

THE POTOMAC TERM

Winter 2003

Nature providing a common ground





Altinay Karasapan, Grade 3



Ella Barnes, Grade 3



James Johnson, Grade 3



Pasha Davoudian, Grade 3



Lucy Matthews, Grade 8

The Arts at Potomac

The arts are heralded for the connections they make with language arts, math, science, technology, and character education. The emphasis placed on the arts sets the stage for life-long interest. Many alumni continue to pursue the arts enthusiastically and successfully. They have expressed gratitude to Potomac for planting and nurturing the seeds that began their appreciation and participation. More student art located on pages 12 and 13.

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THE
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The Potomac School web site:
www.PotomacSchool.org

Deadlines for the next Term:

Alumni News:
May 1, 2003

Other Submissions:
May 15, 2003



In December the dragon was slayed once again by St. George in this traditional Potomac production.



Head of School, Geoff Jones listens to Chris Steed's graduation speech page 22.



Middle School students mentoring peers, page 3.



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COVER

These photos were taken of the seventh grade class on their annual trip to Caroline Furnace. Details on page 6.

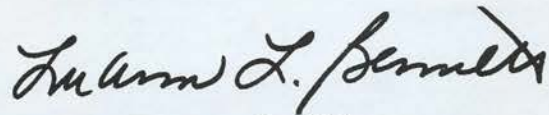
In response to the Summer 2002 Term article "Does Labor Conquer All" Brian Rose (husband of Imogen Rose, former Potomac Latin teacher) writes "I am surprised that nobody at Potomac seems to know that the School's motto is not 'Labour Conquers All' but 'Labour Will Conquer all.'" Thanks to Mr. Rose for bringing this to our attention.

Dear Potomac Community:

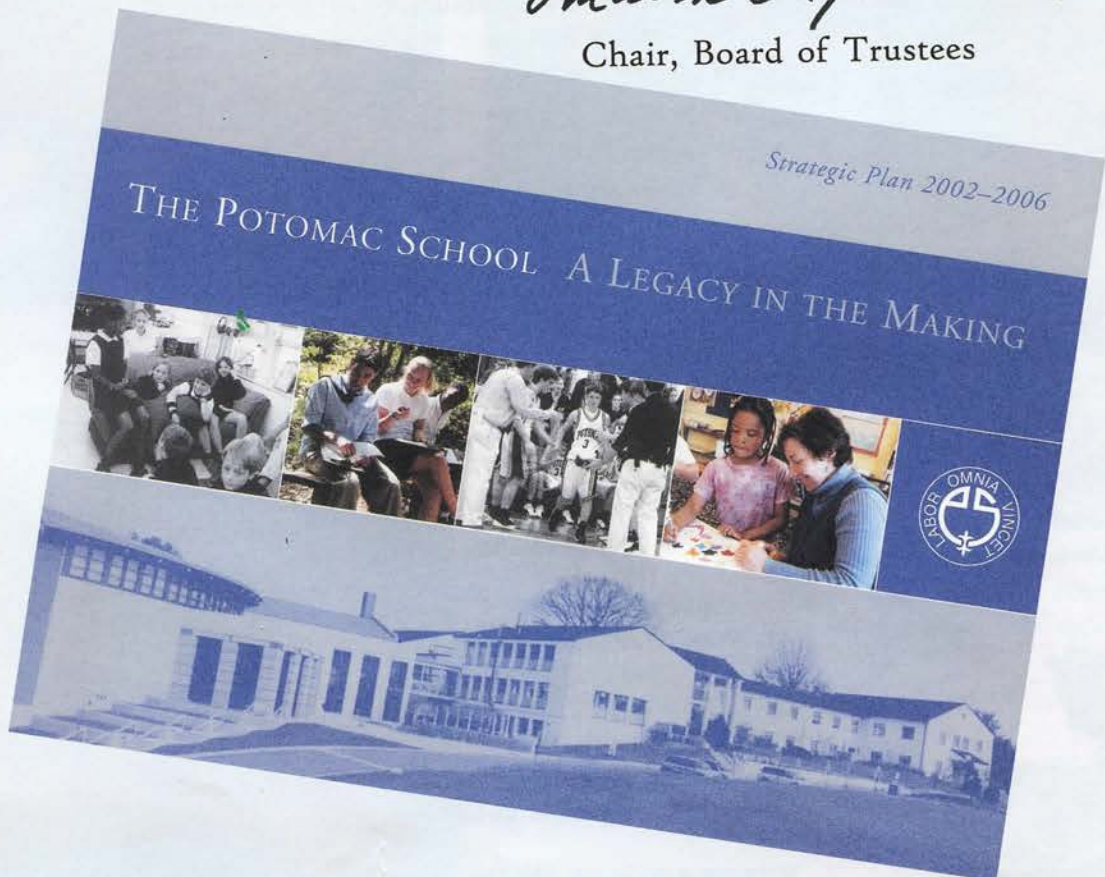
As we begin the second half of the 2002-2003 school year I find that I am very excited about the future of Potomac. The publication of our Strategic Plan in the fall has reminded us all of Potomac's strengths and focused the Board on the important decisions necessary to move us forward. Potomac will always be a place where the whole child is supported: academically, socially and emotionally. It is a place where the teachers' dedication and commitment to the students is almost tangible. I am so happy to be a part of this wonderful, creative, learning environment.

Potomac is approaching a major milestone, its first century as a school. We are formulating preliminary plans for a centennial celebration. The centennial will be observed during the 2004-2005 school year. We hope that it will be a year full of wonderful events and that many of you will be able to join us back on campus.

The Board is also working on a revised Master Plan and we look forward to sharing it with you in the coming months. We hope that you will contribute your own ideas at one of the gatherings that will be organized this spring. We will also keep you apprised of new developments as they occur.



Chair, Board of Trustees



SPOTLIGHTS

lower school



Buddy Classes Working Together

Many Lower School classes have older buddy classes in the Middle School with whom they complete projects and activities. The relationships formed between older and younger students is equally rewarding for both sets of children. As the younger children enjoy the attention and guidance of an elder, the older buddies get a chance to practice and employ their responsibility and life experiences with their young friends. Mrs. Powell's first graders and Ms. Rombach's third graders are buddies and have recently completed a noteworthy project together. The World Bank has initiated a community service opportunity to collect winter clothing for children in Afghanistan. Many young boys in Afghanistan are forced to hold jobs and work for extra family income, and they are too impoverished to supply their own warm clothes. Mrs. Powell and Ms. Rombach's classes volunteered to help. The first and third graders created flyers to go home and then came around Lower School classrooms each morning to collect the donations. Together, these two classes collected dozens of boxes of clothing for needy Afghani children.



Inside the Iditarod

The third grade had a special visitor in December. In anticipation of their unit on the Iditarod Dog Sled race, racer Martin Buser and his lead dog, Kira, came to share their story with the children. Over the past few years the historic sled race from Anchorage to Nome has been incorporated into the classrooms in a variety of ways. Each child picks a musher to follow throughout the many stages of the 1000 mile race. Math skills are then honed tracking the mileage and distance of the racers; social studies is inherent in the sled's trek through the Alaskan wilderness, and a challenge to read one page for each mile traveled is also extended to the children. Mr. Buser spoke about his experiences as a four-time winner of the legendary sled-dog race. Kira, his lead dog, is a 40 pound Alaskan Husky; many of the children were surprised by how small and lean she was. The Busers raise their own dogs from puppies; he has over 100 dogs. He showed a video of the dogs running side by side on a training wheel that he uses to condition the dogs to run the incredible distance required for the Iditarod. The training wheel looked eerily similar to the small wheels you see gerbils running on, only much larger! Hearing these firsthand accounts from such a talented musher was the perfect introduction to the upcoming third grade Iditarod unit.



Mysteries of Space

In Mrs. Klimenko and Ms. Johnson's kindergarten class, the children have learned about our solar system and the special aspects of night. The recent meteor shower as well as the winter solstice both brought special attention to nighttime sites and scenes. Together, the kindergartners discussed what sort of activities they do at night as well as what they might see in the night sky: stars and a few planets. The children learned the names of the seven planets and put together a book listing one special fact about each planet as well as its placement in the solar system. The culminating event was a trip to the Air and Space museum where the class not only got to attend a show about the universe in the Planetarium, but they also got to view real astronaut suits and space food. After this kindergarten unit, there is no doubt that these children will enjoy the night as much as, if not more than, the day.

Learning with Laptops

Ms. Cheadle's second graders have integrated the lower school mobile laptop unit into their social studies unit on Native Americans. During this unit, the children focused on the Wampanoag tribe, and they collected information and notes in their Writers' Notebooks. The students were interested in learning about the various aspects of tribal life: what they ate, what kind of homes they built, how they traveled, what they wore, any games and toys they played with and weapons and tools they would have used. Once this information had been recorded, the second graders worked with partners to create a slide show using the Kid Pix computer program. Each pair of children had to draw a series of pictures together and write sentences explaining each illustration; then they created a slide show with all of their pages. Some even added background sounds to make the slide show more exciting. The entire group is hoping to present these to friends, relatives, (and any interested film producers!) in the Spring. (Photo at left.)

SPOTLIGHTS

middle school

Literary Lunches

Fourth grade devotees of poetry gathered for a Poetry Lunch in the Arundel Library on the Monday before Thanksgiving. Invited by Mrs. Farrell and Ms. Scanlon to share their favorite poems with each other, the children arrived with a range of pieces to present. Some children brought their own original poems to read while others opted for works scripted by Edgar Allen Poe or the perennial favorite, Shel Silverstein. The children nibbled on holiday treats provided by their hostesses and displayed support and appreciation for one another's offerings. An altogether lovely departure from the regular chaos of the lunchroom scene!

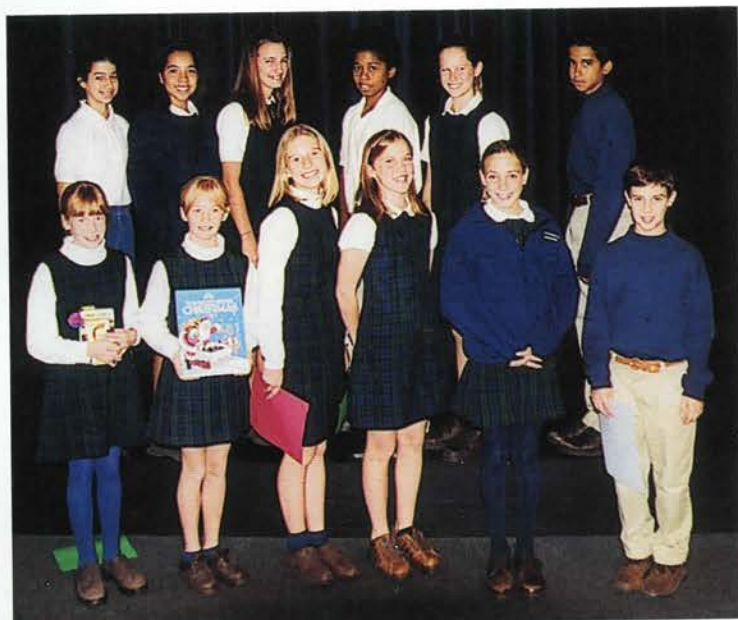


Adaptation and Performance

Guided by their co-teachers, Mrs. Zehner and Mrs. Ramos, a fifth grade class adapted the Newbery Award winning book *Holes* by Louis Sachar into a working script for their class play. The process began by the group listening to the entire book on tape and analyzing the literary elements as they progressed through the story. The children then tackled the job of converting a fiction text to a script. They did this by highlighting key dialogue, underlining important narrative information, and placing parentheses around significant actions or gestures. The script was edited several times, during which the fifth graders debated whether or not certain lines were necessary to retain the meaning of the story. Upon completion of the script, the determined group moved toward bringing the story to life through a carefully painted set, excellent staging, and tremendous acting enthusiasm. All of their difficult mental "digging" was rewarded by the Middle School's positive response to the tale of "bad boys" forced to dig real holes in the hot desert sun.



After sharing their favorite poems, students enjoyed lunch in the library.



The finalists in the Middle School speech competition presented in three categories: poetry interpretation, storytelling and dramatic reading.

SPOTLIGHTS

middle school

Imagining a Landscape

What's a surefire way to learn a host of geography terms and still have a lot of fun? Design your own "imaginary island"! Armed with a list of required geographical terms, fifth graders each had the opportunity to include these terms in the context of the island of their imaginings. As part of the project, students wrote descriptive paragraphs, drew sketches, created travel brochures, wrote handmade postcards, created recipes and flags and, finally, sculpted and painted three-dimensional models. So make your plans now to swim in the Shivery Sea off the coast of Ghost Island, enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal of spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread on Pariname Island, or snap photos of the purple Magoogoo Mountains on Mawawa Island!



The annual Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart event was held in the Preston Gym.



A few of Mr. Bloom's 6th grade students in costume for their rehearsal of "Willow."



Above: Middle School students used the sculptures designed by visiting artist Mark Blumenstein for a creative writing assignment. More about the artist on page 7.



Another successful Invention Convention was held in the Middle School square featuring students' creative ideas for tools to improve our lives.



SPOTLIGHTS

intermediate school

Starting the Year at Caroline Furnace

As part of the well-established Caroline Furnace tradition, seventh grade students enjoyed a week in Virginia's Fort Valley during early October. During their three-nights and four days at camp, students enjoyed a half-day canoe trip on the Shenandoah River, a hike up 2500-foot Kennedy Peak, and numerous other challenging individual and group activities.



Using nets students analyzed aquatic life.

Seventh grader Christopher Ewing particularly enjoyed the canoe trip. Allison Fisk said the highlight of the trip for her was something students don't normally get during the school day: the opportunity to spend free time with friends.

In addition to the usual crew of teachers and administrators, four parents accompanied the group this year. Teachers enjoyed getting to know the parents better and students liked seeing the familiar faces of their friends' parents. One of the parent chaperones, Tina Zaras, said emphatically that she would definitely do it again if she had the chance. "I thought it was great because I got to experience a part of my son's childhood that I would not otherwise get a chance to be there for," she commented. "Plus," she added, "for me, it was a great personal experience because I had never done anything like that."

Coping With the Sniper Attacks

Everyone in the Washington area felt increased tension during the three-week period of random, sniper-style shootings that began October 3rd. Students in the Intermediate School held up well, considering the circumstances. Teachers and administrators kept them in for morning recess and lunch, which, says student Yasmin Atefi, was difficult, but "it was scarier to go out." Science teacher Robin Gross was unable to take her classes outside for a stream study activity. Looking back, she remarked, "Potomac usually feels like a refuge, so it was strange to feel vulnerable in a place where I am supposed to feel safe." The effect of the attacks was perhaps most sharply felt during the Athletics period, when 154 students squeezed into and rotated through a handful of indoor spaces. Students also used the football field, which a security detail deemed safe. Several teams missed half of their season's games due to cancellations. Needless to say, the community breathed a deep sigh of relief when the ordeal was over and things could return to normal.



Equality on the Football Team

Seventh grader Jenny Egan made Potomac history this fall when she suited up (No. 66 pictured below) and played a full season for the Unlimited football team. She chose football because she had many friends on the team and she did not find another fall team that interested her as much as football did. Unfortunately, Jenny missed several games and practices due to two breaks of the same ankle. "It was fun," she laughed, "even though I hurt myself twice." Asked whether she plans to play again next year, Jenny said, "Definitely!"



Recycling oil to make bio-diesel fuel

What happens to all the used cooking oil, left over from frying all those fries? The answer is that our 8th grade Science classes recycled some of it, in recent classes. Using a straight-forward process known as the Dr. Pepper method (because of the soda bottle used at one point in the experiment), students started with WVO, waste vegetable oil, and converted it into bio-diesel. A 2cm depth of semi-solid by-product was left in bottom of the soda bottle with 15 cm depth (6 inches) of bio-diesel separated on top of the sludge. One student described the bio-diesel as looking like iced tea. The product will be tested in an up-coming assembly in a diesel tractor. The students completed the exercise by doing experiments to calculate the calorific value of the fuel, and compared the results to other fuels including foods such as nuts and Cheez Whiz.

SPOTLIGHTS

upper school

Smashing Pumpkins on the Tundra

On Wednesday, November 13, King Edward III's secret weapon came to Potomac. Called a trebuchet, in the middle ages it was the weapon of choice for pulverizing castle walls. This particular trebuchet was constructed under the auspices of the PBS program NOVA, using 13th century techniques and technology. It was a scale model of the actual siege engines Edward used to destroy Scottish castles. Many people interested in medieval warfare, trajectories, projectiles, the laws of physics, ancient engineering or all of the above came by to see pumpkins sent hurtling through the air only to smash on the opposite end of the tundra.



Mr. Blumenstein (far left) poses with students from Cort Morgan's art class.

Visiting Sculptor


The whimsical works of sculptor Mark Blumenstein were featured in the lobby of the Engelhard Performing Arts Center during November and December. Mr. Blumenstein's work is in collections worldwide and represented in many galleries. He has had one-man shows and installations at The Sunrise Museum, The Huntington Museum of Art and a monumental sculpture at the Youth Museum in Beckley, WV. Mr. Blumenstein visited Potomac to discuss his artwork at an Upper School assembly and met with several art classes to answer student questions and talk to them about his sculptures and the creative process.



In November the Upper School Potomac Theatre presented, George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart's 1936 comedy, *You Can't Take It With You*. The students did a fabulous job bringing the quirky Vanderhoff family to life in the Langstaff Auditorium.



Upper School students and faculty from across the school turned out to support Potomac's annual blood drive. The Inova bloodmobile was bustling with activity the entire day that it was here. Thanks to Mrs. Grass for orchestrating the drive.



Fostering
RESPONSIBILITY,
TRUSTWORTHINESS,
CARING & RESPECT
AT SCHOOL

"We expect students to act with kindness, civility, and generosity of spirit, and, in our daily activities, we find opportunities to foster their integrity of character and civic conscience. More than mere tolerance, this standard calls students to act with compassion for others and to reach beyond the school in service to the community."

- From The Potomac School
Mission Statement

"Miss Seth and I were lucky enough to know the Founders (of Potomac) and Miss Madeira. We learned the ways of the school from them and from the teachers of longstanding. From them all we savored their zest, their independence, **their emphasis on character**, their demand for hard work, their respect for the individual, their fearless originality and true simplicity. No wonder that Miss Seth-Smith and I were delighted with the opportunity that Potomac offered!"

- Carol Preston, Headmistress 1938-1961, from
her *Memories of Potomac School*

The dictionary lists one of the possible definitions for character as *moral or ethical strength*. Moral or ethical strength. If you were to go back into your dictionary, the definition for strength carries more insight into the notion of character. Strength: *The power to resist attack; impregnability. The power to resist strain or stress; durability. The ability to maintain a moral or intellectual position firmly.*

Nationwide, educators are noticing deficiencies in children's awareness of character and, specifically, what it means to show strong character. As a result, schools around the country are initiating character education programs to, quite literally, teach the children how to display strong character, high morals, compassion, and overall kindness.

Potomac has always incorporated character education into its teaching practices but has recently put into place some more formal guidelines to ensure that every child will be exposed to the same core concepts. For the past two years, lower schoolers have been exposed to four character traits: Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Caring, and Respect. Each classroom in each grade level approaches these four traits in a variety of ways and the results are undeniable. At the beginning of the year, the four traits are introduced to the children in a lower school assembly. The character traits have been linked to the four-padded paw of the Potomac Panther and the children equate "Panther Pride" with the notion of responsibility, trustworthiness, caring and respect. Each classroom has private conversations about examples of these character traits: what does it mean to be respectful? When have you shown respect? How do we display caring on a daily basis at school? At home?

