

Spirit Excellence with Honor

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

Volume 18, Number 8

April 1, 2009

Campus Briefs

Spring Band Concert

Thursday, April 2
7:00 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Holidays

Thursday, April 9
Student Holiday
Faculty/Staff Development Day

Friday, April 10
School-wide Holiday

Cum Laude

Wednesday, April 15
1:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Festival Day

Saturday, April 18
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Spartan Center

Upper School Spring Play

A Midsummer Night's Dream
April 16, 17 and 18
7:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Artscape 2009

May 4 - May 29
Bertelsmann Gallery
Opening Reception
Sunday, May 3
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.



Join Us for Festival Day - Saturday, April 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Don't miss the FUN! We'll have face painting, crafts, a giant slide, inflatables, a dunking booth, hotdogs and hamburgers, carnival games, and much, much more!
Pictured left to right: Charlie and Brooks Chisolm and Celeste and Ann Harper Covington.

Springtime at Athens Academy

As always, April is a busy month at Athens Academy! The seniors kick off April with the annual Alumni Spring Luncheon, during which they are officially welcomed into the Athens Academy Alumni Association. Past graduates will be on hand at this luncheon on Thursday, April 2, to talk about their involvement with the school as alumni as well as to answer questions.

The second week of April includes a two-day break for students, Thursday, April 9 and Friday, April 10. Students in Preschool will celebrate with their spring parties on Wednesday, April 8, and Lower Schoolers will have Activity Afternoon that

day. Also during that week, the sixth grade will travel to Savannah and the eighth graders will "retreat" to Camp DeSoto in northern Alabama. Later in April, the seventh graders travel to Washington, D.C., for their annual trip with Mr. Chambers.

On Saturday, April 18, students in the Pre/Lower School will perform for family and friends at Festival Day. The performance begins at 10:00 a.m. and is followed by all kinds of fun activities including games, face painting, a dunking booth, and more. Everyone is invited to attend!

The Upper School Drama Department presents their spring play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, from Thursday, April 16

through Saturday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Presentation Hall. Later in the month, the Advanced Acting class will present "Snapshots" on Wednesday, April 29.

Looking for a little music? The Middle and Upper School bands perform their spring concert on Thursday, April 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Presentation Hall. Later in April, the Upper School Jazz Band will present its annual Twilight Serenade on Wednesday, April 22 in the amphitheater. On Thursday, April 30, the Senior Recognition concert will honor graduating musicians.

There's something for everyone this spring at Athens Academy!

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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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 and other school-administered programs.



Step One: Annual Fund

Step Two: 21st Century Capital Campaign Phase II

April 1, 2009

Dear Parents,

If you have given to Step One, the 2008-2009 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 in the Parent Donor Proof enclosed in this issue of *Spirit*, please make your gift or three- to five-year pledge today. Your participation in both efforts is most important!

Sincerely,

Bob Marion
Annual Fund Chair
Life Trustee

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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
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Caroline, Class of 2013
Emily, Class of 2018

SUPPORTING

Parent Service Organization

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PSO Officers

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(Chair) Beth Sanders
(Co-chair) Sally Shealy

LS Library Helpers

(Chair) Kristen Williams
(Co-chair) Deborah Thurmond

Festival Day

Saturday, April 18

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Spartan Center

- Get ready for a great day! Festival Day 2009 will have all your favorite booths and games for to all ages from Preschool to Upper School. For more information, please feel free to contact Festival Day Chairs Greta Covington (706-548-0039) or Rebecca Chisolm (706-614-1956). See you there!
- Thank you to Lisa Frierson, Amy Nasworthy, and Betsy Lilliston for working with the Square One Art Project. The children's work was great!
- Thank you to Robin Linck and Traci Pruitt for coordinating the required reading sales!
- The next PSO Executive Board Meeting is Tuesday, April 28, at 8:15 a.m. in the Science and Art Building.
- The PSO Board Meeting is Tuesday, May 5, at 8:15 a.m. in the Science and Art building. All chairs and co-chairs should plan to attend! We will celebrate this year's accomplishments and welcome the Board for 2009-2010.

Thanks to all of our parents, faculty, and staff who make this such a great school! I hope everyone is enjoying this busy and beautiful spring at Athens Academy. Take time to enjoy some of our many events or just enjoy a walk around campus!

Susie Malcom
PSO Chair

LOWER School News

PRIMARY Points

Holidays

Thursday, April 9
Student Holiday
Faculty/Staff
Development Day

Friday, April 10
School-wide Holiday

Festival Day

Saturday, April 18
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Spartan Center

ERB Testing Grades 1-4

April 20-24
ERB practice tests

Monday, April 27
ERB tests begin

K4 Performance

Friday, April 24
8:45 a.m.
Lower School Hall

Dress Rehearsal
Thursday, April 23
8:45 a.m.

Dinosaurs Alive!

