

WINTER 2011

GSA *Matters*

News for the Families and Friends of **GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY**

FLOOR ME!

In this issue:

Celebrating the
New Gym

From the
Assistant Head
of School

Welcoming
a New Head

Parent
Association
News

Fall Sports
Highlights

Alumna Profile



GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY

Board of Trustees

President - Rob Clapp '73, Blue Hill
Vice-President - Melissa Mattes, Sedgwick
Treasurer - Emil Andy, Blue Hill
Clerk - Jim Henry, Penobscot

Michael Astbury '70, Blue Hill
Stefan Brann '83, Orland
Deborah Brewster, Brooklin
Pat Gray '54, Blue Hill
Margaret Hannah, Brooklin
Eckley Herrick '59, Blue Hill
Sue Loomis, Castine
Deborah Ludlow '79, Brooksville
Dan McGraw, Surry
Jim Modisette, Penobscot
Marion Morris, Brooklin
Marjorie Olivari, Castine
Brian van Emmerik, Sedgwick
Frank Wanning, Blue Hill

Administration

Bayard Brokaw, Interim Head of School
Jane O'Connor, Assistant Head of School
Libby Rosemeier '77, Dean of Students
Martha Garfield '82, Director of College & Vocational Counseling
Rada Starkey, Director of Development
Trudy Bell, Director of Annual Giving
Liffey Thorpe, Director of Communications
Sheryl Stearns, International Program Director
Fred Heilner, Business Manager

Editorial Board

Liffey Thorpe, Director of Communications
Rada Starkey, Director of Development
Trudy Bell, Director of Annual Giving
Maggie Overton, '77, Associate in Development & Communications

Please address comments or queries to:

Liffey Thorpe
George Stevens Academy
23 Union Street • Blue Hill, Maine 04614
(207) 374-2800
l.thorpe@georgestevens.org

On the Cover: GSA Girls Varsity Basketball in the new gymnasium, February 2011. Photo by Maggie Overton.

WELCOMING A NEW HEAD

On December 21st, Rob Clapp '73, president of the Board of Trustees, announced the appointment of **Paul B. Perkinson** to the position of Head of School, to begin July 1, 2011. Paul is currently Head of Tandem Friends School in Charlottesville, Virginia. Rob noted that Paul "brings extraordinary experience and skills to the position, and we look forward to extending a warm welcome to him and to his family."



Paul received a B.A. in history from Earlham College, and an M.A. in Independent School Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania. He began his teaching and administrative career

in 1979 as an English teacher and Dorm Master at Marvelwood Preparatory School in Cornwall, Connecticut. He taught at the Kildonan School in Amenia, New York, spent two years as a consultant and teacher in Kawai, Japan, and served as Dean and teacher at Friends Central School in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. Between 1993 and 2000 Paul was Upper School Head at North Shore Country Day School in Winnetka, Illinois, where he established a Chinese Studies program. Since 2000 he has served as Head of Tandem Friends School.

Paul comes to GSA with his wife, Kip, a first grade teacher. They have three children: Gabriel (23), who graduated from the College of William and Mary in 2010; Jacob (21), who will graduate from the College of William and Mary in 2011; and Emma (18), who is a first-year student at Bates College. Kip has worked as a naturalist at Cape Cod Museum in Brewster, Massachusetts and is an avid birder and lover of animals. Paul enjoys soccer, baseball, photography, karate, writing, "and anything with family."

The Head Search Committee was chaired by trustee Marion Morris. Other members included trustees Deborah Brewster, Frank Wanning and Emil Andy; faculty members Sue Jellison, Libby Rosemeier '77 and Bill Case; and past and current parents Jim Dow and Nancy Crowe.

Mission

George Stevens Academy is an independent high school located on the coast of Maine. Grounded in its traditions and commitment to the area's small towns, the Academy is a caring educational community invested in meeting the needs of each student. The Academy offers a challenging, comprehensive program of studies that fosters intellectual inquiry and the pursuit of knowledge, inspires creativity, develops self-reliance, and prepares its graduates for a purposeful life in an ever-changing world.

(Approved by the Board of Trustees, July 2007)

from the Assistant Head of School

Growing up, I didn't like school, and I wasn't much of a student, either. Those two things probably went together. I was good at sports, but didn't feel much connection to academics. Looking back, I realize that I was one of those "invisible" students, the ones who aren't good enough or bad enough to be taken much notice of. Did teachers and administrators even see me? It didn't feel that way. I hit bottom early in 10th grade when I failed a class and was faced with a stint in summer school. But fate intervened, and I was recruited by another high school, thanks to some athletic prowess. I thought I was back on track, ready to skate through my next two years of high school. But the first day of school, the basketball coach took me aside, sat me down, and said: "There's no special treatment here, O'Connor. The rule is simple: *First* you study. *Then* you dribble." I was in shock. No teacher had ever addressed me as a student before, only as an athlete. I didn't become a good student overnight, but, for once, I was in a school where the adults took an active interest in me, rooting for me not just on the court, but in the classroom. By the time I graduated, I almost made honor roll. More important, I had started to care about learning, and I had begun to sense possibilities in myself that I never could have imagined just a few years earlier.