These conversations are carried further with projects and activities in all classrooms. Kindergartners talk about the character traits under the umbrella of the Golden Rule: Treat others the way you wish to be treated; this phrase is heard throughout kindergarten

rooms on a regular basis. In first grade, projects vary from role-playing to work packets. Children read scenarios to one another and then decide which character trait would best describe the situation. Character books are completed in which each child draws and writes about a time they can remember displaying responsibility, trustworthiness, respect and caring. In second grade, small groups of children cooperate to write out skits demonstrating each character trait and continue their observations in writing journals and stories. In third grade, the four traits are woven into literature discussions as children recognize examples from book characters. Up and down the halls, it is noticed and commended when a character trait is displayed; for example, paw print bookmarks or 'marks of character' are handed out at Wednesday assemblies, character trait chains are made with strips displaying the four traits, paw print stamps are given when someone demonstrates a trait. Simple ways of addressing and recognizing when a child has acted with strong character are daily occurrences in lower school.

Character education is certainly not isolated to the homerooms, either. The library has a lengthy list of stories and titles that discuss or demonstrate the character traits. In science, the four traits are applied to the treatment of animals and nature in general. In the art and the music room, the children are reminded of the character traits when using different instruments and materials and also when discussing other's work and creations. Art students sit together and individually discuss projects in a respectful and caring manner. The P.E. teachers have opportunities during each game or activity and when speaking about sportsmanship and fairness.

The continuity of the four traits is omnipresent in Lower School. The children understand what each trait means, and, recognize when a kind deed has been done. Everyone agrees that Lower School children were displaying the four character traits long before they were formally introduced in the classrooms; however, their awareness of

strong character is evident in their discussions and their conversations with teachers and with one another. When a friend helps to clean up a spill, it is common to hear it described as 'caring' or 'responsible'. If a student is struggling with an assignment and is helped by a friend, the word 'respect' is often mentioned.

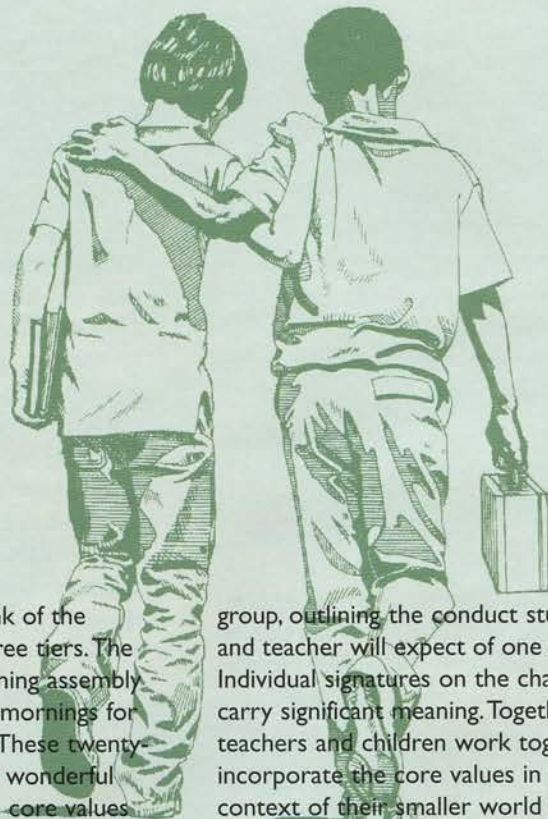
On a final note, the inclusion of these four traits by the Potomac community is commendable. Not only are these children gaining exposure and experience with responsibility, trustworthiness, caring and respect at school, but also at home. Parents have observed the consciousness of these traits from their children when on play dates, at a party, or with siblings and family members.

As learners, Lower School children are rooted in the concrete; in other words, they learn best by doing and personally engaging in the topic on hand. Character education is interwoven into each daily activity and has transcended the teacher plan books; no longer are the four traits simply topics to display and discuss, but rather, are becoming integrated pieces of each child's individual character. Hopefully, we are raising a generation of children that will show strength of character. It would be naive to think that school is simply a place for academic growth. At Potomac, we are hopeful that attention to such an integral piece of a child's development as character will leave a life long mark. What could possibly be a better lesson? Strength: The power to resist attack; impregnability. The power to resist strain or stress; durability. The ability to maintain a moral or intellectual position firmly.

-Charlotte Martin '93

Character Counts

Middle School's three tier program for character education of the "whole child."



It has long been one of the Middle School's goals to educate the "whole child"; that is, the school has always seen its mission as extending beyond curricular requirements to helping the children think more broadly about what is "right" and "fair." Much of this important work has historically taken place in response to teachable moments as they arose, at which time teachers could sit down and talk about the attendant issues surrounding a particular incident. The authenticity of this approach is unarguable; the difficulty, however, is that individual children and teachers will have vastly different experiences with character education in this framework.

In response to the Head of School's stated commitment to a more formalized approach to character education in every division, Middle School Head, Suzanne Marshall, together with her faculty and the school counseling team, has developed a dynamic plan for character education in her division that is already reaping big rewards. The Middle School Character Education Program "seeks to define, illustrate, and discuss core values that have been selected for their relevance to the Middle School community." The core values, selected by the faculty and explored one by one in units with the whole Middle School, are as follows: Courage, Respect, Perseverance, Compassion, Initiative, Integrity, Civic Consciousness, and Responsibility.

Mrs. Marshall likes to think of the program as existing in three tiers. The first of these tiers is morning assembly on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for Grades four through six. These twenty-minute periods provide a wonderful venue for introducing the core values which are then explored thoroughly, one at a time, over a period of approximately five weeks.

Each assembly features different voices and methods for presentation. The first unit on Courage, for example, produced a wide variety of offerings. Students saw images of courage in a slide show about the events of September 11, 2001; they listened to the story of a boy standing up to his bully in *The 18~ Emergency*; some performed a Readers' Theatre of a well-loved *Frog and Toad* book; others formally debated an ethical dilemma for the assembled group; one assembly even featured a musical rendition of Maya Angelou's poem "Life Doesn't Frighten Me." Amid these and other creative explorations of the theme of courage, Mrs. Marshall's favorite part of a unit is what has come to be called the "Signs and Symbols" wrap-up assembly. At this time, students and faculty are invited to bring in objects representative of family stories illustrating the core value under examination.

The second tier of the program exists within the individual classrooms. Students and teachers work together to make a strong classroom community. One element common to many of the classrooms is a charter, written as a

group, outlining the conduct students and teacher will expect of one another. Individual signatures on the charter carry significant meaning. Together, the teachers and children work together to incorporate the core values in the context of their smaller world of the classroom. Many set aside time to reinforce this work each week in their class meetings.

The final and third tier in Mrs. Marshall's schematic is the extension of the core values to the larger school community and beyond. At this level, all of the adults and children in each student's world are accorded the same careful regard he is asked to extend to his classmates. Certain assembly pieces have pushed the children toward this kind of global thinking. For example, fifth grader Archer Knopes and his grandfather gave a slide presentation of Alaska, thereby encouraging the children to show respect for the land. As well, Upper School Community Service Coordinator David Grant's presentation on homelessness in the D.C. area asked the children to think hard about this topic. While Mrs. Marshall realizes that children will grasp the core value concepts on different levels at different times, she feels certain that the end result will be a more cohesive and sensitive Middle School body. The overwhelmingly positive response of students and faculty to the program is a good indication that she is on the right track. ♦

by Sara Dougherty-Jones

There's a new buzz-word in the I.S. these days, thanks to the Resource Team and Geoff Jones. All Potomac teachers have been charged with a new mission: to differentiate their classrooms. So far, teachers have just begun to get a sense of what that might look like.

The push began with last summer's assigned reading, a book by Carol Tomlinson entitled *How to Differentiate Instruction in Mixed-Ability Classrooms*. It continued this fall with a professional-day trip to Charlottesville to meet with Tomlinson, who is a distinguished education professor at the University of Virginia. Most recently, teachers attended a two-hour after-school session, led by the Resource Team, on how to put Tomlinson's ideas into practice.

Differentiation aims to improve upon the traditional teacher-centered lesson that hits the middle range of students, bores the advanced kids, and loses the weaker ones. Instead, in a differentiated classroom, the teacher tailors activities to students' diverse needs, taking into account their interests, readiness, and learning profile. Tomlinson encourages teachers to design opportunities for each student to move 10 to 15 percent beyond her or his comfort zone. To do this, teachers have to know their students very well.

Many faculty members have enjoyed learning about

differentiation, and they are finding out that it's not really new material to them at all. In the words of seventh grade Spanish teacher Mora Solano, "this is what good teachers are already doing." I.S. Resource Teacher Pat Beverly, who attended a week-long summer workshop with Tomlinson in Florida, says that, while these ideas may not be new, they bring fresh sense of direction to the division. "At our level, it opens up a lot of possibilities we have been aware of, but they haven't necessarily been in the forefront of our minds," Beverly explained.

Geography and history teacher John Otto said that the recent dialogue has prompted him to look towards more project-based learning. For January, he is planning a unit during which students will research and prepare a poster on one of the following groups involved in and affected by the Civil War: Union soldiers, Confederate soldiers, African-Americans, and women. The students will be grouped according to areas of personal interest to them. They will conduct library and internet research and eventually create posters that include both text and images. Then, in February, he and eighth grade history colleague Bob Hamblet will lead students in a project, designed several years ago by Hamblet, in which students craft a Power Point presentation dealing with issues of repression, exploitation, and reform in late 19th and early

20th century America. Students will again be grouped according to areas of personal interest.

Other teachers have had success with lessons which allow students the freedom to choose their most comfortable method of learning. Eighth grade math teacher Sharyn Stein observed interesting results when she gave her classes an activity designed to teach patterns and quadratic equations. Students were presented with a problem in which two equal lines of pennies had to switch sides in the fewest possible moves. To make sure everyone got involved, Stein took her classes outside and had students be frogs instead of pennies, starting with one on each side and then gradually increasing the number of frogs, working up to ten per side. While one class tired after a few rounds, preferring to go inside and work through the problem on paper, the other class enjoyed the physical activity, stayed outside, and quickly identified the pattern.

The next day, when kids worked on a variation of the penny problem, Stein provided them with multiple avenues for solving it. Some went back outside to act it out; several groups went to the board and used colored markers and diagrams; others made a table with pencil and paper. Stein found that the highest number of kids were successful when they had the freedom to choose the

organizational strategy that made most sense to them.

In addition to Tomlinson's grouping and scaffolding techniques, Potomac teachers are finding a tool called "Pre-Assessment" to be quite useful. This fall, before students began a study of insects, seventh-grade science teacher Robin Gross gave them a pre-test that helped her to see how much they already knew about insects and alerted her to the concepts on which students would need to spend more time. In January, in preparation for a unit on cells, Gross used another pre-assessment to find out how much students know about using a microscope. Before coming to Potomac in 2000, Gross earned a Masters in Education, with a focus on gifted learning, in a UVA Falls Church program founded by Tomlinson. Needless to say, Gross is excited to continue to learn more about how Tomlinson's ideas can help her provide each student with the right kinds of challenges.

I.S. students say they haven't noticed their teachers doing anything differently lately, and it's no surprise. This isn't the kind of change the division will be likely to see overnight. Tomlinson herself says that it takes years for a teacher to convert to a truly differentiated classroom. In the meantime, teachers will continue to experiment with this new spin on a practice many have honed for years. ♦

Intermediate
School

TEACHERS *experiment with*

by Lis Fogt

DIFFERENTIATION

STUDENT GALLERY

creative works by student artists



Lydia Hires, grade 6



Phillips Mitchell, grade 6



Upper School pottery.



Samantha Betts, grade 6

Upper School 3-D Design.

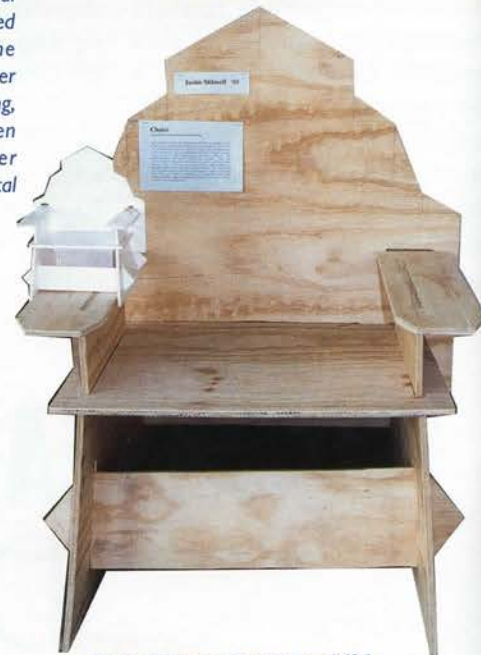
Each student in this class designed and built an original chair, using only a four-foot-by-eight-foot sheet of half-inch plywood. The students could cut and join the wood in any configuration but they could not use additional materials. No glue, hinges, nails, screws or other fastening devices were allowed. The students began with general ideas and sketches. They then moved ahead to make two sets of small, scaled models of their designs. After reviewing the success of the little models, the students made their final chair constructions. This demanded precise measurement and the accurate use of a variety of power tools. The word "final" is misleading, because each chair, even when complete, suggests further refinement or revision. This is typical of any design process.



Chair design by Justin Stilwell '03



Chair design by Jeff Doyle '06



Chair design by Charlie Tansill '04

STUDENT GALLERY

creative works by student artists



Lissie Chappell, grade 6



Kaison Tanabe, grade 6



Ramin Tabatabaie, grade 6



Lower School art curriculum incorporates many diverse themes. An example are these first grade creations of Ganesh, an Indian God who is known as the "Destroyer of Sorrows" and the "Lord of New Beginnings."

First grade portraits inspired by Austrian artist Hundertwasser



Charles Drake, grade 8



Katja Loncaric, grade 8



First grade abstract art, portrait inspired by Picasso

SECOND ANNUAL MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVERSITY DAY: BUILDING INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES IN OUR SCHOOLS

By Tiffany L. Bridgewater



US students led small discussion groups on a variety of topics related to diversity issues.

The Potomac School hosted its Second Annual Middle School Diversity Day on Thursday, November 21 in the Engelhard Performing Arts Center. We invited several Northern Virginia independent schools to send groups of six to eight student leaders, sixth through eighth grade, to the campus for a diversity forum that included small group discussions facilitated by some of our

Upper School students, along with an activity workshop where students created collages to take back to their own schools.

For the second year students from Alexandria Country Day, Browne Academy, Congressional Schools of VA, Flint Hill, Langley, and St. Stephen's & St. Agnes joined students from the Intermediate School for the forum.

The goal of the day, similar to last year, was to increase the awareness of issues of diversity among our students. This year, we specifically focused on community building and the idea of an inclusive community. The adults also discussed community building in our schools and, specifically, which key elements to consider when discussing community.

Our opening speaker again this year was Geoff Jones, Head of School. Mr. Jones spoke to the group about the importance of community when thinking about diversity in our schools. Our keynote speaker was Candyce Phoenix, a senior, who also spoke to the group about the importance of community building; using

her own experiences as a student at Potomac School. Here is a passage from the speech that Candyce gave:

"It was during this effort to find myself that I finally realized what diversity really means, and it is not as simple as a dictionary definition. In fact, the dictionary defines diversity as "the state of being of various forms." But if that were all diversity meant, then we could stop at simply having a few blacks, a few Hispanics, a few Asians in our schools. But diversity means more than that. Diversity means not only having a variety of people in our schools, but going one step further to make sure that every member of the community feels safe, understood, welcome, and free to be him or herself. It means standing up when you see a problem."



At the end of the day each group presented their collage and explained what the images and words they chose meant to them.

How you choose to stand up will define your experience with diversity in your schools. For you it may mean starting a club at your school. Or maybe it will mean standing up for someone when you see that they are being made to feel uncomfortable. It may mean putting your arm around someone who is struggling with his or her own identity. Or maybe it will be something as simple as watching TLC and PBS, or reading up on different groups and important issues. But whatever it means to you, make that your commitment. Make it a part of your community involvement. Make it a part of what you stand for, a part of your identity."

The coordinators of the day were Tiffany Bridgewater and Brendan Sheerin. We also made available to our students three of our counselors – Carol Dopp, Susan Snell, and Crystal Wade.

The Upper School students were able to generate a good dialogue in the small discussion groups. Many of the ideas that the students discussed involved the importance of acceptance in an inclusive community. They also discussed the importance of good leadership, and the need for many different voices within an inclusive community.

Using the ideas generated during the small discussion groups, each school created a collage using pictures from magazines to illustrate their ideas about inclusive communities. Many of the students decided an inclusive community included people of many races and religions.

Other students thought that an inclusive community would include people from different socio-economic backgrounds. The common theme among all of the schools was the idea that each community would have many different kinds of people, with various voices. After finishing the artwork, we ended the day with a presentation by each school of their symbol of an inclusive community. ♦



After a morning of discussions each group made a collage to represent their ideas and experiences.

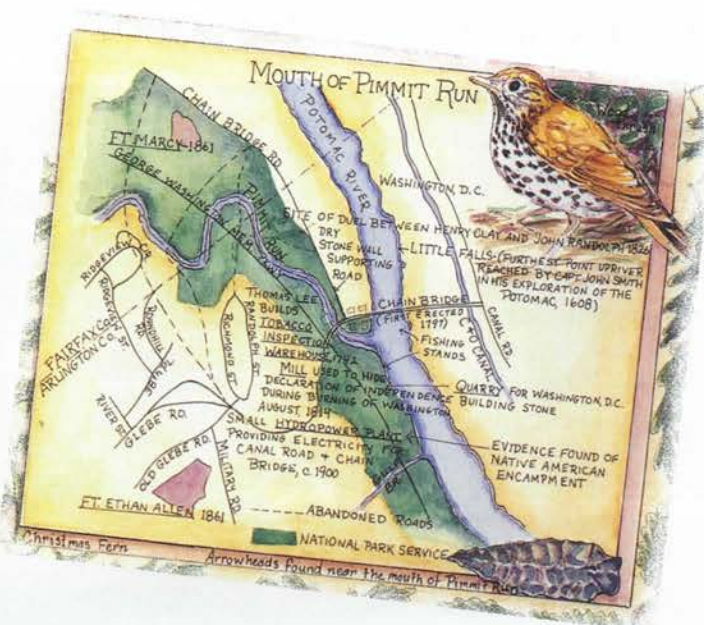
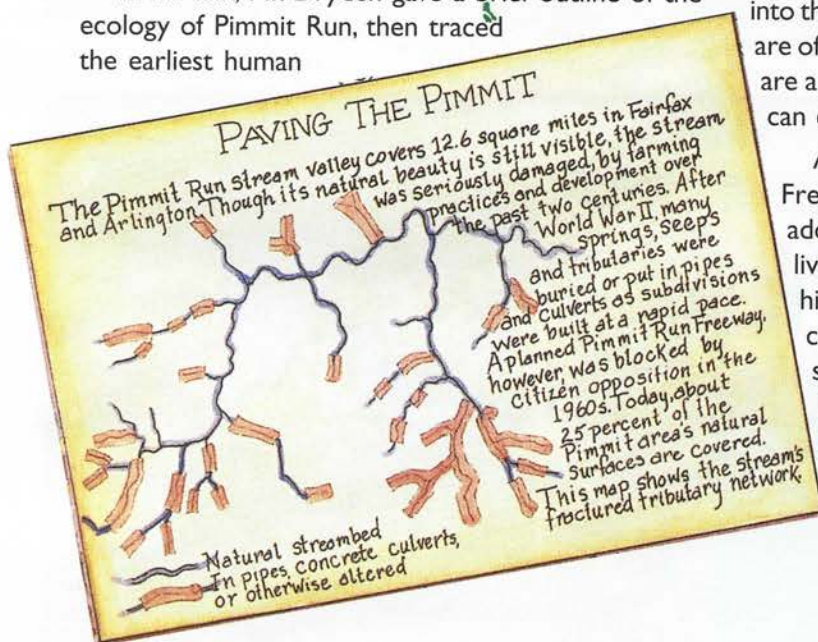
PIMMIT RUN MAP MAKER VISITS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL By Rob Abbot

Did you know that from 1902 until 1934, a railroad operated along the route of Old Dominion Drive? Or that around 1900, a small hydro-electric plant at the mouth of Pimmit Run supplied power to Canal Road and Chain Bridge? Or that U.S. Senators John Randolph and Henry Clay fought a duel just off Chain Bridge Road in 1826? Or that Union soldiers spent the winter of 1861-62 camped in the area that Potomac School now uses for cross country races?

