



Summer 2012

# ST. PATRICK'S PRESS

PISCOPAL  
SCHOOL

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Faculty and Staff Awards

Day School Graduates Tenth Grade 8 Class

Congratulations, Grade 6 Graduates

Alumni Profile, Class Notes





*Graduating Grade 8 students Sam D. (left) and Madison E., friends and The Wiz co-stars, wait behind the scenes as family and friends gather for the Graduation Ceremony.*



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*Photo above: The eight students above are St. Patrick's "lifers," having entered the Day School in Nursery or PK.*

*On the Cover: Graduating Grade 8 students smile as they prepare to lead the graduation procession.*

# ST. PATRICK'S PRESS

## SUMMER 2012

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*Graduating Grade 6 students Drew and John Paul are beaming after receiving their diplomas.*



# A “Long, Various, and Interesting” List of Treasures: Concluding a School Year

The *St. Patrick's Press* generally operates at the intersection of program and people. That is, its pages offer what we hope is a vibrant and interesting mix of articles about what is going on here at the Day School—broadly stated, our program—and the wonderful individuals—faculty and staff, students, parents, and friends—who animate that program in so many different ways and actually make it happen.

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*Peter A. Barrett*  
Head of School

The summer edition of the *Press*, however, always seems to me to tip toward the people. There are three events captured in these pages that tend to make it so: May's Chapel Honoring Faculty and Staff and June's Grade 6 and Grade 8 Graduations. These important moments in our shared lives honor and celebrate the lead actors, our students and faculty and staff, in the process of teaching and learning that defines St. Patrick's as an institution and, in turn, shapes each of those individuals in profound and lasting ways.

There is a fourth event—actually a matched pair of events, the Nursery School and Kindergarten to Grade 8 Closing Chapels on the final day of the school year—that we cover less abundantly in these pages that honors and celebrates those amazing supporting actors, our parents and volunteers, who have given so much of themselves to enable that process of teaching and learning to unfold as effectively as it does. Indeed, our parents, grandparents, and friends help create and sustain—and become welcome and vital participants in—a real culture of teaching and learning.

In their remarks celebrating retiring Head of Lower School Gretchen Spencer, colleagues Nancy White and Dan Spector remind us of Gretchen's affection for Lev Vygotsky's observation, “Children grow into the intellectual life of those around them.” What a powerful way to think about our responsibilities as educators and parents, to consider what a school might look like, and to assess our performance along the way!

If the summer edition of the *Press* indeed tips toward the people, it does so because the individuals we spotlight understand so well, like Gretchen, the responsibilities we share. They include PK teacher Lisa Merotto and Grade 2 teacher Jan Nelson, who received the Love of Teaching Award and the O'Neil-Carew Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching, respectively, and retiring Director of Nursery School Admission and former Head of Nursery School Pat Spector, who received the inaugural Jeff Keffer Service Award. And they include the 30 members of the Day School faculty and staff, from virtually every corner of this busy place, honored by the Parents Association in anniversary years of service totaling close to four centuries.

But we also refer to the summer edition as the “graduation edition” of the *Press* because of its focus on the graduating classes of Grade 6 and Grade 8, this year including close to 70 young men and women who have meant so much to all of us here at St. Patrick's. Fortunately, most of the Grade 6 Class of 2012 will continue on to our MacArthur Campus. For the Grade 8 Class of 2012, our tenth MacArthur Campus graduating class, the days of their daily presence here at St. Patrick's—their energetic, intelligent, questioning, challenging, delightful, daily presence—concluded on a Friday evening in June in the Nave.

In addressing the Grade 8 graduates, another individual whose delightful daily presence at St. Patrick's was coming to an end invited them to consider what they most treasure at this “moment of departure,” relying on Irish poet Thomas Kinsella's “Ritual of Departure.” “Of course,” Pat Spector told them, capturing that heady mix of aspirations and intentions, of passions and pos-

sibilities in a vibrant culture of teaching and learning, “I hope the list of your treasures is long, various, and interesting. I hope that there are many things that you treasure and will take with you. I hope these include the kinds of things that your parents wanted for you when they chose St. Patrick’s, the kinds of things that your teachers have worked so diligently to put in place, and the kinds of things you want for yourselves going forward.” (Pat named deep friendships and a moral foundation as two treasures that all of the members of the Grade 8 Class of 2012 could well be taking with them.)

Before we depart the 2011–2012 school year—and this edition of the *Press* certainly suggests that you linger awhile—I would like to recap some of its highlights. Of course, the Dedication and Ribbon-Cutting that marked the official opening in April of the Foxhall Campus athletic field, the Day School’s first of regulation size, provided an exclamation point for an exceptional year. Making that sparkling new facility possible—for our lacrosse teams in the spring and this year, our first full year with this turf playing field available to us, for our interscholastic and intramural soccer and lacrosse teams as well as for our physical education classes for students beginning in Grade 3—was the community’s generous support for the \$8-million campaign, A Broader Vision. In surpassing that ambitious goal, parents, grandparents, alumni, parents of alumni, faculty and staff, and friends made possible the \$6.3-million facility (including the field, stadium, and infrastructure and road improvements) while also strengthening the capital base of the institution through the reduction of debt.

A glorious event like the Dedication and Ribbon-Cutting, attended by close to 900 members of the St. Patrick’s community, represents one way to capture just what an exceptional year it was. And there were also the quieter, more personal, maybe more incremental achievements made by individual students working hard with their classmates and teachers, or maybe on their own, as they strived to learn more about things that challenged, interested, and engaged them and to get better at what they do. The unwavering focus on and respect for children demonstrated by our community’s vigorous support for A Broader Vision are similarly evident in the way we value these crucial individual steps, however tentative they may be.


At its very heart, a strong culture of teaching and learning supports that kind of individual growth and achievement with a determination to develop each student to his/her fullest potential. Indeed, such a culture or community exists for that very purpose, encouraging and supporting young people in deepening their thinking, improving their skills, and finding and expressing their distinctive voices in an array of areas—in the academic classroom, in the art studios and music rooms, and in performances so richly varied. For our youngest students, those performances included the Nursery and PK music programs and Kindergarten Circus. For our oldest students, they

included the Recitation Contest, Grades 5 and 6 Spring Musical, and Grades 7 and 8 Performing and Studio Arts Night, which comprised a fabulous production of *The Wiz* by the Grade 8 musical theatre students and their studio arts counterparts’ exhibit, *Scales Count: Every, Any, All, Some, None*.

Athletically, our girls junior varsity soccer team finished in first place in the regular season and in second place in the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC) Tournament, the boys junior varsity cross country team placed third in the CAC meet, the boys junior varsity basketball team finished third in the regular season and the CAC Tournament, and the boys junior varsity lacrosse team finished 8–1 this year, including the first-ever win on the Foxhall Campus field, and had a combined 15–2 record over the last two years. At the spring fair of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal School Association, held at St. Albans School this year, St. Patrick’s exhibited another form of dominance, taking first place in Grades 4 to 6 science, Grades 7 and 8 science, Grades 4 to 6 two-dimensional art, Grades 7 and 8 two-dimensional art, and Grades 7 and 8 three-dimensional art, and also earning two second-place awards and one third-place award in art.

I opened with a supposed distinction between people and program, but I’d like to close with an admission that there is no real distinction between the two, if indeed we strive to create and sustain a vibrant culture of teaching and learning. The people, the individuals—students and faculty and staff and parents—whom we have spotlighted in this edition of the *Press* are superb representatives of those who have created that program, breathed their life and spirit into it, and given voice to the array of perspectives that enrich it.

For example, this characterization of the recipient of this year’s Love of Teaching Award by a colleague may at first seem to be about the person, but that person is ultimately revealed through the culture of teaching and learning she creates in her classroom: “When she speaks about her students, it is clear that not only does she *understand* them as souls, but she seeks to *honor* who they are through her interactions with them. [Her] classroom, aside from its physical existence as part of the St. Patrick’s plant, is not a fixed point, but rather it is a kind of world that is made and remade through [her] efforts to channel her students’ best selves—to open the doors that already exist inside them and help them walk through.”

As we reflect on, and celebrate, the 2011–2012 school year, please know how grateful we are to all of you for helping to make such a culture, such a world possible—rangy and fluid, engaging and challenging—and always with a deep commitment to the individual child. We look forward to resuming this critical work with you in the 2012–2013 school year. 



## FOXHALL CAMPUS DELL DEDICATED



In an intimate ceremony following the May 18 Chapel Honoring Faculty and Staff, the Day School dedicated the 1.53-acre Foxhall Campus Dell to the memory of Jeff Keffer, a St. Patrick's parent, Trustee, volunteer, and beloved friend who died suddenly in January 2011. A stone bench (pictured above) was placed on a high point overlooking the Dell, an area permanently designated as green space, to mark the memorial. As part of an initiative to celebrate Jeff's contributions to the life of St. Patrick's, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution earlier this year setting aside the Jeff Keffer Memorial Dell as a place of quiet and reflection. Jeff's family and friends joined Head of School Peter A. Barrett and Board Chair Jane Korhonen in inaugurating this lasting tribute to Jeff's legacy.

The Dell dedication followed the presentation of the first Jeff Keffer Service Award—this year to retiring Nursery School Admission Director and former longtime Head of Nursery School Pat Spector—which will be awarded annually to a member of the faculty and staff who “has demonstrated, over time, that understanding of and commitment to this place, that dedication to the quality of the experience of the young people who animate this place, and that yearning for excellence that shaped Jeff's life in service to St. Patrick's.” (See full story on page 10.)

The Board resolution reads as follows: “Whereas, the Board of Trustees wishes to recognize his many years of dedicated and selfless service to St. Patrick's, the innumerable lives he touched, his kindness, encouragement, good humor, wise advice, and positive attitude. Whereas, the Board of Trustees wishes to recognize the integral role he played in the acquisition of and planning for the development of the Foxhall Campus. Whereas, the Board of Trustees wishes to honor and celebrate his life and create a permanent memorial to his memory. Whereas, his love of farming, sustainability, and the outdoors make fitting an outdoor memorial. Let it be resolved to dedicate the acreage of permanent green space on the Foxhall Campus to the life of Jeffrey Michael Keffer, to be known as the Jeff Keffer Memorial Dell.”

## WOLFHOUND WATCH: SPRING SPORTS WRAP-UP

The stars of the spring lacrosse season—the first of many to be played on St. Patrick's brand new regulation-size athletic field—were the members of the boys junior varsity team. This group of talented athletes finished their season with an 8-1 record, outscoring their opponents by an extraordinary 92-32. Rising Grade 7 students Benjamin D., Tayte D., Halsey M., and Julius T. rounded out their junior varsity lacrosse careers with a remarkable 15-2 record.



Less successful but no less determined this season were the girls varsity and junior varsity lacrosse teams. The varsity team, led by a number of experienced Grade 8 students, showed dramatic improvement over the course of the season. While unable to turn that momentum into wins, the girls finished their season with nail-biters against Washington Episcopal, Langley, and Potomac. Players from the girls junior varsity team, who also experienced a difficult season, were called up to the varsity team for the last games of the season.

Members of the track and field team had a successful spring. They competed well in the Capital Athletic Conference meet on April 30, and Wolfhounds consistently finished in the top three in various events. In their final meet at Avenel Park in Potomac against the McLean School, Grace Episcopal, and Christ Episcopal, the Wolfhounds took first place 22 times, second place 10 times, and third place 11 times. Congratulations to all our Wolfhounds!

**Photo above:** Then-Grade 5 student Charlie C. (left) dodges an attack by a player from Washington Episcopal School during the junior varsity game on May 16. **Photo left:** Goalie and then-Grade 8 student Katherine B. makes a dramatic save during a girls varsity game against Sandy Spring Friends School.