I don't know how many teachers and school administrators have similar stories, but I do know that I bring those experiences—the transformative power of engaging with caring adults—to my relationships with students every day. I know from experience that students can thrive when the adults around them take notice and show an interest in them. I want to make that kind of difference in the lives of GSA students. Every one of them deserves to feel that school is a good place to be, a place where they can discover opportunities and possibilities in their own futures.

When I was offered the position of Assistant Head of School here at George Stevens Academy this past summer, I was thrilled. I



had summered in Brooklin since I was a young child, and had made it my home for the past six years. I'd always heard that GSA is an excellent school, with outstanding and diverse academic programs, the award-winning Jazz program, the international student program, and the competitive sports teams. Before coming to GSA, I'd often heard GSA's praises from parents and alumni: "George Stevens served me—or my child—well." As a seasoned administrator and educator, that was music to my ears.

Once *from away* and now *from within*, I can affirm that these testimonies are well-founded. GSA actively works to make school a good place to grow and learn, and to engage every student in a meaningful process of self-discovery and accomplishment. I am thrilled to have become a part of this school.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Jane O'Connor". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Jane O'Connor
Assistant Head of School



College Applications Update

College applications are in the works with 80% of the Class of 2011 having submitted applications by February 15th. More students will be submitting their applications during the next two months. Although students typically begin hearing decisions in April, a number of students have already been accepted. As of February 4th, GSA student have been admitted to the following schools:

- Baylor University
- Bennington College
- Cedarville University
- Colby-Sawyer College
- Colorado College
- Embry-Riddle University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Hampshire College
- Husson University
- Ithaca College
- Lesley University
- Maine Maritime Academy
- Marymount Manhattan College
- Roanoke College
- Russell Sage College
- Smith College
- University of Maine
- University of Maryland
- University of New England
- University of New Hampshire
- University of Vermont
- University of Pittsburgh
- Western New England College

Prospective Students—Class of 2015

GSA's local admissions season has begun. We started off with the Holiday Concert to which all area sending schools were invited, including 8th graders who will make up GSA's Class of 2015.

On January 13th, GSA held its annual open house for area 8th graders, other prospective students, and their parents. It was well attended with over fifty families coming to hear presentations by GSA faculty about the programs in English, languages, social studies, science, math, technology and fine arts.

On January 19th, GSA hosted local 8th graders for a pizza dinner and basketball game. Fifteen prospective students and their families attended.


On March 3rd, GSA will host a high school preview day for students thinking about attending GSA for 9th grade. These students will attend five "mini" classes typical of the ones they would take next year as freshmen: English, math, social studies, science and industrial arts. Registration for next fall for incoming 9th-graders will run from March 1st through March 18th.

Career Fair

After the success of last year's Career Fair, Student Services is planning to host the fair again on March 4th for our 9th and 10th graders, while the upperclassmen are on Independent Study. We hope to have a variety of local professionals come to campus and talk with students about their careers. Last year, the majority of participants were GSA alumni and we hope to continue that tradition. *If you are interested in being a presenter, please contact Martha Garfield in Student Services at extension #114 or m.garfield@georgesteve.org.*

Important dates

February Break	February 21 - February 27
Independent Study	February 28 - March 11
Class Forums	March 2
Career Fair	March 4
Parent Association Meeting	March 8
Parent-Teacher Conferences	March 10
Half day	March 11
3rd Quarter ends	April 1
International Night	April 9
Parent Association Meeting	April 12
April Break	April 18 - April 22
11th grade SAT exams	May 11 (Saturday)
AP Exams	May 2 - May 13



AP Fun Fact: 38% of this year's (2011) senior class have taken at least one AP test and scored a 3 or higher. This is twice the state average and doesn't include seniors who will be taking their first AP test in May!

From the Parent Association



*Nancy Crowe, left, and Maria Matthews,
co-chairs of the Parent Association.*

“Parents working with teachers, staff, students, and the greater community, joining together to support George Stevens Academy in the education of our children.”

Parent Association Mission Statement, 2009

The GSA Parent Association is a young organization that strives to inform parents and give them opportunities to be active participants in the life of the school. Through attending meetings where valuable information about the school is shared, volunteering for activities from chaperoning to baking to folding letters to help the Development Office, a parent can provide valuable support to GSA. The PA is also taking an increasingly active role in helping increase parent participation in Annual Fund giving.

Dedicated parents such as **Darlene Hatch**, **Kim Bianco**, **Prudy Heilner**, and **Meg Maiden** do yeoman’s work running the Rec Center, providing Friday snacks for teachers, and staffing afterschool library hours. Working along with them are countless parents who have volunteered their time to make these programs possible.

