



# *Matters*

Spring 2019

*News for the families and friends of George Stevens Academy*



*Special education is looking up. Discover why on page 4.*

*Read about our alumni principals, upcoming events, ISIP, arts, athletics, and more!*

## Our Mission

George Stevens Academy is an independent high school on the coast of Maine. The academy is a caring educational community committed to meeting the needs of each local and boarding student with a challenging, comprehensive academic and experiential program that fosters the pursuit of knowledge, inspires creativity, develops self-reliance, and prepares graduates for a purposeful life in a changing world.



## Our Community Values

**Empathy:** Be patient, listen, find a connection, do no harm

**Respect:** Show respect regardless of how you feel, avoid an angry tone and actions, assume the best intentions of others

**Preparedness:** Have short- and long-term plans, know what your resources are and what you need, ask questions

## From the Head of School



One of the elements of GSA that I love most, one that I believe is at the heart of our town academy, is our ambition to be the best high school choice for each student who lives on or near the Blue Hill Peninsula.

To prepare our diverse students for whatever educational or career paths they choose, we offer academic and experiential programs that draw on our area's unique resources and help them make direct connections in our communities. Our one-of-a-kind curricular offerings, which we can provide because we are an independent town academy, prepare local students and students from other countries to lead fulfilling, connected lives wherever they call home.

In this issue, we celebrate one of our experiential programs, ISIP. We also shine a light on our commitment to special education, a program that allows us to welcome students from our communities whom we might not have been able to welcome in the past. We take great pride in providing the academic supports all students need and in creating for special education students an appropriately challenging curriculum that stretches them, gives them a chance to excel, and prepares them well for life after GSA.

Thank you, as always, for your support of our school.

Timothy J. Seeley

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## Upcoming Events ... 8

The Class of 2019 will march to "Pomp and Circumstance" soon enough, but don't miss the great GSA events coming up before then. Also, find out about the Alumni Association's Alumni Banquet and this summer's reunions.



## ISIP ... 10



Why is Alice Bowden '20 all smiles? She must have really enjoyed her ISIP. See photos from 10 of this year's projects (plus one on the back cover!) and read how ISIP helped Nikki Jaffray '04 choose her career.

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"Confidently Content" by MacKenzie Tapley '19 is one of seven artworks by five students honored with a state Scholastic Art award. Read about their success and that of our musicians, thespians, and our representative at a state poetry recital.



## Athletics ... 14



Isaac Wardwell '19 jumped up, up, up in the Class C North semifinal game. Find out how our basketball, indoor track, and swim team athletes distinguished themselves.

**CORRECTIONS:** In the 2018 Annual Report, Madeline Heilner, Peter Howell, Lucy Jakub, Will Ludlow, Megan Malaby, Zachary Strehan, Harriet Wanning, and Zheyang Xue were listed as Class of 2012 donors, but those students graduated in 2013. We regret the error.

The 2018 Annual Report listing of "Gifts Made in Memory" should have included tribute gifts made by Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Turner in memory of their brothers John F. Bartlett, Jr., James C. Bartlett, and Hollis M. Turner. We regret the error.

The 2018 Annual Report should have listed Anne Bridges as an alumni donor for class year 1970. We apologize for the omission.



# Opportunities Arise from Challenges

## Special Ed Program Continues Growth

Cory Schildroth, special education director at GSA, planned to get his elementary education degree at UMO then move to an inner-city school where he could work with students in challenging situations. But while at university, he met another student, Shelly Astbury, a member of the George Stevens Academy Class of 2000. They married and moved to Blue Hill, and Cory found work as an ed tech.

During his more than 10 years as a special education ed tech, he realized that he didn't need to go to an inner-city school to find challenges. There is tremendous socioeconomic diversity on the peninsula, Cory said. There are students living in million dollar houses whose parents are doctors, scientists, and maybe two miles away, there are students living in mobile homes with parents working blue collar jobs, "not that there's anything wrong with either," it's just that these very different situations sometimes come with different expectations and hopes for school and life. "And the farther you go [from Blue Hill], the more of that diversity you see."

"You have schools that are so small they don't have Spanish or French, to bigger schools with a writing teacher or science specialist. Some go to K-8 schools with a total of maybe 56 kids. The trickiest thing for GSA teachers is to take students from all levels, all walks of life ... with very diverse family backgrounds, very diverse educational backgrounds, all types of students" and teach them in the same classrooms. "I always commend teachers" who do that.

