

The Spirit

VOLUME XXIV SUMMER 2019



In this issue

Commencement 2019 | Mindfulness Matters | Shining a Spotlight on the Arts

The Pennfield School



JOY • UNDERSTANDING • RESPECT

Little Slocum Farm
110 Sandy Point Avenue
Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871
401.849.4646 • www.pennfield.org

AN INDEPENDENT DAY SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOL (AGE 3)–EIGHTH GRADE

Mission

The mission of The Pennfield School is to create an inclusive community of dedicated learners, who have an appreciation for the joyful pursuit of knowledge — and respect for themselves and others as a way of life.

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 accepting of others, 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.

CONTENTS

2	Message from the Head of School
3	Snapshots
4	2019 Commencement
5	2019 Award Winners
6	Trash to Treasure: Recycled Runway
7	Fab Newport – Collaboration and Conflict Resolution
8	Mindfulness Matters in the Classroom
9	Becoming Global Citizens
9	Spanish Student Top Honors
10	Corporation Meeting
12	Shining a Spotlight on the Arts – Cornucopia's 27th Year
14	Hitting the Links
16	In Memoriam — B. Mitchell (Tony) Simpson Anna Tillinghast
16	Alumni News



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Fall Parents Evening
Tuesday, September 24
6 pm - 8 pm

Alumni Peek
Wednesday, October 9
8 am - 10 am

Grandparents &
Special Friends Day
Friday, October 25
9:30 am - 12 pm

Pennfield Soirée
Friday, November 1
6 pm - 8 pm

Open House
Friday, November 8
8 am - 10 am

Thanksgiving Feast
Monday, November 25
11:45 am - 1:15 pm

Open House
Friday, December 13
8 am - 10 am

Winter Concert
Thursday, December 19
11 am - 12 pm

Open House
Friday, January 24
8 am - 10 am

Lower School Play
Thursday, March 12
6 pm - 7 pm

Corporation Meeting
Thursday, April 23
6 pm - 7:30 pm



Message from the Head of School

I love what I do. I am inspired by The Pennfield School's faculty and energized by our students, whose enthusiasm is palpable. Indeed, throughout the school, the interaction between faculty and students is extraordinary. Students confidently stand tall presenting speeches during all-school assemblies, our teams play with heart and unyielding sportsmanship, the visual and performing arts remain as strong as ever, and in class students are taught core academic skills and how to apply those skills to solve problems creatively.

Monday assemblies, thanks to Pre-Kindergarten teachers Jenny Williams and Judy Hall, are "Mindful Mondays," with a collective focus on kindness. What we are experiencing right now, in this moment, is essential to mindfulness. Pennfield, as I have said time and again, fosters healthy, caring relationships today – in the moment, just as it did 48 years ago, when the school was founded.

When I slow down to reflect on the strength of our school, inevitably I am humbled by the extraordinary visionaries from the past who quite boldly created Pennfield in 1971 and have nurtured it ever since. Walking into my office there is a mini-gallery of Pennfield icons: a picture of Father John Cranston, the first head of school, portraits of Father Cranston's successor, John Pedrick, and Assistant Head of School and English teacher extraordinaire, Isabelle Penny, and a small picture of the Founding Trustees, with Anna Tillinghast, the first board chair, front and center.

In two short years, Pennfield will be celebrating a significant milestone, our 50th birthday! Children, as we all know, love parties and Pennfield has a solid tradition of sponsoring lively events! I look forward to hearing stories about "the old days" as we connect with alumni and their families. I am also at the ready to proudly boast about our faculty and how they literally live the school's mission of fostering joy, understanding, and respect in their classes.

Stay tuned.

If you haven't stopped by recently to see the school in action, our doors are always open.

Yours truly,

Rob Kelley, P'06, '08, '09, '13
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Snapshots



Opening Day of School



Orchard Run



Apple Picking with Kindergarten



Grandparents Day



8th Grade vs Faculty Basketball



Lower School Play



Rolling Tones Sing National Anthem



Golf Tournament



Bingo Night



Spirit Week



Girls on the Run



The Wedding of Q and U



Field Day



Building on a Solid Foundation

PHOTO: NADINE FLOWERS, P '19

Your Pennfield experience will lead you to success

Excerpts from Commencement speaker, Darcy O'Halloran, '02



However, this is not my first speech in this exact location. I had the honor of giving the groundbreaking speech for this amazing campus in the summer of 2002. I stood somewhere right around here with a hard hat and a golden shovel and spoke about the fantastic community this school represents and how special it would be to call this place home. That is exactly what happened. This became the home of The Pennfield School community.