Well, not *really*--but the leap back in time was almost believable for the second grade as we experienced prehistoric times at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History in Atlanta. Not only were we surrounded by life-size models of dinosaurs, but they seemed to charge right at us from the screen of the IMAX theatre. We even ate lunch with Giganotosaurus (a 47-foot-long carnivore) and Argentinosaurus (a 123-foot-long herbivore).

Fernbank also has many other wonderful exhibits. "A Walk Through Time in Georgia" was a favorite of the students. It tells the natural history of Georgia through re-creations of its geographical regions, complete with animals and plants. Gazing at a giant sloth, walking through a cave, and taking a stroll through the Okefenokee Swamp were just a few of the sights we enjoyed on this walk.

Fernbank was a perfect place to enhance our study of fossils, our great state of Georgia, and dream of "Dinosaurs Alive"!

Sharon Reinking

Another Wild Goose Story?

According to our 2009 Guest Author, Carmen Agra Deedy, one of her best-loved stories is definitely not another wild goose story. Geese do play a major role in her book *Agatha's Feather Bed*, but the author has woven a creative and poignant tale that delights young readers and leaves them wanting another book by this gifted storyteller. Ms. Deedy, a nationally known children's author and professional storyteller, will be visiting the Lower School Library on April 20. Among her most popular children's books are *The Library Dragon*, *The Secret of Old Zeb*, and *Treeman*. For more information about her books and presentations, contact the PS/LS Library.

Elaine King

Family Science Night

We are happy to report that the PS/LS Family Science Night was a huge success! The event was held in the Lower School Hall, which was filled with stations designed to teach about the many "departments" that work together to maintain a healthy environment. These wonderfully informative activities were created by the State Botanical Garden. Some examples were the Pollination Department, where students could observe and identify parts of a real flower, or play "Name that Pollinator." While visiting the Air Cleaning Department students learned about the importance of trees, sharpened their leaf identification skills, and created a germinating seed necklace. In the Soil Department students could observe worms and experiment with Oli the Earthworm's Recipe for Soil. All the while, puppet shows were going on; rocks, microscopes, and tornado tubes were available for hands-on investigation; and kids of all ages were having a great time learning together. A special thank you goes out to all of the 30 Upper School students who volunteered and made the whole evening possible! It was a fun, energetic, educational evening for all.

Mary Kline & Sandra Kellett

Spring Into Enrichment

Spring is here and it brings some exciting things to do here at school in our enrichment programs! Children here can "flip their lid" in gymnastics, create their own jewelry, make their own "Jars of Clay," cook Eric Carle style pancakes, imitate paintings by Picasso, experience science in every day life, strut into twirling, stretch into yoga animal poses, get fit for summer activities, strum a great song on guitar, computerize a robot, play unusual games,

and have a ball with their friends every afternoon after school. If you haven't signed up yet, contact Carol Deaton (cdeaton@athensacademy.org). Classes will start the week of April 13.

K4 Performance

The four-year-olds will perform for family and friends on Friday, April 24, at 8:45 a.m. The other Pre/Lower School children will see the performance at our dress rehearsal on Thursday, April 23, at 8:45 a.m. Please join us for the Parent/Cast Party just after the Friday show.

Activity Afternoon

Once again the Lower School will be involved in Activity Afternoon on Wednesday, April 8. The students indicated their first, second, and third choices from a wide selection of activities offered by the faculty. Some titles in the past included bingo, Crayola sidewalk art, rockin' and rollin' (with roller blades and helmets), kickball, indoor soccer, and many more. We look forward to more of these fun days in the future.

ERB Testing

Students in the Lower School will be taking the ERB (Educational Records Bureau) tests. Practice tests will be given the first part of the week of April 20. The actual tests will start the week of April 27. The second, third, and fourth graders 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 and just do the best they can. The results are an excellent way to help evaluate our academic program. The results will be available in August and will be mailed home.

Bob Ulrich & Melton Weekley

MIDDLE School News

TAKE Note

Spring Band Concert

Thursday, April 2
7:00 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Class Trips

April 6-8
6th grade to Savannah
8th grade to Camp DeSoto

Holidays

Thursday, April 9
Student Holiday
Fac./Staff Development Day

Friday, April 10
School-wide Holiday

7th Grade D.C. Meeting

Final preparation--DC trip
Wednesday, April 15
7:00 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Festival Day

Saturday, April 18
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Spartan Center

7th Grade DC Trip

April 19-April 24

Midpoint of Grading Period

Friday, April 24

Grade Reps Meeting

Monday, April 27
7:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Artscape 2009

Reception
Sunday, May 3
2:00 p.m.
Bertelsmann Building

Summer Camps and Workshops Abound

Once again, Athens Academy is offering a variety of opportunities for Summer Programs. Middle School students will be able to expand their interests in sports, technology, drama, and academics. Summer camps in athletics include basketball, soccer, volleyball, football, baseball, tennis, and an all-sports camp. These athletic camps are a great opportunity to introduce these sports as well as to reinforce important skills for continued improvement. Instructors for each camp will divide the campers according to age and ability.

