



# ADVANCING *Development*

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**J. Robert Chambers, Jr.**  
*Headmaster*

**George H. Huban, Jr.**  
*Director of Development*

**DeDe P. Guest**  
*Annual Fund Coordinator*

**Kelley Cuneo**  
*Publications Editor*

**Toni S. Parr**  
*Publications Assistant*

**Patricia A. Myers**  
*Communications Coord.*

**Debbie A. Daniel**  
*Alumni & Advertising Coord.*

**Sue S. Williams**  
*PSO Coordinator*

Phone: (706) 549-9225  
FAX: (706) 354-3775

Email:  
Academy@athensacademy.org  
Web:  
www.athensacademy.org

## Mission Statement

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

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*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: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Capital Campaign

December 1, 2008

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your continued support! Your participation is making a difference today!

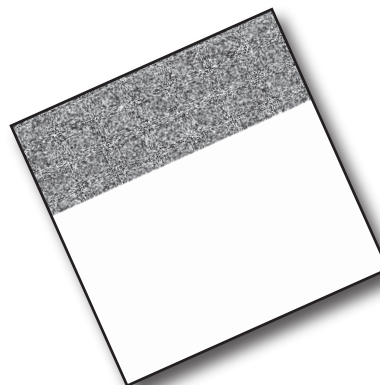
If you have given to Step One, the 2008-2009 Annual Fund, and Step Two, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Capital Campaign Phase II, we thank you for contributing to this year's success. **If your name is not listed in the Parent Donor Proof enclosed in this issue of *Spirit*, please make your gift or three- to five-year pledge today. Your participation in both efforts is most important.** Best wishes for a joyful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Bob Marion  
Annual Fund Chair  
Life Trustee

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

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



**Reminder... All gifts to Athens Academy are tax deductible.**

# SUPPORTING

## Parent Service Organization

### PSO Officers

#### PSO Officers

**Chair-** *Susie Malcom*  
**Co-chair-** *Kim Maddox*  
**PSO Coordinator-** *Sue Williams*  
**LS Rep-** *Leslie Suarez*  
**MS Rep-** *Kelly Hansford*  
**US Rep-** *Patty Brantley*  
**Athletic Advisory Rep-** *Karen Gilmore*  
**Media Center Rep-** *Alice Bruckner*  
**Fine Arts Rep-** *Didi Dunphy*

#### Committee Chairs

##### Faculty & Staff Appreciation

*Bonnie Chambers (Coord.)*  
*Myra Callaway (US)*  
*Kelly Johnson (MS)*  
*Cindy Crymes (LS)*

##### Gift Wrap Sales

*(Chair) Lisa Slocum*  
*(Co-chair) Allyn Timberlake*

##### Lunch Helpers

*(Chair) Leigh Ann Templeman*  
*(Co-chair) Carol Bernhardt*

##### Parents Day

*(Chair) Leslie Suarez*  
*(Co-chair) Margaret Smith*  
*Mary Beisswenger (MS)*  
*Amy Guess (US)*

##### Spirit Items Sales

*(Chair) Kaki Heath*  
*(Co-chair) Joanna Hill*

##### Grandparents Day

*(Chair) Lisa Hudson*  
*(Co-chair) Kristi Donnan*

##### Tennis Tournament

*(Chair) Clara Herrin*  
*(Co-chair) Laura Allen*  
*(Liaison) Allen Miller*

##### Golf Tournament

*(Chair) Shane & Natasha Dekle*  
*(Liaison) Zack Platek*

##### Holiday Decorating

*(Chair) Lesley Reynolds*  
*(Co-chair) Laura Pennington*

##### Spartan 5K and The Sprint

*(Chair) Kim Pittard*  
*(Co-chair) Kelly Channell*

##### Cookbook

*(Chair) Denise LaBoon*  
*(Co-chair) Pam Dillard*

##### Festival Day

*(Chair) Greta Covington*  
*(Co-chair) Rebecca Chisolm*

##### Required Reading Sales

*(Chair) Robin Linck*  
*(Co-chair) Traci Pruett*

##### Cash Back Program

*(Chair) Susan Ferguson*  
*(Co-chair) Lisa Shirreffs*

##### Post Planning Luncheon

*(Chair) Missy Sennowitz*  
*(Co-chair) Allison Hays*

##### LS Book Fair

*(Chair) Emily Foshee*  
*(Co-chair) Amy O'Neill*

##### Art Project

*(Chair) Lisa Frierson*  
*(Co-chair) Amy Nasworthy*

##### Concessions Liaison

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

##### LS Library Helpers

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

### Happy Holidays!

The holidays are here at Athens Academy!

Many thanks to Lesley Reynolds, Laura Pennington, and the entire Holiday Decorating Committee. Our campus looks beautiful, festive, and full of celebration!

If you are in need of the perfect gift, keep in mind our spirit items and the cookbook. Ask anyone who has received our cookbook, *Under The Magnolias*, and you will hear that it is one the best gifts they have received. As you make your shopping lists, don't forget to get copies for all your friends and family! Also, for those of you who want to wear your "colors," spirit items make great holiday gifts and stocking stuffers. Spirit items and cookbooks will be available at our Spirit Items Sale on Friday, December 5, in the Spartan Center.