## GRADES 7 & 8 ARTS NIGHT

The sixth annual Grades 7 and 8 Performing and Studio Arts Night showcased the variety of talent possessed by students at the MacArthur Campus. Those students have the opportunity to specialize halfway through the school year in studio art or musical theatre, culminating in an exhibition of both at Arts Night. Three Grade 8 students—Marcus D., Penn D., and Brendan O.—showcased their art in an exhibition coordinated by art teacher Kyu-Jin Lee titled *Scales Count*:



*Every, Any, All, Some, None.* Each student's display highlighted his best work from throughout the year, during which each created a substantial portfolio.

The balance of the Grade 8 class worked with 13 Grade 7 students to present an extraordinary rendition of *The Wiz*, a modern adaptation of the timeless *Wizard of Oz*. With leading roles played by Sam D., Madison E., Tré J., Gareth N., and Wesley P., the production was spirited and entertaining. Under the guiding hand of Grades 7 and 8 music teacher Anne Tyler, the students performed more than a dozen choreographed musical numbers on a student-designed set. Congratulations to all our student artists and performers!

**Photo above, left:** Then-Grade 8 student Marcus D.'s art piece, titled *Double Rainbow All the Way*, was showcased during Arts Night and is also featured in the *St. Patrick's Art Calendar*.

**Photo below:** Then-Grade 8 students (from left to right) Mollie T., Nora C., Carson P., and Aidan K. perform in *The Wiz*.



## GRADES 5 & 6 MUSICAL

Continuing a St. Patrick's tradition that spans more than 40 years, students in Grades 5 and 6 impressed audiences with a musical production once again, this spring with a rendition of *The Empress's New Clothes*. Every student in Grades 5 and 6 participated as a member of either the cast or crew, with two different student lineups for each of the two nighttime performances.

Students worked under the direction of music teacher Laura Petersen to bring the familiar story, in which three con artists—Wart, Hog, and Bacon—clothe the empress in “magic” cloth that only few can see, to life. Physical education teacher Marcy Ference choreographed the show and oversaw the creation of the actors' costumes. Thank you to the many volunteers who made the production a success, and congratulations to all the actors!

**Photo above:** Then-Grade 6 students Colin R. and Maggie R. in the Grades 5 and 6 production of *The Empress's New Clothes*.





## St. Patrick's Welcomes Horizons Students for Third Summer


Each morning, students leapt off the school bus and bounced down the stairs, full of enthusiasm and ready to start the day at Horizons. Offering high-fives and hugs, students raced to their classrooms, ready to engage in the activities their teachers had planned.

St. Patrick's was equally excited to welcome back 60 rising Grades 1-4 students from Bancroft Elementary School in Mount Pleasant for our third summer as a Horizons host site. Horizons Greater Washington, and the national network of which it is a part, is a summer-based intervention that helps low-income students continue learning at a time when they might otherwise experience a decline in their academic development. St. Patrick's joined Maret School, the Washington area's first and longtime host site, to create Horizons Greater Washington in the summer of 2009. Norwood School joined Horizons Greater Washington the following summer.

This summer, students received exceptional instruction from current and former St. Patrick's teachers Annie Miller (Grade 1), Ben Hoover (incoming Grade 4 teacher), Jenny Hoshaw (former Grade 3 teacher), and Melissa Moye (retired Grade 1 teacher). Music teacher Laura

Petersen was the program's Interim Site Director. With the support of this talented teaching staff and a number of alumni working as Horizons Assistant Teachers (see *listing and photo on p. 31*), Horizons students have demonstrated significant growth in their reading levels and in their writing and math skills.

In addition to their academic growth, Horizons students also greatly improved their skills in the pool, attending daily lessons taught by swim instructors from Summer at St. Patrick's. They also ventured out on weekly field trips to destinations such as the local fire station and Safeway, Glen Echo Park, Imagination Stage, the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, the National Zoo, and a nature walk in Glover Archbold Park.

Our third summer hosting a Horizons Greater Washington site has been successful and full of enjoyable adventures—including a massive storm that left students and teachers alike without power in the program's second week. Thank you to the many St. Patrick's community members who volunteered their time to read with the children and assist with lunch. We can't wait to see our Horizons students across the upcoming school year and again next summer! 

### What is Horizons?

Horizons is a summer-based intervention that helps low-income students continue learning at a time when they might otherwise experience a decline in their academic development.

As a host site and member of Horizons Greater Washington since 2009, St. Patrick's worked this summer with 60 students in Grades 1-4 from Bancroft Elementary School in Mount Pleasant in this public-private partnership.

### How Can I Get Involved?

Send an email to:

St. Patrick's Horizons Advisory Committee Co-Chairs

**Noreen Paul** at [ncpaul8800@hotmail.com](mailto:ncpaul8800@hotmail.com)

**Roxanne Little** at [roxlittle@pincusdc.com](mailto:roxlittle@pincusdc.com)

or St. Patrick's Site Director

**Laura Petersen** at [PetersenL@stpatdc.org](mailto:PetersenL@stpatdc.org)



*In each edition of the Press, we bring you sketches of current Day School faculty and staff. In this issue, we bring you excerpts of the remarks made honoring several faculty and staff, some departing or retiring, at the Chapel Honoring Faculty and Staff on May 18.*

**Photo:** Jan Nelson (left) is joined by retired music teacher Amelia Carew (second from left) and former Head of Lower School Mardy O'Neil—longtime St. Patrick's educators for whom the fellowship is named—and Head of School Peter A. Barrett.



## O'Neil-Carew Fellowship: Grade 2 Teacher Jan Nelson

The O'Neil-Carew Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching offers St. Patrick's faculty members an opportunity to seek funding for projects they would like to undertake to make a significant contribution to the quality of teaching in general and their own—and colleagues'—teaching here at St. Patrick's.

The 2012–2013 school year is the fifteenth year in which the fellowship has been available, and this year's recipient is the eleventh to be named an O'Neil-Carew Fellow, an award established by the Board of Trustees in honor of two longtime St. Patrick's educators who contributed so much to the life of this place and deeply valued professional development as a means of enriching that life. Recipients have demonstrated in their teaching and their participation in the overall professional life of St. Patrick's a commitment to growing professionally as they improve the curriculum they shape for students.

The 2012–2013 O'Neil-Carew Fellow will travel to Alaska's Inside Passage to complete her in-depth study of the three tribal areas of American Indians in the Grade 2 curriculum—Eastern Woodlands, Plains, and Pacific Northwest Coastal. Her plan is to redesign the Pacific Northwest Coastal Indians unit to include a hands-on project approach and to enrich the unit through the addition of a variety of photographic, video, musical, and other resources. Her journey will begin in Ketchikan, Alaska, and conclude eight days later in Sitka. The Tlingit and Haida tribes live predominantly in this area, and theirs is a particularly rich culture artistically. Their work, she tells us, is easily recognized, as they make uniquely

characteristic totem poles and wood carvings out of the tall cedar trees indigenous to the area. This area is also home to an extraordinary wealth of animals and natural wonders. Following the eight-day trip, the recipient will continue on to Juneau to visit the Alaska State Museum to see their collection of Northwest Coast baskets and then via the Alaska Railroad to Seward and the Kenai Fjords National Park.

The Grade 2 curriculum uses, as its guiding question for each culture, "How did the people of this culture provide their basic needs—shelter, food, clothing, transportation—by using the natural resources available to them?" Redesigning the curriculum around photographic images and other resources, now rather sparse and difficult to secure, will highlight the natural resources and varied geography of the area, the wealth of animals in the sea and the danger of relying on whales for food, and the comparatively quite sophisticated architecture of the plank houses Northwest Coastal Indians built.

I am pleased to honor the 2012–2013 O'Neil-Carew Fellow, a 20-year member of the faculty of St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, whose service to St. Patrick's, to her students, and to her colleagues fully captures the spirit of the O'Neil-Carew Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching: Jan Nelson. 🍀

*These remarks were delivered by Head of School Peter A. Barrett at the Chapel Honoring Faculty and Staff on May 18.*





**Photo:** Lisa Merotto (seated, left) tests out the captain's chair that comes with her selection as the winner of the Love of Teaching Award in Honor of Mark Humphreys. Lisa also receives a stipend to use for personal or professional development.

## Love of Teaching Award: PK Teacher Lisa Merotto

Four years ago, a group of parents initiated a conversation with us about ways to honor then-Grade 3 teacher Mark Humphreys' contributions to St. Patrick's. The outcome was that a named fund was created to recognize Mark and thank him for his service to the Day School. This fund, the Love of Teaching Award in Honor of Mark Humphreys, provides a new recipient each year with a stipend to augment his/her individual class's instructional program or personal professional development opportunities during that year.

Each year, we invite nominations of potential honorees for the Love of Teaching Award from members of the faculty and staff for consideration by the Division Heads, who in turn make a recommendation to the Head of School. To recognize the recipient further, an anonymous donor purchased and donated to the Day School a wooden captain's chair with the St. Patrick's logo. The chair is given to the honored educator for the year for use in her/his classroom or office.

Here are the qualities we set forth for nominees for the Love of Teaching Award: a dedication and determination to help each child develop to his/her fullest potential; a clear sense of teaching as a craft at which the nominee always strives to get better; a determination and willingness to find what works for each student; an understanding of the importance of collaboration with colleagues; and, the conviction that the best students s/he has ever taught are those who are currently in his/her class.

We ask faculty and staff who are nominating someone for the Love of Teaching Award to write a brief statement as to how that particular individual displays those qualities. About this year's recipient, one colleague wrote, "I am constantly struck by what a deeply intuitive person she is, so wise about the human heart. When she speaks about her students, it is clear that not only does she *understand* them as souls, but she seeks to honor who they

are through her interactions with them. [Her] classroom, aside from its physical existence as part of the St. Patrick's plant, is not a fixed point, but rather it is a kind of world that is made and remade through [her] efforts to channel her students' best selves—to open the doors that already exist inside them and help them walk through."

As another colleague, who describes this teacher as a "trusted and kind colleague . . . [who] believes in the infinite value of each child," said, "[She] brings a deep commitment to the magic of a child's line of inquiry. Her work in the classroom as guide to this inquiry is evident in so many of the units her students engage in each year. From the exploration of building and architecture to the recent unit she did on Leonardo Da Vinci and inventions, [she] believes that children can think and explore, and it is therefore her job to create an environment that allows for that inspiration and growth."

As one colleague said, "She reminds me a bit of her favorite character from Tove Jansson's *Moomintroll* series, Snufkin, who says, 'Today we must do something very special, for it will be a glorious day.' It's not something Snufkin says only on special occasions—it's his philosophy of every day. I can just picture [her] saying this to each child entering her classroom every day of the school year, because I know she believes it to be true every day. What a gift it is to her students that she does!"

That individual, the recipient of the Love of Teaching Award for the 2012–2013 school year, is our PK3 teacher, Lisa Merotto. 🍀

*These remarks were delivered by Head of School Peter A. Barrett at the Chapel Honoring Faculty and Staff on May 18.*

**Photo:** Pat Spector (center), retiring Nursery School Admission Director and former longtime Head of Nursery School, was awarded the inaugural Jeff Keffer Service Award for her innumerable contributions to the life of the Day School. She is pictured here with Elizabeth Keffer, wife of the late Jeff Keffer, and Head of School Peter A. Barrett.



