

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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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

May 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
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PSO Officers

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WHAT A GREAT YEAR!

Spring has been a very busy time for the PSO. I can't believe that this school year is coming to a close. I want to thank all our volunteers for all their hard work. Athens Academy is very fortunate to have such involved and caring parents, and I have enjoyed working with the most outstanding PSO Board. You should be very proud of all your accomplishments! It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as this year's PSO chair. I hope everyone will enjoy a wonderful summer and come back next year ready to serve and support the PSO and Athens Academy!

Thank you!

Susie Malcom
 PSO Chair

- A great time was had by all at Festival Day! Thank you to Greta Covington (chair) and Rebecca Chisolm (co-chair) for all their hard work and time spent pulling together this huge event! Thank you to Debbie Ramsey for once again presenting a fun and entertaining opening program with our Pre/Lower School students.
- The Lower School Art Project was a huge success again this year! Thank you to Lisa Frierson (chair) and Amy Nasworthy (co-chair) for their organization and efficiency with this project. A special thank you to Betsy Lilliston for her dedication and hard work helping our students create unique and original pieces of art.
- The PSO-sponsored Required Reading Sales has once again proven to be a convenient way for students to obtain their summer reading materials. Thank you to Robin Linck (chair) and Traci Pruett (co-chair) for efficiently providing this service for our parents and students.
- Thank you to Missy Sennowitz (chair) and Allison Hays (co-chair) for all the hard work they have already put into hosting the Post Planning Luncheon to be held in June for our faculty and staff. The faculty and staff always look forward to this wonderful expression of our appreciation. Money raised by the PSO will be presented to each division for use on special projects.

REMINDERS.....

- The final PSO Executive Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 28, at 8:15 a.m. in the Science and Art Building.
- The final PSO Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, at 8:15 a.m. in the Science and Art Building.
- Don't forget that our cookbook, *Under the Magnolias*, makes a wonderful Mother's Day or graduation gift! Call the PSO to get yours today!
- Be sure to use your Cash Back cards at local stores--it's the easiest way to volunteer!

LOWER *School News*

PRIMARY Points

Artscape 2009

Bertelsmann Gallery
May 3-29

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

Sunshine Standard Dress Fittings

May 12-14
1:00-8:00 p.m.
Spartan Center

K3 Performance

The Three Piggy Opera
Friday, May 15
Performance & Cast Party
8:45 a.m.
Lower School Hall

Dress Rehearsal
Thursday, May 14
8:45 a.m.

Memorial Day

School Holiday
Monday, May 25

Last Day of School

Friday, May 29
11:30 a.m. Dismissal
No Extended Day

Greenway Tree Identification

Many Academy teachers and students collaborated recently on a project to identify and permanently label trees along the Athens Academy greenway. Their efforts were celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony this spring, which officially opened the trail.

Lower School science teachers Jeri Burnette and Mary Kline were awarded an Oconee Mini-Grant in 2008 and enlisted the help of Dr. Lawrence Stueck and the Upper School SEEDS club. These students did a tremendous amount of work digging post holes, placing wooden posts, and mounting the tree identification signs to help the entire Athens Academy community learn more about the valuable natural resources in our own backyard. Academy classes and families can come and enjoy this beautiful wooded trail. One "entrance" to the Greenway Tree Identification trail can be found just beyond the Spartan Center, beside the Science and Arts Building pond. It can also be accessed behind Friendship Pool. Look for the white Athens Academy Greenway Tree Identification Project signs.

Mary Kline

"Mr. Eric"

National award-winning musician and storyteller Eric Litwin will visit our Preschool students on May 22. Mr. Litwin entertains students through interactive stories and songs. In addition to the sing-along CD's he has created, he is author of the popular book *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*. In this rhythmic story, Pete the cat loves his new white shoes, but, as luck would have it, he accidentally steps into a pile of red strawberries. The repeated phrases, rhythm of the language, and the colorful, humorous illustrations combine to create an entertaining and meaningful story that also strengthens reading skills and inspires children to be the best

they can be. We look forward to celebrating the fun of learning through story and song with Mr. Eric.

Elaine King

Weather Reporters

The excitement level was high in fourth grade as students eagerly awaited their team's turn to deliver their live weather report to the grade. Both classes were divided into weather teams consisting of five or six students. Each team created a weather report for an assigned city in the United States. The teams researched information, made Power Point slides, wrote a script, and delivered oral presentations to create a final "show." As the culmination of the project, the students had the pleasure of a visit from Paul Ossmann from 11 Alive News. He discussed different aspects of the weather and how to put on a news show. Fourth graders now have a new appreciation for weather reporters and a "behind-the-scenes" understanding of what it takes to produce the weather forecast.

