



News from GSA

May 2023

Shared by GSA's Head of School with members of school boards, select boards, superintendents, the Budget Review Committee (BRC), and the budget and finance committees of Blue Hill, Brooksville, Brooklin, Castine, Penobscot, Sedgwick, and Surry, current parents and faculty, and anyone else who requests an emailed monthly version. News from GSA will also be posted on our website.

News from the GSA Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of Shelley Borrer Jackson as Interim Head of School.

Shelley began her term on April 24 and is “enthusiastic to return to GSA and to a peninsula that is home in so many ways.” She started her administrative career as Director of Development and Communication for GSA in the late eighties. She then served as the principal of the Brooklin School until 1999 and then became head of the Bement School, a junior boarding school in Deerfield, Massachusetts. Sixteen years later, Shelley was appointed founding head of a bilingual, multi-cultural day school in Manhattan, New York. She holds a B.A. in English from Wheaton College, an M.A. in English from The Ohio State University, and a Certificate of Advanced Study in literacy from the University of Maine at Orono. She has published widely in the field of literacy, and was awarded a Klingenstein Fellowship at Columbia University to study the value of homework. Along with her husband Rob, who started GSA's sailing team, Shelley will be returning to their home in Brooksville from Winchester, New Hampshire.

Jackson is currently an educational consultant who works with families around the globe. She is the mother of four, three of whom attended GSA and two of whom are alumni. Jackson hopes to be “a dependable, knowledgeable, steady leader in this time of transition for GSA. My respect and affection for the school are deep, and I'll work tirelessly to support everyone involved in the school.”

More from Shelley: “It will be an honor to serve as GSA's Interim Head of School. I won't pretend that we already have solutions for all our challenges, but I've never imagined that solutions can't be found. My three days on the job have thus far been busy with answering emails, writing introductory messages to employees, parents, and students, joining Zoom meetings, getting to know current employees, and speaking with the press. The days are full and rewarding, and I count down the days until I can be there in person on Tuesday, May 2. I will do all I can to be out and about in the community as well, and I hope you'll find your way to my office, to the sidelines at a baseball game, or to the grocery line to introduce yourself!”

The GSA Board of Trustees will have a public meeting on Monday, May 8, at 6 pm. More details are forthcoming.

Campus News

- On May 25 and 26 GSA will host one of our signature programs, Arts Fest. This event goes back to the 1970s, and is a way to celebrate the strong and vibrant arts community and culture on the peninsula. Artists from here and elsewhere come to campus and give workshops for students. Students explore a field that interests them, or just try something new.
- Over April break, seventeen students and five chaperones traveled to Greece on one of GSA's biennial international trips. Every two years teachers David Stearns and Caroline Richards lead a trip overseas. This year's trip visited the Greek cities of Athens, Delphi, Meteora and Thessaloniki. Recent past trips have gone to Peru and Germany.
- Spring Sports have begun. Every week our baseball, softball, tennis, sailing and track teams have multiple home contests; come out and watch!

Recent Student Highlights

The GSA jazz combo Deep Space received an Honorable Mention at the National Jazz Festival, continuing GSA's long-standing success at the national level. The combo recorded their pieces on campus, using the equipment in our developing recording studio, and submitted them online. Combo members are: Mattea Black, Iris Kimball, Jenna Blodgett, Jillian Eldridge, Austin Chandler, Andy Hipsky, and Tony Esposito.

Budget Cuts

GSA's announcement of staffing reductions earlier this month has been difficult and hard for the community. This necessary restructuring will enable GSA to remain financially viable in the coming times of lowered high school enrollment on the peninsula.

Finances

Thank you to Surry voters who joined those in Penobscot, Brooksville, Blue Hill and Sedgwick to approve the supplemental tuition for next year. This is an extremely important part of GSA's financial health, and we much appreciate the support.

Castine will vote in May, and Brooklin in June, and we respectfully ask the voters in those towns for their support as well.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for your service to the well-being of our shared peninsula community. We want to hear from you, and invite you to reach out to me by phone (207-374-2808), by email to [Shelley Jackson at s.jackson@georgestevevs.org](mailto:s.jackson@georgestevevs.org), or in person.