

ADVANCING *Development*

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Mission Statement

Athens Academy seeks excellence with honor in the educational and personal experience of each student.

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Step One: Annual Fund

Step Two: 21st Century Capital Campaign

May 1, 2008

Dear Parents,

If you have given to Step One, the 2007-2008 Annual Fund, and Step Two, 21st Century Capital Campaign Phase II, we thank you for contributing to this year's success. **If your name is not listed, please make your pledge/gift today.** Your participation in both efforts is most important.

We are very excited about our foundation construction challenge grant of \$1,250,000!

Securing this significant grant will require that ALL parents make a three- to five-year pledge to the Capital Campaign for construction.

We thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Bob Marion
Annual Fund Chair
Life Trustee

Susan and Dick Ferguson
21st Century Campaign Co-Chairs
Parents of
Richard, Class of 2015
Lucy and John, Class of 2021

Denise and Jimbo LaBoon
21st Century Campaign Co-Chairs
Parents of
Caroline, Class of 2013
Emily, Class of 2018

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Parent Service Organization

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PSO Officers

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(Co-chair) Lisa Frierson

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(Co-chair) Kristen Williams

Where does the time go? It seems like only yesterday I was dropping Kaeti off at the curb in front of the Lower School Hall, and now we are preparing to drop her off at college. Another year has come and gone, and we are all the better for it. How privileged and blessed we all are to have the opportunity to be a part of this school. Forty-one years ago, a few families had a vision and followed it through. For that we are all thankful as we continue to reap the benefits of their efforts. Today, 41 years later, families continue to give of their time, talents, service. I would like to thank all of the volunteers for all of their hard work and many hours. Athens Academy is so fortunate to have such involved parents who care about their children's education. I have enjoyed working with **Sue Williams**, our PSO coordinator, and all of you. I look forward to helping **Susie Malcom** next year as she serves as the new PSO chairman. Have a wonderful summer with your family. You should be proud of all you have accomplished!

Tammy Lindsay
PSO Chair

Thank You...

- A great time was had at our Olympic-style **Festival Day!** Thank you to **Hart Roberts, Greta Covington**, and their committee members for all of their hard work and time spent pulling together such a huge event.
- The **Lower School Art Project** was very successful this year. Over 240 items were ordered. Thank you to **Supriya Chesser** and **Lisa Frierson** for organizing and distributing all of those darling pieces of art!
- The PSO-sponsored **Required Reading** is such a convenient way for us to obtain our summer reading books during this hectic time of year. Thank you to **Penny Rupert** and **Robin Linck** for saving us at least one trip to the store!
- The Lower School Media Center is also fortunate to have had **Robin Linck** and **Kristin Williams** help in scheduling all of the volunteers in that area.
- In March our children were honored to have two wonderful guest writers visit our campus and share their great books. Thank you to **DeeAnn Cox** for arranging the transportation and other accommodations necessary for these visits.
- A big thank you to **Sheri Goggin** and **Missy Sennowitz** for all the planning that has gone into the upcoming **Post-Planning Luncheon** to be held in June for our faculty and staff. We look forward to this day as much as the honorees, as this is the time we present each division with our monetary gifts for use on special projects.

LOWER School News

PRIMARY Points

ERBs

Grades 1-4
April 28 - May 7

Three-Year-Old Performance

The Three Nanny Goats
Gruff
Friday, May 16
8:45 a.m.
Lower School Hall

Last Day of School

Friday, May 30
Car and Bus riders
dismissed at 11:30 a.m.
No Extended Day

Summer Camp is Coming

Summer Camp is filling up quickly! Please call Margaret Wellborn to reserve space at 706-549-9225. Weeks of camp are:
Week 1 - June 9-13
Week 2 - June 16-20
Week 3 - June 23-27
Week 4 - July 7-11
Week 5 - July 14-8

Have a Great Summer!

Hats Off to Famous Georgians!

Did you ever know that Rosalynn Smith Carter and former president Jimmy Carter were neighbors growing up as children? Did you know that Margaret Mitchell used many real-life personal experiences as a basis for her famous book *Gone With The Wind*? Did you know that Hart County, Georgia, is the only county in Georgia to be named for a woman—Nancy Hart? Did you know that Bobby Jones won his first golf tournament at the age of six? Did you know that country music star Alan Jackson loves to eat pineapple and mayonnaise sandwiches? Athens Academy second graders know!

