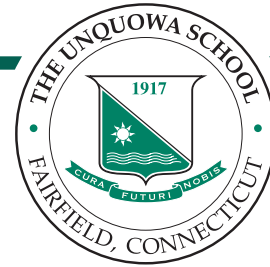


# About U.S.



A Publishing Tradition  
of The Unquowa School

## A Message from the Head of School

There are so many ways in which children develop a sense of the world's geography and their own place within it. As with all aspects of learning, that sense comes in widening circles and deepening layers of understanding as children grow and collect experiences that connect to knowledge.

The widening circles start with a child's home and neighborhood and grow in the way their school studies in geography do - which acknowledge child development by starting with immediate community in early childhood and radiating to the state, the country and the world as children grow. Of course, with the advent of GPS and the commonality of air travel often replacing road trips, much of what children used to absorb about their place in the world naturally no longer exists. Gone are most of their opportunities for following along on a folded road atlas in the car and connecting that knowledge to the maps and lists of states and capitals memorized in

school. But most children, I hope, still start their knowledge of the circles and layers of place in their own neighborhoods and could draw a visual map of or describe in words their first "world". It is the relationship children have with that first microcosm that is the reason for their deep and lasting understanding of it.

I could still today draw with great detail the neighborhood in which I lived for the first ten years of my life - where Mr. Gordon's corner store was, the names of the streets for a five block radius from my home, the path of the brook my friends and I sometime walked in on the nearby golf course and the scent of the hedge that grew along the entire length of Mrs. Fischer's house, which I passed on my way to school each day. I know that I am not alone in having retained such memories; in her book, *An American Childhood*, Annie Dillard so vividly described the details of her childhood neighborhood between Regent Square and Squirrel Hill in Pittsburgh that, when I

moved to that very neighborhood myself as an adult, I felt immediately able to navigate its streets simply from having read her book.

The sounds and smells and human interactions connected to place come not only from the scattered and repeated travel experiences that children who are fortunate enough to have them collect, but also from powerful literature and films set in their larger world and from the opportunity to meet children from other cultures who travel here. Many of our students have

not yet traveled to Russia, China, India, Uganda, Colombia, or Ireland; however, having met students from those countries at our school through Creative Connections' International Young Performers' Tours over the past few years, they have had either a first or additional layer of connection to those countries.

It is true that the wire frame of picturing and understanding the larger world is created

for children by interacting with imitations of it - using maps and globes - and by committing to memory the borders, the bodies of water and the terrain of the places which others have explored and documented in the way children explore and mentally document their own small worlds. But the deep understanding of place - that is, the aspect which makes it as real and memorable as one's own childhood neighborhood - comes from the layers of experience that cannot be as neatly presented.

Our task as parents and schools is to provide the circles and layers of geographical understanding for our children that will help them to build mental maps of the world that compare in meaning to the early ones they so naturally create of the first small worlds they know at home and school. If we can accomplish that, they will not only know their place in the world but will work to protect it as their own.

*Sharon Lauer*



*Fourth graders Noah and Mary work on their geography skills.*

# Trimester I Honor Roll

## Unquowa Honors

(no grade below A and no effort grade below 3)

### Grade 6

Ian Chapin  
Grace Haviland

### Grade 7

Keelin Fitzsimons  
Daniel Leszczynski

### Grade 8

Jennee Blanco

## Honors

(B+ average with no grade below B and and no effort below 3)

### Grade 5

Claire Abate  
Sara Adriani  
Devin Blanchette  
Elyse Cadoux  
Conner Calzone  
Eoin Fitzsimons  
Owen Gosule  
Elizabeth Halas  
Kyra Inston  
Maria Katsetos  
Maeve Kelly  
Ayana Klein  
Kailey Lauter  
Alexander Morse  
Delaney Murray  
Marissa Proto  
Madelaine Register  
Olivia Seymour  
Jackson Stalowir  
Alexander Stein  
Jae Stuhlman