## Pat Spector Honored with First Jeff Keffer Service Award

There are many factors that make schools—especially great schools like St. Patrick’s—seem like complex organizations and, in many ways, they are. But they are also rather simple organizations, thriving on face-to-face interaction and shoulder-to-shoulder collaboration, with the efforts of individuals—students, faculty and staff, parents—directly influencing the health and vitality of the whole.

Today, we remember—and honor—a man who appreciated those many complexities at the same time that he recognized and acted upon the otherwise simple understandings that shape this place. Jeff Keffer was an individual who clearly understood that each of us must work to make human institutions, relationships, and situations better than they were when we arrived, a theme that I articulated earlier for this very chapel. He had a keen sense of the roles each one of us can and should play in this effort—faculty and staff, students, and parents. Rather than expecting those roles to constrain us, though, Jeff seemed to think that a clear, textured understanding of our various roles actually frees us to be our best selves.

As a nursery, elementary, and middle school, we recognize that the parents of the young people we teach will be close behind . . . nearby . . . here . . . and we benefit in so many

ways from their presence. How fortunate we were to have Jeff Keffer be one of those parents. He was an individual for whom service to the ever-widening communities of which he was a part—and to this St. Patrick’s community that he loved so much—was essential. Service is an expression of gratitude, optimism, devotion, and determination. It is a way of life. Jeff Keffer lived his life in that way, without ever seeking any personal recognition.

Jeff and Elizabeth Keffer arrived at St. Patrick’s in the fall of 1998, when they enrolled their oldest child, May, in the Nursery School. Daughter Abby and son Griffin would follow and, in time, all three would graduate from St. Patrick’s. Along the way, Jeff was a constant, vital presence. First and foremost in this place a superb father to his three children, Jeff was also a gifted, selfless volunteer—before, during, and well beyond his years as a Trustee. He brought thoughtfulness and care to his efforts to make St. Patrick’s an ever better place. The son of an educator, Jeff had an uncanny ability to recognize what needed to be done here, his children’s school-home, to understand what was needed to accomplish it, and then to work closely with others to see it through to superb completion.

*(continued page 33)*





**Photo:** Three generations of Head of Lower School are pictured here at the Chapel Honoring Faculty and Staff. Gretchen Spencer (center) served from 1997–2012 and Mardy O'Neil (right) from 1986–1997. Jenifer Congdon (left) begins her tenure in the 2012–2013 school year.

## Day School Celebrates Retiring Head of Lower School Gretchen Spencer

We should all tell people every day how much we love and respect them. I have been thinking a lot about this idea because this morning, Mr. Spector and I have only a few minutes to tell you about Gretchen Spencer—someone we both love and respect, someone who is completing 15 amazing years as Head of Lower School and 39 amazing years as an educator of young children.

It's a really difficult job, one we weren't really sure we could accomplish in a few minutes, so we decided to bring in three experts to help us. Their names are *Lev*, *Lucy*, and *Izzy*. These three names capture three wonderful aspects of Mrs. Spencer.

*Children grow into the intellectual life of those around them.* Gretchen often cites this quote from the esteemed Russian child psychologist, Lev Vygotsky. But what's more important is how hard she has worked to bring this thought to life at St. Patrick's. She has shaped the Lower School into a vibrant place of learning where children grow intellectually and develop a joy for learning.

She has hired exceptional teachers and collaborated with them to develop a rich curriculum and to make sure that all children have the opportunity to work to their highest potential. Mrs. Spencer has made sure that the Lower School embodies *Exceptional Literacy*. On any given day, one might see Mrs. Spencer working with small groups of students reading books, writing poetry, or sorting new words. She is in classrooms, providing teachers with valuable feedback, meeting with faculty, and motivating them to keep their teaching fresh.

You can't accomplish these things unless you are someone who is constantly learning. No one does more reading of educational research than she does. And she shares what she reads and her enthusiasm for new ideas. She has a thirst to know about the latest and best developments in early childhood education. And she makes sure that everyone who works for her has the same opportunities to think, to grow, and to offer the best to the children of the Lower School.

When someone is as professional as Mrs. Spencer, it's hard to think of her in any other way. But she does have another side—a fun-loving side that she shares with those around her. And she is also inclined to find herself in the occasional “unexpected moment.” All of this brings us to *Lucy*.

Lucille Ball starred in the show *I Love Lucy* from 1951 to 1957. A television pioneer, Lucy is still one of the funniest people ever on television and one of the biggest stars of her time. And though you might not know it—and she might not realize it entirely herself—Mrs. Spencer is one of the funniest people I know.

Each day, Mrs. Spencer finds humor in something that happens at school. It could be a story about one of her students, about one of her faculty members, or about herself. But whatever it is, she sees humor in every situation and shares laughter with teachers and colleagues. One need only to think of the Kindergarten Circus to get a sense of how much fun Mrs. Spencer can be. I'm not sure that anyone has more enjoyed getting “pied” in the face more than she has.

*(continued page 33)*

**Photo:** Departing Assistant Head of School for Development Carrie Ahlborn (left) receives a fused-glass bowl created by the Art Department as a parting gift. Assistant Head of School for Enrollment, Communication, and Marketing Jennifer Danish delivered remarks in Mrs. Ahlborn's honor and presented her with the gift.



## Day School Shows Appreciation for Contributions of Departing Assistant Head of School for Development

I still remember meeting Mrs. Ahlborn for the first time. We were standing not far from here, just outside the chapel at the end of the day she had been hired by Mr. Barrett. That introduction gave me my first glimpse into the person she is—friendly, warm, exuberant, and devoted to her work as an independent school administrator and development officer. At our first meeting, I was taken with her smile and infectious excitement about starting her new job with us. Little did I know then that Mrs. Ahlborn's commitment to her work would go far beyond her most important job of raising money for St. Patrick's.

How many of you were able to make it to the Dedication and Ribbon-Cutting ceremony for the new field on the Foxhall Campus a few weeks ago? That project is just one of the major initiatives at St. Patrick's that has benefited from Mrs. Ahlborn's vision, leadership, and commitment. We have all dreamed of the day when the field would be a reality, and now it is! With a team of amazing volunteers, she can count this as a lasting legacy of her five years here at St. Patrick's.

And how many of you have participated in a "Sleepless at St. Patrick's" with Mrs. Ahlborn as chaperone? The truth is, Mrs. Ahlborn is not your typical independent school employee. Her work over the years has taken her to many boarding schools in New England. Working in a boarding school is a 24-hour job because you literally *live* at the school. Even though most of us leave here at four o'clock each day, Mrs. Ahlborn is often here late into the eve-

ning attending events, overseeing meetings, cheering at games, serving as Administrator on Duty, volunteering on the Grate Patrol van, attending Board meetings, or chaperoning a dance.

She is a rare kind of leader who sees the school as an extension of her family and herself. All of us on the Administrative Team have benefited from the amazing effort she gives day-in and day-out. She has volunteered countless hours to raise the money that makes possible so much of what happens at our school, but she also freely gives her personal time to events beyond that fundraising. Why does she do that when she has a husband who is a Head of School with his own very busy schedule? Because she loves us! She loves St. Patrick's. She has shown us that love day-in and day-out, unfailingly, for five years.

And so we are going to miss her tremendously as she relocates to Las Vegas where her husband Seth will become a Head of School at the Henderson International School and she will become the Director of Annual Giving at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas Foundation. We can only hope that she leaves a little time now and then to come back and see all of us. 🍀

*Jennifer Danish, Assistant Head of School for Enrollment, Communication, and Marketing, delivered these remarks at the Chapel Honoring Faculty and Staff on May 18.*





*Photo: A number of faculty and staff members—some departing or retiring, and some celebrating anniversary years—were recognized at end-of-year chapels. Here, students sing for departing Head of Lower School Gretchen Spencer. (See story on page 11.)*

## Parents Association Recognizes Close to Four Centuries of Faculty and Staff Service to St. Patrick's

The Parents Association recognized members of the faculty and staff celebrating anniversary years of service to the Day School at the Closing Chapel on June 8. Parents Association President Melanie Gilbert and Vice President for Faculty and Staff Recognition Bettina Helsing presented gifts to 30 members of the Day School team, representing an extraordinary total of 395 years of service.

The individuals came from virtually every corner of the Day School: All three academic divisions—Nursery, Lower, and Upper—the offices of Admission, Business, and Development; the Maintenance Department; and the Infant-Toddler Center for faculty and staff children.

In addition to publicly recognizing at year's end those dedicated individuals celebrating an anniversary (some multiple of five years), the Parents Association—of which all current parents are members—organizes events throughout the year to support faculty and staff alike. Faculty and staff members enjoy the range of events sponsored by the Parents Association—from gifts to welcome each member back from summer vacation, to periodic home-cooked breakfasts and coffees, to opportunities for rest and relaxation—and are grateful for the efforts of all the volunteers who make them possible.

Parents Association fundraising throughout the school year also supports faculty and staff through a series of study and travel grants awarded for personal or professional development. This year, the Parents Association awarded five grants, funding enrollment in a poetry-writing workshop, piano lessons, and travel to Peru, Costa Rica, and the Philippines.

### 40 Years (1972)

Anne Muir

### 25 Years (1987)

Cathy Albo  
Mary Beth James  
Pat Spector\*

### 20 Years (1992)

Lacey Clark  
Louise Hayes  
Phyllis Mackie  
Jan Nelson

### 15 Years (1997)

Judy Barr  
Julia Smith  
Anne Tyler  
Trissy McHenry  
Gretchen Spencer\*

### 10 Years (2002)

Ann Adams	Carmelina Benitez
Jen Danish	Mittie Johnson
Janet Kline*	Pascale Pereira
Carrie Sandler	Erica Thompson

### 5 Years (2007)

Carrie Ahlborn	Holly Brown
Julie Brungard	Clara Cabezas
Minnie Ivery	Florence Mithika
Chris O'Shea	Laura Petersen
Shannon Thomas	

*\*These individuals have retired from St. Patrick's.*



*Photo: Soon-to-be St. Patrick's alumni (left to right) Jay B., Madison E., Nora C., Isabel F., and Julia C. savor their last moments as St. Patrick's students before processing into the Nave for the ceremony.*

# At the Moment of Departure

*Remarks Upon the Graduation of the Grade 8 Class of 2012*

**Pat Spector**—grandmother of Will (Grade 1) and Amelia (PK), retiring Nursery School Admission Director, and former longtime Head of Nursery School—delivered this year's remarks upon the graduation of St. Patrick's tenth Grade 8 class. She imparted her wisdom after 25 years as an integral member of the Day School community. Pat was also honored with the first Jeff Keffer Service Award at the Chapel Honoring Faculty and Staff (*see story on page 10*).



“A man, at the moment of departure, turning  
To leave, treasures some stick of furniture  
With slowly blazing eyes, or the very door  
Brooding with his hand as it falls shut.”

—Thomas Kinsella, “Ritual of Departure”

First, graduates, I have an odd request. I want to ask you *not* to listen for a minute. There’s something a bit inappropriate I want to tell your guests and I don’t want to spoil your evening.

Parents and friends, this is a grand occasion, and I am a little apprehensive about doing it justice. I am sure that you all know the advice given to people who get anxious about public speaking—think of your audience as, well, without the benefit of clothing. I just wanted you to know that you can relax. After all, I am a Nursery School teacher and have been for 35 years. There will be none of that funny business tonight. However, should you happen to notice an incongruous smile or a mild blush at some point during my remarks, it may be because I have not fully ruled out visualizing all of you in Pull-Ups!

Members of the graduating class, thank you so much for not listening. On this wonderful evening, I did not want to leave you with any disturbing images. Now, please do listen, because I am going to speak to you from conviction and from my heart. Let me start again, this time properly.

