

# BPA *connect*

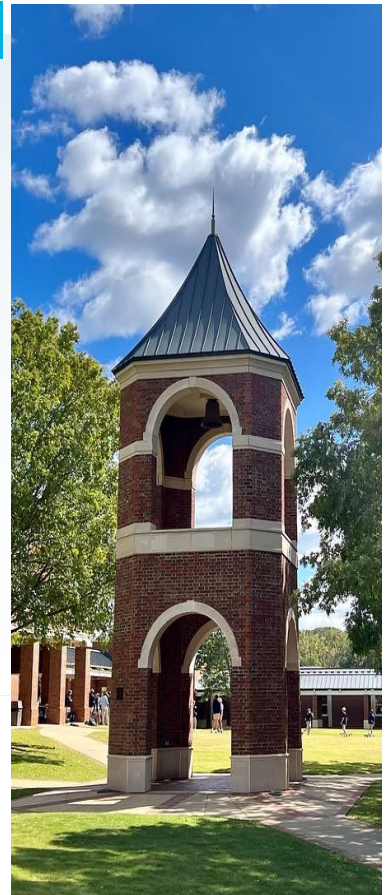
YOUR CONNECTION TO THE BROOKSTONE PARENTS ASSOCIATION

## Year in Review

In November 2023, the Brookstone Parents Association and Brookstone community tragically and unexpectedly lost our BPA President and dear friend Mitchi Wade. Mitchi had a wonderful, peaceful presence with a mission of engaging all Brookstone families and ensuring these families knew how important they are to this community.

As unimaginably difficult as it has been to carry on, the BPA Executive Board has persevered to build upon the work that Mitchi started, to honor her with our service to the BPA and Brookstone School, and to continue to grieve with her family—Travis, Ruthie, and Martha.

We issue this BPAConnect Newsletter to highlight the all the good work Mitchi began. We miss you Mitchi!



Mitchi, Martha, Ruthie & Travis Wade

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# Summer/Fall Recap

- The BPA's efforts for the 2023-24 school year started in April 2023 with a School Supply fundraiser through EPI. Chair Allison Scarborough and Co-Chair Robin Gosling coordinated sales, distributed over 250 school packs and raised over \$6,400. Well done, ladies!
- On August 14, 2023, BPA hosted an All School Block Party to kick off the school year with free Icy Girl refreshments, Spirit Shop items for sale, and fun with Bubba the Cougar and Brookstone cheerleaders! Go Cougs!
- BPA's Back to School Bash was a smashing success with every Brookstone family invited to an all school tailgate at Cougar Plaza and \$10 Bubba bucks to spend at the Cougar Café.
- BPA hosted four "Coffees with Henry Heil" to meet our new Headmaster and learn more about his education philosophy and campus safety updates.
- BPA sponsored it's first ever Volunteer Fair for parents to learn about BPA sponsored events and how to get involved.
- BPA raised over \$1,000 in profit for the Charleston Wrap campaign headed by Robin Gosling.
- BPA Book Fair chaired by Carson DeMars had \$29,000 in sales and raised over \$14,000 in Scholastic dollars for LS & IS teachers to purchase wish list items from Scholastic catalog. Plus, BPA donated 350 new books to Fox Elementary.

## Fall 2023 Allocations

### Preschool

- 36 flexible storage seats (4K)
- Big Book Library (3K)
- 6 Wobble Chairs & 36 deep pocket chair pockets (4K)

### Lower School

- New seating for Spanish
- 60 Exception Experts on the Science of Reading books (K)
- Building Math and Phonics Fluency supplies (k)
- Magnetic Word Work - Letter sounds and Number Pairs (K)
- STEM Bins and Materials for Makerspace Projects (3rd)
- 18 Ukuleles for LS & IS students

### Intermediate School

- Social Studies through Picture Books (4th & 5th)
- Classroom Library Refresh (5th)

### Middle School

- Weather Station/Thermo Hygrometer
- Guitar Cases for MS & US
- Flexible Seating Dream Classroom

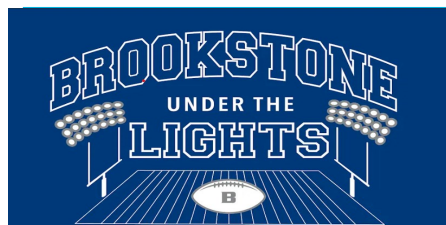
### Upper School

- Political Relief World & US Map Set
- Start Up Material for Brookstone Student Led Writing Center
- Sherlock Bones
- Anatomy in Clay
- Science Sensors for Physics & Anatomy classes
- Camera and Lens for Yearbook
- 2 Pottery Wheels (Fall & Spring allocations)

