

ST. PATRICK'S *Press*



SPRING 2024

Wolfhound Watch

MAESA Early Childhood Conference

Remembering Isabelle Schuessler



49th Annual Fund-A-Scholar IDEALS Auction

PROM 2024 CELEBRATING
WOLFHOUNDS THROUGHOUT THE DECADES



On Saturday, February 24, over 300 members of our community gathered in Georgetown at Sequoia for a joyous evening of food, drink, music, dancing, and, most importantly, fundraising. We are so grateful to all of you who helped to make the 49th Annual IDEALS Fund-A-Scholar Fundraiser “Prom 2024 Celebrating Wolfhounds Through the Decades” an evening to remember!

We are thrilled to announce that this year’s event generated more than \$560,000 in total support for the important scholarship funds that make a St. Patrick’s education accessible to a wide range of families and increases socioeconomic diversity at our school. We are very grateful to our hardworking Co-Chairs Eleni Lobene and LaMeka Short. A special thanks goes to Fund-A-Scholar Co-Chairs Ashleigh Coniglio, Wendy Ma, and Jessica Taylor White for their dedication and thoughtfulness in championing the Fund-A-Scholar portion of the evening.

We would like to thank the broad coalition of Wolfhounds who made the event a reality! The IDEALS Fundraiser’s success truly rests with the passionate Committee volunteers who contributed their time, amazing ideas, and tremendous care to craft an unforgettable evening. They were joined by numerous other parents, faculty and staff, the Board of Trustees and its Advancement Committee, and the Parents Association, who all were wonderful in their unflinching support of our work this year.



Above: Kelsey Kelly '06 lit up the room as one of our special speakers at the 49th IDEALS Fund-A-Scholar Fundraiser.

Left: Co-Chair LaMeka Short, Head of School Jalene Spain Thomas, and Co-Chair Eleni Lobene backlit by the Potomac River.



SPRING 2024

ST. PATRICK'S *Press*

From the Head of School 3

School News 4
 Around Campus
 Wolfhound Watch
 Wolfhound Spotlights: Brodie Edgerton and Shyrone Palms

Features 16
 Embracing the Present, Envisioning the Future:
 Introducing The Rev. Andrew W. Ogletree
 Exciting New Additions on the Whitehaven Campus
 Exploring Civilizations of the Past: Grade 5 Silk Road Study
 Building Community in the Advancement Office

Faculty Spotlight 26
 Celebrating Tinia Duckett, MAESA Stewardship Award Winner
 Empowering Educators at MAESA Early Childhood Conference
 Faculty and Staff Professional Development Highlights

Alumni Corner 32
 Class Notes
 Alumni Party

In Memoriam 36
 Remembering Isabelle Schuessler



ON THE COVER:
 Grade 4 students using a balance scale to explore concepts of weight and measurement in one of the Day School's recently renovated science labs.



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From Jalene Spain Thomas, Head of School

Rejoicing in the St. Patrick's Experience

One of the most powerful aspects of the St. Patrick's experience is the sense of unity that permeates every corner of our campuses. I believe that the light of St. Patrick's shines at its brightest when our community is gathered together. This school year, we rejoiced in both new events and beloved traditions. Our first-ever Spelling Bee allowed young students to witness the academic excellence, resilience, and camaraderie among the Grades 4–8 competitors. We extended the school day on April 8 and were joined by over 100 parents to delight in the rare solar eclipse with an on-campus viewing party. We delighted in the laughter and suspense that filled our Gymnasium and Performance Center when over 300 families, and faculty and staff gathered for a Bingo Night sponsored by the Parents Association. We cheered our Wolfhounds on the sidelines of thrilling athletic competitions and delighted in students' breathtaking performances at the winter and spring concerts. Countless expressions of community have fostered a deep sense of belonging among our students, faculty and staff, and families and have absolutely energized me in my second year as Head of this remarkable school.

This year has been marked by significant multi-dimensional growth, among our students and faculty and staff alike (exemplified on page 29).

Cross-grade community-building events, outlined in the *Press* and featured on social media, are more than just occasions for fun and fellowship. They are opportunities for us to reaffirm our shared values and aspirations.

In the upcoming pages of the *Press*, you'll find a reflection of our collective journey, showcasing the diverse experiences and achievements that define our unique experience of working, learning, and supporting the Day School. From stories of

community engagement and cultural enrichment on page four to features on academic excellence and sportsmanship in the *Wolfhound Watch* on page 8, each article and image captures the spirit of St. Patrick's uniquely.

I will close by extending our heartfelt congratulations to the remarkable members of our Class of 2024. Our Grade 8 graduates have achieved academic excellence and have also demonstrated exceptional leadership, resilience, and character throughout their time at St. Patrick's. It has been my privilege to support them alongside our dedicated Secondary School Outplacement Team as they navigated the exciting journey of selecting their next educational path. We are immensely proud of each of them, and I have no doubt that they will continue to shine brightly in all their future endeavors.

I invite you to engage fully with the contents of the magazine, exploring the stories and achievements that make our community so vibrant and dynamic. We are excited by the Day School's forward momentum, exemplified by our renovated science labs and new ITC classroom, featured on page 20.

I can't wait to see all of you back on campus on September 3, 2024, ready to embark on another incredible year together.

Go Wolfhounds!

Warmly,

Jalene Spain Thomas
Head of School



Around Campus



GREEN & WHITE NIGHT

Our 9th annual Green & White Night was a fun and energetic evening where more than two hundred community members gathered to greet friends and enjoy each other's company.

SUSTAINABILITY COCKTAIL PARTY

In October, over sixty-five guests gathered in our beautiful Garden & Outdoor Learning Space to share fellowship, cocktails, and light bites sourced from the bountiful harvest of our beloved garden.

SPEAKER SERIES

Over the course of the school year, St. Patrick's hosted a total of eight speaker events for parents as part of our St. Patrick's Speaker Series, which featured topics such as social media use, health & well-being, gender identity, and more.

ST. FRANCIS DAY CHAPEL

In early October, we gathered at our St. Francis Day Chapel and welcomed Rhiannon and Patty, two beautiful Irish wolfhounds, courtesy of our friends Mary and John O'Malley!

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CHAPELS

St. Patrick's was honored to host Reverend Dr. Cecilia Loving at our Martin Luther King Jr. Day Chapels, who serves as Senior Vice President of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at PBS.



ILLUSTRATIVE MATH

As part of our Illustrative Math curriculum, students have begun using a variety of useful strategies to explore their understanding of new topics in math.

This year, we welcomed Lower School parents into our classrooms for Parents as Math Partners Mornings. Partnership with parents is crucial to students' academic success. These visits allowed parents to see our Illustrative Math curriculum in action.



