquowa offers. By refining how we communicate our message, we are positioning our school not just to endure, but to emerge stronger and more visible in a crowded marketplace.

As we look ahead, we remain deeply committed to the vision that has guided this school for more than a century - a vision of education that values the whole child and prepares each graduate not only for the next academic step, but for life.

Yes, these are challenging times for independent schools. But challenge, as we teach our students, is also opportunity - the opportunity to innovate, to reaffirm our purpose, and to grow stronger together.

And so tonight, I want to thank each of you - our faculty, our parents, our alumni, and my fellow board members - for the role you play in sustaining and advancing The Unquowa School. Together, we are not simply navigating

*Joan Panagos, Board of Governors President  
Mother of Lucy'16, Lola'17 and Lily'19*

*The Future is in Our Care*



## *from the Head of School ~*

When I was six years old, my family lived in a neighborhood with a corner grocery. One day my mother decided that I was responsible enough to walk from our house in the middle of the block to Mr. Gordon's corner store to buy penny candy. My grandparents lived next door to us and my father's youngest brother, Morgan – a decade younger than my father – still lived at home, so when I arrived at the corner store that day, he happened to walk in just after me. As I tell this story now, I realize that maybe my teenage uncle was actually sent to follow me on my first foray to the corner alone.

On that day, as I was deliberating over the mint juleps and red hot dollars that my five cents would buy, my Uncle Morgan handed me a dollar bill to pass over the counter to pay for his own purchase. In passing the money I noticed that someone had drawn an image in ink on the dollar, and I was horrified. I knew – perhaps from my first grade teacher, Miss Troutman – that it was illegal to “deface U.S. tender.” But once over that horror, I wanted to know what the image inked on the bill meant. My uncle explained that it was the symbol for infinity and that perhaps someone drew it as a compliment to say that our government's money would be reliable forever. “That's what infinity means,” Uncle Morgan told me.

I kept our conversation to myself as I returned home safely to the middle of the block with my precious penny candy, but that night I lay in bed trying to imagine the concept of “forever.” I still remember picturing myself sitting on a cloud – I guess I'd decided that I qualified for the eternal status of angel, not devil. I tried to imagine sitting there forever, for “infinity”, and as I was deciding in my first grade version of an Einstein thought problem that infinity was very boring, my mother peeked into the room to make sure I was asleep. When she saw that I was not and heard that I was deep in a disturbing thought about infinity, her exasperated self simply declared that I was “much too young to be thinking about such things” and that I should go to sleep! Door closed...

How I wish that I could have walked into a classroom the next morning like those we have here at Unquowa to continue my thoughts about infinity with my teacher. As I watch each day what goes on in our classrooms, as I talk with faculty of all ages of kids here at Unquowa, I know that we have a staff of inspired teachers who not only have a strong grasp of the curriculum they teach and a deep love and appreciation for the age range of kids they teach but who, beyond that, know that infinity is not too large a concept for children and that no age is too early to begin developing a sense of wisdom in young people. It is this powerful approach to learning that our teachers consistently offer our kids that sets them apart as teachers and sets our students off gradually, solidly and surely on their successful life journeys.

I am keenly aware of my responsibility to support the work of our faculty – to empower them and to provide them with the assets (both financial and philosophical) to go into their classrooms and out into the world with our kids each day to make that happen. I am proud to hold that responsibility, and I am proud to work for and with faculty and staff who wake up each day in a more and more challenging world, ready to come onto our campus to partner with families to shape and educate their children to live with an unafraid spirit in an ever-changing world.

Many thanks to my tireless and talented Board of Trustees for making that opportunity possible.

*Sharon Lauer, Head of School*

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## from the Board Treasurer ~

I am pleased to report on another successful year for the Unquowa School. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, we funded multi-year improvements to the school campus and enhanced after school programs with outside vendors (\$100K), as revenues from all sources nearly covered all operational expenses.