Second graders have spent this year in Social Studies studying the wonderful state of Georgia—its landforms, geography, government, important landmarks, and famous people. As a culmination to our study on famous Georgians, the students wrote a report and decorated a hat for their Georgian. They were outstanding! Oral reports were given and a hat parade was held. Decorated hats were on display in the Lower School Discovery Center in April. Second graders are very proud to be called Georgians and live in such a wonderful state with such a rich heritage and promising future!

Becky Padgett
Second Grade Teacher

Weather Reporters

Hands-on projects are an important part of fourth grade science. At the conclusion of our study of the weather, the fourth graders were excited about their weather project on giving a live weather report. Both classes were divided into weather teams consisting of four or five students. Each team created a weather report for an assigned city in the United States. Each team member had to research for weather

information, make at least two power point slides, write a script, and give an oral presentation as one weather show. The team decided what information would be included in the final "show."

Fourth graders now have a new appreciation for weather reporters and the "behind-the-scenes" work that goes into a weather forecast.

Jeri Burnette

Ending the Year

How can you help your child end the year in a positive manner? Here are a few ways: 1) arrive on time to school, 2) be well rested, 3) eat a good breakfast, 4) read daily, 5) reduce or eliminate any last minute changes in schedules, 6) have a good snack and lunch. Will this all help? It will set a tone to finish off the year well and help us all overcome the many distractions that are all around us at this time of year.

ERBs

Students in the Lower School will be taking the ERB (Educational Records Bureau) Tests starting the week of April 28. We will continue into the next week to help spread out their testing time. A good night's sleep and breakfast are the best preparation for this testing. These tests are important but are just one of 14 ways to look at how children are doing in school. Encourage your children to relax as much as possible and just do the best they can. The results are an excellent way to help evaluate our academic program. The results will be mailed home in August.

"Olympic" Field Day

This year we are again planning an Olympic format for our Field Day. Our physical education teachers are putting this all together. Some parents have signed up for this activity at the beginning of school. If any other

parents are interested in helping with our Field Day on the last morning of Friday, May 30, please contact the Lower School office. Don Chuboff will call you with more details.

Three-Year-Old Performance

The three-year-olds will perform *The Three Nanny Goats Gruff* for family and friends on Friday, May 16 at 8:45 a.m. The other Pre/Lower School children will see the performance at our dress rehearsal on Thursday, at 8:45 a.m. Please join us for the Parent/Cast Party just after the Friday show.

Gift Giving

Children do not exchange gifts at school for any occasion. Gifts to teachers at the end of the year are optional on an individual student basis. If you would like to donate books to the LS Library honoring your child or teacher, please contact Elaine King. There will be no collections for end of school faculty gifts. Thank you for understanding.

Last Day of School

The last day of school for the PS/LS will be Friday, May 30. Bus riders and car riders will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. There will be no Extended Day on that day. HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!!!

Bob Urich

MIDDLE School News

TAKE Note

ERB Testing

May 2-May 8
Testing will occur in the mornings.

Artscape Reception

Sunday, May 4
2:00 p.m.
Bertelsmann Lobby

Talent for Life

Thursday, May 8
7:00 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Book Fair

May 14-16

String Fling

Thursday, May 15
7:00 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Relay for Life

Friday, May 16
Cedar Shoals High School track

8th Grade Exams

May 23-May 29

Memorial Day

School Holiday
Monday, May 26

6th Grade Trip to Dahlenega

Thursday, May 29

Honors Day

Friday, May 30
9:00 a.m.
Presentation Hall

End of Year Highlights

As we conclude a busy and successful school year, there are a number of special events to recognize the fine work of our students. Parents, you will want to mark your calendars to attend these celebrations.

Each year a variety of student art works are selected for *Artscape*, an exhibit in the lobby of the Bertelsmann Building. Please come by to see this excellent collection. A reception will be held on May 4 to honor students whose work is exhibited.

A lively presentation of the varied talents of Middle School students will be presented on May 8 at 7:00 p.m. The *Talent for Life* show organized and led by eighth graders will benefit our Relay for Life team, raising money for the American Cancer Society. The students are excited about the opportunity to show off their talents, have fun, and raise money for this important cause. Please come out to support this event in the Presentation Hall.

Orchestra students will present their final concert, *String Fling*, on Thursday, May 15 in the Presentation Hall.