Jeri Burnette

K3 Performance

The K3 classes will take center stage for their performance of *The Three Piggy Opera*. We all learn the story of *The Three Little Pigs* at a very young age. This production transforms the story into a wonderful opera that is sure to entertain one and all! The grand finale will be the celebration at the cast party after the show! So please join us on May 15 at 8:45 a.m. as we entertain with: "I want a big fat pig to eat!," "Then I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down!" and "Yes, that will be GREAT!"

Libby Carson & Beth West

Hats Off!

Did you know that Rosalynn Smith Carter and former President Jimmy Carter were neighbors as children? Did you know that Margaret Mitchell used many

real-life, personal experiences as a basis for her famous book *Gone with the Wind*? Did you know Hart County is the only county in Georgia named for a woman (Nancy Hart)? Did you know Bobby Jones won his first golf tournament at the young age of six? Did you know that country music stars Trisha Yearwood, Jennifer Nettles, Colt Ford, Alan Jackson, and John Berry all call Georgia home? Athens Academy second graders do!

Second graders spent the school year studying our wonderful state of Georgia in Social Studies. They learned about Georgia's landforms, geography, government, important landmarks, and famous people. At the end of the study of famous Georgians, the students wrote reports and decorated hats for their Georgian. They were outstanding! Oral reports were given (while wearing their hats, of course!) and a hat parade was held. Decorated hats were on display outside the second grade classrooms and in the Lower School Media Center. Second graders are very proud to be called Georgians and live in a wonderful state with such a rich heritage and promising future!

Becky Padgett

Summer Camp

Summer camp is filling up quickly! Camp will meet:

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

Please contact Margaret Wellborn to reserve a space mwellborn@athensacademy.org or 706-433-2494.

Summer Vacation

The last day of school for Pre/Lower School is Friday, May 29. Bus and car riders will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. There will be no Extended Day. We have had a wonderful year and wish you all a safe, adventurous summer!

Bob Urich & Melton Weekley

MIDDLE School News

TAKE Note

ERBs

May 1-7

Talent for Life

Thursday, May 7

7:00 p.m.

Presentation Hall

Relay for Life

Friday, May 8

Sunshine Standard Dress Fittings

May 12-14

1:00-8:00 p.m.

Spartan Center

Medieval Banquet

Fifth Grade

Friday, May 15

Presentation Hall

Fall Sports Night

Tuesday, May 19

7:00 p.m.

Presentation Hall

Memorial Day

School Holiday

Monday, May 25

8th Grade Exams

May 22 & May 26-28

6th Grade Trip

To Dahlonga

Thursday, May 28

Honors Day

Friday, May 29

10:00 a.m.

Presentation Hall

Relay for Life

A traditional service project in Middle School for a number of years has been the Relay for Life. We recently kicked off the project in chapel and students are working to gain support for this effort.

On Thursday, May 7, the annual Talent for Life show will feature a variety of talents from middle school. The performance is a lot of fun and an opportunity to raise funds for the Relay for Life. The eighth grade class will help to coordinate the event along with Mrs. Townsend. Please mark your calendars for this lively presentation!

The actual Relay for Life takes place on Friday, May 8, at the UGA Soccer Complex. Thanks to all for your support of the students' efforts in this worthy project.

Honor Roll

Congratulations to the following students who have been named to the Honor Roll for the third quarter.

Fifth grade: Adeline Archibald, Noah Barfeld, Wyman Baxley, Alex Billmeyer, Kayla Cherry, Rob Clements, Will Corry, Ellie Crymes, Kimberlyn Daniel, Isabelle Hale, Mara Hancock, Megan Hodgson, Kevin Kim, Elizabeth Malcom, Nicholas Manfredi, Matthew McArdle, Christina Minor, Colin Murphy, Sean Murphy, Tesh Parris, Alisha Patel, Drew Richardson, Hayden Rymer, Riya Shah, Sarah Slocum, Gabriela Tejada, Grace Trimpe, and RaRa Williams.