### *Growth Meets Community Needs*

When Cory started at GSA in 2013, he was the sole special education employee. He worked out of one room with a caseload of nine students. But school administrators at the time, said Cory, wanted GSA to become a school that truly serves the community, a decision that really resonated with the new special education director.

"I'm a strong believer that if you're part of the community, you're part of our community. ... I have a hard time saying that you need to uproot yourself from the community you're used to because you have a unique need. ... I've worked hard to make sure that we're a community school."

Cory's second year, he knew of a student, a friend of his son, who had been in the local schools from K-8, but was considering leaving the area to attend high school. "I can't imagine this student having to start over at another school without his core group of peers." So Cory worked hard with the sending school to figure out what the student would need to succeed at GSA.

"He came here, and I always say we needed him even more than he needed us. Building a program around his needs paved the way for another student to come here, and that paved the way for another." Through word of mouth, the reputation of the program spread. One parent said that their student was at GSA and doing great, said Cory, and another talked about how well another student was

doing. "And the parents are awesome, ... so willing to work with us as a team."

"And we have three kids coming next year that, six years ago, never would have been able to step foot in this building."

With the increase in awareness of the services available, the caseload has grown to nearly 70, and the number of staff has had to keep pace with that growth. There are now seven and a half full-time equivalent staff working in special education at GSA. Some are GSA employees who provide services to whoever needs help, while others are assigned by the school union to meet a specific student's needs. The facilities for special education have grown, too. In addition to the Resource Room, there is a room for students with unique needs (the SUN room), a quiet study room, and a kitchen where students learn practical life skills as well as subjects such as mathematics through cooking.

### *What Does the Future Hold?*

Cory's vision for special education at GSA is simple: "to continue to serve the students who come to us." Though he isn't looking for more room for the Special Education department, Cory said it would be good "to have a learning center so that students without IEPs and 504s can get help in a reading lab, writing lab, or math lab. ... We should have a place where any student can get assistance beyond getting help from their teachers, which is great, but it would be better if we had a learning center to take some of the burden off [the teachers]."



Cory Schildroth  
Special Education Director  
16 years in special ed, 6 at GSA

### **What brought you to special education?**

"I had a teacher in middle school who influenced me a lot, and I thought, 'I could do that. I think I could help out those students who struggle.'"

### **What are you most passionate about?**

"I love working with the students. I love sitting down and accomplishing things with them."

### **Memorable moment**

"I have kids, graduates, who said 'I hated coming to the special ed room my first year, but thank god you were there.' Their freshman year, they didn't want to come to the Resource Room, but by their junior or senior year, they were banging down my door."



Lori Wessel '81  
Special Education Teacher  
35 years in special ed, 4 at GSA

### **What brought you to special education?**

"As part of my ISIP in 1981, I worked at a center in Bangor for disabled students. It was then that I decided this was my path."

### **What are you most passionate about?**

"Helping students become self-advocates ... and embracing their strengths. Also, realizing their weaknesses and being able to work within those to be successful."

### **Memorable Moment**

"One boy I had in middle school struggled with all aspects of life, yet he showed up day after day, year after year. ... When I ran into him a year or so ago, he was proud. He is providing for his family and is fully employed. I asked about his success ..., and he told me that all the times I told him to be proud of what he could do, to ask for help when he needed it, and to always strive to be the best he could be came to mind a lot. Just my believing in him helped him."



Bryan Lescord  
Self-Contained Special Ed Teacher  
7 years in special ed, 2 at GSA

### **What brought you to special education?**

"I have always enjoyed the craft of teaching and was drawn specifically to self-contained special education by the nature of the work." *Note: Direct academic instruction by a special education teacher is referred to as "self-contained special education."*

### **What are you most passionate about?**

The "chance to earn a living by making real, observable differences in the lives of others is what I treasure most about my work."

### **Memorable Moments**

"... When a student has shown great leaps of learning in his or her individualized program, participated in a class for the first time, joined a sports team or activity club in unprecedented fashion, or used developing language skills to communicate something profound."

*Unsolicited Praise: Megan Granger '91, school counselor at the Blue Hill Consolidated School, recently wrote to Head of School Tim Seeley to acknowledge the help she's received transitioning students to high school. She is "very impressed" by the recent expansion of special ed services at GSA and is "very thankful to the excellent staff working with [our] special education population at GSA, and [she looks] forward to continuing to foster positive transitions."*

*Thank you, Megan, for recognizing the good work of our special education teachers and ed techs.*

# Alumni Principals Lead Coastal Schools

At least six GSA alumni currently lead public schools in coastal Maine communities. With from one to ten years experience as principals, the alumni profiled here run three peninsula schools and three schools farther afield where approximately 1,400 Maine youths are being educated this year.