I was chosen to give that speech because I was the student with the longest tenure at the time, a whopping 10 years. Glad to see there are still a few "lifers" hanging around.

Now while a lot has changed for me in the 17 years since I left Pennfield, one thing has not, and that is my size, which provided me the unique opportunity to wear my 8th grade graduation dress today. So I advise you to keep these outfits. You just never know when you'll wear them again.

Many factors have led me to be successful in my academic and professional career, the foundation of which was built at The Pennfield School by many of the same teachers that you learned from during your time here. [They] have prepared you to continue your academic success, become great leaders, and make your mark on the world.

You've all worked incredibly hard to get to where you are today. As you prepare to accept your diplomas and go on to enjoy your summer, I would like to leave you with a few pieces of advice.

Stay Curious

Pennfield is where you learn to explore, seek to understand, and dive into your creativity. Learning doesn't have to stop being fun just because you are going off to a higher level of academia. You have a tremendous foundation and have built good habits of hard work. Remember to follow the lead your Pennfield teachers have set for you and try new things in high school. Find the classes and activities that excite and energize you. Meet new people, make new friends, and keep an open mind.

Cherish This Community

Through the rest of your school career, this is most likely the smallest class you will ever have, and these people will know you best, and you will know them best. Yes, you may be going on to different schools and different places, but that doesn't mean you won't stay friends. My friends from Pennfield are still my best friends. My teachers and their kids are my best friends, and even my friends' parents are my best friends. This community of people will be here for you throughout the rest of your life. Don't be afraid to reach back at any point.

Have Fun

Have the good clean kind of fun that fuels your curiosity, builds deep relationships, and leads you to new and exciting opportunities. Given my experience, I can tell you the combination of hard work and fun truly pays off.

Congratulations Class of 2019. You did it!

A TRADITION *of* EXCELLENCE

2019 AWARD WINNERS

A Blueprint for Success Beyond Pennfield A Message from the Board Chair

Treat people with respect. True character is measured by how people treat others, not when they're being watched, but when they're not being watched.

Work hard. You are ultimately responsible for your own growth, do not shortchange yourself.

Stay curious. Immerse yourself in discovering what you love.

Like yourself. Know that if you are with the right people in your life, they will like you too.

Dream. Surround yourself with people who build you up, rather than tear you down, people who dream just like you.

Fail often and fail quickly. I have learned more from my failures than any of my successes.

Choose to show up every day and make a difference. Make your purpose to be the BEST version of you possible, to leave your mark on everyone you touch and do so with passion, conviction, and selflessness.

– THEODORE KAROUSOS, P'12, '15, '18, '20



2019 Graduate Secondary Schools

La Salle Academy
Mercersburg Academy (PA)
Middletown High School
Phillips Exeter Academy (NH)
Portsmouth Abbey School
Portsmouth High School
Prince Avenue Christian School (GA)
St. Andrew's School
Tabor Academy (MA)
Tiverton High School
Yorktown High School (VA)

The Lynne Eagles Coaches' Award

Presented to a male and female athlete who exemplify the spirit and goals of the Pennfield Athletic Program. [Ramsey Huggins and Abbie Monkevicz](#)

Eric W. Lawrence Art Prize

Awarded to the eighth grader who has enriched the artistic life at the school. [Delaney Gouveia](#)

Christopher Silvia Theatre Prize

For outstanding contributions on stage or behind the scenes to the Pennfield Theatre Program. [Millie Gerlach](#)

The Williams College Book Prize

For extracurricular activity and potential for leadership. [Natalie Johnson](#)

The Isabelle H. Penny Prize in English

For outstanding and conscientious study and usage of the English language. [Zoey Bartley](#)

The Spanish Prize

For excellence in all aspects of the language and a strong interest in increased understanding of the world's Spanish-speaking cultures. [Lauren Flowers](#)