Annie Lyn Sheketoff  
Spencer Solaz  
Lily Stumpf

### Grade 7

Jessica Anzalone  
Rachael Anzalone  
Justin Blanchette  
Mark D'Ostilio  
Cary DeYoung  
Gwyneth Feroletto  
Max Kaufman  
Hannah Kehoe  
Sassine Makhraz  
Jaeden McKenzie  
Michael Proto  
Patrick Tennant

### Grade 8

Kathryn Adriani  
Elizabeth Arnold  
Alexander Burdo  
Chelsea Byrd  
Sydney Girasole  
Danielle Greenawalt  
Katherine Halas  
Tatum Hughes  
Elizabeth Kremer  
Gemma Lein-McDonough  
Deborah Leszczynski  
Jack Rider  
Christopher Taylor  
Claire Tetenbaum  
Jack Weiss  
Abigail Winter

### Grade 6

Sydnee Blanco  
Michael Brennan  
Victoria Giacobbe  
Abigail Knopf  
Jace McKenzie  
Brandon Omisore  
Katherine Phelan  
Paul Pinto  
James Roland  
Rebecca Ryan  
Evangalina Scianna

# Unquowa's Iron Chef

Sharon Lauer and the winners of our Iron Chef competitions have been featured on *Connecticut Style* on channel 8.

## 2009 Winners



Seventh graders **Jessica** and **Erin** did a wonderful cooking demonstration of their winning recipes for turkey cutlets, rutabaga fries and baked seasonal vegetables. Their demonstration focused on the fries and included step-by-step instructions on how to prepare the rutabagas —including the dramatic tossing of the slices and seasonings!

## 2010 Winners



**Paul**, grade 6 and **Michael**, grade 7 demonstrated their winning recipe - homemade sausages cooked with chicken and potatoes. Paul's grandmother taught him how to make sausage and he shared the recipe with Michael to create the winning dish which they served with a fresh antipasto.

**We are looking forward to next year's competition!**

# Pet Talk

**Alex**, grade 8, was recently featured on the television show, *Pet Talk*. Alex is an avid birder and an active volunteer with the Connecticut Audubon Society and he recently received the L.L. Bean "Outdoor Hero" award.

He is pictured with his grandfather, Jim Orrico; Lauren Collier, show host; and Nelson North, the Director of the Fairfield Audubon Society.



## Unquowa Receives Glowing Review from Connecticut Association of Independent Schools

Every ten years, independent schools go through an extensive re-accreditation process with their state chapter of The National Association of Independent Schools. This process begins with a year long self-study and reflection involving all faculty, staff and Board members.

In June of 2009 we began our self study with an important discussion about our mission and motto - did they connect to each other and were they guiding our everyday work with children?

This October, the CT Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) sent a visiting team of colleagues from other CT independent schools to spend three days at Unquowa observing classes and chatting with every constituency of our school to confirm that our report truly represented what actually exists here at Unquowa.

Our school community was both ready and eager for a group of our professional peers to see our school from its own perspective and to give us the feedback that makes all schools better and keeps good schools strong.

We are happy to announce that the committee's report was positive beyond our expectations.

Below are but a few quotes from the report which we feel represent its overall evaluation.



“It became clear to us that the renaissance at Unquowa that has occurred over the last five years was not at all a matter of a new Unquowa emerging but of the school becoming more itself. Our sense has been of a harmony of purpose and a collective momentum that has led Unquowa to demonstrate that benchmark of a fine institution in full stride, the clear sense that the whole is considerably greater than the sum of parts that are excellent in themselves.”

“Providing a rich and appropriate educational and developmental experience for every child is the focus of the programs and curriculum of The Unquowa School. There is an extraordinary degree of investment on the part of all faculty and staff members in the daily success and positive growth of every child in their care.”

“Faculty members served as good models for the respectful communication and interaction they wanted to develop in their students. They create happy classrooms where children feel supported to explore new materials and take risks in their learning. Most importantly, it is the personal interaction between the teachers and their students that enables the children to develop the self confidence and ability to work independently.”

