

Spirit Excellence with Honor

A T H E N S A C A D E M Y

Volume 15, Number 2

October 1, 2005

Campus Briefs

Grandparents/ Special Friends Day

Friday, October 7
8:15-11:30 a.m.
Sponsored by PSO
For schedule see page 4

Golf Tournament

Monday, October 10
Athens Country Club
Sponsored by PSO

LS Book Fair

October 17 - 21
LS Media Center

Guest Artist Concert Series

Monday, October 17
7:30 p.m.
Eijin Nimura, violin
Presentation Hall

Conference Days

Pre/Lower School
Wednesday, October 19

Upper School
Wednesday, November 2

No classes will meet on
conference days

Sally Foster Gift Wrap Pickup

Tuesday, October 25
Spartan Center
Sponsored by PSO

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, October 30



Something for Everyone in October!

Sisters Georgia & Tesh Parris, Jane Robbins, and Ramey Mize sing "We Are Family" representing this year's disco-themed Grandparents/Special Friends Day; Parents Todd and Kristi Donnan with Zack Platek invite you to play in the annual PSO golf tournament; Jenny Leite plays Sarah Ballou in Lorraine Thompson's original work *Waiting the Judgment Day*, this year's One-Act play; Fine Arts Director Debbie Schab prepares for violinist Eijin Nimura, the October Guest Artist. For details, see inside. (Photo by Don Smith)

A Year of Long Range Planning

This year, Athens Academy is reviewing the progress made over the last five years in a process known as Long Range Planning. This includes not only reviewing the past but also looking to the future and envisioning optimal programs, facilities, and means to achieve the mission of the school: "seeking excellence with honor in the educational and personal experience of each student."

Throughout the year, representatives from all constituencies of our school will be working in committees to update the Long Range Plan, which is divided into four areas: education, buildings and grounds, finance, and development. Members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees serve as the chairs for each of these four areas.

As the first step, the Board of Trustees recently reviewed the

Mission Statement and Operating Principles and, although no fundamental changes were made, they consolidated the Principles into a list of ten. Be sure to watch as each of these Operating Principles will be featured in an issue of *Spirit* throughout the year.

This fall, surveys are being distributed to a cross-section of Athens Academy parents and students. All faculty members were surveyed last April, and college-age alumni (sophomores) are surveyed each year. These surveys provide data that will be used to update the Long Range Plan and later to identify strategic initiatives.

Of the four designated areas, the educational component provides the overriding focus for the Long Range Plan as well as the basis for the SAIS (Southern

Association of Independent Schools) and SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) self-study. Once the committees have completed their work our self-study report will be presented to a SAIS-SACS visiting team in November 2006.

The Long Range Planning process integrates both the school's need for strategic planning as well as a periodic review of our compliance to standards necessary for accreditation. This year-long effort affords all of us a great opportunity to get involved in the growth and future of Athens Academy. Anyone interested in working with the committees or task forces should email Mrs. Caroline Ridlehuber at cridlehuber@athensacademy.org or Mr. Patrick Cuneo at pcuneo@athensacademy.org.

ADVANCING *Development*

The *Spirit* is published by the Publications Division of the Development Office, Athens Academy.

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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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NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Athens Academy admits qualified students of any race, color, national, and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.



Step One: Annual Fund

Step Two: 21st Century Classroom Capital Campaign

Your opportunity to support Athens Academy students and teachers is coming to your mailbox!

As parent volunteers we are privileged to be leading two key efforts to support our children and their teachers: The 2005-2006 Annual Fund and 21st Century Classroom Capital Campaign. Each of us has made our commitment to both important efforts. Participation by all parents is essential to meet the school's critical needs.

Please show your support by returning the completed commitment form with your gifts or pledges today. If you have questions, please contact any of us. Thank you!

Nancy Woodruff
Mother of
Kathryn `08
Elliott `11
Ann McKenzie `13
Oliver `14
706-548-2975

Kelly Johnson
Mother of
Jordan `13
Kathryn `15
706-208-0399

Brian Tison
Father of
Anne Marie `02
Jay `06
706-549-2001

Arlene Crump
Mother of
Taylor `07
Katie `10
706-310-1459

SUPPORTING

Parent Service Organization

PSO Officers

Chair-Sue Williams

Co-chair-Denise LaBoon

Liaison-Debbie Daniel

LS Reps

Carla & Quaison Payne

MS Reps

Mike & Jennifer Fitzgerald

US Rep-Karen Gardner

Fine Arts Rep-Betty Alice Fowler

Athletic Advisory Rep

Karen Gilmore

Faculty & Staff Appreciation

Tammy Lindsay (Coord)

Kaki Heath (US)

Beth Sanders (MS)

Pam Dillard (LS)