Sixth grade: Anna Buchanan, Aurora Bunten, Rhea Chatterjee, Haidee Chen, Helen Chen, Caroline Colley, Mary Glenn Dillard, Caroline Doherty, Reagan Dyson, Caroline Fenno, Morgan Ferguson, Richard Ferguson, Anna Kate Foshee, Morgan Grace, Adam Hearn, Suzanne Herrin, Hayden Hudson, Steven Jackson, Kathryn Johnson, Mason T. Jones, William Leverett, Hunter McWilliams, Caroline Robinson, Evan Shirreffs, Fleming Smith, Alex Waugh, and Logan Williams

Seventh grade: Alois Cerbu, Ian Dawkins, Claudia Evaristo,

Connor Guess, Shannon Hodgson, Joy Kim, Charles Lankau, Zander Mason, Madeleine Mullen, Darshan G. Parikh, Rooshi Patel, Nick Rorabaugh, Rebecca Schofeld, Nilu Vyas, and Holly Williams.

Eighth grade: Ward Archibald, Carter Ball, Lucy Barsness, Sam Clements, MacKinsey Cole, Aaron Conley, Melissa Corry, Frank DuBose, Jason Fern, Hailey Fohey, Houston Gaines, Jessica Gross, Emily Anne Hansford, Jordan Johnson, Caroline LaBoon, Jordan Lawson, Mark Leonard, Forrest Liedberg, Jake Marrano, Katie McCormack, Joshua Netter, Aashni Patel, Emily Pee, Jimmy Robinson, Caroline Sanders, Ben Smith, Nikki Vasoco and Sarah Whatley.

ERB testing

Our annual testing takes place May 1-7. Please make every effort to have students arrive at school on time. Their best preparation is a good night's rest and breakfast each day. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments on these days in the mornings.

Fall Sports Night

Parents and athletes of volleyball, football, and cross country are asked to attend the team night for fall 2009 sports on May 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Presentation Hall. This is an important meeting to learn plans for summer activities and 2009 schedules, and to meet the coaches. Both Middle and Upper School teams will be meeting.

Honors Day

On Friday, May 29, at 10:00 a.m., the Middle School student body and faculty will convene in the Presentation Hall to celebrate the work of all students and the promotion of this year's eighth grade class to the Upper School. We extend a special invitation to the parents of all eighth graders and hope that you will join us in this celebration. The program will conclude at approximately 11:00 a.m. with a reception to follow.

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

Honors Day Attire: For this event students wear special attire—dress shirts, pants, and ties for boys, dresses for girls. Eighth grade girls wear white dresses and dress shoes. Eighth grade boys wear dark blazers, dress pants, dress shirts, ties, and dress shoes.

Last Day Dismissal

Students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. on the last day of school with pickup at the usual turnarounds. Buses will run at this time also.

Buddy Families

We are happy to report we have invited a number of wonderful students and families to join us for the 2009-2010 school year at Athens Academy. As we receive acceptances to our invitations, we would like our veteran families to consider acting as "buddy families" for our new families. "Buddy families" act as ambassadors in welcoming one of our new families to our Athens Academy community.

As a "buddy family," we ask that you contact the new family and introduce yourself. We suggest that you make plans to get together with your new family, perhaps have a meal together or attend an event where they could meet other Athens Academy families.

If you are interested in acting as a "buddy family" for one of our new families, please contact Carrie Olson.

Thank you

We have enjoyed an outstanding school year with your children. Thank you for many, many ways that you have supported the school and our work this year! The faculty and I wish for each of you a wonderful summer.

Brenda Klein

UPPER

School News

HIGH Lights

Grade Rep Meeting

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

Relay for Life

Friday, May 9

AP Exams

May 4-15

Exams

Seniors: May 18-20
Grades 9-11: May 26-29

Senior Athletic Recognition Assembly

Wednesday, May 20
10:40-11:55 a.m.
Presentation Hall

Activities Awards Assembly

Wednesday, May 20
1:25-3:20 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Senior Brunch

Thursday, May 21
10:30 a.m.
The Chambers' Home

Honors Day

Friday, May 22
1:30 p.m.
Presentation Hall
Parents are invited
Boys: coat and tie; Girls:
appropriate special dress.
No jeans or shorts please

Vespers

Saturday, May 23
6:00 p.m.
The Classic Center

Graduation

Sunday, May 24
1:00-4:00 p.m. Rehearsal
8:00 p.m. Ceremony
The Classic Center

May We All Finish Strong...