### All School

- Cougar Live Press Box Tent
- Servant Leadership tools, cart and wagon

**Twice a year, all teachers and division heads are solicited for classroom needs. Each request must meet certain criteria, but the primary criteria is that YOUR student must directly benefit. In the Fall 2023, the BPA gifted over \$36,000 across all divisions!**



### Chair Samantha Blair & Co-Chair Callie Hecht

On a semi-cool night in October 2023, 110 boys from 3K to 5th grade and their Moms/Special guests felt the glare of the lights in Mack Strong Stadium and the thrill of completing drills with the varsity football team.

After fun under the lights, everyone got a chance to enjoy dinner al fresco with the cheerleaders and a special appearance by Bubba the Cougar.





# COUGAR NATION



*Pickleball was added to Cougar Cup in 2022, and the players let their paddles do the talking!*

The Cougar Nation Booster Club is a division of the BPA charged with supporting the specific needs of the Brookstone Athletic Department. David Blanchard has served as Cougar Nation's President this past school year and President-Elect is Rik Lane. Thank you guys for all of your efforts!

Cougar Nation's biggest fundraiser is Cougar Cup, a golf, tennis and pickleball tournament held every year in the fall. On October 3, 2023, Brookstone hosted 136 golfers, 48 tennis players and 36 pickleball players at Columbus Country Club. Thank you to over 60 sponsors, army of volunteers and Chair Gayla Arrington and Co-Chair Edie Evans. **Cougar Cup raised \$95,000.** Well done!

#### **Tennis Winners:**

2.5 - Hannah Mize  
3.0 - Kathleen Chancellor  
3.5 - Nikki Ruark  
4.0 - Tonya McClemore  
4.5 - Kathleen Whitley

#### **Pickleball Winners**

Beginner/Intermediate  
Martin Middlebrooks/Blakely Waddell

#### Advanced

John Holt/Gordy Pease

#### **Golf AM**

Gross: Garrett Groce, Charlie McDaniel, Matt Prielozny & Jason Fober  
Net: John Cochran, Bobby Baker, David Heisler & Rusty Baker

#### **Golf PM**

Gross: Alan Arrington, Jack Arrington, Madden Dismuke, Bo Rambo  
Net: Blake Meeks, Jamey Jackson, Bobby Hale, Kyle Lovejoy

#### **Cougar Nation Allocations**

##### **Fall**

- Tennis windscreens and nets
- School logo golf balls
- Middle School Girls Uniforms (Basketball)
- Pre-weighted balls (All Athletics)
- Uniform pants (Softball)
- Soccer Balls for Middle School, JV and Varsity teams
- 2 Tents with Dye Sublimated Logos (All Athletics)
- Parkas (Swim)
- Team Banner (Swim)
- Concessions Oil Filter Machine (All Athletics)
- Cougar Live Press Box Tent (cost shared with BPA allocation)

##### **Spring**

- 8 Burner Gas Grill for Concessions (All Athletics)
- Pole Vault Cover and Standards Equipment (Track & Field)
- 2 New Photo Backdrops (All Athletics)
- Exercise Bike (Wrestling Room)
- Volleyball cart, swing holders & swing box (Volleyball)

**\$34,711 given back to Cougar Athletics!**

***BPA Athletic Concessions run by Bryan Christopher with the help of Cougar Nation Liaison Katie Bickerstaff raised over \$29,000 this year! Plus, the Cougar Spirit Sop chaired by Nicole Reigel raised over \$18,000! Hot dogs (and t-shirts) go a long way!***



## BROOKSTONE SCHOOL ARTS ALLIANCE

### Did you know Brookstone School Arts Alliance...

- Is a division of the BPA dedicated to supporting the Fine Arts Department?
- Paid for every Upper School student actors' fees for each play performed at Brookstone this year?
- Paid for the play rights to the Middle School and Upper School musicals?
- Beautifully decorated and entertained guests with hospitality for all of Brookstone's plays, including the Middle School musical, the Upper School Musical, the One Act play and the Schley Holiday Concert?

**Thank you to Arts Alliance President Dannel Marks for your gift of time and talent to support Brookstone Arts!**

## Finding Nemo, Jr. Character Breakfast

On September 13th, the Arts Alliance hosted over 81 Preschool and Lower School students for breakfast with the Middle School cast of Finding Nemo, Jr. The kids delighted in seeing the stars of the show swim through the Turner Center Gallery! After breakfast, the cast splashed on over to morning carpool to greet students arriving for school with a high fin. Everyone had a fishtastic time!