Gift Wrap Sales

Heather Malcom

Guest Writer

Beverly Phares, Robin Linck

Lunch Helpers

Jana Hollingsworth

Allison Hale

Parents Day

Lisa Irvin

Missy Semowitz

Tracy Trigleth

Grandparents Day

Amy Guess

Sue Youngerman

Andrea Parris

Bonnie Turner

Tennis Tournament

LeeAnn Boyette, Kristi Donnan

Holiday Decorating

Catherine Warner

Spartan 5K/Spartan Sprint

Jeff & Taylor Miller

Craig & Lisa Moore

Bob & Susan Waugh

Cookbook -Lacy Sinkwich

Schacht Lecture

Betty DeVore, Mary Jenkins, &

Betty Perno

Festival Day

Susan Ferguson, Sherri Goggin,

Joanna Hill, & Marty Kemp

Required Reading Sales

Jennifer Richardson

Jan Solomon

Golf Tournament

Zack Platek

Brent & Tracy Crymes

Tom & Kelly Johnson

Chris & Kim Maddox

Glen & Jan Young

Cash Back Program

Kim Griffith

Post Planning Luncheon

Susan Buchanan

Nancy Woodruff

Flower Planting

Donna Murphy & Cindy Crymes

LS Book Fair

Leslie Suarez

Margaret Smith

Connie McArdle

Square One Art

Natalie Camp

Susan Malcom

Save These Dates

Grandparents/Special Friends Day

Friday, October 7

8:15-11:30 a.m. Registration and Information
Bertelsmann Building

8th Annual Golf Classic

Monday, October 10

Athens Country Club

Sally Foster Pickup

Tuesday, October 25

8:00-9:30 a.m.

Noon-1 p.m.

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Spartan Center



Athens Academy Golf Classic

Sponsored
by

Morgan Keegan

Monday, October 10
Athens Country Club
Modified Stableford

Registration 11:30 a.m.
Shotgun Start 1 p.m.

Contact

Tom & Kelly Johnson

706-208-0399

Zack Platek

706-354-7100

A Big Spartan Thank You To:

- Leigh Ann Templeman for a great Spirit Item Sale at the first home football game
- Tammy Lindsay, Kaki Heath, Beth Sanders, and Pam Dillard and their many volunteers who provided delicious treats for our first Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day
- Denise LaBoon and Beth Sanders for their "Tailgate" style help with the Upper School Parents Night

Celebrate

“Disco Fever”

Grandparents/Special Friends Day

Friday, October 7, 2005

- 8:15–11:30 a.m. Registration and Information Booth
Bertelsmann Building-Lobby
- 8:45–9:15 a.m. Pre/Lower School Performance
Bertelsmann Building
Presentation Hall
- 9:15–10:30 a.m. Pre/Lower School Class Visitations
- 10:15–10:45 a.m. Middle and Upper School Band
Bertelsmann Building
Presentation Hall
All Welcome!
- 10:45–11:30 a.m. Middle and Upper School
Class Visitations

Spartan 5K and Spartan Sprint

February 11, 2006

Attention Tennis Players

Mark your calendars for the
**Athens Academy Annual
Tennis Tournament**
—March 25, 2006—

Festival Day

April 22, 2006

LOWER

School News

PRIMARY Points

Grandparents/ Special Friends Day

Thursday, October 6

• 8:45 a.m.

*Dress Rehearsal
Presentation Hall*

Friday, October 7

• 8:15 – 11:30 a.m.

*Registration &
Information*

Bertelsmann Lobby

• 8:45 – 9:15 a.m.

*Pre/Lower School
Performance**

Presentation Hall

• 9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

*Pre/Lower School
Class Visitations*

• 10:15 – 10:45 a.m.

*Middle & Upper
School Band**

Everyone Welcome!

• 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.

*Middle & Upper
School Class Visitations*

** available on our
website*

LS Book Fair

October 17-21

LS Media Center

Conference Day

Wednesday, October 19

Halloween

Monday, October 31

Hat Day

Preschool Halloween

Parade

8:30 a.m.

Parties

K4 - 11 a.m.

K3 - 11:15 a.m.

Pre-first - 12:30 p.m.

LS - 2:30 p.m.

Grandparents/Special Friends Day

On Friday, October 7, we will have grandparents and special friends visit us. Please use the entrance off Hwy. 441 and park in the athletic complex. Follow the signs for shuttle service beginning at 7:45 a.m. and concluding by noon. Parents who wish to come to the dress rehearsal on Thursday, October 6 at 8:45 a.m. in the Presentation Hall are welcome. If you see the live performance on Thursday, plan to view Friday's performance from the lobby on the webcast. This would make more seats available for grandparents and special friends.

