

Admissions 1998-99

STUDENTS PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE in the school's admissions effort this year. During the fall and winter, all the ninth-graders volunteered as guides for our day visitors; a half-dozen seniors acted as admissions tour guides for applicants and their families. The November open house was a solid success, thanks in large part to the students from all classes who served as guides and speakers. Many students helped out as well with the winter and spring admissions receptions and the March calls to accepted students.

Parents were also very generous. We offer particular thanks to three families who hosted winter receptions, either in their own homes or at the school: Mr. James Miller and Dr. Sarah Minden, West Roxbury; Mr. Maxwell and Mrs. Cheryl Obele, Commonwealth School; and Mr. Christopher Ricks and Ms. Judith Aronson, Cambridge.

We are grateful to the parents who spoke with prospective families at the open houses and receptions, and who made phone calls in March to parents of accepted students: Judith Aronson, Tobie Atlas and Peter Corbett, Bonnie Costello, Cathy Doucette, Kathy Flynn, Peter and Karen Gelzinis, Mike and Paula Gibling, Ruth Goodman, Marie-Claire Humblet, Roger and Gail Ide, Mark and Linda Karlsberg, Joan Kohlberg, Richard and Katharine Kosinski, Cricket Lewis, Terry Marotta, Marty Mauzy, Rob and Anne Meyer, Diana Ronell, Rochelle Seltzer, Anat Sheffi, William and Molly Sherden, Doug Smith, Lois Smith-Porter, Ataieh Vafá'i, Alexander von Hoffman and Glenna Lang, Mira Yamaoka, Linda Yu, and Emma Aku Ziegbe.

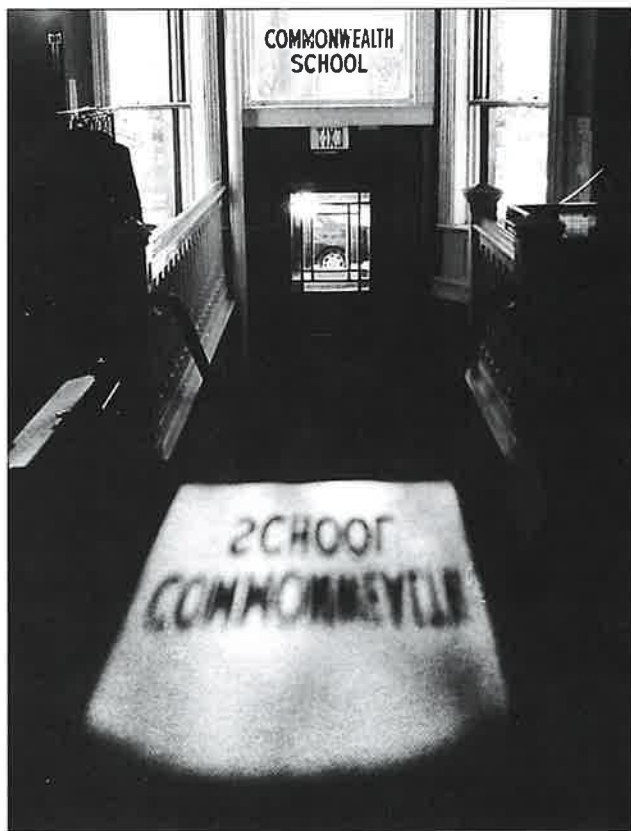


Photo by Paul Messenger '02.



Photo by Megumi Abe '00.

The Chair in the Corner

MARY P. CHATFIELD

IT SEEMS THAT EVERY TIME I set out to give you my thoughts about the year that is past and the year that is coming to be, I find myself writing about change and growth. "When will all this change and growth stop?" you may well ask. The answer, I hope, is "never." For if it does stop, the school will have lost the spirit of adaptability and creative energy that has marked it as special from its founding onward.

This past year brought the very successful conclusion to the Capital Campaign, the school's first benefit—Celebrating the Arts at Commonwealth—and, of most importance, the announcement by Judith Keenan that she will conclude her Headship in June of 2000. What a lot she has accomplished! It has been her guiding vision of Commonwealth as a solidly-based institution that has made such projects as the Campaign and the benefit possible. And her certainty that, in a diverse world, Commonwealth should stand as a leader in diversity has helped the whole school—faculty, students, and staff—to mirror the community in which it exists. Lastly, in this final year of her tenure, as soon as her successor has been chosen, the Long-Range Planning Committee together with Judith Keenan and the Head-to-be will begin an examination of what should lie ahead for the school in the first decade of the new century.

I find this period of growth and change a very exciting time to be working for Commonwealth. I feel a little like the boy in the fairy tale who put a bean in the earth one evening and the next morning found a plant stretching up into the sky. All Commonwealth's alumni/ae should feel that way, too. Your school, like the beanstalk, is taking you, as well as itself, on a journey upward and outward. Its roots are firmly lodged in the ground of teaching for the question (and not the answer), in love and careful practice of the arts, and in civil conversation of all kinds. Who knows where or how far its branches can extend? Help us think about those possibilities as the fall moves toward winter. I would welcome hearing your hopes and dreams for the school any time you have a moment to send them my way.