SPELLING BEE

Following their grade-level spelling bees, ten students competed in our thrilling first-ever school-wide Spelling Bee. As we reached the final seven words and were contemplating declaring co-champions, a winner emerged. Lillie C. (Grade 8) secured the top spot by correctly spelling “logorrhea” after an intense set of final rounds with Zoe D. (Grade 7). Curtis B. (Grade 4) clinched third place.



LOWER SCHOOL FIELD TRIP – DISCOVERY THEATER

Before Winter Break, Kindergarten traveled to see a “Seasons of Light” performance at the Smithsonian’s Discovery Theater, which celebrates the history and customs of Diwali, Hanukkah, Las Posadas, Ramadan, Sankta Lucia Day, Kwanzaa, Christmas, and the First Nations’ tradition of the Winter Solstice.



MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP – BRETTON WOODS

In the fall, Grade 8 students and their advisors traveled to Bretton Woods Recreation Center, where they engaged in problem-solving and team-building activities.



NURSERY SCHOOL PARENTS & SPECIAL FRIENDS VISITING DAY

Joyful and exuberant energy filled the halls on the Nursery School's Parents and Special Friends Visiting Day. We welcomed approximately 80 parents, grandparents, and other special adults to commemorate the six-month milestone of the youngest Day School students.

LOWER SCHOOL GRANDPARENTS & SPECIAL FRIENDS DAY

In November, St. Patrick's enthusiastically welcomed grandparents and special friends of our Lower School students to Campus.

GRADE 3 STATES INQUIRY PROGRAM

After spending several weeks researching and creating projects about the 50 states, Grade 3 students performed for their parents and teachers at the States Inquiry Concert.

Built around the U-CREATE skills and competencies (Understanding of Self, Collaboration, Resilience, Engagement, Agency, Trust, and Empathy), this foundational Grade 3 curriculum unit supports students' learning in a variety of ways.

GRADE 4 PERFORMANCE

This year's performance featured interpretive dance, song, student readings, and videos of students posing "I wonder" questions to the audience, highlighting their curiosity about the world around them.





HALLOWEEN PARADE

We saw endless awesome, spooky, and hilarious costumes at both our Infant-Toddler-Nursery School and K-Grade 8 Halloween parades in October!



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The beauty, tradition, and spirit of the Christmas Pageants ushered in the holiday season for children and their families in December.

HOLIDAY CONCERT

In early December, St. Patrick's held its annual Holiday Concert, where a spotlight shone brightly on our talented students and music teachers: Alicia Knox, Laura Petersen, and Betsy Sebring.



WOLFHOUND WATCH



The following are the results from the Fall and Winter 2023-2024 soccer, cross country, and basketball seasons. St. Patrick's competes in the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC), a group of like-configured independent schools in the metropolitan area.

FALL SEASON

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

Coach

Patrick Neilan

Regular-Season Record

6-2

CAC Tournament

Fourth Place

Season Highlight

4-2 win over Langley School

CAC All-Stars

Lillie Cohen,

Lillian Lester-McMinn,

Margaux Nespola

BOYS VARSITY SOCCER

Coaches

Gordon Jones,

Brian O'Malley

Regular-Season Record

9-2

CAC Tournament

Second Place

Season Highlight

CAC Championship Game

CAC All-Stars

Mateo Delasobera,

Owen Dyer,

Kemper Lowe, Eric Whang

GIRLS GRADE 6 SOCCER

Coach

Liz Oduro

Regular-Season Record

8-2

CAC Tournament

Second Place

Season Highlight

CAC Championship Game

BOYS GRADE 6 SOCCER

Coach

Brodie Edgerton

Regular-Season Record

5-3-2

CAC Tournament

Third Place

Season Highlight

6-0 win over Lab School

JV & VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY

Coaches

Allan Boyarski,

Alpha Diallo

Season Highlight

The JV & Varsity XC Team's performance at the CAC league cross country meet



WINTER SEASON

BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Coach

Dustin Owens

Regular-Season Record

4-10

CAC Tournament

Lost first round of CAC tournament

Season Highlight

Defeating St. Albans to capture the WES tournament Championship

CAC All-Stars

Nate Alion-Blocher,

Christian Matthews,

Mario Toukan

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Coach

Clifton Cottom

Regular-Season Record

10-3

CAC Tournament

Second Place

Season Highlight

Defeating Green Acres to capture the WES tournament Championship

CAC All-Stars

Lillie Cohen,

Lillian Lester-McMinn,

Margaux Nespola,

Coco Wilsusen

BOYS JV BASKETBALL

Coach

Kenny Brewton '11,

Derek Owens

Regular-Season Record

14-3

CAC Tournament

First Place,

CAC Champions

Season Highlight

Defeating Langley in the championship game

GIRLS JV BASKETBALL

Coach

Shyrone Palms

Regular-Season Record

4-9

CAC Tournament

Fourth Place

Season Highlight

Defeating Sheridan in the CAC first round game





ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

Brodie Edgerton

GRADE 1 TEACHER/ SOCCER, BASKETBALL, AND TRACK & FIELD COACH

After spending two years teaching in Baltimore City Public Schools while earning a Master of Education from Johns Hopkins University, Brodie Edgerton arrived at St. Patrick's in 2022 to teach Grade 1. He also coaches Soccer, Basketball, and Track & Field.

What brought you to St. Patrick's?

When I visited St. Patrick's, I really fell in love with the community and the people who were here. I appreciate the approach that the institution takes to helping children succeed. I was also drawn to the opportunity to continue to coach, and St. Patrick's gave me the chance to participate in the community

in many ways to learn and grow as a teacher.

Why did you choose to coach?

It is fun to see the children in a different light, and I appreciate having the ability to work with various age groups. I think it's helping me to be a better educator for my students. I am being exposed to

challenging, yet rewarding, situations that I wouldn't necessarily deal with in a Grade 1 class.

What do you try to instill in your players?

To make the most of practices, I try to teach them basic skills of the game, but also seek to create a fun, engaging,



“A valuable lesson I learned was how to be on a team. It’s an important life lesson because whether or not you continue in sports in high school, college, or professionally, you are always going to have to work with others.”

– Brodie Edgerton

relaxed environment where they feel comfortable taking risks, trying something new, and have fun doing it.

Do you have any favorite mottos?

I had a hockey coach in Grade 6 who gave our team a shirt with all these quotes on the back. The one I still tell myself and I tell my students is “respect everybody, but fear no one.”

What is your favorite part of coaching?

There’s nothing better than seeing every player score or engage in the sport in some way. I want everyone to feel like they’ve contributed. There are students

who start the season without having ever played, but who work really hard and come to every practice. Seeing these players score for the first time is so cool because I can see how excited they get. And not only that, but it is awesome to see how excited their teammates are for them as well.

What lesson did you learn as a player that impacts the way you coach now?