The last month of the school year is upon us yet there remains much to do. There are still assignments to complete, obligations to fulfill, and responsibilities to meet. We have already spent much time and energy establishing strong foundations and are now left to complete the finishing touches. We must continue working hard and strive to complete the year in the best way possible. We must turn our sight on the future without losing our focus on the present. As we strive to do this, take time to appreciate all that has been accomplished this year, individually and collectively. Also, take time to reflect on the friendships which have been fostered and developed. It has been fun and being with each of you has been enlightening. I hope your experiences were enriching, and the 2008-09 school year has been one of accomplishment, insight, and understanding. The environment within which we have worked has facilitated our performance and enabled us to perform our best. It has been a conducive learning environment and a wonderful place to have spent a year. My sincere thanks goes to everyone who contributed to making this a successful academic year.

Exams

Senior exams will begin May 18 and continue through May 20. Exams for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors will be administered on Tuesday, May 26 and continue through Friday, May 29. The school reschedules exams only in the event of illness or an emergency. Parents are asked to call the Upper School office by 8:00 a.m. if a student is ill or unable to attend an exam session.

Important Dates

As would be expected, there are many important events that will be taking place this month. Rather than listing them all here, I would ask that you please refer frequently to the

US announcements page on the Athens Academy website. It is located under the Academics tab.

2009-10 Courses

The course of study process is nearly complete. By this time all course request forms should have been turned in to advisors and conversations with teachers and department heads should have already taken place. Learning Teams have met and discrepancies between recommendations and requests have been resolved. Any further changes must be completed by June 5, 2009. All courses of study must be finalized by June 14 so the process of assigning teachers and classrooms can begin. Student schedules, complete with teachers and room assignments, will be mailed during the month of July.

And the Award Goes To...

Athens Academy mathematics teacher Bethany Goldman has been awarded a fellowship to attend the Summer Institute for Early Career Teachers at The Klingenstein Center of Columbia University. The Klingenstein Center is devoted to strengthening independent schools, and the Summer Institute is dedicated to "affirming beginning teachers and encouraging their continued growth." Ms. Goldman is a graduate of Georgetown University and has been teaching at Athens Academy for three years.

Junior Maggie Kellett was the runner-up in a writing contest sponsored by The Istanbul Center. The theme of the contest was "Alliance of Civilizations" which is the United Nations' concept of interaction and coordination among nations and cultures globally. Its purpose is to establish relations and facilitate cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue, understanding, reconciliation and cooperation."

Looking for a Few Good Men-tors

We will soon begin looking for rising seniors who want to serve as mentors to students new to the Upper School. Students who want to be mentors must be available to attend a summer retreat (Sunday, August 9), the new student orientation (Wednesday, August 12), and be willing to meet with their mentee(s) on a regular basis during the school year. These meetings will provide the needed time for discussion about the traditions, the expectations, and the responsibilities that come with being an Upper School Student. Further, it will ensure that each student starts Upper School in the best way possible--connected to yet another person who cares about his or her success. Information about the Mentor Program will be distributed to juniors in the near future. If you have specific questions contact Barten Nealy, the coordinator of academic and personal support.

Summer Reading

Summer reading assignments for English classes and AP courses along with lists of recommended books will be distributed through English classes near the end of the school year and posted to the website. The assigned reading will be part of the course work at the beginning of school next fall.

Adios to Señor John Maddox

After five years of good work, Spanish teacher and International Club sponsor John Maddox will end his tenure at Athens Academy. He and his wife will be moving to Nashville where John will attend Vanderbilt and work toward earning his Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese. We will all miss John and are happy he has been part of our school and an influence on our students.

Grade Reports

End-of-year reports will be mailed to parents during the week of June 1.

Bob Sears

GUIDE

To Higher Education

COLLEGE *Bound*

Seniors

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

Juniors

SAT/ACT Registration deadlines

SAT/SAT Subject tests:
Saturday, June 6
Deadline: Tuesday, May 5

ACT: Saturday, June 13
Deadline: Friday, May 8

Seniors on the Homestretch, Juniors at the Starting Line

Seniors: May Events

Here are a few calendar highlights for the Class of 2009.
(A more detailed listing was distributed at the Senior Exit Meeting on April 28.)

AP Testing Calendar:

Monday, May 4:	AP French Language Exam – 12:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 5:	AP Spanish Language Exam – 8:10 a.m.
Wednesday, May 6:	AP Calculus AB and BC Exams – 8:10 a.m.
Thursday, May 7:	AP English Literature Exam – 8:10 a.m.
Friday, May 8:	AP US History – 8:10 a.m.
Friday, May 8:	AP European History – 12:30 p.m.
Monday, May 11:	AP Biology Exam – 8:10 a.m.
Tuesday, May 12:	AP Chemistry Exam – 8:10 a.m.
Wednesday, May 13:	AP English Language – 8:10 a.m.
Thursday, May 14:	AP Microeconomics 8:10 a.m.
Friday, May 15:	AP Latin Exam – 12:30 p.m.