We invited each of our alumni principals to tell us about their career paths, their school communities, and the rewards and challenges of their work. To read the interviews in full, visit [www.georgestevensacademy.org/AlumniPrincipals](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/AlumniPrincipals).

## Fred Cole '88

### Surry Elementary School

BA Soviet Studies, Colby  
MEd Ed. Leadership, UMaine



Fred is in his fourth year as principal of Surry Elementary. Previously, he was principal of Blue Hill Consolidated for six years. Before that, he worked as a K-12 substitute teacher and a sixth-grade teacher while earning his high school social studies and K-8 certification. He was inspired by GSA teachers like Roger Bennatti to “employ humor, depth of content knowledge, and consistency of expectations” to engage students in the classroom.

*What do you love?* “I love working with teachers to solve problems. I love the energy and joy of being around children.”

*What is most challenging?* “Many students’ homes struggle with poverty, food insecurity, and substance use. Knowing the challenges children sometimes face is both emotionally exhausting and inspiring.”

*What is a source of pride?* “As a small school sitting between two towns with high schools, Surry has been able to create its own independent identity, implementing programming guided by best practice but unencumbered by heavy bureaucracy.”

Matt started out on the baseball coaching staff at the University of Maine, followed by jobs as a PE teacher and as athletic director for various schools. GSA Coach Dan Kane inspired Matt’s early career path, until he “went down the trail of full-time administration.” He served as assistant principal at MDI High School for eight years before becoming principal in 2013.

*What do you love?* “The numerous daily interactions I have with teenagers simultaneously keep me young and make me feel my age.”

*What is most challenging?* “The principal of a school is the center of an emotional cyclone. One of my key roles is to absorb some of that emotion so others can forge ahead and achieve their goals. That’s where it becomes very important to have balance.”

*What is a source of pride?* “We love our place, we love our students, and we love each other. We don’t have all the answers but are confident that we can work together to find them.”

## Matt Haney '94

### MDI High School

BS Kinesiology/PE, UMaine  
MEd Ed. Leadership, UMaine



## Hayley Gommel Fenton '03

### Cranberry Isles School

BM Music Ed., Northern Illinois  
MSEd Teaching/Learning, USM



Inspired by Steve Orlofsky and GSA’s music program, Hayley planned to be a musician and music educator. As a student teacher in inner-city Chicago, she witnessed the needs of students in impoverished neighborhoods and became passionate about the potential for education to further social justice. She taught for several years in New Orleans before returning to Maine. Since receiving her master’s degree, Hayley has taught early elementary school in Ellsworth and Cherryfield. This is her first year as principal at Cranberry Isles School.

*What do you love?* “I love the variety in the work. My days fly by!”

*What is most challenging?* “The variety is also challenging! Wearing many hats can be difficult, but I am lucky to have an incredible support system.”

*What is a source of pride?* “The Cranberry Isles community is a dynamic and unique place. Our school is a two-room schoolhouse on an unbridged island off the coast of MDI. We are creative and flexible. Every day is an adventure!”



## **Cammie Fowler '95** **Brooksville Elementary School**

*BS Elementary Ed., UMaine  
MEd Ed. Leadership, UMaine*



After college, Cammie taught eighth grade in Sedgwick and was inspired by Principal Don Buckingham to get her master's degree. Cammie has taught a variety of grades and still teaches math at Brooksville Elementary, where she is in her second year as principal.

*What do you love?* "Serving kids and families is what I find most rewarding. I love helping kids who find school challenging ... I love serving Brooksville, too. I enjoy knowing the community and helping make it stronger for my generation and those coming after me."

*What is most challenging?* "Time. There is never enough time to get everything done that could be done."

*What is a source of pride?* "I think as a community we are most proud of being a small school that is thriving ... There is a lot of energy around our agricultural arts program and how we are using technology. These are two areas we can really use to our advantage with our small school population."

Shelly has been at BHCS most of her life: as a student, a teacher for 10 years, and a principal the past four years. As a teacher, her time on the curriculum committee under the leadership of Gail Breslin Keith inspired her to become the Union 93 curriculum coordinator in 2014, her dream job at the time. The next fall, Shelly stepped in as interim principal at BHCS after the new principal resigned, and she found she enjoyed being back at the school in a leadership role.

