

BUCKINGHAM BROWNE & NICHOLS
THE LINK
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Spotlight Article

New Wing Unveiled at Upper School

After three years of planning, construction, and hard work by the entire BB&N community, the much anticipated new wing of the Upper School Building and Renovation project has opened, generating excitement among faculty, staff, and students.

“The result is breathtaking,” said Head of School Rebecca T. Upham. “We can see clearly now how this space will encourage collaboration among students and faculty.”

No longer having to dodge construction tape and trucks, students made their way through the brand new glass front entry way on the first day of classes, catching their first glimpse of the new wing as it was unveiled during a morning assembly.

“I’m still in shock/overwhelmed by the new building. It’s HUGE!” said David Seliger ’08. “Yes, I toured it three times during construction, but that really didn’t prepare me for actually having classes in there. The acoustics in the jazz room are fantastic, the bay windows are refreshing, and I want the art studio to be my new home. I was even surprised to see new walls, floors, etc. creep into the old wings.”

The new campus is a revelation, especially to long-standing faculty members. “The new wing gives the school an interior center that is clearly visible, a space where we can see ourselves going to classes, eating together, talking together. We never had this before,” said Upper School art teacher John Norton. “The building is fun as a place to travel through with several surprises along the way. Many of the details are well thought out and, at times, playful or inspired. The landscape design is very subtle and supportive of the whole idea of creating not just a place but a space that you want to be in.”

US English teacher and Grade 11 Dean Beth McNamara pointed out that the expanded space will benefit students and faculty alike.

“The new space is exciting—it gives students more places to settle in during the day, and the increase in offices, meeting rooms, and classrooms will really help the faculty as well,” she said.

US math teacher Al Coons, who has been visually documenting the project since the groundbreaking, noted how the building reflects careful thought about the needs of people as well as a particular “artistic flair.”

“It reflects a school that is quickly changing by considering more mature programs,” Coons said. “It suggests our mission is no longer along a narrow hallway but rather

involves collaborative growth involving many initiatives from all points of the circle of our needs and desires.”

The finishing touches were put on the new addition over the summer, completing the Student Commons/dining center, internet café, front lobby, and reception area, along with life-safety upgrades throughout all the existing Upper School buildings.

“I’ve been a part of eight building projects in the 35 years I’ve been involved in education and this project far and away has been the smoothest and easiest,” said Upper School Director Jack Knapp. “It’s important to remember that the genius of this School is the act of teaching, and this building will provide an environment for that to flourish.”

The new wing was made possible by the support of BB&N's Opening Minds campaign, which targeted \$26 million of its \$62 million goal to the Upper School building and renovation project.

Articles

Faculty Travel Grants Provide for Summer Adventures

This summer five BB&N faculty members were recipients of summer travel grants from the School, and took full advantage by visiting an array of fascinating places. Given out annually by the Board of Trustees, summer study and travel grants provide the School’s teachers with well deserved resources to travel and explore areas of interest which they might not otherwise be able to do.

Upper School English Teacher Althea Cranston used her grant to travel to County Wicklow, Ireland for a “summer school” devoted to studying the life and works of playwright J.M. Synge. “The school took place on an old five-hundred acre estate...where experts on Synge from Ireland and the U.K. gave lectures on such topics as the playwright’s use of folklore and the influence of Greek theatre on the works of Yeats and Synge,” said Cranston.

“Students came from all over the world...to talk Synge, visit some sites that inspired his plays, and enjoy the hospitality and the ‘craic’ (good company and storytelling) of the Wicklow locals who organize this annual gathering.”

Upper School math teacher and Tenth Grade Dean Peggy Payne and her family took in the sights of the Pacific Northwest.

“We flew in to Portland, Oregon, where we rented a car to make our big loop north to Seattle, then west to the ocean, where we dipped our toes in the frigid waters of the Pacific for the first time,” said Payne.

Amidst hikes, city tours, exploring dunes and learning all about local salmon, Payne managed to pick out a few favorite memories: “We wished that we could have spent more time along the way, but two spots really stood out for us: Mount Rainier and Crater Lake...it was peaceful, beautiful, and an area to which we’d love to return.”

Grade 4 Teacher Bill Hritz and his husband narrowly survived their trip to Ireland noting the “white knuckle driving on the too-narrow roads,” but came away from the experience with no regrets.