Fifth and sixth graders look forward to presenting some of their favorite writing pieces to parents at our Writers Forums. These students write daily and make significant progress during the year. Come out and celebrate their accomplishments with us at these special events. Fifth graders present to parents on May 28 and sixth graders hold their Writers Forum on May 27.

The Honors Day program on May 30 celebrates the work of all students during this year and recognizes eighth graders for the successful completion of middle school. Middle School invites the parents of all eighth graders to join us on this special day. It is an exciting day for these students as they complete this phase of their education and move on to the Upper School. A reception will follow in the plaza.

At the Honors Day program some students in grades five through seven will be recognized for special achievements. An invitation will be sent to parents of these students.

Honors Day Attire

For this event students wear special attire—dress shirts, slacks, and ties for boys, and dresses for girls. Eighth grade girls will wear white dresses and dress shoes. Eighth grade boys will wear dark blazers, dress slacks, dress shirts, ties, and dress shoes.

Honor Roll

At the conclusion of the third grading period Middle School recognized the students who were named to the honor roll. Congratulations to each of these students for their fine work.

Fifth grade: Aidan Bell, Savannah Brock, Anna Buchanan, Rhea Chatterjee, Mary Glenn Dillard, Will Divers, Caroline Doherty, Caroline Fenno, Morgan Ferguson, Richard Ferguson, Morgan Grace, Adam Hearn, Steven Jackson, Kathryn Johnson, Mason T. Jones, William Leverett, Caroline Robinson, Charlie Duke Rymer, Evan Shirreffs, Alex Waugh, and Logan Williams.

Sixth grade: Prakash Agrawal, Caroline Block, Natalie Busener, Moiranyah Daniels-Melear, Ian Dawkins, Claudia Evaristo, Ava Marie Gibson, Connor Guess, Shannon Hodgson, James Hylton, Anna Candler Kimsey, Zachary Kittrell, Charles Lankau, Zander Mason, Madeleine Mullen, Anamaria Otalora-Garcia, Darshan Parikh, Rooshi Patel, Abby Pylant, Nick Rorabaugh, Rebecca Schofield, Matilda Segal, Nilu Vyas, Holly Williams, and Oliver Woodruff.

Seventh grade: Ward Archibald, Lucy Barsness, Rachel Bonet, Samuel Clements, MacKinsey Cole, Aaron Conley, Melissa Corry, Jason Fern, Hailey Fohey, Houston Gaines, Emily Anne

Hansford, Jordan Johnson, Caroline LaBoon, Jordan Lawson, Mark Leonard, Forrest Liedberg, Jake Marrano, Katie McCormack, Joshua Netter, Charlie Newcomer, Aashni Patel, Emily Pee, Obaid Rahman, Jimmy Robinson, Caroline Sanders, Bryant Sheriffs, Ben Smith, Nikki Vasocu, Sarah Whatley, Austin Williams, Abby Woodard, and Joseph Yu.

Eighth grade: Harry Alex, Wrenica Archibald, Mary Banister, Sara Beisswenger, Nick Brown, Judy Choi, Sarah Chuboff, Deeva Desai, Jennifer Dorfman, Tom Greene, Mitchell Hardman, Anna Justice, Josh Kundert-Gibbs, Braden Lapp, Jonghwan Lee, Robert Leverett, Laney Mallet, Lyndey McCurry, Chloe McWilliams, Paul Moldoveanu, Torie Owers, Aneet Patel, Elizabeth Sinyard, Robert Slocumbe, Kelsie Smith, Karishma Sriram, and David Tian.

ERB Testing

Please make every effort for students to arrive at school on time for ERB testing. It is important for them to have a good night's rest and breakfast each day. Testing occurs May 2-8.

Summer Reading

This month English teachers will meet with students to discuss summer reading lists. For your convenience, the lists are posted to the school's web page.

Last Day Dismissal

On May 30 students will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m. at the Middle School turnaround. Buses will run at 11:30 a.m.