As part of the overall long-term goals and vision highlighted in our strategic plan, the leadership team continued to work with Centerbrook Architects to develop an architectural master plan that provides solutions to repurpose and reinvigorate targeted areas of the school campus. We also began to work with StoryScope, a leader in effective private school marketing. Both initiatives were funded (\$50K) and flow through the

statement of operating activities.

The Finance Committee continues to focus on key variables and risks so we can identify potential challenges to Unquowa's financial model, while developing the best options and solutions for our community. The Investment Committee, under the direction of Paul Greenberg, has guided the school's endowment net assets, along with reserves, to nearly \$2.65M. In addition, parent giving, via The Fund for Unquowa, along with the remarkable support from the Unquowa Parents' Association, continue to play a vital role in bridging the gap between tuition and what it costs to provide an Unquowa education for all our students.

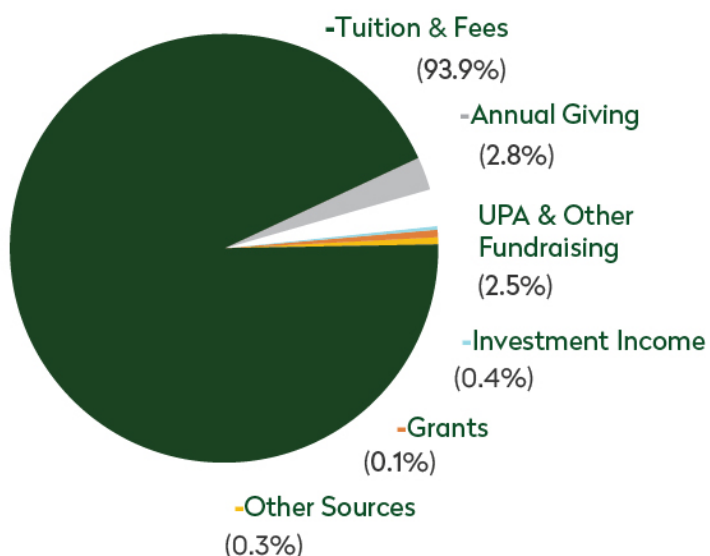
Driven by strategic planning and effective management, as well as the experience gained over its 108-year history, Unquowa remains well positioned for long-term success in a challenging world. I would like to thank everyone in our community and hope you will continue to help us achieve our goals.

*Karl Martone, Board of Governors Treasurer  
Father of Max'09*

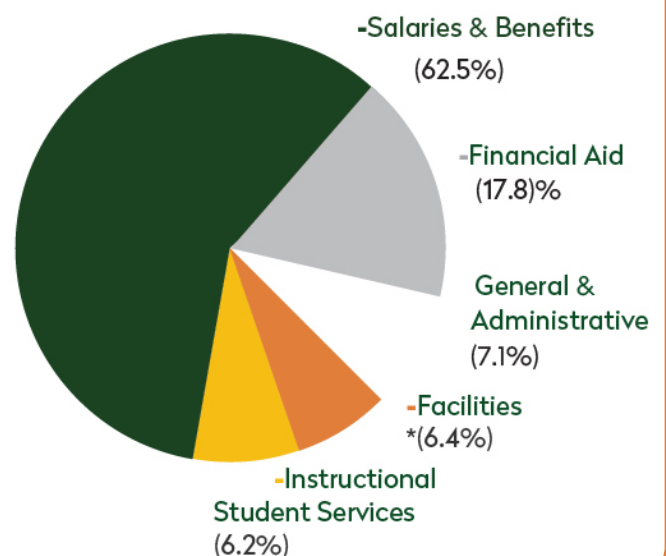
### UNQUOWA SCHOOL STATEMENT OF OPERATING ACTIVITIES

YEAR END - JUNE 30, 2025

#### Total Operating Revenues:



#### Total Operating Expenses:



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# Annual Giving~

The Fund for Unquowa not only provides vital support for programming, financial aid, student activities, professional development and salaries, it also supports socio-economic diversity, artistic exploration and updates to our campus and technological resources, not to mention helping bring inspiring musicians, artists and other leaders to our children.

