



News from GSA

June 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

- Anthony (Tony) Politano of Castine will join the GSA Board this month. Tony is Principal Product Manager for Amazon Web Services (AWS), has been a member of GSA's Finance Committee, and is a parent of a GSA alum '21. Alice Herrick of Castine has served as the Director of Fiscal Operations for Maine Maritime Academy for more than fifteen years and is joining the GSA Finance Committee. Alice's children graduated from GSA in 2010 and 2015. The Committee on Trustees, which is responsible for trustee nominations, oversight, and board evaluation, is very actively working to expand its membership with necessary skill sets, and I look forward to sharing more updates about governance over the summer.
- Please visit [Our Trustees - George Stevens Academy](#) to see Trustee bios.

Finance

- The Board has authorized Downeast Properties to list three GSA properties for immediate sale. All existing properties aside from those which house academic programs and the athletic field are under consideration for sale.
- The Board continues to work on the 2023-24 budget, typically finalized in September when enrollment numbers are more fully known. The next Budget Review Committee meeting is scheduled for late June.
- Contingency financing is being secured to ensure that GSA will remain financially stable even in the event that our enrollment is lower than projected.
- We plan to rent rooms in our dormitories this summer as an additional revenue stream.
- Rachel Grivois, GSA's CPA, gave a presentation on how budgets are created to faculty and staff on May 23. This was well received and will be continued at the faculty's inservice day on June 13.

Advancement

- The GSA Fund is currently at \$345,000, surpassing our goal and last year's final total of \$293,000. Overall giving to GSA is currently at \$744,000, and again surpassing last year's final total of \$638,000.
- The school will receive an unanticipated, unrestricted gift of \$20,000 from the Ahmanson Foundation in Los Angeles, thanks to a Penobscot resident who serves on the foundation's board.
- Giving Day is June 6 (rain date: June 7) on the front lawn. Please join us for coffee, treats, music, and community!

Enrollment

- We currently have 262 day and boarding students enrolled for 2023-24, with ongoing contingency planning to manage any dramatic variations from this total.
- Parents and Guardians of rising ninth-graders came for coffee, muffins, and conversation with the admissions staff and me on May 31.
- Middle School Parents and Guardians are invited to meet with me on Thursday, June 8, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. in the GSA library. The Dean of Curriculum and Instruction as well as the Dean of Students will be on hand to answer questions about next year. Coffee and muffins will be served.

Campus News

- Arts Fest, a long-standing GSA tradition, took place on May 25-26. Sixty-three presenters offered 76 different sessions; 20 of them were our own faculty and staff with 43 coming from the community. Workshops defined "arts" as broadly as possible, with students experiencing everything from studio arts to creative writing to ballet to woodworking and cooking and music. The weather cooperated and gave us a perfect grand finale with "Battle of the Bands" on our front lawn.
- GSA is partnering with seven local businesses (Brooklin Boat Yard; Golden Sun Childcare; John H. Gray Electrical, Plumbing, and Heating, Inc.; Hewes & Company, Inc.; M.E. Astbury & Son, Inc.; Northern Light Blue Hill Hospital; and Stanley Subaru) to provide students with job and career-oriented internships. Read the full article in *GSA News*.
- This year was our first year of required community service, and our students have donated 2,522 hours to a wide range of projects since September.
- We thank the families who donated all the food and flowers to our recent prom, and special thanks to GSA alumni Ann & Bill Rioux for hosting an unforgettable event for the students at the Farmhouse Inn.
- Next year GSA will move toward more heterogeneous grouping of students in honors and college preparatory levels. Within the differentiated classes, a student may opt for honors level work and receive that designation on a transcript. Advanced Placement classes will continue to be scheduled as usual.
- Todd Eckenfelder has been named to an expanded role in the new position of Director of Student Services. Todd is the current Dean of Students.
- This spring we offered track, softball, baseball, sailing, and boys' and girls' tennis. A total of 126 students participated in sports, with a number of records broken in track. Alexon Astbury broke the school's record in 200m, and Andy Hipsky broke the 110m hurdle school record. Softball player Layla Pickering was chosen The Ticket 92.9 player of the week for week 4!
- Efforts have begun to create a volunteer program which will bring more community members into our school. Please contact s.jackson@georgestevens.org or m.conte@georgestevens.org to learn more.

Please join us on campus; all are welcome!

- There will be an Open House to meet me, the new interim head of school on Sunday, June 4, at noon in the GSA library followed by the Spring Concert at 1:00 p.m. on the lawn.
- Commencement: Sunday, June 11, at 2:00 p.m.

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@georgestevens.org, or in person.