A valuable lesson I learned was how to be on a team. Whether or not you continue in sports in high school, college, or professionally, you are always going to have to work with others. You are always on some sort of team, and the whole of the team is greater than the sum of its parts.

What skills are transferable from the classroom to the field/court?

Being able to effectively communicate directions in the classroom is just as important as being able to communicate directions on the court or the field. In addition, since every season is so different from the season before, just like every year in a classroom is different, being flexible and adaptable is essential — being able to go with the flow. You have to be able to meet your students in the classroom or on your team where they are.



ATHLETIC SPOTLIGHT

Shyrone Palms

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Shyrone Palms, who has been appointed as Assistant Director of Athletics. Mr. Palms has been an integral part of our community for the past eleven years, serving as a dedicated Physical Education teacher, Championship winning Girls Grade 6 Basketball Coach, Cross Country Coach, and Baseball Coach.

Mr. Palms has demonstrated excellence in coaching various sports for the Wolfhounds, and has also instilled values of teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship in our students. As Assistant Director of Athletics, he brings his wealth of experience and passion for sports to further enhance our Wolfhound Athletic Programs.

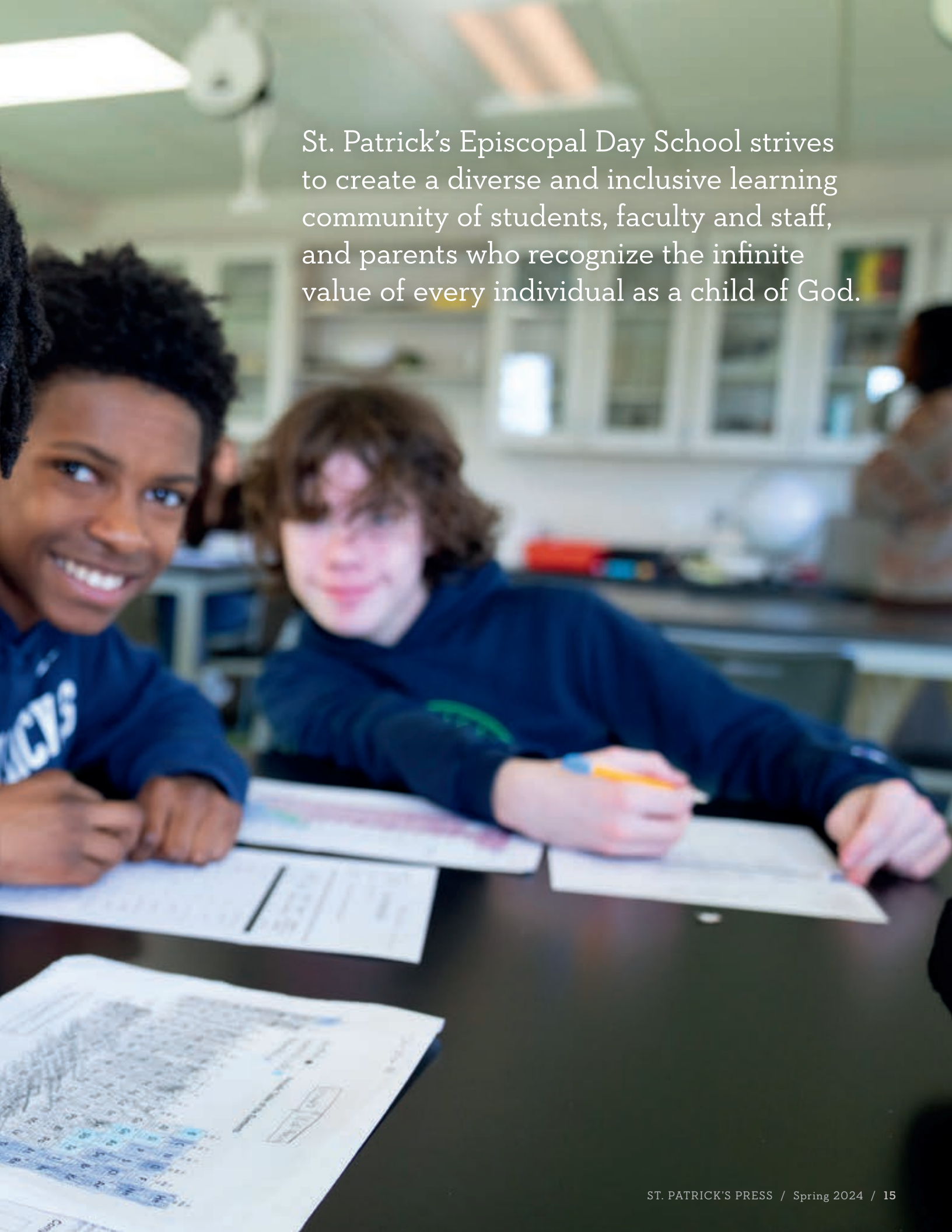


Wolfhounds

Through the Day School's commitment to integrity, empathy, and purpose-driven athletics, we aim to cultivate skilled athletes and also compassionate and responsible citizens who embody the values of our school community.

Infinite Value



A photograph of two students in a classroom. On the left, a young Black male with short, curly hair is smiling broadly at the camera. He is wearing a dark blue hoodie with white lettering. On the right, a young white male with long, wavy brown hair is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a dark blue hoodie and is holding a yellow and blue highlighter over an open book or paper on the desk. The background shows a classroom with white cabinets, a globe, and other students in the distance. The lighting is bright and even.

St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School strives to create a diverse and inclusive learning community of students, faculty and staff, and parents who recognize the infinite value of every individual as a child of God.



Introducing Andrew W. Ogletree

Ninth Rector of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church and Day School



Head of School Jalene Spain Thomas interviewed Father Andrew about the transformative journey leading to his role as Rector.

How do you see your role as the Rector supporting the mission and values of our Day School community?

The mission and values of the Day School spring from the mission of the parish, which is centered around the development and infinite value of all as children of God. The church's mission is grounded in our faith in God (who is beyond any gender), who created human beings in God's image and whose love for us is unconditional. While we are uniquely made, we are all equally and unconditionally loved. It is, therefore, very easy for me as

Rector to fully support the mission and values of the Day School because they are foundational to my faith.

As the leader of our church community, how do you envision collaborating with the Day School to create meaningful opportunities for spiritual growth and development among our students and families?

It has been a privilege to be invited into the school community as a board member and a partner in the mission. I am grateful to be able to think about our community holistically with you,

from some of the day-to-day issues to the larger thirty-thousand-foot-view topics, which span from the practical to the more existential, pastoral, and spiritual. I am always grateful to have a visionary partner in you, Jalene. Collaborating with Father Ed [Thornley] has been a joy, from thinking about Chapel topics to being invited to preach. In order to create meaningful opportunities for spiritual growth, the best thing for me to do is listen to a community's spiritual needs. There are plenty of things we can do to create spaces to aid in our spiritual growth, including time for worship and prayer, time for people seeking God to ask questions and learn about our faith (outside of class), and serving those in need. Spiritual growth connects what we do and why: cultivating a deeper connection between the head and heart. My task as a priest is to empower people to go out and do and pay attention to why. When we pay attention to the why, I believe we learn to listen to God's call, which leads us to deep gratitude for the life we've been given and the inspiration to love and serve others in return.