The Redwood Library and Atheneum Prize in History

Presented to an eighth grader in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and a dedicated interest in history. [Fletcher Reilly](#)

The Dr. Benjamin Harrison Walker, Jr., Science Prize

Awarded to an eighth grader who seeks deeper understanding of the natural world through the study of the sciences and is eager to share that passion with others. [Lauren Flowers and Millie Gerlach](#)

The Dr. Ronald G. Zeffiro Community Service Award

Awarded to an eighth grader who has demonstrated exemplary volunteer service to a local agency in keeping with the mission of the school. [Fletcher Reilly](#)

Jewelle Allen Math Prize

Awarded to a student who has demonstrated outstanding mathematical scholarship. [Mia Barker](#)

The John R. Pedrick Award

Awarded to a Pennfield student who embodies the spirit and tenets of John R. Pedrick, by making a difference in the lives of others through kindness, respect, understanding, tolerance and compassion. [Alexandra Phelps](#)

The Pennfield School Association Spirit Award

Awarded to the eighth grader who represents the family spirit of The Pennfield School at its best through kindness to all, participation in school activities and support of the school's ideals. [Millie Gerlach](#)

The Faculty Cup

For significant contributions to the life of The Pennfield School. [Lassiter Foregger](#)

Trash to Treasure: Recycled Runway

by Cindy Hallowell

The Sustainability program at The Pennfield School crosses over and through many disciplines, grades and curricula. 5th graders visit RIRRC (Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation) to see first hand the importance of waste reduction, and they bear the responsibility of picking up classroom recycling twice per week. The reward for their efforts is the opportunity to participate in the school's annual Recycled Runway show during our Earth Day celebrations.

The official goal of Recycled Runway is to demonstrate how it is possible to create garments utilizing items that are otherwise destined for the landfill or recycling bin, but there are so many more benefits. Students learn many other lessons in the process of envisioning, creating, and wearing (showing off!) their garments right up until the final curtain closes on the last outfit on the runway.

Starting around the winter break, students collect materials they think will be useful and fun for their project. In late March and early April they spend 5 or 6 classroom sessions creating their garments in high anticipation of the runway show on Earth Day. It is amazing to see how, given time to contemplate their designs, students become more and more enthusiastic and free thinking about their creations. As they become more attuned to their visions and more confident with the execution of their design, some students decide that, for example, they prefer to sew by hand rather than glue. They see the show as a class event rather than only by the role they play in it, and so materials that were once guarded by their owners become part of the shared resources. Ingenuity goes through the roof as they discover new skills and how high their imaginations can fly. Fear and anxiety are soothed simply by the communal discussion of shared emotions.

By showtime, each student has much more than a completely unique garment. They have a shared enthusiasm, genuine support for one another, investment in the quality of the show and, most often, delight in what they have made... as well as increasing practical knowledge of how to sort trash!

The audience has almost as much fun as the 5th graders during the Recycled Runway show, as some have already experienced that ritual, and others are looking forward to it. They cheer wildly for their friends, and for the creativity of the designers in their challenge to use unconventional materials. Recycled Runway has become a really fun tradition at Pennfield, one that increases environmental awareness in the school community while promoting a joyful way of learning so many important lessons.



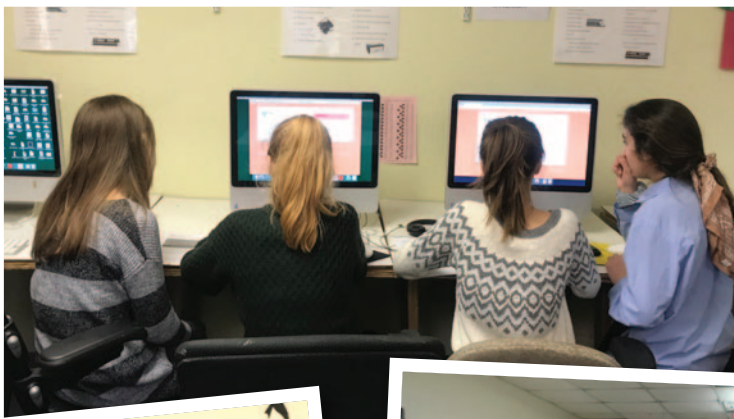


FabNewport

MAKE | LEARN | DO

COLLABORATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

by *Mattie Kemp*



7th graders spent 8 weeks this past winter at FabNewport participating in a unique collaboration of World Cultures, Art, and Science. Fab lab (short for fabrication lab) is a small scale workshop where students are able to create almost anything they can imagine using powerful technology tools: computer controlled routers, laser cutters, vinyl cutters, 3D scanners & printers, sewing machines, and more.