The following is from Mike Callinan of our Media Education Department: The Athens Academy Media & Technology Club will be webcasting the Grandparents/Special Friends Day programs on that Friday. The first webcast will be of the Pre/Lower School performance starting at 8:45 a.m. The Middle and Upper School performance will be webcast starting at 10:15 a.m. The webcast can be viewed by accessing www.athensacademy.org and selecting the webcast link. Your Internet access should be broadband (DSL or cable modem) to gain full appreciation of the presentation.

Bagel Bytes

Have you ever wondered... Will a bagel float? How far can you roll a bagel down an inclined plane? How much does a bagel weigh? How many bagels can be stacked before they fall? What do bagels really look like? Our second grade scientists practiced observing, classifying, measuring, predicting, and experimenting to find the answers to these interesting questions. With the assistance of parent helpers, Mrs. Kline and Mrs. Reinking were able to present scientific process skills to the second grade in an enjoyable way.

Sharon Reinking

Spicy Science

Planting a garden is one way to help students learn firsthand about the origin of vegetables we eat every day. Since we know that

every child loves pizza, the current Pre-first class planted a "Pizza Garden" last spring. The students planted tomatoes and herbs that would grow to become the main ingredients in their very own pizzas this fall. Children viewed photographs of tomatoes growing to show the changes that took place over the summer. The herbs were recently harvested, and you should have seen many of their faces when they tried to figure out how the plants could be transformed into the "Italian Spice" you find in a jar. It's not every day that you have 22 five-year-olds crouching in a garden to smell rosemary, oregano, and thyme. One boy turned to another to say, "I like it. It smells peppery!"

Mary Kline

Buggy About Insects

The fourth grade has been busy putting together a scrapbook using the photographs they took on their September "Bug Hunt." They have turned into experts about the insects they have identified and are skillful in the research process using insect guides, resource books, and the internet. The scrapbooks will be on display in the Lower School Discovery Center beginning in October along with the insect each student created in their art class. As a follow-up to our insect study in science and our study of data collection and graphing in math, the fourth grade classes participated in a pollinator count. The students, using a tally sheet, recorded the different pollinators and the number of times the insects pollinated the flowers in the Butterfly Garden. Each student graphed the results from his/her tally sheets. After they examined each classmate's bar graph, the class was able to draw a conclusion about the plants in the Butterfly Garden and the insects they attract. This was an example of the application of mathematics in the science setting.

Jeri Burnette

First Graders

First graders are settling into Lower School and loving it! They have the opportunity to go to the library each day to get a new book, take Spanish classes for the first time,

and stay all day for the first time! Homework is also a first. Reading fluently is our goal in first grade and progress in this area is already obvious. The children were delighted this week to hear their heartbeats using a stethoscope as we learn about the Human Body and ways to stay healthy - including EARLY bedtimes!

Nell Chambers

Enter the Kingdom of Reading at the Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to the Lower School Media Center on October 17-21 to share exciting books and learning products with our young readers. This year's fair will feature newly released books, award-winning titles, children's classics, interactive software, and current bestsellers from more than 150 publishers. Since books make such great presents, you might find ideas for holiday gifts as well.

When you visit the fair, look for the Classroom Wish List display to see how you can help build your child's classroom library. Book titles are chosen by each teacher as desired selections for their classrooms. Wish List Donation cards will be located on a display inside the book fair with instructions on how to personalize the bookplate provided and see that your gift gets to your child's teacher.

Hours for the Fair:

• 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Monday and Friday

• 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Leslie Suarez 353-1237, Margaret Smith 354-8086, or Elaine King 433-2431.

The book fair brings children, teachers, and families together within a school and community to celebrate reading and learning. Please join us for this special event.

Elaine King

MIDDLE

School News

Laptop Rollout in Middle School

Take Note

Grandparents/ Special Friends Day

Friday, October 7
For schedule see page 4

MS Fall Sports Recognition

Friday, October 7
7:30 p.m.
AA vs. Whitewater football
game

Technology Information Session for Parents

Tuesday, October 11
7 p.m.
Presentation Hall

End of first grading period

Friday, October 14

7th/8th Grade Dance

Friday, October 21
8-10 p.m.
Tillman Center

Fall Orchestra Concert

Tuesday, October 25
7 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Zeus' Birthday Party in 5th grade

Friday, October 28

Holiday

Faculty Development Day
Student Holiday
Wednesday, November 7

September 19 was an exciting day in the lives of seventh grade students—laptop rollout day. Students received their laptop computers and learned how to use the campus network. Students should take laptops home every evening for assignment completion and bring them to school in the morning for class work.

In fifth and sixth grades students use the CE computers and laptops for writing assignments in language arts classes and for in-class research. They learn many of the computer functions prior to receiving their own laptops in seventh grade.