“The Unquowa School offers a strong academic program coupled with an emphasis on experiential learning that grounds its students in service to one another and the larger community.”

“The members of the committee experienced the visit as a privilege, as well as an opportunity to witness the inspiring synergy of the tireless efforts of a dedicated faculty, a determined Board and an outstanding and highly energetic Head of School, all in service of a community with a time-tested, child-centered, progressive educational culture.”

I want to publicly thank our faculty and staff, not only for the year-long preparation for this review, but more importantly for their role in making Unquowa a school we can be proud of. I also wish to thank our parent community and Board of Governors for their role in hosting and meeting with our visiting team.

*Sharon Lauer, Head of School*

## Museum Collaborative Update

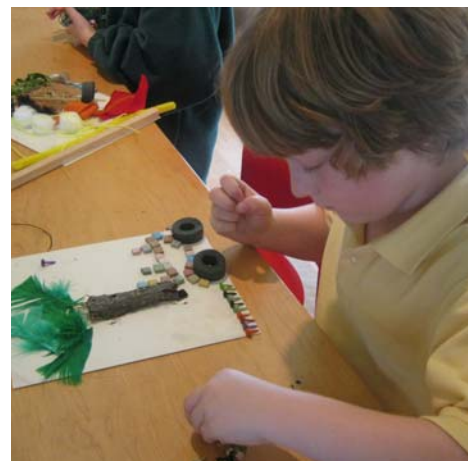
### The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum



First graders visited the Aldrich for the second workshop in a four-part series for the New Literacies program. The workshop focused on texture and began with a discussion based on their homework about texture in their homes.

Next they went on a texture collection around the museum. They took rubbings of various surfaces that would produce an interesting design. Following their collection they toured the museum to study texture in the art work.

Finally they returned to the education room to explore the texture touch boxes and create their own textured art of a cozy place in their home.



*Maureen Becker, First Grade Teacher*

### Fairfield Museum and History Center



Fifth graders participated in a clean up of the colonial herb garden at The Ogden House, an 18th century farmhouse owned and operated by the Fairfield Museum and History Center.

In conjunction with their study of colonial history, fifth graders learned about herbs and then helped restore the garden.

The morning began with a scavenger hunt. Students used photographs and written clues to identify a variety of herbs including Baptisia, comfrey, tansy, golden seal, soapwort, and thyme. They learned that herbs were used in colonial times to enhance the flavor of food and also for medicines, insecticides, and dyes. Cuttings and seed pods were collected

along the way and brought back to school for future investigation. The 5th graders spent the remainder of the day cleaning up the herb garden and a terrace of lavender, thyme, roses, and chives. Equipped with pruners, spades, and rakes, students enthusiastically took on the overwhelming task of removing weeds that had overtaken every part of the garden, including the paths. Herbs and flowers were pruned, dead material removed, beds raked, and many trips were made to the compost pile. The amount of work that was accomplished by the 5th graders was impressive. Thank you to 5th grade for cleaning up and bringing order back to the Ogden House herb garden!

*Mary Curran, Environmental Science*



### 8th Graders are Omnivores, Too

This year our eighth grade students are reading *The Omnivore's Dilemma: Young Reader's Edition* by Michael Pollan. Students have also viewed the documentary film: *King Corn*, made by two Yale graduates tracking the consolidation of American farm land and its move toward commodity production. In his book, Mr. Pollan examines the industrial food system and many of its components and breaks the system down in a way that helps students understand where their food comes from and how it is produced.

Some interesting classroom discussions have ensued and students have gained a clearer understanding of the food and farming system here in the United States, as well as the purchasing practice and food preparation values employed in our school's Farm to Fork Dining Program.

*Dan Lawrence, Wellness Coordinator*

## Launch of The Campaign for Unquowa

At this year's Annual Meeting we officially launched The Campaign for Unquowa - a three year \$3 million effort to improve our school's campus and strengthen its endowment. The Campaign Steering Committee has been laying the groundwork for this

project for over a year and we are thrilled to now be out talking to people in the Unquowa community about the exciting vision Sharon and the Board have for our school.