Students were challenged to find solutions to problems that arise from conflicts occurring when different values or beliefs, within or between cultures, collide. People may share culture, but they may share it differently, dependent on their point of view.

Designers worked in teams, using a five-step process to produce and present a solution to a cultural conflict. With the guidance of FabNewport mentors, they empathized to define a problem, brainstormed solutions, created prototypes, tested, and made adjustments to projects that they felt could improve the lives of others. During the last session, parents were invited to see the final designs.

Conflicts or problems that students worked on solving:

- Misunderstanding/Understanding Conversations
- Effects of Climate Change
- Balancing Time
- Coke vs. Pepsi
- Did You Do Your Homework?
- Multipurpose Shoes
- Demoplicants: a New Political Party



Mindfulness Matters in the Classroom

by Jenny Willams



Did you know that we use mindfulness in our Pre-K classroom everyday here at The Pennfield School? Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten students also take a weekly yoga and mindfulness class.



Mindfulness has become a hot topic in the educational world in the last few years. According to Mindful.org (one of my favorite resources) mindfulness is “the basic human ability to be fully present, aware of where we are and what we’re doing, and not overly reactive or overwhelmed by what’s going on around us.” Some key aspects of mindfulness are being present, not stuck on the past (what happened fifteen minutes ago at recess) or worrying about the future (who will I sit with at lunch). These are very real minute to minute issues for our students; the type of issues that can throw off their focus and ability to concentrate. This is why we start and end our days in Pre-K with some simple mindfulness practices.

Mindful Beginnings

We start our day with a group breathing exercise. Sometimes we use a Hoberman Sphere (breathing ball). As the sphere expands, we breathe in through our nose and as the sphere closes, we breathe out through our mouth. This short exercise is huge in preparing for our day. It helps them as a group to align their minds with their bodies (their bodies have showed up at school but sometimes their minds are still some place else). After our breathing exercise we usually give a brief run-down of what the day has in store. We find children retain the schedule so much better when we take a few minutes to mindfully prepare them (and ourselves) in this quiet way.

Smooth Transitions

Transitions can be very difficult for children (and adults), so we have found that ringing a chime, putting our finger on our nose, taking a deep breath, and then listening for the next instruction really helps. Once we ring the chime all of the children know to stop any activity they may be engaged in, listen to the sound, and focus on the teacher who rang the chime (stop, listen, focus). As a group, we then take a deep breath so that our mind and body are ready for the instruction (often it is to clean up). Many parents do not believe that their child cleans up in this calm, direct, focused way, but it works!

Positive Affirmations

We also try to close our day with a focused mindful three-part mantra. Children gently touch their temples and say “kind thoughts,” then they touch their mouth and say “kind words,” and then put their hands on their heart and say “kind hearts.” We run through a second time silently just using our hands. Our students have shared this practice with their families, and the feedback has been so positive.

Becoming Global Citizens

Each year Pennfield students travel opportunities alternate between a Spanish speaking country and a tour of China. During the 2017-2018 school year Upper School students had the opportunity to go to Costa Rica for a Community Service trip. Three faculty chaperones and 21 students in grades 6-8 set off on an amazing adventure. They spent 8 days in Costa Rica, living with host families. Besides practicing Spanish, exploring the beautiful country, and enjoying a new cultural experience, they built a wheelchair ramp for the local community center.



Spanish Students Receive Top Honors



Congratulations to our 7th and 8th grade Spanish students for their excellent performance on the 2018 National Spanish Examinations. Spanish teachers, Peter Dorrien Traisci and Maria Takacs, take pride in the fact that students from The Pennfield School have a long history of high achievement on these exams, and this year is no different.