Last year, our community generously embraced the shared responsibility that hangs over the school door: "Cura Futuri Nobis. The Future is In Our Care," donating \$201,000. Please accept our gratitude and keep us as your philanthropic priority.

*Robin Pompa & Melody Waterhouse,  
2024-2025 The Fund For Unquowa Co Chairs*

## Total \$220,841 - From July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

### CENTENNIAL CIRCLE

(25,000 AND UP)

Ruth L Powell Revocable Trust

### LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

(15,000 - 24,999)

N/A

### 1917 FOUNDERS' SOCIETY

(\$10,000 TO \$14,999)

Philipp and Melody Kusche (Waterhouse)

Maggie Lehnerd-Reilly and Kerry Reilly

Steven and Joan Panagos

Alexander Thomson and

Katie Shields Thomson

David and Heather Winkelmann

### THE WINTERFEST SOCIETY

(\$5,000 TO \$9,999)

Whitney and Tobias Crawford

Estate of Richard McKinley III

Polen Capital

Robin and William Pompa

Alison and Mark Smith

Alan and Debbie Steckler

### THE BROOK SOCIETY

(\$2,500 TO \$4,999)

Google

Paul and Ellen Greenberg

John and Sarah Freeman Foundation

Matthew and Rachel Kelley

Sharon Lauer and Jerome Joseph

David MacAllaster '73

David and Jennifer Reganato

Will and Alison Roberts

### THE GARDEN CIRCLE

(\$1,250 TO \$2,499)

John and Anna Acunto

Brandon and Brooke Clark

Gavin and Michal Coman

David and Elizabeth McKinnis

Sara Parks and Frank Lin

Mike Scotto and Vicki Hornbostel

Cecily Stoddard Stranahan '47

Daniel and Leona Yin

### THE MAYPOLE SOCIETY

(\$750 TO \$1,249)

Athena and Daniel Adamson

Brebbia Family Fund

Eric and Lisa Broder

Alisyn Camerota

Brittany and Brett Craiglow

Peter and Bridgett diBonaventura

William and Joan Grabe

Clayton and Mary Hall

Christopher and Melissa Howe

Constance Lane and James McClellan

Peter Lanni and Cornelia Gallo

Dana and Brian Lawlor

Andrew Lerner and Angela DeRose

Lotty Family Foundation

Brian and Sharon Miles

Jacqueline and Andre Nelson

Nor' Easter Foundation

(Henry duPont '81)

Nueberger Berman

Jacqueline and Jonathan Shahrabani

Alan and Debbie Steckler

Peter and Jo Toolan

Karen and Dan Williamson

Jenah and Jack Yeung

### THE GATOR SOCIETY

(\$350 TO \$749)

Lindsay and Nick Alexander

American Online Giving Foundation

Janice and Dick Cerone

Beverly Frank

Goldman Sachs

Carlene and Paul Gordon

Sandy and Kate Haviland

Shane Herlet and Patricia Caira

Daniel and Barbara Holzer

Scott and Colleen Jacques

Susan Maklari '90

Karl and Lynn Martone

Catherine Mathis

Anya and Charlie Mezak

James and Maria Mulvehill

Sheetal Mundra and Amit Lakhotia

Allie and Steve Murphy

Lily Panagos '19

Lola Panagos '17

Lucy Panagos '16

Vivian Perez

Robin and William Pompa

Byrne Pozzi and Dan Spinner

Hans and Jennifer Richter

Dave Thomas

Anthony and Jenna Venditto

Bojana and Michael Weatherly

Rick and Lynn Wilson

### FRIENDS OF UNQUOWA

(UP TO \$349)