Parents of fifth and sixth graders may want to keep this information in mind as you are purchasing computers for your homes.

Technology Information Session

As parents in the 21st century we must be savvy when it comes to technology. Often the students are ahead of the adults when it comes to this subject. In order to guide our children in the use of the internet and promote their safety, it is important that we are very knowledgeable. Ms. Jessica Hunt will speak to parents on this topic on October 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the Presentation Hall. Please join us for an informative session.

Seventh/Eighth Grade Dance

The seventh grade class will host the eighth graders at a costume dance on Friday, October 21 in the Tillman Center. Students will want to arrive on time at 8 p.m. so that

they don't miss a minute of the fun. Please pick up the students at 10 p.m. at the Tillman Center turnaround. The seventh and eighth grade teachers look forward to enjoying this event with the students.

Students will want to mark their calendars for the winter dance on January 27, 2006.

Dress Code Update

The faculty congratulates the students on the excellent job they have done in following the revised dress code. By focusing on the principles of modesty, safety, and serviceability, the code allows us to spend our time engaged in teaching and learning with few disruptions for dress code issues. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter!

Carpool Reminder

Parents who use the Middle School turnaround for afternoon pickup may enter the drive prior to 3 p.m. and proceed to the MS. After 3 p.m. these drivers need to enter the LS parking lot and get in line to come down the driveway. Please drive safely on campus!

Conference Day

Students presented their goals and plans for the school year to parents recently. The faculty will be following up with the student on goals progress throughout the year. We encourage you to continue these discussions at home.

Report Cards

The first quarter report cards will be mailed on Wednesday, October 19. Please sign the tear-off slip and return it to your child's homeroom teacher.

Student Art

Abby Knight, a sixth grader from Madison, was the featured artist in the June issue of *Southern Distinction* magazine. Abby has been asked to participate in the "Paws for a Moment: Pets Bring Inspiration to Local Artists" opening at the Clayton Street Gallery located at 351 East Clayton Street in Athens. Abby's folk art puppies are on exhibit in the show which runs through October 15. Congratulations, Abby!

Celebrating Birthdays

Students enjoy celebrating their birthdays with their friends at school. Often parents like to bring cupcakes or doughnuts to honor the child. Break is the best time for this celebration. Please remember to bring enough treats for each child in the grade.

Planned Absences

Please advise the school when it is necessary to take your child out of school for trips and appointments. Parents are requested to notify the Division Director in writing a week ahead whenever possible. We will do our best to assist your child in planning for the absence and completing all work.

Brenda Klein

UPPER

School News

HIGH Lights

Ninth & Tenth Grade Safety Night

*Tuesday, October 4
7:30 – 9 p.m.
Presentation Hall*

Grandparents/ Special Friends Day

*Friday, October 7
For schedule see page 4*

Homecoming Week

*Monday, October 10
through
Friday, October 14*

Homecoming Dance

*Saturday, October 15
8:30-11:30 p.m.
Tillman Center*

Report Cards Mailed

Friday, October 21

Conference Day

*Wednesday, November 2
No classes will meet*

Continued Focus On Advisory

Each day during the ten o'clock hour, students spend time in a group called advisory. Some days this involves sitting together during an all-school meeting, while other days see the students interacting with their advisor in a discussion of selected topics. Whatever the agenda for the day, advisory allows each student the opportunity to interact with a group of their peers and a faculty advisor as people first, adolescents and adult second, and students and teacher third. This interaction is the relationship that is central to Athens Academy's providing an atmosphere in which excellence with honor is sought in the educational and personal experience of each child. The relationships developed in advisory challenge students to reach beyond their perceived limits by feeling intellectually safe in an environment that fosters both expression and understanding. As your child continues on his/her journey at Athens Academy, please be sure to ask him/her about advisory and the discussions that have taken place. It is through these conversations that you will begin to sense the opportunity for growth that advisory allows.

Ninth & Tenth Grade Safety Meeting

All ninth and tenth graders and at least one parent or guardian for each child are asked to attend a meeting at the Academy on Wednesday, October 4, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Presentation Hall.

The topic of the evening will be automobile safety. As teenagers and their friends gain the freedom that a driver's license provides, parents and students are confronted with new issues of safety. This session will allow both parents and students the opportunity to be up-to-date on the current laws and any recent changes in laws relating to teenage drivers. I urge every family of ninth and tenth graders to be present for this important meeting.

Additionally, each family in attendance will have an opportunity to sign up in advance for a conference time slot on Upper School Conference Day, Wednesday, November 2.

Report Cards

Report Cards will be mailed to parents on Friday, October 21.