Good evening, parents, families, friends, and colleagues. Thank you to the Grade 8 graduating Class of 2012 for allowing me to share this night with you as you mark the completion of your time at St. Patrick’s. I have noticed, sitting in the audience at more than 30 St. Patrick’s graduations, that speakers at these events often start their remarks by saying that they weren’t Mr. Barrett’s first choice, or they don’t feel old enough, distant enough from their own middle school years, or wise enough to possibly address the graduates. I have to admit that I was puzzled, too. Because of the work I have always done, I felt somehow that I would be standing in tonight for all the teachers who opened their arms and welcomed you when you began at school at St. Patrick’s or in another school—a big job. A second concern was that my expertise has to do with very young children which—in spite of my own fond memories of many of you and the nostalgic recollections that your parents and former teachers have in mind tonight of each of you—you clearly no longer are.

I had to remind myself that each of you and I do have one thing very much in common. You are leaving St. Patrick’s. Listening to your tributes at Wednesday night’s Graduation Dinner, it was clear that this is a place that has been very important to you. Some of you have been here for a decade or more.

And I, too, am leaving this place that has meant a great deal to me for a quarter of a century.

Of course, we leave for distinctly different reasons. That point was made crystal clear a few weeks ago when I was talking with my grandchildren. I promised them that we would do something more often “next year, when I am retired,” and then wondered if Amelia, who is four, understood what that meant.

I asked her, “Do you know what retiring means?” Now, Amelia is a woman of few words and does not like to be patronized. She looked up, her face clearly indicating that she understood full well, and then answered succinctly, “Yup.” On the other hand, those of you who know her brother know that he is never one to let the opportunity to probe the details of a topic be wasted. As you will note, he is also very polite and careful not to use an indiscrete word. Well, he jumped right in and provided the cold facts. “Of course I know what retired means, Grandma. It means that you aren’t going to work anymore because you are O-L-D.”

So, I am leaving to retire and you are leaving because you have grown, and learned, and accomplished, and are ready. Nonetheless, here we are together, and that common thread of the transition ahead and the journey behind seems to make it particularly important to find the right thoughts and right words this evening.

Whenever I need elegant wording, I turn either to Mr. Barrett (I mean that. I didn’t have to say it. You know, I *am* leaving!) or to poetry. This time, I turn to the latter, because four particular lines of poetry kept coming to mind, authored by the Irish poet Thomas Kinsella. These four lines describe the act of leaving—not leaving a school, but leaving a homeland in order to work and live in another country. Kinsella’s poem, “Ritual of Departure,” begins:

A man, at the moment of departure, turning  
To leave, treasures some stick of furniture  
With slowly blazing eyes, or the very door  
Brooding with his hand as it falls shut.

May I repeat those lines with just one small alteration made in honor of the



**Photos:** Graduating Grade 8 students, many of whom have attended St. Patrick's since Nursery School, prepare for the Graduation Ceremony as families and friends gather in the Nave. **Top left:** Katherine B. and Wesley P. **Center, left to right:** Penn D., Aidan K., and Tré J. **Bottom right:** Grade 6 teacher Julia Smith and Brendan O. **Opposite page:** Grades 7 and 8 music teacher Anne Tyler warms up students who will perform at the ceremony. From left to right: Carson P., Mollie T., Wesley P., Sam D., and Isabel F.

capable young women in the Class of 2012?

A woman, at the moment of departure, turning  
To leave, treasures some stick of furniture  
With slowly blazing eyes, or the very door  
Brooding with her hand as it falls shut.

These lines, as I thought about them, set me to wondering about each of you—tonight with your hand on what the poet calls “the very door.”

Now, I wonder, what is it that you treasure at this moment about your time here, and what will you treasure over time? Of course, I hope the list of your treasures is long, various, and interesting. I hope that there are many things that you treasure and will take with you. I hope these include the kinds of things that your parents wanted for you when they chose St. Patrick's, the kinds of things that your teachers have worked so diligently to put in place, and the kinds of things you want for yourselves going forward.

But to name them and, in particular, to name some that might be important to every one of you, I went to Mr. Coleman and Mrs. Adams and asked them

to talk with me about your class. I am going to quote them several times tonight. Parents, I truly wish you could have been by my side as they talked about your children as individuals—individuals with diverse talents and diverse opinions, opinions strong enough that, and I quote, “With this class you never wonder if they have spoken their minds”—and also about your children as a remarkable group of young people.

Let me start with what Mr. Coleman had to say. “They are in the process of becoming amazing people and, when they head off to new schools, they will add lots of leadership and vision to those settings.” And the things Mrs. Adams said she “loves” about your class? You are *aware*—aware of your own privilege and aware of unfairness and inequities. You are *tolerant*—understanding and embracing of differences. And you are *genuine*—short on pretense and veneer.

What an intriguing and, to be quite honest, gratifying portrait your teachers painted. From their comments I drew out two possible answers to that question of mine (What will you treasure?) and that I believe are among those treasures that you will most want to take with you. What are these two treasures?





The first is *real* friendships. Not the kind of friendships that you accumulate on Facebook, but the important kind—the kind that spring from working with people who are like you and people who are different and developing trust and understanding as you work for things and through things together. Mr. Coleman called your class “fiercely loyal,” and he and Mrs. Adams both spoke about the way you care for and nurture one another. You have forged strong bonds that you will not want to lose and learned important lessons about the give-and-take of friendship that will serve you well. In some ways, you have created a shelter for one another during a challenging time of life.

There’s another kind of friendship that I think you recognize as a treasure. You have had the opportunity to know your teachers well and to be known well by them. Perhaps *friends* is not the precise word. Rather, they have been mentors—encouraging your talents and your intellectual growth—and role models for you, people you can admire and emulate. They have even shared their children with you and watched you become coaches and mentors to those children. Sometime, ask them how much they value the patient and loving games that you play with their children on Wednesday mornings before Upper School chapels. According to Mrs. Mack, you have made Logan feel like a rock star.

These friendships are a treasure in and of themselves, but they are also important signals that you are capable of what is sometimes called “connectedness,” capable of feeling part of something larger than yourself.

The second treasure was very much on my mind recently as I read about a new book called *The Outsourced Life*, a catalog of believable and unbelievable things that we can hire other people to do for us nowadays—things that we used to do for ourselves or do for one another. The examples listed in the article included an art store that sold pre-made dioramas for school projects, a consultant that you could hire to break up with your boyfriend or girlfriend for you, and a surrogate soccer mom taxi service. But the thing that the author of the article found strangest of all was that you can hire a “wantologist,” someone to help you figure out what you want and what you want to feel like when you have what you want.

An important treasure that St. Patrick’s has nurtured in you is a way to think not only about what you want, but about what is worth wanting. In advisory, in your classrooms, in the Student Leadership Council and, most certainly, in the quiet of your Taizé chapels, you have been addressing deep questions, working to find your own moral compass founded on acceptance, respect, caring, reason, and faith.

It seems you have made a good start. In our conversation, Mrs. Adams spoke of the pleasure she took in the serious and respectful way that your class responded to the Wall of Tolerance Pledge at the Southern Poverty Law Center. Your attitude told her that you understand that there is ongoing, important work to do as moral citizens. And Mr. Coleman complimented your class as one that is not just committed to service to others, but also sensitive and effective when engaged in helping others.

Two rare treasures: Deep friendships and a moral foundation. Take care of them. And of course, remember to thank your parents and your teachers who wanted these things for you, who supported you when you were small and when you were no longer small, and who feel so much pride tonight.

This evening I have shared many positive things that your teachers have said about your class. As a matter of fact, their description so impressed me that I want to ask if I might stop saying that I am retiring (O-L-D) and say, instead, that I am graduating St. Patrick’s with the Class of 2012.

Still, I should not leave the impression that that your teachers think you are perfect. What a burden that would be! Rather, they believe that you are full of possibilities and that you have the treasures you need for what comes next. Knowing that and sharing this evening with you is surely a treasure that I will take away with me.

Now it is time to close “the very door” referred to in those lines of poetry that I shared earlier in my remarks. Don’t worry. “The roots tear softly,” Kinsella tells us at the end of his poem.

You have worked and accomplished and waited. Exciting things lie ahead. Gather your treasures. Add to them. And know that like your teachers, every person in this room believes that you are full of possibilities. Thank you! 🍀



# Goodbye for Now: Tributes to Grade 8 Students

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In the more than ten years since St. Patrick's expanded to include Grades 7 and 8 on the MacArthur Campus, a number of traditions unique to that program have emerged. Among these is an end-of-year tribute to each student—to his or her “infinite value,” as we say in our Mission Statement—composed with information gathered from the students themselves and their classmates and friends. Rather than recognizing a few students who have excelled in certain areas, this Graduation Dinner tradition honors each student with a tribute delivered by a classmate. What follows are abridged versions of those tributes, our effort to share with you the esteem in which we hold each member of this special class and each student's immeasurable value to the St. Patrick's community.



Describing his first impression of St. Patrick's, **Aidan K.** wrote of how welcomed he felt. He was quickly confident that he would make lots of good, close, friends. And lots of friends you made, Aidan. You stay so good-humored and well-prepared for all your classes. Is fencing your secret? Or drawing? We are grateful to you for always sticking up for other people. Many of us are good at sticking up for ourselves, but you are always looking out for the other guy. And you were typically generous to credit your teachers for your good experience here. We'll just have to keep searching far and wide to understand the power that's inside you, Aidan. But we're glad that St. Patrick's was part of your destiny.

**Julia C.** came to us in Grade 5, immediately meeting up with the best that St. Patrick's has to offer: Mrs. Mackie. The transition to middle school was not easy, as many friends left. But it ended well. Her small class is like a family. She is a multi-purpose multi-tasker—nobody communicates more or faster. Julia is, in fact, the class socialite. She knows what's going on in school and out of school. She loves parties, and hers are memorable. Julia likes to use her social skills for good. She is the best conversation starter and loves introducing people to new friends. She has very promising schemes but they almost always end badly. Julia is active on the ice, on the lacrosse field, and on her phone. Her Evillene was amazing—because she knew how to give *that* girl attitude.

"St. Patrick's has made me a more outgoing person and a strong student," says **Isabel F.** "My true personality has shined here because I feel free to be who I want to be." St. Patrick's has pushed Isabel to take risks and constantly challenged her to meet her potential. She is calm in a crisis and crazy when there isn't one, but always upbeat. She has done the best job of being

a friend to everyone and knows what to say in difficult situations. Her energy helps her on the lacrosse field, where she excels, and as a student. Don't forget musical and artistic talent that sent her to the MAESA Fair last year. Isabel, you *are* a firecracker: Dazzling, creative, and unpredictable. And sometimes you just go poof! into a fit of laughter. We're going to miss that a lot.

How are we going to talk about **Sam D.** without Sam to tell us how to talk about Sam? We know he loves music and is a great singer and actor. He even wrote an original song with Wesley for the talent show. Sam is good at giving meaningful compliments and good advice—and is right most of the time. We suspect he may be too big for stage or screen—we are talking world reform. Today's the SLC, tomorrow, we can't wait to see. He is always trying to make change, educate, and persuade. He will tell you that he has not always had an easy time here. "I love my friends, music, my family and, although I get mad at them sometimes, my teachers." One classmate concludes, "I know that when Sam Danish becomes President, our world will be on a journey to a better place."

In Grade 1, **William L.** found love in the Washington Nationals and baseball. It's still a big part of him, but music has also become important to him since he began DJ-ing last summer. He shares his love of music in handbells and choir, but it is his organization that made us elect him librarian of choir. His logic has made him the master of Excel and many other programs and pieces of technology. He is a gentleman who always holds the door for the next person and always asks people how they are doing. He is a good influence and a helping hand. We know his dream career is to become a general manager of a major league team. It's not hard to imagine him, arms crossed and eyes intent, sizing up his team from behind the cage.