Finally, this is the perfect time to express my sincere appreciation to all of you who are working so hard with the PSO. Your dedication and hard work help to make Athens Academy an outstanding school.

Thank you and happy holidays to all! Go Spartans!

*Susie Malcom*  
 PSO Chair

### Don't forget...

- Sally Foster gift wrap and Harry London Chocolates can still be ordered online at [sallyfoster.com](http://sallyfoster.com). Be sure to reference "Athens Academy" when ordering.
- The next PSO Executive Board meeting will be held Tuesday, January 13, 2009, at 8:15 a.m. in the Science and Art Building.
- The next PSO Board meeting will be held Tuesday, January 20, 2009, at 8: 15 a.m. in the Spartan Center. All chairs and co-chairs should plan to attend.
- Be sure to use your Cash Back cards at local stores—it's the easiest way to volunteer!

### Save These Dates

Spirit Items Sale  
 Friday, December 5, 2008  
 8:00 a.m.-noon  
 Spartan Center

Spartan 5K & Spartan Sprint  
 Saturday, February 14, 2009

Festival Day  
 Saturday, April 18, 2009

# LOWER School News

## PRIMARY Points

### Preschool for 2009-2010

Applications and screenings taking place in December and January

### Holiday Program

Wednesday, December 3  
9:45-10:30 a.m.  
Spartan Center  
Seniors and first graders decorate the Christmas tree. Senior and first grade parents are invited.

### PS/LS Holiday Sing-Along

Friday, December 19  
10:15-10:45 a.m.  
Lower School Hall

### Holiday Parties

Friday, December 19  
K4 at 11:00 a.m.  
K3 at 11:15 a.m.  
Prefirst at 12:30 p.m.  
Lower School at 2:40 p.m.

### Holidays

December 20-January 4  
Classes dismiss at 3:20 p.m. on Friday, December 19.  
**No extended day available.**  
Classes resume on Monday, January 5 at 8:10 a.m.

## Growing Gators

Reptiles can be a very interesting topic of study, especially for second grade students. What better species of reptile to choose for closer study than the much-maligned alligator. Using the book *Zack's Alligator* as our entry into the world of alligators, each student received a baby gator. Like good scientists we employed the scientific method for our study, posing the question, "How much will my alligator grow in one week?"

We used our science process skills to predict, observe, measure, graph and record. Like some other species of reptiles, our alligators needed an aquatic habitat to thrive. After a week of growing our specimens and conducting our research, we were able to take them home as pets.

We were surprised to learn that our gators were made of a water-absorbing substance (a type of polymer) that was developed for use in disposable diapers! No wonder our gators grew!

*Sharon Reinking & Mary Kline*

### Inside an Eye

Have you ever wanted to dissect an eye? The Athens Academy fourth grade had a chance to just that. The event took place on Tuesday, October 7. We had one hour to dissect a sheep's eye as part of our science study of the eye.

As I walked into the Lower School Discovery Center, the smell of something not so pleasant permeated the air. As Mrs. Burnette, my math and science teacher, demonstrated the technique for the dissection, I couldn't help but smile. To my amazement, the sheep's eye did not look anything like what I had imagined. A yellow-white meatball is a good way to describe its color and shape.

We all worked with a partner, and mine was Sandelin Sikes. The scissors we used to cut open the eye were sharp and new. The eye was covered with in fat, so we had to point the sharp end of the scissors into the colored part of the

eye, the iris. A clear liquid called the aqueous humor gushed out of the eye. Cool! Then, the white oval-shaped lens slid out. The surface was as smooth and slick as a newly polished vase. We cut deeper into the eye, and out oozed the clear jelly called the vitreous humor. After that the purplish-blue, paper-thin lining called the tapetum which helps animals see in the dark, was to be removed, but ours would not come out! We had to finally remove it with tweezers! Finally, I spotted the retina, the tough back of the eye, with the optic nerve right in the middle of it. The optic nerve is a tube that leads from the eye to the brain.

All too soon, that was it, the end of the dissection. When we were all finished, we threw the sheep's eye away, and washed our hands. I thought this was an amazing experience and so did my classmates. Most of us are looking forward to learning more about science through dissection.

*Anna Ford Pittard*

### Reading Buddy Program

The three-year-old students and third graders have begun their year-long "Reading Buddy Program." The students meet once a week to share great books while making friendships that can last a lifetime. The students are paired for the entire school year. The older students choose some of their favorite books from home, the Media Center, or from the three-year-old classrooms. Three-year-olds love the attention from the "big kids" while the third graders are improving their read-aloud skills. It is an exciting, special time to look forward to each week. We are all having a blast!

*Libby Carson, Beth West, Sandra Kellett, & Jessica Wilson*

### K4 Voting

The four-year-old classes went to the polls on November 4 and voted for their favorite ice cream favor. This was after a long and

arduous campaign among three qualified candidates: Vanilla, Chocolate, and Fudge Ripple.

The students learned that voting is making a choice for someone or something you think important.