What has been your most memorable experience at St. Patrick's so far?

Participating in Chapels has been a true gift. Watching our students guide us has been a joy: reading scripture, leading us in prayer, and singing songs and hymns. One of my favorite aspects of Chapel is listening to what our students are praying for. Children have meaningful spiritual lives and see and understand more about the world than we might think. Remarkably,

“The mission and values of the Day School spring from the mission of the parish, which is centered around the development and infinite value of all as children of God.”

– Father Andrew

we can provide space for children to express and uplift those things that they carry in their hearts. It reminds me that everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, has something to offer and deserves our attention and presence.

What called you to be a priest in the Episcopal Church?

Where do I begin? The best way to talk about this succinctly is to tell you a bit about my journey, characterized as a process of maturing in my faith and my discipleship of Jesus Christ.

Discerning and following God’s call to the priesthood has been a life-long endeavor. I am grateful to have a loving family, which instilled and encouraged my faith, and thankful to have been raised in a church where I was exposed to authentic people of faith and to the consistent message that God had made me in God’s image just the way I am, and that God loves me unconditionally. As a closeted gay teenager who wrestled with his sexual orientation and struggled with how to express himself, being part of the Episcopal Church saved my life. And because the church was where I experienced the source of life and spiritual and emotional sanctuary, I found myself attending and becoming a member of a church wherever I was, throughout college and afterward.

I felt a call to the priesthood from an early age, but I didn’t know what to do with that call. In some ways, I was like Jonah, trying to avoid it, but God was persistent, sending mature lay and ordained people of faith to not only help me discern but to help me to do the work

of maturing in my faith. As I matured, my spiritual eye was opened, allowing my heart to become more compassionate to myself and the world around me. As I searched for God and meaning, I experienced a conversion to a deeper understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ: to learn to trust in God’s love, provision, and grace, which instills gratitude and impels one to love others through compassionate service in the manner of Jesus.

Therefore, my discernment of the priesthood could be described as finding my role within the community of disciples, which we call the church. This role is one where I function to meet people where they are through pastoral love and service and to help

people see God’s love, provision, and grace in their lives and the world around them, empowering them to trust in God’s love, and empowering them to accept love so that they can love others in this word. People are connected to God in a myriad of ways: through sacraments like Baptism and Communion, in worship and music, the hearing and studying of God’s Word, service towards others in need: spiritual and material, in self and social reflection, learning how to bear witness to truth, and in a life of prayer.

What is one fun fact about you?

I founded an all-male a cappella group in college, which is still strong 20 years later!





In November 2023, the Reverend Andrew W. Ogletree was formally instituted as the Ninth Rector of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church and Day School. Father Andrew's philosophy revolves around proactive engagement with the present, guided by a vision for the future and discerning God's purpose for us in the here and now.







New Spaces

Exciting Transformations Unveiled!



SCIENCE LABS

Have you heard? We have new science labs in the Lower School! These purpose-built spaces, designed with input from the Lower School science teachers, were open for use by students on the first day of school. Finishing touches were added to the labs throughout the fall. Features of the new spaces include child-height sinks, built-in grow walls for seedlings, flexible seating arrangements, and ample space for hands-on exploration and experimentation, perfect for our curricular emphasis on life science, earth science, and physical science.

ITC CLASSROOM

The Infant-Toddler Center (ITC) has expanded to include a fifth classroom! The new space is filled with creative energy every day when our youngest students walk through the door.

The ITC is so excited about our new, beautiful space. This room is the home of our wonderful Grasshopper Class of two-year-olds. The classroom is filled with art, imagination, and a loving atmosphere. The children focus on personal and social development through short, age-appropriate morning meetings, group activities, routines, and daily interactions with friends.

They strengthen their gross motor skills by climbing on the Tot Playground equipment and taking fun group walks to explore our neighborhood. Their fine motor skills are improving using different art tools and little grabber tweezers to sort tiny toys by color. This new classroom has created a magical learning environment, inspiring exploration and wonder!



GAGA BALL PIT

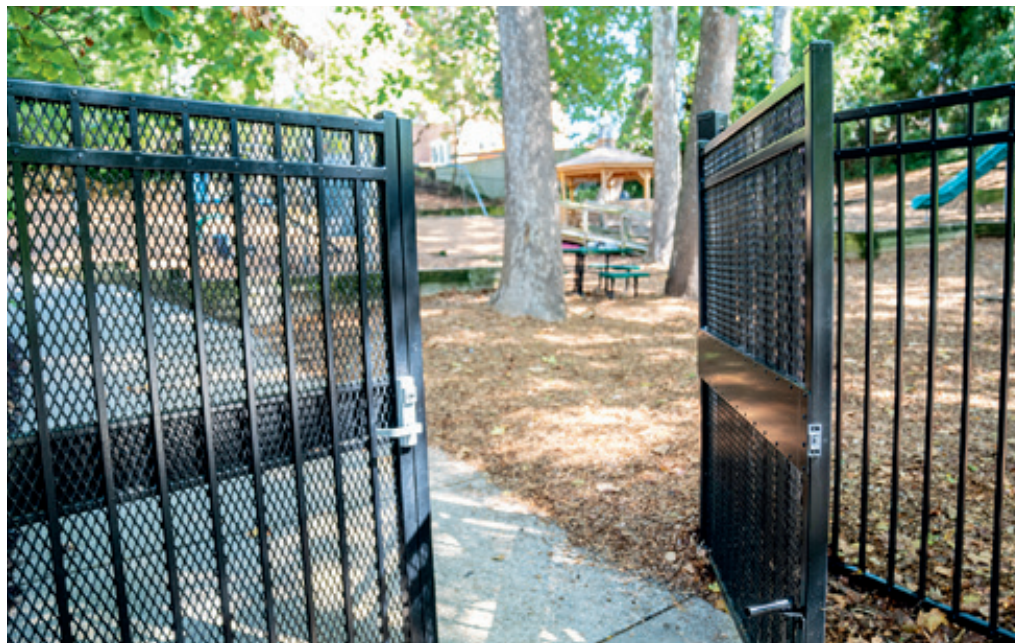
As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting active and inclusive play, our maintenance team recently installed a fantastic Gaga Ball Pit donated by our wonderful Parents Association to enhance the recreational opportunities for our students.