“From the youthful buzz of Dublin to the desolate beauty of Connemara to the majestic Cliffs of Moher, the balance of culture, history and the natural beauty of the island was, for me, ideal,” said Hritz, who took the time to visit numerous historical spots of interest such as Achill Island, and the Port Cohb Heritage Center.

“It is my hope that the photos, books, music, and information I acquired during the trip will help to enliven the social studies program for my students,” said Hritz.

A hearty ‘uerukamu honba!’ or ‘welcome home!’ to Lower School Technology Coordinator Colm Eliet, who spent two weeks in Japan this summer.

Eliet stayed in Tokyo for the first week where he and his wife explored the culturally chic and fascinating city, and managed a day trip to Mt. Fuji and Kamakura. The second week they turned their attention to the older and more traditional city of Kyoto.

“We visited Nijo and Himeji castles, and some of the temples and shrines surrounding Kyoto,” said Eliet. “The gardens in Kyoto were spectacular and we came home with pictures of them...which have inspired plans for our backyard next spring.”

As an avid outdoors person who grew up on a sheep farm, Middle School English Teacher Rachel Jamison had always dreamed of visiting New Zealand. So she knew exactly what to do with her travel grant.

“I got the opportunity to closely explore the Maori culture and some of its early settlements on the north island in the towns of Rotorua and Waitangi,” explained Jamison. “Along with exploring the native culture, I kayaked the Tasman Sea and hiked in Abel Tasman National Park, hiked to Franz Josef Glacier, relaxed in salt water pools, and camped on the beach several nights.”

Jamison was also able to take many great photos, and explore some of the sites from the filming of the *Lord of the Rings* movies. Although she saw some tremendous sights, she did not report seeing any hobbits.

Talented New Faculty and Staff Join BB&N

BB&N welcomes the following faculty and staff for the 2007-2008 year:

Lawrence Adler, *Upper School Mathematics*

Lawrence comes to us from Comprehensive Educational services in Marlborough, where he was the Acting Director of Mathematics for grades 6-12.

Mercedes Barletta, *Upper School Latin*

Mercedes has spent the last 6 years in academia as a teacher and university administrator. Most recently, Mercedes was at The Ethel Walker School teaching Latin and 6th grade history, serving as an academic advisor and coaching middle school and junior varsity lacrosse.

Nia Jacobs, *Upper School History*

Nia has spent the past 4 years at Beaver Country Day as a Senior Class Dean and Upper School History Teacher.

Jean Klingler, *Upper School English*

Jean has taught English for 18 years. The past 4 years, she has taught honors English at Brookline High School. Most of Jean's teaching career was spent at Groton School, teaching English and serving as the English Department Chair.

Sarabinh Levy-Brightman, *Upper School English & History*

Sarabinh began her career in Santa Fe, NM, working at a rape crisis center, teaching creative writing, and working in a residential care facility for Native American teens and young adults. At Lincoln Academy in Maine, Sarabinh taught English and was a 9th grade advisor. She taught History at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School for 3 years.

Kathryn Marino, *Upper School History*

Katie has also taught 9th and 10th grades World History, U.S. History and Sociology at Cohasset Middle and High Schools. Most recently, Katie taught at Preston High School in the Bronx, teaching Honors and Regents-level World History.

Katina McClain, *Upper School Dance Instructor*

Katina is currently working on a Masters of Arts in Spanish at Salem State College. For the past year, she has taught Spanish at Belmont High School.

Charmian McIntyre, *Upper School Science*

Charmian has 5 publications to her name and over 10 abstracts. She has an extensive and varied background in both science and education. Most recently, Charmian instructed Biochemistry and Physical Chemistry laboratories at Suffolk University.

Laurie Mutch, *Associate Director of Athletics and Varsity Girls' Hockey Coach*

Laurie was a member of the Women's U.S. National & Olympic Ice Hockey Teams for 5 years. She also served as the Associate Director of Athletics at Lawrence Academy for the past four years, where she also worked in Admissions Office and as a Coach.

Gregory Smith, *Upper School History*

Greg is a veteran educator with over 20 years of experience in academia. Most recently, Greg worked alongside the Principal of Concord-Carlisle High School, handling teacher evaluations, student discipline and working on curriculum with Department Chairs.