*Cindy Boerma, Ellen Cunningham, & Deena Eberhardt*

### Performances Available on DVD

Athens Academy is starting a Media Services Program (MSP). Whenever possible, the MSP and/or students from the Upper School Media & Technology Club will be videotaping Academy service activities, PS/LS class plays, fine arts activities, and athletic events. Many of these videos will be made available on DVD for a fee. Our first offering is the webcast of Grandparents/Special Friends Day. You can view a replay of this webcast by going to the Lower School Announcements page on the Athens Academy website. If you would like to purchase a DVD, please email Mike Callinan at [mcallinan@athensacademy.org](mailto:mcallinan@athensacademy.org) and advise how many copies you would like. There will be a charge of \$10.00 per copy, which will be billed to your account.

*Mike Callinan*

### Preschool & K5 2009-2010

Please be sure to fill out an application if you are planning on having your child enter the three-year-old, four-year-old, or the prefirst (what we call kindergarten) classes next year. After we have received an application we will call you to set up an appointment to have your child screened in December or January. The screening is a combination of games and activities with no paper or pencil tasks and takes about 30-45 minutes. The child also gets a cookie, which seems to be a big hit.

*Bob Urich & Melton Weekley*

# MIDDLE School News

## TAKE Note

### Auditions

*Middle School play  
A Servant of Two Masters  
December 4-5  
3:30-5:30 p.m.  
Presentation Hall*

### MS Strings Performance

*Athens Regional Medical  
Center Atrium  
Tuesday, December 9*

### MS Band Performance

*Iris Place & Lanier  
Gardens Retirement  
Homes  
Tuesday, December 9*

### Admissions Information Session

*Wednesday, December 10  
9:00 a.m.  
Myers Gallery  
Science and Art Building*

### Sixth Grade Field Trip

*King Tut exhibit in Atlanta  
Thursday, December 11*

### Eighth Grade Exams

*December 16-19*

### Holidays

*December 20-January 4  
Classes dismiss at  
3:20 p.m. on Friday,  
December 19  
Classes resume on  
Monday, January 5  
at 8:10 a.m.*

## Cyber Tips for Parents

Many teens enjoy using social network communities such as MySpace and Facebook to communicate with their friends, meet new friends, or just to express themselves. Individuals who are over the age of 14 are eligible to use these pages, so there is a large congregation of young people who are creating and maintaining pages. However, teens who use the Internet to meet friends are possibly more at risk than adults who use the Internet for socializing and networking. Often teens are not aware of the consequences of their inappropriate comments and photos. Even people considered to be friends can use this information against them, especially if they become ex-friends.

One of the best ways parents can help to protect their teens on these sites is by staying involved in the child's life. Parents should be aware of whether or not their teen has a MySpace or Facebook profile. If the teen has created a profile, the parent should let the child know they will be reviewing the profile frequently.

Teens who know their parents will be viewing their pages are less likely to make poor choices when designing their websites. Also, parents who view their child's websites regularly will see the friends the teen is making and can put a stop to any potentially harmful comments, postings, and/or pictures.

**A good rule of thumb is to not post anything you don't want the whole world to know.**

#### Recommendations for parents:

1. Ask for access to your teen's MySpace or Facebook page. If your child has "friends only" or a "privacy" setting enabled, then you should be invited by them to view their page. This way, you can view your teen's page to make sure that he or she hasn't posted anything overly personal or inappropriate.

2. Depending on your teen's age and maturity level, you might want to restrict Internet access to times when you're around. Many parents keep the family computer in a common room to

facilitate supervision.

3. Depending on your teen's age, you might want to know who is on your teen's list of friends.

4. Students do not need unlimited computer access. Many parents find it helpful for students to store laptops with parents at bedtime.

By knowing the dangers and how to avoid them, we can take advantage of all the positive aspects of the Internet while avoiding most of its pitfalls.

*Carrie Olson*

### Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following students whose excellent academic work has earned them a place on the first quarter honor roll. Well done!

**Fifth grade:** Adeline Archibald, Larsen Block, Kayla Cherry, Rob Clements, Will Corry, Ellie Crymes, Nicholas Grubb, Davis Haeusser, Isabelle Hale, Mara Hancock, Megan Hodgson, Kevin Kim, Julia Lankau, Elizabeth Malcom, Colin Murphy, Sean Murphy, Tesh Parris, Alisha Patel, Anshul Patel, Drew Richardson, Hayden Rymer, Riya Shah, Sarah Slocum, Gabriela Tejeda, Grace Trimpe, RaRa Williams.

**Sixth grade:** Anna Buchanan, Aurora Buntun, Rhea Chatterjee, Helen Chen, Caroline Colley, Mary Glenn Dillard, Will Divers, Caroline Doherty, Reagan Dyson, Nathan Fechheimer, Caroline Fenno, Morgan Ferguson, Richard Ferguson, Morgan Grace, Adam Hearn, Hayden Hudson, Steven Jackson, Kathryn Johnson, Mason T. Jones, William Leverett, Hunter McWilliams, Jason Papadopoulos, Caroline Robinson, Charlie Duke Rymer, Evan Shirreffs, Alex Waugh, Logan Williams.