Conference Day

Classes will not be held on Upper School Conference Day, Wednesday, November 2. On this day, all ninth and tenth graders and their parent(s) or guardian(s) will attend a conference with the student's advisor. These conferences for ninth and tenth graders will be scheduled at the Ninth and Tenth Grade Safety Meeting, October 4. Conferences for eleventh and twelfth grade students will be held on a request basis. Faculty, students or parents may request a conference. Instructions for scheduling conferences for eleventh and twelfth

grade students will be included in the report cards which will be mailed on October 21.

JP Watson

Homecoming Week Special Assembly

On Monday, October 10, the first day of homecoming week, our students will have the opportunity to listen to a "voice of experience" as Chris Sandy will visit Athens Academy to share his story with the Upper School faculty and student body. Chris is an inmate at a maximum security prison and, because it is a Department of Corrections regulation, Chris will be shackled and escorted to the Presentation Hall by armed prison guards. In the spring of 2000, Chris was driving home drunk from a party when his car crashed into another car as it was turning into a driveway, killing the two people inside just moments before they got home. It is hoped that Chris' message will not just be *listened* to but will be *heard* by all who are in attendance. Parents are asked to speak with their children about Chris' presentation and are encouraged to reinforce the idea of personal safety and responsibility, as it relates to our homecoming specifically and their children's life in general. Chris Sandy is not an actor nor is he getting paid to do this. He chooses to do this because of his desire to help people avoid his reality.

Bob Sears

GUIDE *To Higher Education*

COLLEGE Bound

PSAT

*Juniors & Sophomores
Wednesday, October 12
8:10 a.m.-noon
College Application
Workshop for seniors,
class for freshmen*

SAT & ACT

*October 22 ACT:
Late registration deadline
September 30*

*November 5 SAT/Subject
Tests:
Registration deadline
September 30
Late registration deadline*

*October 12
December 3 SAT/Subject
Tests:
Registration deadline
October 28*

Senior Seminars

*Weekly small group
meetings on college
applications with Mrs.
Pruitt*

College Rep Visits

*Juniors and seniors - take
advantage of this
opportunity*

Website

*Senior Bulletin,
Scholarship Listing, and
Academic Contests Listing
On Guidance Page of
Academy website*

Preparing for College Continues...

As we begin October, the process of preparing for college admission is in full swing. Seniors and their parents have met to discuss the details of the application and scholarship search process, seniors are busy collecting and preparing applications, and juniors are beginning the college search process and sorting out their impressions from the College Tour. Athens Academy will host numerous college representatives to assist students in gathering information and evaluating their options. All juniors and seniors are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Standardized Testing

Standardized testing is an important part of the college admission process. The testing we do in the earlier grades helps us to assess both the aptitude and achievement of students. This information along with teacher recommendations, demonstrated motivation, and parent and student preferences helps us place students in courses with appropriate academic challenge. ERBs, ability tests, and the PSAT are all important to this process.

The morning of October 12 is an important time for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The PSAT (Preliminary SAT) will be given to all sophomores and juniors here at the Academy and there is no opportunity for a make-up. The seniors will have time that morning during the PSAT to work here at school with faculty on college applications and essays. Ninth graders will have class.

PSAT

The PSAT is excellent practice for the SAT because it has much the same format for the verbal and math sections. The Writing Skills

section has multiple-choice questions on identifying sentence errors, improving sentences, and improving paragraphs. Such questions are similar to those in the achievement portion of the ERBs. The Writing Skills section is designed to familiarize students with the multiple-choice format of the new writing component on the SAT. There is no written essay on the PSAT as there will be on the new SAT. From the PSAT score reports, we can assess strengths and weaknesses and make recommendations for preparing for the SAT. **The junior year PSAT score is also used for qualification for the National Merit and National Achievement Programs.** The selection index for these programs is the sum of the scores in Verbal, Mathematics, and Writing Skills.

SAT Registration

SAT/SAT Subject Tests and ACT test dates and registration deadlines will be listed on the *Spirit* calendar each month. All students are required to take the SAT the spring of the junior year and the fall of the senior year. Additional testing may be advisable for some students. Registration forms are in the Guidance Office. The registration deadlines have passed for October, but standby registration is available if there is space at the testing center. Students are advised not to wait until the final deadlines for registration. As the testing centers in Athens reach capacity, students will be assigned to centers out of town. Students who register online will confirm the testing center at that time. They must print their admission ticket from the web; it will not be mailed to them. Admission tickets may be printed

from the web regardless of the method of registration. Scores are also available for free on the web two weeks after the test.

Senior Seminars

All seniors are meeting with Mrs. Pruitt and/or Mr. Marine in Senior Seminars once per six-day cycle. In these small groups we discuss the details of college applications and plan for keeping a punctual schedule of completing application details. This gives the seniors, Mrs. Pruitt, and Mr. Marine more opportunities for communication about the college application process.