*What do you love?* "I enjoy problem-solving, which is an important part of the job. It's rewarding when a problem gets solved, like finding the right plan for a student. We work together as a team to find success, and it makes an impact."

*What is most challenging?* "It is a huge job trying to know everything there is to know about the building and what goes on in it."

*What is a source of pride?* "We attract really good teachers who are proud to be part of our faculty, and we involve students as citizens in our community. We also work all the time on differentiation for our students so every child has access to challenging and engaging work."

## **Shelly Astbury Schildroth '00** **Blue Hill Consolidated School**

*BS Elementary Ed., UMaine  
MS Curr./Instr., University of Scranton*



## **Jaime Carroll Stone '94** **Camden-Rockport Middle School**

*BS Elementary Ed., UMaine  
MS Admin./Supv., Johns Hopkins*



After teaching eighth grade in Sedgwick, Jaime moved to Maryland, where she taught and helped open a teacher-led school. Realizing how much she cared about the frameworks and priorities of a school, Jaime became an Expeditionary Learning coach for teachers and administrators nationally, then oversaw the expansion of an Expeditionary Learning school in Baltimore, where she became principal. Jaime has spent 10 years as a principal; this is her fifth at Camden-Rockport.

*What do you love?* "Middle school kids are really funny and still enjoy working with adults who care about them. They are willing to take risks and are at a stage where they are still figuring out who they are ... The staff is also one of the highlights for me. From our teachers to our custodians, we are crew and are a pretty high-functioning work family."

*What is most challenging?* "The work is based on servant leadership, so you serve the community in all you do and need to keep that in focus. The work is humbling and is never done."

*What is a source of pride?* "Kindness! Respect between children and adults is high, and kind acts are happening around every corner. Middle school isn't always an environment where we think kindness is a highlight, but it is at CRMS. It is one of our core values."

*Alumni! Do you have news to share? Have you started a new job or earned a degree? Married recently? Become a parent or grandparent? Traveled far and wide? Email Jennifer Traub at [j.traub@georgestevens.org](mailto:j.traub@georgestevens.org) or visit [www.georgestevensacademy.org/alumniprofile](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/alumniprofile) to share your news in the Class Notes section of this summer's GSA Matters.*

## Reunion Announcements

### Class of 1954 — 65th

Don Varnum '54 is working with classmates to organize a joint reunion for the classes of 1953, 1954, and 1955. If you have ideas or would like to help, please contact Don at shendme@myfairpoint.net or 207-843-5500.

### Class of 1959 — 60th

Class members interested in reunion planning should get in touch with Jan Woods Prior-Crofoot at jcrofoot@myfairpoint.net or 207-374-3277. The class also will be recognized at the Alumni Banquet on June 7.

### Class of 1969 — 50th

A 50th reunion celebration is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, at Central Hall in South Blue Hill. Classmates are also encouraged to attend the Alumni Banquet the night before the reunion. For more information, contact one of the following reunion organizers:

Sylvia Tapley (co-Class Agent): sylviatapley@gmail.com, 207-326-9508

Bonnie Astbury Paulas: b24paulas@gmail.com

Allen Cole: colebluehill@gmail.com, 207-374-5296

### Class of 1979 — 40th

Deb Venno Ludlow, Tom Gray, Jeffrey Allen, and Ruthann Grindle Eaton are forming a reunion committee and will reach out to the class via Facebook and other ways. Stay tuned! Contact Deb if you would like to help: hiramblakecamp@gmail.com, 207-326-9168, or via Facebook.

For the most up-to-date reunion information we have, visit [www.georgestevensacademy.org/reunions](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/reunions).

Keep your contact information current so we can keep you posted as reunion plans develop! Email Jennifer Traub at [j.traub@georgestevens.org](mailto:j.traub@georgestevens.org) or fill out the alumni profile update at [www.georgestevensacademy.org/alumniprofile](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/alumniprofile).

## Upcoming GSA Events

### Spring Concerts

Tuesday, May 14

5 P.M. Steel Band Class and Planet Pan, Courtyard  
6:30 P.M. GSA Band, Jazz Band, and Jam Bake, Gymnasium

### GSA Student Art Show

Wednesday, May 22, 5-7 P.M.

Works from visual arts classes and Arts Fest workshops will be on display in the GSA science wing and library. The public is invited to join us at a reception with the artists.

### Alumni Gathering

Thursday, May 30, 5-7 P.M.

All alumni are welcome to join us at The Farmhouse Inn, Blue Hill. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served. Beer and wine available.

