

THE PAIDEIA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Volume LV

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September 2022

LEADING WITH KINDNESS

It started at dawn with the 2023 senior class meeting at Python Park for the second-annual senior sunrise. Fueled by bagels, orange juice, tiaras and good times, the seniors came together to celebrate the first day of the 2022-23 school year before moving to Paideia's main campus for the first Monday Morning Meeting of the year, which was quite naturally held on a Wednesday.

Sophomore **Henry Cayce** extended his arm like a practiced MLB player to catch the ceremonial eraser thrown by Paul Bianchi for more than 50 years. As legend has it, this catch ensures that Henry will become a teacher. Paideia anxiously awaits his choice of subject and grade level and hopes he will return to the school to share his gifts one day.

The reunions and greetings continued as new and returning students arrived on campus for the first day of school. Beginnings and change can be difficult, and there is often a sense of loss or uprooting that occurs. However, this first day demonstrated the legacy of thoughtfulness and compassion that is part of Paideia's history and lives on today. This legacy is rooted in Paideia's framework of values as we strive to reflect, evaluate and grow together. Our community members work on ourselves through a process of growing and learning communally. We strive to create space and belonging as well as push for further inclusion, belonging and kindness for everyone from the first day of school to the last.

As we move through leadership, faculty and social transitions, we can hold true to the essence of what makes Paideia a place where students, faculty and staff feel safe, supported and happy. We do this by working together. This commitment to each other was demonstrated in the elementary, junior high and high school on the first day of school.



Brian Eames '88 found an upper elementary student wandering around near the wiggle wall. "Um, could you tell me where the BAD (Becca, Antonjo and David) class is?" said the student. Brian walked him into the 1509 building, explaining that his class was on the very top floor of the former house, in the attic. "But I'm afraid of heights!" he said, looking nervously over the railing as he got to the second floor. Brian assured him there were not too many windows in the attic.

When the student saw the very steep set of stairs leading up to the attic classroom, he let launch a phrase best left to mature audiences. Brian gently patted his backpack and said, "Easy, now. You're going to be alright. I promise." Brian was not convinced that the student believed him, but the student trudged up the stairs to his classroom.

In John and Kendall's junior high home-base classroom, the first day of school began with introductions and responses to a prompt that helps the class get to know each other. This year, the prompt was, "What is something you are really grossed out by?" There were the usual responses

— including cockroaches, needles, throw-up, worms — but some of the kids also said they were grossed out by cats, tomatoes, rainbow gel pens, cobwebs, fish, babies crying on airplanes, glitter, gristle in chicken, the shower drain, horses, the smell of funnel cake and corndogs, animals that have been run over, lipstick on straws, avocados, dog and hamster poop, wet socks, the Detroit Pistons and the two milliseconds before you face-plant when wakeboarding.

The class shared laughter over these responses, and the exercise established easy points of connection and reconnection to create unity and rapport within the classroom.

Paideia's upper-level high school students also demonstrated kindness toward new community members by sharing the knowledge they have gained over the years and offering a helping hand.

During Emily's first Urban Agriculture class, she told the students that, on Friday, the class would meet in the MAC kitchen. A junior turned to a first-year high school

continued on page 2

LEADING *continued from page 1*

student who is new to Paideia and said, “Do you know where that is?” The freshman silently shook her head no. “Let’s meet here Friday, and I’ll walk you over there.”

These gestures extended at all levels

of the school as overheard in the theater courtyard:

“What time does the high school start?”

“8:30 — are you a freshman?”

“Yes.”

“We are starting with a meeting this morning, and you need to go to the black box. Do you know where that is?”

“Yes, I know that’s where I’m supposed to be. Is it over there?”

“Come on, I’ll show you.”

The upperclassman needed no prompting from a teacher to welcome the first-year high school students into the community, share knowledge and demonstrate care.



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Mark Your Calendar

Eat Lunch with Your Child
Tuesday, Sept. 20

New Parent Dinner
Wednesday, Sept. 21

Grandparents’ and Special Friends’ Day
Friday, Sept. 30

Fall Barbeque
Saturday, Oct. 1

Slither 5K
Saturday, Oct. 29

Paideia Auction
Saturday, March 11

SUPPORT PAIDEIA THROUGH TAX CREDITS

Did you know that you can redirect your state income tax liability to support Paideia's financial aid program?

In 2009, Paideia School joined the state-sponsored tax-credit program that allows taxpayers to divert a portion of the Georgia state income tax liability to Paideia for financial aid. Since joining this program, Paideia has received more than \$5 million for financial aid. The school partners with Apogee Student Scholarship Organization to facilitate this program. Apogee is currently accepting tax-credit applications for the 2023 tax year. New in 2023, the contribution amounts for qualified individuals has doubled. Take advantage of this additional way to provide direct support to our school. You can apply quickly and easily at www.apogee123.org. It only takes a few minutes to support Paideia students!

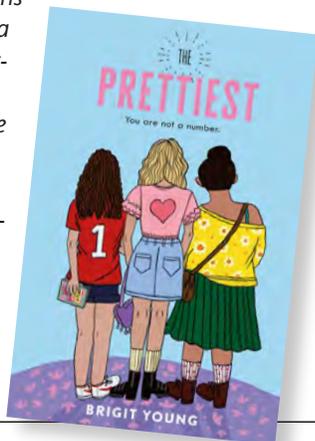
BOOKED ON CAMPUS

Paideia is a community of readers, and we love to share. From the faculty "What I'm Reading" book cover displays, student-book clubs and faculty-discussion groups to Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) in the elementary and junior high and Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) in Marianne Hines' high school lit classes, students and adults across all levels enjoy escaping into a good book. In upcoming newsletters, we will highlight a book we are reading or recommend one in the newsletter under Booked on Campus.