Claire Abate '14

Steve Aikenhead '54

Kristen Ambrosi

Christopher Anderheggen '70

Mike and Carol Anderson

Eliza Aponte and Elizabeth Soler

Andrew and Gina Arnold

Natasha Auguste-Williams

Ashesh Bakshi and Yamini Menon

Ernesto and Faith Barbuto

T. Brooks Barrett '47

Amy and Vivek Bedi

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Cheryl Bennett-Davidowitz and Robert Davidowitz  
Philip Bevan  
Christopher Boudreau '89  
Elizabeth W. Brew Boyd '70  
Jonathan Brew '72  
Shantay Bullock and Roderick Taylor  
Norma Castro  
Kristin and Brian Clark  
Morgan and Jake Cleveland  
Robert and Deborah Colantuoni  
Whitney and Tobias Crawford  
Alexis and Mark Czeterko  
Briggs and Moira Davidson  
Eric Dawson  
Sara and Jon Deren  
Maureen and Djibril Diallo  
Jennifer and Akira Do  
Trisha and Mark Doyle  
Michael and Lauren Ehrlich  
Helene Rousseau Epifano '67  
Carlos and Corti (Cooper) Esteves  
Jennifer and Michael Evanko  
Jerry and Stacie (Boney) Folz  
James and Carolyn Gaines Ruckle '53  
Philip and Victorio Gallo  
Jenna and Eric Guja  
John Hall  
Grace Halloran  
Richard Harriss '52  
Diana Haskell  
Jean Ann and William Heise '55  
Adrian and James Hendershot  
Robert and Joyce Hobbie  
Daniel and Barbara Holzer  
Daria Islam  
James Johnson  
Lucy Kavanaugh '21  
Tré Kayumba and Hannah Onchak  
Ryan Keating and Ellen Lewis  
Brendan and Samantha Kelley  
Lisa and Michael Kirsic  
Barry Kresch and Leslie Miller  
Richard and Kathryn Krotseng  
Deirdre and Eric Kurzenberger  
Kennedy Lane  
Evan Lawrence '68  
Lou Leszczynski  
Shelley Levi and Kevin Sorhaindo  
Adriana and Kevin Liberatore  
James and Amy Lightbourn  
Siyao Lui and Vikas Gupta  
Violet and Emiron Lumani  
Sasha Mack '05  
Gabriella Savi and Luca Manina  
Max Martone '09

Ryan Mathis-Tien and J. Bing Tien  
Dylan McCormick '16  
Michael McCormick  
Bruce and Sally McDermott  
Jennifer McLevy and John Bazzanella  
Jackie and Ronell McRae  
Saral and Heidi Mehra  
Anyia and Charlie Mezak  
Lloyd Mitchell  
Madison Mitchell  
John and Lynne Morgan  
Deanne Mraz  
Jacqui and John Mudre  
Allie and Steve Murphy  
Jumana and David Murphy  
Ashley Nechaev  
Jacqueline and Andre Nelson  
Michael O'Brien and Margaret Codan  
David and Amber O'Connell  
Patricia O'Hara  
Celiane Oliveria and Marcos Borges  
Elisha and Oliver Page  
Anna Panagos-Chandler  
Jeremy and Sandra Peck  
Ryane Penders and Ethan Sullivan  
Tim and Krissy Ponden '95  
Sarah and Ross Raggio  
Lauren Rocheleau and Mark Lotty  
Natalia Rojas-Restrepo and Alexander Rojas  
David and Laura Ross  
Melanie and Jerry Ruggieri  
David Ryan and Susan Breen Ryan  
Joe Saint and Elizabeth Hayes  
Beth Schneider  
Janice Schneider  
Stephen Schwartz  
Mary Jo Scott  
Gianina Serrano  
Olivia Seymour '14  
Scott and Julianne Seymour  
Andrew and Andrea Shantz  
Madeline Shantz '19  
Linda and William Shelton '55  
Jeff and Marsha Shrader  
Jasmine and Shawnta Smith-Cruz  
Eric and Tristan Snow  
Harald and Stephanie Stavnes  
Alice Stokes  
Nate and Vivi Storch  
Lee Streett '51  
Sankar and Subhashree Sunder  
Diane and Peter Swift  
Trevor and Lisa Sylvestro  
Andrea and Brian Theodore  
Yei and Ying Tien

