



Timothy J. Seeley
Head of School

George Stevens Academy May 2022 Report

We are very gratified that our request for supplemental tuition has been approved in each of the six towns where it has come up for a vote. In all but one town, the margin was greater than last year, and, counted all together, it has been approved by 2/3's of the voters on the peninsula. Our budget draft will be ready when the Budget Review Committee is ready to meet.

Covid-19 Update

We nearly got through all of April without a positive case, but have had a total of nine in the last ten days, some of whom are still out. We are setting up our tents again, so it is easier for students to be outside for class and for lunch.

Student Mental Health

You most likely have seen articles and news stories on the grave concerns many have for the mental health of adolescents, how over the past ten years more and more young people have suffered from depression and anxiety. While the great majority of our students will be okay, I do have two observations.

One, it is a scary world into which they are headed. Most of what they hear is negative. Our political discourse is filled with contradictory claims and doomsday predictions, on all sides. They hear constantly of deep concerns for the future of the planet. They have lived through two years of the pandemic, which, whatever else it taught them, taught them that their world can be completely disrupted overnight by things completely out of their control, and about which they will not get clear, unified guidance. Although the war in Ukraine is very far away, and not much on the radar for most students, especially younger ones, that violence and uncertainty, those rumblings of world disorder affect the atmosphere around them, and add to their constant stress, even if at a low level.

These are very difficult times to be heading into adulthood. It is no wonder there is more anxiety, stress and depression.

Second, most students will get through okay. Young people are very resilient. However, for students already at risk for mental health challenges, all the factors have made it much worse, and we are seeing more, and more serious issues. Not a week goes by, it seems, without a student

having a real crisis. Using Covid funds, we have greatly increased the availability of counselors. They are usually booked solid each week. Dealing with these issues also occupies a great deal of time for the Assistant Head of School and the Dean of Students. As you know, when a child has a crisis in school, it must be dealt with immediately, to care for the student, and so other students can have an uninterrupted and positive classroom and school experience. I think we are responding well, but we are stretched very thin.

Spring Athletics

Our spring sports have begun (although the weather at most games and practices hasn't felt much like spring)! Participation is high, as always.

Thank you for all you do for the children of your town.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy J. Seeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Timothy J. Seeley
Head of School