Senior Graduation Orders

We will be scheduling an information meeting for the seniors about graduation orders. Senior families need to begin determining the number of graduation invitations needed before the order date.

HOPE Requirements

We must calculate the class of 2006's GPA using the highest grades for the following courses: English (4 units), Mathematics (4), Social Sciences (3), Science (3), Foreign Language (2-same language). We will continue to weight our honors and AP grades and use the 100-point scale to report to the HOPE Program this year.

Colleen Pruitt

ARTS

On Stage and in the Studio

COMING

Soon

Grandparents/ Special Friends Day

Friday, October 7

Guest Artist Concert Series

*Monday, October 17
7:30 p.m.*

*Eijin Nimura, violin
Presentation Hall*

Exhibits

*October 17–December 14
Myers Gallery*

Art Rosenbaum, drawings

Bertelsmann Gallery

*Beverly Bourgeois,
fashion*

Opening Reception

October 23

2-4 p.m.

Myers Gallery

Fall String Orchestra Concert

Tuesday, October 25

Grades 5 - 12

7 p.m.

Presentation Hall

One Act Play

Waiting the Judgment Day

October 27, 28 and 29

7:30 p.m.

Presentation Hall

November 1

Regional Competition

Athens Academy

GISA All-Select Band and Orchestra

November 5 and 6

*Blessed Trinity Catholic
School*

Roswell, GA

UNESCO "Artist for Peace"

Our next Guest Artist Concert on Monday, October 17 features Eijin Nimura, violin. Mr. Nimura, a native of Tokyo, Japan began playing the violin at the age of four and continued his violin lessons with Dorothy DeLay at the Juilliard School of Music. Since then, he has won numerous awards including the highest prizes in the Paganini International Violin Competition (1994), the prestigious International Music Competition of Japan, the Prince Takamado Award (1995), and the Idemitsu Music Prize (1996). Mr. Nimura frequently makes concert tours throughout the world. His dedication to peace led to his being the first Japanese recognized as an "Artist for Peace" by UNESCO in 1998.

Tickets for this wonderful concert may be purchased at the door prior to the 7:30 p.m. performance (adults \$10, students \$2). Season tickets are still available!

Pre/Lower School Music Students are Movin' and Groovin'

Pre/Lower School students are ready for another exciting year of music at Athens Academy.

The K3 and K4 classes began the school year exploring their voices and finding their "singing" voices. Once we discovered the four different singing voices we all have, we began putting them to use by learning some great children's songs such as Old MacDonald, The Little White Duck, and Old Joe Clark. Of course no music class would be complete without body movement to the music, so we are movin' and groovin' to all kinds of fun songs.

The first through fourth grades are being introduced to music symbols and their uses in music such as the staff, bar lines, measures, meter, double bar lines, and the treble clef signs. The first and second grades are working on recognizing high and low sounds and listening and recognizing these pitches when played on an instrument. All classes have been introduced to the musical alphabet, notes, the corresponding rests, and the values of these music symbols, as well as studying Franz Schubert and his classical period compositions.

Of course we are currently preparing for our first big program – Grandparents/Special Friends Day on October 7. Everyone needs to dust off those platform shoes, pull out those polyester leisure suits and get ready to "boogie down" as we travel back in time to the days of "DISCO FEVER." See you on October 7!

Orchestra Notes

Academy orchestra students are off to a great start this fall! On September 16, Middle School orchestra students hosted string musicians from the Waldorf School of Atlanta in an exciting afternoon of music making. The Waldorf School orchestra, under the direction of Academy parent Mrs. Eleanor Winship, traveled to Athens and spent the afternoon rehearsing with our young musicians. This exchange of music, ideas, and friendship concluded with an exciting concert for parents and friends in the Presentation Hall. Upper School orchestra students are

preparing for the annual GISA All-Select Orchestra workshop at Blessed Trinity Catholic School in Roswell, Georgia on November 5 and 6. The clinician for the orchestra workshop is Ms. Ann Danis from the University of Rhode Island. A concert for parents is scheduled at 1 p.m. on Sunday, November 6 at Blessed Trinity's Fine Arts Theatre.

Don't miss the Middle and Upper School Fall Orchestra Concert on Tuesday, October 25 at 7 p.m. in the Presentation Hall. All students need to report to the Presentation Hall for tuning at 6:30 p.m. See you on October 25!

Exhibits

Recently the Art 1 and 3-D Design classes took field trips to the Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation (OCAF) to view the exhibit Perspectives 2005. This show is an annual ceramics exhibit featuring 50 Georgia ceramic artists.

From October 17 through December 14 an exhibit and sale of Art Rosenbaum's drawings and watercolors will be held in the Myers Gallery. Art Rosenbaum is a professor of painting at the University of Georgia. He is also very involved in the folk music scene in Athens.