Karen Tripoli  
John Richard Turner '48  
Shabiroon and Woodrow Vereen  
Lesley Vincent and  
Lauren Coakley Vincent  
Elizabeth Wasiutynski  
Joanna and William Wesson  
Lucinda White and Thomas Kelley  
Chandler Wiegand  
Elizabeth Williams and Peter Tulupman  
Chester Williamson  
Judy Williamson  
Jessica Wolf

### ALUMNI

Claire Abate '14  
Steve Aikenhead '54  
Christopher Anderheggen '70  
T. Brooks Barrett '47  
Christopher Boudreau '89  
Jonathan C. Brew '72  
Elizabeth W. Brew Boyd '70  
Helene Rousseau Epifano '67  
Richard T. Harriss, III '52  
William Heise '55  
Lucy Kavanaugh '21  
Evan Lawrence '68  
David MacAllaster '73  
Sasha Mack '05  
Susan Maklari '90  
Max Martone '09  
Dylan McCormick '16  
Lily Panagos '19  
Lola Panagos '17  
Lucy Panagos '16  
Krissy Ponden '95  
Carolyn Gaines Ruckle '53  
Olivia Seymour '14  
Madeline Shantz '19  
William Shelton '55  
Rev. Cecily Stoddard Stranahan '47  
Lee Streett '51  
John Richard Turner '48

### COMPANIES & FOUNDATIONS

American Online Giving Foundation  
Goldman Sachs  
Google  
John and Sarah Freeman Foundation  
Lotty Family Foundation  
Nor' Easter Foundation-  
(Henry duPont '81)  
Nueberger Berman  
Polen Capital

**IN KIND**

Academy Camps  
 Adriana Liberatore  
 Alina's Cakes and Cookies  
 Attitude Dance & Activewear  
 Auction Packages  
 Barbara Holzer  
 BarkBox  
 Be Chocolat  
 Bedgear  
 Bojana Jankovic Weatherly  
 Brendan Muldowney  
 Bridgett diBonaventura  
 Broadway Bootcamp  
 Cheryl Cronin  
 Chris Capelle  
 Code Ninja  
 Colony Grill  
 Dog Gone Smart  
 Downtown Cabaret Theatre  
 Doyle Family  
 D'Valda & Sirico Dance and Music Centre  
 E4 Chess Acaedmy  
 Element50  
 Elicit Brewing Co  
 Eric W. Steindel, PGA  
 Evanko Family  
 Eyecare Associates P.C.  
 Fairfield Family Health  
 Fairfield Tennis  
 Fairfield Theatre Company  
 Fairfield University  
 FS8  
 Garelick & Herbs  
 Grit Ninja Norwalk

Gruel Britannia  
 Hair  
 Hartford Wolf Pack  
 Heal Spa- Skin by Kataryna  
 Holistic Skin Wellness by Donna  
 Hugh and Grace  
 Huntington Learning Center  
 Jacqueline and Jonathan Shahrabani  
 Jennifer Butler  
 Jinny Casey  
 Jo Toolan  
 Kasson Jewelers  
 Kwame' Henry Jones  
 Legoland  
 Levitt Pavilion  
 Little Pub  
 May Wong  
 Mecha Noodle Bar  
 Megan and Larry Foley  
 Modern Dermatology  
 Mystic Aquarium  
 Nails by Alena  
 Ocean Club Hotel  
 Optimal Sports Therapy and Wellness  
 Orangetheory  
 Oriental Arts Kempo  
 Park City Music Hall  
 Party Harty  
 Physical Synergy  
 Purple Deer Music  
 Retreat Sweets  
 Robin Pompa  
 Rosie  
 RPM  
 Salko Farm & The Equine Academy