**Seventh grade:** Prakash Agrawal, Natalie Busener, Alois Cerbu, Moiranyah Daniels-Melear, Katie Marie Davis, Ian Dawkins, Claudia Evaristo, Connor Guess, Shannon Hodgson, Joy Kim, Charles Lankau, Zander Mason, Patrick McArdle, Madeleine Mullen, Anamaria Otalora-Garcia, Darshan G. Parikh, Rooshi Patel, Abbey Pylant, Nick Rorabaugh, Rebecca Schofield, Matilda Segal,

Nilu Vyas, Holly Williams, Oliver Woodruff.

**Eighth grade:** Ward Archibald, Lucy Barsness, Sam Clements, MacKinsey Cole, Aaron Conley, Jason Fern, Houston Gaines, Emily Anne Hansford, Jordan Johnson, Ethan Jones, Caroline LaBoon, Forrest Liedberg, Katie McCormack, Aashni Patel, Emily Pee, Jimmy Robinson, Caroline Sanders, Sarah Whatley.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Exams

Teachers will work with students to prepare an exam study schedule, organize materials for study, and review for exams. The eighth grade students will write their semester exams December 16-19. Parents can best support their students by helping them to plan ahead and allow adequate preparation, providing quiet study times on weekends and evenings, and giving lots of encouragement.

### Holiday Service

This month fifth, sixth, and seventh grade students will collect toys and canned goods for the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army has had an unprecedented increase in requests for assistance this holiday season. They estimate they will issue clothing and gifts to over 3500 local children, twice what was estimated for last year. The two areas of greatest need are for infants and older children. We are asking students to bring in gifts which are appropriate for children their ages or younger. We also ask that students bring at least one canned good with each gift. Gifts and canned goods will be delivered Friday, December 12.

The Middle School faculty is volunteering with the Salvation Army the evening of December 18 to assist in the distribution of gifts. We hope that the efforts of our students and teachers will bring needed joys to the lives of others during the holiday season.

### Happy Holidays!

The faculty and I wish for each family a joyous time together! Thank you for the many ways that you are assisting us with our service projects and celebrations.

*Brenda Klein*

# UPPER

## School News

### HIGH Lights

#### Holiday Program

*Wednesday, December 3  
9:45-10:30 a.m.  
Spartan Center  
Seniors and first graders  
decorate the Christmas  
tree. Senior and first grade  
parents are invited.*

#### Review Days

*December 12 & 15 are  
seven period review days.  
All seven periods are  
scheduled to meet.*

#### Exam Schedule

*The semester exam  
schedule has been mailed  
to each Upper School  
student. There are seven  
exam periods, two per  
day, on December 16,  
17, and 18, followed by  
one morning period on  
December 19.  
All morning exams begin at  
8:10 a.m. and all afternoon  
exams begin at 12:30 p.m.*

#### Holidays

*December 20-January 4  
Classes dismissed at  
3:20 p.m. on Friday,  
December 19. Classes  
resume at 8:10 a.m. on  
Monday, January 5.*

#### Service Day

*Interact Club members  
and Upper School student  
leaders would like to thank  
Upper School students,  
teachers, parents, and the  
many service agencies in  
the area for their assistance  
in making the tenth-annual  
Service Day a success!*

## Living and Giving

As we enter the last month of the year, it seems appropriate that we pause to reminisce about the previous eleven months before we think about our activities this month. We have done a lot, both individually and collectively, these past few months and we will continue to do so in the future. In October, we gave blood and in doing so gave life. We donated 39 units of blood, 14 units over our stated goal, during the first of our three blood drives. In November, we gave time during the tenth-annual service day. The collective Upper School community performed approximately 1,500 hours by completing nineteen service projects. In December, we will give love and happiness. The Upper School will once again work with Clarke County DFACS and serve as holiday angels. We will adopt 15-20 local children, ensuring that they have a memorable holiday season. Although it is the season of giving, it is important to note that we give year round and we give around the world.

Sally Harris, one of the service leaders in the Upper School, continues to reach out her hands and stretch her students' minds around important global issues. In addition to her tireless efforts and work with students to build a library in a devastated fishing village in Tamil Nadu, India, she has most recently encouraged her students to involve themselves in the NAIS Global Initiatives Team's 20/20 challenge. This year, our students will work collaboratively with students living in Jubail, Saudi Arabia, and they will work together to find solutions for alleviating poverty throughout the world. For updates throughout the year please visit <http://www.nais.org/go/challenge2020>. As our world becomes flat, we must resolve ourselves to not become shallow. Service to others is the antidote to this and provides an outlet for apathy.

While we all recognize and celebrate the importance of giving to and doing for others this time of year, it is important

to recognize that service is an integral component of our educational goals and is something we encourage students to do every day. Research and personal experience have shown that service and doing for others enriches lives and should be acknowledged and celebrated. And so, during this month of December, please take time to remember all the good things you have done for others and all the wonderful things others have done for you.

#### Grant Awarded

The Interact Club learned recently that The Rotary Foundation has awarded a matching grant through its sponsor, the Classic City of Athens Rotary Club, to fund the furnishings, technology improvements, and resources for the projected library at the school in Pallam, India. This leaves the Interact Club with just a little over \$10,000 more to raise before construction can begin (hopefully after next year's monsoon season). In the spirit of holiday giving, anyone interested in participating in this effort to help this fishing village struck by the 2004 tsunami is invited to make a tax deductible donation to: 6910 Charities Inc. and to send it to Mr. J.P. Watson at Athens Academy. Check the Upper School Announcements web page for more information about Project Pallam.