**Carson P.** is described by her classmates as a true role model. She loves to laugh, inspires us, and almost never loses her head. She is great about breaking up small scuffles before they happen and bringing people together to resolve an issue. And she is always patient and relaxed about it: "Okay, BE NICE." She stands up for people being themselves, and she stands up against injustice. She can play along but, when it goes too far, she can get sassy and even a little crazy. She listens carefully and asks lots of questions, making her a great leader on SLC. Carson credits St. Patrick's with helping her grow into the person she is today. Don't fly away too far, Carson!

We all know that **Katherine B.** is hilarious and can talk circles around anyone if she wants to. She is just a great friend to everyone. She always says "hi," knows just what to say to cheer us up, and gives brilliant advice. She is strong, physically and mentally. And she is not afraid to say what she thinks, though this has not always been the case. Katherine is a good writer, especially poems that rhyme. She loves music and is an amazing drummer. While she loves ice hockey, her lifelong passion is inline skating. She competes in both but still found time to be goalie for the lacrosse team. She has strong opinions and a powerful personality but inside is sweet and friendly with a good heart.

**Mollie T.** has a way with words and a special brand of humor. Mollie's perfect organization has served her well. She is generous with her time, always listening and lending an empathetic ear. Her classmates say that she has an adventurous side, too, fully capable of mischievous bursts of energy. Jumping since she was eight years old, Mollie is on the IEA equestrian team for Meadowbrook Stables. She has been the Grand Champion of her division three times. She loves all things musical and is co-President of Chamber



*Photo left: Tré J. (left) and Penn D. are among the first soon-to-be-graduates to enter the Nave. Photo right: Graduates William L. (left) and Wesley P. leave the ceremony with diplomas in hand. Opposite page: Students gather in the Church Library before the Graduation Ceremony. Photo left: Aidan K. (left) and Gareth N. Photo right: Elizabeth L. (left) and Julia C.*

Singers. And of course we all know about her first place at the MAESA Fair for her science project on “red eye.” She is naturally very philosophical, very deep—and that’s just one more reason we’re going to miss you, Mollie.

**Marcus D.** is another smart thinker. He still sees himself as a manatee, give or take a few tons. A manatee’s peaceful and gentle traits define Marcus. He is the most likely to start his own business because he knows so much about technology (oh, and he already *has* started his own business selling customized computers). He loves to use logic and has been a competitive chess player since Grade 2. That’s probably why he loves math, too. And then there is Marcus’ artistic side. We saw his talent on Arts Night, when he captured his passion for skiing in 3-D art and his interest in science to play with colors. He has musical talent, too. He is a calm, easygoing, and loyal friend and was the only member of the class to be nominated for embodying all four qualities of the Creed.

We describe **Nora C.** as funny, brave, full of energy, humorous, and caring. She doesn’t care what others think of her and often has BURSTS of energy. We count on her to find the loophole in any restriction. She is a great, loyal friend, always there when needed. She has a way of making a point that brings us back to morals. She is a deep thinker, a trait most evident in her poems, even winning the Parkmont Poetry Prize.

You are a great student, a hard worker, organized, and always prepared, but also so nice! Even if we don’t ask, you let us know if we missed something important. She is a great athlete—swimming, soccer, cross country, and dance. We’ll just say that we’re glad we helped make you you, because you’re pretty great.

**Sofia A.** is ever the optimist. She is very giving, a loyal friend, there to cheer people up when they need it—“like a sister.” If you’re bored, find Sofia. She will find something fun to do. Her energy and love of school are pretty hard to beat. In fact, Sofia is probably about the only person alive who doesn’t get the Monday morning blues. Sofia is an amazing artist. She created the whole Oz set for *The Wiz*. She has her own blog in which she displays her latest creations and designs in sculpture, painting, drawing, and collage. An entrepreneur, she already has a line of accessories made of duct tape and a new project of custom-designed shirts. Your next school (and you will love that school, too, Sofia) is a lucky place.

**Wesley P.** is smart—really smart. He has already started writing a novel. He was the Wiz in the play this year and is literally a tech wiz. He is fond of power, and we admit he is a good leader, very persuasive, and he finds a way to grab our attention, *usually* in good taste. He is even fonder of drama, on many levels. We know he can act. He has a flair for drama, and he is very good at

improv. Co-President of Chamber Singers, he is an excellent singer with an amazing voice, who loves to sing, play, and compose all kinds of music. At St. Patrick’s, he values his friendships and has come to appreciate the value of hard work and respect for others.

His classmates describe **Gareth N.** as a kaleidoscope: Smart in every academic subject, loves video games, competitive chess player, talented musician and composer, and Tae Kwon Do artist. Says one classmate, “Gareth is always thinking, and his brain is always working, and he’s thinking about all different things at once.” Always willing to take on a new challenge, Gareth is complex and interesting. There has never been a Spanish bonus question or a minor history fact that he didn’t know (that everyone else forgot). He is always prepared and always reading something new. He is organized, logical, knowledgeable, a hard worker, and we think he will be the next Andrew Carnegie. He’s so generous that he’ll probably give 90% of his billions away, too. Thanks for all the dazzling displays along the way!

We know that **Elizabeth L.** will be hard to keep up with, but we can always read her blog. She already changes her mind every day about what she wants to be when she grows up. She makes up all sorts of imaginative scenarios that make us all wonder, how the heck did she think of that? We will be surprised if she doesn’t end up in the



fashion industry but, then, she is full of surprises and very independent. She is always fun to be around, with a cheery personality and lots of energy. She is a talented actress and has a knack for comedy. She is interested in everything and asks great questions. As fun as Elizabeth is, she has a serious side, too, and we love that about her.

**Penn D.**, with his creative, quick mind, is like a Lamborghini: Small, slick, fast, and sporty. Lamborghinis are as close as a car gets to a work of art, and he is a great artist. His 3-D sculpture sent him to the MAESA Fair last year, where he won second place. His drawing highlights Penn's amazing eye for details. His special combination of risk-taker and peacemaker made him a perfect candidate for the SLC. He is always ready to try new fun things. Penn is really smart—he is in CTY for math—and thinks fast on his feet. Penn credits St. Patrick's with making him the person he is today. Stay on course, Penn—except to visit us. We'll be very excited to see you.

The class ichthyologist, **Tré J.** studies and raises all kinds of exotic fish, though he would love to branch out into the slightly larger amphibian class. You will get your alligator soon enough, Tré, because you won't let anything get in the way of your dreams. A master drummer and a great singer and actor, Tré can improv his way out of anything. He is always ready with a response, even if it's just a dramatic rearrangement of his eyebrows. And who could forget his impressive,

engaging writing? Tré is an amazing athlete, successful in football, basketball, and track and field. "Tré, in my mind, has always been an artist at heart," writes one classmate. "Under the sports there is an artist of paper, voice, and stage. He knows how to think of something way outside the box."

Versatile, varied, well-rounded, helpful, good-humored, easygoing—all words used to describe **Brendan O.** Behind that relaxed exterior lies a wealth of talents and interests—first among them, video games! But Brendan's interest dives deep below the surface. He likes to fiddle with those games or the software—to find out how they work and to maybe even change them—to create something new. He loves architecture. On Arts Night, we saw his architectural vision of a fantastic cityscape in 3-D. He's a good joke teller, and he can plot like a general. Where does he get his ideas? Well, we know he is a devoted fan of the comics. Maybe that's why he has been such a great reading buddy. Normally shy and quiet, Brendan's reading buddy comes alive when he and Brendan read, talk, or play games.

**Jay B.** is definitely Mr. Cool Sportsman. He is also Mr. Sensitive Philosopher. He is our Lax Bro. He is a great lacrosse player who has already been snapped up by a travel team near his new school. He is warm, caring, happy, friendly, and easy to talk to. Jay is just plain fun to be around, especially if you like a practical joke or two, though

he does have a serious side and has been known to awe his peers with his philosophical remarks. He takes the values of sports seriously: Teamwork and openness to advice and to trying new things. We know he can write and that he is quite a reader. He loves music, especially dubstep, and he likes to drum, but he doesn't like to sing. He loves to wear sunglasses and an occasional bow. Jay, for all his bro-dom, is an independent spirit.

**Madison E.** is someone that *everyone* needs in their life. She is the kind of person you can talk to about anything and she will understand. She is always willing to help, the first to feel someone else's pain, and the first to stand up against injustice done to someone else. And she is an outgoing, sociable, and loyal friend. She is a vocal, energizing, let's-get-this-done member of SLC. We suspect you will adapt all these skills to your first business venture, as we are sure you have all the talents of a successful entrepreneur. You have power in your voice and spunk in your soul, and you know how to get people to work together cohesively. And you have a creative edge. Fashion? Acting? Dancing? There's no place like home, Madison. And there's no one like you. 🌱



# CONGRATULATIONS, GRADE 8 CLASS OF 2012



**Our graduates go on to attend a variety of exceptional secondary schools. A listing of those schools appears below.  
Each school corresponds to one of this year's Grade 8 graduates.**

*Holton-Arms School*

*Edmund Burke School*

*Maret School*

*Collegiate Academy Public Charter School*

*Maret School*

*Maret School*

*Berkshire School (Mass.)*

*Episcopal High School*

*St. John's College High School*

*Madeira School*

*Potomac School*

*Madeira School*

*Westminster School (Conn.)*

*Gonzaga College High School*

*St. Albans School*

*St. Albans School*

*Georgetown Day School*

*Madeira School*

*Holton-Arms School*





Pete West, father of Preston W '05 and new graduate Katie, delivered commencement remarks at the Grade 6 Graduation Ceremony.

Pete is the president and CEO of West Advocacy, an aviation industry consulting and government relations company.

**Photo:** Graduating Grade 6 students (from left to right) Nora K., Katie W., Rachel V., and Isabelle V. celebrated their achievement with their families at the Grade 6 Graduation Dinner days before their Graduation Ceremony. Most Grade 6 students will continue on to St. Patrick's Grades 7 and 8 program on the MacArthur Campus, though several are moving on to other schools. A full listing of next-step schools for Grade 6 students is available on page 26.

# Three Simple Ingredients



**Photo:** Friends and classmates Merle T., Timmy B., and William K. prepare for their last class photo before the Graduation Ceremony.

Thanks, Katie, and good evening, everybody. It's a real pleasure to stand before fellow parents, family members and friends, St. Patrick's leadership, teachers, coaches, and administrative staff and, of course, each and every member of the Grade 6 graduating Class of 2012.

Now, as wives sometimes do, my wife laid down a few ground rules before I could accept this high honor. Chief among them was, "Please don't go crying big sentimental tears in front of all those people." I promised to try to follow that rule, but if my execution isn't perfect, let's just not tell her.

Speaking to you graduates in particular, a little more than a month ago I was given a homework assignment. It wasn't from a teacher—it was from Mr. Barrett. Well, maybe he really is a teacher for all of us, *all the time*—including when he's issuing an instruction or two about morning drop-offs that you really don't want to ignore. There was no way I could ignore (nor would I) his invitation (or assignment) to provide this year's graduation speech. Unlike your Grade 6 homework assignments, mine didn't have to be finished for a month. And today is the due date!

Let's see, *pedir* means "to order." *El plato de principal* means "main dish." Wait, these aren't the note cards for my speech, these are Katie's Spanish flash cards. *No problema*. It's important to be prepared, even for the unexpected! So, quoting the words of *The Empress's New Clothes* (which all of you did such a great job of making happen last month), "Shall we commence? Well, why don't I just get started?"