Clara Dellenbaugh received the top score among 7th grade students in Rhode Island. Additionally, Pennfield students earned a total of two gold and six bronze medals along with twelve honorable mentions. "Attaining a medal or honorable mention for any student on the National Spanish Examinations is very prestigious," said Kevin Cessna-Buscemi, National Director of the Exams, "because the exams are the largest of their kind in the United States with over 150,000 students participating in 2018."

A Celebration of Excellence

Corporation meeting honors faculty.

by Rob Kelley

48 years ago, on May 15 1971, The Pennfield School was incorporated, although it was known as The New School back then. The Founding Trustees, many whom are turning 90, still speak passionately about Pennfield and the dedicated faculty who shaped their children's lives. According to Anna Tillinghast, the first board chair, the point of school was to encourage students to become good citizens who, in turn, make good decisions. That core belief holds true today, and given our current state of politics, it is as important now as it was during the tail end of the Vietnam War.

The key to forging positive citizenship in students is simple: students need to know that they are cared for by their teachers and the faculty are continually striving to inspire their charges. In that environment, students will be eager to come to school. Many of our inspiring faculty members are being recognized for admirable milestones.

Celebrating 5 years are two Pennfield alumni, Alex Fernandez '01 and Stephanie Earp '98. Alex Fernandez began by subbing for 5th grade, and then went on to teach just about everything: science, math, world cultures, and ESL. Two years ago, though, he found his niche in the Upper School, as a no-nonsense, high expectations math teacher, whom students respect. Stephanie Earp brings fundraising prowess and a willingness to try creative new approaches in engaging the community. The Pennfield Fund, the Golf Tournament, and the reconstituted Arts Soirée in November have grown in popularity and in profitability.

Dana Staats has taught at Pennfield for a decade. She is an extraordinary teacher; facile with technology, highly skilled at teaching reading and writing, deeply caring, and committed to meeting the needs of all her students. Dana is a true school person, coaching



ABOVE: Stephanie Earp and Alex Fernandez celebrate 5 years of service

LEFT: Congratulations to Dana Staats for a decade of service

BELOW: Rich McMorrow for 15 years of service



2018-2019 FACULTY

cross country and lacrosse, overseeing the production of the Lower School play, and working long hours prepping for her class.

For the past 15 years Mr. Rich McMorrow has worked behind the scenes keeping our school clean and organized. No one is better at stacking chairs under the stage than Rich. He also continues the tradition started by former head John Pedrick, of making morning coffee for the faculty. Rich, obviously, cares about details, cares about helping colleagues, and goes about his routine with a smile and plenty of charm.

Together, Piper Padillia and Lesley Faria have contributed over half a century at Pennfield! Mrs. Padillia is a natural born kindergarten teacher. We love Piper's absolute, unwavering devotion to her students, her calm, soothing presence, her unparalleled work ethic, and boundless optimism. Pennfield is a magical place

because of faculty like Piper. Similarly, Mrs. Faria is a Pennfield institution. Lesley arrived at Pennfield 26 years ago and has inspired hundreds of students. She was a key member of the middle school cohort for years before venturing upstairs to teach English and history. Lesley is a sharply focused teacher, with high academic and behavioral expectations and standards, but she also has loads of fun with her students.

Also at the meeting, history teacher Lesley Faria received the 2018-19 Diman Teaching Excellence Prize for best inspiring students to pursue academic excellence with joy and boundless enthusiasm. The award is named in honor of Rev. John Hugh Diman, a lifelong educator dedicated to the children of Rhode Island and Southeast Massachusetts and founder of Diman Vocational School in Fall River, St. George's School, and Portsmouth Abbey School.

Rob Kelley,
Head of School
Mattie Edwards Kemp,
Associate Head of School
Iris Bohensky
Meredith Botelho
Mathew Bottone
Elizabeth A. Bouch, R.N.
Diane Campagna
Erin Costa
Ann Cotter-Kelley
Peter Dorrien Traisci
Stephanie Garcia Earp '98
Kristin Emory
Lesley Faria
Alex Fernandez '01
Katrina Fortier
Danielle Frawley
Judith Hall
Cindy Hallowell
Lori Hawks
Emily Johnson
Susan Kremer
Karen Lambert
Mark Lapham
Timothy Lee
Kelly LeMeur
Allegra Lovoy
Bob MacMannis
Richard McMorrow
Kristina Michelson
Paul Murphy
Blayne Norton-Hayes
Dan O'Toole
Piper Padillia
Dawn Cronin Pigott
Beth Raducha
Stefanie Riccio
Dana Staats
Maria Takacs
Frank Tito
Ashley Wall
Jenny Williams