## Trouble at the Talent Show

On Friday, April 26th, a talented cast and crew of over 40 of Brookstone's finest actors performed "Trouble at the Talent Show" at the Bo Bartlett Center in beautiful uptown Columbus. This murder mystery dinner theater completely sold out this year and raised \$25,000 to support the Fine Arts programs. Bo Bartlett and Betsy Eby attended and Mr. Henry Heil (aka Harvey Hull, the librarian) had a show-stopping cameo. Mr. Robby Davis and Mrs. Dotty Davis were the masterminds behind the show and deserve a standing ovation for their hard work and hilarious show. This year's dinner theater was epic, and the BPA is thrilled for this new Brookstone tradition--BRAVO!!!

Thank you to Chair Anna Flournoy for heading up an incredible night of entertainment and fundraising!





# Winter/Spring Recap



## Co-chairs Carrie Beth Wallace, Lulie Wallace and Molly Wallace

Oh what a night! Green Island Country Club turned into a sea of pink for 256 girls and their special guests for the annual Sweetheart Dance. The girls danced the night away with friends and dads. Thank you to our chairs for making girls dreams come true in Barbieland!



- We are so grateful to Co-Chairs Cile Branch and Ruth Calhoun for hosting 170 students, mentors, and staff for the Senior Mentor Breakfast. This is one of the special traditions of Brookstone that the BPA proudly sponsors.
- BPA and the Arts Alliances helped sponsor the Spring Arts Festival the week of April 14-18th to include paying for all the wonderful resident artists during the week. Arts are alive and well on Brookstone campus!
- Nothing says spring like Market on the Quad! Katherine Turner led a team of Green Thumbs that provided gorgeous and unique plant offerings, and Carolyn Perry coordinated some delicious culinary offerings. The team of volunteers' efforts raised \$9,500. We are grateful to Carolyn Perry, Sara Dismuke, Ginny Lawrence, Katherine Turner and Claudia Garrard for a well-organized and successful event.
- Thank you to Chair Casey Westguard and Co-Chair Wimberly Comer for commandeering the Quad after Blue & White Day for one of students' all-time favorites - Country Fair. With Blue & White Day t-shirt sales and the Country Fair food and ticket sales, BPA raised \$4,400. Tremendous effort ladies!
- On May 1st, BPA celebrated the hardest working faculty, staff and administration with breakfast on the Quad. Chair Gayla Arrington and Co-Chairs Kristen Lane and Michelle Blanchard treated everyone with a delicious meal from the Waffle House truck, and they left with an awesome new Bluetooth speaker. Many folks won fantastic door prizes! Thank you so much!
- BPA sponsored Literature Live with renowned illustrator Rafael López. He entertained our Preschool, Lower School and Intermediate School students by bringing his illustrations to life!
- On May 22, BPA hosted a wonderful breakfast for 65 8th grade students with their families to help celebrate their graduation from Middle School. Thank you to Dori Jones and Mallory Harris for heading up this event!

## Spring 2024 Allocations

### Preschool

- Math Manipulatives (4K)

### Lower School

- 12 decodable Reader sets (K)
- Addressing the Pillars of Literacy—Decodable Readers and Read Alouds (K)
- Success in Reading and Writing (K)
- Flexible Seating for Classroom (1st)
- Comfy Carpet space for classroom (1st)
- 10 iPads for STEM (K-5th)

### Intermediate school

- Social Studies through picture books (4th and 5th)

### Middle School

- Middle School Think Tank—Collaborative seating

### Upper School

- Replacement of Ice Machine
- Replacement of 20 lab coats for Science classes
- Titration lab with heating and stirring hot plates for all AP Science classes and Chemistry
- English 10 Mailbox System

### All School

- Drying Rack for Art
- Drums Alive Supplies
- 12 Display Wall Panel Replacements

**\$31,369 invested into our classrooms!**

**Give a big Cougar Paw to Uniform Shop Chair Tanesha Colbert for running the Swap Shop and raising over \$3,500 this year!**

# Bidding For Brookstone



Mitchi would have loved this night! As BPA President, Mitchi was determined to bring back the BPA's biggest fundraiser to an in-person event - one where we could celebrate one another and revel in the fellowship and friendship of the Brookstone community! Co-chairs Dori Jones and Eliza Brewer and the Bidding for Brookstone committee worked tirelessly to bring Mitchi's vision into fruition in the most exquisite way. **Bidding for Brookstone raised over \$165,000. Amazing!**

Held at the Country Club of Columbus on March 21st, over 250 guests attended Bidding for Brookstone enjoying delicious food, drinks and of course, bidding on the most wonderful auction items. There were so many generous donations ranging from beautiful artwork from world renowned artist and Brookstone alum Bo Bartlett to a sentimental and gorgeous piece of art entitled "Flowers for Mitchi" from Brookstone parent and alum Lulie Wallace to perennial fan favorites of Brookstone Treasures to the most adorable live (and living) auction item of a golden retriever puppy. Eileen Halter was the lucky raffle winner of the half-off year's tuition.