Senior Events:

Monday, May 18:	Wednesday, May 20 – Senior Exams
Wednesday, May 21:	Senior Athletic Recognition – 10:40 a.m.
Wednesday, May 21:	Activities Assembly – 1:25 p.m.
Thursday, May 21:	Senior Brunch – 10:30 a.m. – Chambers' Home
Friday, May 22:	Honors Day – 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 23:	Vespers – 6:00 p.m. – Classic Center
Sunday, May 24:	Graduation Rehearsal – 1:00 p.m. at the Classic Center
Graduation - 8:00 p.m. (students should be there by 7:00 p.m.)	

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

The last administrations of the SAT and SAT Subject Tests this year will be on May 2 and June 6. The last administration of the ACT is June 13. All juniors must take the SAT/ACT at least once this school year. Some colleges require students to take SAT Subject tests. If this is the case, please plan to take these subject tests this year as well. Go online to www.collegeboard.com or www.actstudent.org to register.

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

Colleen Pruitt and Jeff Stachura

ARTS

On Stage and in the Studio

COMING
Soon

On Exhibit

Myers Gallery
Through May 22
UGA Printmakers Show

Reception
Sunday, May 3
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Student Gallery
Science and Arts Building
Senior Portfolio Class
Exit Shows

Emily Rea & Tom McArthur
Through May 8

Maddie Dahl &
Jessie Marrano
May 11-May 22

Artscape 2009

Bertelsmann Gallery
May 3-29

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

Talent for Life

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

String Fling

Grades 2-8
Thursday, May 14
7:00 p.m.
Presentation Hall

Drama Updates

Several Academy alumni have exciting dramatic news! Shannon McLemore '99 recently appeared in an episode of *ER*. She appeared as the character Lily in the episode entitled "Shifting Equilibrium" that aired on Thursday, March 19. Shannon is living and working as an actress in Los Angeles. Mallory Moye '05 recently graduated with a degree in acting from the Stella Adler Studio of New York University. She is currently appearing in the off-Broadway production of *Wild Thing* with The New Acting Company. *Wild Thing* runs through May 17. Kendall Sherwood '05 was recently accepted into the MFA program "Writing for the Screen and Stage" at Northwestern University. This summer she will have one of her plays partially produced at a New Works Festival in Valencia, California. Lauren Schacher '03 recently appeared in Balloon Heaven Productions' *King Lear*, directed by Julia Burt Meltzer. She is playing the role of Goneril. Molly Yarn '05 will be graduating from Tufts University this spring with a bachelor's degree in theatre. She was recently honored with a top faculty award given annually to the student who has excelled in dramatic scholarship and who is planning to teach in the field of theatre history, criticism, and dramaturgy.

After auditioning, junior Cate Jackson was accepted into the American Academy of Dramatic Arts Summer Acting Intensive to be held in New York June 29-August 7. Founded in 1884, it is considered the first and foremost acting school in America. Cate's coursework will include acting, voice and speech, vocal production, and movement.

Sophomore Ned McGregor was accepted into the highly competitive Interlochen Summer Arts Camp. Each summer more than 2,500 of the world's most talented and motivated young people go to Interlochen to live, learn and perform. Ned will be participating in the Motion Picture Arts program. This program provides students with a progressive and interdisciplinary

experience in filmmaking.

Mary Katherine Malone, junior, will be attending a performing arts camp on the campus of UCLA. This camp's acting programs hone the actor's craft through improvisation, movement, voice and speech, physical humor, and character interpretation.

Sophomore Chase Brantley will be attending a six-week ballet camp sponsored by the Atlanta Ballet. Chase has studied and danced with the Atlanta Ballet on many occasions in the past.

So fe Wasserman-Smith, sophomore, was accepted and awarded a scholarship to attend Appel Farms Summer Arts Camp. This camp, founded in 1960, combines a dynamic program of arts classes with an active schedule of outdoor activities and community projects in a beautiful 176-acre setting in rural southern New Jersey. So fe will be focusing on the theatre arts while there.

Anne Lanier Gilbert, sophomore, will be attending a performing arts camp located on the campus of Florida State University. Anne Lanier will be focusing on acting for the camera. This camp was designed specifically for the on-camera experience in television and film.