The Parent Association meets every month and is open to all parents, faculty, staff and community members. The PA is so lucky to have Libby Rosemeier in the position of staff liaison. Most meetings include a special guest and time is also given for updates on volunteer efforts and open discussion on many topics. This academic year special meeting topics have included a “state of the school” address by Bags Brokaw, a “meet, greet and treat” with GSA’s new Food Services Director, Chef Jack Hand, and an evening of learning useful study skills to help kids with midterm exams with Jackie Vachon, 9th grade study skills teacher. In February, the group offered an important meeting on substance issues in conjunction with Healthy Peninsula and Open Door.

Everyone is welcome to attend Parent Association meetings. They take place every second Tuesday of the month in the GSA Library (except for the June meeting, which will be held on June 7). Coffee, tea, seltzer, cookies, fruit and chocolate are always served. Topics at upcoming meetings will include Independent Study presentations by students, a discussion of the International Student Program, Arts Fest, an end-of-year “state of the school” presentation, and a session welcoming incoming “freshman families.”

For more information about the Parent Association please contact one of the co-facilitators, Nancy Crowe at niscrowe@gmail.com or Maria Matthews at mbmatt96@gmail.com.

Independent Study 2011

Between February 28th and March 11th, 119 students—53 juniors and 66 seniors—will undertake Independent Study projects. This year’s two-week, self-designed projects cover a broad spectrum of academic and career interests, both local and far afield: shadowing a radiologist in Blue Hill, studying child psychology through a distance education course, working at a ship construction plant in China, assisting an elementary school teacher in Surry, interning at Jackson Lab on Mount Desert, working for Senator John McCain’s office in Washington, D.C., apprenticing for a plumber in Brooksville, learning the ropes at a B&B in Surry, interning at ELLE Decorations in Paris, France, and exploring an events planning business in Bangor. Students work with qualified “mentors,” keep a daily log of their experiences, and write a final reflective essay assessing the value of their experience. Students will present and discuss their projects at several different occasions this spring, including an all-school assembly, at Arts Festival, and for GSA’s Parent Association.

Parents: are you reading GSA's Daily Bulletin?

The Daily Bulletin is published every schoolday on PowerSchool. You can log on to PowerSchool and read the Bulletin online, or you can subscribe to the Bulletin so that it is e-mailed to you every morning.

The Bulletin is full of information: the week's sports and music schedules, special events, important reminders, the week's menus, upcoming opportunities, calendar changes, community events, and more.

The e-mail version arrives very early each morning, so it's ready to read when you are. To subscribe to e-mail delivery, you will need to log onto your PowerSchool account and set the "e-mail alert." If you have forgotten your PowerSchool userID or password, please see Debbie Davis in the Main Office.



On October 13th, thirty students took a sailing trip on Maine Maritime Academy's arctic schooner *Bowdoin*, out of Castine, joined by **Kathleen Knight** (math teacher), **Jackie Vachon** (academic support teacher), **Donna Doyen** (host mother), **Sara Elliott** (dorm parent sub), **Marge Longwood** (dorm parent). The captain allowed students to steer the vessel on this cold autumn day. Many thanks to Maine Maritime Academy for this great opportunity! Above: "**Marvis**" **Xiaotong Zou '13** (China) steering the *Bowdoin*.



On November 20th we had a lovely dinner with international students, host families, liaison families, student ambassadors and friends of the ISP—more than a hundred people in all! During dinner, "The Family Band" played music for us (**Bill Shubeck**, his wife **Heidi Daub**, and their daughter **Fiona**). After a delicious meal, Bill taught us to Contra Dance. A great night! Above: **Payson** and **Parker Allen** (host brothers) with "**Andy**" **Zehao Wu '12** and "**Candy**" **Yixuan Dai '12** from China.

The International Program



dormitory where students teamed up to make gingerbread houses as gifts to GSA faculty and staff. We also sang Christmas carols that **Polly Monroe** had translated and practiced with students...and we had violin and cello accompaniment from **“Andy” Zehao Wu ’12** and **“Corey” Ning An ’13**. Twenty ISP students stayed with host families over Christmas break.

Above: **“Eleri” Jingyi Liu ’11** (China), **“Tanya” Tinh Tuyet Hoang ’11** (Vietnam), **“Ned” Yinong Wang ’14** (China), **“Poom” Thanapat Phattharaborapha ’11** (Thailand), **“Hasion” Xin He ’11** (China), and **Julius Tiesler ’13** (Germany) with their gingerbread house masterpiece.

On January 22nd the International Program hosted a potluck dinner. **“Roy” Zihao Xu ’12** invited fourteen international students from Foxcroft Academy who joined the festivities, along with our regular crew of host families, student ambassadors, international students, and friends of ISP. Thanks to **Chef Hand**, the food was fantastic, including whole steamed salmon and roast duckling. Roy then practiced his leadership skills by running some interactive games taught to him by GSA gym teacher **Dan Kane**. The evening concluded with the GSA Steel Drum Band playing live...and lots of dancing and foot-tapping!