Salon Marlene  
 Sara Robbin  
 Saugatuck Rowing Club  
 School of Rock  
 SDSS Martial Arts of Fairfield  
 Soccer and Rugby Imports  
 Sound Coffee  
 Sports Center of Connecticut  
 Studio at Penny Lane  
 Sugar Beach, a Viceroy Hotel  
 Sugi Accupressure  
 Surfside Hotel  
 Susan And Tom Lenci  
 The Adventure Park at Discovery Museum  
 The Brow & Some  
 The Connecticut Audubon Society  
 The Doyle Family  
 The Holzer Family  
 The Howe Family  
 The Rojas-Restrepo Family and Areion  
 Global  
 The Ruggieri Family  
 The Studio Fairfield  
 The Two-Oh-Three  
 The Winkelmann Family and Winvian  
 Farms  
 Tieks by Gavrieli  
 Trek  
 Vineyard Vines  
 Westport Country Playhouse  
 Wine and Cheese Spa  
 Wings Over Water  
 Wonderland of Ice  
 Wondrous Roots  
 Woodstock Inn & Resort

**GRANDPARENTS .....IN HONOR OF**

Elizabeth Soler.....Nerushka Lopez Aponte '25  
 Norma Castro.....Ethan Perez '25  
 Beverly Frank.....Max Deren '27 (Grade 7)  
 William and Joan Grabe.....Derek Grabe '14, Nicole Grabe '11  
 Grace Halloran.....Caitlyn Lawlor '27 (Grade 7)  
 Constance Lane and James McClellan.....Jojo Williamson '32 (Grade 2)  
 Catherine Mathis.....Blythe Tien '30 (Grade 4)  
 Patricia O'Hara.....Olivia Weatherly '26 (Grade 8)  
 Anna Panagos-Chandler.....Lily Panagos '19, Lola Panagos '17, Lucy Panagos '16  
 Mary Jo Scott.....Alex Renzulli '21, Samantha Renzulli '18  
 Alice Stokes.....Steele Malkin '23  
 Yei Lung and Ying Lan Tien.....Blythe Tien '30 (Grade 4)  
 Karen Tripoli.....Henry Clark '28 (Grade 6)  
 Elizabeth Wasitynski.....Aleksandra Wesson '25  
 Lucinda White and Thomas Kelley.....Graham Kelley '28 (Grade 6)  
 Chester Williamson.....Jojo Williamson '32 (Grade 2)  
 Judy Williamson.....Jojo Williamson '32 (Grade 2)  
 Brebbia Family Fund.....Matteo Brebbia ' 24, Lucia Brebbia ' 27  
 John and Sarah Freeman Foundation..... Addie Mulvehill '24 , Eleanor '26 (Grade 7),  
 Charlotte '28 (Grade 5), Maeve '31 (Grade 2)

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## 2025-2026 UNQUOWA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

JOAN PANAGOS - President • PAUL GREENBERG - Vice President • KARL MARTONE - Treasurer • HEATHER WINKELMANN - Secretary  
BARBARA HOLZER • ANTHONY VENDITTO • ALEXANDER THOMSON • JACQUELINE NELSON • LAUREN COAKLEY VINCENT  
HILARY TANNER • ALISON ROBERTS • ROBIN POMPA • NICK ALEXANDER • TRISHA DOYLE • JENAH YEUNG  
MELODY WATERHOUSE • BRANDON CLARK • ALISON SMITH \* ALAN STECKLER

\*not in photo

## *Unquowa Parents' Association ~*

During the 2024-2025 school year, parent volunteers in the Unquowa Parents' Association came together to raise funds to support their children's school while promoting events and activities to strengthen the connections among our students, families and faculty.

Their extraordinarily successful fundraising efforts supported both traditions and innovation, and impacted every child and every classroom.

Funds raised by the UPA helped to underwrite a wide range of activities and events throughout the year - Winterfest, spring musicals, teacher appreciation, commencement, yearbooks for every student, custom sweatshirts for 8th grade & much more.

A Giving Tree Challenge from the Board of Governors at the Spring Gala & Auction raised an additional \$39,380 for financial aid.

**Total UPA Net Profits July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 - \$114,736**

**Unquowa Social Club Wine Event.....\$1,660**

**Celebrate Unquowa Gala & Auction.....\$126,374**

**Gator Goods Gift Shop.....\$1,383**

*The Future is in Our Care*



Unquowa's founding  
Headmistress,  
Virginia Birdsall  
(second from left)  
with the school's  
first faculty in 1917.