#### Geometric Houses

Mrs. Anita Peng recently had her Geometry Honors students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of geometry by building foamboard houses. The activity made students deal with the mathematics of perspective and scale as well as the geometry of three-dimensional objects. Many of the projects are on display in the Myers Gallery lobby.

#### Semester Exams

Semester exams will be administered on December 16-19. The week prior to exams, foreign language students will be

evaluated on the oral and auditory components of the course. Exams will be returned and reviewed during the first week of classes in January. Semester grade reports will be mailed on January 12.

#### Exam Schedule

Deviations from the exam schedule must be approved in advance by the Upper School Director. There are many logistics involved with exam scheduling, so please submit any exam requests in writing by Monday, December 8. In case of student illness or other emergencies, the Director and Coordinator of Academic and Personal Support will work with the family to arrange for make up of missed exams. In the event of a student's travel abroad, the Director will work with the family. In all other cases, students are required to follow their assigned exam schedule. If a student is scheduled for two exams at the same time, he/she should meet with the Coordinator of Academic and Personal Support to resolve the conflict.

#### Arrival/Departure

Parents are asked to call the school at 706-433-2530 during the exam days if a student must be absent because of illness or a family emergency. For morning exams, students are asked to report to the Presentation Hall no later than 8:05 a.m., at which time they will be given their exam locations and attendance will be taken. A student who has NO morning exam may study at home, arriving at school no later than 11:00 a.m. Prior to the 12:30 p.m. exam, all students are asked to report to the Presentation Hall no later than 12:25 p.m., at which time they will be given their exam locations and attendance will be taken. A student with NO afternoon exam remain on campus to study in the Media Center. Students who are leaving after their morning exam must sign out in the Upper School office prior to departure. Students with both a morning and an afternoon exam should plan to have lunch on campus. *Bob Sears*

# GUIDE

## To Higher Education

### COLLEGE *Bound*

#### **SAT Fall 2008-2009 Schedule**

January 24  
Register by December 26  
March 14  
Register by February 10  
May 2  
Register by March 31  
June 6  
Register by May 5

Go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to register.

#### **ACT Fall 2008-2009 Schedule**

February 7  
Register by January 6  
April 4  
Register by February 27  
June 13  
Register by May 8

Go to [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) to register.

## The Home Stretch

We wanted to go with a “fa la la la la,” approach to this month’s column as we reach the exciting end of the application season for seniors but instead feel the need to go with more of a “Bah, Humbug” style to make sure nothing gets lost in the excitement of December. So putting aside any desire to entertain you, our reader, we will instead ask you to determine which of the categories applies to you and make sure you follow all of those instructions. We’ll be friendly and fun again later, we promise.

### Category One

#### • Regular Decision

All Blue Sheets were due December 1. Check with your children to make sure they turned in an individual Blue Sheet for each school to which they wanted to apply. We submit all school materials before the holidays so that files will be complete whenever students fill out their part of the application.

### Category Two

#### • Early Decision Early Action Candidates

Many Early Decision and Early Action results arrive during the holiday break. Since we don’t know if this news will be positive or negative we must have an alternate plan in place. Students should have turned in Blue Sheets for those alternate plan schools and school materials will be sent before the break. If the news is positive, of course, your senior does not need to fill out additional applications and the materials

we sent will be destroyed. If the news is not positive, the file will be complete once the student has sent their part of the materials.

### Category Three

#### • UGA Early Action Candidates

Admissions decisions for Early Action applicants will be released by December 15. If deferred, students must complete Part II of the application and submit one teacher recommendation by January 15. Students who are deferred and wish to complete Part II of the application should fill out a second Blue Sheet the first day that we return to school to indicate what teacher will be writing and to authorize our office to send out other supporting documents.

### Category Four

#### • Everyone

As all this paperwork comes in to colleges they will inevitably be behind in updating their websites and there might even be an automatically generated email or two saying that a transcript is missing. At this point in the year our organizational program, Naviance, will be much more up to date, so check that to ensure that items have been mailed. The Blue Sheet obsession that pervades this column is to ensure that if something is lost we have a record of it so if we have recorded something as done in Naviance we know that materials have been mailed to the school and we have made copies that have been filed in our office.

Once students hear of their notification decisions, they must update their Naviance accounts so we can be sure to support them through the end of this process. Although getting into college feels like a great last step, it is important that we use Naviance to officially declare your final status.

We will be mailing out transcripts with first semester grades to all schools applied to as soon as they are available in January. Some of you may have a special mid-year counselor report form; if so, you may give it to us but be aware that all grades will be sent to all schools regardless of paperwork filed. Final grades will automatically be sent to the school you plan to attend next fall at the end of this school year. Be sure those grades are in keeping with your previous record.

### Category Five

#### • Juniors

We will officially kick off the college planning process with Junior College Night on February 5, and seminars will start in the weeks leading up to that event. We will also be scheduling individual meetings with each family in February as we get you started on what the seniors are soon to complete.