On November 25, Potomac seventh graders heard Steve Dryden, an Audubon Society naturalist and member of Fairfax Trails and Streams, discuss the work he did in order to put together an illustrated map of the Pimmit Run Watershed. The project began as a way to show the route of a proposed Pimmit Run Trail that would extend for six miles from Chain Bridge (where the stream flows into the Potomac River) past Potomac School to Leesburg Pike just east of Tysons Corner. As Mr. Dryden did research for the map, he was struck by the historical significance of the Pimmit Run area. The project soon expanded to include historical and environmental information.

Seventh grade science teacher Robin Gross invited Mr. Dryden to speak to seventh graders who are doing research on local land use issues. In the project, student groups evaluate the interests and perspectives of people involved in land use controversies and make recommendations for what they believe to be the best outcome. English and geography teachers are also involved in the three week project.

In his talk, Mr. Dryden gave a brief outline of the ecology of Pimmit Run, then traced the earliest human



settlements. Since development began in earnest around the middle of the 20th Century, many of the stream's tributaries have been encased in underground storm sewers, concentrating and speeding up the flow of water after storms. The result has been that habitat for many insect species has been destroyed.

"Part of the food chain no longer functions," Mr. Dryden explained. As a result, the number of fish species in the stream has fallen from more than twenty down to three. An inset map shows the paving over of Pimmit tributaries. About 25% of the stream is now routed through underground storm sewers.

Mr. Dryden pointed out a number of actions people living in the watershed can take to protect Pimmit Run. The most important is to be aware that anything spilled or applied to the land surface can make its way into the stream. Lawn fertilizer and pesticides, especially, are often used to excess. Road work and construction are also sources of toxic materials and sediment that can damage the stream.

Art work for the Pimmit Run Map was done by Fredericksburg artist Ann Chenoweth Sader. In addition to sketches of the plants and animals that live in the watershed, there are over one hundred historical landmarks depicted on the map. Several copies of the map have been donated to the school and will be on display in various locations. In addition, the 24" X 30" full color map can be purchased at the McLean Community Center and "For the Wild Birds" in McLean.

FAPS FAMILY PICNIC - FALL 2002

FAPS stands for the Father's Association of Potomac School. All Potomac families are included in the membership. The purpose of FAPS is to provide opportunities for Potomac School fathers to become more involved in the school and their children's education and to enjoy the camaraderie of other fathers. A 21-member Executive Committee guides FAPS in sponsoring educational, cultural and recreational activities that involve parents and children from all divisions of the school.

Potomac School fathers have always banded together to pitch in and help. So, if you're looking for a rewarding and enjoyable way to contribute to a remarkable school, please join us at the next FAPS event. Listed below are some upcoming FAPS events:

Mark your calendar!

Environmental Stewardship Day

Saturday, 4/26/03. With help from retired science teacher, Peter Munroe, and support from the Winsor grant, FAPS will co-sponsor with the Alumni Association a program to enhance the natural beauty of the campus.

Gold Cup Race

Saturday, 5/3/03 in The Plains, VA.

Sports Banquet

Thursday night, 5/29/03.

Martha's Table

Saturday, 6/7/03. Potomac students of all ages and their parents are encouraged to help.

Canoe Trip

Saturday, 5/10/03

Golf Tournament

Monday, 5/12/03 at Lansdowne Resort in Leesburg, VA

For up-to-date information on FAPS events, please call the FAPS Hotline, 703 873 6165



Parents, students, and sometimes pets enjoyed the afternoon munching on chicken, hamburgers, hotdogs (yes, grilled by dads) before waiting in line for delicious ice cream!



Potomac families gathered together around the Holly Tree Square for the annual FAPS picnic.



POTOMAC STUDENTS DEDICATE GARDEN TO CLASSMATE

In Memory of Erika Smith '11

Fourth graders gathered one afternoon in November to dedicate the butterfly garden they designed to the memory of their beloved classmate, Erika Smith, whose death in August was mourned by the entire Potomac community. The simple ceremony, attended by several of Erika's relatives, included classmates' memories of Erika, poetry recitations, and the presentation of a collection of original poems—along with the book, *What is a Butterfly?*, to Erika's mother. It concluded with the children lifting their voices to sing "All Things Bright and Beautiful."

The children planned and planted the garden (located beside the Middle School playground) during their outdoor education classes with Mr. Mueller. Said Middle School Head, Suzanne Marshall, "The children can not only watch the plant cycle of life, but also gain a better understanding of death as they observe the flowers in winter. It is so hard to understand death, but when the perennials return in the spring, the children will see that life does go on." •



POTOMAC FACULTY... LIFELONG LEARNERS

"In the past two years, Potomac's efforts toward ongoing faculty development have included a wide range of learning experiences. We have explored new ideas and teaching methods with leading experts, shared our own practical experiences across divisions and subjects, encouraged individual learning through off-site coursework and grants, and tested both traditional and innovative ideas in our classrooms. By casting such a wide net for continuing excellence, my hope is that our entire faculty has built stronger networks within and beyond the Potomac community, explored compelling research and best practices, and validated the ways in which we teach our students."

- Geoff Jones 11/25/2002, letter to faculty

One of the stated goals in the Strategic Plan is to "nurture the intellectual life of faculty, staff and administrators by providing opportunities for ongoing professional growth and development." During this school year there have already been two major events designed to nurture faculty development: a retreat in August and an inservice day in November.



On a rainy August morning more than 125 faculty and staff returned from their vacations early to take part in a two-day retreat/workshop at the Leesburg conference center. This was a great opportunity to get together and start planning for the school year ahead. Over the course of these two days faculty were able to meet and brainstorm in small groups about teaching practices and ideas. There were also presentations by fellow faculty members on their areas of expertise. The Instructional Support Team did a wonderful presentation on their role at Potomac and the many resources and ways they can support faculty and students. One of the highlights of the retreat was a presentation by Meghan Alexander, the Learning Specialist for grades 1-4. Meghan gave a very personal account of her own struggles with learning disabilities and how the support of her parents and teachers were a vital part of her success as a student. It was a rare opportunity for faculty to talk about school issues at their leisure.

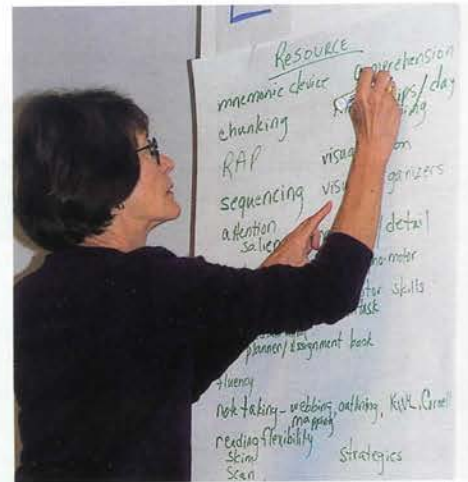
In November a teacher in-service day was spent at the University of Virginia to work with professors in the Curry School of Education, in particular Carol Tomlinson,

expert author on the subject of differentiation. When many people hear differentiation they think of learning disabilities but the core of differentiation as defined by Tomlinson requires thinking about each student as needing the right amount of challenge and success to make them excel as a student. Tomlinson also emphasizes that differentiation must have a foundation in a solid curriculum. Once an environment of mutual respect, safety, emphasis on individual growth and shared responsibility for learning has been established there is "fertile learning soil in place to plant the seeds for differentiated learning." The ideas put forward by Ms. Tomlinson are qualities that effective teachers naturally have and develop



in their teaching of all levels of students. Tomlinson talked about creating a game plan for creating a differentiated learning environment. The steps she emphasized in doing this were: sharpening the curriculum, assessing the students, adjusting teaching to address learner needs, matching tasks to learner needs, bringing students on board, reflecting and refining the process.

The ideal of differentiation is to keep students motivated as learners by balancing the success to effort ratio that students encounter. For example, if a student is trying hard and failing repeatedly the danger is that this student will give up on school and academic success completely. On the other hand, a student that never tries very hard yet continues to succeed becomes bored and unstimulated and will most likely not work to his/her highest potential. In Tomlinson's ideal learning world a grading or report system should motivate



students and raise the ceiling for them, pushing them to success within a system of support. Another concept of differentiation is creating tiered lessons. In this format one starts with a basic lesson and layers on top of it depending on the various interests, learning profiles and readiness of the students. All tiers in the lesson would relate to the same concept or skill, build understanding, challenge, be interesting, engaging, respectful and is not something they can't succeed in or something that is too easy.

After this morning lecture on differentiation the faculty separated by division to discuss their current practices and new techniques with Ms. Tomlinson and other members of the UVA faculty. Potomac teachers are already utilizing aspects of Ms. Tomlinson's differentiation ideas but her lecture was a great starting point for discussions of what is working and what is not in the classroom.



One point that was emphasized during the conversations was that constant assessment and evaluation of what is done in the classroom and the techniques used helps teachers understand their success and modify their instruction. This point reminds us of the importance of faculty development and these in-service days which give us this necessary time to reflect on and refine the classroom experience.

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND?

The Annual Fund plays a key role in Potomac's ability to continue offering its outstanding programs. Tuition revenue covers 82% of the operating expenses and that translates into a \$3000 budget deficit per student. This year's Annual Fund goal of \$1.25 million will help close that gap.

Who participates in the Annual Fund campaign?

Every member of the Potomac community is asked to contribute to the Fund each year including: parents, grandparents, parents of alumni, alumni, friends, faculty and staff.

Who benefits from The Annual Fund?

Each and every Potomac student benefits from the Annual Fund in the classroom, in assemblies, in the art studios, the music rooms and on the playing fields. The Annual Fund also provides important financial aid and makes a Potomac education available to families in need. Without annual giving important programs would have to be cut.

Does the Annual Fund support our faculty?

Yes, with a strong Annual Fund, Potomac can attract and maintain exceptional teachers by offering competitive salaries and benefits, including financial assistance for child-care and generous professional development opportunities.

What is the status of this year's annual fund?

As of March we are at 80% of our goal of \$1.25 million. We have a long way to go and need the support of the entire Potomac community. Every gift counts!

How can I make a gift today?

All pledge payments and gifts must be received by June 15, 2003. To participate now, please use the enclosed envelope. Checks are payable to Potomac School. We also accept VISA and Mastercard. Gifts of securities are also welcome. Please call Suzie Bissell, Director of Annual Giving at 703-749-6326. Make an online gift by going to our website www.potomacschool.org. Click on Giving Opportunities and then Annual Fund. We receive gifts from \$5 to \$25,000 and a gift of any size is welcome. We invite you to participate at a level that is right for your family.

Trustee Nominations Wanted..

Once again, the Board of Trustees needs your help in identifying new members for the Board. As a reminder, the Board's primary task is to ensure that the school is positioned to accomplish its mission for the next generation of students*. Prior board experience, particularly non-profit, is valuable for the proposed candidates as well as a willingness to participate in the school's development activities.

One need not be a Potomac parent to be considered. If you know of someone who you believe should be considered for the Board (including yourself), please submit his or her name, along with information on background and current activities, and the reasons for your recommendation, to:

John Fahey, 832 Mackall Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

*More information about The Board of Trustees is available in the Handbook for Parents and Students.

Welcome to the New Members of the Board of Trustees



Dorothy McAuliffe



Barry Kabalkin



Prentiss Vallender Lay '85



Robert Kettler



Norma Ramsey



The Annual Fund supports Potomac's mission to foster each student's intellectual development, love of learning and strength of character.

CONNECTION
 Cornea to the
 2001-2002 Annual Report:
 We regret the omission of
 alumnus Mike Kleeblat '97
 from the Llama Club.

FALL FROLICS BENEFIT RETURNED TO OZ AND THE CHESTER GYM!

Friday Night Live returned to the School's campus this year to much fanfare and a sold-out crowd! With the help of auctioneer, and parent, Kip Killmon, Potomac parents bid on exciting trips, parties, and one-of-a-kind items to help kick-off the Fall Frolics weekend which supports the School's student scholarship and Faculty development programs. Upper School students appeared as "Oz" characters to help sell Raffle tickets for the Munchkin and Best of Live Raffles.

Saturday's Family Fair was a huge success! There was something for everyone who attended; youngsters enjoyed games and rides, older kids had their hair painted, and parents and students alike enjoyed shoulder massages! Marketplace vendors offered an opportunity for early holiday shopping, while the Silent Auction provided a chance for some great deals! Spectators were entertained by fierce competition for hot Super Silent items.

Thanks to the 2002 Chair, Maggie Parker, for her second year of guiding this important community event and to the talented parents who supported her. Thanks also to the families and friends of Potomac who helped raise over \$250,000 this year!

Let's make next year one to remember! Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for Fall Frolics weekend! Friday Night Live (live auction, dinner & dancing) is scheduled for Friday, October 17th at 6:30 pm, followed by the Family Fair on Saturday, October 18th 11-3pm.

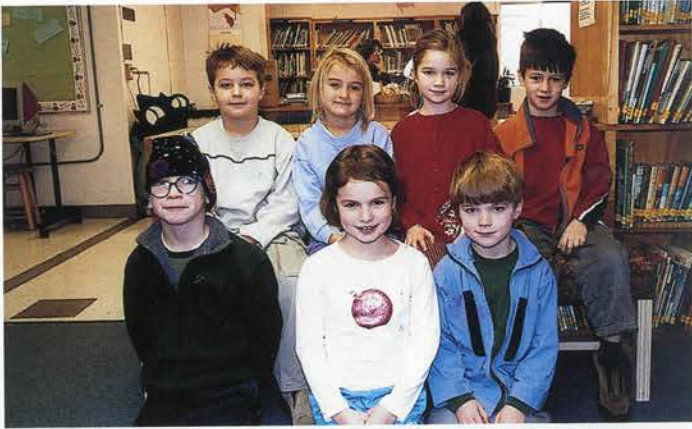


SAVE THE DATE!
Spring Fling Benefit
Friday, May 2, 2003

The Spring Benefit is purely a social event—a party and dance guaranteed to be lots of fun! The event is designed to unite the community and kick-off the theme for Fall Frolics, which makes Potomac a better place by funding student scholarship and faculty development programs. Our fabulous theme "Panther Pride" will be woven throughout the year beginning with this party hosted at the home of a Potomac School parent. More details to follow by invitation after Spring Break. You will definitely want to be a part of this special event!



LOWER & INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



Kindergarten: Back row: Kyle Paul (Isabelle Chester Paul '77, uncles John Chester '73 and Charlie Chester '81, and grandmother Clara Mills Chester '45), Max Speil (Jane McAllister '70, uncle David McAllister '65 and aunt Susan McAllister '76), Brooks Arundel (Peter Arundel '75, aunt Wendy Arundel Willauer '77, and uncles John Arundel '81 and Tom Arundel '90), Greta Schaaf (Lise Metzger '72 and uncle Jon Metzger '74), and Grace Cherouny (Merrell Redway Cherouny '82, aunt Annabelle Redway Dunn '85 and grandmother Annabelle Loud Redway '52). Front row: Mark Betts (Grandmother Alice Patterson Slade '45) and Christopher Caskin (Christopher Caskin and uncles Francis Caskin '76 and Michael Caskin '81.)



First Grade: Back row: Nicholas Arundel (Peter Arundel '75, aunt Wendy Arundel Willauer '77, and uncles John Arundel '81 and Tom Arundel '90), Jordan Weir (Ann Luskey Weir '82 and uncle Randy Luskey '83), Clare Mathias (Rob Mathias '77 and uncle Charles Mathias '74), and Ben Rietano (grandmother Sorrel Mackall McElroy '52). Front row: Adam Moses (David Moses '76 and aunts Barbara Moses '71, Jennifer Moses '74, Amalie Moses Reichblum '78), Jessica Howard (Victoria Howard '77, uncle Jay Howard '75 and aunt Irene Howard Higginson '79), and Adam Moses (David Moses '76 and aunts Barbara Moses '71, Jennifer Moses '74, Amalie Moses Reichblum '78).



Second Grade: Back row: Ellie Pitzer (Vinnie Lemon Pitzer '82 and grandmother Lavinia Plumely Packard '57), Caroline Resor (Jamie Resor '75), and Allegra Wilson (Speke Wilson '79 and uncle Reid Wilson '82). Front row: Cyrus Nassikas (John Nassikas '74 and Georgia Chafee Nassikas '74), Max Ausbrook (J. Keith Ausbrook '73 and uncle Michael Ausbrook '71), Philip Bennett (Frank Bennett '73), Jack O'Gorman (Scott O'Gorman '76), and Devon Winsor (Curt Winsor '78 and aunts Anita Winsor Edwards '79, Monica Winsor Washburn '83, and Rebecca Winsor '97).



Third Grade: Back row: Zachary Meza (Anny Lowery Meza '71 and Scott Meza '71 and uncles Christopher Lowery '66, Mark Lowery '66, and Nick Lowery '71), Cameron Kahl (Caroline Baldwin Kahl '72), Rebekah Ausbrook (J. Keith Ausbrook '73 and uncle Michael Ausbrook '71), and Lacy Rosse (Gray D. Rosse '74). Front row: Matthew Harper (Jeffrey Harper '72, and aunts Deborah Harper Hailey '69 and Elizabeth Harper Danello '74), Kip Strong (Henry Strong '72 and aunts Sigrid Strong Reynolds '67, Barbara Strong Doty '68, and Dana Strong van Loon '70), and Alexandra Harper (Jeffrey Harper '72, and aunts Deborah Harper Hailey '69 and Elizabeth Harper Danello '74).



Intermediate School students with close alumni connections (at left): Jonathan Eakin (Richard Eakin '65), Tribbie Nassikas (John Nassikas '74, Georgia Chafee Nassikas '74 and uncle John Chafee '71), and Halley Dodge (aunt Lalla Dodge Brutoco '64).

MIDDLE & UPPER SCHOOL ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



Middle School students with close alumni connections: Photo 1: Ethan Redway (Jon Redway '75, grandmother Tilda de Kauffman Redway '43, and great-grandmother Charlotte MacDougall de Kauffman '13), James McElwain (Bill McElwain '70), William Chester (aunt Isabelle Chester Paul '77, uncles John Chester '73 and Charlie Chester '81, and great-aunt Clara Mills Chester '45), Ann MacMurray (Worth MacMurray '68, aunt Adelaide MacMurray Aitken '60 and grandmother Rose Chatfield-Taylor MacMurray '35), Catherine Kahl (Caroline Baldwin Kahl '72), Samantha Betts (Grandmother Alice Patterson Slade '45), Jessie Diamond (uncles John O'Neill '69 and Stephen O'Neill '74 and aunt Barbara O'Neill Douglas '71), Louisa Chafee (aunt Georgia Chafee Nassikas '74, uncle John Chafee '71, and grandmother Sophie Finkenstaedt Danforth '43), Katie DuVal (Clive DuVal '64 and uncle Dan DuVal '68).



Middle School Photo 3: Helen Labodie (Liza Kuhl Labodie '72), Eliza Redway (Jon Redway '75, grandmother Tilda de Kauffman Redway '43, and great-grandmother Charlotte MacDougall de Kauffman '13), Kyra Paul (Isabelle Chester Paul '77, uncles John Chester '73 and Charlie Chester '81, and grandmother Clara Mills Chester '45), Ali Moses (David Moses '76 and aunts Barbara Moses '71, Jennifer Moses '74, Amalie Moses Reichblum '78), Hana Betts (grandmother Alice Patterson Slade '45), B.J. Jackson (Broadway Jackson '76), Christopher Jaffe (Kim Shorb '71), and John Diamond (uncles John O'Neill '69 and Stephen O'Neill '74 and aunt Barbara O'Neill Douglas '71).