## *The Unquowa School Endowment ~*

**Total as of June 30, 2025 - \$2,648,815**

When Unquowa celebrated its first 100 years during the 2017-18 school year, the Board launched the *Second Century Campaign for Endowment* in an effort to dramatically strengthen the school's financial foundation.

A strong endowment is vital to every independent school. Endowment funds, some of which are restricted, are carefully invested so that a portion of earnings each year will provide critical resources to the school and its students.

A healthy endowment protects against the potential impact of future market or enrollment fluctuations and ensures unwavering support for curriculum, innovative programming, financial aid commitments and faculty.

### **NAMED ENDOWMENT FUNDS AT UNQUOWA**

***Created with endowment gifts of \$25,000 or more***

Proceeds from family funds may be directed by the donor towards an area of interest at the school or may be unrestricted for the school's leadership to determine where they are needed most.

We are so grateful to these donors who have already established Named Funds in Unquowa's endowment.

- ~ **The Brewer and Beach Family Fund**
- ~ **Friends of Maria Taylor Fund**
- ~ **The Alan '53 and Arthur '54 Kornblut Endowed Fund for Tuition Support**
- ~ **The Russo Family Fund**
- ~ **The Jean Carpenter Winton '34 Endowment Fund**

*The Future is in Our Care*

## *Legacy Giving Society ~*

Our celebration of The Unquowa School's first 100 years was a chance to look back... and to look ahead.

As alumni, parents, grandparents and faculty came together to mark this historic milestone, we had both the opportunity and responsibility to launch Unquowa's second century from a position of financial strength.

Established in 2012, Unquowa's *Carl Churchill Legacy Giving Society* is named for headmaster Carl Churchill, whose twenty year' tenure shaped the early years of Unquowa's history and laid the firm foundation for its progressive philosophy.

Legacy giving offers a unique level of long-term security that strengthens Unquowa's financial foundation for the future. As with all giving to the school, donors have the option of directing a legacy gift towards an area at the school that they are passionate about or leaving it unrestricted for the school's leadership to determine where it is needed most.

We are so grateful to these dedicated families who have made a bequest to Unquowa in their wills or whose family has established a legacy gift in their name to support the school for years to come. Please let us know if you have made a bequest to Unquowa so that we can thank you and recognize you as a member of the *Carl Churchill Legacy Giving Society*.

- ~ **Steve Aikenhead, '54**
- ~ **Georgiana Brewer Beach, \* '26**
- ~ **Kate and Sandy Haviland, Charlie '10, Grace '13**
- ~ **Craig Knebel, \* former faculty**
- ~ **Bruce G. Lockhart, \* '48**
- ~ **Norman Morse, \* '33**
- ~ **Joan and Steve Panagos, Lucy '16, Lola '17, Lily '19**
- ~ **Ruth Powell, \* former faculty**
- ~ **Carolyn Gaines Ruckle, '53**
- ~ **Jean Carpenter Winton, \* '34** *\*deceased*



A variety of legacy giving methods are available at Unquowa and each offers a different path that can be taken to support the school while providing possible tax and inheritance benefits to the donor and their family. Since the school is not in a position to provide financial advice, if you are considering making a planned legacy gift, we strongly urge you to discuss these options with your financial advisor.

Together we are making Unquowa stronger for the students who are here now and for those who will join the Unquowa family in the future. On behalf of all of them, thank you.

To learn more, visit the Giving section of the school's website or contact Janice Cerone in the Business Office at 203-362-2561 or [janice.cerone@unquowa.org](mailto:janice.cerone@unquowa.org).

*We have carefully reviewed the names listed in this report but recognize that errors may still occur.  
Please accept our sincere apology if your name has been omitted, misspelled or incorrectly listed.*

*So we may correct our records, please notify:*

*Hans Richter, Director of Development at [hans.richter@unquowa.org](mailto:hans.richter@unquowa.org)*

*The Future is in Our Care*