Brenda Klein

UPPER

School News

HIGH Lights

Grade Rep Meeting

Monday, April 28
7:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Relay for Life

Friday, May 16
Cedar Shoals High School
track

AP Exams

May 5-16

Exams

Seniors: May 19-21
Grades 9-11: May 27-30

Senior Athletic Recognition Assembly

Tuesday, May 20
11:00-11:50 a.m.
Presentation Hall

Activities Awards Assembly

Wednesday, May 21
2:00-3:10 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Senior Brunch

Thursday, May 22
10:30 a.m.
The Chambers' Home

Honors Day

Friday, May 23
1:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall
Parents are invited
Boys: coat and tie
Girls: appropriate special
dress
No jeans or shorts, please

Vespers

Saturday, May 24
6:00 p.m.
The Classic Center

Graduation

Sunday, May 25
1:00-4:00 p.m. Rehearsal
8:00 p.m. Ceremony
The Classic Center

A Strong Finish

What an incredible year it has been. The year has flown by with tremendous accomplishments by our Upper School students. Their progress in the classroom has been remarkable, but their distinction beyond the classroom has been truly sensational. From logging countless service hours so far this year to strong showings in both the One Act Play and Mock Trial competitions, to a trip to the Georgia Dome, our students have distinguished themselves yet again. Students and faculty have spent much time and energy establishing a strong foundation upon which the finishing touches to the year will be built. Just like any remarkable structure or accomplishment, a strong foundation is necessary, but it is the finishing touches that will likely stick in our collective memory for years to come. With Relay for Life, exams, playoffs, and graduation arriving sooner than we believe, it is important for all of us to keep our expectations high and finish the year as strongly as we began.

Exams

Senior exams will begin May 19 and continue through May 21. Exams for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will be administered on Tuesday, May 27 and continue through Friday, May 30. The school reschedules exams only in the event of illness or an emergency. Parents are asked to call the Upper School office by 8:00 a.m. if a student is ill or unable to attend an exam session.

Summer Reading

Summer reading assignments for English classes and AP courses along with lists of recommended books will be distributed through English classes near the end of the school year and posted to the website (go to Media Centers, then "Reading Lists" on the left-hand side of the page). The assigned reading will be part of the course work at the beginning of school next fall.

2008-2009 Courses

Early in May, families will receive personalized information and recommendations from the school about each student's course of study for 2008-2009. The Upper School takes pride in being able to provide each student with thoughtful recommendations after thorough review. After receiving this mailing, students and parents who wish to discuss the recommendations should contact the student's advisor for further clarification. If necessary, the Dean of Academics and Upper School Director are available to meet with families.

Literary Competition

The Region 4 Literary Competition took place on Friday, March 7. Athens Academy students competing were Jarrard Cole in Boys Extemporaneous Speaking, Nick Kalivoda in Boys Essay, and Maddie Dahl in Girls Essay. All competed very well, with Jarrard and Nick both taking first place and Maddie placing third. Congratulations to these three and faculty sponsor, Ms. Amy Sweetapple, for their success.

Youth Leadership Oconee

Andrew Borda-Cabal and Kena Vyas are also participating in Youth Leadership Oconee. Their names were inadvertently omitted from our listing in the March *Spirit*.

Grade Reports

End-of-year reports will be mailed to parents during the week of June 2.

J.P. Watson

National Magazine Awards Recognition

The Upper School English Department congratulates Brian Connell for being invited by

The Georgia Review to the National Magazine Awards in New York City this April. The National Magazine Awards honor magazines, whether in print or online, that consistently demonstrate superior execution of editorial objectives, innovative editorial techniques, noteworthy journalistic enterprise, and imaginative design. The program is sponsored in association with the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. The awards are presented at a gala evening event in New York City. Brian Connell has been asked to perform his original music as part of a public reading event hosted by *The Georgia Review* on Tuesday, April 29.

Jeff Stachura

Mentor Program

We will soon begin looking for rising seniors who want to serve as mentors to students new to the Upper School. Mentors will be charged with helping students transition smoothly. Students who want to be mentors must be available to attend a summer retreat (Sunday, August 10), the new student orientation (Wednesday, August 13), and be willing to meet with their mentee(s) on a regular basis during the school year. These meetings will provide the needed time for discussion about the traditions, the expectations, and the responsibilities that come with being an Upper School Student. Further, it will ensure that each student starts Upper School in the best way possible: connected to yet another person who cares about his or her success. Information about the Mentor Program will be distributed to juniors in the near future. If, however, you have specific questions, please feel free to contact me either via e-mail or phone. This is an important program and it is one way students can give back to the community.