As I began doing my homework, I realized that one wise course of action would be just to ask your teachers for their ideas. I thought about talking to Ms. Smith, for example, but worried that she'd make me read a bunch of books and knock out a poem or two, or three, or four. You graduates could

have easily done that, but I'm not sure I could have, even given a month.

Or, if I talked to Dr. Cole, she might have asked me to factor in some comments on ratios or her famous mathematical *pi*. But, if I crunched out the probabilities, what are the odds of that sounding right?

Another thought was to talk to Ms. Yount about something related to your focus in social studies. However, I must admit, this was Greek to me. Of course, there was also the exciting world of science, where Mrs. Basile might have had some good ideas related to the wetlands or the anatomy of the eye. If I went with the wetlands, though, (I know you kids too well) one of you would have said my comments were *all wet* (or, at least, a bit soggy). And eye anatomy? Do you really think this would have been the proper venue for talking about dissecting an eyeball?

Should I have spoken to Senora Cabezas? Well, haven't I already done enough to embarrass myself on the Spanish front? Sorry, Senora Cabezas, *no comprendo*. There was also the possibility of checking in with Rev. Zimmerman. Maybe I could make this all about morality. Well, let's just say your prayers have been answered. I won't venture down that aisle either.

Then there are the areas of P.E., art, and music. But who knows? Mr. Brophy, Ms. Ference, Ms. Sack, and Mrs. Petersen might have suggested a set of "Animal Crackers," or a well-drawn self-portrait, or a rousing rendition of "The Woman in Underpants." These are really *not* things you'd want me, of all people, to try. Finally, if I got Mr. Spector involved, he'd have corrected my grammar. Unlike you Grade 6 students, though, I've become pretty comfortable with split infinitives and dangling participles. If you've been listening carefully, you already know that.





**Photo left:** Hopie C. (left) and Evie H. enjoy the reception before the Grade 6 Graduation Dinner. **Photo right:** Bryce B. beams after receiving his Grade 6 diploma.

Then it dawned on me. Maybe the best resource was right at home. So, I asked Katie. As always, her advice cut to the chase: “Dad, we’re sixth graders. We don’t have super-long attention spans. Keep it really short.” We learned a long time ago—probably when Katie was about three—that her advice is usually right and we ignore it at our peril.

So, without further foot-dragging and ado, just a few comments of a short-and-sweet nature as you graduate Grade 6 and enter your . . . wonderful . . . teens. When you reflect back on your years at St. Patrick’s, you’ll have dozens of precious, smart, fun-filled memories unique to this school that will help ground you and fortify you for a lifetime. All the teachers, coaches, classes, chapels, and recesses along the way; the Kindergarten Circus; the traditional Christmas Pageant (which always made your parents cry); Family Fun Day; Book Fairs; Chestertown; Wilderness Adventure; the Dig; Echo Hill; the retreat; choral events and musicals; Grate Patrol; recitation contests; geography bees and math meets; and the list goes on.

Just as important are the close friendships. Store these memories away and treasure them. To quote the lofty words of Wordsworth, these are “images and precious thoughts that cannot be destroyed.” They are an important part of what you will become. As to what’s next, in Grade 7 and beyond, I’ll borrow the commonly-used terms of the kitchen. Your recipe for success will continue to include three simple ingredients you’ve already been taught well here at St. Patrick’s. Keep cooking these three along and, trust me, you’ll like what comes out of the oven when school is behind you.

First, make the most of every opportunity to learn. At St. Patrick’s, you have “learned to learn” with the help of your parents, teachers, coaches, and classmates. Remember, you can learn from everyone you meet and every experience you have. Soak it up!

Second, dream big. St. Patrick’s has challenged you to do your best on every task—whether it’s dissecting an eyeball, composing a poem, or doing your part to help the Wolfhounds compete. Expect great things of yourself!

Third, prepare. Keep doing your homework to find out what it takes to get you exactly to that special place you want to go—whether it’s acting in a school play, becoming a top math or science student or, as you get older, becoming a teacher, doctor, business owner, journalist, lawyer, web designer, nuclear scientist, artist, or chef. There are so many choices. Stretch yourself! Try new things! Be willing to fail so you’ll know how to pick yourself up and start again. And, be ready for the unexpected so that, if you have the wrong notecards, you can still deliver your speech.

If you can do these three things—keep learning, dream big, and prepare yourself for whatever may come—you will be on your way to being the best you can be. And that’s what this is all about. What you’re celebrating tonight is another step along the path to being responsible, productive, happy, and kind—attributes that, combined, represent a powerful force for a good life.

To close, I figured “what the heck,” I’d go ahead and throw in a bit of wisdom from Ms. Smith, who recently taught the students about the hero’s journey in language arts, including in *Star Wars*. To all of the members of the St. Patrick’s Grade 6 graduating class, congratulations! If you don’t already know it, we consider you the magnificent heroes of our own unfolding stories. May the force be with you! 🍀

# CONGRATULATIONS, GRADE 6 CLASS OF 2012



**Most Grade 6 students will continue on to St. Patrick's Grades 7 and 8 program on the MacArthur Campus, though several are moving on to other schools. A listing of those schools appears below. Each school corresponds to one of this year's Grade 6 graduates.**

<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>Landon School</i>
<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>
<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>Potomac School</i>	<i>Kingsview Middle School (Md.)</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>
<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Albans School</i>	<i>Potomac School</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>
<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>Potomac School</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>
<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>Maret School</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>Tilden Middle School (Md.)</i>
<i>St. Albans School</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>Maret School</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>
<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>
<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>Potomac School</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>Landon School</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>
<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>Sidwell Friends School</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	<i>St. Patrick's</i>	





**Photo:** Memuna Mansaray McShane (second from left) and classmates River A. W '09, M '11 (left), Jack T. W '09, M '11 (second from right), and Joanie K. W '09, M '11 (right) are shown here during their years at St. Patrick's MacArthur Campus. Memuna was orphaned by the violent civil war in Sierra Leone. She was adopted by the McShanes at age 6 and, like her two siblings, enrolled at St. Patrick's. We are grateful for her many contributions to the life of the Day School and look forward to her many successes!

# From Tragedy to Triumph

## Alumni Profile: Memuna Mansaray McShane W'09, M'11

*Editor's Introduction:* The Press was thrilled to see the story of recent alumna Memuna McShane featured in a column in the New York Times. Memuna became part of the St. Patrick's community in 2003 as a Kindergarten student, joining her brother Michael W '08, M '10 and sister Molly W '06, who were already at the Day School. Over the next eight years, she became an integral part of the Day School community—as a strong student, a standout member of the soccer and basketball teams, an actress in the Grades 5 and 6 and Grades 7 and 8 musicals, and a warm and caring friend. Upon Memuna's graduation from Grade 8 in 2011, a friend described her as “the nicest person I know.” We are grateful that the Day School had the opportunity to know, love, and shape this extraordinary young woman during her years here. Memuna is now a rising sophomore at St. Andrew's School in Potomac.

**Nicholas D. Kristof**

*New York Times Op-Ed Columnist*

Before I tell you about a one-armed teenager who is a star athlete at her high school in Washington, D.C., let me take you back a dozen years to Sierra Leone, in West Africa.

A little girl there became an unlikely global symbol of human depravity. Sometimes dubbed “peace girl,” she

had the sweetest smile and an amputated arm—making her the much-photographed poster child of atrocities committed by a militia that chopped off the arms and feet of civilians. Madeleine Albright, who was then the secretary of state, was photographed cradling the girl, and Sierra Leone's president took her to peace talks.

Those wrenching images of this girl, whose arm was amputated after she was shot, and other children whose limbs were hacked off by the militia built the global political will to intervene and end Sierra Leone's civil war (Britain did the heavy lifting). I had been fascinated by the girl as an example of the power of individual stories to help end mass atrocities — and then I heard, from Albright, that she is now an American.

I dropped by her home in Washington and found 15-year-old Memuna Mansaray McShane, a wonderfully adjusted high school freshman who plays on her school's varsity soccer and basketball teams. “In basketball, you only use one arm,” she explained. She paused for a moment, and then acknowledged: “Except to shoot or catch the ball.” Another pause and a sheepish smile: “I guess that's a lot.” She added defiantly: “I can do anything people with two arms can do. Except monkey bars.”

Memuna has no clear memory of her early childhood in Sierra Leone, but she has a photo of her family on the eve of war. She is with her parents and three brothers, all beaming contentedly in what seems a well-off house in the capital.

Then the militia attacked. Her father fled to a different part of Sierra Leone and later died in unclear circumstances. After he left, Memuna's mother and grandmother apparently took the 2-year-old girl and hid in a mosque. By some accounts, it was Memuna's crying that caused the fighters to look for people hiding there.

When the fighters entered, the grandmother picked up Memuna and ran. The gunmen shot the grandmother dead, and some of the bullets shattered Memuna's arm and grazed her side.

Memuna's mother apparently ran toward her injured daughter. That's when the gunmen shot her; she died of her wounds about a month later.

Memuna's older brother, Alhaji Mansaray, then just 11 years old, scooped up Memuna and carried her to a hospital across town, saving her life. But the hospital was



## ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

in chaos, and it took three days for a doctor to see her. By then it was necessary to amputate her arm just below the shoulder. At age 4, Memuna was brought to the United States by the Rotary Foundation for medical treatment. Two years later, she was adopted by Kelly and Kevin McShane; Kelly had worked in Sierra Leone in the Peace Corps.

Memuna was spoiled at first: she had figured out that adults cave at demands from an adorable one-armed girl who cries. But the McShanes would have none of that. They have a son, Michael, the same age as Memuna and a daughter, Molly, two years older, and Memuna ended up having to wash the dishes along with the other kids. "We just wanted her to be a normal little girl," Kelly explained.

Indeed, Memuna seems to have had a fairly typical life. "We had trouble teaching her to ride a bike," Kelly said. "But we went rock climbing, swimming, pretty much everything."

Memuna was impressed the first time she searched the Web for her own name and saw the photos. "I thought it was pretty cool that I got to meet all these famous people, like Bill Clinton and Hillary Clinton," she said.

The McShanes have made two family trips to Sierra Leone, and Memuna was taken aback at her fame there. "A lot of people were crying and saying, 'You're alive!'" she remembered. The McShanes hope to bring her three brothers, including the one who saved her life, to Washington for a visit this year if they can get American visas.

Charles Taylor, the former Liberian president who helped engineer the Sierra Leone savagery, recently became the first former head of state to be convicted of war crimes by an international court since the Nuremberg trials. Justice triumphed, and Sierra Leone has moved on. So has Memuna.

Once a symbol of suffering caused by the human capacity for evil, she's now just a teenage girl with dazzling moves on the basketball court. She's a poster child of nothing at all — just a happy kid who is a powerful emblem of the human capacity for resilience. ♻️

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## 1977

Amy Yount is celebrating the start of her eighth year working in the Upper School at St. Patrick's. Her

son Wesley just graduated from Grade 8, and her daughter Caralie is entering Grade 6 in the fall. Amy says that both Wesley and Caralie consider St. Patrick's their second home.

## 1988



**Katie Langhammer McQuaid** is living in New York City with her husband and two children, Clara (3) and Jack (1) (pictured above). She is staying very busy chasing after her kids and keeping up with her job in corporate responsibility at Time Warner. She would love to hear from her St. Patrick's friends.