### Giving Day

Tuesday, June 4, 7:30 A.M to 4 P.M.

Visit campus for coffee and pastries and to support GSA!

### Graduation

Sunday, June 9, at 1 P.M.

The ceremony will be held on the front lawn.



Giving Day 2018 generated a lot of pawssitive support for GSA.

## Alumni Association Banquet

The GSA Alumni Association will host its annual Alumni Banquet on Friday, June 7, at 6 P.M. in the GSA cafeteria. Alumni are welcome to arrive at 5:30 P.M. for music and socializing ahead of the banquet.

Alumni of all ages are encouraged to come and enjoy a home-cooked meal, alumni speakers, and time with classmates and friends. The classes of 1959 and 1969 will be recognized for their 60th and 50th reunion years.

A book award will be presented to a qualified senior based on grades, achievements, and financial need. All applicants for the award must be present at the banquet in order to be eligible.

Hope to see you there!

—Jeanette McVay Gray '65 on behalf of the Alumni Association Board, 207-307-0464



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# For all students.

*The GSA Fund runs from July 1 to June 30. Thank you to all who have donated this year!*

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online at [www.georgestevensacademy.org/onlinegift](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/onlinegift), or by scanning this code:



# Nursing ISIP Gives Direction, Gives Back

Over the years, thousands of students have taken part in GSA's Independent Study and Internship Program (ISIP), which provides inspiration and opportunity while strengthening our communities. Our own school nurse, Nikki (Betts) Jaffray '04 is an example of that.

In 2004, Nikki was a senior at GSA. Her father was a lobsterman. Her mother helped her father and cleaned on the side. Nikki valued their hard work but wanted to do something different. What that was, she wasn't sure. Then she undertook her ISIP at Blue Hill Memorial Hospital in obstetrics and medical-surgical nursing.

"ISIP was eye-opening. I walked in and had never done or seen anything that the nurses, doctors, x-ray techs, or any of them were doing, and I was kind of blown away. People actually do this?" she remembered thinking at the time. "I mean, you go to the hospital, but you never really think about working there because" you're sick and scared and worried about getting better. "So to go there and see that what the nurses are doing is a job was really neat." Nikki knew then she had found her future.

After graduation, she spent the next "crazy three years" getting married and starting a family, while earning her AB in nursing at UM Augusta. Nikki returned to Blue Hill to work in obstetrics, then switched to medical-surgical nursing at Maine Coast. Working nights wore on her, though, and after five years, she was hired by Union

93. School nursing's regular hours helped Nikki find the work-life balance she needed as a wife and mother.

And it was as school nurse that Nikki was able to help another young woman explore nursing as a career. Harlie Burke '15 needed an ISIP mentor, and Nikki was happy to give back to the program that had helped her.



*ISIP was eye-opening. I walked in and had never done or seen anything that the nurses, doctors, x-ray techs, or any of them were doing, and I was kind of blown away." — Nikki Jaffray '04*

"I remember telling her you can do what you want," Nikki said, "but start as a medical assistant so you can skip around to any department and get a feel for what you want to do."

"ISIP really gave me an understanding of what it takes to work in the medical field," Harlie said, and after studying at Washington County Community College, she took her mentor's advice and is now a medical assistant in women's care at Northern Light Blue Hill.

Nikki still encourages students to do their ISIPs at the hospital. "There are so many directions you can go in nursing," she said. You can work as a medical-surgical nurse, in obstetrics, in women's care, in nursing homes, or "you could be a teacher."

Thank you, Nikki and Harlie, for making our communities healthier, stronger, better places to live, work, and learn. And thank you to the many other project mentors and participants over the years who have shaped our communities and impacted so many lives.

*Part of our mission at GSA is to foster the pursuit of knowledge. Our Independent Study and Internship Program has done that since 1969\*. This year, more than 130 juniors and seniors spent two weeks on projects they designed. (Learn about some of these projects on the next page.)*

*Many students explored careers. After "testing the waters" in these fields, some may have found their life's work. Others may have reached a different conclusion, an equally valuable one. Many explored personal interests, like aerial arts, diving, glass blowing, musical instrument construction, building a go-kart, metal fabrication, learning about fitness, and learning to sing.*

*About two-thirds of ISIPs took place within an hour of GSA. That means two-thirds of participants made valuable connections to experts who live and work here. What's more, nearly one in five of these local experts was a GSA alum!*

*\*Bernice (Bartlett) DeBlois '69 replied on Facebook that she participated in ISIP her senior year. If you know more about the program's origins, please send details to Mark Messer at [m.messer@georgestevens.org](mailto:m.messer@georgestevens.org).*





Aveeli Aparicio '20 loves acoustic guitar music, so she studied guitar with project mentor and Head of School Tim Seeley. Outside their lessons, she also did numerous exercises and used online resources.



