

Hamlin Robinson School

# Scoop

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WINTER 2025

*A publication for families and  
friends of Hamlin Robinson School*



**MISSION** *To ignite the academic and creative potential of students with dyslexia and other language-based learning differences.*

**VISION** *The world class educational program at HRS is a catalyst for students to discover the joy of learning within a rich, comprehensive school experience.*

**CORE VALUES**

*Respect, Responsibility, Purpose, Perseverance*

**EQUITY STATEMENT**

*The Hamlin Robinson School community strives to ensure each student and their family has access to the supports they need within an inclusive environment that recognizes and honors all aspects of identity. We aspire to create an equitable environment for each student, family, faculty and staff, and all members within our community where everyone thrives and knows they belong. We are committed to this journey which requires continual self-reflection, vulnerability, intentionality, and accountability from each of us.*

*The Scoop is a publication of the HRS Advancement Office and is mailed quarterly.*

# Letter from the Head

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One of my favorite activities as Head of School is watching Question of the Day – a daily practice at morning assembly. One by one, students step up to the microphone to answer a specific question in front of their peers. In September, many voices are quiet and hesitant. By winter, the same students speak with increasing self-assurance and clarity. This practice reminds me why the HRS approach makes such a difference:

**Our school creates space for students to become both successful learners and confident leaders.**

At HRS, learning happens everywhere. Our classroom instruction is carefully designed for students with language-based learning differences – and the comprehensive school experience we create is just as intentional. On any given day, you might see students tinkering in the Makerspace, planning Spirit Week programming, or practicing guitar chords in the music room. Each activity builds different skills, but they are all in service of the same goal: offering our students the best possible school experience, one where they can realize their strengths and build confidence.

This is a goal we're continuously supporting – one you'll see reflected in the following pages. You'll read about our exciting

Auxiliary Programs, school leadership opportunities, and our Fund-A-Need (FAN) for the upcoming auction. FAN will focus on enhancing the school's outdoor play facilities and, in turn, the student experience itself.

The impact of the comprehensive school experience at Hamlin Robinson School is clear. We hear it in conversations at parent-teacher conferences, reflections shared on Level 8 Graduation Day, and stories told by visiting alumni. Through our program, students find their voice, a sense of confidence, and a spark that propels them forward.

Holistically supporting students with dyslexia and other language-based learning differences means creating a school where they can thrive in every way. From ArtsFest to the Science & Engineering Fair, from field trips to enrichment visits. At HRS, every experience adds to our students' growth and unique path to success.

Sincerely,

Stacy Turner

Head of School



GO

# GALACTIC

## FOR HAMLIN ROBINSON SCHOOL

Invitations are arriving in mailboxes for the HRS Galactic Gala & Auction! We hope that you will support and join this annual fundraising event.

Throughout our 40+ year history, support from the HRS community has made a difference in the classrooms and spaces where learning and transformation take place. Each year, our community builds on what has come before – and this year is no different. We'll raise funds to support students through our online and live auctions, as well as for this year's Fund-A-Need: Fun and Free Play.

HRS has an amazing campus – specially designed for our programs and students. We also understand the importance of our outdoor spaces. HRS students work hard in the classroom: outdoor play and

free time provides them needed opportunities to relax, have fun, and participate in healthy activities.

Research supports this need – play boosts healthy development across a broad spectrum of critical areas: intellectual, social, emotional, and physical. Play supports the development of independence, perseverance, and social/interactive skills. Play provides a safe space for students to explore, learn to manage feelings, and build resilience.

This year's Fund-A-Need supports the build-out of the blacktop outdoor area of the Joan Beauregard Playfields. Upgrades will include a new, cushioned surface and play structures suitable for Middle School and Lower School students. Funds will also support enhancements to other outdoor areas.



Additionally, 25% of the money raised through Fund-A-Need will be designated for the Tuition Assistance Endowment – supporting need-based tuition assistance in perpetuity.

We depend upon you to create and support the auction. Please visit [hamlinrobinson.org/auction](https://hamlinrobinson.org/auction) to:

- **Donate items**
- **Donate to Fund-A-Need**
- **Register to participate in the online auction**
- **Register to attend the live auction**
- **Volunteer!**







# GET TO KNOW ✨ NATHALIE CURTIS ~

Nathalie Curtis joined HRS in August 2024 as Director of Auxiliary Programs. In her role, she supervises our team of amazing Program Aides and manages HRS Auxiliary Programs – including Extended Day, Day-On programs, Music Academy, and Summer Activity Camps.

**Q: Tell us about your background.**

**A:** I grew up in Seattle and just moved back after 20 years living in Los Angeles. I spent the last decade working at the American Film Institute, running the production department for the graduate school. I'm so happy to be back in Seattle as part of the HRS community!

**Q: What interested you about the role of Director of Auxiliary Programs?**

I'd spent my time at the AFI conceiving and supporting the hands-on practicum to complement what students were learning in the classroom. It was the "practical application" element, which allowed students that essential step of putting their newly-learned skills to use. I saw similar

potential at HRS—the chance to develop programs for students' more unstructured, imaginative time that would blend their classwork, social-emotional learning, and creative energy.

**Q: What is your vision for developing and growing Auxiliary Programs?**

**A:** I want Extended Day and Day-On programs to feel like a destination – not just convenient childcare! These programs are part of the larger HRS experience that educates the whole person. This year, we have reimaged Day-On with fun themes like School of Rock, Spa Day-On, and Around the World. We've invited special guests and planned off-campus field trips to museums and farmers' markets. Whether it's through an After School Program like Jazz Dance, or a Day-On exploring the cuisine of East Africa, I want Auxiliary Programs to allow students to discover their interests and develop new skills.