Junior Christine Shaw was accepted into the competitive Georgia Governor's Honors Program for summer study. She will be majoring in social studies with a minor in theatre.

Snapshots09

The Spring Advanced Acting Class proudly presents Snapshots09. This student showcase features scenes and monologues from Anne Lanier Gilbert, So fe Wasserman-Smith, Cate Jackson, Libby Hansen, Christine Shaw, Ansley McAlister, CJ Brown, Drew Jacoby, Becca Schell, and Mary Katherine Malone. Snapshots09 is one night only: Wednesday, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Presentation Hall. Canned goods will be accepted at the door for the Athens Area Food Bank.

Lorraine Thompson

Artscape 2009

Artscape is one of Athens Academy's spring traditions. For over 20 years, exceptional pieces of art have been carefully selected to be displayed in the Bertelsmann Foundation Building Gallery. This colorful show includes work by students in pre-first through twelfth grades and reflects a variety of media. Academy students create amazing art using everything from pencils to clay, watercolor to wire. The public is invited to the opening reception Sunday, May 3, 2:00-4:00 p.m., which provides an opportunity to greet the artists. The Artscape exhibit will be in place until May 29. Don't miss out on the opportunity to see some wonderful art.

Bess Durham

Band News

The MS and US bands gave a wonderful concert April 2 which included feature pieces from our seniors Malik Obeidin, Eric Perkerson, and Ella Douglas. Margaret Heald was featured at the winter concert as she is in England this semester.

Several first-year players have been nominated to participate in the Beginning Honor Band to perform at Carver Middle School on May 2. That group includes Will Loveless, tuba; Lawson McConnell, alto sax; Austin Johnson, alto sax; Fields Mallory, flute; Nick Busener, percussion; Nick Grubb, alto sax; and Sam Brewster, tuba. Good luck, gentlemen.

Parents, make your summer music camp plans now. I highly recommend checking out www.encoremusiccamps.com for band and orchestra students in grades 5-9 or www.uga.edu/music/summercamp for band, orchestra, chorus and guitar students in grades 6-12 as well as piano students in grades 9-12. Both camps have provided wonderful experiences for our music students.

Jenny Taylor &
Debbie Schab

Curriculum and Instruction

CLASS Notes

Guest Author/ Musician Visiting Preschool

Eric Litwin, the author of the popular children's book, Pete the Cat, will be presenting interactive stories and songs to preschool students on May 22. With his understanding of the rhythm of language, and music as language, he invites young listeners to join in storytelling through movement and song. Their excitement as an active participant in sharing stories is contagious, and enthusiasm for reading and learning grows. Students will hear stories that instruct and inspire them, listen to music, dance, and sing, and it's all about reading.

Library Materials Due

*PS/LS Medical Center:
Tuesday, May 26
MS/US Media Center:
Friday, May 29*

Please note that all library materials must be returned for the end-of-the-year inventory no later than May 26 (PS/LS) and May 29 (MS/US). Patrons will be billed for any items not returned after that time. The MS/US Media Center will resume checking out materials on Tuesday, June 9. Summer hours will be Tuesday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Come see us in the summer time—don't dream of going to the beach without a book!

Savor the Words and Celebrate

Children's Book Week, May 11-17, is an annual event, reminding others of the importance of fostering a love of books that renders a positive attitude toward learning. Begin the celebration by reading a few of the great children's books of 2008 that focus on the importance of books and libraries.

- Author and illustrator Bob Raczka created an inspiring picture book for all ages titled *Artful Reading*. Raczka uses famous paintings to illustrate the importance of reading--when, where, and why one reads.
- In *The Best Book to Read*, by Debbie Bertram and Susan Bloom, a little boy discovers that everyone can find a book that is appealing since there is such a wide variety, and humorous illustrations depict the joy of finding just the right book.
- *Bats in the Library* by Brian Lies features book-loving bats that enter a library through an open window and discover an exciting world of fact and fiction. The illustrations enhance the text by using images that remind young readers of such classics as *The Sword and the Stone*, Robert McCloskey's *Make Way for Ducklings*, Frank Baum's *The Wizard of Oz*, and Beatrix Potter's *Tales of Peter Rabbit*.
- In the book *Hooray for Reading Day*, Margery Cuyler tells the story of Jessica, a little girl who is anxious about reading in front of an audience but learns that practice makes perfect.
- Missing books can sometimes be a problem in a library or classroom, and this can produce a feeling of panic. Robie Harris, the author of *Maybe a Bear Ate It!*, describes this feeling in humorous, brief text when a beloved book goes missing and its owner thinks one of his stuffed toys is responsible for what happened.