Wade Clifford '20 learned about scalloping from his project mentor and father, Daron Clifford '90. Wade selected, shucked (pictured), and cleaned scallops, and learned to operate the boat.

Ivy Manner-Wheelden '19 learned to care for horses, ride, and jump during her ISIP. Her mentor was Meghan Hamilton of Sleepy Hollow Farm in Dartmouth, Mass. Pictured are Ivy and Farrah.



His longtime interest in airplanes led Tie Brooks '20 to design and build an RC model of an A-10 military jet with a 66-inch wingspan! His project mentor was father and boat designer John Brooks. Pictured is the cockpit.



Erika Hipsky '20 worked with her project mentor, music therapist Carla Tanguay, to learn how music affects the brain. Pictured are some of her research materials and tools.



Ian Howell '20 took his interest in Jewish history and people to Brooklyn, N.Y. He took this photo there. Ian also studied Jewish literature, watched movies, and learned some Hebrew and Yiddish. His mentor was high school teacher Justine Henning.

Kacie Bond '19 learned aerial arts, and Naaki Lehto '19 taught them, in their joint ISIP with project mentor Nisa Smiley. Kacie grew stronger and more flexible while learning the basics. Naaki learned to be a better teacher.



Alice Bowden '20 is passionate about working with children and wanted to find out if teaching is in her future. Her project mentor was Penny Ricker '82, the art teacher at Blue Hill Consolidated School.



Laura Liu '19 wanted to know why some kids struggle with math, so she tutored at a school in Jacksonville, Fla. Her mentor, Ying Chen, an online math tutor for ten years, lives in Jacksonville.



Syra Gutow '20 explored scientific research at the MDI Biological Laboratory with project mentor Associate Professor Voot Yin. Pictured is an ultrasound of a mouse's heart during surgery.



# State of the Arts

*An important part of GSA's mission is to inspire creativity, but our students are not only inspired, they inspire us.*

*The arts encourage us to look inward and outward, to honor tradition and to be daring, to find our place in a richer world.*

*Congratulations to our visual and performing artists for being part of GSA's long tradition of arts excellence, and thank you for enriching our world.*

## *Vandiver in Top Five at Poetry Out Loud States*

Magnolia Vandiver '21 and nine other students from across Maine competed at the state Poetry Out Loud competition at the Waterville Opera House on March 11.

She recited "The New Colossus," by Emma Lazarus, the poem cast in bronze for display at the Statue of Liberty, and "Author's Prayer," by Ilya Kaminsky, in the first two rounds of recitation.

Of the five competitors from the Northern Regionals, Magnolia was the only one to advance to the final round. She recited "Difference," by Stephen Vincent Benet.



*The cast of "Bad Play" at the Reach Performing Arts Center.*



*Magnolia Vandiver '21 in the Poetry Out Loud states. Photo by David Learning of the Morning Sentinel*

## *GSA Drama Brings Home Silver*

Our GSA players were named runners-up in the regional one-act drama festival in Brewer on March 9.

They performed "All I Really Need To Know I Learned by Being in a Bad Play," a comedy by Werner Trieschmann. Matt Jurick directed the production. Acting in the production were Emma Brown '21, Asha Kirkland '19, Adam Mathewson '21, Hattie Slayton '19, Zeke Sacaridiz '21, Magnolia Vandiver '21, Timmy Lloyd '22, Emma Snow '22, and Haleigh Young '22. Assistant Director-Stage Manager Katie Forrest '19 was assisted by Erik Grenier '21. Magnolia Vandiver led the costume design. Lucy Morison '20 and Oshi Ragot '19 worked on the crew.

For more information and photos, visit [www.georgestevensacademy.org/drama](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/drama).