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE:

Lesley Faria – 26 years and recipient of Diman Teaching Excellence Prize

Stephanie Bartley- PSA parent volunteer honoree

Piper Padillia – 25 years





Shining a Spotlight on the Arts

A NEW TAKE ON A



In the Fall of 2018, Cornucopia celebrated its 27th year with a new twist to the event. On Friday, November 2, parents, alumni, and friends of the school gathered at the Newport Art Museum for *A Night of Glitter and Gold*, a cocktail party to honor the arts at The Pennfield School. The evening focused on Pennfield's incredible arts curriculum by showcasing student artwork and talent. Along with the visual delights, guests were also able to enjoy a performance from the Rolling Tones, Pennfield's select chorus. The talent, however was not limited to current students, it also featured artwork from Pennfield's alumni, as well as past parents and teachers. Director of Advancement, Stephanie Earp, stated, "The artistic talent in our community is impressive, and it's a true honor to be able to display it for all to see."



In keeping with the art theme, the evening included a live auction of four stunning art pieces: *Easton's Beach* by Lani Liuzza (P'21), twin fish prints by Susan O'Donnell (P'24), *Second Beach* by local artist Helen Hadley, and a student collaboration entitled *Pennfield Pieces*.

Following the art auction, "Raise Your Palette" provided an opportunity for participants to present specific gifts to directly benefit our Art, Music, and Theatre departments. Thanks to the unbelievable generosity of our community, the event was a tremendous success raising almost \$25,000 for Pennfield!

As always, we are grateful to all who attended, volunteered, and donated. We hope you'll join us again in 2019!

Pennfield's Got Talent

FACULTY, PARENT, AND ALUMNI ARTISTS

- Pepe Burnham '18
- Brad Dellenbaugh, P'20
- Mike and Lisa Hansel, P'06, '08, '16
- Mandy Howe (Former Art Teacher)
- Maureen Kennedy-Antonellis, P'16
- Susan Kremer (Current Art Teacher)
- Katie Meadows '96
- Peter Morse, P'17
- Blayne Norton-Hayes (Current Art Teacher)
- Jamie Schapiro, P'20, '22, '24
- Jason Smith '95
- Kathleen Stone '98
- Rob van Petten, P'13, '18



Student Collaboration - Pennfield Pieces

BELOVED TRADITION

Wish List Gifts

ART DEPARTMENT

- The Gouveia Family:
 - Projector & Sound System
- The Dellenbaugh Family:
 - 1 Potter's Wheel
- The Cote and Halvorsen Families:
 - 8 Light Tables
- The Johnson Family:
 - 4 Stools
- The Rozansky, Elliot, Rowe, Gouveia, Frost, and Buzard Families:
 - Art Camp for Star Kids & The Martin Luther King Center

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

- The Kenahan Family:
 - 2 Electric Pianos & Various Musical Instruments

THEATRE DEPARTMENT

- Ms. Ann Andrade:
 - Costumes
- The Colby Family:
 - General Stage Equipment
- The Gouveia and Liuzza Families:
 - Refinishing of the Stage Floor



Thank you to our Event and Faculty Sponsors

- Blue Plate Diner
- Karyn Jimenez-Elliott Design
- Toner Electric
- Forster Orthodontics
- The Gouveia Family
- Our Faculty Sponsors:
 - The Buzard Family
 - The Bistline Family
 - The Dellenbaugh Family
 - The Gouveia Family
 - The Haley Family
 - The Kane Family
 - The Kenahan Family
 - The Lawless Family
 - The Liuzza Family
 - The Reilly Family
 - The Rowe Family
 - The Sturtevant Family



Hitting the Links

The 13th Annual Golf Tournament on Tuesday, May 21 was a huge success, raising over \$55,000! Thank you all for participating. We appreciate your support of The Pennfield School and look forward to seeing you back at Rhode Island Country Club next year!





Tournament winners - Jay DeLeon, Ryan Fournier, Mike Dorval, and "The Memba"



ABOVE: Thanks to All Occasion Limo for providing transportation for the tournament reception.

