



The Pennfield School



Joy • Understanding • Respect

The Spirit

VOLUME XVIII, NUMBER 1

FALL 2009

SCHOOL NEWS, INFORMATION AND EVENTS



Message from the Head of School

Over the summer, teams of faculty and administrators (led by *Mattie Edwards-Kemp* our Curriculum Coordinator and purveyor

of snacks!) met to discuss how Pennfield School “differs” from other Aquidneck Island schools today and what those “points of differentiation” might look like in a year or two. These conversations — particularly about Mission driven curricular initiatives — produced some fascinating results and, not surprisingly, affirmed what the faculty does each and every day.

Much of the focus of our summer faculty meetings centered on our 19-acre campus, the surrounding Aquidneck Land Trust protected properties, and historical sites in Newport County, like Touro Synagogue and Trinity Church. Already, Lower School classes explored the Sakonnet Greenway Trail for English and Art projects, Pre-Kindergarteners and Seventh Graders harvested the student garden behind Bistline House and prepared it for the winter months, and Sixth Graders counted marigold seeds for a special math project. Those activities are just the beginning —our students are out and about at Pennfield!

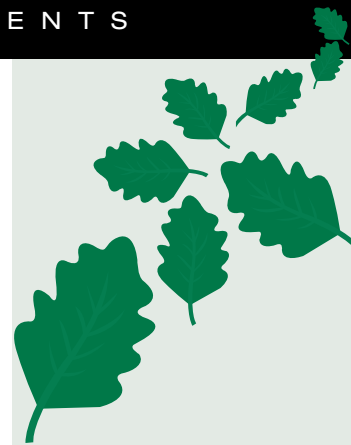
Parent volunteerism remains as vibrant (*and important!*) as ever. Thanks to “The Three Toms” and scores of assistants, the garage across from the Third Grade room is now a wonderful

space for student exploration. Many thanks to Peter Mottur for the donation of a saltwater tank, teaming with local fish, which is our newest addition to the library. Hot lunch, healthier now more than ever, continues to expand, thanks to efforts of the PSA. I love seeing parents in and around school.

Pennfield School has remained true to its mission to engage students individually, to challenge our students to strive for ever-expanding academic, artistic and athletic goals, to consistently treat each other with kindness and respect, and to find joy in learning. One of the most important litmus tests that I use to identify great schools is an overly objective, unscientific measurement, The Happiness Factor. Are students smiling? Do they play nicely together? Do faculty and students work well together? In my 24 years of teaching in independent schools, Pennfield School stands out. Students at Pennfield love school!

Like our current parents who stay connected with the ebb and flow of their children’s experience at Pennfield, I encourage our former parents, former Trustees and alumni to stop by and have a look at **your** school. I’d love to show you the smiling faces of our students.

Rob Kelley, *Head of School*



Upcoming Events:

Holiday Book and Toy Fair
Thursday, December 3
&
Friday, December 4
8 am – 6 pm

Winter Concert
Thursday, December 17
11 am – noon

Holiday Alumni Party
Wednesday, December 23
7 pm – 8 pm
Gas Lamp Grille

Ski/Snowboard Club
Fridays, January 8 —
February 26

Parent Appreciation Evening
Saturday, January 30
6 pm



2009-2010

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The Pennfield School Mission

The mission of The Pennfield School is to create an inclusive community of dedicated learners, where students are given a foundation and appreciation for the joyful pursuit of understanding, while fostering respect for oneself and others as a way of life.

The Pennfield School Core Values

- We are committed to creating an environment in which everyone is treated with kindness and respect.
- We are committed to being a joyful place, where students learn by example: the importance of honesty, integrity, generosity and humor.
- We are committed to providing a challenging and balanced curriculum, enabling our students to succeed at a wide variety of secondary schools and beyond.
- We are committed to fostering a strong partnership between faculty, students and parents.
- We are committed to creating an inclusive culture that is diverse in make-up, is tolerant and accepting, and helps develop a strong sense of social and community responsibility.
- We are committed to embracing the uniqueness of every member of our community and providing the individual attention needed to help each student's talents unfold.
- We are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment in which students are encouraged to take academic, artistic and athletic risks.

The Momentum That Guides Us...

