



GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY
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News from GSA

October 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.

There's an undeniable rhythm in the hallways now. The excitement of a new beginning has been replaced by the comfort of knowing schedules, buildings, syllabi, and most of all, each other. I am happy, once again, to give you a window into the GSA world through this monthly report.

Board of Trustees

- New trustees recently voted onto the Board include Liffey Thorpe, a Brooksville resident who taught history, English, philosophy, and Latin at GSA. She later became the school's Curriculum Coordinator, Communications Director, and supported fundraising initiatives in the Advancement Office until last year. Liffey has a Ph.D in Classics from Stanford and spent many years on the faculty and administration of Earlham College. Currently she sits on the Advancement Committee and co-chairs the Town Relations Committee (formerly MPAC). Liffey's daughter Lilian graduated from GSA in 2009.
- Wilson King joins the board as a current and future GSA parent and an active member of the Facilities Committee. Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, Wilson has spent 17 years in Blue Hill. He has managed commercial and residential construction projects throughout the state and currently runs a small local construction management and owner representative firm. Wilson also serves on the Hancock County Habitat for Humanity board and chairs the Blue Hill Planning Board.
- Please visit [Our Trustees - George Stevens Academy](#) to see Trustee bios.

Finance

- The Board will formally adopt its 2023-24 budget at its monthly meeting on October 19, following a presentation to the Budget Review Committee on October 12.
- The report from the structural engineer who studied the gym and its two wings in late August was shared with the Board at its September meeting. An array of solutions has been presented with decisions forthcoming.

Advancement

- The Duane B. Gray '64 Memorial Golf Tournament was held on a beautiful Saturday in September. The event raised \$21,351 for the GSA Fund, surpassing last year's \$17,000. We are deeply grateful to the many volunteers, donors, and golfers who made this annual event such a success.

Enrollment

- We currently have 254 day and boarding students enrolled for 2023-24, with international students from Austria, China, Ukraine and Spain. Two of these students are with us as refugees. We have welcomed domestic boarders from California and Deer Isle, Maine.

Campus News

- Perhaps one of our favorite changes in the school this year is the number of volunteers who have come forward to support the school. They have provided food and snacks for inservice days, weeded our gardens, and worked on editing projects. A small and mighty group plans fun activities for our boarders. This Saturday (September 30) volunteers will meet for a campus "work day" from 8:00-12:00. Please join us in the cafeteria to choose a project and to find donuts, coffee, and conversation with other GSA friends.
- Fourteen GSA students participated in Haystack Mountain School of Crafts three-day fall program. Juniors and seniors throughout Maine are given an immersive experience in the school's wide range of arts.
- All faculty and staff have now taken an initial ALICE training course (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evaluate). An additional two hours of training and practice will take place at our inservice on October 6.
- Parents and guardians were welcomed for a Back to School Night on September 14. They met teachers, followed their student's schedule, and had a taste of each class.
- All students in the 11th grade will take the PSAT at GSA on October 18; seniors may take the SAT on October 11.
- One of our chefs, Lusheng Li, will host a Chinese dinner for our boarders, their guests, faculty, and staff to celebrate Moon Festival on September 29.
- The annual fall semi-formal dance will be held at school on October 7

As I conclude, our seniors have just departed for their annual senior hike of Blue Hill Mountain. As they gathered for a group photo, they looked both innocent and wise at the same time, and I know they'll be in caps and gowns in a blink. I hope you enjoy all that October means in this special place.

Warmly,
Shelley

Shelley Borrer Jackson
Interim Head of School