This campaign will not change the core values, size and structure of The Unquowa School that we all know so well. Rather, it will provide the resources we need to bring our facilities and endowment to the same high level of excellence as our programming and academics.

Together we will do this through renovations and modest improvements to our small campus - a permanent performance space, a state of the art playing field, renovations to our dining room, new performing arts classrooms and an expanded and renovated science lab, to name a few. By significantly strengthening the endowment, the campaign will also provide the resources necessary to support bold and innovative programming decisions, teacher salaries, professional development and financial aid.

As a mother of three Unquowa students, I know how important these early years of education are. My daughters are receiving a rigorous academic foundation in a setting that feels like their second home - a place where they are learning what it means to be a valued member of a community, to help others, to take responsibility and to enjoy learning.

Parent, grandparent, alumni and Board volunteers will be reaching out to each of you in the coming months to answer your questions about The Campaign for Unquowa and to ask you to join us. I hope you will.

You can learn more about the goals of The Campaign for Unquowa, see concept drawings from our team at Centerbrook Architects and follow our progress on the Unquowa website [www.unquowa.org](http://www.unquowa.org). If you want to talk to us before we connect with you, feel free to contact me at [joanpanagos@yahoo.com](mailto:joanpanagos@yahoo.com) or our Director of Development, Kate Stookey Haviland, at [khaviland@unquowa.org](mailto:khaviland@unquowa.org) or 203-336-9091.

Over the years Unquowa has not asked its alumni and former families for support very often. I ask you to let this be Unquowa's time.

*Joan Panagos, Chair, The Campaign for Unquowa*

Learn more and keep up to date at [www.unquowa.org/the-campaign](http://www.unquowa.org/the-campaign)



### Campaign Parent Volunteer Committee

Co-Chairs  
Steve Halas  
Sally McNeela

Tom Abate & Kim Stevens  
Glenn & Joanne Blanchette  
Paul & Mindee Blanco  
Marilynn Halas  
Steve & Gen Halloran  
Kris & Donna Hansen  
Sandy Haviland  
Carl Horton &  
Kristin duBay Horton  
Malcolm & Marianna Inston  
Steve & Gina Jones  
Fred & Lisa Knopf  
Josh Kremer &  
Marcie Lapido  
Sharon Lauter  
Paul & Andrea Pinto  
Anne Tetenbaum  
Joel & Ciara Whidden