Mattie Edwards-Kemp, Curriculum Coordinator

During the summer, a brain-trust of twenty faculty and staff met for three full days of brainstorming and planning. The charge was to distill the essence of the School's mission into an action plan that would generate some new and exciting school-wide initiatives. These initiatives were designed to energize the existing curriculum and engage an inquisitive student body.

With this groundwork in place from the summer, we harnessed the momentum as we started the new academic year. Pennfield students are eating healthier snacks, using the new bike rack, harvesting vegetables and donating resources to local food pantries. Our students can attest to the excitement of the newly expanded Buddy Program, the productivity of the Bistline Garden, and the beauty of the Sakonnet Greenway Trail. Through these encounters, Pennfield students, from oldest to youngest, are coming together as part of the school community and forming new friendships.

As these initiatives continue to bear fruit, we look forward to a stronger partnership with the Aquidneck Land Trust, student-written winter poetry, and scenic campus paintings. Historic Newport and the surrounding community will become an extension of the classroom, as students learn about the impact of religious tolerance on the development of the city.

The momentum continues...

Growing Minds

Betsy Dickinson, Head of Upper School

Our 2009 Bistline Garden vegetable harvest of 167 carrots, 15 heads of cabbage and 5 bunches of celery was donated to the the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. Pennfield's current Eighth Graders chose and grew these vegetables as part of their plant structure and function science curriculum studies in the spring term. This year's Seventh Grade students are eager to take advantage of Aquidneck Island's early first frost for the planting of garlic and bedding down our Bistline Garden during the winter months. As part of the math curriculum in the Upper School, Sixth Grade collected and dried marigold seeds. Using data analysis, new software programs, marketing





ABOVE & LEFT: Pre-Kindergarten students decked in rubber boots and gloves, along with eager Seventh Graders under the leadership of Judy Hall and Betsy Dickinson, harvested, cleaned and packaged crops on a spectacular fall day!

and advertising strategies and financial planning, they will package and sell their seeds as well as grow and sell marigold seedlings at our annual MayFair. Pre-Kindergarten students are eager to dig their hands into the dirt as part of their year-long exploration of plants and gardens. Keep an eye out for more garden projects here on Little Slocum Farm!



The Newly Expanded Buddy Program

Debbie Bartlett, Head of Lower School

What do a Second Grader and a Seventh Grader have in common? Through Pennfield's new Buddy Program students are making connections with other classmates in the School and discovering how much fun having a buddy can be!

At the beginning of the year, each Lower School class was paired with an Upper School class to be Buddies for the year. Time was built into the schedule for the classes to meet so that students could become acquainted, plan projects together, and learn how they might help one another in other ways. Students



TOP & ABOVE: Grade Six students spend quality time with their Kindergarten and Grade I buddies.

formally meet with their Buddies twice a month, but the program has become so popular, that students are finding time to make connections at other times, such as sitting together during morning assembly.

Our first gathering was held in September with the students and teachers using their first session for planning/brainstorming. We've since had two more meetings during October with most of the students creating projects with a Halloween theme. We're going to use our November meetings to discuss Thanksgiving with some of the Buddy teams preparing special presentations for the whole school. Many service projects were also discussed for Buddies to perform together as we head into the holiday season.

The connections that have already been made between the students of different ages in the Buddy program have been truly remarkable. We're looking forward to this becoming a permanent part of the Pennfield experience.

Alton Jones Fall Retreat

Dana Reed, Lower School and Class VI Science

This past September, the Fourth and Fifth Grade made their annual migration to the W. Alton Jones campus. We spent three days and two nights there with beautiful weather. While at W. Alton Jones, students participated in many different classes. They studied wetland and wildlife ecology, early American history, participated in an egg drop contest, and gained basic outdoor skills. Students learned about the night sky, sang songs, watched skits around a campfire and went on a night hike.

Students participated in group-building activities with their field groups. The highlight of the trip each year is a two-hour game of Predator/Prey, where students become immersed in a simulated wildlife food chain. Students, teachers, and chaperones always have such a fun time on this trip. It's one I look forward to every year.



Fourth and Fifth Grade students watched skits around the campfire and enjoyed a hike — outdoor education at its finest!