Technology camps include Sparbots robotics camp, 3D computer programming, and an "Acting for the Camera" camp! Mr. Callinan and Mrs. Townsend will work with students on various robotics and film projects. Students who take Sparbots will be eligible to join the Sparbots team next winter. Students in the "Acting for the Camera" class will receive a digital copy of their movie at the end of camp.

Athens Academy will also offer math and writing workshops for student in rising fifth through ninth grades. These workshops are a good opportunity for students to review skills and prepare to the upcoming school year.

Information on all summer programs can be found on the Athens Academy web page (<http://www.athensacademy.net/announcements/summerprograms/>). Please contact Geoffrey Walton (706-549-9225) for more information.

Geoffrey Walton

Spring Into Enrichment

Spring is here and it brings some exciting things to do here at school in our enrichment programs! We offer some classes designed specially for middle school students which start at 4:30 p.m., allowing time for tutorials or other after school activities. The cooking class has been very popular, and we are excited about

the dance class offered by the coach of the UGA Redcoat Band dance line. Spring is also a great time to get in shape with a yoga class or try something new for summer excitement with a guitar class. If you haven't signed up yet, contact Carol Deaton (cdeaton@athensacademy.org). Classes will start the week of April 13.

Carol Deaton

Savannah Trip

A highlight of the sixth grade year is the annual trip to Savannah. Students and teachers will experience the history and culture of old Savannah during this three day trip. They will visit Fort Pulaski, Fort Jackson, and Wormsloe Plantation learning about life in the early days of the colony. Visits to Mickve Israel, The First African Baptist Church, and the Cathedral teach them about the religious diversity of the city and the importance of these churches in the history of Savannah. A beach ecology study on Tybee Island and an art outing to the Telfair Museum highlight the trip. Students also love the riverboat cruise, shopping on River Street and an evening square dance. While learning lots of history, they also build great memories with friends!

Outdoor Retreat

The eighth grade class will travel to Mentone, Alabama, for a three-day outdoor retreat. Teachers and Upper School students spend time with eighth graders in discussions about Upper School life, activities, and setting new priorities. While participating in hikes, the ropes course activities, horseback riding, and a service project, students will work on team-building and strengthening their leadership skills. This trip marks a significant step in the transition from middle to upper school.

DC Trip Preparation

Prior to their Washington trip, seventh grade students are having several meetings with their teachers and Mr. Chambers.

In their first meeting, students identified both the strengths and challenges of the seventh grade class. With these factors in mind, students work with the chaperones of the trip to develop a plan for safety and enjoyment. Students will then present their group's plan to Mr. Chambers for discussion.

In addition, students will research the various sights and history of Williamsburg and Washington. After class presentations students will be ready for their journey in late April.

While they are learning important aspects of American history, they also learn a lot about themselves on this trip. Time spent away from home with teachers and classmates encourages independence and helps to build self-confidence. Lastly, they have a wonderful time and create enduring class memories!

7th Grade Meeting

All seventh grade students and their parents will meet on Wednesday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Presentation Hall. At least one parent must attend with each student. Important details for the trip to Washington will be presented.

Talent Show

Prepare your music! Tap your feet! The Middle School Talent for Life show is scheduled for Thursday, May 7. Mrs. Townsend will be sharing important information with students about this show. All interested students are encouraged to audition for a spot in this special show. Donations will be accepted for our Relay for Life team.

Mark Your Calendars

In the spring there are a number of important events celebrating the year's work: concerts, trips, *Artscape*, Writers Forums, the Medieval Banquet, and Honors Day. You can keep up to date using the calendars on the school's webpage.

Brenda Klein

UPPER

School News

HIGH Lights

Hands On Athens

Friday, April 3 through
Sunday April 5

Holidays

Thursday, April 9
Student Holiday
Faculty/Staff Dev. Day

Friday, April 10
School-wide Holiday

Cum Laude

Wednesday, April 15
1:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Upper School Spring Play

A Midsummer Night's
Dream
April 16, 17 and 18
7:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Twilight Serenade

Wednesday, April 22
7:00 p.m.
Bertelsmann Building
Amphitheatre

Junior/Senior Prom

Saturday, April 25
8:30-11:30 p.m.
The Classic Center

Spring is Springing!

It was just one month ago that Athens was blanketed in white. Soon, the pollens will cover us in yellow. As nature begins to come alive again, the spring play is in full rehearsal gearing up for their performances, spring athletic teams are in mid-season pushing toward the playoffs, and our students are driving for an academic finish line that is in sight. We are also gearing up for Prom, Relay for Life, Hands on Athens, and more. The finish line is near and we are still going strong. We will finish with our heads up and our eyes facing forward.