What is Gaga Ball, you ask? Gaga Ball is a high-energy, fast-paced game that combines elements of dodgeball and tag, played within an octagonal enclosure. It's incredibly fun and engaging for participants of all ages and skill levels. With its simple rules and inclusive nature, Gaga Ball promotes teamwork, agility, and good sportsmanship. Our new Gaga Ball Pit is designed to accommodate multiple players, allowing for exciting matches and friendly competitions during recess and after school. It provides a safe and supervised environment for our students to interact, exercise, and have fun together.

We believe that physical activity is essential for the overall well-being and development of our students. By introducing



the Gaga Ball Pit, we aim to encourage active play, foster social connections, and promote a healthy lifestyle among our school community. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the St. Patrick's Parents Association for their generous contributions and support in making this project a reality. We would also like to thank our hardworking Maintenance Team for ensuring a smooth installation of the Pit.



NEW FENCE AROUND LOWER SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Last fall, we unveiled a new fence around the Lower School Playground to enhance safety measures when children are playing outside. The fence stops any stray balls from rolling down onto Whitehaven Parkway and provides continued security for our Day School community.



Grade 5 Study Project

The Silk Road and Indian Ocean Trade Routes

One of the hallmarks of the Lower School at St. Patrick's is the strong foundation of rigorous skill development and inquiry, providing a launching point for our Middle School. The Grade 5 social studies unit centering on the Silk Road and Indian Ocean trade routes perfectly exemplifies these qualities. Focusing on the question, *How does the past shape the present?* this study provides a unique opportunity for students to read, write, think, and discuss this complex topic.

Grade 5 Homeroom Teacher and curriculum author Dean Lanois reflects, "Leading up to the Age of Exploration (which is what students will study in the Middle School), we are supporting students as they use new research methods, create driving questions for inquiry, and participate in simulations

that demonstrate how global trade worked. This study is also important because we look at the history of regions that aren't often explored in Western school curricula. The questions about how goods, ideas, technology, and beliefs were traded throughout this time period help students develop generalizations about that time and place."

When asked about this study, Grade 5 student Katherine M. shared, "It's super interactive, and it ties in with our other units and religion, so I feel like I can learn about different subjects simultaneously. We get to participate—it's not just to learn."

This kind of intentional but intensive learning sets the St. Patrick's experience apart. These mission-centered inquiries teach students to be lifelong learners, seeking connections and deepening their understanding of the world.



“Leading up to the Age of Exploration (which is what students will study in the Middle School), we are supporting students as they use new research methods, create driving questions for inquiry, and participate in simulations that demonstrate how global trade worked.”

– Dean Lanois
Grade 5 Homeroom Teacher
and curriculum author

This unit is divided into three parts, focusing first on the geography of regions it covered, significant players and cultures involved, and ideas, technology, and cultural features that were exchanged along with trade. Second, students explore innovations in science and technology, research and re-creation, and connections between math concepts and the flow of information across cultures. The third and final section of this interdisciplinary study allows students to do a deep dive into cities and trading hubs of interest while uncovering both positive and negative cultural changes brought about by trade and commerce and establishing a connection to modern-day intercultural exchange, culminating in an Ancient STEM Fair in the spring.

Grade 5 Homeroom Teacher and curriculum author Dean Lanois interactively teaching students about the Silk Road and Indian Ocean Trade Routes.





Unveiling the Heart of St. Patrick's
**The Thriving Hub of Volunteerism
and Community Engagement!**

Did you know the Advancement Office (you might remember it as the Development Office) is also the Volunteer Center? Our current families, alumni, parents of alumni, and grandparents dedicate time to planning events and programs that foster community and play a pivotal role in raising essential funds to support our dedicated faculty and staff and families. From Family Fun Day to the recent Fund-A-Scholar Fundraiser, Gifts for Good, or the Book Fair (to name a few), we rely on the skills and talents of volunteers. We are always looking for ways for all members of our community to get involved in life at the Day School, whether that is painting faces, soliciting prizes, sharing at Chapel, organizing a grade-level gathering, sending us your alumni news, emailing on behalf of the Annual Fund, or simply stopping by the Advancement Office to chat.

Alumni Board

Our alumni and parents of alumni play a vital role, too. We want you to stay connected to St. Patrick's! Whether your family was at St. Patrick's in 1956 or 2016, St. Patrick's is your home. As we plan events and programming for our alumni and parents of alumni, we seek your perspectives. We are in the process of forming an Alumni Board. *If you are interested in joining, please contact Chris Bolger, Director of Constituent Relations.*



Logowear Collection



Our current families, alumni, parents of alumni, and grandparents dedicate time to planning events and programs that foster community and play a pivotal role in raising essential funds to support our dedicated faculty, staff, and families.

Annual Fund

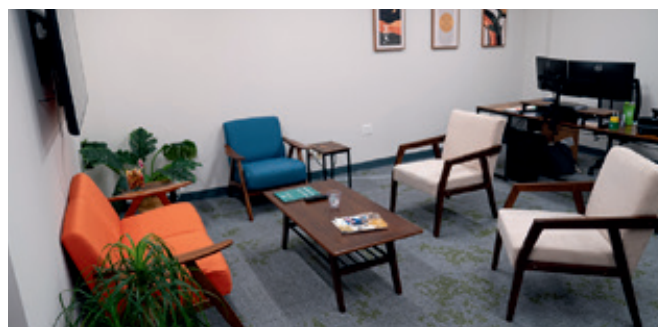
All of our community members play a crucial part in the success of the Annual Fund. Our Annual Fund leadership comprises current parents, grandparents, parents of alumni, alumni, and faculty and staff who are dedicated to raising funds for the Day School's top philanthropic priority. When you receive a letter or email about the Annual Fund, it is the product of our tireless volunteers and their dedication to our guiding principle that every child has **Infinite Value and Infinite Promise**.

If you are interested in joining them, please contact Kyle Tyson, Director of Annual Giving, to explore opportunities within the Leadership Council.

Next Year

Remember, the Advancement Office is your home at St. Patrick's. If you find yourself on campus, please stop by to say hello, browse the logowear collection, charge your phone, grab a cup of coffee, or help yourself to snacks. When we come together in community, the light of St. Patrick's shines at its brightest.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities at St. Patrick's, please contact Chris Bolger.



Volunteer Opportunities:

Admission Ambassador

Annual Fund

Alumni Board

Fund-A-Scholar IDEALS

Book Fair

Faculty and Staff Appreciation

Family Fun Day

Grandparents and
Special Friends Visiting Day

Grate Patrol

Hoops for Haiti

Horizons

Gifts for Good

Library

Room Parents

Sustainability Team

And more!



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Tinia Duckett of the St. Patrick's ITC Wins the 2023 MAESA Stewardship Award!