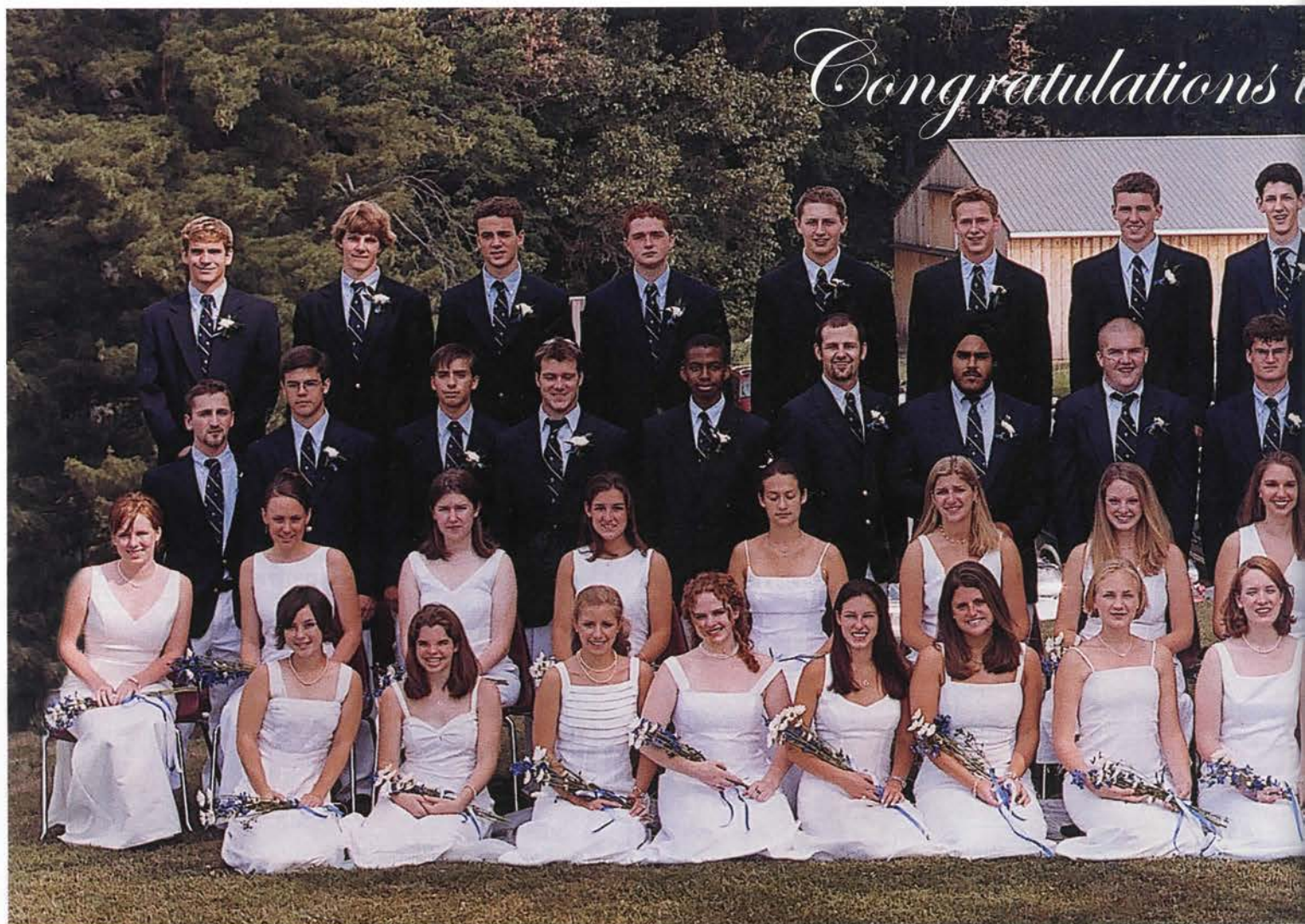
Middle School Photo 2: Candace Johnson (uncles Rufus Johnson '77 and Vincent Johnson '81), Jenna Meza (Anny Lowery Meza '71 and Scott Meza '71 and uncles Christopher Lowery '66, Mark Lowery '66, and Nick Lowery '71), Jessica Catto (William Catto '78 and aunt Isa Catto '80), Lucy Green (grandmother Julie Arnold '49), Ann Bellinger (Dawn Renzy Bellinger '77 and aunts Rachel Renzy Meima '82 and Ann Renzy '86), and John Henry Strong (Henry Strong '72, and aunts Sigrid Strong Reynolds '67, Barbara Strong Doty '68, and Dana Strong van Loon '70).



Upper School students with close alumni connections: Mica Gutierrez (Polly Pittman Gutierrez '74, aunts Nancy Pittman Pinchot '64, Rosamond Pittman Casey '66, Tamara Pittman Warnke '68, Romey Pittman '80, and grandmother Barbara White Pittman '47), Ben Weisgall (uncle David MacDonald '77 and aunt Alison MacDonald von Klemperer '75), De De Potts (uncle David H. Potts '65 and aunt Lindsay V. Potts '70), Steven Taylor (Nancy Lindsten Taylor '67 and aunts Betty Lindsten Mulrey '65 and Karen Lindsten Devlin '71), Eric Taylor (Nancy Lindsten Taylor '67 and aunts Betty Lindsten Mulrey '65 and Karen Lindsten Devlin '71), Martha Diamond (uncles John O'Neill '69 and Stephen O'Neill '74 and aunt Barbara O'Neill Douglas '71), and Kate Jones (Elizabeth Blair Jones '69 and great-grandfather William D. Blair '16).

Centennial
1904-2004
THE POTOMAC SCHOOL
Celebration

Potomac will celebrate its Centennial beginning in the fall of the 2004-2005 school year. The Steering Committee is already at work thinking of exciting events to recognize our first 100 years. Please email the committee directly at centennial@potomacschool.org with any ideas, thoughts, or special memories and stories that could enhance the centennial experience. We will keep you updated on our progress (www.potomacschool.org) and look forward to seeing you in 2004!



TRANSATLANTIC THOUGHTS, Graduation Speaker, Valerie Vesser

I want to begin with an invocation, a favorite short poem by the British classical scholar A.E. Housman, because it speaks my feelings about the unique human contacts the teaching/learning profession has brought to me.

From far, from eve and morning
And yon twelve winded sky,
The stuff of life to knit me
Blew hither: here am I.

Now for a breath I tarry
Nor yet disperse apart-
Take my hand quick and tell me,
What have you in your heart.?

Speak now and I will answer;
How shall I help you, say:
Ere to the wind's twelve quarters
I take my endless way.

Now that I have landed from the wind's twelve quarters, I give greetings to all here gathered: Geoff Jones, Nora Mancha; Geoff Brown; Dan Paradis; Bill Cook, Jan Healy,

colleagues of staff and faculty, Dear Old Dads, Marvelous Mums, grandparents, relatives, friends, troops, as I have always called my students, and Saucy Seniors of the Class of 2002, you who paid me the honor of asking me to speak.

I fell in love with America and Americans some time in 1944 just before D Day when American trucks, it seemed in thousands, rolled through my small town and my brother and I biked close up behind them shouting: "Got any gum chum?!" They always had and they threw it to us! I remember the excitement of knowing that the Yanks had finally joined the great fight against a truly evil Axis, and the special affection for American uniforms of that time. No wonder later I fell in love with a handsome Rhodes Scholar from West Point, who owned a piece of American know-how and technology that seduced me entirely: a red electric blanket! He even had to have a converter for it! Only those who know what British honie and college heating was like in the 40s and 50s

could have any idea why it engendered a royal passion in my British breast! We are on our fourth blanket; it's blue! our 46th anniversary on Sunday. Seniors: Alison sang it winningly this spring in Guys and Dolls: "More I cannot wish you, than to find your own true love". Last year, Sheila O'Marah spoke of the talents in the class of 2001; I have studied her speech, which I deeply admired, looking for inspiration. I also consulted Ernie, a wise counselor, and he said: "They just want you to be yourself!" Well, here goes. I have frequently claimed that I came to Potomac in search of two perfect grandchildren to adopt, since my husband and I don't have one, let alone two. Can you imagine rolling the gifts of all of you seniors into one of each sex? What a priceless idea: the brains, the artistic talents, the athletic prowess, the love of community and service. Why by 2050 one could probably clone two such marvels and sell them over the Internet in the global marketplace. I would settle for wrapping

the Class of 2002



SENIOR CLASS SPEAKER, Christopher Steed '02

It was only four years ago that we were all freshmen in this great big world called high school. I still remember the first day of school when I was standing on the curb waiting for the bus. Now, this just wasn't any first day; this was the first day of high school at a brand new school where I knew very few people. Being an eighth grader coming from an all boys' school, I really was not sure what to expect, and of course, the normal fears of, "Will I make any friends?" or "Will I fit in?" or even worse, "Will anybody say hello to me?" popped into my head. I did everything I could to better my chances at this school: I bought new pants, new shirts, new ties, new shoes, new socks, and even got a new haircut in preparation for this day. I woke up that morning at about 5:45 and took a shower for about an hour. I soaped up twice, washed my hair twice, and even conditioned twice. I did not want anything to go wrong. Next, I had a small breakfast: eggs, bacon, ham, sausage, hash browns, toast, bagels, waffles, pancakes, donuts, danishes, orange juice, and

water. After I brushed my teeth, I felt so fresh and clean that I thought I actually might make it through the day without any problems at all.

Now, this was the first time I had taken the bus in about eight years, so I was both excited and a little nervous; however, as I started my walk out to the curb, I began to think that I might meet a few people on the bus and make some friends before I even got to school. So, as my mom took pictures and the rest of the family cheered me on, I happily walked to the bus, but I really did not expect what was about to happen. All of sudden, I began to hear this roar from down the street. Then I saw it: a nice big yellow bus preparing to whisk me away to my future. However, as the bus began to get closer, I realized the roar wasn't exactly coming from the bus's engine; the noise was actually coming from inside the bus. The bus pulled up to the curb and the doors flung open. As they did, all I could hear was what seemed like a pack of wild hyenas. As I stepped onto the bus, I got

my first glimpse of the Potomac School community. I saw 20 or 25 little kids, but, literally, it sounded like there were thousands. They were squeezed into the seats, and every one of them was yelling or playing the flute or fighting. As I walked through the aisle to the back of the bus where I hoped to find a seat, I had to lug my 50 pound back pack, my football stuff, my binder, and an extra bag through hundreds of these little arms and legs. Now, as you can see, I am not a small person. So this posed a bit of a problem. Then, when I got to the back of the bus, I had to negotiate my seat with a first grader. Finally, when I did sit down, bunches of these little girls surrounded me and began asking me things like, "What is your favorite flower?" or "Why don't dogs wear shoes?" or "Why is your hair orange?" Now, I love little kids, but I thought that if I have to deal with this everyday until I could drive to school, I might not be coming back my Sophomore year.

continued on page 27

TRANSATLANTIC THOUGHTS *continued...*

together my two graduating advisees, Eleanore and Gigi, but, I fear if one tried to combine my male advisees: Philip, Matt, Ricky and Patrick, there would be a very violent explosion and we don't need anymore of those.

Since the technology for this is still lagging, I think it best to give you some directives on staying afloat for at least 60 more years.

I. Dealing with failure. I hoped to reform Potomac when I came here; some suggestions I had were: employ no teachers over 25 except one or two over 65. 2. Dress code: make boys wear British flannel shorts all through the winter and girls wear gym tunics, khaki colored to the lower knee. 3. Both sexes wear hair shirts all day for any infraction of rules. No one paid any attention! Other failures included trying to keep Ricky Bennett awake in 9th grade history, getting Philip O'Bannon to stay in a literary seminar (I said if he felt fidgety, he should leave the room; he would persist in leaving whenever I made a profound, insightful observation and of course, this happened quite often). And then there was my Scottish algebra teacher, Mr. Brodie (with a Hitler moustache) who looked at my effort to solve a quadratic equation, I was in 9th grade, and said; "Lassie, you do not look as stupid as you are!" Can you imagine Mr. Bissell or Mr. Bartolonio saying such a thing, even to a complete dimwit! Mr. Bissell would have said: "Why don't you take up wrestling, Valerie, and other Mr. B. would have said; "Why don't you give up eating meat Valerie?". Failure is humbling, educational and inevitable. There is only one course of action: SOLDIER ON. Once you know what you cannot do in life, you can jolly well get on with something you can.

II. Protect joy in life: my son, Barry, is a Buddhist and he's taught me a lot about paying attention to the everyday; and he also likes to joke around a lot- he never recovered from Monty Python. There is so much of sorrow and misery in our world that we need playfulness and humor to help us cope, so if you can't make any jokes, or be witty, like those who cannot make music, you can still enjoy it. One glorious moment I shall always remember happened when a few years ago, I

was in a history class condemning that awful woman who insisted on getting pregnant at the age of 63, and as I was the same age at that time, I admitted it to explain why I was so upset. Yorke Allen who was always playing tennis and so only attended a few history classes a month said "Well, Mrs.V. you don't look a day over 50, and we know that's because you play tennis nearly every day!" I raised his grade which proves that humor and flattery work on older women! Wherever you go, keep laughter alive. Someone may promote you for improving the climate of the workplace.

III. Question authority: This I have been encouraged to do by my other child, Melanie, a strong feminist, who has been telling me for almost all her 45 years to "stand up to Dad Mum." I know what she means; over the years he has had me standing at attention like a plebe at West Point all too often. "Yes sir. No sir, no excuse, sir." Just for leaving the cap off the toothpaste! Then as though that wasn't enough oppression, I had Max Finland in my 10th grade History class, always trying to confound my wisdom with this stuff he got off the History Channel; he never read the text or took any notes. I had to stare Max down on several occasions but I never let him win! Actually, one of our two Maxes is going to write the definitive transatlantic novel which I meant to attempt but never got around to.

IV. Live bravely. The year past has intimidated us all with scenes of horror, destruction and violence, and yet the human spirit remains. Have some of you read the mini-bios in the New York Times of the victims of Sept. 11? They are tributes from family members finding the courage to go on living; the positive achievements of those lost summed up in a paragraph. Here at Potomac, I remember, and always will, Crawford's tentative smile when I ran into him after he had returned to school. And Mackenzie telling us what helped her through her mother's final illness. I never had to go into battle as my husband did in Vietnam; I have not been

imprisoned in a death camp like the friend, Jacob Schabmacher, who came here 18 months ago to tell you what it was like to survive a concentration camp and unlock the gates as he did at the age of 15; the courage for whatever lies ahead will be there. You too will find it, and the mentors we all need at every age.

V. Live the Moment: So often in schools and colleges, the casual, unpredictable moments turn out to be the very essence of exciting teacher/student contact: on the stairs, on a bus downtown, crossing the Tundra to the EPAC: precious moments of exchange. These little epiphanies are small victories and give meaning to time, which moves so relentlessly onwards. I want to read you a poem which really impressed me by Ross Batmanglij of this year's graduating class; he caught the onward momentum of life in an extended metaphor and in such a memorable way; he called the poem "Sixteen" but you know what: it could be 18, 19 as you are now, or 69 as I am.

*this
 is not a two way street
 there will be no u turns
 your rearview mirror is cracked
 keep your eyes on the road
 this
 street has no back alleys
 there will be no shortcuts
 your brakes have been cut
 keep your foot on the gas
 this
 is not a simulation
 there will be no second chances
 the radio is playing your favorite
 song
 keep your hands on the wheel
 this
 is not a test
 there will be no retakes
 you are driving too fast for the
 upcoming turn apply the brakes
 keep your hands on the goddamn
 wheel
 your seatbelt is not fastened
 this
 is not a two way street! there will
 be no u turns.*

Life is fast, it's often dangerous; we aren't always prepared: seatbelts remain unbuckled because we are a risk taking species. Sometimes you want to stop time and the world and get off the highway, but

we can't. Some people drive SUVs or BMWs, but more are in beat-up Chevys. The highway we're on is no rose garden; across the globe millions biking, riding camels or donkeys in the dust, or just walking. The way is full of potholes; some people drive all over the road. Some people's brakes get cut. One cannot read the map.

I would like to close with a poem I wrote trying to explain to myself what my hopes for the future and for you are. It is about students doing difficult things.

GRATEFUL THOUGHTS IN EXAMINATION WEEK

Seeing you seated in seemly rows doing what we did at your age, wrestling with civilization's trappings, acquiring knowledge of the world we've made, preparing to run and people it, engenders reverence. We ask you to prepare for life compete for college, two car garages, and unearned income, by anchoring yourselves to paper into which we have turned the trees.

We are amazed by your acquiescence, your patience wrestling with facts and opinions; you in a thinking mode, try to make sense of each question, intent on meeting expectations, willing to accept our values- for a while.

We want you to transform the future, but don't know the formula; to be kind and creative, to give birth to a new order of man and nurture him in peace. What we want is too much, Even for you, the privileged, to secure. But perhaps you'll edge us onwards Through your goodwill and your vitality; We hope so; it's almost your turn.



Valerie Vesser retired in 2002 after teaching History at The Potomac School since 1994.

SENIOR CLASS SPEAKER *continued...*

However, when the ride finally ended and I got off the bus, a feeling of relief and calm came over me as I entered the school. Everybody said "Hello" and "How are you?," and my initial fears began to disappear. I don't think there was one person in this class that did not come up and ask me about myself on that first day.

And from that moment, I always thought of this class as my family. So, even though those wild bus rides did continue day in and day out for my first two years of high school, I was happy to take them because it eventually turned a ride from my house to Potomac into a ride from my one family at home to my other family at school.

Now, families are quite interesting. For example, have you ever just looked at another member of your family and thought, "Now, wait a second, . . . where did this one come from?" For me, it got to the point where I referred to my two younger brothers as little one and middle one. At times, it is hard to believe that you are a part of your own family simply because of how different you are from your mother, your father, or your siblings. However, sometimes, the people that seem the most different from you are those that are the closest to you. This especially holds true for the class of 2002. We have so many different people with so many different talents and passions. For example, we have a lacrosse player who builds cars, a football player who makes movies, a wrestler who creates music, a surfer who speaks Japanese, a soccer player who loves to eat and drive around, a swimmer who avidly watches Animal Planet, an ardent reader who plays baseball, an actor who is the editor of the school newspaper, a singer who plays tennis, and a basketball player who loves to eat pickles. And this is only mentioning a few. This class has a unique mix of different types of people who like different types of things that it almost seems impossible that anyone would get along. But, we do, and we are a family. Because, as great as all this talent is, the bigger picture is having each other as friends.

We have needed each other this year, and because of this need, we share a strong bond. Like all families, we have developed a history of times and events spent together. There are times when I stood in front of Mother Bolton's office and looked

at those pictures of the past graduating classes on the wall and wondered what their lives were like here at Potomac. I wonder who was friends with whom, I wonder what their senior trip was like, I wonder what their prom was like, I wonder what they are doing now, and I wonder if they remember what their lives were like at Potomac. As our grandparents remember where they were when they heard about Pearl Harbor, and our parents remember where they were when they heard the news of President Kennedy's death, we will all remember that we were here together on September 11th. We were together, and we have remained together. That event that was meant to harm us, only brought us closer together as friends. And because of that experience, we have appreciated being with one another that much more, at the football games, the dances, the basketball games, the plays, the musicals, and even in the classroom. So, when future generations look at the class pictures on the walls of our great school and they see the class of 2002, they may only think of the crisis that happened this year, but we will know that event brought us closer than anyone could have ever imagined.

As we go off into many new and different worlds, some of the same questions and fears that we had when we were a freshmen may once again arise. We might think, "Will I fit in?," "Will I find new friends?," "Will I succeed?" Next year, when we all step onto a different bus, we will all have a little uncertainty about the future ahead of us.

As we grow, it will seem as if everything we have in the present will be in the past. We will move away from our parents. . . our brothers and sisters will grow up and begin their own lives. We will never be 18 again. . . we will never be high school seniors again. . . we will never go to senior prom again, and we will never be in this moment in time again.