Hongchen Wang, *Upper School Chinese*

Hongchen has taught Chinese at several local centers for adult education, specifically in Brookline, Newton, and Boston. He taught Chinese at the International Society in Boston and Beijing Dian-Zi Middle School in Beijing, China.

Eugene Warner, *Upper School Theatre Tech Director*

Gene has over 30 years of academic experience in Design and Production. He joins us from SUNY Potsdam where he was an Associate Professor of Design, Head of Design

and Production Curriculum and Resident Scenery and Lighting Designer for the Department of Dance and Drama for 5 years.

Andrew M.K. Warren, *Upper School Film & Video*

Most recently, Andrew was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the School of Museum of Fine Arts, teaching Introduction to Photography and a secondary level photography class. Andrew has also taught Photography and/or Video Production at Wellesley College, New England School of Photography in Boston, University of New Hampshire and Phillips Academy.

Miles Walker Billings, *Middle School History*

Miles comes to us from the Indian Creek School in Maryland where he taught 7th and 8th grade history.

Harold Francis, *Middle School History*

Harold comes to us from Boston Collegiate Charter School in Dorchester where he taught 7th grade history and coached Boys' Varsity Basketball.

Krista Haskell, *Middle School Counselor*

Krista has worked in counseling since graduating from the Boston University School of Social Work. She was the Director of Counseling at the Berkshire School and the Delaware Valley Friends School in Pennsylvania.

Ethan Rossiter, *Middle School English*

Ethan is a graduate of BB&N, and a former recipient of the Nichols Prize. Most recently, Ethan taught Middle and High School English at The Browning School in New York City. He was the head coach of the Middle School basketball team and a 7th grade advisor.

Deirdre Savarese, *Middle School Academic Support Specialist*

Deirdre has spent many years working as a volunteer with children of all ages. For the last 2 years, she has been a tutor at Beacon Academy, a one-year intensive course of study for inner-city middle school students who are preparing to apply to independent secondary schools.

Rachel Nagler, *Middle School Art*

Rachel comes to BB&N from the Buxton School in Williamstown where she was a Studio Art Teacher, teaching painting, drawing, printmaking and mixed media for grades 9-12. Rachel has also taught at Lawrence Academy, in the Putney Student Travel Oxford/Tuscany Summer Program, and at Middlesex School.

Maria Mai Barton, *Lower School Kindergarten Homeroom*

Maria began her career at Public School #6 in New York City as an Assistant Kindergarten Teacher. At the Trevor Day School in New York City, Maria taught 1st grade and Kindergarten.

Cristina Carrion, *Lower School Spanish*

Cristina most recently worked at the Council of International Educational Exchange, managing the educational exchange program and on-site program events in South America.

Maria Elena Derrien, *Lower School Science*

Maria has been in the field of science education for over 10 years. She comes to us from the New England Aquarium where she was the Co-Director for the Camp Programs for the past 6 years.

Jessica Evans, *Lower School Grades 5 & 6 Math*

Since 1996, Jessica has been the Camp Director at Luethi-Peterson in Switzerland, a summer camp for children ages 9-17 from the U.S. and Europe. For the past year, Jessica has taught Middle School Science and a Math MCAS preparatory course at Uphams Corner Charter School in Boston.

Rebecca Thomas Geary, *Lower School Assistant Director of Studies*

Rebecca has spent the past 4 years teaching Spanish at the Oak Bluffs School in Martha's Vineyard.

Megan Haddadi, *Lower School Academic Technology Specialist*

Megan joins us from the King & Low-Heywood Thomas School where she has worked as a Technology Support Specialist for 4 years.

Tracy McLaughlin, *Lower School Kindergarten Homeroom*

Tracy comes to BB&N from The Chestnut Hill School where she spent two years, one year as a 1st grade Teacher Intern and one year as a 2nd grade Teacher Intern. Tracy has also taught individual and group piano at The Chestnut Hill School for Music.

Jamie Scavone, *Lower School Grade 5 Homeroom*

Jamie spent the 06-07 academic year as a 1st and 2nd grade Intern at BB&N, participating in a collaborative teacher training program in conjunction with Lesley University.