Concurrently on exhibit in the Bertelsmann Gallery will be a fashion show by Beverly Bourgeois.

The opening for these shows will be held on October 23 from 2-4 p.m. in the Myers Gallery. The public is invited to attend.

Debbie Schab

MEDIA *and Technology*

MEGA Bytes

Join the Library Guild's Book Club discussions:

October
Sea Glass (*Anita Shreve*)

December
**The Dive from
Clausen's Pier** (*Ann
Packer*)

January
**Motherless
Brooklyn** (*Jonathan
Lethem*)

March
A Distant Flame (*Philip
Lee Williams*)

April
**Behind the Scenes at
the Museum** (*Kate
Atkinson*)

Contact the Media Center
staff for more
information: 433-2614.

Media and Technology Information Meeting for Parents

**Tuesday, October 11
7 p.m.
Presentation Hall
Bertelsmann Building**

We hope to see you at our information meeting. Join us for a discussion of online safety, gaming, and other common parental "tech concerns."

Learn about Athens Academy's technology integration program and the ways we guide students to develop good "tech habits."

We've located some terrific resources to answer your questions and assist you as you encourage your children to develop good citizenship and stay safe online.

Follow the links on the **Tech Help Web for Parents** to access resources that range from online safety pledges to "netiquette" rules: www.athensacademy.org/instruct/media_tech/parents/index.htm

Other Media and Tech Web Pages

The Research Zone assists Middle and Upper School students as they work on projects, big or small. The pages point the way toward great sources of information for their topics, provide tutorials for accessing and processing this information, explain MLA and APA style requirements, offer editing tips, present examples of outstanding student work, and explore issues related to plagiarism (stressing the necessity for academic honesty and the ways researchers can carefully adhere to citation guidelines).

www.athensacademy.org/instruct/resources/researchzone/research_index.htm

The Reading Web links to the following resources to guide and encourage your child's reading:

- Lists of required and recommended summer reading titles by grade level
- Guided reading questions for selected books
- Faculty favorites and results of the Desert Isle Survey
- Links to *NoveList*, a database that offers author biographies, including lists of all published work
- Links to literary criticism on the web (from subscription databases and public sites)
- Links to reading lists from schools around Georgia

www.athensacademy.org/instruct/resources/readingweb/index.htm

Jessica Hunt

SPORTS

Commitment to Excellence

Athens Academy Alumni Currently Playing Sports at the College Level

- **Football**

Tyler Brantley, Michael Mansfield, Andy Jarrett
University of the South (Sewanee)
Thad Padgett
Shorter College

- **Soccer**

Maggie Robinson
Harvard University

- **Baseball**

Chris Rogers
University of Georgia

- **Golf**

Ryan Peters
Mercer University

New Season, New Beginnings

The beginning of each new season brings about a heightening of the senses. The aroma of concession stand hotdogs, the squeaking of rubber soles cutting across the freshly varnished gym floor, the contagious roar of the crowd, combined with the ever-racing, heart-pounding thrill of competition unite to make basketball season the topic on everyone's lips. This year at Athens Academy there is a new sight on the court: both the girl's and boy's varsity squads will be lead by new head coaches. Kevin Petroski joins the Athens Academy squad as the girls' coach, while James Banks leaves his assistant position and takes the reins as the boys' coach.

Coach Banks has had an opportunity to work with the boys' squad and watch their development over the years. Now, moving into the head coaching position, Coach Banks is excited to take a larger role in the development and success of the team. The previous coach, Cooper Dyer, is a close friend and mentor to Coach Banks. When asked about taking over the program from Dyer, Banks responded, "It's tough because we had a great relationship and I learned a tremendous amount about life and basketball from Coach Dyer." A new coaching staff always brings about changes. Banks' coaching philosophy is simple and time tested, "defense wins championships; offense wins games." Banks and his support staff's emphasis will be on fun, fitness, and of course, defense.

In order to be successful, goals must be scored on the court and reached off the court. Coach Banks' goal for his team is to have "a great journey from the first game to the last, and to bring home both a region and state championship trophy." The team is already off to a strong start in obtaining these goals. As with all teams, preseason is the best opportunity to get off on the right foot. Banks thought the summer workouts were successful in "accessing the team's overall talent and also being able to integrate the new coaching philosophy." In response to the success of the summer workouts, Coach Banks was extremely excited to discover that his team "wants to win as much as I do and that they are all coach-able men."

Coach Petroski joins Athens Academy after a two-year stint as athletic director at Monsignor Donovan High School. Through his fifteen years of coaching, Petroski's coaching philosophy has developed into a successful strategy involving the precise execution of the fundamentals combined with proper execution of offense and defense. When asked what he hopes to bring to the Athens Academy team, Petroski responded, "along with a whistle," (said with a sly grin), "I hope to bring experience, hard work, and a desire to be successful."