However, our parents will always be our parents, our brothers and sisters will always be our brothers and sisters, and our friends will always be our friends. Nothing can change that. No matter what happens, they are the true things in life. Friends and family are forever and are the most important things in life.

Potomac has given us the confidence and the experience to believe that

everything good is possible. What we have learned here is that we have to believe in ourselves, and when we do that anything can happen. For example, we can be good politicians, good doctors, good businessmen, good lawyers, good athletes, just like the teachers here at Potomac, good teachers, and just like our parents, good husbands and wives and good mothers and fathers. It's a great big world out there, what I know and believe that this class of 2002 will make a difference!

Now, I have been debating with what I would like to leave you with; however, after much thought, I decided to read this tiny little book called *Wear Sunscreen* that pretty much sums up everything we need to know in life.

- ◆ First, Do one thing everyday that scares you.
- ◆ Second, Don't be reckless with other peoples' hearts.
- ◆ Third, Get to know your parents.
- ◆ Fourth, Be nice to your siblings. They're the best link to your past and the people most likely to stick with you in the future.
- ◆ Fifth, Understand that friends come and go, but with a precious few you should hold on.
- ◆ And last, but not least, Work how to bridge the gaps in geography and lifestyle, because the older you get, the more you need the people who knew you when you were voting.

So, good luck, have fun, and be happy. Thank you very much. ◆



Each year the seniors vote on a member from their class to deliver this speech. Graduation day is the first time that faculty, staff, parents, and other Potomac students finally learn who was selected to deliver this special speech. This year's speaker was Christopher Steed and we'd like to thank him for letting us reprint his speech and share it with you.

on reflection

MY GUYANESE ADVENTURE

By Burke Brownfeld '00



In the summer of 2002 Burke Brownfeld '00, a junior at the College of William and Mary, received a grant for a service project. He decided to spend two weeks working with children at the St. John Bosco Orphanage in Plaisance, Guyana. This is an excerpt from his essay about his experience there.

Upon my arrival in Guyana I was met by a large man holding a piece of jagged cardboard, with what looked like my name scrawled on it in runny magic marker. This is when my motto for the trip kicked in: "Expect the unexpected." So I followed him, understanding one out of ten of the words racing out of his mouth in the thick, Caribbean-ish Guyanese accent. By the way, Guyana is in South America. I don't mean Ghana in Africa. Guyanese don't speak Spanish, French, or any other foreign language. English is the language of choice because the country was a colony of the United Kingdom until the 1960s.

On the way to our destination of Georgetown, our car was searched by policemen with machine guns. We got lost for 20 minutes, and many times we narrowly missed killing pedestrians on the unlit highway. In Georgetown, I was to stay in a halfway house owned by the orphanage. The halfway house was created for those boys who are too old for the orphanage but too young to be out in the real world with no support, i.e., age 16 to 20.

The boys had prepared a very large bed for me in a very large room. The bed was covered with what I later found to be a mosquito net. (My American ignorance got me bitten plenty of times that first night. I thought the net was some sort of extra sheet or laundry bag, awkwardly pinned to the ceiling.) In the morning, after downing my malaria medicine, showering in a concoction of water and an unknown chalky brown substance, slathering

myself in sunscreen, and spraying down every inch with bug spray, I was picked up by Sister Celina, a middle aged kind-hearted member of the Sisters of Mercy.

On the way to the orphanage, I was so nervous and excited that I had trouble paying attention to Celina's welcoming speech. At the orphanage, I met Sister Carol and Rebecca, a lay volunteer. Celina and Carol are both Guyanese nuns who have decided to dedicate themselves to helping their

fellow Guyanese citizens. The kids at the orphanage fall into three racial categories: black, Indian, and mixed and range in age from four to sixteen years old. They let me know that the first order of business

was for me to pick up each child and throw him above my head and catch him. How odd, I thought. But I soon realized that there was no one else at the orphanage able to pick these children up. Having a man there provided an opportunity to be picked up and thrown around. How fun! How exhausting.

The nuns and Rebecca gave me a brief description of the children: "This child has alcohol fetal syndrome. Oh, and this child is brain damaged from being beaten. This child was molested. This one, we think he has AIDS."

It was all so much to take in. I greeted the children again, but this time connected names and faces with diseases and stories. I started to say to myself, "Oh, Burke, this one has AIDS. Don't touch him." This lasted for about two minutes. I quickly realized that the biggest hunger these kids had was for attention. They were growing up in an environment with 40 other boys and with only two nuns to act as their mothers. Two nuns to hold, bathe, feed, touch, kiss, read to, teach, and love each child. I had no time to be nervous or timid. No time to think about getting dirty or catching lice. Those concerns flew out the window when I realized those beautiful children needed every second of my time.

After I had tutored several boys over the course of a week, every child in the orphanage would run up to me and tug on my shirt, my shorts, or my hands, smile, and ask, "Can I do lessons with ya'?"

Burke Brownfeld '00 with several of the children from the St. John Bosco Orphanage.

“Many of us grow up hoping to make a difference. We all do some community service here and there. We send a check to some charity and go about our business. But rarely do we dive in head first and immerse ourselves in helping others.”

sah?” It was beautiful to see these kids so eager to learn. And yet, it was sad knowing that they simply wanted individual attention. I could have asked them to dig holes and fill them up again, and just as long as I was standing there with them, they would have eagerly agreed.

Every day that I spent at the orphanage, I soaked up more experience and knowledge than I have ever found inside the walls of a classroom or on the pages of a book.

One of the most wonderful moments I shared with these boys was when I took a group down to the sea wall where they could look at the ocean. Luckily, the water was low enough that the kids could go in. They were excited because this was the first time they had ever been able to touch the water of the ocean. I was thrilled to be bringing these boys to play in the ocean for the first time. But at the same time, it was sad to think that these ten and eleven year old boys, who lived ten minutes from the sea, had spent their whole lives behind the walls of the orphanage. There are so few employees, so little money, and so many boys who need attention, that field trips and excursions are nearly impossible. The kids loved the opportunity to run around in the breaking waves, splashing one another and getting wet. To me these kids were no longer black, or Indian, or sick, or molested, or orphans. They were just fantastic, loving children with beautiful smiles.

I would usually spend from 9 to 5 at the orphanage and then spend the evening with the four young men at the halfway house, called Mercy Boy’s Home. They all had jobs ranging from soldier, to eyeglass repairman, to cook, to law office assistant. The title of “halfway house” conjured up the image of street thugs, screw-ups, rude and crude guys. However, these young men were the kindest teenagers I have ever met. They insisted on sweeping out my room, cooking for me, calling me “sah” or “mistah.” They were such wonderful hosts. It was as if I were royalty, sent by the Queen herself.

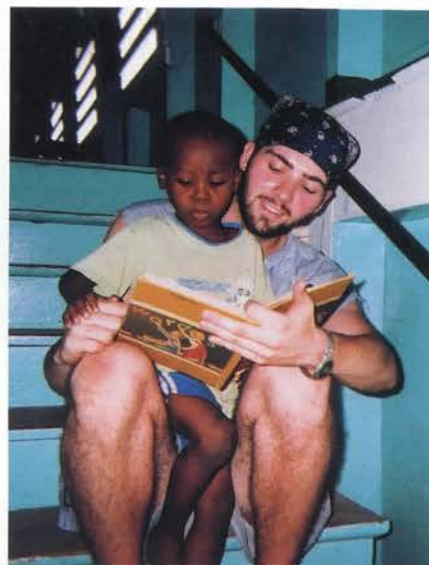
I was advised against going outside at all times of the day due to the critical crime situation throughout the country. Naturally, I disregarded

these warnings, not only due to my silly reckless, adventure-seeking attitude, but also because my hosts were so eager to show me the streets of Georgetown, their culture and everyday life. I am thankful that I explored the stores, bars, and restaurants of Guyana. I found that the most popular food there is Chinese! Eating Lo Mein in Georgetown? As the only white person in a nightclub, I received plenty of stares.

The young men from the Mercy Boy’s Home introduced me to the wonderful fruits of Guyana, including the coconut, soursop, passion fruit, and many more. I drank so much fruit juice there, that I nearly forgot what milk and water tasted like.

The two weeks I spent in this intriguing, struggling country felt like two days. This was the first job I’ve had where I’ve cherished every second, whether it was reading for an hour with Steffon, or throwing the Frisbee with Christopher, or just holding Michael. Five o’clock was the saddest part of my day because it meant I would have to wait all night to see those boys again.

Many of us grow up hoping to make a difference. We all do some community service here and there. We send a check to some charity and go about our business. But rarely do we dive in head first and immerse ourselves in helping others. For all of my mature years, I have been planning on a career in law enforcement. But this experience in Guyana has opened my eyes to the joy of giving your whole heart to other people through different kinds of service. The feeling of helping those who need it most is absolutely indescribable. The only way to truly understand the feeling is to experience it yourself. ♦



Burke spends time reading to one of his young students.

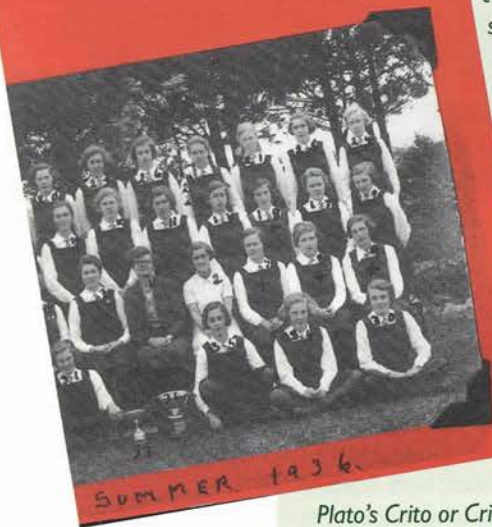
It has been said that the world is in a race between education and catastrophe. If there was ever a teacher who did her utmost to make certain education wins that race, it was Imogen Rose, who taught Latin at Potomac between 1956 and 1993.

Recently, Imogen published her autobiography, *A Difficult Girl*. The daughter of a Fellow at Magdalen College, Imogen grew up in the heady atmosphere of Oxford in the years leading up to World War II. Her beautifully written book is, in part, an account of her intellectual awakening. What follows is her description of her awakening to poetry in particular at the age of fifteen while she was a student at St. Swithun's, a school for girls in Winchester. We thank Imogen on behalf of her many former students for her permission to reprint this account. They may not have known her as a difficult girl, but they certainly knew her as a difficult, demanding teacher. What they may not have realized at the time, however, is that she loved them more than they knew.

- Bob Riley

A DIFFICULT GIRL

Imogen Rose



Two Scripture classes a week covered my general education and one class each in French Translation (of unparalleled- boredom), Gym, English, and Musical Appreciation. My other twenty-five classes were all devoted to the classics. It may seem surprising that a girl of fifteen and a half would be allowed to specialise so narrowly, but in those days it was taken for granted that girls planning to read classics at Oxford or Cambridge needed to spend a full two years in the Sixth Form specialising before sitting the college entrance examinations in their third year; even after this lengthy preparation, when they went up to Oxford or Cambridge they would find themselves behind the boys coming from public schools.

My first task was to pass the School Certificate Greek examination. The set books that year were Euripides' *Alcesteis* (without the choruses) and Plato's *Crito*. (I was so ignorant that at first

I was uncertain whether it was Plato's *Crito* or *Crito's Plato*). Armit and I covered the texts satisfactorily and also worked at the writing of Greek sentences. At this time I was still not really awake intellectually; I knew little about literature, other than what we had read in English classes, and my taste in poetry, in as far as I had any, was only just beginning to develop. Back in January 1938 I had found, written on a piece of paper left in a library book, a sentimental poem which appealed to me so greatly that I copied it into my diary. It was called "Experience" and was by a Dorothy S. Pinch. The first verse deals with the author's experience of happiness, but it was the second verse I savoured:

I have known sorrow,
In one day,
Have watched my dreams
All swept away,
And just gone on,
Lone, sad of heart
Till Time stepped in
And played its part...

Then may I, with my own tears dry,
Soothe someone's grief as I pass by.

Through these banal lines I took my first independent step into the appreciation of poetry. I enthused over them: "I have never heard of Dorothy Pinch before but I like her style very much. You don't feel that she is bothering about the rhyme & metre at all, but it is there all the same." Six weeks later I returned to the poem to give it a closer analysis: "The more I look at it the more I love it. It's so simple in rhyme & metre & yet there's something desolate about those short lines. I think the lines that best suit my case at present are, 'And just gone on/ Lone, 'sad of heart'. They imply no fuss but just taking everything as it comes along. 'Lone' shows that she never insisted on pouring herself out somewhere. 'Sad of heart' shows that she didn't go about moping & like others to commiserate with her."

Fortunately, my taste in poetry did not long remain confined to Dorothy S. Pinch and her like. When I was introduced to Robert Bridges' superb anthology, *The Spirit of Man*, I discovered a wealth of poetry that "spoke" to me in various ways. I bought a copy for myself that summer, which I kept in my cubicle and read every night in Quiet Time, casuistically reasoning that, as it had the word "spirit" in its title, it could be considered a devotional book. Now, in the Lower VIth I received another revelation that poetry could have a personal impact on me, and was not just something for English teachers to talk about. In our weekly English class we were studying the Georgian poets with Miss Pym, who allotted each of us a poet about whom we were to prepare a presentation for the class. The poet given to me was Housman. I took *A Shropshire Lad* out of the library and settled down to do my homework. But as soon as I read

Shot? so quick, so clean an ending?

Oh, that was right, lad, that was brave

I was overwhelmed. This was no longer a piece of homework, but a direct statement to and about me, so personal and private that I could not bear to share it with anybody. Next Christmas I asked for and received the three thin volumes of Housman's poetry, which I kept in my cubicle from then on. In the course of the next five terms I employed Quiet Time to memorize forty of these poems, and, though I have forgotten many, I still recite some of them to myself when I am trying to go to sleep.



Imogen Rose's book is available by contacting the Alumni Office at 703-749-6356.

ALUMNI NEWS

Potomac School Class Notes

1933

From the Alumni Office:

On June 12, 2002, **Rita Nash Paine** moved from her Warrenton home to a pleasant retirement home near Richmond. "I have a good time playing bridge, making pottery and exercising. My 4 children are all grown. One is a chemist, one a landscape architect, one an author/computer operator, and one is an author/professor at the Newport, RI Naval War College (who is appending a year doing research in Hokkaido, Japan.)"

1941

From the Alumni Office:

Mary Swift's granddaughter, **GiGi '02**, is a freshman at Sarah Lawrence College. And **Ellen Pearson Arnold** writes "I am about to be a great grandmother and does that make me feel old?"

1943

From the Alumni Office:

Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Tilda de Kauffman Redway**, whose husband Jim passed away October 28, 2002. Tilda writes, "I am adjusting well, but may have to move to a new apartment. I am torn because I love this one so much. Anyone want to travel to Turkey in '03?"

1951

From the Alumni Office:

Cynthia Butterworth Burns wrote from Greenwich, CT that their daughter, Abby, "has given us a second grandson." Cynthia spent the summer in Phoenix helping her daughter and was able to spend time with both grandchildren. Brian, the eldest is now 2. They enjoyed a trip to Vanuatu in the South Pacific, where their younger son, Walton, has been teaching in the Peace Corps.



Bettina Hartley Tierney '52, Jeannette Townsend Brophy '52, and Ann Walker Gaffney '52 enjoy the reception at the Head of School's residence during Reunion weekend.

1955

From the Alumni Office:

Sherry Bingham Downes wrote and enclosed an article from The New York Times about **Lynden Breese Miller '56**, who has been credited with rescuing the Conservatory Garden at 5th Avenue and 105th Street in the 1980's. She now runs a design firm from her home. It was Lynden who conceived of last year's Daffodil Project, in which a million daffodil bulbs were planted around the city in commemoration of September 11. Fellow alumnae **Louisa Parker Young '60** and **Connie Casey '60** helped plant some of the 1.7 million bulbs.

1957

From Susan Cooley (scooley@together.net)

Louise Ritchie Beale reports from Washington that their youngest, Chrissy, is a

sophomore at Lehigh. Middle daughter, Katie, works for a law firm in New York, and oldest, Sarah, has just returned to Washington after three years in New York. Louise's husband, John, loves his job as a computer consultant while Louise continues to volunteer at the Cathedral and do a little singing here and there.

Leigh Stewart Estabrook writes from Illinois that she is adding space to their house, even though all the kids are gone. Carl and she seem to have spread out and filled all the spaces—plus needing extra room for toys and grandkids. Leigh continues, "Turning 60 has been a time for reflection and gratitude to people who have shaped my life. Among those people are a host of you with whom I spent three years of elementary school. My deep thanks to you for welcoming me so warmly at our 40th reunion [in 1997] even though we'd not been in touch lo these many years."

Courtney Hagner continues her work as a realtor in her family's firm, Randall Hagner Ltd. She also works (with more predictable hours) for an audiologist dispensing hearing aids in Arlington and Alexandria, Virginia.

Jane VanderPoel and her husband, Edoardo Lenzetti, have moved to Washington from northern Italy to keep Jane's 92-year-old father company until April 2003. Jane has just completed two more bronze sculptures for the three gates of St. George's School in Newport, RI. Edoardo has sold his restaurant in Valle D'Aosta and Jane's son is a computer wiz in NYC.

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

1932

Elizabeth S. Nicholson
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1935

Lucy Blundon
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1938

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1942

Katharine Abbott
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1944

Juliet Davis
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1945

Patricia Briska
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Gulf Breeze, FL 32561-4361
briska@pol.net

1946

Marjorie Andrews
212 Allview Ave.
Brewster, NY 10509-3407

1949

Laura Lee Larson
14101 Lewisdale Rd.
Clarksburg, MD 20871-9629

1952

Louise Graham
218 North Main Street
Wolfboro, NH 03894-4309

1953

Mary Murray Coleman
22 Wildwood Dr.
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107-1118

1954

Elizabeth Radigan
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1955

Elizabeth Cronin
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Rectortown, VA 20140
acronin2@aol.com

1957

Susan D. Cooley
179 New Dublin Lane
Barton, VT 05822
scooley@together.net

1959

From the Alumni Office:

Christina O'Dunne Griffin and her husband George divide their time between Washington, DC and Blue Ridge Summit, PA, where they are "retired." They saw **Cornelia Biddle Saltzman**, who has a farm outside of Gettysburg, for lunch this past summer. "Having lived abroad with the Foreign Service for the last 30 years, we continue our 'wander lust' unabated...Italy this past fall and a first time visit to South America in January. I recently ran into my favorite Latin teacher, Imogen Rose, at a very exclusive boutique!"



Carol Langstaff '59 as Mother Earth.

Speaking of **Cornelia**, she writes that "our news at the farm hasn't changed that much. We continue to enjoy this place and our somewhat rural life - the gardening, the cows, the scenery, and our pond. The rain this fall helped immensely to combat the effects of the drought. Sightings of great Blue Herons, King Fishers, and migrating ducks on our pond cheered us, as did visits to and from friends in New England and from our daughter and son in San Francisco. Clia Saltzman Tierney is the mom of our three grandbabies. And our Son **Charles '84** will marry Hilary Bruce in May 2003. Charles and I are delighted on all counts."

Carol Langstaff emailed that life "is split between wintering in Galway, Ireland and spending the spring and summer in Sharon, VT. Having started FLOCK dance troupe in both places, I am busy creating and performing large dance works with stunning music (no surprise), and evocative, accessible dance to nudge spectators towards a new recognition of our place as human beings in the natural world. Much of my father's passion and risk taking in the creative sense is well inherited. I love to hear from old classmates."

1960

From the Alumni Office:

Diana Fleming Bouchard was elected as Publications Department vice president of The Instrumentation, Systems, and Automation Society. She also will serve on the ISA Executive Board where she will assist in making decisions that affect the Society's operations, policies, and strategic plans.