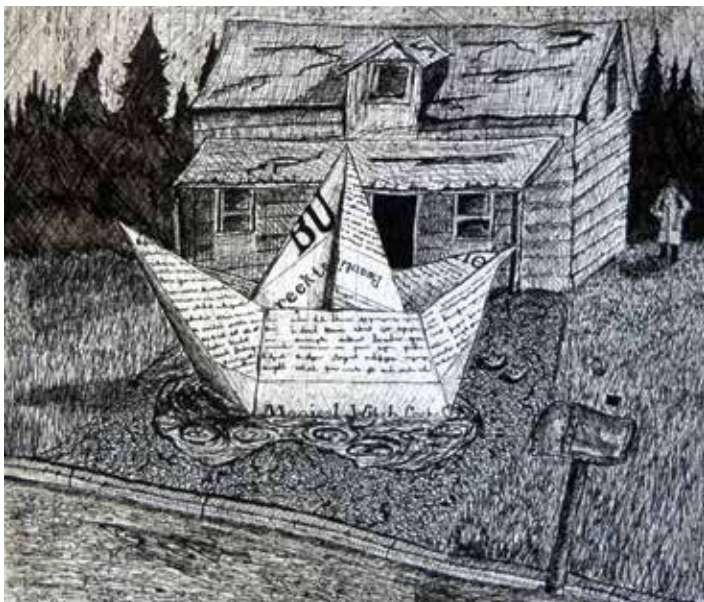
## *The Hylan Family Alumni Fund for the Performing Arts*

GSA alumni are invited to apply for an award to help fund a specific plan in theater, dance, or music of any sort. Is there a performance, a recording, travel, or another opportunity that you would like to explore, but you need financial assistance?

The Hylan Family Alumni Fund for the Performing Arts, in memory of Charles, Gertrude, and Jude Bartlett, was established this year by the Hylan family to encourage and support GSA alumni who are performance majors and who have chosen to study theater, dance, or musical performance.

Alumni who have completed at least two years of a recognized program of study at any level with a 3.0 or equivalent GPA and who have verifiable plans to continue their study or pursue an internship or performance opportunity may apply for the award.

For more information, visit [www.georgestevensacademy.org/HylanFund](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/HylanFund) or contact Rada Starkey, Director of Development at [r.starkey@georgestevens.org](mailto:r.starkey@georgestevens.org) or 207-374-2800.



*"A big paper boat for a kid in a raincoat," by Isaac Wardwell '19.*

*"I've been on cloud nine with the kids. They did such an excellent job." — Mariel Duym*

### ***Student Artworks Honored***

Seven works of art by five George Stevens Academy students were selected for honors in the Maine Region Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition. Four were on display at the Maine College of Art in Portland till the conclusion of an awards ceremony on Feb. 9.

Works of art by MacKenzie Tapley '19 and Isaac Wardwell '19 were selected for Gold Key awards. Both are automatically considered for the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition.

Emma Brown '21 and MacKenzie Tapley '19 both had works selected for Silver Key awards.

Honorable Mentions were awarded for one work of art by Genevieve Claybaugh '19 and two by Asha Kirkland '19.

"I've been on cloud nine with the kids. They did such an excellent job," said Mariel Duym, art teacher at GSA.

Wardwell's piece also earned Honorable Mention in the Congressional Art Competition. His artwork will be on display at the State House in Augusta this spring.

Visit [www.georgestevensacademy.org/artsinthenews](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/artsinthenews) to read an article about the honors and to see the works of art.

### ***All Five Jazz Ensembles on to States***

Octessence, Out Too Late, Jam Bake, Up Too Early and the GSA Jazz Band advanced to the State High School Instrumental Jazz Festival after earning 1 ratings at the District VI festival, hosted by GSA in February.

The state results, which came too late to include here, will be in the summer *GSA Matters*. Read them earlier at [www.georgestevensacademy.org/artsinthenews](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/artsinthenews).



*Jam Bake after their performance. Photo by David Hipsky*

### ***Jam Bake Takes Third at Berklee***

"It's an exhilarating moment as a music educator anytime you can play with some of the best high school ensembles in the country and do better than all but one or two of them," said Steve Orlofsky of Jam Bake's performance at the Berklee High School Jazz Festival in Boston on Jan. 26.

The combo, directed by Orlofsky, took third place in the festival, the largest of its kind in the United States.

Jam Bake is composed of Courtney Bianco '19, alto sax; Edward Conte '19, drums; Erika Hipsky '20, alto sax and flute; Duncan Howell '20, trombone; Quinn Stabler '20, bass; LeeAnn Varnum '19, soprano and tenor sax; Elana Williamson '19, vibes and piano; and Tess Williamson '19, piano and vocals.

To read a complete article about Jam Bake's accomplishment, visit [www.georgestevensacademy.org/artsinthenews](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/artsinthenews).