Patience Tibbs, *Lower School Grade 2 Homeroom*

Patience was a Beginners and Kindergarten Teacher at BB&N for 5 years. She returns to BB&N from The Children's School in Stamford, CT, where she was a Team Teacher, teaching a range of subjects including math, language, sensorial, computers, and practical life, to children ages 3 and older.

Laurie Bean, *Human Resources Coordinator*

Laurie came to BB&N in September, 2006 as a Senior Administrative Assistant in the Business Office. Her new role in Human Resources includes Benefits, the All-School Calendar, and the management of the newly implemented HRIS system.

Jessica Bradley, *College Office Coordinator*

Jessica joined the College Counseling team this past spring. She previously worked at ConnectEdu, an education company providing web-solutions for the college admission, application, and financial aid process.

Joe De Castro, *Bus Driver*

Joe joined the BB&N Physical Plant & Maintenance group in September, 2006. Previously, Joe worked for Greyhound.

Sally Huebscher, *Parents' Association Liaison*

Sally joined the External Affairs Department in September, 2006. She is the parent of a 2006 BB&N graduate, and began volunteering at the School in 2001 as a 7th Grade Parent Representative.

Stephen King, *Hiring & Special Projects*

After working at Raytheon Company for over 30 years, Stephen joined the BB&N Human Resources Team in January 2007 with a primary focus on hiring.

Jo-Ann Lovejoy, *Director of Annual Giving*

Jo-Ann joined the External Affairs Office over the summer. Previously, Jo-Ann worked in Fundraising and Development at The Fenn School, Harvard Museum of Natural History, and Lawrence Academy.

Joanne Pagounes, *Payroll and Day Camp Coordinator*

Joanne joins BB&N from Arthur D. Little where she was a Senior Accountant specializing in International Accounting and serving as a key contact for payroll reconciliations and processing.

Duncan Pollock, *Director of Facilities*

Duncan came to BB&N during the 06-07 academic year after having worked for over 25 years at a variety of property, real estate, and facilities management firms and corporations.

Amy Pratt, *Admission Assistant*

Amy comes to BB&N from the Mystic Valley Regional Charter School where she was the Office Manager responsible for the admissions process, organizing open houses, greeting new families on their first day, supervising receptionists, maintaining the student database and managing accounts payable.

Judy Quint, *Assistant Director of Alumni/ae Affairs*

Judy joined the External Affairs Department in July. Most recently, Judy worked at the Big Sister Association of Greater Boston where she was a Special Events Coordinator, managing and coordinating fundraising events and donor efforts.

Tracy Rosette, *Operations Manager*

Prior to joining the External Affairs Department, Tracy worked at the Groton School as the Assistant to the Annual Fund Director for 5 years.

Charles Ruopp, *Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs*

Charlie was the Principal of Wayland High School for the past 10 years, and was the Principal of Brooks Middle School in Lincoln for 4 years. Charlie is a member of the NEASC Commission and the Headmasters' Association.

Robert Savage, *Finance Manager*

Bob joined the Business Office in January, 2007. Previously, Bob was the CFO at Historic New England where he was responsible for all financial, property and administrative functions.

Keeping You Up to Date

Lower School STM Center Named for Lehner Family

Students and faculty returning to the Lower School campus this fall noticed a new name on the former Science, Technology & Music (STM) Center: The Lehner Center. This major addition to the Lower School Campus opened in September 2001 and was named this summer to recognize the extraordinary generosity of the Lehner family during BB&N's previous capital campaign, Campaign 2000.

The Lehner family legacy at BB&N includes Peter Lehner (Browne & Nichols Class of 1941), in whose honor the Center is named; Philip Lehner (B&N class of 1942); and former trustee and Campaign 2000 Chair Heidi Lehner, mother of Hans Sherman '99, Lauren Sherman '01, and Corinne Milbury '12. Thanks to their generosity, current and future generations of Lower School students and faculty will continue to enjoy the exceptional science, music, and technology facilities of The Lehner Center for decades to come.

Bivouac Bus Departs

Hoisting bags in many cases as big as themselves, BB&N 9th Graders set off for another year of Bivouac early in the morning on September 10. The annual rite of passage for freshmen always features hugs, smiles, and plenty of anxious parents to send the packed bus off on its way.

“I’m confident that they’ll return having had a great learning experience and with more knowledge about not only their classmates, but themselves as well,” said Dixie Morse (P ’09, ’11), who has been through the process before with her oldest son. “It’s a great program.”