1961

From the Alumni Office:

Cinda Train Longstreth writes, "We are all well and very busy. Richard teaches at George Washington University. He is the Director of the Historic Preservation Department and is

writing another book, so he will be on sabbatical this coming fall. Libby is in her second year at the Berkshire Center, a college internship program, and loves it. She seems to be following in my footsteps and is working towards going into fashion. She also has a strong interest in painting. I have been teaching her and she piggybacked on one of my shows this past summer. She also took part in another show and sold six paintings. We are thrilled for her. My art is doing well. My greeting cards are for sale out of my house and in two stores, plus at the Adirondack Museum. I sold a number of paintings this past summer and will have two published in a book which should be on the market in a year and a half."

Julia Williams Robinson wrote, "2002 was a year of ups and downs. Up, in that my husband Richard Stolzenburg and I took a group of University of Minnesota students to study in the Netherlands at Delft Feekind University for the spring semester. Up, also in that my daughter Esther Robinson married Todd Griffin under the Brooklyn Bridge on July 4th. But down in that my mother, Nadia Williams passed away in December at the age of 92. She was only ill for a short time and died at home, but we will miss her strong character and fascinating stories."

1963

From Anne Williams Paley (cents@mohawk.net)

Edie Warner is a social worker with Hospice of Seattle and says she has never been as emotionally or spiritually challenged, and fulfilled. Her two boys, 18, and 19, grow in independence and self-confidence. Her husband Denny is involved with real estate development. She had a great visit last summer with **Campbell Harvey** and her family.

Carroll Rogers Rooth's oldest daughter will graduate with honors from Dartmouth this June as a theater major and has applied to Yale, Julliard and Tisch for graduate studies. Her 14-year-old daughter hopes to attend Prep School in New England, a part of the country that she thinks is not 30 years behind everyone else! Carol has just finished working on Senator Mary Landrieu's successful campaign and is gearing up for the 2004 Presidential battle. She is active in Democratic efforts locally and nationally and co-founded the Million Mom March Chapter here. She still rides her 21-year-old thoroughbred, Buford T. Justice, though he is retired from dressage and jumping.

Chris Ripman's boys and business continue to thrive and burgeon. Ben, 17, hopes to attend Harvard. Seth, 11, is at Belmont Day School. Chris is involved in choral singing and the Boston Revels. Fulfilling a longstanding wish, he is the third stag for the Abbott's Bromley Horn Dance! Chris and his lighting firm have also been nominated for an AIA medal for Allied Professionals.



Jane McAllister '70 joins Jean MacDonald's '64 family at the reception preceding the Christmas Revels.

Leni Chapman Preston is busy consulting for historic sites and museums. Her husband retired in May. Her daughter **Caroline '98** graduated from Brown in May, *magna cum laude* with highest honors for her thesis. She is now in Pau, France on a fellowship to teach French children American English.

Parmelee Wells Tolkan is coping with her parents' declining health so finds herself in Washington frequently, and is looking forward to the class reunion in 2004.

Marisa Knowlton Domeyko is still at National Geographic, enjoying her granddaughter Pandora, and helping her mother live independently.

Harriet Sweeney Fraunfelter's term as the Chairwoman of the Smithsonian Women's Committee has ended, and it was a tumultuous one. She's taking a breather, traveling (Russia, China and France) and ready to jump into another big project soon. Her husband Eric is heavily involved with The Choral Arts Society and with the National Arboretum.

Yours truly (**Anne**) had a brief but fun visit with Harriet and Eric in the fall. Our daughter Amanda is finishing high school a year early and has applied to colleges in the Boston area. My business has been slower than I'd like, but I have more time to ride my horse! Middle age is certainly an interesting time! Hope to see everyone at the reunion, April 30, 2004.

1967

From Boucie Addison (bouciem@aol.com)

Sandy Bell Nampombejra reports that the jury is still out on the change from the hot desert in Arizona to Vancouver, Washington. She is the development director at Southwest Washington Medical Center Foundation. She has a 12-year-old daughter, Maxine, who is making friends and enjoying school.

Peter Seymour is living in Mamaroneck, NY as a marketing and communications consultant and has joined Noble & Associates, an executive recruitment firm. In his spare time he takes long

walks and contemplates the meaning of life. He has two boys, ages 3 and 5, and all that spare time adds up to 5 minutes a day!

Lori Todd went to **Nion McEvoy's** Mom's Olive Harvest Luncheon, where she learned that Nion is deeply involved in the San Francisco jazz scene. Nion had his blind drumming instructor there. So we know that his passion for the drums is still going strong. Lori has 2 boys, 10 and almost 7, who love to skateboard and streak their hair blond. She also lives with 3 cats, 3 dogs, fish and the occasional small mammal. She gave up her career in entertainment law so she could specialize in arts and crafts, baking, cleanup, and hovering over homework. They do have a guest apartment for those in the Los Angeles area.

From Tom Macy (thomas1127@aol.com)

Alexandra Hand Mateer reports that she has lived for the past three years in Port Douglas, North Queensland, Australia near the Great Barrier Reef. She purchased a Chinese junk with her partner, Rick Kilpatrick, and they take tourists out to Low Isles to snorkel and sightsee. She says she's learning quite a bit, as this is a new venture. Her sons, 22 and 25, are in Sydney working in the financial sector. She met up with **Deborah Tucker** and family in Canada last July. She encourages any of us Potomac types to visit if we find ourselves in her area, down under.

Kate Marsh Lewis' son William is a senior at Sewanee and their daughter Abigail is a freshman at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA. "So, we are empty nesters, except for two cats and an Irish Terrier."

1969

From the Alumni Office:

William Saltonstall looks after native people in the small towns of Alaska. He married Beth Schenk in August 2002.

1971

From Ann Edgeworth

Maybe it was the time of year, but I did not get a very good response this fall. Thank you, **Gibby West**, **Gus Kirk**, and **Rob Parker** for responding. **Gibby** writes from New Hampshire, where he and his wife Jeanie have been living in the Old Peterborough Creamery for quite some time now. **Gibby** is the assistant principal at Central High School and **Jeanie** is one of the most sought after teachers at the middle school. **Ian**, their eldest son, is a freshman at Hobart and **William Smith** Colleges and **Robby** is a junior at Central.

Gus Kirk wrote, and I quote, "Still not married, don't hold breath, fish all GONE, gone landscaping." I found it eloquent and amusing. My husband, **Roland**, is going to have it framed.

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

1962

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1963

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1967

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1970

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1971

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1972

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1972

Rosamond Parker Smythe
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Rob Parker lives in East Greenwich, Rhode Island with his family and dog, whom he walks on the Chafee's farm early each morning. He has two boys, Will, who is a Special Olympics gold medalist in the 100 yard dash and a down hill champion; Nick is a tennis and tae kwon do star. Rob is a litigator and does a fair amount of arguing before the RI Supreme Court and seems to deal with many divorce cases, but I don't think those two things are connected.



A good turnout for the Class of '72's 30th Reunion at the home of Liza Kuhl Labadie. Pictured are: Back row: Henry Strong, Page Blankingship, Donald Shipp, Lise Metzger, and Flint Webb. Front row: Carter Marsh, Caroline Norden, Liza Kuhl Labadie, Debbie Olin, Caroline Baldwin Kahl, and Julia Craighill.

Creativity abounds! Hillary and **Somers Randolph** have had a productive year with daughter Comfort being born on July 17, 2002 and their jewelry showing at such venues as the Guggenheim and Okeefe Museums. Somers' jewelry will be available at a benefit show and sale for The Judson G. Randolph Fellowship in Pediatric Surgery at Washington Children's Hospital. Many of you were patched, calmed or cared for by Dr Randolph. It was Dr. Randolph who had the foresight and expertise to establish the first Pediatric Surgery Fellowship Training Program at Children's Hospital. Because of his vision, determination and brilliance, Children's has one of the most prestigious training programs in the world. Endowment of this fellowship will ensure that the esteemed program will succeed for generations to come. Potomac parents Mr. and Mrs. James Mersereau will be hosting the show in Washington April 10 -12, 2003. Please call for more information (505) 986-0288 or email: Fitzjewelry@fitzjewelry.com.



Presenting...
Comfort Avery Randolph.

As many of you know, the last year was a difficult time for me and my family, as my father died in August. To my many Potomac classmates and friends, who have written or who attended the memorial service, I thank you for your thoughts, help and wonderful memories. Every time I went home, **John Benziger** seemed to drop by and we would laugh about whether I was truly living in New York or Washington. I have also seen **Kim Shorb**, **Eugenie Anderson** and **Leslie Hyde**. Kim is now teaching at Sidwell Friends.

May you all have a happy and healthy New Year, and next time, please write.

1973

From **Liza Gookin Hodskins**
(lhodskins@yahoo.com)

The call for news came over the holidays this year, so I do appreciate those who wrote in.

Please remember to check the Potomac alumni web site for news about the reunion Spring 2004. Many of you have already said you're planning to come—let's make it as good and full as our previous ones!

Tina Adler (tadler@mindspring.com) is freelancing, writing health and science articles (including one for *The Washington Post* on her family's trials with her fathers' Alzheimer's-like illness.) Her oldest daughter Mikaela started her first year at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, where dad Doug teaches. Ella is at a preschool near home, so the nest isn't completely empty. Tina says her parents are doing well, despite everything, and "Bush's policies on just about everything are driving the whole family nuts. When it gets too bad we read the New Yorker, go to the Bethesda Food Coop, attend a peace rally, and drink good beer, and then the world seems a little brighter."

Chrissie Albert Carnes (jbcgypsy@aol.com) sent me a great holiday letter of her adventures with family. (Feel free to put me on your list if you do these for the holidays as well.) Hard to imagine it, but Chrissie is now a grandmother! She's working 1/2 to 3/4 time as a small animal vet in Kentucky. She spends the rest her time raising her 13-year-old and working on their farm. Not too surprising, she's got lots of animals around, including a dog named Thor, and says "I love piggies!" She loves the life and wishes everyone a good balance.

Keith Ausbrook (AusyWash@aol.com) Two of Keith's children, Rebekah, 12, and Max, 13, are at Potomac. Two more, Charlie, 5, and Mary Kate, 3, are not yet old enough. Keith's is still toiling as a lawyer in Congress for the House Judiciary Committee on issues like counter terrorism, civil rights, and civil liberties, and the judiciary. His wife, Kate, keeps it all together.

Juan Cameron (JuanCam@aol.com) is living in DC with wife Martha, children Olivia, Emma, and Luke, and two new lab puppies. He's "in the real estate business and constantly fighting neighborhoods" such as the one I live in! Juan recently saw **Angus Duncan** and **Keith** over Thanksgiving.

William Calfee (bcalfee@mindspring.com) writes, "I sold my water business after 21 years and I am completing a Biology Degree with plans to study the evolution of bird migration. So I am supporting myself (sort of) by doing bird walks and talks, teaching Ornithology, and such. My daughter Lily is a freshman in high school and played on the field hockey team, which reminds me of Potomac. The three of us have been climbing and camping a bunch in the Adirondacks, which also reminded me of the wonderful impact of Bill Doswell's Ranger program. I have been in touch with him as he lives not too far away in Pittsfield, MA. I have also been working to educate people about shade grown coffee and I am currently developing a program to convert college campuses to drinking shade grown coffee on campus. If you didn't know, shade grown coffee is grown in the shade of the tropical forests so it is a good mechanism to protect rain forests and the creatures that live in them, including birds. I will develop a website, but for now you can search for shade grown coffee online."

John Chester (John.chester@wildapple.com) says winter at their house is all about hockey. David, 9, is on the Squirt team, Tommy, 13, is the goalie for the Bantams, Laurie (age not disclosed!) is a defense woman for the Zambeauties, and John (we know his age) is defenseman for the NoNames. During the holidays they played a lot on the pond. The company (WildApple.com) they started up in Vermont in 1990 is doing all right, after the tough summer of 2002.

Dorsey Davidge Chapin has a new job in the Development Office at Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY, which is similar to Potomac: K-12 private school, 1/2 mile from her house . . . She loves it! Her girls are doing great. Cate, 4, will go to Kindergarten next year and Daisy is almost 1. Her email is Dorsey.Chapin@verizon.net.

Cathie Davis Kaplan reports that all is well at Potomac, although life is very busy. They're searching for a Lower School head. She is still teaching science (21st year) and loves it. She enjoys teaching **Keith's** and **Frank Bennett's** children.

Lelee Frank works part time as a massage therapist and is a full time mom for Jack, 14, Martha, 10, and Mitchell, 8. She's also a Girl Scout leader for Martha's Junior troop. An autumn highlight for Lelee was seeing **Julie Edgeworth** and her American Song Band at a big Halloween party.

Carrie Gibson (gibraycm@msn.com) writes, "I have a wonderful job doing a solo theater piece in corporations around the country in the guise of diversity training. I even mention my days at Potomac in the beginning monologue about my childhood. If any of you want to have a mini reunion I'd love to do the play and training for your workplace! Meanwhile I have a wonderful 9-year-old who loves the stage, the soccer field, and the canvas. My husband (the artist) and I (the actor) try to rub off on her but she insists on being her own person. It is so delightful growing up again (or for the first time) with our daughter. We live in Ojai, California, our reaction to living in the rather wet Seattle for 16 years."

Two boys, Henry, 4, and Will, 2, keep Anna and **Tony Hass** busy in Los Angeles. His brother **Jay '76**, his wife Ellen, and their three kids joined Tony's family at their mom's in DC for Thanksgiving. Tony continues to see a lot of **Hal Reynolds** and his wife Lisa and their two children. They are planning several weekend ski trips together this winter to Mammoth Mountain. Classmates, let him know (tony.hass@db.com) if you're in the area.

Diana Morgan (Dianainter@aol.com) is in Chevy Chase and heading up the programming of the Health Channel at AOL, lots of work and lots of fun. Julian, 14, is on the debate team at Georgetown Day and runs track. Camilla, 11, plays basketball and Instant Messages with her GDS buddies.

Tommy Resor (TResor6458@aol.com) now has a college freshman at Connecticut College, a senior at Nobles who has applied early to college, a sophomore and 8th grader at Nobles, and a 5th grader in elementary school. Tommy is still working at Nobles, and his wife is working at Simmons School of Management in Boston after earning her MBA there.

Charles L. Spalding (cls@trisan.com) says, "Things here in Costa Rica are fine, my family is growing in size, not in numbers! Hard to believe that Christopher is old enough to be in "Upper School". I can just see Miss Camp getting hold of him and filling him with numbers and algebra! Stephanie is already eight and we are beginning to fear that all this parenthood stuff is going just way too quickly. Patricia and I are great. We built and moved into a new house last year, which was definitely a milestone for us. Looks like the house will be a lifelong project and will never really be finished. But that's just fine...that way it will always be "new" and we will not have to go through that again! No, really, it was a lot of fun. We have room for anyone who wants to come and visit!"

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

1973

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1974

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1975

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1978

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1979

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1980

Chase Bradley
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1980

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Armin St. George continues to work in the advertising and broadcast production field, where his company provides creative and production services for radio, TV, and in-store broadcasting in supermarkets and other retail centers around the country. In 2003 operations will expand into Japan, Central America, and Europe. They also provide original theme music for television programs, including Mark Russell's comedy program on PBS, and most recently, Haley's Hints. Additionally, you can hear their production values with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at least twice a month on NPR's "Performance Today" series. Anyone traveling through the Buffalo/Niagara Falls/Toronto region is welcome to drop him a line at (ArminStG@aol.com.)



Both Nan Skallerup '77 and Cecil "Heidi" Hoffman Slye '77 enjoy perusing memorabilia on Reunion weekend.

I'll leave **Alexandra zu Pappenheim's** message in her own words. She writes, "I have enjoyed reading the answers of our fellow classmates as they come in. Unfortunately I have no good news to report myself. I'll have the third slipped disc in 1 1/2 years at the same height (for those of you who understand something about backs, it's a herniated disc L5/S1) and after two operations, I now face the third. I have tried all sorts of therapy (slowly I think I am at the point where I could write a book about all this, and also on how to deal with doctors), but nothing seems to work. I find it very hard to get up the motivation for yet another operation and yet another hospital stay, especially since the surgeons will not guarantee any pain relief and even worse, probably will have to fuse my spine. As I am mostly bedridden, working, playing, having a partner/family has been out of the question for the last 24 months. Sometimes I hope that I will wake up one day (perhaps after my next surgery?) to discover that this has all been a terrible nightmare, but a part of me has also given up that hope, just so that I can somehow find a way to come to grips with my constant pain and live some sort of life after all. I certainly hope that I will have better news to report in reply to your next class news request. We'll see what the year 2003 brings!" I'm sure she'd like to get some words of encouragement from classmates at alexandra.zupappenheim@freesurf.ch.

As for me, **Liza Gookin Hodskins** (LHodskins@yahoo.com), I managed to last through The Nature Conservancy's reorganization, although my husband, Steve, a 'telecom casualty', was out of work for much of the year. He has left that field and is now working with the Criminal Justice Information System, which he finds rather interesting, especially after the sniper incidents this year. I spent some of the summer searching DC for Party Animals (donkey and elephant sculptures placed around town), and wrote about it for *The Washington Post*. As for our 'kids', despite falling off a 30' cliff this fall, our dog, Molly, 4, is in perfect health. But our fish, which Steve had had for 11 years, just died (anyone want a lonely Plecostomus?). I'm still catering and involved in a million things, so I appreciate the quick responses I got for this. If you're in contact with someone who didn't write, let them know we want to hear from them!

1975

From **Peggy Griffin Labat** (plabat@waterfowlfestival.org)

Gregg Scott wrote, "Not much to report from the Scott front. My wife Paula and I recently moved to Warrenton, Virginia. We actually live quite close to the Arundel's family place. Paula is an active foxhunter and I am studying to get my pilot's license. No kids yet, unless you count our two dogs and two horses. I would love to get together with some of our Potomac classmates in the D.C. area. I missed our 25th reunion because of a family wedding in Houston, but would really like to catch up with you and others."

1977

From **David Spalding** (dav.nh.ultranet@rcn.com)

Greetings from NH to the Class of '77! Thanks to **Isabelle Chester Paul** and her family for hosting the reunion dinner last October, I heard it was a smashing success. **Nan Skallerup** flew in from California with **Heidi Hoffman Slye**. Nan has been busy writing music and is working on a CD. Rumor has it that she might recruit the vocal talents of **Rob Mathias**, who can still belt out a Jack Langstaff song or two. I am doing well in NH, looking forward to another ski season. I went to Utah on a ski vacation in January, with my brother **Charles '73** his wife Patricia, and their children Christopher and Stephanie. Hopefully I will be able to get down to DC for the alumni golf tournament on May 12th.

From **Wendy Arundel Willauer** (wendywillauer@attbi.com)

Polly Saltonstall wrote to announce the birth of Samuel Lincoln Hanson on July 16, 2002. He was two weeks late, but made up for lost time by coming out in a very big hurry, just less than two hours. He weighed in at just less than 8 pounds

and measured 21 inches. Polly says, "He's doing great, much better than his big brother, [who at the time], wouldn't have minded seeing him go back to the hospital. Actually, Jack has already learned his name and has been very sweet to his little brother." Proud parents, Polly and John, are doing well...as well as can be expected given a certain amount of sleep deprivation.

From the Alumni Office:

Rufus Johnson currently lives in Waterloo, IA where there are cornfields in abundance. Although he says he is a city dweller, his home being in Washington, he has come to "enjoy the placid surroundings and the quality of life that the Midwest offers."

1979

From Speke Wilson

(Speke.Wilson@democracydata.com)

My family has been well for the last year. I've been working at Democracy Data and Communications since I left the Fool. I organize Internet campaigns for various companies, organizations and anyone else who needs to find a lot of customers or advocates at low cost. I've stayed in shape during the last year, but have had a fair number of injuries: shoulder, Achilles, ankle, knee...the list goes on. I'm practicing for becoming an old man. Last spring I went to **Gary Hill's** wedding to Joanna Greenberg in a winery in the misty hills overlooking Stanford University. They're living in D.C. while Joanna gets her master's degree in social work. Gary says that he's had to make some sacrifices for his marriage including "only traveling to Redskins games in cities where Joanna has friends" and plugs along at the Motley Fool. I shook **Mark Shriver's** hand over the 4th of July as he campaigned to be the Democratic Party's candidate for Maryland's 8th District. He barely lost a hard-fought race against another Potomac School scion, **Chris van Hollen '74**, who was 5 years ahead of us and who went on to beat the Republican incumbent Connie Morella in the general election.