Another Glorious Upper School Trip

Mathew Bottone, Director of Student Life

Seventy-five Upper School students journeyed to Camp Chewonki in Wiscasset, Maine in September for our annual fall trip. The weather was tremendous – even better than the excellent conditions during our last visit two years ago – as our students camped, cooked, ate, and bonded together in the outdoors. As Betsy Dickinson, Head of the Upper School, noted,

“Listening to the evening and morning chatter by the campfire, watching the children chopping wood, making meals, washing dishes, and viewing the stars together by night was truly inspirational.” Chewonki’s experienced staff of instructors provided the students with a diverse set of team-building exercises and many opportunities for group and individual leadership development. Learning to problem solve and work as a cohesive team is one of the most valuable lessons that the fall trip affords Pennfield’s students, and this year was no exception.

Chewonki has redesigned and renovated many of their signature activities during the past year; our Eighth Grade students enjoyed the challenges of the barn’s indoor high ropes course, the Seventh Grade students all successfully completed the adrenaline pumping, zip-line traverse, and the Sixth Grade went canoeing. Many of our students also took advantage of the sunny weather to swim and frolic in the chilly water and we closed out our second night with a rousing fireside gathering of the entire Upper School. Always a wonderful group bonding experience, this year’s fall trip was no exception – perhaps even the most successful in recent memory.



Grade Eight students at work and at leisure.

Fish Tank

Through the generous donations of a handful of parents, Peter Mottur, Board Member and Parent of Abigail '14 and Charlie '17, spearheaded an amazing display. In our library you will now see a ninety-gallon fish tank filled with many interesting sea creatures, all collected from Narragansett Bay. Hidden among the rocks you can find sculp, black sea bass, a cunner and a tautog. There are a number of invertebrates as well, including sea stars, mussels, periwinkles, and even a scallop!

The Sixth Grade class is currently studying oceans. The tank fits in wonderfully with our curriculum. Students are responsible for maintaining the tank and its inhabitants. The students take turns daily feeding, testing water, and monitoring the filtration systems. It provides the Pennfield community with an up close view of some amazing organisms. Stop by and check it out!



Where do the Children Play?

On Wednesday, October 21st, the Pennfield Athletic Department in conjunction with the Providence Children's Museum presented a free viewing and panel discussion of *Where do the Children Play?*

Where Do the Children Play? — a one-hour docu-

mentary for public television — examines how restrictive patterns of sprawl, congestion, and endless suburban development across America are impacting children's mental and physical health and development.

The importance of play in our society today is being severely under-valued. Play can take many forms and the deprivation of play affects mental and physical health, as well as cognitive and social capabilities. The benefits are obvious and creativity develops through being able to play on many levels.

Thirty parents, teachers and members of the community turned out to watch the documentary and take part in a discussion with panel members. Panel members included Janice O'Donnell, Executive Director of the Providence Children's Museum, Andy Arkway, Stewardship Director, Aquidneck Land Trust, Rob Cardeiro, Executive Director, Norman Bird Sanctuary, Dr. Elizabeth Lange, President, Rhode Island American Academy of Pediatrics and Will Glennon, Pennfield's Athletic Director.

Topics bounced from recess time to unstructured play dates to city verses rural living. Nearly everyone had an opportunity to speak and take part in the engaging discussion.

Tar Wars

Each spring, Grade 5 students design anti-tobacco posters as part of its curriculum and in support of the Tar Wars campaign. Tar Wars is a national tobacco prevention program that brings physicians and health care providers into schools to teach students about how tobacco affects the body and how advertisements influence people. The Pennfield community was delighted when Olivia Houston, daughter of Jeffrey '77 and Karen Houston, was selected as the state winner with her poster. In July, Olivia and her parents traveled to Washington, DC to represent Rhode Island in the national competition.

In Washington, Olivia attended several workshops geared toward educating young people about the physical, social and economic damage of tobacco. Olivia was shocked to learn that the tobacco companies have a long history of using flavors and bright packaging to attract children to their products. She enjoyed the exposure to many different fields of science during her visit to the Capitol, in addition to meeting students from all over the country. *Congratulations to Olivia, who brought home an Honorable Mention and served her community well!*



Olivia Houston, with her winning poster.



A Special Thanks to "The Three Toms!"

Beginning last year, a group of parents—with the School's blessing—set out to turn a rather "worn" garage on campus into clean student work and experiment space. While scores of volunteers provided plenty of sweat equity for this project, the tenacity, skill and generosity of "The Three Toms" enabled a vision to become a reality. The formal dedication of this space will take place in January, 2010. Stay tuned for details.

ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT: Tom Settle (wife, Vickie, Logan '13 and Zachary '12), Tom Fantès (wife, Jackie, Megan '10), Tom Bandoni (wife, Christine, Luc '11, Alex '08 at PCD)



PHOTO BY CLOUD HOWARD



Commencement Welcome

*Christine Bandoni, Chair,
Board of Trustees*

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I'd like to welcome all of you to Commencement for the graduating Class of 2009. Welcome parents, grandparents, family, friends, faculty and alumni (especially my daughter).

Since my daughter was in the graduating Class of 2008, I was inspired to say something of which I had written when our re-enrollment contracts went out this year. I reflected on how well our students are prepared for the next step our graduates are about to take.

When our family came to Pennfield 12 years ago, I had heard about the School through friends. The comment I remember from the family was that Pennfield is a great school, academically challenging and, at the same time, like a family. I didn't really understand how this was going to translate for our family but, after my first visit, I felt this was the right place for our children. As I got to know families at the school, the common remark made by families whose children were graduating was, "Our children are so prepared when they leave Pennfield." Now I am one of those parents who can confidently say that my daughter was very prepared when she entered high school last fall.

There are so many opinions out there about education, how to do it, what to teach, class size, etc. I am by no means an expert in this field— we leave that role to our Head of School and faculty. However, when I read about this topic, which I frequently do, there is lots of research about why children do well in school (regular family meals together is one factor). From the school side of things, children perform better when they feel cared about and connected to their teacher, coach and/or advisor. Education goes beyond just showing for up lessons. I have seen examples of that at Pennfield for years. This year our students wrote heartfelt sentiments to their teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

One Kindergarden student wrote, "I love you, because you love me back." To me, this says that our faculty is beyond compare.

I was recently reading a 2004 NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools) article, *Values Added – The Lifelong Return of an Independent Education*. It speaks about how, as parents, we seek exceptional schools for our children – schools with excellent teachers and strong academic commitment, and schools that are rich in values. The article highlighted that the best education is a values added experience. A values added education provides a structured, nurturing environment where young people learn not only reading, math and science, but also the importance of hard work, leadership, personal responsibility and good citizenship. There are numerous opportunities for a values added experience at Pennfield; for example, Student Council, The Oak Society, Athletics, Community Service, Spanish Honor Society, Mock Trial and in-house tutoring for math and Spanish. In addition to all of the academic vigor our students experience, they also learn the value of cooperation, the importance of reaching beyond themselves, and the value of building relationships with fellow students and trusted adults. The Pennfield faculty get to know our children as a whole, not just how a math assignment is completed. This is a very important factor that sets independent education, like Pennfield's, apart.

I read recently a quote by Albert Einstein which said, "It's not important what you know, it's who you become." Don't get me wrong, I believe that our students need to know a lot. The point that I wish to make is that our children at Pennfield know plenty and they will continue to need that knowledge. However, they also know how to work with others and to be part of a team. They will become wonderful young adults who will make contributions to our society. All of these qualities are nurtured within this school community – by our faculty and staff, in and out of the classroom, each and every day. Pennfield's faculty are what makes our school special, and it is they who have ensured that this Class of 2009 is well prepared for their next step.

2009 Awards

Coaches Award

Kelley Nicole Oliveira & Brian Michael LeMeur

Faculty Cup

Hailey Sabina Novis

The Isabelle H. Penny Award in English

Brian Michael LeMeur

The Pennfield School Association Spirit Award

Kelley Nicole Oliveira

John R. Pedrick Award

Tyler James Simmons

Eric W. Lawrence Art Prize

Nicolas Cyril DeLuca-Verley

Williams College Book Prize

Nicholas Bradford Rommel

The Redwood Library and Athenaeum Prize in History

Gunnar Paul Rice

Distinguished Alumni Award

Matthew C. Reeber, Class of 1993

Matt earned his J.D. in 2006 from Tulane University Law School in New Orleans, LA. In addition to his law degree, he also received the distinguished Admiralty Certificate which is recognized as a global discipline involving all aspects of the world's maritime industry, including contracts, negotiable instruments, environmental law, insurance law, torts and international law. Matt is admitted to practice law in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. He received his undergraduate degree in American Studies and History, cum laude from Colby College. Matt graduated from Portsmouth Abbey School in 1997 and most importantly, he is a Pennfield graduate, Class of 1993.