*Colleen Pruitt and  
Jeff Stachura*

# ARTS

## On Stage and in the Studio

COMING  
Soon

### Exhibits

Through December 12

#### Myers Gallery

Dana Johns, paintings

UGA Ceramic and

Sculpture Students

#### Bertelsmann Gallery

Georgia Patterson, doll  
houses

Richard Patterson,  
photography

### MS Play Auditions

December 4 and 5

3:30-5:30 pm

Presentation Hall

### US Jazz Band Cabaret Concert

Tuesday, December 9

7:00 p.m.

Lower School Hall

### MS Strings

Athens Regional Medical

Center Atrium

Tuesday, December 9

### MS Band

Iris Place & Lanier

Gardens Retirement Homes

Tuesday, December 9

### US Orchestra

Athens Regional Medical

Center Atrium

Wednesday, December 10

### LS Orchestra Assembly

Grades 3 and 4

Friday, December 12

## One Act Play Wins Awards!

In addition to a successful three-night run on campus, *Arlucchino & The City of Love*, Athens Academy's entry into the GISA One Act Play competition this year, competed at the Sub-Region level on November 5. This event was hosted by Athens Academy. This year's competing schools were Athens Academy, Hebron Christian Academy, Athens Christian, and Prince Avenue. Our production placed first and was chosen to go on to the sub-region level with the second-place school, Athens Christian. Academy students Chase Brantley and Bridgette Duffeld were recognized for their outstanding performances. The Region One Act Competition was held at the Georgia Mountain Center in Gainesville, Georgia, on November 7. The schools competing in this competition were Athens Academy, Athens Christian, Lakeview Academy, and Rabun-Gap Nacoochee School. We are proud to report that *Arlucchino & The City of Love* was awarded second place! Our production also received the award for "Best Crew" and actor Chase Brantley was recognized as "Best Actor in the Region." Congratulations to these talented Spartans!

Lorraine Thompson

### Musicians Excel

The following orchestra students passed the district level audition and have advanced to the state level for GMEA's All-State Orchestra on January 17 at Westminster in Atlanta: Madeleine Mullen, violin; Joy Kim, violin; Alois Cerbu, 'cello; Andy Kim, violin; Daniel Masciadri, string bass; and Maddie Marshall, 'cello.

The Pep Band came home with two trophies from the GISA competition held October 18. They placed second in their class and got an Excellent rating overall!

Eric Perkerson, Emily Dong, and Tavish Gantz will audition for the Georgia Music Educators

Association District #13 Honor Band on December 13 at Norcross High School. Rebecca Edison, Taylor Payne, Obaid Rahman, Jason Fern, Jessica Gross, Max Ruston, and Nick Rorabaugh plan to audition for the GMEA MS District #13 Honor Band December 6 at Jones Middle School. Congratulations and good luck to these fine musicians! *JanFest*, the UGA January High School Band Festival (January 15-18) and *MidFest*, UGA's Middle School Band Festival (December 11-13) have free performances that are open to the public beginning at 11:30 a.m. and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of each festival in Hodgson Hall at the UGA Performing Arts Center. Athens Academy band students have participated in both events for the past six years and our program has benefited greatly from these experiences. Please join us for these exciting concerts!

### Art News

The paintings of Dana Johns and the work of UGA ceramic and sculpture students will be available for public viewing in the Myers Gallery through December 12. Ms. Johns' works have been exhibited in galleries throughout Georgia, North Carolina, Florida and Tennessee.

Featured in the Bertelsmann Gallery through December 12 will be the doll houses of Georgia Patterson and the photography of Richard Patterson.

The Myers and Bertelsmann Galleries are open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The 3D design classes recently visited the owner-built homestead of J.P. Crisan. These students also presented their models for playhouses to the pre first classes in the Lower School. The banners from the Studio Art 1 class are currently on display between the Tillman Center and Trustees Building for your viewing pleasure.

### Athens Arts Watch

December is the perfect month to support local artists and craftspeople. The Athens area has wonderful holiday artist markets which provide shoppers with unique and locally-made gifts. The courtyard of Big City Bread has the Athens Holiday Market on December 12-13 and features handmade paintings from Lou Kregel, great T-shirts by Satisfactory Printing, and much more. For more info visit: <http://athensholidaymarket.blogspot.com>.

There is also the OCAF (Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation) Holiday Market in Watkinsville on December 1-2. This market has wonderful local pottery and glass works. For more info visit: [http://myocaf.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=33&Itemid=61](http://myocaf.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=33&Itemid=61).

A bit farther, but certainly worth the trip, is the new [hand.craft.it](http://craft.it) festival at the beautiful Madison-Morgan Cultural Center in Madison on December 13. Visit this website for more info: <http://www.handcraftitfestival.com>.

So, for this holiday season, do support the local arts scene and the local economy by visiting these fun events. Happy holidays!

Didi Dunphy

### Cabaret Night

The Jazz Band will perform their annual Cabaret Night at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, in the Lower School Hall.

This performance will last approximately one hour and admission and refreshments are free. Everyone is invited to attend!

Debbie Schab

# Curriculum and Instruction

## CLASS Notes

### Other types of professional development opportunities available to Athens Academy faculty and staff:

Introduced in the summer of 2008, *The Summer Curriculum Development Program* encourages groups of Athens Academy teachers to enhance specific areas of the curriculum across disciplines, grade levels, and divisions during the summer months—when their schedules tend to be a little less hectic.