We did many things during December to teach our international students about American holiday traditions. We had students volunteering at “A Christmas Carol” performed by The New Surry Theater at the Blue Hill Town Hall; students attended *A Christmas in Maine* performed by Paul Sullivan and friends at the Ellsworth Grand; and students went to the Bay School Winter Faire and the Festival of Lights in Bangor. Many students tried ice skating and sledding for the first time.

Kiyoshi Kuniyoshi ’13 from Japan saw his first snow! We hosted afterschool activities decorating the dorms, making Christmas wreaths with **Roxie Grindle ’71** and ornaments for the dorm Christmas tree.

The ISP “adopted” a family for the holidays, and the international students who signed up went shopping for toys and clothes for three children in need. Students attended the Simmering Pot Community supper and several have continued to volunteer there every week. We hosted a Holiday Party in the



Veinte años y contando

For more than twenty years, **Señora Buckingham** has been taking the Spanish Club to Miguel's Restaurant in Bangor to celebrate *el Día de los Muertos*. **Tim Allen '13**, **Harvard Bridges '11**, and seven other students enjoy hearty Mexican fare.



Students in **Mike Kazmierczak's** AP English class constructed projects representing "novel ideas." Above, the creative impulse of **Meredith Olivari '12** brought Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter* to life.



Kudos!

GSA's Community Action Group with the support of the National Honor Society (NHS) held a bake sale at TradeWinds Marketplace on Friday, December 17th that raised \$551.05. The money will purchase medical supplies for the Espwa orphanage in Haiti.



Jazz combo "Sam's Soul Children" performed on Sunday, February 6th at the Blue Hill Farm Inn. Donations will help finance the the combo's trip to the Berklee College of Music Jazz Festival in Boston on March 5th. *Front row, left to right:* **Haley Maiden '12**, alto sax, **Annie Ames '11**, trumpet, **Nicole Bakeman '12**, tenor sax. *Back row:* **Grace Bugbee '12**, bass, **Björn Peterson '11**, guitar, **Emmett Scott '11**, piano, **Sam Eley '11**, drums.



Passage Crampton '11 has won a Hancock County Medical Mission scholarship and will be traveling on the mission to Guaranda, Ecuador in February. Founded in 1989, Hancock County Medical Mission (HCMM) serves the poor of South America with medical care during annual two-week trips. Volunteers from Hancock County lend their healthcare talents to those in Ecuador or Bolivia who cannot afford proper medical attention. HCMM also has a scholarship program that supports two or three high school students to accompany the mission, provide help with translations, and improve their Spanish. According to GSA Spanish teacher **Nancy Buckingham**, "We have been fortunate to have had students receive the scholarship or volunteer and pay their own expenses for "muchos" years—I've lost count!"

Project Feet: In the artist's own words

by Nolan Ellsworth, '13

I've always been intrigued by feet. I like the shape of them, the idea of how they keep people moving, and the way people express themselves through their feet. I like what people put on their feet, I like the hard, leathery numbness of the bottom of my feet, and I especially like that knobby bump on either side of the ankle (which, I imagine, must be left behind from some sort of evolution-altered claw). It's fun to draw feet. I love how the heel curves into an arch, which connects the balls of the feet, which then arch again into each toe. Toes are weird things; everyone's toes are crooked in different ways, and have different degrees of oddly shaped toenails.

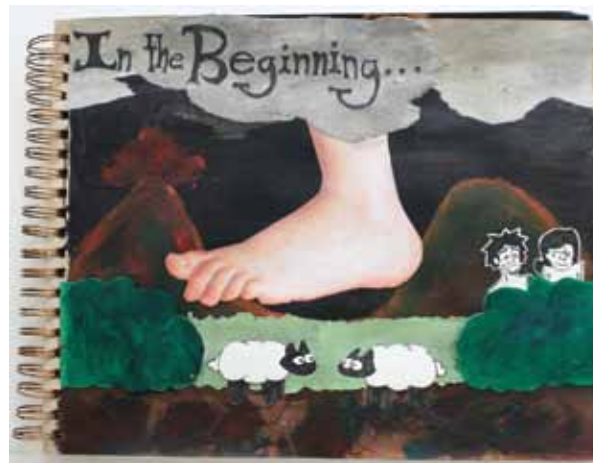
Feet have a lot of personality. They can be strong, weak, rough, smooth, graceful, clumsy, confident, shy, attractive, creepy, scruffy, or pristine. Feet interact with the world more closely than any other extremity. They have to walk bravely on top of all sorts of terrain, they test the temperature of the ocean, they support the whole body. Feet are speed, feet are foundation, feet are buoyancy. Feet leave an impression, a footprint in their path. Feet keep the beat of life.

For all their character and quirks, human feet seem to be some of the most useless in the world. Their lack of claws, fur, scales, thick skin, or opposable toes renders our feet little more than helpless outside the protecting layers of socks and shoes. I think it would be wrong to exclude the realm of paws, hooves, and talons from my sketchbook. Just by exploring my backyard at ground level, I have excellent references for the feet of cats, dogs, sheep, horses, geese, and chickens.