In October, our beloved Infant-Toddler Center (ITC) Teacher Tinia Duckett received this year's Mid-Atlantic Episcopal School Association's (MAESA) Stewardship Award. The MAESA Stewardship Award nomination process is open to any employee of the Episcopal school community. This award honors a person who has made a mark

on their school and embodies the qualities Episcopal schools value. These include integrity in daily life and work, respect for everyone, equity and justice in words and actions, and love and hospitality toward neighbors. Tinia, we are so proud you continue to be part of our ITC family after 31 years of service to St. Patrick's!

Faculty and Staff Quotes from a video tribute for Tinia:

“Tinia is a steadfast and patient nurturer, who consistently cares for our little ones. Every child’s face lights up when they see her, and as a mom, it’s been the greatest gift to drop off my little ones into her gentle care for the day.”

– Liz Samuel,
Grade 5 Learning Specialist

“Tinia’s gentle guidance in supporting me through my child’s development was infused with love and respect, as she embodies the core values of integrity, respect, equity, and love. Her unwavering dedication to the infants in our school community, coupled with her nurturing and caring demeanor, makes her a deserving candidate for this award.”

– Karolina Canning,
Director of Communication and Marketing

“Tinia has raised the children of our faculty and staff for the past thirty-one years. Knowing our children were in her hands made leaving them easier and even joyful. She helped get them on sleep schedules, and kept them healthy. It is not an overstatement to say that her influence is one of the most important ones in the life of our school. Cared-for children of faculty and staff could not be a more important goal and one Tinia reaches each and every day.”

– Lindsay Spector,
Director of Enrollment Management

“Tinia’s gifts begin with her calm presence and the warmth that emanates from her. She considers every child that she has cared for as ‘one of her babies,’ and loves them all. Former teachers seek out Tinia when they visit the school and tell her of fond memories of the care she gave their little ones. In return, Tinia can remember stories from when these now adults were babies more than three decades ago. She is a true treasure of this institution and shows respect daily for all she encounters.”

– Mary Beth James,
Grade 1 Learning Specialist

“Tinia becomes family the instant you step into the ITC with your newborn baby. She is the most calm, kind, loving individual. She greets parents and children each morning with respect. Tinia provides a gentle hand in partnering with parents in caring for their young children. The impact she has had on so many individual adults and children over more than thirty years is invaluable.”

– Shannon Thomas,
Grade 3 Homeroom Teacher



St. Patrick's Hosts the MAESA Early Childhood Conference

On November 3, St. Patrick's was delighted to host the annual Mid-Atlantic Episcopal Schools Association (MAESA) Early Childhood Educators Conference! This year's Conference theme was entitled "COVID in the Rear View: Where Do We Go From Here?" Teachers from various Episcopal Schools in the area gathered to learn and grow as educators as they examined the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath in the early childhood classroom.

Head of School Jalene Spain Thomas is Vice Chair of MAESA and Assistant Head of School for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Erica Thompson is a board member. We are particularly proud of our own Day School faculty and staff members, who led the majority of the MAESA ECE Conference workshops. St. Patrick's-led workshops included:

Building Budding Brains, led by Nurse Claire Cliche and Counselor Julianne Reilly

Using LGBTQIA+ and Gender Expansive Books in the Early Grades, led by Librarians Jamila Felton and Mara Rosenberg

Head of Nursery School Paul Lorenzo-Giguere presenting on "Meeting the Needs of Boys in Early" Childhood Education.



Getting Young Children Into The Garden, led by Science Teacher Alexa Louis and Assistant Head of Lower School/Director of Sustainability Sam Mason

"Narrativity and Healing": Godly Play as Pastoral, Reflective Practice in Early Childhood Chapel, led by Day School Chaplain Ed Thornley

Phonics Activities for Beginners, led by Kindergarten Teachers Lisa Sample and Anita Hockenberry



Librarian Jamila Felton presenting on "Using LGBTQIA+ and Gender Expansive Books in the Early Grades."

Round Table Discussion: Effective Strategies for Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and ADHD, led by Kindergarten Teachers Anita Hockenberry and Amy Thomas Martinez

Where to Begin on your Artists Study, Practice with an Alma Thomas Lesson, led by Art Teacher Sevgi Wallack

View from My Desk, led by School Counselor Debbie Weinberger

Documenting Digitally: Using Seesaw Learning Journal and Brightwheel to Document Student Growth and Development and Communicate with Families, led by Academic Technology Coordinator Jonathan Fichter, and Infant-Toddler Center Teachers Tia Crutchfield, Pascale Pereira, and Nikky Shields

Each presenter prepared insightful and thought-provoking workshops that exemplified just how skilled and knowledgeable our St. Patrick's faculty and staff are!



Assistant Head of School for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Erica Thompson and Director of Innovation in Teaching and Learning Elizabeth Markowitz presenting at the Carney Sandoe & Associates Forum DEIB



Faculty and Staff Professional Development Opportunities

Engaging in robust professional development opportunities is a cornerstone of the St. Patrick's faculty and staff experience, enabling individuals to grow as educators and community members. In the past year, 100% of faculty and staff members received in-house professional development training multiple times a year, and over 40 faculty and staff members from across academic and professional disciplines taught and participated in external professional development opportunities. Here are a few highlights!

Conferences Attended:

Enrollment Management Association Annual Conference: Lindsay Spector, *Director of Enrollment Management*; Trissy McHenry, *Associate Director of Enrollment Management*

Social Thinking Conference: Debbie Weinberger, *School Counselor*

American Orff-Schulwerk Association Professional Development Conference: Betsy Sebring, *Music*; Laura Petersen, *Music*

School District Facilities Summit: Sam Mason, *Assistant Head of the Lower School and Director of Sustainability*

Institute for Multi-Sensory Education Comprehensive Orton-Gillingham Plus Training: Annie Miller, *Grade 1*

Parliament of the World's Religions: Kankunda Klingenberg, *Religion and Director of Service Learning*

Sam Mason at the 2024 School District Sustainability Summit



Faculty Spotlight



Religion Teacher/Director of Service Learning Kankunda Klingenberg speaking to the Brothers and Sisters of Africa Club at Sidwell Friends School

Workshops/Training Programs:

Independent School Management Workshop: Rachel Levin, Associate Head of Lower School; Debbie Weinberger, School Counselor

Tools for Coming to Consensus: Erica Thompson, Assistant Head of School for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Elizabeth Markowitz, Director of Innovation in Teaching and Learning & Design Thinking Specialist

Positive Discipline Mental Health Conference: Debbie Weinberger, School Counselor; Julianne Reilly, School Counselor

Institute for Multi-Sensory Education Orton Gillingham Phonemic Awareness Training: Brodie Edgerton, Grade 1

Institute for Multi-Sensory Education Fidelity Certificate: Chris Heim, Grade 2 Learning Specialist; Anna Young, Grade 2 Learning Specialist

Head of School Jalene Spain Thomas being honored as a Head of color of a NAIS school at the National Association of Independent School's People of Color Conference (PoCC) attended by members of the St. Patrick's faculty & staff.