2009 Graduate Secondary Schools

Bishop Hendricken High School	Phillips Andover, MA
Lasalle Academy	Portsmouth Abbey School (6)
Lawrenceville Academy, NJ	Portsmouth High School
Lincoln School	Providence Country Day
Middletown High School	Rocky Hill School (3)
Middlesex School, MA	Rogers High School
Moses Brown School (2)	St. Andrew's School
North Kingston High School	St. George's School



The Commencement Address

Matthew Reeber '93

I am here speaking to you today, the Class of 2009, because I was in those same chairs 16 years ago as a member of the Pennfield Class of 1993. The purpose of my being here is to talk about where you are going (*high school and college and thereafter*) and where you have been (*Pennfield*). I remember sitting in the auditorium during my graduation and my concern was “what’s next”. I’ll address that a little later in this speech.

But first, let’s talk about where you have been. What are the benefits of your Pennfield education that you should take forward with you next year and beyond? When I look back on my experiences at Pennfield, there are a couple of traits that I have identified that helped in later stages of my life and continue to help me today.

Number 1: Analytical thinking

By analytical thinking, I mean taking the lessons that you learn in the classroom and then applying them to life. The analytical thinking that you have been taught at Penfield is seeped in creativity.

Let me give you an example from my time here. When I was in Seventh Grade, the Eighth Grade class, Class of 1992, had a monopoly on the student government. That class consisted of four students. My class had ten students, and we thought it was completely unfair that these four students had all the power on student government.

At the time, we were studying the American Revolution in History and specifically the Declaration of Independence. So one recess, we holed up in a classroom in the old school building and copied the Declaration of Independence from our text book and changed any reference to King George to the Eighth Graders. We made copies of that document, signed our John Hancocks, and then left it for the faculty and the rest of the Upper School. Instead of putting this teenage revolt down, the faculty allowed us, the Seventh Graders, to have our own government. We had our own faculty advisor, Seventh Grade bake sales and sponsored dances.

That was analytical thinking (*take the history lesson and apply it to our problem with the student government*). You have been fortunate to attend a school that fosters such creativity in thought. Going forward, it is my strong advice that you continue to develop this trait. I am presently a lawyer. My job consists of analytical thought, the same skill taught to me at Pennfield 16 years ago is how I make my living.

Number 2: Respect all types of knowledge

I know that you, as students of Pennfield, have been exposed to music, art, history, science, math, English and language. Make a promise to yourself that you will continue to develop a broad base of knowledge.

When I was a student at Pennfield, I took art, music and even sang in the choir. After I left, I never had another opportunity to take a music class but I took a year’s worth of Art History in high school and a semester’s worth of Film in college. In other words, it is going to fall on your

— continued on page 11

In this edition of The Spirit, we will check in on two former Coaches Award recipients and take a peak into where they have gone and what they have been accomplishing since leaving Pennfield.

P E N N F I E L D A T H L E T I C S :

Where Are They Now?

Will Glennon, Athletic Director

In the spring of 2007, Marisa Morgera (along with Adam Crimmins) was awarded what is now known as the Lynne Eagles Coaches Award. During her years playing soccer, basketball, and lacrosse for Pennfield, Marisa exemplified the unique qualities we look for when bestowing this honor - teamwork, a strong work ethic, enthusiasm, sportsmanship, individual growth, leadership, commitment, unselfishness, and a positive attitude.



Marisa Morgera

Following her successes at Pennfield, Marisa enrolled at the Prout School in Wakefield. Presently a junior, Marisa has become one of the state's premier lacrosse players. According to statistics from the Providence Journal, as a sophomore midfielder this past spring, Marisa scored 38 goals and assisted on 21 others and was named to the 2009 Providence Journal's All-State Lacrosse Team. Morgera's strong play in the games most demanding position helped lead her Prout Crusaders to both a regular season 11-1 record and league title. During the Division II girl's lacrosse state championship game against Bay View, her efforts culminated in scoring 3 goals. Marisa, along with the goalie, were named co-MVP's leading the Prout squad to its second Division II State Title in three years. In addition to lacrosse, Marisa continues to play soccer, basketball and is an honor

roll student. She shares that her favorite achievement of the past school year was winning the State Championship. "What contributes to her success is her dedication and passion for sports," said lacrosse coach, Laura Briggs.