## 1992

**Virginia Snodgrass Rangel** graduated this summer from the University of Texas at Austin with her Ph.D. in education policy, having recently completed her dissertation. She also began a new appointment at Rice University in Houston as the Associate Director of Research for a project called STEMscopes, a Kindergarten through Grade 12 online science curriculum for Texas schools. Her husband Luis started a new job at Chevron in May and will be traveling to Angola for work. Luis and Virginia are happy to report that their son Francis turned one on July 7 and has recently started walking!

## 1993

**Chris Langhammer ex. '93** recently received his M.D.-Ph.D. from Rutgers University and Robert Wood Johnson School of Medicine of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in New Brunswick. After graduating from St. Albans in 1999, Chris went to Princeton University, where he majored in mechanical engineering. At Rutgers, he received his Ph.D. in biomedical engineering. Chris began his residency in orthopedic surgery this June at the University of California San Francisco. He and his parents

would like to thank his science teacher at St. Patrick's, Chuck James, for recognizing and encouraging his love of all things scientific.



**Photo:** Classmates David Langdon and Tobin Moore met in New York City, where they both ran the New York Marathon.

## 1994

The Press recently caught up with **David Langdon ex. '94** who told us that he and **Tobin Moore ex. '94** have kept in touch over the years. The two met in March for South by Southwest in Austin and, in 2011, ran the New York City Marathon together. David recently moved to Houston. **Nyla Saleh** is living in New York City and working at Edelman. **Julia Brau ex. '94** is a vice president at Thomas H. Lee Partners, a private equity firm located in Boston. She attended St. Patrick's for Nursery School and Kindergarten. Later, she graduated from National Cathedral School, Stanford University, and Harvard University School of Business. **Justin Lott** is engaged to be married to Elizabeth Alina from Ft. Wayne, Indiana, whom he met while attending flight school. She currently works for ING Financial Services in New York City and will be attending Columbia University's Executive M.B.A. program starting in the fall. Along with several friends, they recently bought a Cessna 182 and plan to work towards their Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) rating.

## 1996

**Nicole Zarafonetis** is studying for her Ph.D. in women's rights at the University of York in England. **Sean Murphy** and his wife are enjoying life in Pasadena, Maryland. In July, Sean transitioned from working at Dynasplint Systems to begin a new job at Biomet Spine & Bone Healing Technologies. He is looking forward to

reconnecting with fellow alums at some upcoming events. **Trevor Lott** left his job at Blackrock in New York City last year to attend the M.B.A. program at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Business School. He will graduate next spring and is working this summer at 5th Street Finance Corporation, a lender-partner to private equity firms. **Sarah Waites Elkins** is working as an advisor to a member of the Minnesota congressional delegation. She currently lives in Minneapolis but is looking forward to moving back to Washington, D.C. in November.

## 1997

**Anthony (Hal) Marra** received his bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California and his master of fine arts degree in 2011 from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He is currently a Wallace Stegner Fellow in creative writing at Stanford University. His first novel, *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*, will be published by Crown/Random House in May of next year. **Annie Sandza** will begin teaching high school science at Kipp D.C. College Prep in September.

## 1999

**Colleen Murphy** graduated from Catholic University in December and is now working at an assisted living community in Annapolis, MD. **Nick Phelps** is in his second year as the owner of From the Farmer, a local farm-fresh home delivery company serving the D.C. metropolitan area. From the Farmer provides the most beautiful heirloom tomatoes, the sweetest melons, and peaches that you can't get enough of. For more information, visit [www.fromthefarmerdc.com](http://www.fromthefarmerdc.com).

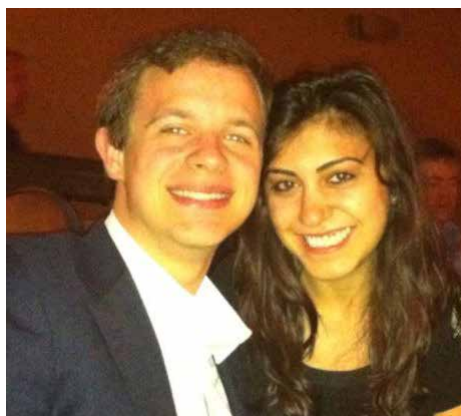
## 2000

**Brendan Murphy** graduated from the University of Miami in 2011. He begins law school at the University of Baltimore this fall. He and his fiancée Julia will be getting married on January 5 in Key West.

## 2001

**Andy Dawson W' 01, M'03** moved to New York City in November and works in marketing and public relations at the MSL Group. He and his girlfriend Alexandra Sedaghatpour were recently engaged in Paris! **Annie Starke W'01** currently works for Mitt Romney's presidential campaign in Boston. She serves as the assistant to the national finance chairman. **Emily**

**Mason W '01** has moved to Chicago, where she is working at the Chicago Tribune as an advertising representative. She also writes an advice blog called *Don't Do That* for the website askamydaily.com, where she discusses the benefits of making mistakes. **Louisa Wall W '01** will be attending Emory University Medical School this fall.



*Photo: Andy Dawson W '01, M '03 proposed to his girlfriend Alexandra in Paris this year.*

## 2002

**Rob Stewart W '02** recently graduated from Duke University and owns a commercial photography business that specializes in 360° panoramas for websites. **Elena Zarabozo W '02** graduated from Kenyon College this spring and worked at the Urban Institute in D.C. this summer. **Abigail Barnard W '02** graduated from the University of Michigan in the spring and will be attending the London School of Economics for graduate work in the fall.

## 2003

**Fenner Gibson W '03** spent the summer in the United Kingdom studying English history and literature at Christ's College at the University of Cambridge. He is a rising senior at the College of William & Mary, where he is pursuing a degree in religious studies.

## 2004

**Adam McInturff W '04, M '06** is working this summer as a video coordinator for the San Diego Padres rookie league team in Peoria, Arizona, after having worked over the past year as an associate scout for the Washington Nationals. **David Dunn W '04, M '06** is studying at the College of Charleston. This spring, he was chosen from the audience to participate in an improvisation competition against seasoned and quick-witted actors at Theatre 99.

He came in second place based on an audience vote! **Jake Starke W '04** is entering his junior year at Bates College and is majoring in economics and math. He studied at the London School of Economics this summer.

## 2005

**Grace Marra W '05, M '07** recently finished her freshman year in the chemical engineering program at Penn State. **Lucy Gibson W '05** spent the summer as a photographer at Joslin's Education Center and Camp for Juvenile Diabetics outside Boston. She will be a sophomore at Georgetown University in the fall. **Ned Mandel W '05, M '07** recently completed his first year at Trinity College and was named to the All-New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) Second Team in men's tennis doubles. Ned and his doubles partner, Anson McCook, were ranked number eight in the Northeast in doubles play. His team, the Trinity Bantams, finished with a number seven ranking in the ITA Division III Northeast Regional Poll and 24th in the ITA Division III National Poll. **David Bull ex '05** attended St. Patrick's from 1996 to 1999, when his family moved to New York City. He is excited to be starting at Bard College this September.

## 2006

**Christopher McIntyre W '06, M '08** will be attending Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania this fall to major in biology. He hopes to become a veterinarian. **Mason Hart W '06** will attend Samford University in Alabama, where he was awarded a four-year scholarship for math and science. His family reports that the educational foundation at St. Patrick's is partly responsible for his academic success. He uses his chemistry skills in his food-catering business, Hart Cakes and Catering ([www.thehartdc.com](http://www.thehartdc.com)), where he also works with several of his St. Patrick's friends, including **Margot McKelvie W '06** and **Chris Maves W '06**. Mason, Margot, and Chris are catering full-time this summer until they go separate ways for college in August. **Mariah James ex. W '06** will be attending Christopher Newport University in the fall. She was accepted into the President's Leadership Program and Honors Program. Mariah also received the Bonner Service Scholarship from Christopher Newport. **Howard "Worth" Smith W '06** graduated *cum laude* from Episcopal High School on June 2 and will attend Washington & Lee University in the fall. **Kazzidy Stewart W '06, M '08** graduated from St. John's College High School with Honors with Distinction this spring. As a senior at St. John's, Kazzidy served as a peer minister and as a class representative. She is headed to Northeastern University in Boston in the fall, where she will major in major in engineering and play Division I women's basketball for the Huskies. Her mother Kimberly says,



## ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

"Thanks to St. Patrick's for the great academic foundation!" **Lilly Hansen W '06, M '08** will take a gap year prior to attending New York University College of Arts and Sciences. Lilly will use her gap year to sail with Sea/Mester followed by service and travel with Rustic Pathways to Morocco, India, and Thailand. **Cameron Buck W '06, M '08** had a spectacular senior year at Bullis. Cameron participated in the International Model United Nations Conference in Genoa, Italy, as a judge for the International Court of Justice. He also received the Most Valuable Player award from the Bullis tennis team this spring. He also received the Irene Ford Smith Memorial Award for Excellence in Social Studies at graduation. He is looking forward to his freshman year at William & Mary in the fall. **Marissa Baly W '06** graduated from National Cathedral School in June, where she received the Class of 1998 Award for Dedication to Fellow Classmates (voted on by the senior class) and the Bishop's Scholar Award (voted on by the faculty). Marissa had a great final year as senior class president and was glad she had St. Pat's classmates **Kira Reinke W '06, Molly McShane W '06, and Nora Loughlin W '06** along the way. In the fall, Marissa will be attending Seaver College of Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, as a Regents Scholar. **Anna Hill W '06** graduated from Holton-Arms this year and will attend the University of Vermont this fall. She is enrolled in the pre-medical program and hopes to add a minor in Chinese. Anna also anticipates playing ice hockey. At Holton-Arms, Anna was the art editor for *Scribe*, the school yearbook, for the past two years and co-captain of the handbell squad, completed AP Chinese in her junior year, distinguished herself in drawing and printmaking, and played varsity ice hockey goalie for all four years. **Jackson Behre ex. W '06** will attend Syracuse University in the fall.

## 2007

**Emma D. W '07, M '09** is a rising senior at Deerfield Academy. She is shadowing the chief of thoracic surgery at Georgetown this summer. Emma has



**Photo:** Brothers Kendall W '08 (left) and Cameron B. W '06, M '08 spent time together in Italy, where they both traveled to participate in a Model United Nations Conference.

played field hockey, squash, and lacrosse at Deerfield and will be a proctor during her senior year.

## 2008

**Kendall B. W '08** participated as a student diplomat at the International Model United Nations Conference in Genoa, Italy. He was also a member of the Bullis School delegation that debated at the Model Arab League Conference, held in April at Georgetown University. Kendall is an avid saxophone player and has played with the Bullis jazz and concert bands since middle school. He performs at several Jazz Cafes held at Bullis each year.

## 2009

**Henry D.** is a rising sophomore at Deerfield Academy, where he plays soccer, hockey, and lacrosse. He is currently enjoying part of his summer at Camp Agawam in Raymond, Maine. After finishing the spring season on the varsity sailing team at the Salisbury School, **Charles C. W '09, M '11** took an international relations course at Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies. He is working as the senior director of social media for Ken Timmerman, a congressional candidate in Maryland's eighth district. In his spare time, Charles is learning how to fly the Cessna 172. **Chloe R. W '09, M '11** was selected by the U.S. Equestrian Team to represent the country on the Young Riders tour through Europe this spring in show jumping. She rode with the U.S. Nation's Cup team in Reims, France that placed second—and won a bottle of champagne for her efforts! **Christian H. ex. W '09** will begin his sophomore year at Landon in the fall. He will be in several honors classes and will continue soccer, riflery, and fencing as extracurricular activities. He is a talented ceramist and has additional interests in robotics, history, and animals. He has also been recognized by Landon for his integrity and honorable conduct. This summer, Christian studied in Tours, France and is traveling to China to visit the family of the Chinese exchange student the Hill family hosted last year. **Will G. W '09** spent the summer playing on summer league teams for both baseball and basketball and is a rising sophomore at Landon.