Andrew Preston sells real estate in Boston. He has a daughter Rachel, 4.

For **Kathy Cox** life is going well. "I just finished a very smooth semester teaching three writing courses at Hagerstown Community College. That completes six and a half good years of teaching."

Mark Tunney writes, "I've joined a small hedge fund as a partner here in Los Angeles which focuses on convertible debentures. It should be fun. Family's great and my three boys, 6, 4, and 1 cause unlimited chaos. The Angels won the Series! Now we just need a football team. Best to all."

In March 2002, **Dede Winsor** and her husband William Edwards had a son named Will. She has stopped working at the Pan American Development Foundation and they have moved

to a new home located in Old Town, Alexandria. She regularly sees **Anne Metcalf** and her adorable son, Jack, who is three weeks older than Will.

Nick Carter is still working as a trial lawyer at a litigation boutique in Boston, where he is now a partner. "I work on everything from big commercial litigation to personal injury and some criminal defense. Maria is still making films and doing well. She has a fellowship this year at Harvard to develop a film on a woman who fought in the Civil War. If you know of any one who has money to invest or give, let us know. Max and Isabel are soldiering away in Cambridge public schools so far, so good. But we are always considering the other school options. There's plenty of diversity but as parents, we really need to be involved, much more so than our parents had to be. Potomac really took care of things for them. That's one of the benefits of private school. I have been playing tennis for fun, and suffered some kind of muscle injury that won't go away. That and the blooming gray hair remind me that I'm fast approaching 40. Sounds a lot older than I feel."

Kit Edwards quit his "real job" 2 years ago, and has been teaching graduate-level interaction design at Yale and at the Institute of Design, at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He lives in Boston, and when he's not teaching, he does "a good bit of volunteer work for various international and local organizations."

Charlotte Gould lives in New York and is planning on developing a non-profit with a mission to provide guidance for mothers struggling with work/life balance and depression. "I am creating a NYC team of mothers to run in the 2003 NYC marathon as a publicity tool to gain support, credibility and awareness. I would love to hear from any mothers interested in sharing their stories. My 2 1/2 year old daughter, India, will be at my side, helping to represent the idea that mothers can set personal goals without sacrificing their children in the process."

Doug Russell does high-tech public relations at Schwartz Communications' Boston office, despite the fact that 2002 was declared the worst year in the history of the IT industry! "Highlights of this year include getting our son Nathaniel up on skis, the Senate confirmation of my brother, **Richard '81**, as Associate Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and spending time with **Carl-Peter Braestrup**, **Chris Tierney**, **Stephen Springer** and **Andrew Preston** at the Middlesex 20th (gulp!) reunion."

Kelly Carr's daughter Gigi was born December 10, 2001. "Hadley, her older sister, carries her around any chance she gets. Bryan and I finally moved into our house in Georgetown after a two-and-a-half year renovation...still can't figure out why it took so long."

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

1981

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1981

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1983

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1984

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1984

Sarah Webber
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1985

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1985

Christina Halvorson Ross
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1986

Holly C. Green
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1990

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Danielle1A@aol.com

Matthew Mudd is still living in McLean and working in Reston at Transaction Network Services. He has an 11-year-old daughter and two sons 15 and 13 who are at St. Albans.



Tom Newbold '83 and new bride Vera Havlova on their wedding day.

Jeanette Matheson Lussi writes, "During the sniper attacks, our outside activities stopped: the two soccer teams I coach stopped playing and all outdoor play at our children's school ceased...thank goodness it is over. This winter Hunter, 9, Tyler, 8, and Morgan, 6, are playing hockey at Chevy Chase Club, swimming for Curl Burke, and enjoying school at Norwood. Craig and I did our 3rd Ironman and I finished in 12:12, shaving 48 minutes on my previous time. On the plus side, next year I will be in a new age group, but it's also making me feel old. My five-year goal is to make it to the World Championship Kona race in Hawaii. We are enjoying training and spending time at our 2nd home on Gibson Island. We have a rental property there so if anyone is interested, please call. It's a great place for kids!"

Peter Makepeace reports that he and his family are well. "I've been working in the video production department since this summer and have been putting out some new, good titles which I can recommend, such as: *Inuyasha* (boy/dog demon meets 21st century school girl back in Feudal Japan), *Hamtaro* (cutest hamsters ever and their wacky adventures); and *Project Arms* (high school kids unknowingly implanted with diabolical nano-machine weaponry.) That and child rearing (boy 10, girl 12) are pretty much my life right now."

Nick Woyevodsky's family is doing well. "The boys are getting big, 6 and 3. I find it amazing that despite the number of times I say "stop it" or "settle down" to them, they have to maintain some form of constant movement. It's as though they are programmed for continuous activity. Alas, the batteries begin to wear down, as does the perpetual motion (oxymoron?). Then it's teeth brushing

and book reading time and you know what happens then...and funnily enough I wouldn't change a thing."

Once again, Nick gets to the heart of the matter. Thank you all for writing.

1982

From the Alumni Office:

Sharon Rumpf Bellamy, her husband Al, and son, Chase, 2, moved from Virginia to South Eastern Michigan about a year and a half ago. Sharon left an executive level position with Oracle to move with her family and become a full time mom for a few years. Her husband was the assistant trainer for the Redskins for 14 years and decided to leave last year when things got "so miserable with the new ownership." He now is the head trainer with the Detroit Lions.

Craig Kiker and his wife Stephanie live in the DC neighborhood east of Chevy Chase Circle. Stephanie is a teacher in the Montgomery County School System and Craig works for Myer-Emco as the Regional Sales Director. They have two children Sally and Walden.

1983

From Claire Hebel Harrington (charr@earthlink.net):

Guy Arnold and his wife, Liz, are having a blast with their 2½-year-old daughter, Lila. "She's got a fun personality and loves to color, go to the zoo, bounce on the bed, you name it!"

Peter Hamady is planning a move to California after ten years of living in NYC. He says he has loved his time there and is sure he'll be back at some point.

Alison Kirk Long is splitting her time between marine conservation consulting, motherhood and tournament tennis. She placed in a triathlon this summer, as well as in a biathlon this fall, which she ran as a relay with her husband.

Thomas Newbold married Vera Havlova on August 24, 2002 in the chapel at Jemniste Castle in the Czech Republic (you can check out their website at thomasandvera.com). His brother



Head of School, Geoff Jones, Director of Alumni and Development, Suzanne Helm, President of the Alumni Association, Prentiss Vallender Lay and her husband Mark pose at the Reunion reception.

James was the best man, and Potomac was well represented by James, his mother, former Middle School teacher, Mary Welby Garrison, **Jennie McClelland '91**, **Chad Oppenheimer**, and **Dave Muhlbaum**. **Ansley Martin** stayed home in Boston to witness the arrival of his daughter. Tom and Vera spent their honeymoon relaxing in Santorini, Greece and spent Christmas in Egypt, visiting Tom's parents, who have just moved there. Then it will be on to visit James in Chile next year. They plan on moving to Washington sometime over the next couple of years, so if you want to visit them in Praha, make your plans soon! (see photo of the wedding)

Sarah Preston Schrott thinks about Potomac a lot more these days, as her two sons are attending a school that is reminiscent of Potomac and its long-standing traditions. Jack, 6, and Sam, 4, are best buds and love to do everything together. Sarah is in private practice as a child and family therapist and loves it. Her husband Dave is an engineer and works for a company called Microchip. She is thankful to get back to visit her parents several times a year, as well as a trip to New Hampshire in the summer.

Liz Smith Dougherty is still living here in Washington and just celebrated her second wedding anniversary with Paul Dougherty. She works at the White House domestic policy council and that keeps her pretty busy, but she still keeps in very close touch with **Sallie Judd Abelow**, who lives in New York and is expecting her first child!

Cathy Corson has some wonderful news. She had a baby girl on December 21, 2002, Anne Catherine McCammon. Cathy and her husband Charles have been living in Wynnewood, a suburb of Philadelphia for about 2 years. Charles is a maritime attorney and Cathy is an HIV case manager in North Philadelphia.

Adria de Leonibus is engaged to George Myers and planning a fall wedding. She will make the big move to Raleigh, NC this summer, so if anyone is in the Raleigh area, let her know!

Renee Lettow Lerner and her husband Craig welcomed daughter Anna on April 18, 2002. She is now crawling and getting into everything. Renee enjoys teaching at George Washington University Law School. Renee also sits on Potomac's Board of Trustees. She says "there are exciting plans at Potomac these days!"

My husband, Tom, and I are kept busy these days with a 7-month-old labradoodle (half lab/half standard poodle) named Finney (short for Finnegan). He's a rascal, but cute enough to get away with a lot! I keep in touch with **Ali Peet**, who recently moved back to D.C., as well as **Ken Berlack**, who recently moved away from D.C. to Kansas City, closer to his wife's family.

1985

From Christy Halvorson Ross
(cross@parkmont.org)

Hello to the class of 1985! I hope you all are well and have had a wonderful year. My husband Garth and I were thrilled to have our second child, Eva Halvorson Ross, on December 6, 2002. She has been welcomed into the household by our 1 1/2 year old son, Si. We still love living in Palisades, D.C. I can report that **Connie Pendleton** is thriving at D.C.'s law firm Davis Wright Tremain. **Liza Graham** is also enjoying her work as a social worker in a special adoption agency in Boston. **India Swayze Mann** and her husband Chris live in Chicago, where they happily gave birth to their second child, Ivan (daughter Savitri is three years old) this fall.

We occasionally bump into neighbor **Liz Padwe Muhlbaum** in Palisades! Liz and her husband **David '83** welcomed a baby daughter, Sarah Holland, to the world in May 2002. Liz went back to work for a week before deciding she missed Sarah too much and now loves being a stay-at-home mom. The Muhlbaums live in Palisades, DC and enjoy being near the canal and the Capital Crescent Trail, where Liz recently ran into **Julie Dugger**.

After living in D.C. for the past two years and working for the American Management Association, Australia has welcomed back **Julie Dugger**. She'll be living in Sydney, where she is starting a marketing strategy management consulting firm, called OzAppeal. They'll be working with independent hotels in Australia who want to raise their profile in the U.S. and attract more American travelers to their properties. She'll be keeping an apartment on the beach, so contact her at jdugger@ozappeal.com if you are "down under!" Julie reports that **Laurence Smith** and she catch up for drinks as often as possible, but he is currently residing in Nairobi with his wife Carter, "so his availability is rather irregular!"

Also overseas is **Nia Willis**, who has been in Berlin since August on a Robert S. Bosch Foundation Fellowship. She is working for the foundation there until May as their major translator. She says that much is going on in Berlin these days, with the reopening of the Brandenburg Gate and a tremendous amount of construction throughout the city.

Nia's brother **Maceo** is in Los Angeles and is a permanent substitute by day at Hamilton High School and a frequent production assistant at night on shows such as the Bachelor, and its successor. He has a semester left to complete his master's in screenwriting and filmmaking at the University of Southern California.

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

1990

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1993

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1997

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1997

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Another classmate with the travel bug is **Russ Gebhard**, who recently spent some time in Alaska with his girlfriend. They traveled from Fairbanks to Denali National Park, and from Denali to Anchorage. They saw lots of wildlife, and took a helicopter ride and landed on a glacier. Then they traveled around the coast by boat (seeing ports such as Juneau, Sitka, Ketchikan, and Vancouver) and enjoyed the whole experience tremendously.

Chrissy Coughlin lives in D.C. and just released her debut CD, entitled "You Never Know." It can be ordered directly through her website at www.chrissymusic.com or on www.cdbaby.com. She is pursuing music full time now and is having a great time.



Over 100 young alums attended the young alumni happy hour over Thanksgiving vacation. Here is the event coordinator, **Brett Nelson '96** and fellow alums, **Liz Oosterhuis '98** and **Emily Andrews '98**.

Jonathan Falls reports that he is living in Raleigh, NC after four years in Boston. He was married in April to Caitlin, whom he met at St. Bonaventure University in 1989 and began dating four years ago. He reports, "I'm currently under the wheels of the poor job market, hoping to get out from under soon. So as of right now, I'm ecstatically married and over educated and underemployed."

Lizzie Peet wrote in from L.A., where two of her independent films did the festival circuit over the course of the year. And although the show she did last season, "Inside Schwartz", was cancelled, there are a couple more "in the works." She says, "It's very, very fun to get paid to do what you love. And to think it all started in Mr. K's class with Oliver! Lizzie's sister **Vicki '81** will be

Members of the Class of 1992 reminisce over lunch during Reunion Weekend.



married in Tahoe in June, and many Potomac faces will be there for the festivities.

A number of our classmates are expecting children. **Julie Kerwin Redpath** and her husband Todd have their second baby due in April. Their daughter Julia Grace is now 20 months old and is keeping them very busy. They are living in Queenstown, MD on the Eastern shore.

Alden Hall and his wife, Marcy Chong, are also expecting a child, due in mid-March. Alden enjoyed seeing **James Newbold** when he was in town this summer. James is living in Santiago, where Alden and Marcy hope to visit in May.

Elen Ivorian-Jones Rogers and her husband, Art, had their second child, Kate, in March 2002. Their first-born, Henry, turned two in September. Elen has stayed at home with her children, since leaving her job at a law firm before Henry was born. They live 30 miles north of Boston on a tiny town on the coast. Her parents are moving back to the D.C. area from South Africa in the spring. Elen's sister, **Lisa '91**, is getting married in April to **Hunter Gray**, who is **Burt Gray's** little brother! Elen, **Ekaterini Argerson**, and **Liza Graham** recently got together for a mini-Boston-Potomac reunion.

1990

From the Alumni Office:

Matt Stinchcomb and his band *French Kicks* have recorded their debut full-length record. *One Time Bells* "is a perfect crystallization of *French Kicks'* taut, clipped, frequently beautiful sound. A highly diverse album, it manages to align all sorts of disparate elements into a streamlined, organic whole - and in an economic 38 minutes and 53 seconds." Website: www.frenchkicks.com.

After spending two years in Western, NY running the Buffalo Bills' official web site, **Ted Starkey** is now the Managing Editor of USA Hockey's official website, www.usahockey.com. Ted and his wife Pam now reside in Colorado Springs. Ted joined USA Hockey just in time to get a chance to cover the United States men's and women's hockey teams silver medal performances at the Salt Lake Olympics last February, and he now covers NHL and college hockey games regularly. Ted also has freelanced Denver Broncos games for various newspapers and is preparing to co-author his first book.

1994

From the Alumni Office:

Joe Guerrieri is a quarterfinalist in the 2003 Chrysler Million Dollar Film Festival, a global film competition that offers filmmakers the opportunity to win a one million dollar production deal. Joe's film, *The Jackalope*, was one of 25 selected from hundreds of submissions worldwide.

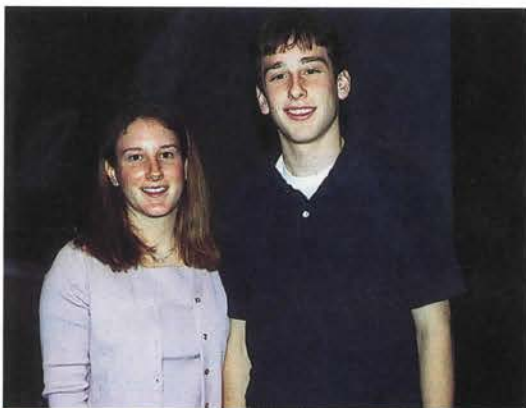
You can learn more about Joe's film and see scenes from it at www.chryslermdff.com.

Felicitations to **Erin Ricker** who married Jeremy Ansell on August 3, 2002. **Paige Mader** and her brother **Scott '92** were in attendance. After the wedding, Erin and Jeremy went to Africa for three weeks for their honeymoon. The highlight, according to Erin, was a hot air balloon ride at dawn over the Serengeti. They live in Denver, where Erin is a civil engineer.

1996

From the Alumni Office:

Danny Adrien lives in NYC with his wife Nicki whom he married last July in Pasadena, CA. Danny works for Goldman Sachs in the fixed income division



Gillian Kilberg '97 and her brother Andrew '06 after speaking to the Upper School about her non-profit organization. Gillian is the founder of Grandma Rita's Children, a summer, special trips camp for needy and abused children who reside in a low-income housing project.

1997

From the Alumni Office:

Caryn Cramer spent her first year out of college working on HBO, National Geographic, and PBS specials. She worked on the pre-production of an HBO series, a literature-based tribute to New York City, which will be out in about two years. Caryn researched, found, and read stories from the past 150 years that will be adapted to hour-long segments of a 13 episode series. She plans to go to law school in the future.

1998

From the Alumni Office:

Elizabeth Stewart premiered her short film, *Ladies*, which she not only wrote but also produced, on Sunday, October 27, 2002.

1999

From Daryn Cambridge (dcambrid@middlebury.edu)

Recently, **Ari J. Schantz** has been basking in the glory of Ohio State's 13-0 undefeated season and their berth in the Fiesta Bowl. During the Michigan game, Ari went onto the field and



Members of the Class of 1997 gather before attending their 5th reunion. Pictured are : Jon Mitchell, Andrew Potter, Jamie Granum, Julia Bissell, and Ted Nemeroff.

grabbed a piece of the end zone turf. This past summer, he switched his major to Marketing and took two classes at NOVA and interned for Washington Sports & Entertainment (the company that oversees operations for the Wizards, Mystics, Capitals, and the MCI Center) in the human resources department. He is currently looking across the country for possible law schools in hopes of starting a career in contract law, and more specifically, sports/entertainment law.

Charlotte Hutton spent the summer working in the Smithsonian's Natural History Museum's Physical/Forensic Anthropology Department. She is currently dealing with her senior theses and comprehensive exams. She hopes to work in either the DC or Tennessee area next year.

I (**Daryn**) am finishing up my English/Philosophy double major and minor in geography here at Middlebury College. Over the summer I sold knives for the infamous Vector Marketing (quick side note: I apologize to anyone who wanted to take one of those knives and stab me with them), and also took Georgetown's overseas Shakespeare Program at Oxford. Next semester, I will be working on a senior project bringing together elements of Wordsworth and Buddhist Philosophy, along with throwing the hammer and javelin for Middlebury's Track and Field Team. I also have been singing and playing the guitar with friends at the college's Grille and student center. After graduation I have been thinking about teaching High School English.

From Susanna Mitchell (scmitch@learnlink.emory.edu)

Rachel Shuler writes, "I'm finishing up my final year at Oberlin. I'll be graduating with an English major, Spanish minor, and I'm seriously considering going to grad school in Botany. I plan to take off next year to take more courses and work in a lab - I'm studying the plant growth 'hormone' auxin using the little mustard weed *Arabidopsis Thaliana*. I spent the summer working at the Oberlin Admissions office and putzing around with **Anne Blaney** who came up and lived with me this summer. We had a huge garden and

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1998

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1999

Susanna Mitchell
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2000

Jonathan Haworth
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2000

Alison Weisgall
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2001

Daphne Chester
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2001

Margaret Kelso
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gorged ourselves on the tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, lettuce, basil, cucumbers etc... that I had planted somewhat overzealously in the spring. All in all I'm doing very well, I hope all the other class of '99 grads are too."

Pam Kasenetz writes, "I am a senior at Penn and am currently finishing my neuroscience major and English and psychology minors. After a productive summer of MCAT's and volunteering in a pediatric clinic, I am beginning to put-together

medical school applications for fall 2004 admission. Much of my time this semester was spent starring as Ouisa Kitteridge in a production of *Six Degrees of Separation*. In fact, I'm a big theater buff at Penn and spent the last year performing in *The Vagina Monologues*, a few student films, and playing the role of Harper Pitt in *Angels in America*. I see my brother **Eric '01** often, who is busy as social chair of his fraternity, AEPi. Penn has been so much fun and I can only hope that next semester will be even

more fantastic!"