Visit [http://www.athensacademy.net/teachers/aateacher/summer\\_curriculum\\_development/](http://www.athensacademy.net/teachers/aateacher/summer_curriculum_development/) for information about all of Athens Academy's professional development programs and [http://www.athensacademy.net/teachers/aateacher/faculty\\_and\\_staff\\_honors/](http://www.athensacademy.net/teachers/aateacher/faculty_and_staff_honors/) for an updated list of recent faculty and staff honors.

### Faculty Development at Athens Academy

The November issue of *Spirit* featured information about Athens Academy's Pursuit of Excellence Program, which currently provides four stipends annually to faculty and staff for activities which lead to personal development. This month, the focus shifts to those types of development aligned more specifically with teachers' field of study or extracurricular responsibilities. With the firm belief that a teacher's ongoing learning leads to better instruction and better student learning, Athens Academy has always been committed to providing professional development opportunities of the highest quality possible for its faculty and staff. We are all aware of many of the wonderful things our teachers do each day in the classroom. Here is a look at just a few recent examples of the equally impressive activities in which they have been involved—outside of the classroom.

- Middle School mathematics teachers Ginna Ezernack, Jennifer Rorabaugh, and Becky Green attended the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics (GCTM) Yearly Conference and studied topics such as developing reading skills in math, teaching vocabulary and technical reading, integrating mathematics with other areas of study, teaching elements of geometry to middle schoolers, and moving middle schoolers from concrete to abstract thinking with fractions and decimals.
- English Department Head Jeff Stachura recently attended the American Studies Association's annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Jeff was part of a panel that included teachers from The Asheville School, Oyster River High School, and The Howard School. Their presentation, "Visions and Revisions: How to Build a High School American Studies Program," was sponsored by the ASA's K-16 collaboration committee, giving Jeff an opportunity to spend time working with high school teachers and college educators from across the country.
- Melton Weekley and Preschool teachers Libby Carson, Beth West, Deena Eberhardt, Ellen Cunningham, and Cindy Boerma attended the popular Handwriting Without Tears workshop, a handwriting program based on developmentally appropriate practices using a multisensory approach. Teachers learned about the developmental stages of the handwriting process, techniques to incorporate into their teaching, and the most effective ways to correct handwriting errors.
- Middle School Language Arts teachers Alice Ann Colley and Margaret Wellborn attended a workshop in Atlanta on the importance and craft of reading aloud to Middle School students led by nationally renowned author and speaker Dr. Jim Trelease. Because this presentation was part of his last public tour before his retirement, it has caused much interest across the country among educators.

Pat Cuneo

### View from the Stacks—Is Google Making Us Stoopid?

If you have a child ten years old or younger, that child has never lived in a world without Google. Hardly any information is out of the reach of Google, and it is where the vast majority of us turn first for the answer to almost any question. But is Google making us stoopid? That was the question on the cover of the July/August 2008 edition of *The Atlantic Monthly*. Author Nicholas Carr, who writes, speaks and blogs on technology, business and culture, fears that it is, or if not actually stupid, unable to concentrate, focus, and absorb information or ideas. "Over the past few years," Carr says, "I've had an uncomfortable sense that someone, or something, has been tinkering with my brain, remapping the neural circuitry, reprogramming the memory. My mind isn't going—so far as I can tell—but it's changing." (A new book by Gary Small, a neuroscientist and expert on brain function and behavior, suggests that Carr might be right. More on this book—*iBrain: Surviving the Technological Alteration of the Modern Mind*—next month.) Carr goes on to say that he feels the change most strongly when he is trying to read: "Now my concentration often starts to drift after two or three pages. I get fidgety, lose the thread, begin looking for something else to do. I feel as if I'm always dragging my wayward brain back to the text. The deep reading that used to come naturally has become a struggle."

Author Mark Bauerlein suggests that the effect of widespread and constant Internet use is affecting not only Nicholas Carr's ability to read but is in fact putting an entire generation and an entire society (ours) at risk. The title of his new book says it all; it is *The Dumbest Generation: How the Digital Age Stupefies Young Americans and Jeopardizes Our Future (Or, Don't Trust Anyone Under 30)*. The generation of which he speaks is the Net Generation, Generation Y, the Millennials or, in other words, our current teenagers and college students. The Kaiser Family Foundation calls them the "M Generation," M for Media, and in a recent survey found that that 8 to 18-year-olds today spend 6 ½ hours a day with media of various kinds. In fact, because they are so often using more than one medium at a time, they take in 8 ½ hours a day of media content. And that exposure does seem to have a measurable effect. Bauerlein quotes a study by the Nielsen Norman Group, a consulting group that tests website usability and user response for corporations and which uses an "eyetracking" technique that detects eye movements, and charts where on the Web page vision moves and rests, and for how long. In 1997, the group released a study entitled "How Users Read on the Web." The conclusion of that study?

