

THE PAIDEIA SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Volume LV

Number 3

October 2022

Paideia School Announces New Head of School

On Sept. 15, The Paideia School announced its Board of Trustees' approval of **Thomas E. Taylor** as next head of school. Tom has served as the head of upper school at Riverdale Country School in the Bronx, New York, since 2020.

Tom, 40, will succeed Paul Bianchi, who has been Paideia's only head of school since 1971, and will join The Paideia School on July 1, 2023.

"Tom Taylor is a warm, energetic and forward-thinking leader," said search committee head Melba Hughes. "Not only has he demonstrated a strong affinity for the unique values and culture that have distinguished The Paideia School as one of the leading progressive schools in the nation; he truly understands what makes it a special place for those who spend our days here. This understanding, paired with his considerable experience, suits him marvelously to lead the school into its next chapter."

"After a comprehensive and rewarding search that spanned three countries and eight U.S. states, we are confident we have found in Tom Taylor the ideal candidate to build on Paideia's legacy as one of our nation's leading progressive schools," said Board of Trustees Chair Wayne Aaron.

Tom is currently a doctoral candidate in education policy and leadership at the University of Minnesota and holds a master's

degree from Teachers College at Columbia University. He graduated from Oberlin College with a bachelor's in physics and theater. As a faculty member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), he provides one-on-one coaching to aspiring school leaders at NAIS' School Leadership Institute. He has also served as upper school director at Breck School in Minneapolis, as well as dean of students and director of financial aid and outreach at Riverdale Country School. He began his career as a physics teacher at Riverdale Country School.

"I'm excited to be joining a place that centers both children and the joy of learning so clearly and consistently," Taylor said. "The parents who founded Paideia and invited Paul Bianchi to lead the school built an amazing community, and it's an honor and a thrill to step into those shoes and carry forward Paideia's legacy as a model of progressive independent education."

Tom said that chief among his priorities is ensuring a smooth transition in the months to come. He also looks forward to working to advance the school's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion consistent with the DEI Strategic Plan.

"I carry a lot of privilege in the way I show up in the world, and so I've taken it on as an obligation to make sure that the



spaces I occupy and am responsible for curating are as inclusive as possible — and I look forward to continuing The Paideia School's important work in this area."

In his spare time, Tom enjoys cooking with his family, doing the New York Times crossword, and playing Frisbee with his wife (a former ultimate player) and their two children. (Whether he'll try out for the Pythons' ultimate team is unknown at press time.)

The Paideia community began laying the groundwork for this search by preparing for Paul Bianchi's eventual retirement as early as 1999. For this year's intensive

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Booked on Campus

The book: *Ban This Book* by Alan Gratz

Who's Reading It: Elementary students in Kristen and Emily's class, Luke and JJW's class, Dan and Chupzi's class, and Brooke and Mandi's class during their weekly library visits

Why We Like It: Sept. 18-24 is Banned Books Week. At Paideia, we celebrate the freedom to read by learning about what book banning is and how the First Amendment protects our right to read. *Ban This Book* tells the story of Amy Anne, a nine-year-old who discovers that her favorite book has been banned from the school library, and how she and her friends fight back against censorship.



Paideia's Student-Run Musical Charms Audience

Paideia's Student-Run Musical "The Little Mermaid" was previewed on Aug. 29 and performances were held Aug. 29-30 in Paideia Theater. The musical tells the story of Ariel, King Triton's youngest daughter, who wishes to pursue the human Prince Eric on dry land. After bargaining with Ursula, the evil sea witch, Ariel trades her beautiful voice for legs and relies on her underwater friends to help her regain her voice and reunite with the prince.

This year's performance was a crowd-pleaser with beautiful singing, superb acting as well as exceptional set design and staging. The performance was accompanied by Paideia's live band, which added depth and breadth to the performance. Kudos to all of the students who participated in the production.

The Student-Run Musical began more than 20 years ago with an enterprising group of Paideia students who were interested in producing a musical on their own. It continued as a way for students to have agency and responsibility for a large stage production. Students select and rehearse the musical in June and work throughout the summer to design costumes and sets as well as to stage and rehearse the performance. The annual event brings together students and families from across all divisions in celebration of the hard work and talents of Paideia students.



Paideia Farm Feed

This summer Paideia Farm had a fantastic group of high school volunteers, interns and paid apprentices. From recent graduates to rising sophomores, this incredible crew worked hard to make the height of our growing season extremely successful. Not only do Paideia students of all ages learn a lot on the farm, we also produce tons of food (by which we don't mean lots, we mean tons) that we share with our neighbors.

We want to give a special shout-out to current high school students Gus, Amelia, Ari, Lili, Emerson, Nevaeh, Anika, Michael, Mauro, Luisa, Kaiya, Gabrielle, Jojo, Bahiyiyih, Page, Eva, Lucas, Esteban, Raffaella, Kate, Thomas, Allie and Marcelle for put-

ting in hours of sweat work this summer. These students not only pulled many wheelbarrows full of weeds in June and July, but also harvested, washed and packed more than 2,600 pounds of produce in just two months to distribute through our CSA and community partners, including Urban Recipe, Intown Collaborative Ministries and Free99Fridge.