### Naming Opportunities Generously Spoken For!

Joan & Steven Panagos  
Upper School Science Lab

Deirdre & Shane  
Fitzsimons  
Music Classroom

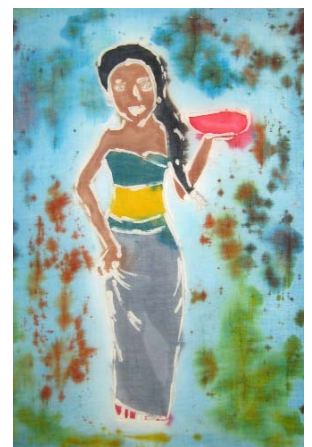
*Thank you!*

## Balinese Batiks



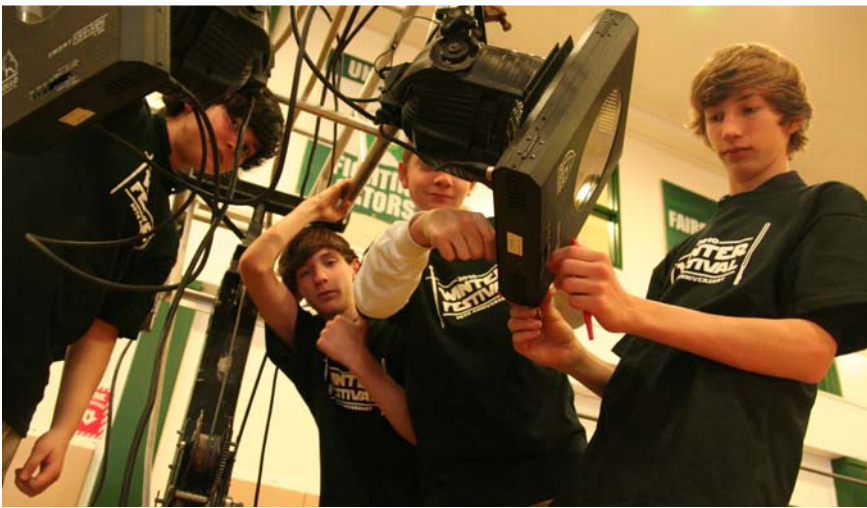
Art teacher, Krissy Sabol, has been teaching students some of the techniques she acquired this summer in Bali\* for their recent batik projects. Batik originated in Indonesia and today it is a popular artistic medium as well as a way to decorate fabric for clothing. Hot melted wax is applied to a clean cloth to protect the fibers from dye in a specific pattern. Artists alternate between wax and dye until they have layered the cloth with all of their colors and patterns. The fabric is then dipped in a chemical and hot water bath to remove all traces of the wax and to reveal the design. The students studied many traditional Balinese paintings and hand carved masks for inspiration.

\*Through Unquowa's Virginia F. Birdsall grant, Ms. Sabol spent 3 weeks in Bali last summer living and learning alongside professional Balinese artists.



# 30th Winter Festival 2010 - *From a Galaxy Far, Far Away*





## Athletics

**B**asketball is alive and well at Unquowa! We have 75 participants in our basketball program; 38 of whom are on the Green Teams waiting to fill in for our graduating eighth graders next year. We can feel secure that our program will be strong for years to come.

Coach Lawrence and Coach Mitchell are teaching the Boys White Varsity squad a new motion offense that they are working hard to master. The boys are quick learners and their commitment and dedication is resulting in victories.

The Girls White Varsity is a dedicated and persistent bunch that does not give up. Each one of the girls has taken on new responsibilities and they have prepared hard to become a well-schooled squad.

Coach Burton and Coach Lauren are training the Green squads diligently as they prepare to go to the next level.

They are learning to pick and roll, give and go and all of them know how to defend an opponent. Finally, we would like to thank all of our fans for cheering for us! Go Gators!



*Coach B, Director of Athletics*

## Student Representatives: The Voice of Their Classmates

**T**he Unquowa Student representatives are elected by their classmates each year to act as liaisons between our school's administration and the student body. Students gather information and requests from their constituents (fellow students) and then present this data to faculty intermediaries, Mrs. Burton and Mr. Lawrence.

Student representatives have played a significant role in impacting a review of the lunch menus this year by suggesting helpful and specific modifications, while taking into account the core tenets of the Farm to Fork Program. Examples of other suggestions being considered are: a school spelling bee, a system for synchronizing all of the school's clocks and Green Sock Day; just to name a few.

The most important dynamic stressed by the faculty leaders is that as representatives of the student body, it is important that students have potential solutions to issues in mind, not simply the issues. Students are learning about compromise in the democratic process and at the same time growing as citizens and future leaders. Congratulations to all of our student reps and their alternates!

*Dan Lawrence & LaVern Burton*

## Welcome Ms. Eckersley

**O**ur school is happy to welcome **Fiona Eckersley** to The Unquowa School community. While we are sorry to say goodbye to PreK-4 teacher Carrie Lawrence, who is relocating with her husband to North Carolina, we were happy to have Ms Eckersley join us the month prior to Mrs Lawrence's departure to provide for a seamless transition for our four year olds.

Ms. Eckersley received her Bachelor's degree at Westhill College in Birmingham, England and began her teaching career as a fifth grade teacher at Wykeham Junior School in Hornchurch, England. Fiona also taught at The Spence School in New York City and spent four years teaching PreK at Hunt Ridge Montessori. Most recently, she served as a permanent substitute at Fairfield Country Day School.



## Puzzle Success



**Spencer and James**, sixth graders, solved the the Bedlam cube! Mrs. Haseltine reported that the last time it was solved here at Unquowa was four years ago. Congratulations!