**Photos right:** A series of alumni submissions: **Top:** Ned Mandel W '05, M '07 competes in doubles tennis for Trinity College. **Second:** Classmates (left to right) Kira Reinke W '06, Nora Loughlin W '06, Marissa Baly W '06, and Molly McShane W '06 at the National Cathedral School graduation. **Middle:** Shannon M. W '09, M '11 (second from right) met Vice President Joe Biden at Sidwell Friends School's graduation this spring. **Fourth:** Chloe R. represented the United States in Europe this spring. She is pictured here with the second-place ribbon in Reims, France. **Bottom:** Siblings Henry W '09, M '11 and Emma D. W '07, M '09 both play lacrosse at Deerfield in Massachusetts.





## Alumni Devote Summer to Horizons Program



With the continued growth of the partnership between Horizons Greater Washington and St. Patrick's (see page 6), several alumni served as Horizons Assistant Teachers (HAT's) this summer. These alumni worked with students from Bancroft Elementary School in Mount Pleasant, who spent six weeks at the Day School. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to this worthy program!

**Front row, left to right:** Nina Khoury W '05, Daniela Chinsammy W '03, M '05, Amanda Corwin W '06, Susan S. W '08, Quinn A. W '07, M '09.

**Second row, left to right:** Mariah James ex. W '06, Verity Allen W '03, Hunter Matthews W '05, Andrew T. W '08, Matthew C. W '08.

**Back row, left to right:** Joseph M. W '07, M '09, Scotty P. W '07, M '09, Molly McShane W '06.

## 2012 Summer at St. Patrick's Alumni Staff



Every summer, a number of alumni return to serve as counselors during the eight-week Summer at St. Patrick's program, which serves students from Nursery through Grade 8. Some of the alumni are pictured above.

**Front row, left to right:** Casey H. ex. W '08, Bria B. W '06, M '08, Anna C. W '08, M '10, Margot McKelvie W '06, Carly Porter W '06, M '08.

**Back row, left to right:** José F. ex. W '08, Shelby Alston W '04, M '06, Chris McIntyre W '06, M '08, Alexandra B. W '09, M '11.

**Not pictured:** Nicholas Bowie W '06, M '08, Elizabeth Gambal W '04, M '06, Nate McArdle W '06, M '08.

# COLLEGE-BOUND GRADUATES

WE CONGRATULATE OUR GRADE 6 CLASS OF 2006  
AND GRADE 8 CLASS OF 2008

**Marissa Baly**

*Pepperdine University*

**Erik Fredriksen**

*Carnegie-Mellon University*

**May Li Lynch**

*Savannah College of Art and Design*

**Kira Reinke**

*St. Olaf College*

**Bria Baylor**

*Salisbury University*

**Nicholas Gambal**

*Sewanee: University of the South*

**Adam MacLaury**

*Trinity College*

**Colin Ross**

*Columbia University*

**Charlotte Blake**

*Boston University*

**Kevin Gardner**

*Whitman College*

**Ian Malone**

*The University of Mary Washington*

**Charlotte Sarraille**

*Wesleyan University*

**Nicholas Bowie**

*University of Rhode Island*

**Kyle Gutierrez**

*Tulane University*

**Christopher Maves**

*Colorado College*

**Randall Seeger**

*Johns Hopkins University*

**Evan Brandolino**

*College of William & Mary*

**Lilly Hansen**

*New York University*

**Nathaniel (Nate) McArdle**

*Tufts University, School of Engineering*

**Kate Silverstein**

*Ohio Wesleyan College*

**Heather Brewster**

*Miami University of Ohio*

**Mason Hart**

*Samford University*

**Christopher McIntyre**

*Susquehanna University*

**Kiah Simms**

*Ithaca College*

**Nathan Bubes**

*Boston College*

**Anna Hill**

*University of Vermont*

**Margot McKelvie**

*Pitzer College*

**Worth Smith**

*Washington & Lee University*

**Cameron Buck**

*College of William & Mary*

**Nicholas Isaacson**

*Tulane University*

**Molly McShane**

*Middlebury College*

**Lily Statzer**

*Furman University*

**Molly Cadwell**

*Franklin & Marshall College*

**Mariah Fae James**

*Christopher Newport University*

**Kieran Pasco**

*University of St. Andrews (Scotland)*

**Kazzidy Stewart**

*Northeastern University*

**Anne Carroll**

*Pratt Institute*

**Peyton Kliefoth**

*Northwestern University*

**Mark Perry**

*Trinity College*

**Kate Woloshin**

*American University*

**Amanda Corwin**

*Colby College*

**Carter Lipnick**

*Pitzer College*

**Carley G. Porter**

*Davidson College*

**Jake Feldman**

*Miami University of Ohio*

**Nora Loughlin**

*University of Chicago*

**Brandon Qureshi**

*Columbia University*

# Retiring Head of Lower School

## Gretchen Spencer Honored by Colleagues

**(continued from p. 11)** Of course, she is sometimes funny when she doesn't mean to be. Just to give you one example, Mrs. Spencer once sent a memo to Lower School teachers that opened with a reflection on her weekend. She shared that she had spent time in her garden urging her *pants* to grow. But you know who enjoys these moments the most? Mrs. Spencer. She understands how important it is to be able to laugh at oneself.

I could stop my comparison there. Mrs. Spencer is one of the funniest people we know—funny like Lucy was funny. But stopping there wouldn't do Lucy or Mrs. Spencer justice. In the 1950's, television was new, and many of the practices that are common today were new as well. Lucille Ball was a real innovator. Thanks to her intelligence and strong leadership, she was the first woman in television to be the head of a television production company. She became one of the first people to sell a television show into syndication. That's why you can still find *I Love Lucy* on television today.

Well, like Lucy, Mrs. Spencer is a smart innovator and a powerful leader. Under her leadership, the Lower School program has become stronger than ever. She has drawn on expert thinkers to make the program better. She strengthened the math program, bringing in renowned educators like Cathy Fosnot to improve teacher's understanding of how to teach

math to young children. She unified the math program in Kindergarten through Grade 3, giving students common language to understand their developing math knowledge. And she has learned about technology with an eye toward drawing in the best programs for students. Mrs. Spencer has left a lasting imprint that, decades from now, will shape practices again and again for St. Patrick's students.

We hate to see Mrs. Spencer go. But we know that her husband Bailey and daughter Sarah are looking forward to having her at home. While she won't be here to talk about Lev, she will be having good conversations with another child psychologist—her daughter, Dr. Sarah Spencer, who recently completed her Ph.D.

But, the one who will really be jumping for joy will be her Portuguese Water dog *Izzy*. Mrs. Spencer is eager to spend time in her garden watching her pants—I mean *plants*—grow! Here is a plant to add to your already beautiful garden. And to get you in the mood for planting, the children in the balcony, those in Grades 4, 5, and 6, have a special gift for you. [Students serenaded Mrs. Spencer with a rendition of "The Garden Song" from the balcony.] 🌱

# St. Patrick's Presents First Jeff Keffer Service Award

## to Retiring Nursery Admission Director Pat Spector

**(continued from p. 10)** At the memorial service for Jeff, one of the speakers observed, "In the end, Jeff, himself, was place. . . . A place of calm and quiet mood and even disposition and unfaltering kindness for his friends," one of whom referred to Jeff's keen intellect, sage advice, gentle humor, commitment, and dedication.

(Beginning this year, we will remember, and honor, a man, a father, a husband, a volunteer, and a friend, who revealed his sense of St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School through a depth of involvement, commitment, energy, and achievement—a life of service to this institution—that will be difficult to equal. We will remember, and honor, this man annually by acknowledging a member of the St. Patrick's faculty and staff for his or her commitment to the Day School, demonstrated understanding of the community that comprises St. Patrick's, and service to the health and vitality of the institution. Specifically, we honor, in Jeff Keffer's name, a member of the faculty and staff who has demonstrated, over time, that understanding of and commitment to this place, that dedication to the quality of the experience of the young people who animate this place, and that yearning for excellence that shaped Jeff's life in service to St. Patrick's.

And so we come to the moment when we announce the first recipient of the Jeff Keffer Service Award. Please note that our selection of this first recipient emerged from lively conversation among a relatively small group of senior administrators, with the final decision resting with the Head of School. We look forward to opening up that process in subsequent years, as we did with the Love of Teaching Award, to members of the faculty and staff who bring a particular, and particularly insightful, perspective to such things. Sup-

ported by an endowment that quickly attracted more than \$100,000 in gifts and pledges, the award includes a significant stipend for the recipient to use as he or she wishes.

This year, we make the Jeff Keffer Service Award to an individual who has had as significant an impact as any other individual, perhaps a greater impact than any other individual, on St. Patrick's during an exceptionally long and distinguished tenure here. In fact, this individual—Pat Spector—almost literally built the community that Jeff Keffer loved so much, and she shaped it in ways that would allow, or invite, individuals of Jeff's understanding, his sensibility, to love it in the way that he did. As I noted in my letter to the community announcing her retirement, Pat admitted more than 1,200 students in her roles first as Head of Nursery School and later, now, as Director of Nursery School Admission.

Now, Pat would note that she has retired once before—which she did, sort of. And she would note that we made quite a fuss over her at that time. We will not repeat that fuss. But we will, now, recognize the manner in which she has captured the very essence of St. Patrick's in all that she does and the way in which she has challenged us to be the institution we say we want to be—recognizing the value of community, seeing the good in all young children, and bringing best practice and sound pedagogy to our shared work here.

There seems to me to be something altogether fitting in inaugurating the Jeff Keffer Service Award with an acknowledgement of all that Pat Spector has contributed to the life and vitality of St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School. Please join me in doing so. 🌱



# Kindergarten Circus



## Grades 5 and 6 Musical: *The Empress's New Clothes*





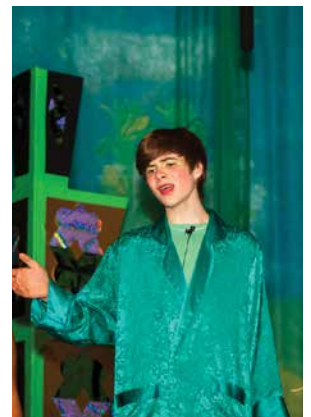
# Grade 8 Civil Rights Trip

Grades 7 and 8 Capstone Trip to Atlanta, Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery



# Grades 7 and 8 Studio & Performing Arts Night

*"Scales Count: Every, Any, All, Some, None" and "The Wiz"*



# Save the Date!



# FUN



# Family Fun Day

## Saturday, October 13





4700 Whitehaven Parkway, NW  
Washington, DC 20007  
[www.stpatedc.org](http://www.stpatedc.org)

*Our Mission*

*St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School strives to create a diverse learning community of students, teachers, and parents who recognize the infinite value of every participant as a child of God. We are committed to developing character, advancing human understanding, and promoting academic excellence in our students in order to prepare them to live with integrity, compassion, and purpose.*

# SAVE THE DATE

## **First Day of 2012-2013 School Year**

Tuesday, September 4

## **Kindergarten - Grade 8 Opening Chapel and Parents Reception**

Friday, September 7, 8:30 am

## **Nursery Opening Chapel and Parents Reception**

Thursday, September 20, 9:15 am

## **Upper School Back-to-School Night**

Thursday, September 20, 7:00 pm

## **Lower School Back-to-School Night**

Thursday, September 27, 7:00 pm

## **Nursery School Back-to-School Night**

Thursday, October 4, 7:00 pm

# Welcome Back!



*St. Patrick's is on Facebook!  
Please follow us.*