In 2005, another outstanding athlete, Ian Deveau, graduated from Pennfield and matriculated at Moses Brown. When asked if Pennfield prepared Ian for high school and beyond, he replied, "Pennfield definitely prepared me well for Moses Brown and beyond academically. The transition from middle school to high school to college has been a smooth one."

This past spring, Ian led the Moses Brown Quakers to the lacrosse State Championship during MB's first lacrosse season in the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. Ian's senior year at Moses Brown was an especially successful one in the athletic arena. He played on two State Championship Teams, basketball and lacrosse. In lacrosse, Deveau scored 42 goals and assisted on 36 others leading the Quakers to the State Championship and was named to the 2009 Providence Journal All-State



Ian Deveau

Boys Lacrosse Team, as well as an All-American by US Lacrosse. In the State Championship game, Ian scored a little over one minute into the contest and helped the team jump out to a 6-2 lead at halftime. He later added another goal in a game where the opposing team set out to stop his abilities on the field. As a basketball player, Deveau played on back-to-back championship teams scoring 8.4 points, 2.4 rebounds and 1.4 assists per game his senior year.

For students at Pennfield looking to continue athletics in high school and possibly college, Ian has three suggestions. First, never forget why you started playing sports in the first place. It's meant to be fun. Competing is fun. If you forget this, there is no point in playing. Secondly, you should want to be the best and work to be the best. Commit yourself. Lastly, to use a classic quote, "Perfect practice, makes perfect." Ian has now begun his collegiate lacrosse career at Colby College in Waterville, Maine and will be using his lacrosse skills at the next level. As a senior at Moses Brown, Deveau was regarded as possibly the best lacrosse player in Rhode Island.

Past and Present:

An Evening Sharing Our School's History

On October 28th, Trustees from "three eras" gathered to reconnect and hear about the School's future — *Mary Weaver*

The tall bright red-trimmed windows in the spacious Pennfield School library at Little Slocum Farm provided the perfect backdrop for Anna Tillinghast, our school's first Board of Trustees Chair, as she remarked on, "How did this school come to be?" Anna's soft-spoken tone belied the tenacity and sheer determination that she, founding Head of School Father Cranston, and 65 engaged and insightful families, had to muster to make what they named The New School, into a reality. It was 1971, and Anna recalled, "At the New School, my children learned that school was more than pushing and pulling and finding ways to earn friends and survive the day. It was a place where children's curiosity soared. They learned that to study was to learn interesting things—how things work—and how they came to be. Our children *liked* going to school!" For 33 years, The New School, which was renamed The Pennfield School in 1993, with its indefatigable Board and parent volunteers moved from one building to the next, all the while upholding a rigorous academic standard and an atmosphere of making learning fun.

The evening's next speaker, 4-year Chair and 10-year Board of Trustees veteran, Mark Bistline, shared how he and his fellow Board members took on the daunting charge of the Tillinghast Board—to find a permanent home for The Pennfield School. His story and Tillinghast's shared a similar spirit of vision, cooperation, patience and a never-give-up attitude when faced with seemingly insurmountable obstacles. For two long and

exhausting years after discovering the ideal Little Slocum Farm property Bistline and his Board, along with countless volunteers and benefactors, worked tirelessly to make it Pennfield's new campus. Head of School at that time, John Pedrick, provided consistent urging and never-ending support to their efforts. Although not able to attend the evening's festivities, Mr. Pedrick's creativity brought his message to the room full of past and present Board members in the form of a specially delivered DVD. Starring John, his wife Nancy, their granddaughter, Samantha, and 3 dogs, the home movie featured John congratulating folks for their efforts in making the Little Slocum Farm Pennfield's permanent home. Mr. Pedrick noted that since his retirement, he and Nancy volunteer much of their free time at a local animal shelter. Both John and Nancy have a newly found appreciation for all of the volunteer hours the Board, parents, friends of the School and others gladly put in, all the while raising families *and* holding down jobs!