*Planet Plan playing for ninth-graders in the GSA cafeteria.*

### ***Planet Pan Busy Warming Winter***

Planet Pan's tropical rhythms were well received at the National Toboggan Championships in Camden in February.

The steel band, led by Fiona Schubeck '08, also has given workshops on Islesboro, performed for Blue Hill Consolidated School, and welcomed ninth-graders to lunch during GSA's ninth-grade preview day.



# Winter Sports Highlights

*GSA's athletics programs help our students improve their physical and mental fitness while they have fun, but they also unite our communities in support of our teams and our school.*

*Many thanks to the families, fans, coaches, and community members who cheer on our students as they strive for excellence in athletics and in life.*

*Congratulations to our Eagles for their hard work and achievements on the courts and tracks, and in the pools!*

## Indoor Track



*The girls' and boys' indoor track teams early in the practice season.*

The girls' indoor track team finished 2nd among small schools in the Eastern Maine Indoor Track League.

First Team: Grace Broughton '21, 55M High Hurdles; Grace Broughton '21, Susanna Jakub '19, Lannea Zentz '22, Elia O'Hara '21, 4x200M Relay; Lannea Zentz '22, Tess Williamson '19, Josie Czuj '21, Gabby Gadsby '19, 4x800M Relay

Second Team: Grace Broughton '21, 200M; Tess Williamson '19, High Jump

State Meet Qualifiers: Grace Broughton '21, Josie Czuj '21, Gabby Gadsby '19, Syra Gutow '20, Susanna Jakub '19, Elia O'Hara '21, Oshi Ragot '19, Hattie Slayton '19, Tess Williamson '19, and Lannea Zentz '22

GSA All Academic: Gabby Gadsby '19, Susanna Jakub '19, Ivy Manner-Wheelden '19, Oshi Ragot '19, Hattie Slayton '19, Tess Williamson '19

The boys' indoor track team finished 5th in the EMITL.

First Team: Meredith Bradshaw Thomas '19, 800M

Second Team: Ian Renwick '21, 200M and Long Jump

State Meet Qualifiers: Ian Renwick '21 and Meredith Bradshaw Thomas '19



*Meredith Bradshaw Thomas '19 runs at an EMITL meet.*



*Ivy Manner-Wheelden '19 competes in the high jump.*



## Basketball



*The Class C North runners-up pose with their plaque.*

The boys' basketball team are the Class C North runners-up (18-4).

All PVC first team: Andrew Szwez '21

All PVC third team: Percy Zentz '19, Isaac Wardwell '19

All PVC Honorable Mention: Caden Mattson '20

PVC All Star Boys' Senior Game: Reece Dannenberg '19, Percy Zentz '19, Isaac Wardwell '19

Bangor Daily News All-Tourney First Team: Isaac Wardwell '19

BDN All-Tourney Honorable Mention: Andrew Szwez '21

GSA All Academic: Percy Zentz '19, Daniel Li '19



*The girls' varsity basketball team.*

The girls' basketball team finished the season with a record of 6-12.

PVC All-Defensive Team: Vanessa Sherwood '20

PVC All Star Girls' Senior Game: Julianna Allen '19, Mallory Charette '19

GSA All Academic: Julianna Allen '19, Mallory Charette '19

LET'S GO  
EAGLES!

## Swimming



*Laura Liu '19 races at a meet in Ellsworth.*

The girls' swim team finished 10th in the PVC Championships (0-7).

State Meet Qualifier: Fiona Allen '22

GSA All Academic: Kacie Bond '19, Katie Forrest '19, Riley LaMarre '19, Naaki Lehto '19, Laura Liu '19



*Alex Yap '19 swims at a GSA home meet.*

The boys' swim team finished 9th in the PVC Championships (2-5).

Franklin Sealander '21 set the school record for the 100M Breaststroke: 1:12.64.

Jeremiah Scheff '19, Franklin Sealander '21, Randy Yan '20, and Alex Yap '19 set the school record in the 200M Freestyle Relay: 1:45.30.

State Meet Qualifiers: Jeremiah Scheff '19, Franklin Sealander '21, and Alex Yap '19

All-State Academic Team: Jeremiah Scheff '19

GSA All Academic: Chris Bennett '19, Eric Cai '19, Jeremiah Scheff '19



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Jeremiah Scheff '19 traveled to Montana to learn about avalanche and alpine safety for his Independent Study and Internship Project. Jeremiah plans to become a travelling nurse so he can work where the skiing is good. His project mentor was outdoor sport program leader Michael Smith. **Read about ISIP on pp. 10 and 11.**