And there is culture of feet. I'd need hundreds of sketchbooks to document the many ways that people have dressed up a foot. There are so many colors, textures, and designs I could employ to create a collage of shoes. Every shoe makes its own statement, and every sock reveals a little piece of someone's soul. I'm a Converse high-top man, myself, but I have been known to explore the power of the hardy Bean boot, the sleek flip-flop, and, of course, the trusty sneaker (the sweatshirt of foot-world, I think). And

behind every great piece of men's footwear, be it a loafer, a cleat, or brogue, there is always a pair of high-heels, sandals, or ballet flats. The culture of feet has given us the moccasin, the toe-sock, roller blades, nail polish, and anklets. We have Tolkien's hobbits, who are famous for their hairy feet, Monty Python's giant iconic foot, Elvis Presley's Blue Suede Shoes, and the famous ending lines of My Fair Lady:



"Eliza, where the devil are my slippers?" Feet are a perfect way to create character in a story. For instance in Harry Potter, Harry wears practical British trainers, while Hagrid's "feet in their leather boots were like baby dolphins" (J.K. Rowling, *Sortcerer's Stone*, p. 14). And finally, one of my favorite parts of foot culture, what would the Wild West be without that extreme of shoe history, the cowboy boot?

It's apparent by now that I spend a lot of time thinking about feet; I'll add that I've often wondered what it would be like if feet could talk. I want to explore the personality of feet in my sketchbook. I think, since each foot is one of a pair, they would have a real brotherhood/bromance thing going on. Feet are far away from the head, and they would see the world completely differently down there. They'd talk as they moved, and feet move all over, up, and down, and shuffling along, perhaps complaining about the wet ground or the dusty road. Imagine a movie all about the world of feet. The feet would have little eyes and a mouth, their legs would just extend up into oblivion. It would be awesome.

In my sketchbook, I want to use a lot of my own drawings, and I want to explore using paints and oil sticks. I think I could use some really interesting materials for shoes and skin. And I'm going to avoid using any human heads and faces, because I want to focus on the image of a foot. It should be really fun, and I'm excited to make up my own assignments. I'm not entirely sure where this will lead, but whatever I do, I'll try and put my best foot forward.

Editor's note: Nolan is the son of Jennifer Schroth '79 and Jon Ellsworth of Sedgwick. Nolan submitted this essay as part of his sketchbook assignment in Katie Greene's Art II Honors class.

HANDS ON!



BOATBUILDING

In October, Carl Cramer, publisher of internationally renowned *WoodenBoat* magazine, announced the inauguration of a program, “WoodenBoat Boatbuilding & Rowing Challenge”—or BARC—that will support boat-building projects for high school students. The initial program involves students at three high schools: George Stevens Academy, Deer Isle-Stonington High School, and Sumner High School. **Hewes & Company of Blue Hill**, which is producing the building kits, has donated one kit to GSA.

Seven GSA students are now working with Industrial Arts Technology teacher **Tim Farrar** to complete the 22-foot St. Ayles Skiff: **Zak Vogel '13, Jeff Durand '11, Storme Macomber '11, Jesse Dow '11, Cameron Lawson '11, Dylan Bowden '11** and **Jared Reed '11**.

Several community members have pitched in to help: Don Small and David Wyman from Castine, Rob Bauer from Blue Hill, and John Brooks, a boatbuilder from Brooklin. If you're interested in helping, please contact Tim. The goal is to have the boat finished by mid-June.



RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

Students in Industrial Arts Technology teacher **Tim Farrar's** Residential Construction class are hard at work building three sheds...and given the winter weather we've been having, their tenacity and toughness is commendable! All three sheds are spoken for at this point; if you're interested in reserving one for next year, let Tim know.

Come April, Tim and thirteen students will begin **Building Green**, a project to construct a 12x16-foot greenhouse. Science classes will then use it in their curriculum, and **Chef Jack Hand** plans to grow vegetables for the lunch program. Background information about “the greenhouse project” can be found at: <http://new.bangordailynews.com/2010/02/27/news/greenhouse-project-promotes-selfsufficiency/>. Many thanks to **Kimball Petty** for generously contributing building materials!



MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

Students in Industrial Arts Technology teacher **Alden Colby's** Manufacturing Technology (1st semester) and Transportation Technology (2nd semester) are building a Go-kart: **Julius Tiesler '13, Alex Speranza '13, Aaron Osborn '13, Jamie Moore '11, Cole Andrews '12, and Dan Ferden '13** hope to have it finished in time to drive it this summer in area parades, including Blue Hill's Memorial Day Parade, Brooklin's 4th of July Parade, Penobscot Days Parade in July.

Fall Sports Highlights



Boys Soccer

The varsity team finished the season with a 6-7-1 record, and will be losing five seniors to graduation. Coach Kane will have a strong offense and midfield next year, as all strikers and midfielders are returning. The defense will be backed by returning keeper **Ben Olivari '12**. **Nick Kane '11** was voted to the Eastern Maine Class C Team by the Maine Soccer Coaches Association. He was also named to the All PVC First Team on Defense. Ben was named to the All PVC Second Team as Goalie, and **Ben Plohr '12** received All PVC Honorable Mention at Midfield. Congratulations, graduating seniors: **Harvard Bridges**, **Nick Doolittle**, **Sam Eley**, **Nick Kane**, and **Cameron Lawson**.