Bob Sears

GUIDE

To Higher Education

COLLEGE Bound

Seniors:

Please make note of all of the upcoming special Senior Class events

Juniors:

SAT/ ACT Registration deadlines

SAT/ SAT Subject tests:
Saturday, June 7
Deadline: Tuesday, May 6

ACT: Monday, June 14
Deadline: Friday, May 9

Upper School May Events

Seniors: May Events

Here are a few calendar highlights for the Class of 2008.

A more detailed listing will be distributed at the Senior Exit Meeting on April 30.

AP Testing Calendar:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Monday, May 5: | AP French Language Exam – 12:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, May 6: | AP Spanish Language Exam – 8:10 a.m. |
| Wednesday, May 7: | AP Calculus AB and BC Exams – 8:10 a.m. |
| Thursday, May 8: | AP English Literature Exam – 8:10 a.m. |
| Friday, May 9: | AP US History – 8:10 a.m. |
| Friday, May 9: | AP European History – 12:30 p.m. |
| Monday, May 12: | AP Biology Exam – 8:10 a.m. |
| Monday, May 12: | AP Physics – 12:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, May 13: | AP Chemistry Exam – 8:10 a.m. |
| Wednesday, May 14: | AP English Language – 8:10 a.m. |
| Thursday, May 15: | AP Microeconomics – 8:10 a.m. |
| Friday, May 16: | AP Latin Exam – 12:30 p.m. |

Senior Events:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday, May 19: | Wednesday, May 21 – Senior Exams |
| Tuesday, May 20: | Senior Athletic Recognition – 11:00 a.m. |
| Wednesday, May 21: | Activities Assembly – 2:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, May 22: | Senior Brunch – 10:30 a.m. at the Chambers' Home |
| Friday, May 23: | Honors Day – 1:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, May 24: | Vespers – 6:00 p.m. at the Classic Center |
| Sunday, May 25: | Graduation Rehearsal – 1:00 p.m. at the Classic Center |
| Graduation - 8:00 p.m. (students should be there by 7:00 p.m.) | |

Juniors: SAT/ACT/SAT Subject Tests and College Meetings

The last administrations of the SAT and SAT Subject Tests this year will be on May 3 and June 7. The last administration of the ACT is June 14. All juniors must take the SAT/ACT at least once this school year. Some colleges require students to take SAT Subject tests. If this is the case, please plan to take these subject tests this year as well. Go online to www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org to register.

It has been a pleasure talking to all of you in junior college meetings. If you were not able to meet with your child's college counselor, please contact us to reschedule.

Colleen Pruitt

ARTS

On Stage and in the Studio

COMING
Soon

On Exhibit

Myers Gallery
through May 30
Nancy Lloyd, photography
Dr. Lawrence Stueck,
sculptures

Artscape 2008

May 4–May 30
Opening Reception
Sunday, May 4
2:00–4:00 p.m.
Bertelsmann Gallery

Snapshots8

Thursday, May 1
7:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall

US Orchestra Workshop

With the Clarke Central
High School Orchestra
Friday, May 2
3:00–6:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Talent for Life

MS Talent Show
Thursday, May 8
7:00 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Twilight Serenade

Wednesday, May 14
7:00 p.m.
Bertelsmann Amphitheater

String Fling

Grades 2–8
Thursday, May 15
7:00 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Cycles, Revolutions and Transitions

Cycles, Revolutions and Transitions will be on exhibit in the Myers Gallery through May 30. This exhibit features the work of Upper School art teachers Nancy Lloyd and Lawrence Stueck.

Dr. Stueck's show is entitled *Revolution Evolution*. The 20 works are experiments that explore cycles—personal, societal and ecological. Using steel, pine boards, copper, cotton, cardboard, oak logs and glass in a wide range of forms these sculptures often revolve. They employ humor, motion and playfulness to orchestrate viewer interaction and response.

Ms. Lloyd's exhibit of photographs, Polaroid transfer paintings, oil with gel transfers and a collage installation are an exploration of transitions. An 18-foot collage wall incorporates these methods with images inspired by a trip to Paris last summer. *Lawrence Stueck*

Snapshots8

The Advanced Acting class invites you to attend their annual showcase performance on May 1. The evening will be filled with many wonderful performances of monologues, contemporary and classical works. Curtain is at 7:30 p.m. in the Presentation Hall. Performers include Houston Mahoney, Sarah Schacher, Jake Parnell, Manisha Reddy, Andrew Borda-Cabal, Christine Shaw, Billy Pate, and Libby Hansen.