The night was a beautiful tribute to our friend Mitchi and her family, and the BPA appreciates all of the hard working volunteers that made this event so successful including BPA Acting President Katie Bickerstaff, President Elect Jennifer Adams, Event Co-Chairs Dori Jones and Eliza Brewer, Procurement Co-Chairs Michelle Caves and Liza Boykin, Sponsorship Co-Chairs Champ Baker, Isa Meeks, and Lulie and Harrison Wallace, and the wonderful volunteer committee of Claudia Garrard, Gayla Arrington, Kerrin Heil, Carson De Mars, Samantha Blair, Mallory Harris, Ashley Pezold, Lizzie Moore, Ansley McKnight, Cam Addison, Hannah Mize, Melissa Martin, Whitney Waldrop, Brittany Harris, Whitney Pease, and Eileen Halter.



## 2024-2025 BPA Exec Board

### President

Jennifer Adams P'24, P'26, P'30

### Past President & Cougar Nation Liaison

Katie Bickerstaff P'25, P'27, P'30

### President Elect

Eileen Halter P'21, P'24, P'27

### Secretary

Samantha Blair P'33, P'34

### Treasurer

Amy Spencer P'24, P'26

### Technology Chair & Co-Chair

Jennifer Shaw P'23, P'26  
Carson DeMars P'30, P'32

### Communications Chair & Co-Chair

Robin Gosling P'31, P'31  
Cam Addison '02, P'28, P'32, P'35

### Arts Alliance Pres. & Pres. Elect

Meghan Blackmon '99, P'23, P'25, P'31  
Tanisha Colbert P'26, P'29

### Cougar Nation Pres./Pres. Elect

Rik Lane P'24, P'26  
Sean Knox P'23, P'26, P'31

### Preschool Division Rep & Co-Rep

Ansley McKnight P'36, P'38  
Sally Norman '07, P'36, P'38

### Lower School Division Rep & Co-Rep

Hannah Mize P'36, P'38  
Lizzie Moore '04, P'35, P'37

### Intermediate School Division Rep/Co-Rep

Whitni Waldrop '01, P'26, P'30, P'32  
Becky Miller P'33, P'34

### Middle School Division Rep & Co-Rep

Whitney Pease '96, P'23, P'26, P'29  
Liza Boykin P'25, P'30

### Upper School Division Rep & Co-Rep

Melissa Martin P'26, P'31  
Dori Jones P'25, P'28

## Be the One in the Know

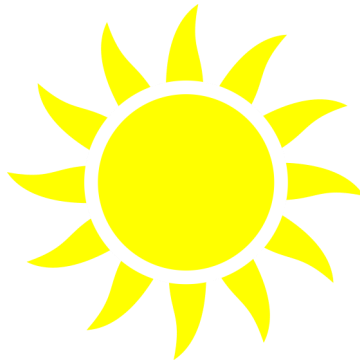
*Thank you to all of those that served including the 2023-24 BPA Executive Board, the BPA committee chairs, all of the numerous volunteers, and a special thank you to Katie Bickerstaff and Jennifer Adams for leading us through the most difficult year with such grace proving to all that we can do hard things!*

thank you!



*BPA is revamping our strategies for how we connect and communicate with our families. Follow us on Instagram [@brookstonebpa](#) and on Facebook on the [Brookstone BPA page](#).*

*We'd love to hear your feedback on what you want to know about BPA. Please email us at [bpacommunications@brookstoneschool.org](mailto:bpacommunications@brookstoneschool.org)*



- Summer reading and summer math for each grade can be found [here](#).
- Click [here](#) for a list of school supplies by grade for 3K-8th grade. Upper School students receive their school supply lists during the first week of school from their teachers.
- BPA needs volunteers all year round. We are revising how parents can sign up for volunteer opportunities for the 2024-25 school year! Stay tuned!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE  
BPA BACK TO SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY  
ON AUGUST 13TH!**

**ALL SCHOOL  
BLOCK  
PARTY**