Will Brokaw '12

Girls Soccer

The 2010 Girls Soccer Program consisted of one eighteen-player group that played fourteen varsity games and two JV games (other scheduled JV games were subsequently cancelled). The team's varsity record was 4-10-1. That record included a loss in the 7-10 preliminary play-off game against Washington Academy. Post season honors went to **Anna Clapp '11** and **Richelle Kane '12**, both of whom were selected as Third Team PVC All-Stars. Anna was also named to the Maine Soccer Coaches Association Girls Eastern Maine Class C Team. Congratulations graduating seniors: **Anna Clapp** and **Emily Lowell**.



Brenna Hutchinson '12

Golf Team

The team had a 5-3 record against MDI, Ellsworth and Bucksport, and was PVC Class C Runners-Up. They were the 2nd place State qualifying team, and placed 4th in the State Team Championship. The medalists: **Storme Macomber '11** (one medal), **Nick Dillon '12** (one medal) and **Jasper Adam '13** (three medals). Jasper qualified ninth for the Individual State Championship at the PVC Class B/C qualifying match out of the top 22 scorers. Jasper finished 18th out of the top forty golfers in the Class C Individual State Championship. Congratulations graduating seniors: **David Bertrand** and **Storme Macomber**.



L to R: **Alex Heilner, '14** **Jasper Adam '13**, **Nick Dillon '12**, **David Bertrand '11**.

Cross Country Teams

The Girls team finished second in the Annual Seacoast Run and were in the top three in several seasonal meets. **Nicole Bakeman '12** is one of the top five runners in Eastern Maine after her top five finish in the Eastern Maine Regional Meet. She went on to finish in the top twenty at the State Meet. **Amanda Moir** also advanced to the State Meet after finishing among the top twenty runners at the EM Regional. The Boys team had great success over all, finishing in the top two position in a number of seasonal meets, and qualifying as a team for the State Meet. Congratulations graduating seniors: **Ruby Treyball**, **Elizabeth Doyen**, **Joshua Bowden**, **Jacob Reiley**, **Ben Avery**, and **Kalle Bailey**.

Floor Me! —With Gratitude



Back row: **Rob Clapp '73**, **Kermit Allen**, **Jane Allen**, **Joe Murphy**, **Jeff Allen '79**, **Chuck Lawrence**, **Belinda Lawrence**, **Brandon Lawrence**, **Bags Brokaw**. Front row, Varsity Basketball Team Captains: **Emily Lowell**, **Nick Kane**, **Anna Clapp**, **Tom Crowe**, **Lexi Brann**, **Nick Doolittle**—all class of '11.

On December 10, the school conducted a Recognition Ceremony in the newly renovated gymnasium. The ceremony was held during intermission between the JV Boys and Varsity Boys basketball games, the first games of the season and the first games in the new gym. In the ceremony **Rob Clapp '73** acknowledged three “leadership” donors: the **Estate of Marion Jones Dash '35**; **Chuck and Belinda Lawrence of TradeWinds Marketplace**; and **Joe Murphy of Bar Harbor Bank and Trust**. Bags Brokaw then acknowledged the many parents, trustees, and other community members whose contributions of time and money made *Floor Me!* possible. As a token of GSA's gratitude to the community for its support of this project, admission charges to the two games were waived.



Thanks to the generous support and leadership of two local businesses, George Stevens Academy met its fundraising goal of \$770,000 for *Floor Me!*, phase I of the renovation of the multipurpose facility. **Union Trust**, a division of Camden National Bank, issued a challenge, pledging to split the final \$15,000 of money raised for the project. Stepping up to Union Trust's challenge, **Downeast Properties** and **Jeff '79** and **Tina Allen** pledged to contribute \$7,500. Together, Union Trust and Downeast Properties and the Allens have contributed the last \$15,000 to meet this goal in GSA's *Campaign for Our Future*.

Pictured are **Rob Clapp '73**, President, GSA Board of Trustees; **Crystal Richards**, Assistant Vice President and Market Manager, Union Trust; **Tracy Duffy '83**, Assistant Branch Manager, Union Trust; **Tina Allen**, Downeast Properties; **Jeff Allen '79**, Downeast Properties; and **Rada Starkey**, Director of Development, GSA.

ALUMNA PROFILE:

SARA BILLINGS LEIGHTON, '85, LIVING HER DREAM



Sara Billings Leighton, Class of 1985, is owner and manager of *SaraSara's*, a clothing boutique with shops in Blue Hill and Castine. Sara opened the Blue Hill shop eight years ago and operates it year round. Three years ago she opened the shop in Castine, which operates seasonally. Sara conceived the name of the business from a phrase she heard repeatedly in her childhood. "I was forever coming up with one crazy idea or another. I thought the plans I hatched were genius, but usually my ideas were met with 'Sara, Sara, Sara! Don't be silly!'"