## From the UPA

The first half of our school year has been incredibly busy for the Unquowa Parents Association and we have no intention of slowing down! Recent months saw numerous UPA sponsored activities from a successful Book Fair, well-attended Lower and Upper School socials, and an enjoyable night out for our parents at the Autumn Evening Wine Tasting. Additionally, this year the UPA not only underwrote the cost of the "WinterFeast", but took a hands-on (literally) approach in creating what we now affectionately call "Sugarpalooza"! We would like to thank the many volunteers who made each of these events possible. None of these things happen without time, talent and dedication. We recognize your efforts and want you to know you are appreciated!

Having just hosted a very entertaining Family Fun Night in January, we are now looking forward to creating a little March Magic! The **annual spring fundraiser will be held this year on March 12**. This event is our major fundraiser of the year and enables us to continue to support, underwrite and gift the school in many ways that directly affect our children. We encourage you to mark your calendars and plan on joining us for a fantastic evening of "Denim, Diamonds, and Dancing". Pull out your favorite jeans, your shiniest bling and your dancing shoes!

This night is never possible without the help of many parents and we are counting on everyone's support. There are numerous ways in which you can help the Auction Committee ensure the success of this evening. If you have not yet volunteered, now is the perfect time. Please contact Mindee Blanco (mblanco2@metlife.com) or Mary Jean Basilio (mjbasileo@aol.com).

A special note of thanks to our volunteers from last year's auction. The monies raised last year are still impacting our school in positive ways. If you have not recently been in the dining room, please stop by to see the latest gift from the UPA made possible with the funds raised last year. All of the dishes and silverware, brand new and in a rainbow of colors, are a daily reminder of the impact we can have. So Bravo to last year's volunteers. We are equally excited to invite each of you to come and be a part of this year's team. Don't let this opportunity pass you by ... See you there!

**Irene Brennan & Kim Proto**  
UPA Co-Presidents

## Marine Biologists



PreK-3 students completed a study of the skeletal system of a porgy fish and compared it to a lobster and clam. The hands-on lesson provided them the opportunity to study the fish closely and make observations such as:

"The clam was hard but the inside was soft".

The porgy was "soft outside, had bones inside and had sharp little teeth".

The lobster was "scary, had big claws and a floppy tail".

It was rewarding to hear so many interesting comments by our future marine biologists.

**Mrs. Shannon**  
PreK-3 Teacher



## Geography Bee



This year's winner of our National Geographic Bee was eighth grader, **Vikram**, (center); second place went to fifth grader, **Delaney**, (left); third place went to fifth grader, **Derek** (right). Congratulations!

# Alumni Enjoy a Special Winterfest Reception

In celebration of our 30th Winter Festival production, we invited all Unquowa alumni to a reception in the school library before the evening show. Almost 40 alums from graduating years 1996 - 2010 attended. They had a great time catching up with each other and going through old yearbooks and Winter Festival programs. Faculty members who remembered the alumni as young students took time away from the hustle of pre-production activity upstairs to come join the party.

A special section of reserved seating for alumni and former Winter Festival royalty made it possible for them to sit together for the show. It was great to have them rise as one at the end to lead the entire school in our traditional dance - *Simple Gifts* - The Lord of The Dance.

The overall alumni response to the show was terrific... "That was one of the best ever!" "The little kids were adorable!" "I was so glad to see that all the traditional parts of Winterfest are still a part of the show."

The reception was such a success that we'll do it again next year. Mark your calendars now — Thursday, December 15, 2011.