Arete, Dike, Time

Athens Academy is honored to be one of only eight schools in Georgia to have a chapter of the Cum Laude Society. Cum Laude Society is the secondary school equivalent of Phi Beta Kappa. It is a high honor to be inducted into this prestigious group, and membership signifies superior academic achievement, academic discipline, intellectual curiosity, and sound character. Many students possess these qualities, but only those who have demonstrated these characteristics over the course of their entire high school career are considered for membership. The selection committee, which consists of faculty members who are members of Phi Beta Kappa, Cum Laude, or have distinguished themselves through scholarship, engages in a great deal of discussion before the slate is approved. These detailed discussions take place because of the limited number of spaces available and the narrow margins that exist between qualified students. The task is difficult, but it is worthy. This year, the 21st annual Cum Laude Society Lecture and Induction ceremony will take place on April 15.

Leadership Programs

Tom Greene soars like an eagle...Ninth grader Tom Greene recently spent time in the woods to ensure that those less fortunate could do the same. He completed a project which included widening and clearing the trails at the Oconee Forest Park, located off College Station Road. He removed roots and debris and widened

the trail so people with physical disabilities could safely traverse it and experience its beauty. He saw the need for this and wanted to do something that would allow him to join the ranks of an elite group of young men--those who have worked hard and earned the Boy Scouts of America organization's top honor, Eagle Scout. After the Eagle Scout Board of Review approves the project, Tom will have achieved what only 5% of those who join scouts achieve. We are proud of him and he should be too.

While opportunities for leadership exist through national organizations, our students also have the opportunity to learn about leadership in our local community. These leadership programs are put on by the respective counties' Chambers of Commerce and are designed to introduce sophomores and juniors to opportunities for civic involvement at both the local and state level. Each year we have students participate in Youth Leadership Athens and Youth Leadership Oconee. The following students have been participating in Youth Leadership Athens: McKenzie Clemons, Lillian Jones, Katie Kalivoda, Kajene Murugathasan, and Hays Sligh, while Thomas Sanders, Carey Stewart, and Akash Agrawal have been participating in Youth Leadership Oconee.

Mock Trial Wins Regional Championship

For the fourth year in a row, the Athens Academy Mock Trial team has won the Northeast Georgia Regional Championship. Ten public and private schools participated in the first two rounds of competition, culminating in a final round against Clarke Central High School. The participants on this year's Mock Trial team, sponsored by Latin Teacher Ms. Kelly Ryan and English Teacher Mr. Brian Connell, were Ella Douglas, Margaret DuBose, Madison Eberhardt, Anne Lanier Gilbert, Ben Glauser, Drew Jacoby, Mary Katherine Malone, Meagan Marshburn, Ned McGregor, David Richman Millard, Jane Robbins Mize, Elizabeth Newcomer, Adam Sapp, Christine Shaw, Karishma Sriram, Ayman Tartir, and Bethany

Varnado. Many of the participants won awards for their performances, including: Margaret DuBose, Best Defense lawyer; Anne Lanier Gilbert, Best Defense Witness; Mary Katherine Malone; Best Plaintiff Witness; Christine Shaw, 2 Best Plaintiff Lawyer awards; Ayman Tartir, 2 Best Defense Witness awards. Mock Trial allows students to sharpen their speaking skills, their ability to persuade, and their knowledge of law. It also provides a unique simulation of a case actually playing out in a courtroom. Several local attorneys have come to each one of the rehearsals to coach the students and have provided invaluable help, including Ernie Harris, Eric Eberhardt, Alison Spiers, and Rich Connelly. In addition, Mrs. Thompson, the drama instructor, has helped out greatly by coaching the witnesses. The state finals took place on March 14-15 in Lawrenceville. Again, each of the participants did an outstanding job and represented Athens Academy well.

Course of Study

Course planning for the 2009-2010 school year continues to take place. Advisors have been working with advisees and the Learning Team to ensure that appropriate schedules are created. Please be sure to address any scheduling issues with your child's advisor before April 20. This is the date the next progress report will be mailed home.

Metro Driving

For the third year, Metro Driving will be offering a driver's education course at Athens Academy. The course costs \$440 and will meet June 1-4, 2009, from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For details and registration, please contact Richard McCook at 678-753-1837. They prefer to schedule the driving instruction ahead of the classroom portion, when possible.

Bob Sears

GUIDE

To Higher Education

COLLEGE *Bound*

College Choices

Colleges must be notified by May 1. Be sure to let Mr. Stachura and Mrs. Pruitt know your college decisions and scholarship offers. Please bring a copy of scholarship letter(s) to the Guidance Office.

HOPE Scholarship

Be sure to visit www.gacollege411.org.

Juniors: SAT/ACT

All juniors must take the SAT/ACT by the end of this year.

College Athletics

Juniors should speak to Coach Petroski and coaches now to plan for contacting college coaches.

Seniors on the Home Stretch, Juniors at the Starting Line

Seniors, have you ever seen one of those exciting races where the leader stumbles coming down the home stretch, losing the race at the last possible moment? It makes for great MarioKart, but is an unfortunate life experience. As college admissions come in, beware of the following potential problems.