More often than not, my

dreaming included having a clothing store right in the middle of town. When I was a child, I would set up yard sales on the porch of my grandmother's house in the heart of the village, and I would dream of running a real clothing store. So, when my dream became a reality, I couldn't think of a more perfect name."

After graduating from GSA, Sara attended the University of Maine for a short while and then started a family. Once her two boys, Taylor and Sam, were school-aged, she enrolled in the University of Maine at Augusta, but the arrival of her daughters, Virginia and Margaret, put that plan on hold. Sara held several different jobs before starting her own business, all of which were customer service-oriented. She learned what's required to handle the day-to-day operations of running a business and had lots of hands-on training.

"My main business goal is to make customers feel comfortable, not only with what they are wearing, but with who they are." Her business slogan is 'Find Your Style Inside'. "It has become a mission for me to help everyone realize their own special beauty and worth. One of my favorite sayings is, 'I'm not beautiful like you, I'm beautiful like me.' Everyone should say that to themselves at least twice each day! More than anything, I believe in and insist upon providing outstanding customer service—it's what keeps customers coming back."

Sara was born and raised in the Blue Hill area and attended the Blue Hill Consolidated School before entering GSA. She was the third generation of her family to attend GSA following her grandmother **Margaret Howard Billings '23** and her father **Lloyd Burke Billings '54**. Sara's children now make up the fourth generation. Step-son, **Ricky Leighton '06**, recently graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, PA; son **Taylor Hodgkin '08** attends Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island; son **Sam Hodgkin '10** attends the University of Southern Maine in Gorham; daughter Virginia is a GSA sophomore; and daughter Margaret and step-son, Cole, both in seventh grade, will attend GSA in two years.

As Sara's children make their way through GSA, she has tried to be a good role model, encouraging them to take advantage of the many opportunities available to them—something Sara admits she did not always do. She was involved in the theatre program at GSA and traveled to France for her Independent Study Project, but regrets not doing more. "I was actually given lots of opportunities and received many honors, including being selected to attend Girls' State, but I didn't always take advantage of them." Her hope is for her kids to stay focused on their aspirations while also enjoying the social aspects of high school. "Virginia has been working for me and knows the business almost as well as I do. She might like to take over for me someday, but she knows that she could grow the business to its fullest potential if she goes to college first. You never know, maybe she'll take *SaraSara's* global! But things can change and she might end up choosing a totally different path for herself. And that's just fine with me, because if you do what you love, the rest will follow."

"Although I feel very accomplished for being able to run a business successfully, I also know I'm very lucky. It is extremely difficult to manage two shops, kids with all of their extra-curricular activities, and a home. My husband, Rick, is very supportive and shares in all these responsibilities. This affords me the time I need to run my business to the best of my ability. When all is said and done, the little challenges and frustrations don't amount to much compared with the rewards that come from living your dream."

Visit SaraSara's online at: www.sarasaras.com.

2010-2011 Annual Fund Update

What difference do annual gifts make?

All the difference!

Gifts to the Annual Fund make up the difference between town-supported tuition and the actual costs of a GSA education. Gifts to the Annual Fund support a diverse program of studies for students no matter what their post-graduation aspirations. Annual giving supports improved technology, classroom equipment, and outstanding extra-curricular opportunities.

On behalf of the students and faculty of GSA, we thank all the generous donors who have given to the 2010-2011 Annual Fund to date. If you have not yet made your gift, we hope you will do so soon. What better investment is there?

Online

Giving online is a simple and secure way to make your gift. Visit our website at

www.georgestevensacademy.org/onlinegift.

By Mail

Mail your check, made payable to George Stevens Academy, or credit card information to:

George Stevens Academy
Annual Fund
23 Union Street
Blue Hill, ME 04614

By Telephone

Make your gift by calling the Development Office at 207-374-2800.

Need additional information? Send an e-mail to Trudy Bell at t.bell@georgestevens.org or call 207-374-2800.

RICH TRADITION PROMISING FUTURE

Our Goal: \$255,000
Current Total: \$101,280

THE ANNUAL FUND *as of January 31, 2011*

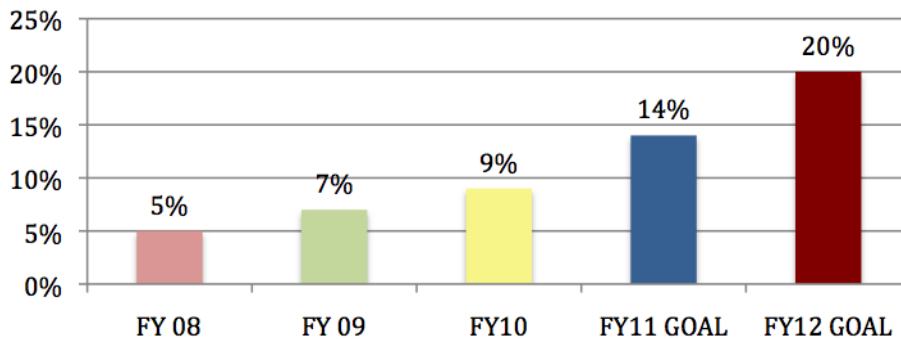
\$142	July
\$833	August
\$16,184	September
\$18,986	October
\$36,269	November
\$91,912	December
\$101,280	January
	February
	March
	April
	May
	June



Heads up, Alumni!