Institute for Multi-Sensory Education Intervention and Support for Struggling Readers Course: Chris Heim, *Grade 2 Learning Specialist*; Nadia Smith, *Grade 1 Learning Specialist*; Anna Young, *Grade 2 Learning Specialist*

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in the African American Community Webinar: Nadia Smith, *Grade 1 Learning Specialist*

Breathe For Change: Stephanie Sack, *Lower School Art*

Institute for Multi-Sensory Education Advanced Candidate Training: Julianne Reilly, *School Counselor*

Presentations Given:

Co-presentation at Association of Independent Maryland & DC Schools Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, Belonging Conference 2024: Intersections: Elizabeth Markowitz, *Director of Innovation in Teaching and Learning & Design Thinking Specialist*; Erica Thompson, *Assistant Head of School for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion*

Other Professional Development Activities:

Association of Independent Maryland & DC Schools Emerging Leaders Seminar Series (Ongoing): Iesha Myhand, *Nursery School*

Association of Independent Maryland & DC Schools White Educator Antiracism Practice Group (Ongoing): Jonathan Fichter, *Academic Technology Coordinator*; Lindsay Spector, *Director of Enrollment Management*

Showing Up For Racial Justice Faith (SURJ Faith) Webinar Series: Jonathan Fichter, *Academic Technology Coordinator*

Weekly reading group for educators interested in social justice: Jonathan Fichter, *Academic Technology Coordinator*

Revitalizing Civil Learning in Our Schools Task Force “Revitalizing Civic Learning in Our Schools”: Annie Miller, *Grade 1*

Below (left to right): School Counselor Julianne Reilly presenting “Building Budding Brains” at MAESA Early Childhood Educators Conference; Librarian Mara Rosenberg at the Youth Media Awards; Physical Education teacher Liz Oduro attends the National Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) Convention.





Alumni Notes



Danielle Dooley Goodman '85, Maggie Pushkar Berry '85, Annie Garofalo Paterno '85, and Kelly Koltres '85

1985

Danielle Dooley Goodman '85, Maggie Pushkar Berry '85, Annie Garofalo Paterno '85, and Kelly Koltres '85 gathered for a Class of '85 brunch recently. They want **Adelaide Shafer Barrett '85** and **Renee Esfandiary Crupi '85** there next time to make their St. Patrick's crew complete!

1995

Neville Wilson Wolf W'95 and her family live in Colorado outside of Denver. She works as a nursing assistant taking care of her medically complex child. She often gets back to DC to see her family there. Her mother, Louise Hayes, is retiring from St. Patrick's this year after over 30 years!

1999

After serving as a U.S. Marine Infantry Platoon Commander in Afghanistan, **Michael Haft '99** returned home to Washington, DC, to start Compass Coffee. Coffee is what kept him going on deployment, so he knew he wanted to make the perfect cup of coffee for people in his community. Now, as the Founder and CEO of Compass Coffee, Michael is proud

to be opening his 18th café. Compass Coffee recently finished construction on their 50,000 square foot roastery and production facility where the coffee is roasted to perfection, the Nespresso pods are packaged, the simple syrups that make your favorite flavor lattes are produced, and your favorite morning pastries are made. He also recently launched the Compass Coffee App so you can pre-order your favorite drinks and make your morning commute that much easier.

In May, Michael married his fiancé, Sofia Rose Haft barefoot on the beach in Nantucket, MA. Soon after their honeymoon, they brought an adorable poodle, Astro into their family!

Neville Wilson Wolf W'95 with her son (below left). Michael Haft '99 with his wife, Sofia Rose Haft at their wedding (below right).



2005

Martha Macon Smith W'03 and her husband, David Weinman, welcomed their son, Charles Lane “Charlie” Weinman on December 12, 2023. They live in Bethesda with their Bernedoodle, Franklin.

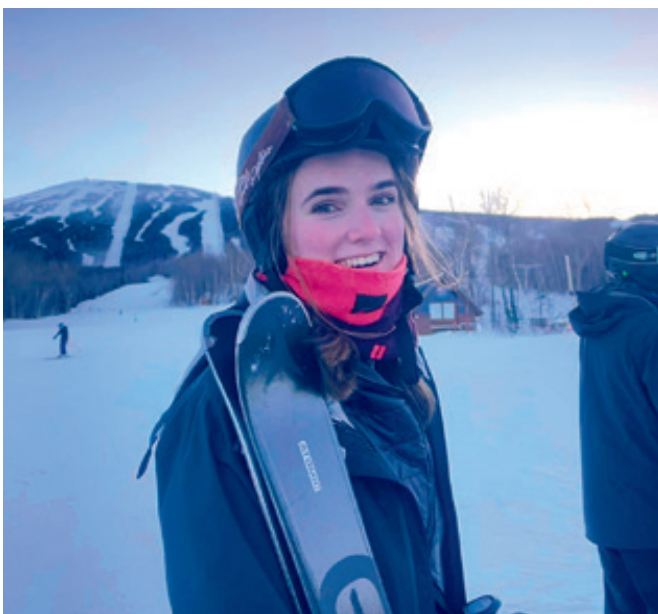


Martha Macon Smith W'03, her husband, David Weinman, and their son, Charlie (above left).
Lucy Weil '18 with her championship trophy (above right).

2006

Taylor Lipnick W'04 lives in Georgetown and works as a Pre-K teacher at St. Columba's Nursery School. Believe it or not, Julia Berry, who taught Lower School science while Taylor was at St. Patrick's, was the Head of School at St. Columba's at the time and hired her on the spot! St. Patrick's connections last a lifetime and Taylor is so grateful to have been able to work alongside Julia before she retired at the end of the 2019–2020 school year!

Alex Meek '19 on the slopes.

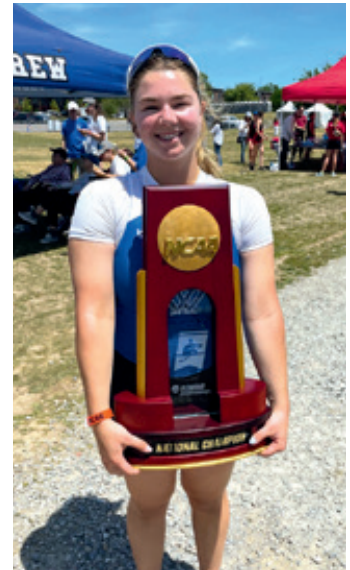


Dave Dunn '06 is engaged to Gloribet Agosta-Rosa, a linguist and professional staffer at the Library of Congress who catalogs in five languages for the Library. Dave is a metal sculptor, who with an environmental consciousness, creates

whimsical “critters” out of repurposed and found objects and welded steel. With 135 applicants, he was chosen for a March 2024 one-person show, in the Zabar Lobby Gallery at the prestigious studios of Key West, Florida. He has been chosen as the “2025 Featured Southern Artist of the Year” at the Discovery Park, the largest museum in Northwest Tennessee for a six-month solo show.