- Good Practice – Most colleges adhere to the NACAC Statement of Principles of Good Practice, which prohibits colleges from requiring students to commit to a college before May 1 (except by refundable deposit) for housing, admissions, or scholarships. If you are being asked to commit before May 1 see Mrs. Pruitt or Mr. Stachura immediately.

- Deposits – Students have until May 1 to accept or decline offers of admission and do so officially by sending in deposits. Students must only accept one offer of admission. Students should never make multiple deposits. Colleges compare acceptance lists, and can and will rescind offers of admission to students who officially accept more than one offer of admission.

- Wait Lists -- If you are in the difficult situation of

being placed on a wait list for your first-choice college, you should wait as close to May 1 as you can, but should make a deposit at your second-choice college. If you are later removed from the wait list and accepted, you can decide to withdraw from the second-choice college, but you will likely lose your deposit. If you are in this situation, please let Mr. Stachura or Mrs. Pruitt help you look at all your options as you make a decision.

- HOPE -- If you have not applied for the HOPE scholarship yet, please visit www.gacollege411.org. If you have completed the FAFSA form, you do not need to submit the HOPE application.

Juniors, have you ever started a race so terribly that in the first five minutes you lost all hope of victory? Make sure to avoid these simple mistakes in this sometimes complex process.

- Standardized testing – All Juniors must take the SAT or the ACT at least once before the end of the school year. Juniors should also seriously consider taking SAT Subject Tests if they are considering schools that require such tests for admission. While Subject Tests are also offered in the

fall, students who take these tests after the completion of a similar course in their junior year will add only minimally to their work loads.

- Registrations – In registering for standardized testing, be aware of the number of students who take the SAT and that Jeff Stachura and Jeffrey Stachura are two different people in their records. If you have already registered for a standardized test, use that name consistently for all future tests. If you have not yet registered we recommend always using your full name. Memorizing the Athens Academy school code, 110113, and your social security number will make your life much easier.

- College Athletics -- Juniors considering pursuing college athletics should talk to their coaches and Coach Petroski about what materials, videotapes, and statistics they should be compiling. This is especially important for our spring sports because decisions may be made before this time in their senior year.

Colleen Pruitt

ARTS

On Stage and in the Studio

COMING
Soon

Spring Band Concert

Thursday, April 2
Grades 5-12
7:00 p.m.
Presentation Hall

On Exhibit

Myers Gallery
Through April 3
Steve Penley, paintings

April 13-May 22
UGA Printmaking
Department

Bertelsmann Gallery
Through April 3
Lee Reed, abstract photos
Eric Edner, glass

April 13- May 1
Middle School Artwork

Upper School Spring Play

A Midsummer Night's Dream
April 16, 17, and 18
7:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Twilight Serenade

US Jazz Band
Wednesday, April 22
7:00 p.m.
Bertelsmann Building
Amphitheater

Snapshots09

Wednesday, April 29
Presentation Hall
7:30 p.m.

Senior Recognition Orchestra Concert

Thursday, April 30
Presentation Hall
7:00 p.m.

Spring Play Magic

A Midsummer Night's Dream will open on April 16 and run until April 18. This production promises to be a delight. Mr. Thom Beaulieu, the show's lighting designer, will put his special touch on the production, and Mrs. Katie Townsend will be designing the extensive make-up. Student choreographers Maddie Dahl and Jade McDonald will bring a touch of Africa into the magical wood. The talented cast consists of Nick Brown, Elizabeth Newcomer, Cate Jackson, Robert Leverett, Elliott Young, Tim DeWitt, Ayman Tartir, Caroline Peck, Emma Templeman, Maggie Kellett, Christine Shaw, Ned McGregor, Chase Brantley, Alex Brown, Daniel Mason, Kurt Mueller, David Cason, Libby Hansen, Kena Vyas, Chloe McWilliams, Ansley McAlister, Kelsie Smith, Anne Lanier Gilbert, Jane Robbins Mize, Elizabeth Sinyard, Kellen Yarbrough, Bethany Varnado, Cori Hill, Sarah Fenno, Cate Jackson, Karishma Sriram, Drew Jacoby, CJ Brown, Nicky Bradfield, and Sofe Wasserman-Smith. Mary Katherine Malone will be playing the role of Puck and Steven Stein will be playing Bottom. Stage managers for this production are Carey Stewart, Lauren Daniel, and Lauren Marbut. The show's technicians are Shane Patel and Joshua Kundert-Gibbs. Mira Schweppe-Figueira is the costume mistress and Jade McDonald and Cori Hill are the make-up and wig assistants. Natalie Ray is the props mistress and Ethan Trice is crew. There are 47 students in the company of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is a record number! All shows begin at 7:30 p.m. on the Athens Academy Presentation Hall stage. Don't miss this production!