The Alumni Challenge

Annual Fund Alumni Participation Rate: Five-year overview



The gift you make to the Annual Fund is important, but your participation no matter the size of your gift may be even more important. That's because we've been challenged to increase the rate of alumni participation to 20% by 2012, and to sustain or exceed that level for each of two additional years. Every gift of any size brings us closer to that goal, and if we meet the challenge, **GSA will receive \$60,000** in unrestricted support!

If you're wondering whether your contribution can really make a difference, remember that many alumni are wondering the same thing: but together, your collective gifts will meet the challenge. Please make your gift to the Annual Fund by June 30th to ensure we reach this year's goal of 14% participation.

Reunion News

It's not too early to plan 2011 Reunions —Save the date for Homecoming!

To all the members of the 1's and 6's reunion classes—your year to celebrate is here! Planning a reunion? Let us know! We can help you spread the word, and we would love to publish the details of your event in an upcoming issue.

(See tentative events list on back cover.)

5 Year Reunion - **Class of 2006** • 10 Year Reunion - **Class of 2001**
15 Year Reunion - **Class of 1996** • 20 Year Reunion - **Class of 1991**
25 Year Reunion - **Class of 1986** • 30 Year Reunion - **Class of 1981**
35 Year Reunion - **Class of 1976** • 40 Year Reunion - **Class of 1971**
45 Year Reunion - **Class of 1966** • 50 Year Reunion - **Class of 1961**
55 Year Reunion - **Class of 1956** • 60 Year Reunion - **Class of 1951**
65 Year Reunion - **Class of 1946** • 70 Year Reunion - **Class of 1941**

We want to help keep everyone in the loop. If you're planning to celebrate your GSA reunion, please contact us. We'll be happy to help! t.bell@georgestevens.org 207-374-2800.

Save the Dates: October 7 - 8 - 9

HOMEcoming 2011

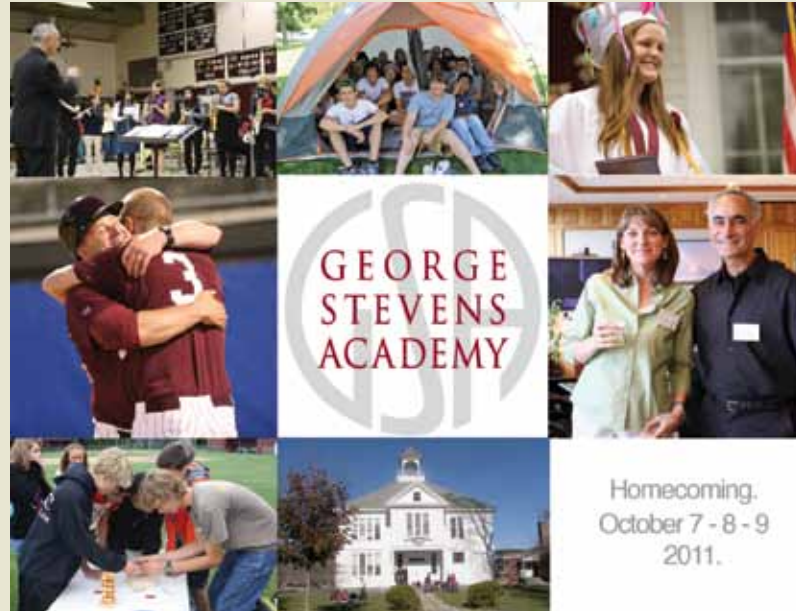
"Not Just for Alumni!"

GSA is gearing up to welcome all alumni, reunion classes, current students, families & friends to Homecoming 2011!

The Homecoming Committee is hard at work planning exciting events: soccer matches, tailgate parties, music, dancing, golf—there'll be something for everyone.

Tentative events:

- Boys Home Soccer Game
- Girls Home Soccer Game
- Bonfire and steel drum dance
- Family-friendly tailgate BBQ
- Golf Tournament
- 5K Race
- Alumni/Student Arts & Crafts show
- Alumni cocktail party
- Homecoming Dance
- Campus tours
- Breakfast with new Head, Paul Perkinson



Homecoming.
October 7 - 8 - 9
2011.

Planning a class event? Let us help! Interested in volunteering? Drop us a line!

Trudy Bell in the Development Office at 207-374-2800 ext.120 or e-mail t.bell@georgestevens.org.

GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY

23 Union Street
Blue Hill, ME 04614
Phone: (207) 374-2808
Fax: (207) 374-2982
georgestevensacademy.org

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Blue Hill, Maine 04614
Permit No. 7