On the Road Again!

The Athens Academy Players, Athens Academy's touring troupe for children, was on the road again this year. The troupe's goal is to take live theatre into the community free of charge and to expose local children to the thrill of live theatre and the thrill of a good story. This year's play was called *Tale Trackers*. This adventurous group has just returned from another story

hunting expedition with a trunk full of fun. They have searched high, low, over, and under because no story is too small, no fable too fierce, and no yarn too tangled for The Tale Trackers! This year's touring troupe members included Caroline Peck, Cate Jackson, Sarah Bell, Sara Katherine Braucher, Will Brit, Jeremy Burgess, Mary Katherine Malone, Madi Linck, and Jade McDonald. *Lorraine Thompson*

May Concerts and Exhibitions

The Artscape 2008 opening is on Sunday, May 4, from 2:00–4:00 p.m. in the Bertelsmann Gallery. This exhibition features exceptional artwork by students from all three divisions. Please make time to drop by the gallery and enjoy the incredible art our students have created.

The Senior Portfolio Exit Shows in the Science and Art student gallery will feature US artists Claire McDonald and Ramey Mize through May 2, Hannah Gollin and Evans Wellborn May 5–9, and Katie Gazda and Sammie Maddox May 12–16. Sarah Weinstein and Amy Michel were featured in the student gallery in April.

The Upper School Jazz Band will present its spring performance, the *Twilight Serenade*, on Wednesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. This event is held in the amphitheater next to the Bertelsmann Building; however, in case of inclement weather the performance will be moved into the Presentation Hall. The admission is free and all students, family, and faculty are invited to attend.

Lower School and Middle School orchestra students will present their annual String Fling in the Presentation Hall on Thursday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. Musicians in grades 2–8 will perform on this concert!

Athens Arts Watch

The month of May is a good time, on a lovely spring day, to do a gallery walk in downtown Athens. The main gallery at the Lamar Dodd School of Art has *Inner Space*, a collection of large scale black and white photographs created by Michael Oliveri. These are stunning studies inspired by the original data images and nano structures created by Dr. Zhengwei Pan and others from the Department of Physics and Astronomy. *Inner Space* offers our everyday world re-visited, the atomic or molecular scale blown up and made relevant to the naked eye. Down the street, The Lyndon House Arts Center is hosting their Annual Juried Exhibit of professional artists. Each year this show is curated by a guest. Charles Wylie from the Dallas Museum of Art looked at 679 different artworks from which he selected 184 pieces for the exhibit. The works have a wide range of materials and concepts; for example, John English's *Porto Party*, a tupperware sculpture filled with colorful rolls of streamers.

Happy Spring! Enjoy Art!
Didi Dunphy

US Orchestra Workshop

On Friday, May 2, US orchestra students will host string musicians from Clarke Central High School in an exciting afternoon of music-making. This exchange of music, ideas, and friendship will conclude with a short performance in the Presentation Hall at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in serving a pizza dinner to these hungry musicians, please email Debbie Schab (dschab@athensacademy.org). *Debbie Schab*

Curriculum and Instruction

CLASS Notes

Success with Preschool and Lower School Play Webcasts

The Preschool and Lower School is webcasting Thursday performances (dress rehearsal) of their plays. In February, first-year K4 classroom aide, Ms. Kristen Perkins, noted that her parents were thrilled to be able to watch the K4 play online from their home in Shanghai, China. Ms. Perkins' parents tuned in the performance at 9:45 p.m. Shanghai time to observe the talents of Kristen's first class of students. Of course, it's hard to beat seeing these performances live; but if not possible, please advise all interested viewers that Preschool and Lower School Thursday performances can be viewed by going to the Webcasts link on the "News & Events" tab of the Athens Academy home page (www.athensacademy.org).

Mike Callinan

View from the Stacks—Readers' Advisory Service

"I'm looking for a book," they say, the students, faculty, and parents who appear in my office doorway. "Great, I say, "what's the title? We'll look it up." Well no, they don't have a title in mind, they just want a book, something good to read, something like the last book they loved, something that won't disappoint, something that will satisfy. Of all of the jobs a librarian has, this is the hardest, and the most rewarding: how to find for this one person the one right book.