Lorraine Thompson

Spring Concerts

The music department has several concerts scheduled this spring. The Middle and Upper School bands will perform a Spring Concert on Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the Presentation Hall. The Upper School Jazz Band will present its spring performance - the Twilight Serenade - on Wednesday, April 22, 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. On Thursday, April 30 at 7:00 pm. in the Presentation Hall our Upper School string musicians will end their 2008-2009 school year with a Senior Recognition Concert. This concert will feature our seniors James Colquitt, Tommy Horn, Anna Kochut, Alec Greer, and Steven Stein and spotlight the entire Upper School Orchestra in several orchestral favorites. Lower School and Middle School orchestra students will present their annual String Fling in the Presentation Hall on Thursday, May 14, at 7:00 p.m. This concert will feature 130 musicians in grades 2-8 and should prove to be a very exciting and entertaining evening. A reception in the Bertelsmann Gallery will honor these fine young musicians following the performance.

Please mark your calendars and join us for these celebrations of music!

Shakespeare Shakedown!

Athens Academy participated in Georgia Shakespeare's Second Annual High School Competition on Saturday, February 21. Several of our Upper School students competed with a scene or monologue from the works of William Shakespeare. There were 78 students from across the state of Georgia competing in this event. Academy students participating were Billy Pate, Mary Katherine Malone, Christine Shaw, Libby Hansen, Cate Jackson, Sofe Wasserman-Smith, Ansley McAlister, and Anne Lanier Gilbert. The competition concluded with a showcase of selected monologues/scenes and the award ceremony. Anne Lanier Gilbert and Libby Hansen were selected to perform in the showcase. Anne Lanier was also awarded the second place medal in the female monologue division. Athens Academy was awarded the First Place School Award. This ranking reflected the school with the highest overall average. Congratulations to these Spartans!

Aesop on the Road!

The Athens Academy players have had a record number of bookings this year! At press time, the troupe had booked 11 out of 15 available performance dates. The troupe will perform at Timothy Road Elementary School, Colham Road Elementary School, Friendship Presbyterian Pre-School, Prince Avenue Christian School, Greenacres Pre-School, Kiddieland Childcare, Kids 'R Kids Childcare, Oconee Pre-school Academy and the Athens Academy Lower School. This service project is just one way that our students give back to their community. Sharing live theatre with the young in our area is a great way to introduce the arts to young students and for our students to grow as well. If you wish to see The Athens Academy Players perform contact troupe director, Lorraine Thompson.

Advanced Acting: Snapshots

The Advanced Acting class will be performing an evening of monologues for the annual acting showcase to be held on April 29 in the Presentation Hall. Performers will be Ansley McAlister, Anne Lanier Gilbert, Libby Hansen, Sofe Wasserman-Smith, Mary Katherine Malone, Drew Jacoby, CJ Brown, Becca Schell, and Cate Jackson.

Lorraine Thompson

Exhibits

The UGA printmaking department will have a show in the Myers Gallery April 13-May 22. The Bertelsmann Gallery will feature artwork by Athens Academy Middle School students April 13-May 1. Senior Exit Shows in the Science and Art Student Gallery will feature Lauren Sloclumbe and Blair Mallet, April 13-24, and Emily Rea and Tom McArthur from April 27-May 8. The Artscape 2009 opening is on Sunday, May 3 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Bertelsmann Gallery. This exhibition features exceptional artwork by students from all three divisions.

Debbie Schab

Curriculum *and Instruction*

CLASS Notes

Faculty/Staff Development Day

Thursday, April 9

School-wide Holiday on
Friday, April 10

Lower School Writing Assessment (WrAP)

Grades 3 and 4

Thursday, April 30 &
Friday, May 1

View from the Stacks—And the Oscar Goes to...Books!

As a librarian, I couldn't help but notice when the Academy Awards were handed out in late February that quite a few of the movies being honored started out as books. Kate Winslet won Best Actress for *The Reader*, a film based on the 1999 novel by Bernhard Schlink originally published in Switzerland. Winslet's other film, *Revolutionary Road*, was nominated for an art direction award, and was also based on a book published in 1961 by Richard Yates. *Revolutionary Road* lost the art direction award to another book (actually a short story) turned film, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald. The big winner, though, was *Slumdog Millionaire* which took home eight Oscars, including Best Picture. The film was based on (wait for it) a book! The book by Vikas Swarup was originally entitled *Q & A* and was published in 2005. Even the Best Actor award, which went to the late Heath Ledger for his portrayal of a villain named The Joker, was also a nod to the power of the book; the character appeared first in *Batman: The Dark Knight*, a graphic novel by Frank Miller.

Since the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has been handing out annual awards, some 37 of the Best Picture winners have been book-based films. Some of them probably won't leap to mind—*Cimarron*, for example which won in 1931 was based on a book by Edna Ferber. You might know another of Ms. Ferber's works though; *Giant*, a 1956 film starring Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson, and James Dean, was based on the book by the same name. *Giant* didn't win Best Picture, but it was nominated for nine Oscars and did win for Best Director, and is one of the American Film Institute's 100 Greatest Movies of all Time.