Publishers over the years have provided readers with many books to commemorate our most famous Americans, and one of the people most fitting to mention during a celebration of books and reading is Abraham Lincoln and the commemoration of his 200th birthday. Although young readers should be reminded that historians often have different perspectives on people and events in history, the new books of 2008 offer a wide variety of viewpoints and facts. One of the most memorable is Lincoln's strong interest in reading, which author Judith St. George shares in her book *Stand Tall, Abe Lincoln*. She gives an account of Lincoln's loss of his mother at age ten, and the love of books and reading he experienced when his step-mother, Sally Johnston, married his father and brought a library of books and a love of learning with her. Books plus reading equals learning--what a reason to celebrate!

Elaine King

View from the Stacks—Shakespeare on My Mind

William Shakespeare's birthday is traditionally celebrated on April 23, although there is little evidence and much conjecture as regards his actual day of birth. We are fairly certain of the year, 1564, which means Will turned 445 years old in this year of 2009, and somehow he is still very much on our minds. Consider this:

- More than 250 films have been based on Shakespeare's works, more than 60 on *Hamlet* alone.
- At Penn State, the Nittany players recently performed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, setting the 16th-century romantic comedy in 21st-century New York City, complete with rap music and current fashions. The director, Cathy Fiorillo, said that rap music was a natural choice: "The iambic pentameter of the play lends itself to rap."
- Shakespeare is credited with inventing more than 3,000 words, about 1,700 of which are still commonly used in the English language, such as amazement, bedroom, bump, elbow, eyeball, laughable, lonely, and obscene. Scholars believe that William Shakespeare's personal vocabulary included more than 29,000 words. For comparison: today's well-educated American has a vocabulary of a mere 10,000-15,000 words. Then there are the familiar phrases coined by Shakespeare: the game is afoot, the green-eyed monster, the clothes make the man, the naked truth, strange bedfellows, the witching hour, be all and end all, every dog will have his day, heart of gold, fancy free, it's all Greek to me, one fell swoop, the primrose path, and to wear one's heart upon one's sleeve.
- Every state in the union has an annual Shakespeare Festival, to include the District of Columbia, but with the exception of South Dakota. To the credit of South Dakota, there is the Shakespeare Club of Aberdeen, which has been meeting for more than 100 years, and also a Shakespeare Garden at the University of South Dakota, which features every flower, herb, and shrub mentioned in Shakespeare's works, from columbine to wormwood. Poor mad Ophelia would feel quite at home there.

Perhaps most fascinating, though, is recent research which demonstrates that Shakespeare actually excites the human brain. Researchers at the University of Liverpool conducted experiments that measured the brain activity of people reading from Shakespeare's plays. Shakespeare uses what linguists call a "functional shift," that involves, among other tricks, using a noun to serve as a verb, so that the brain registers and decodes the meaning of a word before it fully understands what role the word will play in the sentence. The process of figuring it out causes a sudden peak in brain activity, which might also impress the words upon the brain, causing us to positively recall the reading experience. (Students, if you are not yet experiencing this effect, stick with it, it will come!) Another great writer put it this way: "I like nonsense; it wakes up the brain cells." (That writer was Theodore Geisel, more commonly known as Dr. Seuss.) The unexpectedness of Shakespeare's language rattles our minds, worms its way into our thoughts, and leaves us, centuries after his death, still singing the praises of the bard of Avon.

Maura Mandyck

SPORTS

Commitment to Excellence

Spartans Playing Sports in College

- **Baseball**
Charles Matthews
Georgia Southern
- **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)

Upcoming Key Dates for Athletics Spring & Summer 2009

- May 2: **GHSA Mandated Physicals** for rising 9th-12th at Athens Orthopedic Clinic at 12:30 p.m. (your one chance at a free physical)
- April 27-May 1: **Cheerleading Tryouts** for rising 9th-12th
- April 27-May 1: **Spring Football** for rising 7th-8th
- May 11-22: **Spring Football** for rising 9th-12th
- May 20: **Senior Recognition for Spring Sports** at 10:40 a.m. in the Presentation Hall
- May 19: **Team Night for Fall Sports** at 7:00 p.m. in the Presentation Hall
Football: Rising grades 7-12
Volleyball: Rising grades 7-12
Cross Country: Rising grades 7-12
Cheerleading: Rising 9-12
- May 22: **Pig Pickin'** at Slaughter Field at 6:00 p.m.-- an all-sports good time

Athletic Orientation for Middle School Parents will no longer take place the Sunday before school starts. MS Parents are expected to attend the Team Night on Tuesday, May 19.