Checking out old Winterfest programs, photos, and yearbooks



Dan Ashford, '96, Randye Kaye Ashford, former drama teacher



Brad Topar '99, Eric Haseltine '99



Ali Ashford '99, Mrs. Bruno, Mrs. Haseltine



Amy Greenberg '10, Greg Weiner '10, Mackenzie Murray '10



Caitlyn Elliott '08, Jason Raymond '08, Matt Watson '10, Stephen Cadoux '10, Mrs. Leidlein, Andres Ayala '10, Charlie Haviland '10, Bailey Cooke '10



Mrs. Sabatini, Nadia Makhraz '09, Grace Carapezzi '10



Katherine Viteretto '10, Peta Gay Clayton '10



Andres Ayala '10, Tristan Schietinger '10, Mackenzie Murray '10



Leading the Lord of the Dance: Ali Ashford '99, Lauren Tennant '99, Dan Ashford '96, Brian Weber '97



Darth Vader, the Mystery Alum



Mary Watson '07, Jason Raymond '08, Randye Kaye

# Alumni News

**Sarah LeMieux**, who attended Unquowa in the 90's, writes "It was an excellent first experience of school for me, and one that laid the groundwork for a genuine love of learning and intellectual exploration." Sarah is finishing her masters in Educational Psychology at the University of Connecticut and teaching music.

**Haley Neidich, '97**, is former Winter Festival royalty and was sorry to miss the 30th anniversary of the show. She works as a mental health clinician at the Yale Child Study Center in New Haven.

**Maggie Proctor, '00**, is working as an intern in the Near East section of an NGO called Freedom House, in Washington, D.C. Freedom House monitors civil rights and democratic processes around the world. Maggie finds the work interesting and challenging.

**Nat Proctor, '02**, is a senior at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, where he is studying history and art history. Over the past year or so, he has been part of a group of university students who raised money for a charity called Childreach which supports schools and medical clinics for children in Nepal and Africa. Childreach also sponsors trips for the university students



Nat and some of his group visit one of the Childreach Projects - a school for the mentally disabled in Nepal.



**Grace Carapezzi, Mackenzie Murray, and Bailey Cooke**, all from the class of 2010, stopped by to visit with their Unquowa teachers and to catch up with old friends. All three girls are high school freshman: Grace is at Pomfret School, Bailey is at Fairfield Warde High School and Mackenzie is at Fairfield Ludlowe High School.



who participate in the fundraising. Nat and a group of fellow university students visited Nepal and one of the Childreach projects there - a school for mentally disabled children. His group also hiked the Annapurna Base Camp trek, which the Lonely Planet guide calls the best and most beautiful trek in Nepal. Nat noted that "the hiking was challenging and fun, the trails were brilliant and not too crowded and the views were incredible. All in all, it was one of the best hikes I have ever done or probably will ever do in my life. The trip was amazing and life-changing."



The Americans on the hike - Nat is on the left.

**Keep in touch!**  
 Please contact Kate Haviland in our Development & Alumni Office! [khaviland@unquowa.org](mailto:khaviland@unquowa.org)




**Laurent Firlotte, '07**, (pictured here holding the ball with his coach) plays basketball at Hopkins School where he is being recognized for surpassing the 1,000 point plateau in his high school basketball career — an awesome achievement! Congratulations Laurent; keep up the sharp shooting.



# THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

*Cura Futuri Nobis ~  
The Future is in Our Care.*

## Take-A-Look at Unquowa

Take-A-Look Days provide prospective parents the opportunity to see our classrooms and get a sense of our school's atmosphere. Ms. Lauer meets the group to answer any questions. "Take-A-Look Days" begin at 9:00 a.m. and last about an hour and a half. Our online calendar includes all the upcoming dates:

**Tuesday, 2/15**  
**Thursday, 2/24**  
**Tuesday, 3/1**

*Suellen Hansen*  
*Director of Admissions*

## Class of 2001 10 Year Reunion



## *Save the Date*

Thursday, June 2, 2011

*Details to follow.*

## Annual Fund

Thank you to those who have already given to this year's annual fund. By providing vital support to our operating budget every year, the annual fund has an impact in every classroom.

We hope you will join us and help us reach our goal of \$115,000 with 100% participation from current Unquowa families.

Pledges and gifts can be made through June 30, 2011 online at [www.unquowa.org](http://www.unquowa.org) or by returning the enclosed envelope. Thank you!

*Laura Baytos,*  
*Annual Fund Chair*