During the evening, Current Head of School, Rob Kelley, provided the audience with a taste of many of the new and exciting school initiatives that fully integrate the spectacular 19.8-acre Little Slocum Farm property into the curriculum, athletic activities and daily life of the community. Current Board Chair, Christine Bandoni, closed the program with gratitude to all of the school's past Trustees and a promise that she and her fellow Board members will move forward with the same resolve to continue making The Pennfield School the prominent independent Nursery - Eighth Grade school in the region.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:
Mark Bistline and
Tony Simpson

Tot Wright, Dick
Grosvenor and
Tenley van der Wal

Margot Grosvenor and
Jocelyn Sherman

Anna Tillinghast and
Rob Kelley



ABOVE: June Gibbs and Rob Cardeiro

LEFT: Dale Rheault and Julie Brigidi

Alumni News...

Shaelyn Smith, Class of 2024 at four months old, daughter of Ryan and **Ashleigh (Bartlett) Smith '93** (Grade 1 teacher) and granddaughter of Scott and Debbie Bartlett (Head of the Lower School and Grade 2 teacher).

Dan Freese '95 shared with us the wonderful news of his marriage on September 5th to Elizabeth Schiller at Oceancliff in Newport. It was a wonderful fall celebration!

Sara Bradley '98 wed Gary Wright on Saturday, October 10th, in Vermont. Sara's mother, Polly, taught in the Primary Department at The Pennfield School from 1996-2002, and her father, Bill, served on The Board of Trustees 1993-1998 and as Board Treasurer. According to Frank Spinella whose family attended the event, "The weekend was glorious with hiking Friday afternoon up Killington Mountain for a group photo. Saturday afternoon at the Summit Lodge, the temperature was absolutely crisp as the colors of fall were at peak. The outdoor ceremony featured a speech from Bill that had the crowd of family and friends laughing and crying. A celebration followed at the Long Trail Brewery." We send our best to Sara and Gary!



Shaelyn Smith



ABOVE:
Sara and Gary
Wright



LEFT:
Bill Bradley
with the bride.

To all Alumni: Please send your news to Polly Meadows at pmeadows@pennfield.org. The next issue of *The Spirit* will be published in the Spring, so please forward photos and updates. We love hearing from you!



IN MEMORIAM

Commander Hugh Moore

Commander Hugh Moore, former faculty member at the New School and grandparent of Neil in 6th grade, died on September 11, 2009. His meritorious service in the Navy, at The New School, and in the sailing community will be dearly missed. The picture above was taken in 1995 during Barbara (also a former New School faculty member) and Hugh's 50th wedding anniversary, with Father Cranston giving a blessing."

ALUMNA IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Selena Elmer

Selena Elmer, Class of 2004, is in her second year as a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina.

As a Morehead Scholar, Selena has had the opportunity to engage in educationally challenging and incredibly rewarding experiences. This past summer, Selena spent eight weeks in Tanzania with the Global Service Corporation. She provided agricultural training to small scale farmers, providing classroom fundamentals with practical hands-on teaching. Selena taught lessons about digging, composting, and planting all with a holistic – non-pesticide – approach. Selena also assisted with educating local farmers about vaccinating chickens. Historically, 70% of chickens die annually in Tanzania due to Newcastle Disease. Part of Selena's time in the country was also spent educating farmers about keeping the vaccinations stored properly and administering the doses via an eye dropper.

In the summer of 2010, Selena looks forward to conducting international research in two different countries as part of her Morehead program. At this time, she is considering pursuing Environmental Studies with a focus in Urban or Agricultural Planning. A graduate of St. George's School, Selena is the daughter of Tad Elmer and Eleanor Howard, sister of Rachel (Class of 2001), and niece of Mollie Conklin. We look forward to hearing about Selena's experiences during the summer ahead!



Selena with friends in Tanzania, and at work with baby chicks.



The Pennfield School 2005 Graduate Secondary Schools and Colleges

Andre Cordeiro	St. Andrew's School	Bryant University
Chad Seaman	School One	Hartwick College
Erik Sandfort	Wheeler School	Connecticut College
Olivia Simone	Portsmouth Abbey School	Northeastern University
Christopher Bonneau	Providence Country Day	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Ian Deveau	Moses Brown	Colby College
Kevin Gil	Providence Country Day	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Michael Silveira	Barrington High School	Plans pending
Thomas Shorey	Portsmouth Abbey School	Fordham University
Yannai Shmerer	School One	Boston University
Allison Barker	Providence Academy (MN)	Brown University
Brittany DeMeo	Dr. Michael Krop High (FL)	Plans pending
Hailey McCall	Northfield Mount Hermon	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Hannah McQuilkin	St. George's School	University of Vermont
Karolyn Jackson	Rocky Hill	Franklin and Marshall
Leigh Archer	St. George's School	Cornell University
Margaret Johnstone	Portsmouth Abbey School	Boston University

shoulders to continue some aspects of your education. Do not take that responsibility lightly.