It is always a challenge, for any coach, to strengthen the trust between teammates, players, coaches, and the coaching staff. It is often said that a coach is only as good as his support staff, and fortunately for Athens Academy, the girls' basketball team have a strong staff behind them. In regards to his staff, Coach Petroski states, "I have enjoyed getting to know the coaches so far. I am excited about the opportunity to work with people who are knowledgeable, hard working, and committed to trying to win. I am also looking forward to having two lay coaches, MaryBeth Lycett and Katie Frye, who have Division I playing experience at the University of Georgia, instruct the players from a personal experience standpoint. The returning coaches, Randy Reid, Beth Sensing, and Lydia Cunningham have all helped with my transition, and I will be leaning on them for help with the opposing teams' strengths and weaknesses."

Team chemistry takes time and with so many young athletes participating in other sports, it is a challenge to have the team together long enough before the season to begin the bonding process. Fortunately for Petroski and his team, they were able to take advantage of the summer months. Coach Petroski enjoyed this summer opportunity to "get to know the team members' personalities and abilities." When asked about quirky stories, Coach Petroski laughed, "No jokes as of yet, I haven't been here long enough, but spending as much time with high school girls as a season requires will surely leave a lasting memory."

With new faces on the court and a new season upon us, both Coach Petroski and Coach Banks are depending on the experience of their seniors to lead the team. They are also thrilled to have talented younger athletes to add depth to their squads and to continue the development of a successful basketball program at Athens Academy. Please come support your Spartan basketball teams as they begin the 2005-2006 season on November 15 at Glascock County.

SPOTLIGHTS

Announcements & Details

2005-2006 Key Dates

November 7		Student Holiday/Faculty Dev. Day
November 22	3:10 p.m.	Classes Dismiss for Thanksgiving Holidays
November 28	8:10 a.m.	Classes Resume
December 16	3:10 p.m.	Classes Dismiss for Holidays
January 2	8:10 a.m.	Classes Resume
January 16		Martin Luther King Day/School Holiday
February 20		Student Holiday/Faculty Dev. Day
March 10	3:10 p.m.	Classes Dismiss for Holidays
March 20	8:10 a.m.	Classes Resume
April 13		Student Holiday/Faculty Dev. Day
April 14		School Holiday
May 26	3:10 p.m.	Classes Dismiss for Summer Vacation
May 28	8 p.m.	Graduation

Periodical Statement

NOTES

From the Headmaster

Focus on the Future



"The Academy's approach to this self-assessment process integrates an overall review of our goals and plans with the need to examine our education plan for re-accreditation."

As we do every five years, Athens Academy is gearing up for Long Range Planning. This year of planning will help us to reconfirm our mission and focus as well as pave the way for the arrival of the SAIS-SACS visiting team in November 2006 (see front page for more details). The Academy's approach to this self-assessment process integrates an overall review of our goals and plans with the need to examine our education plan for re-accreditation. More specifically, we identify the future needs of the school, including programs, overall size, and facilities, while also forecasting the needs of the greater community. But most importantly, this self-assessment helps to sharpen our focus and to make sure we are all "on the same page."

At a conference sponsored by the Virginia Association of Independent Schools several years ago, Dr. Jack Davis spoke about the need for schools to concentrate on what they do well—that is, to focus on education, values, and integrity, and to prepare students to be successful and responsible. He advised that schools not get lost in trying to be all things for all people or serve too many special interests. It is in this line of thinking that it becomes clear how important it is to stop every few years and analyze those things on which we should focus.

As part of the re-accreditation process, we are required to answer four critical questions. These questions not only serve as the guidelines for the self-study but for Long Range Planning as well:

- 1. Who are we?** In working to answer this question, the Board of Trustees reviews the Mission Statement ("Seeking excellence with honor in the educational and personal experience of each student") and Operating Principles (featured in *Spirit* throughout this year) to assure that they are still appropriate. Surveying and involving the school's constituents is also important in answering this question.
- 2. Where are we going?** Again, surveys help with this, as we determine one or more strategic initiatives. These strategic initiatives form the cornerstone of our efforts in Long Range Planning.
- 3. How do we get there?** Task forces and committees will work with the Steering Committee to lay out the necessary steps in achieving our goals.
- 4. How will we know when we get there?** While goals and plans are good, we have nothing without specific benchmarks for measuring the effectiveness of our initiatives.

This is an exciting time for all who are a part of Athens Academy, as we reconfirm who we are and plan for the future. I welcome your participation in this meaningful exercise.

Operating Principle #2

Athens Academy recognizes individual differences in learning styles and academic needs within the stated purpose of the school.



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PERIODICALS
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AT ATHENS, GA