2009

Peter Girardo W'07 was awarded his PhD in Political Theory from Princeton University in August of 2023. He is currently a Fellow at the Justitia Center for Advanced Studies at Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany.



2016

Phoebe Weil '16 will be pursuing a PhD in Chemistry at Cornell University starting in fall 2024.

2018

Lucy Weil '18 and her rowing team at Wellesley College won the NCAA DIII Rowing Championship.

2019

Alex Meek '19 spent the fall semester of 2023 at the Universidad de Salamanca, in northwestern Spain, as part of Colby College's Global Entry Semester program. While there she visited a number of Europe's scenic old cities, including Milan, Amsterdam, Prague, Madrid, and more. She's back in Maine now for the rest of the school year, enjoying her classes (in English, mostly) and weekends on the ski slopes.

Alumni Corner



Delaney Freedman '22 and Lucy Berry '22 (above left). Holt Farver '23, Connor Mitchell '23, and Gavin Crupi '23 (above right).

2020

Reid Wincup '20 is graduating from St. Andrew's Episcopal School and will be attending the College of William and Mary in the fall.

2022

Delaney Freedman '22 and **Lucy Berry '22**, St. Patrick's alumni and classmates at Holton-Arms School, enjoyed spending time together on Nantucket in the summer.

2023

St. Albans students and teammates **Holt Farver '23** and **Connor Mitchell '23** met up on the basketball court to compete against their former St. Patrick's classmate **Gavin Crupi '23**.

Friends from the class of 2023 got together to celebrate the holidays at ZooLights. The photo includes **Scott Hooper '23**,

Luc Marchand '23, **Avery Chassin '23**, **McKinley Keyser '23**, **Eleanor Roberts '23**, and **Sophia Toukan '23**.

Recent alumni **Millie Mario '23** and **Campbell Mondie '23** had a great time traveling to San Diego over the holiday break.



Scott Hooper '23, **Luc Marchand '23**, **Avery Chassin '23**, **McKinley Keyser '23**, **Eleanor Roberts '23**, and **Sophia Toukan '23** (above right). **Millie Mario '23** and **Campbell Mondie '23** (below).





Alumni Party

We were thrilled to host the Classes of '23, '22, '21, and '20 for an alumni reunion party, an event brimming with nostalgia and camaraderie. Our Wolfhounds were excited to be back together while our faculty and staff beamed with pride, witnessing the remarkable accomplishments of our alum community, reaffirming the enduring legacy of our institution. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as laughter and memories filled the air, creating a sense of warmth and belonging among all attendees.



Class of 2020



Class of 2021



Class of 2022



Class of 2023



Remembering Isabelle Schuessler

It is with deep sorrow that we share the passing of former St. Patrick's Head of School, Isabelle Schuessler, on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at the age of 89. Our thoughts and condolences are extended to her family, which includes four children, 11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Isabelle was hired at St. Patrick's as a Kindergarten Teacher in 1962, the year she graduated from George Washington University with a degree in Elementary Education. At that time, the Day School served very young children; when Mrs. Schuessler became Assistant Director in 1965, plans to expand were underway. She became Director in 1966, and in 1967, the school began adding elementary grades, housing them in a succession of locations until the current academic building on Whitehaven Parkway was completed in 1977.

Mrs. Schuessler was a passionate and dedicated leader who inspired creative, transformational choices during her 24-year tenure at the Day School. With faith and determination, she forwarded her creative, child-centered, and equity-based vision for the Day School. We



Former Heads of School Peter A. Barrett and Isabelle Schuessler.

were delighted when Mrs. Schuessler returned to help celebrate the Day School's 50th anniversary. Isabelle went on to be the founding Head of Washington Episcopal School, retiring in 2001.

After hearing of her passing, a current Board of Trustees member and alumnus of St. Patrick's, Tom Duckenfield III, shared, "I vividly remember seeing

Mrs. Schuessler for the first time in 40 years at a National Cathedral service in 2013. When I attempted to remind her who I was, she immediately demonstrated her tremendous recall and enduring connectedness to all of her students, by calling me by name and saying, 'I certainly know who you are!'"

We remain grateful to Isabelle for her lasting impact on the Day School.



Tom Duckenfield III (Member of the St. Patrick's Board of Trustees), The Rev. Andrew Ogletree (Rector of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church and Day School), Adelaide Barrett '85 (Assistant Head of School for Institutional Advancement), Jalene Spain Thomas (Head of School), and Peter A. Barrett (Head of School Emeritus) attend Isabelle Schuessler's memorial service at Washington Episcopal School.



ANNUAL FUND

INFINITE VALUE, INFINITE PROMISE

OUR CORE BELIEF AT ST. PATRICK'S IS THAT EVERY CHILD HAS INFINITE VALUE, AND WITH THAT, INFINITE PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE.

The Annual Fund supports this core belief and guides every aspect of the student experience. Unrestricted donations allow us to enrich and expand our educational offerings beyond what tuition alone can provide, ensuring programmatic excellence in all that we do.

The Annual Fund holds significant importance as a critical budgetary component for the Day School. It helps bridge the gap between tuition and the total cost of a St. Patrick's education, moderate tuition increases each year, and supports a robust financial aid budget.

Thank you for supporting our students' infinite promise! We deeply value your generosity.



www.stpatsdc.org/donate or scan the QR code

Have questions or need more information?

Please contact Kyle Tyson, Director of Annual Giving, at (202) 342-7012 or TysonK@stpatsdc.org.



4700 Whitehaven Parkway, NW
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www.stpatsdc.org

Follow us on **SOCIAL MEDIA** to stay up to date with St. Patrick's news and catch a glimpse of community fun!

Instagram: [@stpatswolfhounds](https://www.instagram.com/stpatswolfhounds)
Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPatsDC
LinkedIn: St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, July 30

Popsicles on the Playground
(All Families Welcome!)

Tuesday, September 3

School Opening for Nursery–Grade 8

Friday, September 6

Opening Chapel for Students & Parents
(Kindergarten–Grade 8)

Thursday, September 26

Opening Chapel for Students & Parents
(Nursery School)

Share your news with the
**ST. PATRICK'S ALUMNI
NEWSLETTER!**

Please reach out to Chris Bolger at
BolgerC@stpatsdc.org if you have not
received your copy.



Our Mission

St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School strives to create a diverse and inclusive learning community of students, faculty and staff, and parents who recognize the infinite value of every individual as a child of God. We are committed to developing character, advancing human understanding, and promoting academic excellence to shape engaged citizens who live with integrity, empathy, and purpose.