The book — *The Prettiest* by Brigit Young

Who's reading it? *The entire junior high school*

Why we like it — *Eighth-grade social tensions escalate and friendships are tested after someone publishes a ranked list of the prettiest girls in the class. The Prettiest is a thoughtful story about bullying and sexual harassment, with students taking positive action and an uplifting conclusion. This was the 2022 junior high summer-community-read selection, and in mid-September we will host the author Brigit Young for a visit and workshops.*



PEPPERDENE SPEAKER TERRANCE HAYES

Terrance Hayes is the author of *American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin* (2018); a finalist for the National Book Award in Poetry and winner of the Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry; *How to Be Drawn* (2015), longlisted for the National Book Award in Poetry; *Lighthouse* (2010), winner of the National Book Award in Poetry; *Wind in a Box* (2006), winner of a Pushcart Prize; *Hip Logic* (2002), winner of the National Poetry Series and a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Award; and *Muscular Music* (1999), winner of both the Whiting Writers Award and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. He is also the author of the short-story collection *To Float in the Space Between: Drawings and Essays in Conversation with Etheridge Knight* (2018), which won the Etheridge Knight Criticism Collection award from the Poetry Foundation; and the editor of the anthology *Wicked Enchantment: Selected Poems* (2020).

Hayes is an elegant and adventurous writer with disarming humor, grace, tenderness and brilliant turns of phrase, very much interested in what it means to be an artist and a Black man. He writes, "There are recurring explorations of identity and culture in my work, and rather than deny my thematic obsessions, I work to change the forms in which I voice them. I aspire to a poetic style that resists style. In my newest work, I continue to be guided by my interests in people: in the ways community enriches the nuances of individuality and the ways individuality enriches the nuances of community."

Professor of English at New York University, Hayes currently resides in New York City.

Hayes' visit is sponsored by the Pepperdene Fund, a trust established in 2009 by Jane Pepperdene, professor of English at Agnes Scott College and then teacher at Paideia for 20 years. Professor Pepperdene's generous endowment allows Paideia to bring writers of distinction to the school for the benefit of its students and the community.

Reserve your seat(s) now! Please RSVP by Friday, Nov. 11, at www.paideiaschool.org/rsvp.

Email Sarah Schiff at schiff.sarah@paideiaschool.org with any questions regarding the event.

Visit www.paideiaschool.planmylegacy.org To learn more about legacy giving.

Thursday, November 17, 2022
Paideia Theater, 6:30 p.m.

Learn more about Terrance Hayes and reserve your seats



THE PAIDEIA SCHOOL

1509 Ponce de Leon Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30307

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THE PAIDEIA SCHOOL is nonsectarian, serving families with children ages three through 18. Paideia does not discriminate in employment or in admissions. It actively seeks racial, cultural, and economic diversity in its student body. The ancient Greek word *Paideia* conveys the concept of a child's total education: intellectual, artistic, and social. The Paideia School Newsletter is published 10 times a year. The deadline for the newsletter is the 1st of the preceding month. Send all correspondence to Caroline Driebe, Editor, at Paideia School, 1509 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30307. Phone number is 404/377-3491, ext. 339; e-mail address is driebe.caroline@paideiaschool.org. For information about sports schedules and upcoming events visit our web site at www.paideiaschool.org

ALUMNI NEWS

Compiled by Sadie Burbank '08, Director of Alumni Relations

- **Natalie Alm '05** has been working at the intersection of communications and international development for most of her career in Washington, D.C. and abroad. She recently began a new job with DAI on a USAID project called INVEST, which works to engage the private sector in achieving inclusive and sustainable development.
- **Cole Stone-Frisina '14** writes: I received my BFA in jazz performance from the school of jazz and contemporary music (saxophone) at The New School in 2018. Since then, I have played hundreds of gigs per year with various bands in New York City, including the Kyle Lacy Band and the legendary performance artist Christeene, as well as leading my own groups. My debut album, "Fish Gotta Have It," went live in July and is available on all streaming services, with a limited number of albums available on vinyl. Bonus: The cover art was done by Paideia alum parent and album-cover guru Flournoy Holmes (Fletcher '97 and Cooper '00).
- **Tate Stone-Frisina '17** writes: I received my BA in social entrepreneurship in 2021 from Rollins College with a minor in history. Because of COVID-19, I received two additional years of NCAA eligibility, so I will be able to finish my MBA (also from Rollins) in 2023 while still playing baseball. This past season was a great one: Rollins made it to the D2 College World Series in Carey, North Carolina, where we placed 3rd in the nation! I had nine Ws this past year, including one at the World Series. I've got one more year of school and baseball and then will be looking for a job in green energy or sustainability.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Alumni Community Reaches Final Benchmark For Financial Aid Match Challenge

Congratulations on a job well done to all of our alumni who participated in the Education Opportunity Fund. This year we are proud to announce that we have reached our goal of raising a total of \$150,000 from 120 alumni. An anonymous donor matched 100% of these gifts, doubling their impact on financial aid. Financial aid has been a cornerstone of Paideia since our inception more than 50 years ago, and we are grateful to those alumni who supported this initiative.

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, October 21, will be our second-annual Alumni Service Day. Join your fellow alums on campus as the community comes together to volunteer and support the Gateway Center. More details to come.