In the library trade, this is called Readers' Advisory Service, and at the heart of readers' advisory service is the ability to define the appeal of a book that a reader remembers enjoying, and then find another like it. But appeal is a slippery thing. It can't be defined by subject matter—you might read one novel set during the Civil War, *Gone with the Wind*, say, and love it, but find *The Red Badge of Courage* not really to your taste. Both titles will turn up in a subject search for Civil War—Fiction, but their appeal is obviously quite different. So how to search?

There are numerous electronic helpers in this quest to define appeal, and an obvious first option is Amazon.com. The "Customers Who Bought This Item Also Bought" feature is a great starting point, as are the numerous customer-created lists of recommended titles. Another trick is to go to Google and type in "If you like [favorite author]," which will produce book lists and recommendations from all over the web.

But one of the most authoritative and in-depth resources is NoveList, which provides an enormous searchable database of adult and young adult fiction titles and has recently added non-fiction as well. You can get to NoveList (and NoveList K-8 for the younger set), by choosing Media Centers from the Athens Academy webpage, then Middle/Upper School Media Center, then Readers' Resources on the left-hand side of the page. In NoveList, you will find Author Readalikes lists and "If You Like..." book lists, both of which are based on appeal rather than mere subject or genre. You'll also find Book Discussion Guides, Recommended Reads, What We're Reading, lists of award winners, and lots of other great stuff.

A final hint: keep your own list of titles in a notebook dedicated to that purpose. When you finish a book, write down title and author and maybe also the date you finished the book (which will help you place it in time and might help you remember it). Don't force yourself to write plot summaries, book reviews, or anything other than title and author, or you are likely to stop keeping track. If you think you need a ratings system of some sort, a smiley or frowny face should be plenty. (Although you shouldn't pile up too many frowny faces; another good rule for pleasure-reading is not to keep reading a book that you don't enjoy. Put it down and move on!). I also number my entries, so that I know how many books I've read (since I started keeping track in June of 2000, I've read 1,086 books). And if you chronicle your own reading career in this way, the next time you go to ask your local librarian or fellow book enthusiast for a recommendation, you will have a great starting point of your own favorites, books with real appeal.

Maura Mandyck

"Building Bridges" Hosts International Videoconference

During their club/lunch break on February 26, Upper School students from the "Building Bridges" club (an organization that studies and discusses religions) had their first live video-conference with the club's founder and former president, Noor Doukma. Mr. Callinan set up a webcam to a school laptop in the Bertelsmann Building Reading Room for use with free video-conferencing software called Skype. Noor (Muslim) also downloaded the software for her iMac laptop in her new home in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Current club president, Kena Vyas (of Hindu descent), led several students (mostly Christian, Jewish, or non-religious) in a discussion with Noor about her experiences transferring from Athens Academy to a girls' school in Riyadh. They discussed her visit to Mecca, her studies of Islam, and other items of interest to all the students. Mr. Thornton, the club's faculty sponsor, is working with the students to document their discussions and use of this technology for a local publication as well as the *Spartan Review*. Since the conference can be conducted using the Academy network at no extra charge, students look forward to conducting frequent discussions around the world.

Mike Callinan and Richard Thornton

Maddox Chosen to Present at International Foreign Language Conference

Upper School Spanish teacher John Maddox presented a paper entitled "*The Centaur in the Garden: The Narrated Body*," at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference in Lexington, Kentucky, on April 19. It dealt with Moacyr Scliar's novel on immigrant identity along the Brazilian-Argentine border, specifically how the centaur metaphor is used to express the joys and hardships of growing up as a misunderstood "half-breed" cowpoke. While Mr. Maddox is neither a centaur nor a cowpoke, he did attend lectures and panel discussions on language pedagogy, linguistics, literature, and culture relating to Spain and Latin America. Presenters were graduate students and professors from universities around the world. He also met fellow teachers and renowned poets. Who knew Kentucky would be such a great place to learn Spanish?