continued on page 11

# SPORTS

## Commitment to Excellence

### Spartans Playing Sports in College

- **Baseball**  
*Charles Matthews*  
Georgia Southern
- **Competitive Cheerleading**  
*Hailey Evans*  
University of Virginia
- **Crew**  
*Riva Denny*  
Boston University
- **Cross Country & Track**  
*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
- **Golf**  
*Kent Crymes*  
Presbyterian College  
*Ryan Peters*  
Mercer University
- **Soccer**  
*Maggie Robinson*  
Harvard University
- **Swimming**  
*Karin Mullendore*  
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
- **Tennis**  
*Adrienne Elsberry*  
University of Georgia
- **Track**  
*Josh Deaton*  
Rhodes College
- **Volleyball**  
*Sammie Maddox*  
University of the South (Sewanee)

### Time Flies When...

It is hard to believe we have almost completed half of the school year. Fall sports seasons have ended and we are in the early portion of our swimming, basketball, and cheerleading schedules. As usual with our fall sports programs, the Spartans had much success--as you can tell by the accomplishments listed below.

We seem to focus a lot of our attention toward recognizing the varsity programs at Athens Academy, but our Middle School programs all had wonderfully successful seasons! The Middle School football team had their best season in the last four years and improved with every week under the guidance of Coach Scott Wilkins and staff. The Middle School volleyball teams consistently out-skilled their opponents while competing in one of the toughest schedules in the area. Coach Brian Olson was pleased with the girls' dedication and approach to each practice and match. The Middle School cross country teams, coached by Lydia Wells and Carrie Olson, won numerous meets and had exceptional individual performances along the way.

The varsity coaches are excited about the future of their programs and look forward to working with the athletes to help them achieve their athletic potential.

As the temperature gets colder, with less daylight, please consider attending as many basketball games and/or swim meets as possible. The players and coaches really need and appreciate your support.

#### Quote of the month:

*"It is a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it."*  
--W. Somerset Maugham

#### Varsity Sports Highlights to date (as of mid-November):

- **Volleyball:** Area Champions and State Playoffs. Kelly Foster was named Area 8A/AA Player of the Year, Carey Stewart was named to the All Area 1<sup>st</sup> Team, and Gracie Liedberg and Morgan Maddox were named to the All Area 2<sup>nd</sup> Team. Nikki Chester was also named Area Coach of the Year.
- **Boys Cross Country:** 6<sup>th</sup> at Clarke-Oconee Championships, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Region 8A, State Quali fer, and 11<sup>th</sup> in State. David Millard received 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Region recognition. Team MVP is David Millard, Ben Terry received the Spartan Award, and David Himelick and Brant Batzer received the Coach's Awards.
- **Girls Cross Country:** 4<sup>th</sup> at Clarke-Oconee Championships, Region 8A Runner-Up, State Quali fer, and 7<sup>th</sup> in State. Sara Wetzstein, Meagan Marshburn, Margaret DuBose, and Mary Hadley Williams received All Region recognition. Team MVP is Sara Wetzstein, Mary Hadley Williams received the Spartan Award, and Margaret DuBose received the Coach's Award.
- **Football:** 9-1 regular season record and Region 8A Runner-Up.
- **Boys Tennis:** Scott Foster signed a National Letter of Intent with Samford University on November 12.

*Kevin Petroski*



# NOTES *From the Headmaster*



*Athens Academy  
wishes you  
a joyous  
holiday season!*

The holiday season is always one of excitement and anticipation. Children and adults are looking forward to what is to come. During December at Athens Academy, many special activities are planned to celebrate the season. These holidays, and the feelings they engender, transcend any boundaries of religion and unite us all in a common feeling of affection for each other. Be a part of our tradition and join the celebration.

*Robert Chambers, Jr.*

#### **December Service Projects**

--Upper School "adopts" foster children from DFACS Holiday Angel Program.

--Middle School students (grades 5-7) will provide gifts for children through the Salvation Army. Faculty members will assist the Salvation Army with gift distribution on December 18.

--Lower School students collect canned goods, eyeglasses, and toys for the Salvation Army.

#### **December 3**

School-wide Holiday Program  
9:45-10:30 a.m.

Spartan Center  
*Seniors and first graders  
decorate the Christmas tree.*

*Senior and first grade parents  
are invited.*

#### **December 9**

Middle School String Orchestra  
Performances at Athens  
Regional Medical Center  
(Atrium)  
5 & 6 grades at 12:15 p.m.  
7 & 8 grades at 1:45 p.m.

Middle School Band  
Performances at Iris Place &  
Lanier Gardens Retirement  
Homes

#### **December 9**

Upper School Jazz Band  
Cabaret Concert  
7:00 p.m.  
Lower School Hall

#### **December 10**

Upper School String Orchestra  
Performance at Athens Regional  
Medical Center (Atrium)  
10:30 a.m.

#### **December 19**

Pre/Lower School Holiday  
Sing-Along  
10:15-10:45 a.m.  
Lower School Hall

Pre/Lower School Holiday  
Parties  
K4 at 11:00 a.m.  
K3 at 11:15 a.m.  
Pre frst at 12:30 p.m.  
Lower School at 2:40 p.m.

Grades 5 & 6 Classroom  
Holiday Parties at 2:30 p.m.

All divisions dismiss for  
holidays at 3:20 p.m.



**Athens Academy**  
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Athens, Georgia 30604-6548

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