Some films are so familiar that we forget—or never knew—that they were books first. *The Sound of Music*, which won Best Picture in 1965, was based on *The Story of the Trapp Family Singers*, a book written by the actual Fraulein Maria. *The Godfather*, by Mario Puzo, became a cinematic classic, winning Best Picture in 1972 and in 1974 (for parts I and II). *The Sting*, which won Best Picture in 1973, is based on a book called *The Big Con: The Story of the Confidence Man* by David Maurer.

Then there are the classics that come to the big screen. *All Quiet on the Western Front*, the film based on the book by Erich Maria Remarque, won in 1930. *Rebecca*, made fabulously creepy by the master Alfred Hitchcock, was based on the novel by Daphne Du Maurier and won in 1940. *West Side Story*, a re-imagining of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, won in 1961. *Oliver!*, a lavish musical production of Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* won in 1968. I would argue that *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell is a classic, and also the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy; both are Oscar winners in their film incarnations. And it's quite possible too that many more people have met Scarlett O'Hara and Frodo Baggins on the screen than on the page. And you know what? Even a librarian is okay with that. Read—or watch!—a great book today.

Maura Mandyck

Guest Author Carmen Agra Deedy to Visit Lower School

Noted children's author and professional storyteller, Carmen Agra Deedy, will be visiting the Lower School library on April 20. Children and adults alike enjoy her books that include *Agatha's Feather Bed: Not Just Another Wild Goose Story*, *The Secret of Old Zeb*, *Tree Man*, and perhaps a special favorite of librarians, *The Library Dragon*.

In *The Library Dragon*, the Sunrise Elementary School hires Miss Lotta Scales to take care of the books in their library, but they are really in for a surprise and discover that looks can be very deceiving.

In *Agatha's Feather Bed*, Carmen Deedy tells the story of Agatha, a weaver of cloth so fine that people come from all around to buy it. Agatha's outlook on life--that everything comes from something--presents her with a real dilemma when the geese who supplied the feathers for her new feather mattress come to see her with goose bumps all over them. When Agatha finds a creative solution to this problem, young readers are delighted with the humorous and poignant resolution to the story.

Carmen Deedy uses the equatorial rain forest for the setting of her book *Treeman* and weaves a story of three South American friends, Ana Conda, Slow Jim, and Bill, who discover that it is through inspiration and a heroic spirit that noble goals are accomplished.

Carmen Agra Deedy was born in Havana, Cuba, and came to Georgia with her family after the Cuban Revolution. Her appearances across the United States and Canada include presentations at the Disney Institute, the New Victory Theater on Broadway, and the Kennedy Center. Deedy is a regular contributor to National Public Radio's "Weekend All Things Considered" and "Latino USA." Her internationally-known work with children's literature has won her numerous awards including the 1993 Georgia Author of the Year for Juvenile Literature, the 1995 Best Audiobook-Storytelling by Publishers Weekly, and 1996 Parents' Choice Gold Award. We look forward to welcoming Carmen Agra Deedy to our library to share stories and books with her.

Elaine King

SPORTS

Commitment to Excellence

Spartans Playing Sports in College

- **Baseball**
Charles Matthews
Georgia Southern
- **Crew**
Riva Denny
Boston University
- **Cross Country & Track**
Josh Deaton
Rhodes College

Dorothy Todd
Washington and Lee
- **Football**
Tyler Brantley, Andy Jarrett,
Evans Wellborn
University of the South
(Sewanee)

Derek Chuboff
Centre College

Chris Rogers
Georgia Southern

Thad Padgett
Shorter College

Brett Satterfield
Air Force

Jeff Turner
Maryville College
- **Golf**
Kent Crymes
Presbyterian College

Ryan Peters
Mercer University
- **Soccer**
Maggie Robinson
Harvard University
- **Swimming**
Karin Mullendore
Southern Illinois
University at Carbondale
- **Volleyball**
Sammie Maddox
University of the South
(Sewanee)

Athletics: The Academy Approach

Competitive athletics at Athens Academy is an integral part of the school's total educational program. The purpose of the athletic program is to develop endurance, strength, coordination, self-confidence, self-discipline, and team work as well as to develop recreational habits and skills that will be of value in later life. The goal is a performance-driven program where the athletes' well-being comes first, winning second.

The level of participation for each boy and girl is appropriate to his or her age, development, ability, and interest. Varsity competition emphasizes winning in a framework that allows athletes to feel successful by meeting personal performance goals. How we strive to win is the standard by which we will measure ourselves. The purpose of the sub-varsity level is to prepare athletes for the varsity level and provide game experience for each team member. The size of teams in some sports is limited so that athletes receive meaningful and quality instruction with a realistic opportunity for playing time. Students "try out" for teams. Although there is no guarantee that a student will be selected for a specific team, the number and variety of offerings in the program provide a multitude of opportunities for most students.