Let me give you an example of how I continued to develop knowledge first-learned at Pennfield.

In Eighth Grade, I wrote my final history paper on Teddy Roosevelt. Eight years later in college, I would write papers on America during the time of Roosevelt's presidency. As a graduate in 1993, I had no idea that I would be able to develop my interest in a certain period of American history to that level or write a semester's long term paper on the subject.

There are certain topics that you are going to be interested in and it's easy to continue to develop them. Remember that you may have had your last music class or you may never take Spanish again. Don't forget the lessons that you learned in those classes and try to continue as many aspects of your Pennfield education, as possible, going forward.

Now turning to where you are going.

You should have no fear, because as a graduate of Pennfield you can accomplish anything that you set as a goal. Look at my class, we have two lawyers, an educator, an actor who spent two years living in Moscow performing Shakespeare, an artist, a law enforcement officer, and even the Classifieds' Manager at the *Newport Daily News*.

Remember that you are classmates and you will always share the bond of being members of the Pennfield Class of 2009. To this day, I continue friendships started when I was a student here. When Mr. Kelley asked me to give this speech, I was preparing to take a trip to Mexico City with Bill Sherman, Class of 1993, to attend a wedding.

You have been blessed to be part of this community. Take a moment and thank your parents for sending you to this institution and your teachers for providing you with this strong base to go forward.

In closing, I would like to thank my teachers, Mr. Fudge, Mrs. Keys, Madame Howorowitz, Mrs. Day, Ms. Bistline, Mr. Pedrick and others. A special thank you to my mom who is here today and who gave me the opportunity to come to this School. With that, I wish you all the best.



Class of 1988 - Eighth Grade Year

BACK ROW FROM LEFT: Alexander Perullo, Tyler Stapleton, Kathryn Gerhard, Mrs. Penny, Sten Levin, Jay Sitton

FRONT ROW FROM LEFT: Matthew Fehmel, Brendan Farrell, Koko Maegawa, Lauren Doolittle

Class of 1996 – Taken in 1988 when the class was in Kindergarten

BACK ROW FROM LEFT: Matt Szala, John Godoy, John Pigott, Andrew DiMatteo, Andrew Gustafson, Joshua Humes

SECOND ROW FROM LEFT: Katie Meadows, Nina Maxwell, Claire Chisolm, Sarah Grosvenor, Mariam Asif, Lindsay Coyle

FRONT ROW FROM LEFT: Grant Bartlett and Jonathan Sargent



Admissions Open House & Merit Scholarship Exams

OPEN HOUSE DATES

Friday, December 11 8-10 am
Friday, January 22 8-10 am
Saturday, January 23* 9-11 am
Friday, February 5 8-10 am
Friday, March 5 8-10 am

* Saturday's Admissions program begins promptly at 9 am

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP EXAM DATES*

[For Students Entering Grade 6]

Wednesday, January 20 4-6 pm
Friday, January 22 10-noon
Saturday, January 23 10-noon

* Exam registration deadline is Friday, January 15, 2010.
One \$4,000 scholarship will be awarded. The Scholarship carries forward each year through graduation.

To RSVP for an Open House or to register for the Merit Scholarship Exam, please contact

Kathleen Burke,
Director of Admission,
401.849.4646, ext 147,
or kburke@pennfield.org

Have You Considered Making a Bequest To The Pennfield School?

Bequests have long been one of the easiest and most popular ways of supporting charities. To leave a bequest to the School, simply include the following language in your will:

I give (_____ dollars/ _____ percentage of the entire residue of my estate) to the Board of Trustees of The Pennfield School, a Rhode Island educational, charitable corporation.

As with any financial decisions, you should consult your financial advisors. If you are contemplating a gift to Pennfield, please let us know so we can ensure your gift can be used according to your directions. If you have questions about your philanthropy, please contact Head of School, Rob Kelley at 401.849.4646.



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