**Q: How do you see Auxiliary Programs enriching the HRS community?**

**A:** Auxiliary Programs bring so much to our community – and we have big dreams to expand our offerings even further. For one, they give students a

chance to explore things they may never have discovered (e.g., special effects makeup and prosthetics, songwriting in the style of their favorite singers, the magic of a worm-bin). These shared experiences are huge for strengthening social connections away from screen time. Looking ahead, I hope to get students more connected to our Beacon Hill neighbors through field trips, service projects, and other opportunities for local engagement. We'd also love to get parents more involved and connected with each other, creating fun events where the whole HRS family can come together.

**Q: What's been your favorite program or event you've been a part of so far?**

**A:** Halloween brings out the creative side in everyone. This year during our Halloween-themed Day-On, we supplied the kids with a mountain of random garments and accessories from Goodwill, a glue gun, and a challenge: make the best costume you can using only three items. The results blew us away with the students' humor, fearlessness, and ingenuity. Who knew that a gold belt from the 1980s could serve as a pirate's hook, a bandito's bandolier, AND a princess crown? It was a hoot!



# The Alumni Connection

This past December, HRS alumni returned to campus to share their high school experiences with Level 8 students, offering insights as part of the high school transition curriculum. Students received practical advice from these current high schoolers – learning about balancing schoolwork,

managing accommodations, integrating socially, and applying skills from the HRS ‘toolbox’ in high school.

Hearing from alumni is particularly significant for our HRS students. It is powerful to see someone who has been in your shoes, sat in your same classrooms, faced similar challenges – and is now reaching their goals.

Alumni are living proof to our current students of what’s possible. Whether in high school or beyond, alumni of all ages help our students envision their own bright futures.

Thank you to the alumni who gave generously of their time and insight!

## Alumni, ★ Stay Connected!

We love every update from HRS alumni! Whether you have reached a milestone, started a new venture, or simply want to make sure we have your current contact details, we would love to hear from you.

Visit [hamlinrobinson.org/alumni](http://hamlinrobinson.org/alumni)



## OUR Grand GUESTS

In mid-December, students filled the HRS hallways with an excited buzz—and not just because winter break was fast approaching! It was time to welcome their special guests to the classroom during Grands Days.

For many grandparents and grand friends, this event offered their first-ever glimpse of Hamlin Robinson School. After visitors warmed up with coffee, Head of School Stacy Turner presented on



the mission and instructional approach of HRS, followed by student musical performances and our Question of the Day. Grands then continued to the classroom to learn alongside their student.

With over 300 visitors across three Grands Days, we were reminded that the supportive HRS community extends far beyond the school’s walls.

The enthusiasm that Grands showed for the students’ experiences, and their interest in understanding language-based learning differences, was truly meaningful. There’s so much to love about Grands Day – thank you to the visitors who made it a day to remember!





# BUILDING LEADERSHIP THROUGH STUDENT LIFE

At Hamlin Robinson School, our educational and enrichment programs empower students to see themselves as successful learners and grow their capabilities as confident leaders. Opportunities abound to explore and develop their skills and interests.

## Question of the Day

Every student at HRS learns to conquer a common fear: public speaking. As part of each assembly, students take turns walking to the front of the room and answering the Question of the Day. Using a microphone, they learn to introduce themselves and answer a

question in a complete sentence, in front of everybody. HRS has heard from many alumni that even though Question of the Day wasn't their favorite part of the day when they were at HRS, it helped them immensely as they moved into high school and beyond. It allowed them to build skills in expressive oral language and public speaking, instilling confidence that serves them for life.

## Student Council

Middle School Student Council members develop leadership skills while serving their classmates and the greater community. First, they make the commitment (along with the vulnerability) to seek

election. If elected, they then build activities each trimester, including: service projects, Spirit Weeks, and Middle School dances.

So far in the 2024-2025 school year, the council has organized a book drive for the HRS Community Library, supported the Dyslexia Dash, and planned two dances and Spirit Week events. They are responsible for keeping the student body informed through assembly announcements and flyers. They gather and discuss feedback from the student body, ensuring other student voices and ideas are considered.

The Lower School Student Council kicks off this winter, giving Level 4 and 5 students







leadership opportunities by serving as Lower School representatives.

### **Student Ambassadors**

The Middle School's Student Ambassador program, now in its third year, offers leadership responsibilities to dedicated students in Levels 7 and 8. Student Ambassadors help to lead tours for Level 5 prospective students, greet parents during admissions tours, and support events like Middle School Preview and New Family Orientation. As some of the first faces that prospective families see when they tour HRS, they play a significant role in making families feel welcome.

Student Ambassadors serve for two years and embody the HRS core values of respect, responsibility, perseverance, and purpose. Along with leadership skills, students learn to communicate with adults,

manage time, and make up schoolwork when they miss class for events.

What the Student Ambassadors have in common is a love for HRS and a desire to share their story. They enjoy meeting students who share learning differences and showing them what's possible at HRS.

### **Enrichment Opportunities**

HRS takes pride in offering a rich, comprehensive school experience. Along with structured, explicit instruction across every subject area, the student experience is complemented by activities such as:

- Visits from guest speakers and performers
- Field trips
- Auxiliary Programs
- ArtsFest
- STEM Fest
- Science + Engineering Fair

By participating in these events, students not only broaden their knowledge and interests, they also gain confidence in their skills to build and present projects, listen and question, explore and experience. Every student is empowered to see themselves as successful learners and to grow their capabilities as confident leaders.





# Hamlin Robinson School

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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**March 22, 2025**

Galactic Gala + Auction

**April 3, 2025**

MS STEM Fair

**April 28 - May 2, 2025**

Level 8 Camp

**May 15, 2025**

ArtsFest

**May 28, 2025**

Alumni Day