2007-2008 Community Directory Updates

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to access a password-protected document listing updates for this year’s Community Directory.

Girls’ Varsity Soccer Welcomes Alumnae

The BB&N girls’ varsity soccer team was visited by some familiar faces the second week of school, when two alumna soccer standouts dropped by to partake in a scrimmage with the squad.

Becca Splaine ’97 and Jen Murray ’97, all-star players who together led the Knights to Eastern Independent League titles in their time at the School, relished the opportunity to share their soccer acumen and some fun with the students.

“Those two were fantastic players at BB&N, they were the best one-two punch in the league,” said Coach Katie Gayman. “It’s great to have them here.”

Joining in the scrimmage were two friends of Splaine and Murray, Olympic goaltender Kristin Luckenbill and Dartmouth standout, Gretchen Biggins. Together the four combined to give the team an inspiring dose of championship caliber soccer.

BB&N Football Gives Back to the Community

BB&N football players kicked off their season in an unusual fashion this year. Instead of banging helmets and pads against an opponent, they used their heads to help give back to the community. On Wednesday, August 29th, Coach Jon Papas and his team ran a free clinic in West Roxbury for inner-city Pop Warner teams.

“Our night spent teaching football to the youth of Boston was incredibly rewarding for all involved,” said Coach Papas. “Our BB&N players embraced the challenge of teaching the game they love to young players, and the Boston Pop Warner players were a captive audience soaking in the skills that were being taught.”

Whether being led through drills by BB&N players, or absorbing impassioned lectures on the ways of the gridiron from Coach Papas, the Pop Warner players’ energy knew no bounds. As dusk set in, many of the players lingered, hoping for one more snap despite the encroaching night.

“It was nice to see so many of my teammates turn out for our community service day, and it's always great to give back to a local community,” said Senior Captain Nick Halloran. “It felt good to take the things that you have learned and love as a football player and pass those things onto someone else.”

BB&N's New Upper School Building Needs a Name!

Three years ago, a \$10 million challenge grant from an anonymous donor allowed BB&N to embark on its Opening Minds Campaign. The doors we open this year are one important step in reaching our campaign goals.

We’re excited to let you know that our anonymous donor has asked the BB&N community to help the School come up with the perfect name for this beautiful new building. Please submit your suggestion(s) to the Head’s Office at: building_name@bbns.org.

Submissions should include: 1) the suggested name for the building; 2) a brief (1 - 2 paragraph) explanation of your choice; and 3) your name. Only one rule applies: the building may not be named after a person.

We ask that you submit any and all suggestions by September 20. A final decision about the building’s name will be made by the donor in consultation with the School.

Upper School Tennis Star Competes on the Professional Circuit

Senior Erica Robertson made her debut this past summer in Professional Tennis competing in the USTA Pro Circuit Women’s 50K Challenger Tournament. Playing against a tough opponent in Salome Devidze, Robertson lost 6-0, 6-3, although she remained positive about the outcome, looking at it as a good learning experience.

Robertson is currently ranked No. 2 among New England 18-and-under girls. Last season at BB&N, Robertson went 17-0 and won the Independent School League singles title. She will also compete in the minor leagues of the WTA, the USTA National Clay Court

Championships, the National Hard Court Championships, and the Junior International Tennis Federation Cup.

“She can play professionally now,” her coach Sidney Cooper told the *Boston Globe*. “It’s just a matter of how well she puts her entire game together.”

Seventh Graders Hone Team Building Skills

Seventh graders got to know the Middle School as well as their new classmates during a recent Community Building Day. “We broke the kids up into six groups and had them do different team building games to get them use to working together,” said math teacher Angus Means. “It was a chance for the 7th graders to have the campus to themselves and really explore the space. Some of the activities were less structured and allowed them to discover different strategies on their own.”

New Crosswalk on Upper School Campus

In conjunction with the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) the Upper School campus has put a crosswalk into service at a busy intersection between Gerry’s Landing Road and Greenough Boulevard. What had been a somewhat daunting journey across Greenough Boulevard to the student parking lot is now a safe and easy stroll.