Want to learn more about urban agriculture at Paideia and see how we're engaging students, families, alumni and the broader community? Check out our new Google site: <https://sites.google.com/paideiaschool.org/urbanag>

ALUMNI NEWS

Compiled by Sadie Burbank '08,
Director of Alumni Relations

- **Betha Dowling '77** writes, “While volunteering in Yellowstone National Park this past summer, my husband and I experienced a late winter blizzard, endured flash floods in the northern part of the park, survived a park closure and evacuation and had the time of our lives exploring the 2.2 million acres on our own with no crowds for 10 days. What more could you ask for during a summer? Well, electricity and water would have been nice. We hope to return next year.”
- **Carley Cook '21** says, “This summer, I had the honor of interning in the Office of U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff '05. It was a privilege to serve Georgia’s constituents, assist the office and further understand the inner workings of politics. I am so grateful for this experience and everyone I met along the way.”



Welcoming two new members to the Alumni Advisory Council

This year we welcome **Harlan Eplan '83** and **Nigel Smith '15** to the Alumni Advisory Council, chaired for the second year by **Andrew Lorber '00**.

Harlan credits his experiences in Paideia elementary and high school and his amazing teachers for the self-confidence to take risks and to be open-minded when it comes to interesting and diverse career and life experiences.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Nigel attended Atlanta Public Schools until 7th grade. He then joined Paideia as A Better Chance scholar in 2009. Passionate about elevating others, Nigel spends time mentoring in several academic and community-based groups.



Learn more about Paideia's Alumni Association and get involved!

COMMUNITY

Register for Bettina Love Webinar

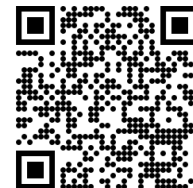
On Wednesday, Nov. 9, Paideia will host Bettina Love — award-winning author and the William F. Russell Professor at Teachers College, Columbia University — for Paideia’s Race Day.

During the school day, Love will work with junior high and high school students to share insights into how students can find their voices in conversations about race, ethnicity and belonging. Students will emerge with a better sense of the importance of race and identity in today’s world and an understanding of how to engage to create actions.

At 7 p.m., Paideia will host an online webinar for Paideia parents and the broader community with the purpose of facilitating shared interactions

and understandings that spark thoughtful dialogue at home about race, ethnicity and belonging.

Learn more about Paideia's Race Day and about Bettina Love, and reserve your spot.



Love’s writing, research, teaching and educational advocacy work meet at the intersection of disrupting education reform and strengthening public education through abolitionist teaching, Black joy and antiracism. The aim of her scholarship is twofold: first, to advance how the field of education understands and critiques school reform and the systemic and structural racism of public education within the U.S.; and second, to advocate for abolitionist approaches in the field of education that seek new possibilities for educational justice.

Register for the webinar at www.paideiaschool.org/bettinalove

Paideia Alums Play and Coach at World Games 2022

During the summer, two Paideia alumni participated in the World Games and emerged as champions. **Grant Lindsley '07** and **Chris Kocher '10** now hold two World Games titles in ultimate frisbee, and our science teacher and junior varsity and varsity coach **Miranda Knowles '00** became the first person to win as a player ('05) and coach ('22). Way to go, Pythons!



THE PAIDEIA SCHOOL

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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

High School Outdoor Club Takes a Hike up Stone Mountain

On Sept. 14, the High School Outdoor Club held its first outing of the school year. Nine students, accompanied by faculty advisor Mark Alexander, hiked up Stone Mountain to watch a beautiful sunset over the Atlanta skyline. The orange glow lingered in the western sky while the city lights emerged below. A light breeze provided a hint of cooler days to come. It was a great way to get outside and usher in the fall season.

— Mark Alexander, High School Outdoor Club faculty advisor



Pictured (l to r): Kate Kurzius, Cordie Kakareka, Amelia Darling, Charlie Collins, Justine Germain, Forrest Holcomb, Josh Whitehead, Henry Lopez, Nat Hamrick

New Head of School *continued from page 1*

process, the search committee brought on consultant group Carney, Sandoe & Associates.

The search spanned eight months, included outreach to nearly 200 school leaders around the world and incorporated feedback from the administration as well as faculty, staff, alumni, parents and students. Extensive interviews were held with more than 70 candidates. In the search's ultimate stages, three finalists paid comprehensive visits to the campus in August to interact with the Paideia community.

For more information about Paideia's new head of school, please visit www.paideiaschool.org/nexttheadofschool.

Register for Terrance Hayes Reading

Thursday, Nov. 17
6:30 p.m.
Paideia Theater



Learn more about
Terrance Hayes and
reserve your seats.