SPORTS

Commitment to Excellence

Spartans Playing Sports in College

- **Baseball**
Adam Cronk
Vanderbilt University
Charles Matthews
Spartanburg Methodist
- **Competitive Cheerleading**
Hailey Evans
University of Virginia
- **Crew**
Riva Denny
Boston University
- **Cross Country & Track**
Seth Deaton
U.S. Naval Academy
Dorothy Todd
Washington and Lee
- **Football**
Tyler Brantley, Andy Jarrett
University of the South (Sewanee)
Derek Chuboff
Centre College
Percy Croffie
University of Georgia
Nick Ferrara
Hamden-Sydney College
Thad Padgett
Shorter College
Gordon Pendleton
Wofford College
Chris Rogers
Georgia Southern University
Brett Satterfield
Air Force
Nick Stiles
University of Georgia
John Tereshinski
Wake Forest University
- **Golf**
Kent Crymes
Presbyterian College
Keith Guest
Augusta State University
Ryan Peters
Mercer University
- **Soccer**
Maggie Robinson
Harvard University
Jay Tison
University of Virginia
- **Swimming**
Karin Mullendore
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
- **Tennis**
Adrienne Elsberry
University of Georgia

Fall Sports Team Night

Thursday, May 22 in the Presentation Hall

Football: Rising 7th-12th (*new for Middle School because practice begins August 11, before school starts)

Cross Country and Volleyball: Rising 9th-12th

Team meetings for Middle School volleyball and cross country will be Sunday, August 17, as part of Middle School Orientation.

Sport Parenting Self-Assessment

The following is a *Sport Parenting Self-assessment Test* taken from the book *The Fulfilling Ride* by Greg Dale. Please take a few minutes to honestly and objectively reflect on your role as a Sport Parent. Using a scale of 1 to 5, rate yourself on your effectiveness as a Sport Parent. **Ask your child and spouse to rate you as well.**

1 Strongly Disagree -- 2 Disagree -- 3 Undecided -- 4 Agree -- 5 Strongly Agree

_____ I model good sportsmanship at all competitions in the way I interact with other parents, athletes, coaches, and officials.

_____ I conduct myself in a manner such that my family and friends enjoy sitting next to me during competitions.

_____ I do not put too much pressure on my child to win or perform exceptionally well.

_____ I allow and encourage my child to talk to the coach if he or she has an issue with the coach before intervening myself.

_____ I do not criticize my child's coach in front of my child.

_____ I do not give technical or strategic instructions to my child or other athletes during competition.

_____ I plan to allow and encourage my child to participate in multiple sports, rather than specializing in one sport, until he or she has finished high school.

_____ I provide total and unconditional love and support for my child regardless of how he or she performs.

_____ I do not expect any type of monetary return (i.e., college scholarship, professional contract) on the time and money I spend on my child's sport.

_____ I conduct myself in a manner that makes my child proud to have me in attendance.

Total Score

45-50 Excellent: You are a model Sport Parent.

40-44 Very Good: Communicate with your child to maintain your current perspective.

30-39 Cause for Concern: Be willing to listen and make changes to regain a proper perspective.

1-29 Out of Control: You have lost perspective. You could be in danger of ruining your child's sport experience.

NOTES

From the Headmaster



"Yes, Athens Academy has changed and grown, just as the world has changed and grown. But in many ways, most of them fundamental to our school and our community, Athens Academy has not changed at all."

The More Things Change...

Recently I had the pleasure of visiting with a group of Athens Academy alumni during a trip to New York City. As always, the comment was made: "Athens Academy sure has changed over the years." I have given this idea much thought during my years as headmaster. Yes, Athens Academy has changed and grown, just as the world has changed and grown. But in many ways, most of them fundamental to our school and our community, Athens Academy has not changed at all.

The things that brought us together at the start of this school year are the same things that brought us together in that red barn in 1967. What matters both today and in the past is the quality of education and personal experience for each student. At Athens Academy, this quality is influenced by intellectual challenge, the caring and worth of each individual, the personal concern and availability of dedicated faculty, character in the classroom and on the playing fields, the excitement of athletics and the arts, and an awareness of the need to serve humankind now and in the future. Our children are enjoying today while preparing for tomorrow. This is what remains constant at Athens Academy.

The face of our campus has changed through the years. Our Board of Trustees, faculty, administration, parents, students, and alumni have worked diligently to examine our needs, and the Long Range Plan is the result of this effort. The plan projects the future, identifies the strategic initiatives for the next five years, and the programs and activities we can offer to best prepare our students for future successes. In this way, facilities serve as visible symbols of our academic mission.

I am convinced that this tradition of the school's focus on its mission brings us together today and connects each of us to past years at Athens Academy. We are excited about this spring's issue of *Accent*, which is full of wonderful stories of our students, faculty, and alumni. Thanks to everyone for your continued support as we grow...and change...and not change much at all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Chamber, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style.



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PERIODICALS
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