Athletic Department Summer Opportunities

Please note that all summer activities prior to the official start of the season are voluntary and open to the entire student body. Please contact the head coach of your sport for the latest information. Information is as of March 27, 2009. (Grade levels are for the fall of 2009.)

Weight Sessions-Bryan Pulliam

- Monday through Thursday;
June 8-25 and July 7-August 6
Spartan Center Weight Room
- 8:00-10:00 a.m.- Upper School football and Middle School 7th and 8th grade athletic development
 - 10:00 a.m.- noon – Upper and Middle School girls
 - 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.– open to all other athletes
- See schedule for Strength and Conditioning Programs

Football-Michael Gunn

- Official date of first practice, August 1
- Weight Room, 8:00-10:00 a.m.
 - Throwing - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
 - Upper School to YWCO Camp: August 2-8
 - Middle School practice at Athens Academy begins: August 10-14

Volleyball-Nikki Chester

- Official date of first varsity practice, August 1; Middle School, August 17
- Grades 9-12 camp at UGA, July 16-19

Cross Country-Geoffrey Walton & Tom Pee

- Official date of first varsity practice, August 1; Middle School, August 17
- Summer running: Sundays at 6:00 p.m. at Sandy Creek Nature Center; Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. at Botanical Gardens; Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. at UGA Intramural Fields
- Check team website for additional running

opportunities

Cheerleading-Haley Whitley

- Official date of mandatory practices, August 3-7 and August 10-12
- Pre-camp practices for JV and Varsity, June 17-19
- Football JV and Varsity Camp at UGA, June 22- 25

Boys Basketball-James Banks

- Grades 9-12; June 1-5 Cedar Shoals Team Camp
- 2 games each night

Girls Basketball-Kevin Petroski

- Grades 9-12: practice June 3-5 and June 8-11, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- JV and Varsity Camp: Clemson University, June 12-14

Boys Soccer-Stefan Billmeyer

- TBA

Girls Soccer-Steve Stewart

- TBA

Baseball-Casey Kane

- Grades 9-12; Summer Ball, June 8-12 and June 15-19

Track and Field-Tom Pee

- TBA



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PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
AT ATHENS, GA

NOTES *From the Headmaster*



“Working together, we have recognized the value of a supportive community in these stressful times. It has enabled the students to continue their journey in many meaningful ways.”

Celebrating the School Year

It has been a year of challenge and success. While all of us—families and faculty—experienced the economic challenges that have faced our nation, our focus on the welfare of each child has remained steadfast. Working together, we have recognized the value of a supportive community in these stressful times. It has enabled the students to continue their journey in many meaningful ways.

Our hats are off to the Class of 2009! With their plans for next year nearing completion, they are excited about the upcoming new phase in their lives. We look forward to celebrating with them their many achievements at their graduation on May 24 at the Classic Center.

The faculty deserves our appreciation for their dedication in 2008-09. In a school such as ours, faculty influence students in ways that reach beyond the classroom. Student/teacher relationships composed of a healthy blend of challenging and nurturing are readily evident both in and out of the classroom.

The alumni had a great year with help from Alumni Association Board Chairman Jay Boswell '88. Thanks to Jay and to Tom Allen '89, who will take over when Jay steps down at the end of this school year. I was pleased to visit with so many alumni during the year, at the annual fall BBQ in September, alumni gatherings in Tennessee and Savannah, and reunions for five different classes. The alumni continue to support Athens Academy by getting involved on campus as well as giving back to the school through their “Drive to a Million” campaign. We appreciate all their efforts.

As always, the PSO members, led by Chairman Susie Malcom, have given unselfishly of their time to make contributions to Athens Academy. Highlights of the year included the Spartan Spectacular Mixed Sticks event, Grandparents & Special Friends Day, and the Spartan 5K. As this issue of *Spirit* goes to the printer, everyone is busy with the final preparations for Festival Day. The parents have had fun getting to know each other, working together to support their children and the school through the PSO.

As summer approaches, our thoughts turn to appropriate activities. The campus will be alive with opportunities for students, visitors, faculty, and friends of the school. For a detailed listing of the summer programs, please visit our website at www.athensacademy.org. In addition to planned activities, the campus is a nice place to enjoy a stroll on the greenway, play tennis, or have a picnic by one of the lakes. Enjoy your summer!

Robert Chambers, Jr.