Hilary Burt spent the summer in NYC working for Salomon Smith Barney. She happened to run into **Emily Anderson** and **Nell Manning**, who also spent the summer working in the Big Apple. Now, "I'm finishing up my senior year at Princeton with a degree in art history. I occasionally run into other Potomac kids around campus, which is always fun. I recently started working on a start-up company called TerraCycle. One of my friends here at Princeton came up with an idea for a composter that uses worms and can take recyclable organic material, food, paper, and tree waste, etc., and turn it into an amazing soil and fertilizer in 7 days. The process is odorless and uses a small amount of land. I am very excited about the prospects of this venture as it could potentially save 72% of material currently put into landfills. The team of people that I am working with will be down in DC meeting with several Potomac parents to find out more about the consumers of our soil products as well as to hopefully find several investors so that we can build our first plant in NJ."

Christian Gomez writes, "I am having a very hectic senior year here at Princeton. In addition to my politics major I'm minoring in Latin American studies and Political Economy. I just

finished my last year playing sprint football, where I played defensive end and was captain, and was all-league for the fourth time. I spent last semester in Chile, which was an amazing experience, and saw **Liz Seidlitz** there a few times. As for next year, I have no idea what I want to do but really want to head back to South America for a while, maybe back to Chile or Brazil, as I'm learning Portuguese this semester."

Reed Landry writes, "This past summer I worked for an internet startup which brokers Internet advertising. Most of my time is taken up by wrestling and serving as program director of the big sibling program, which provides Charlottesville youth with mentors from the UVA student body."

I, **Susanna**, am finishing up my Psychology major and Anthropology minor at Emory. Since last April, I've been interning part-time in the policy and advocacy unit at CARE, an international development non-profit. I look forward to graduating in May and would like to spend some time working overseas. Eventually, I hope to pursue a graduate degree in Public Health or Public Policy.

From the Alumni Office:

Trenholm Boggs is a senior at Colby College. This past summer he worked in Richmond, VA for a company known as PLAY.

Sasha Cooper-Morrison finished a semester in Madrid where she achieved total fluency in Spanish, one of her two majors at Penn. She enjoyed seeing **Rob Swain**, **Patrick Nemeroff** and **Eric Abrams** while she was there. She is now working on her thesis and looking forward to graduation in May 2003.

Yorke Allen has had a busy year as captain of the Men's Tennis team. Yorke and Potomac classmate, **Doug Trabant**, continue to enjoy the social life at their fraternity, SAE.

Belen Aquino is a senior at the Art Institute of Chicago concentrating in photography.

Jonathan Miri worked as a summer intern in the Informational Solutions Group at the World Bank.

Landon Schmitt spent the summer in Jackson Hole, WY working with **James Aldige '98**. He reconnected with **Chris Valiante '98** who has lived in Jackson Hole for many years. A highlight of the summer was reaching the summit of the Grand Teton, the tallest peak in the range. He is now a second semester Junior at Brown.

2000

From the Alumni Office:

Josh Mayer continues his involvement with Habitat for Humanity. This winter he led a service group to an orphanage in Honduras. Josh was also named to the National Society of



John Ohly '01 and Christian Gomez '99 after a sprint football game.



PAST FACULTY NEWS

Please send your news about past faculty to alumni@potomacschool.org or call the Alumni Office at 1(800) 725-8664.

Collegiate scholars. He is majoring in English and Religion at Dartmouth.

Rufus Platt is in his junior year at Goucher College as an English major with a focus in creative writing.

Kate Romatowski spent the summer working on Mayor Pryor's U.S. Senate campaign in Arkansas.

Steve Dutton is in his third year at UVA and is in the McIntire School of Commerce. He was elected President of his fraternity, Delta Kappa Epsilon.

Fontaine Marcoux enjoyed reconnecting with many Potomac friends over the summer. She studied Italian and Art History this past semester in preparation for a spring trip to Italy.

Trevor Goss is back at Cornell after taking the spring semester off. A trip to Europe is planned for this summer!

Teddy Symes spent the summer on Nantucket before returning for his junior year at Kenyon.

2001

From Daphne Chester (dchester24@aol.com)

Lauren Grass is having a great second year at UVA. She worked as a counselor at a sports camp in New York this summer and loved it. **Elena Knappen**, **Golnar Oveyssi**, and **Lina Gomez** are also happy at UVA as they are all living together. **Adam Smith** and **Alex Cheek** are also living together, so the Potomac kids stay in great touch.

Sarah Bosiack is in Athens, Georgia attending the University of Georgia. She is in Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and is majoring in Psychology. She is doing great and hopes to come back to Virginia to visit.

Skipper Calvert loves Vanderbilt and doing Navy ROTC, which he enjoys. **Stephen Gavula**, also at Vanderbilt, is keeping busy by serving on student government, doing community service, playing club soccer, as well as enjoying fraternity life.

Michael Carney is attending Northwestern in Chicago where he is having a great time. He made the club baseball team this year as a pitcher.

Elizabeth Copson is at Kenyon where she sees **Garrett Clark**, **Jessamyn Leonard '02**, **Eileen Browning '02**, and **Andrew Farrell '99** around campus. This summer she interned at the National Building Museum designing interactive displays for an exhibit on the home improvement phenomenon which is currently open. She has been taking Three Dimensional Design classes, which she enjoys.

Bryan Bennett is playing lacrosse for Brown. He is studying political science, history, and business classes. **Elissa Brown**, also at Brown, is taking art history classes as well as a theater class, which she is really enjoying.

Michael Emory is busy swimming for Columbia; they beat Penn the other weekend. He also reports that he was a surf-ninja for Halloween and that, in general, "life is awesome." Also, Mike's hall mate is dating actress Julia Stiles so he sees her a lot around the dorm.

Christina Trabant is having a great sophomore year at Hamilton taking psychology classes, which she plans to major in. She does community service at a local soup kitchen, as well as playing lacrosse for Hamilton. She is thinking about going abroad to Australia next fall. This fall she went on a 15 mile hiking trip in the Adirondack Mountains with a group of students.

Christine Varoutsos loves the University of Richmond where she is taking English, Spanish, and Journalism classes. She also teaches a Spanish drill class twice a week. She is a member of the sorority Delta Delta Delta along with **Sarah Murphy '99**.



As for the Princeton crowd, we see each other frequently. **Juliana Bennison** had a blast on the sailing team this fall, and I am playing squash for Princeton, so I see **Bob Montgomery '02** often as he plays for the men's team. **Stephanie Amann** is keeping very busy with the Princeton magazine *Business Today*, which she worked for this summer and then was asked to hold a permanent position as Head of Corporate Relations. She also played club field hockey this fall. **Laura Smith** crewed on a schooner, The Alabama, all summer. She sailed around New England, hauled the lines, and climbed the rigging. She then led a freshmen trip for the Outdoor Action orientation program this fall, and now works in the OA equipment room and is in charge of all the wilderness first aid classes. She is also the Director of Program for Princeton Model Congress where she got to see current Potomac students while in DC. She plans on majoring in geo-engineering, and she went to New Mexico to study rocks with her geology class this fall.

The First Annual Alumni Basketball dinner was held at Chadwick's on November 29, 2002. The Alumni team was defeated by Potomac's current State Champion Varsity Basketball team.



CLASS NOTES

Please send your news to alumni@potomacschool.org or call the Alumni Office at (800) 725-8664.

From the Alumni Office:

Pamela Sabella is enjoying her second year at UVA. She acted in recent productions of *Much Ado about Nothing* and *Othello* as a member of Shakespeare on the Lawn.

Bradley Allen had a summer job as director of the squash program at Tabor Academy. He is now working on his own game on the Harvard Varsity squash team.

Over the summer, **Tom Cannell** acquired a guinea pig named Vince, which has accompanied him to Yale this semester.

2002

From the Alumni Office:

Taylor Cumbie is at Occidental College where she is a member of the Occidental Women's Glee Club.

Blair Boggs took part in an Outward Bound trip to Alaska this past summer. She is taking the year off to travel in Asia and take French classes in France before attending UVA in the fall of 2003.

Victoria Sylos-Labini writes that she is "ready to rock Fairfield!"

Hunter Campbell attends Hobart and William Smith Colleges, where he will play Division I lacrosse. He sees **Kate Buchanan** frequently.

Anne Romatowski spent the fall semester teaching English in a junior high school in Ghana.

Taylor Kelly is a freshman at UNC, where he pledged the Beta house.

Frances Symes graduated from St. Andrew's School, Delaware and attends Princeton.



In Memoriam

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the following members of The Potomac School community.

Jim Redway

Potomac lost a good friend when Jim Redway passed away earlier this year after a brief illness. Jim has served as co-chairman of the Grandparent Annual Giving Committee with his wife, Tilda '43. Jim has had a long and loving relationship with the School for decades given that all four of his children attended Potomac School. Currently his son Jonathan's two children, Eliza and Ethan, are here. Always a gracious host, he warmly greeted each committee member and often they would stay afterwards to continue their discussion with him. Jim liked a behind the scenes role at meetings as co-chair of the Grandparent Committee but in his quiet presence the wheels were always turning. When Jim spoke people listened. His contributions to the meeting conversation were always thoughtful and wise. He will be missed.

Mr. Travis Taylor Brown, October 14, 2002

Husband of Ann Huidekoper Brown '36, Father of Janet H. Brown '66, Travis T. Brown '70, Christie Gardner-Brown '71, and Ann S. Brown '74

Mr. Arthur Edgeworth Jr., August 24, 2002

Father of Ann L. Edgeworth '71, Julie D. Edgeworth '73, and Elizabeth Edgeworth Cantacuzene '75

Mr. Charles Guggenheim, October 9, 2002

Father of Grace S. Guggenheim '74, Jonathan S. Guggenheim '75, and Philip "Davis" Guggenheim '79
Father-in-law of Sara Holbrook Guggenheim '77

Reverend John Harper, September 13, 2002

Father of Deborah Harper Hailey '69, Jeffrey R. Harper '72, Elizabeth Harper Danello '74, Grandfather of Alexandra Harper '12 and Matthew Harper '12

Mr. Charles Randolph Hartley, September 21, 2002

Brother of Bettina Hartley Tierney '52
Uncle of Chris Tierney '79, Andrew Tierney '80, and David Tierney '82

Mr. Ronald Metz, August 25, 2002

Husband of Helen Chapin Metz '42

Mr. Albert James Redway, October 28, 2002

Husband of Tilda de Kauffman Redway '43, Brother-in-law of Annabelle Loud Redway '57, Father of Albert (Jake) Redway '67, Kate Redway Rosenfield '70, Bettina (Nini) Redway '73, and Jon Redway '75, Uncle of Merrell Redway Cherouney '82 and Annabelle Redway Dunn '85, Grandfather of Ethan Redway '09, Eliza Redway '11, and Grace Cherouney '15

Mrs. Alexandra "Sandy" Korff Scott '53 (Hugh),

September 2, 2002

Sister of Alice Korff Boardman '58
Cousin of Diana Russell '58

Mrs. Eleanor Lanier Waldrop, December 12, 2002

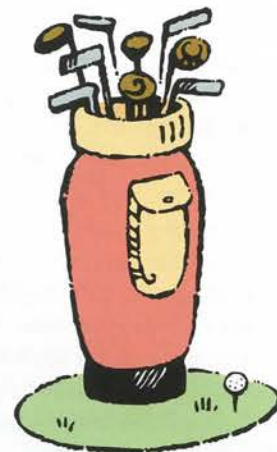
Grandmother of Randolph A. Frank '72, Eleanor "Leelee" Frank Hazard '73, and J. Lanier Frank '76

Mrs. Elizabeth Beall Wistar (Donald), June 1, 2002

Mother of Elizabeth Wistar Little '53

The First Annual Potomac School Golf Tournament to Support Financial Aid

Monday, May 12, 2003
Lansdowne Resort - Leesburg, VA



Please save the date and make plans to join us! Invitations have been mailed locally in the Washington metropolitan area, however if you'll be in town that day or would like to contribute, visit our website for specific details about teams, sponsorship opportunities, to download the golf brochure, or to register online (www.potomacschool.org.)

Calendar of Events

- April 1** Governing Council Meeting
- April 25** Upper School Spring Concert & Student Art Show
- April 26** Spring Stewardship Day
- April 28** Senior/Alumni Dinner 5 pm
- May 2** May Day
- May 9** Grandparents' Day
- May 9 & 10** Upper School Spring Play
- May 12** Golf Tournament
- May 22** Middle School Spring Concert
- June 9** Upper School Red/Blue Day
- June 11** Graduation and Reception 10am

Reunion

THE POTOMAC SCHOOL

2004

SAVE THE DATE!
May 1-2, 2004
Reunion Weekend

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD, JOAN WISE '82

Each year, the Potomac School Alumni Association presents its Award for Outstanding Service to an alumna or alumnus who best exemplifies Potomac's values by contributing in a meaningful way to his or her community. This year's award was presented to Joan Wise, a member of the Class of 1982.

Since graduating from Potomac twenty years ago, Joan has continued to pursue her love of art and the environment through her client work and her many volunteer activities. She is a member of the 1869 Society of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, volunteers at the Phillips Collection, the Sierra Club, and the Potomac Conservancy. Joan is also a strong supporter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as a marathoner and fundraiser.

Joan graduated in 1989 from Brown University with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and American Civilization and in 1993 earned her MBA from Columbia University. After graduating from Business School, Joan worked in the banking industry for a number of years, representing not-for-profit and municipal clients, with a focus on the environment, health care, and cities. In 1998, Joan founded her own communications firm, Wise Communications. Her company provides freelance marketing, communications, and editorial services to a wide range of corporate and not-for-profit clients. It takes a tremendous amount of discipline to run one's own business, but Joan makes it look effortless because she truly believes in the causes of her many clients.



This year's recipient of the Outstanding Service Award not only contributes her significant talents to the wider community, but Joan has also remained a committed member of the Potomac community. She has served Potomac School's Alumni Association in varying capacities for nearly 10 years. Joan was a founding member of the Alumni Association Governing Council, serving from 1990 to 1991. She then moved to New York City where she served as a regional representative for 4 years. After returning to the Washington area, Joan joined the Governing Council again in 1999 and served as our Alumni Association President for the last two years. In addition to her many years serving on the Governing Council of Potomac's Alumni Association, Joan was also a very active member of the Board of Trustees for the past two years.

Although Joan has recently retired from her "official" positions at the school, she still remains involved in The Potomac School. For example, this Spring Joan will be teaming up with Potomac's long-time, beloved science teacher, Peter Munroe, to execute an Earth Day/ Community Service Day at Potomac. (see page 48) She also still serves in an "advisory" capacity to the Governing Council of the Alumni Association as my mentor, sounding board, and dear friend. Joan certainly created huge shoes to fill while serving as President of the Alumni Governing Council, but in doing so she also brought the Alumni Association into a new era.

- Prentiss Vallender Lay '85

CLASS OF 2003 LIFERS



Class of 2003 lifers listed alphabetically include: Meredith Anderson, Alison Ayer, Leila Batmanghelidj, Ashley Bender, Elizabeth Cook, Frank Craighill, Caroline Dalton, Rachel Dyke, Jason Ellis, Elizabeth Fabiani, Brian Fairbank, Doug Flanagan, Luke Forster, Danny Gavula, Maya Jaafar, Chris Johnson, Eliza Jones, Molly Langer, Jimmy Mersereau, Scott Nelson, Sean O'Meara, Scott Richardson, Alexa Rubenstein, Ashley Seidlitz, Brett Shear-Heyman, Cynthia Starr, Allana Strong, Eric Taylor, Steven Taylor, Mary Thomas, Griffin Vanze, and Ebony Wheaton.

Dear Potomac Alumni:

It is hard to believe we are already more than half-way through the school year. As always, the fall proved to be a busy time for Potomac alumni.

Reunions were held in conjunction with Potomac's Homecoming weekend in October. For those of you who graduated before 1990, this is a particularly fun weekend, because it showcases Potomac's robust high school while exemplifying the century-old spirit of the school. Alumni from 1952-1992 participated in this year's on-campus events such as a Nature Walk with former science teacher, Peter Munroe, varsity and junior-varsity games, a luncheon and the presentation of the annual Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Service to Joan Wise '82. In addition to the events on-campus, there were class dinners at homes across the Washington region.

Looking ahead to Potomac's Centennial, we will be moving Reunion Weekend to the spring. In order to do this we must cluster some classes together. The next Reunion Weekend will be held on May 1-2, 2004 and will include all whose graduation year ends in 3, 4, 8 and 9. With so many coming back to campus, it should be a wonderful event.

Thanksgiving vacation brought young alumni together with many events. The annual alumni/varsity basketball game was held on November 29. Directly after the game alumni basketball players gathered for dinner to reminisce and catch up with their former teammates. The Class of '97 celebrated their fifth reunion and over 100 alums from '93 - '98 gathered for a happy hour at a local restaurant.

In December it was on to a Potomac tradition, the Christmas Revels program at Lisner Auditorium. As always, this sold-out show brought alumni back to their Potomac School musical roots.

During the spring the Alumni Governing Council has a variety of events planned:

- An Upper School Assembly featuring alumni and their career paths
- The annual senior dinner where we welcome the Class of 2003 to the Alumni Association.
- The First Annual Potomac School Golf Tournament to Support Financial Aid on Monday, May 12, 2003 at Lansdowne Resort in Leesburg, VA

As always, we welcome your ideas for other events. Please email Adria de Leonibus '83, Director of Alumni Programs at alumni@potomacschool.org or call 800-725-8664 with your ideas or feedback.

On behalf of the Alumni Council, we look forward to seeing you soon at an event or on campus.

Sincerely,

Prentiss Vallender Lay '85
President

2002-2003 Governing Council: Back row: Student Government President, Scott Richardson '03, Peter Young '96, Rylan Harris '80, Speke Wilson '79, Brett Nelson '96, Julie Dugger '85, and Scott O'Gorman '76. Middle row: President of the Alumni Association, Prentiss Vallender Lay '85, Caroline Baldwin Kahl '72, Boucie Addison '67, Vice-President of the Alumni Association, Mittie Brooks Rooney '78, and Secretary, Ayse Uzer Crowley '85. Front row: Director of Alumni Relations, Adria de Leonibus '83, and Danielle Andreas '90.



REMEMBER WHEN

walking the nature trails on campus



Trail by present football field circa 1955

Interested in helping to better manage Potomac's natural resources for outdoor education?
Always wanted to walk the Nature Trail?
Want to see the new outdoor classrooms?
Or just want to dig, cut, and plant with friends and family?

If so, please join us for a half-day of fun and community service!



At Potomac's First Annual Spring Stewardship Day Saturday, April 26, 2003

This day of outdoor service will include a variety of volunteer projects that benefit Potomac's campus and create new opportunities for outdoor education for Potomac's students.

For more information or to help with event planning, please contact:
Peter Munroe, Winsor Grant Coordinator – pmunroe@potomacschool.org or
Joan Wise '82 – wisejoan@aol.com
(Details to follow by mail and via the school web site, www.potomacschool.org.)

All are welcome!

ON STAGE

performing arts

The celebration of both the visual and performing arts is a rich, longstanding and integral part of the curriculum. From kindergarten through grade 12, Potomac students engage in art, music, and theater activities, exhibiting and performing their work on a regular basis. Coursework incorporates both history and appreciation of the arts, encompassing a wide variety of world cultures. More theater photos on pages 1,4,5, and 7.



Intermediate School winter production of "Once Upon a Mattress."



Upper School autumn production of "You Can't Take It With You."



Upper School winter musical production of "Pacific Overtures."





Each returned *Term* costs The Potomac School more than \$3 in postage. Please notify the School by mail, online at potomacschool.org, or e-mail, alumni@potomacschool.org when you relocate. Thank you!



The Potomac School
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www.potomacschool.org

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