LEFT: Tournament Committee members - Dina Karousos, Chris Cote, Jamie Schapiro, and Kyle Phelps.



B. Mitchell (Tony) Simpson, III

Tony Simpson, a Trustee Emeritus of The Pennfield School, passed away on May 9, 2019. Tony was brilliant, devoted to family, the law, Trinity Church and Pennfield. Tony attended just about every major event at Pennfield, sharing colorful and engaging stories about his days on the board of trustees. Tony was a US Navy veteran, lawyer and law professor, devoted husband, father and grandfather, historian, member of Newport City Council, Senior Warden of Trinity Church Newport, and Chairman and Co-Founder of the Festa Italiana.



We are deeply saddened by his loss, and we'll miss his warm smile.

Anna Tillinghast

On July 30, 2019 Anna Tillinghast, surrounded by family, passed away at home. Anna was an inspirational leader, whose dedication to and support of family and friends were unwavering. Anna was a trustee of the RISD Museum, an early supporter of the Newport Music Festival, the owner of Bowdish Lake Camping Area, and the founding trustee and first board chair of The New School, later renamed The Pennfield School. Anna's intellect, fiery determination, and commitment to excellence made concepts into reality. Anna will be sorely missed, but her mark on this community is indelible.



The founding board of trustees with Anna seated to the left of Father Cranston.



Alumni Spotlight *by Abby Rowe*

"I had the opportunity to speak with Emily Derecktor, Pennfield Class of 2008, about her graduate work at Brown Medical School and the early inspiration she received at Pennfield."

When Emily transferred to Pennfield in 6th grade, she found she had to step-up her study skills. Being forced to improve her study habits, was "all for better" as it allowed Emily to expand her academic horizons. Emily also learned to love science in Mr. Bottone's class at Pennfield. Mr. B "sparked an early interest" in science, specifically human biology.

This interest propelled Emily to her academic pursuits at Brown Medical School. Part of Brown's Primary Care and Population Medicine program, when Emily graduates in 2022, she will receive an MD and a Masters in Population Medicine. She is considering a career in pediatrics but also has a growing interest in psychiatry.

Before attending Brown, Emily worked at the South End Community Health Center in South Boston. While there, she became interested in how social factors affect childhood

continued. ➤



Alumni Events

Alumni Breakfast and Pennfield Peek
Wednesday, October 9

Pennfield Soirée
Friday, November 1

Thanksgiving Feast and Sports
Monday, November 25

Winter Concert
Thursday, December 19

Cocktail Party (21 and up)
Thursday, January 9

Golf Tournament
May 2020

Graduation
Thursday, June 11

ABOVE: Alumni at Thanksgiving Feast 2018

health outcomes. Emily has parlayed this interest into a year-long research project she is about to undertake that will become her master's thesis. Through a review of patient charts at the Community Health Center, Emily will seek to determine if there is a relationship between social factors such as maternal depression, financial insecurity, food insecurity, or domestic violence, and childhood health.

When not working towards her degree, Emily loves to sing. She was recently a soloist with the Providence Medical Orchestra during a performance at Brown's Salomon Hall. Emily credits Pennfield with spurring an "early love of singing" through her participation in the a cappella snack time chorus. This group continues to thrive at Pennfield, performing as the Rolling Tones and inspiring a whole new generation of singing academics!



LEFT: Alumni gathering 2009

BELOW: Pennfield's 40th Birthday Celebration



Alumni News

Become part of the tradition.
Send your news and photos to:

alumninews@pennfield.org

Digital images should be 1MB or larger.



LEFT: Class photo from 1988

BELOW: Alumni and faculty honor John Pedrick



Stay Social with Pennfield

Follow us on Instagram & Twitter [@pennfieldschool](https://twitter.com/pennfieldschool)

Like **The Pennfield School** Facebook page





Little Slocum Farm
110 Sandy Point Avenue
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WWW.PENNFIELD.ORG

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Newport, RI
Permit #205



HOUSE

Friday, November 8 • 8 a.m.

Friday, December 13 • 8 a.m.

Friday, January 24 • 8 a.m.

To RSVP, call 401-849-4646 or email
contact@pennfield.org

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