Athens Academy always supports the ideal of the student athlete within the framework of the school's motto, "Excellence with Honor." Experiencing the meaning of sportsmanship during competition offers young people a unique understanding of life and an opportunity to make thoughtful decisions in pressure situations. The commitment of the Academy to excellence on the athletic field as well as in the classroom is evidenced by the breadth and quality of its offerings.

As players, parents, coaches, and fans we have the responsibility to derive the best of what athletics has to offer. How we conduct ourselves and the spirit in which we support each other is very important. As players, we give it our all; as parents, we support our children; as coaches, we develop the total child; as fans, we cheer for the Spartans. This approach yields the best results with an added benefit of good sportsmanship.

SPOTLIGHTS

Announcements & Details

Directory Updates and Changes

If you have changes or corrections for the *School Directory*, 2008-2009, write or call the Development Office or email tparr@athensacademy.org. Updates will be printed in this newsletter.



Athens Academy Summer Camp 2009

- Week 1 • June 8-12
- Week 2 • June 15-19
- Week 3 • June 22-26
- Week 4 • July 6-10
- Week 5 • July 13-17

Mark your calendar!

Contact Margaret Wellborn for more information at 706-433-2494 or mwellborn@athensacademy.org

Remaining 2008-2009 Key Dates

Thursday, April 9		Student Holiday/Faculty Dev. Day
Friday, April 10		School Holiday
Sunday, May 24	8:00 p.m.	Graduation
Monday, May 25		School Holiday
Friday, May 29		Classes Dismiss for Summer Vacation

2009-2010 Key Dates

Monday, August 17	8:10 a.m.	First Day of Classes
Monday, September 7		Labor Day/School Holiday
Monday, October 12		Student Holiday/Faculty Dev. Day
Tuesday, November 24	3:20 p.m.	Classes Dismiss for Holidays
Monday, November 30	8:10 a.m.	Classes Resume
Friday, December 18	3:20 p.m.	Classes Dismiss for Holidays
Monday, January 4	8:10 a.m.	Classes Resume
Monday, January 18		Martin Luther King Day/School Holiday
Monday, February 15		Student Holiday/Faculty Dev. Day
Friday, March 5	3:20 p.m.	Classes Dismiss for Holidays
Monday, March 15	8:10 a.m.	Classes Resume
Thursday, April 1		Student Holiday/Faculty Dev. Day
Friday, April 2		School Holiday
Friday, May 28	3:20 p.m.	Classes Dismiss for Summer Vacation
Sunday, May 30		Graduation

NOTES

From the Headmaster



“A liberal arts education is going to be increasingly important as the foundation for success in our changing world.”

Preparing for a Changing World

As many of you know, Athens Academy sent a group to China in March. History teacher Beth Sensing, Dr. Ming-Jun Lai, and I accompanied ten students to Beijing, where we visited important cultural and historic sights, and then traveled on to Hangzhou, where we enjoyed a more personal experience during the home-stay portion of our trip. Our hosts were students, teachers, administrators, and families of Hangzhou High School. It was an amazing trip and an exciting opportunity for our group to travel and experience another culture. But this excitement was felt by more than just the thirteen of us who traveled to China. Using technology, we were able to communicate during our trip and share this adventure with students, faculty, and families back home. As with the Athens Academy students who traveled to India in 2006, we hope to continue to share our experiences and knowledge for years to come. We are also excited to welcome a group of students from Hangzhou High School when they visit us here next August.

In thinking about the importance of travel and our international program within our curriculum, I cannot help but reflect on the value of a liberal arts education in preparing our students for life. A liberal arts education is going to be increasingly important as the foundation for success in our changing world. The China trip represents more than just an opportunity for ten students; it illustrates the importance of a well-rounded education. A student who has a broad view of the world and his or her place in that world is better prepared to deal with others. According to the Association of American Colleges and Universities' *Statement on Liberal Learning*, a liberal arts education “prizes curiosity and seeks to expand the boundaries of human knowledge.” Indeed, globalization began the day one man left his village to trade in another village. He had to figure out a way to communicate with those of different beliefs and cultures. Today, this change is happening rapidly, and how we participate is going to have a great impact on our future.

Columnist Johnnetta B. Cole reported in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* that “the officers of large corporations, when asked what factors became important as a person goes into mid- and top-level positions, point to the skills that are taught in liberal arts courses: the ability to speak and write well, to reason, to identify and formulate problems, to be flexible, to work well with people of different cultures or languages.” A liberal arts education, full of variety and diversity, equips a student with the ability to learn. As the world around him or her changes, that student will be able to adapt and adjust, asking questions and finding solutions.

A liberal arts education which includes an international component teaches students to think and to relate to others. I hope that you will have a chance to talk to our China travelers and to appreciate the impact of their experience on their lives and on others’.

Robert Chambers, Jr.



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PERIODICALS
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