Spanish Classes Launch at Lower School

In order to better prepare students to be well-rounded global citizens, BB&N has implemented a Spanish language program into the Lower School curriculum. Although Spanish is currently being taught to only Fifth and Sixth Graders (First Graders will begin a short class in just a few weeks), the program will eventually be taught to all Lower School students. Currently, Fifth and Sixth Graders are focusing on cultivating basic language skills through listening comprehension and learning the authentic pronunciation of words.

“French, Spanish, and technology are all working together to come up with fun, interactive activities for the classroom,” said Lower School Spanish teacher Cristina Carrion. “We want the students to have fun with languages and understand how to use them in the real world.”

Triple Word Score!

This fall, BB&N is offering a Scrabble program for BB&N students in Grades 5 and 6. It will run from September through December, on Thursday afternoons from 3- 4 PM. The activity is free of charge.

The activity is being led by Upper School math teacher Mark Fidler, who has coached many BB&N Lower and Middle School teams in Scrabble competitions over the years. One team won first place in the first National Scrabble Championship in 2003.

The activity will be a mix of fun Scrabble activities, and playing games. We ask that students enroll in Scrabble if they anticipate being able to attend at least 7 of the 9 sessions listed below.

2007 Schedule: Thursdays, 3-4 PM, LS – Sept. 27 Oct. 4, Oct. 18, Oct. 25 Nov. 1, Nov. 15, Nov. 29 Dec. 6, Dec. 20

Any questions, contact Mark Fidler at mark_fidler@bbns.org or 617-800-2288. Please email him your child's name, grade, and homeroom teacher to enroll your child in Scrabble.

Campus Voices

Each month, *The Link* visits BB&N's three campuses to hear directly from directors or teachers about what's on their minds. We share their letters below:

Lower School

Sue Scarborough

Director, Lower School

We are off and running toward another wonderful year at the Lower School. With the beautiful summer-like weather, the children enjoyed a festive welcome back picnic as well as many opportunities to play outdoors. These events, along with the welcoming classrooms our teachers prepared, have launched us into the first semester.

When I was teaching, fall was always my favorite time of the school year. Everything was fresh and new—new supplies, new schedules and a group of shiny new faces to walk through my classroom door. But most of all, it held the promise of a year full of teachable moments.

To educators, a teachable moment is when something happens in your classroom and you can take advantage of it to teach or model a skill, appropriate behavior or learning strategy. We love these moments because they are “real” to children; since we know that when we experience something, it is much easier to understand. They can occur anywhere at school, whether it be during a classroom discussion, kickball game or an art class. We look closely for them, using them to enhance our instruction in meaningful ways.

Teachable moments can be part of our everyday lives, too. Children can learn kindness and compassion by helping a neighbor, making an extra effort to be kind to a classmate who might need a friend, or returning a lost item to its rightful owner.

An article by Frances Chamberlain summarized the importance of teachable moments in our lives: “You don’t have to go searching for such moments in your own life. There is always a person in need, someone who needs a kind word, a helping hand. It doesn’t have to be as big as a homemade meal. In fact, small kindnesses that require little thanks or recognition are just as important as the larger “good deeds.” The important thing is that we capture those moments when we can show our children what kindness and compassion is, and help them add that to the skills and understanding that will guide them through adulthood.”

Enjoy a great year full of many kinds of “teachable moments” with your children. Also, don’t forget to check the calendar page in this newsletter for the Back-to-School Nights schedules. These offer an excellent way to find out the curriculum for your child and to meet your homeroom teachers and specialist. We look forward to seeing you there.

Middle School

Mary Dolbear

Director, Middle School

According to Webster’s *Third International Dictionary*, a link can be defined as “a connecting structure, something analogous to a link of chain (as in form, function, or serial arrangement).”

When I first learned of our new publication, *The Link*, I was thrilled to know that as a school community, we would now have a new and more current method to collect the wide array of news and events in a more realistic and effective format for families. The pace of BB&N is quick and *The Link* captures and extends the perfect invitation for families to connect with this vibrant and active community in form, function and serial arrangement.

At BB&N, there is always so much going on that it is a constant challenge to feel as though you have prioritized and mastered the flow of information coming your way. This need for communication is particularly relevant and acute during the notorious *middle years*; we know this is a time when your children share less and less, and yet, you are eager and you need to know details. *The Link* will provide you with just that, but it will do even more for the Middle School parents. As I so often say, we are “the one in the middle” and there is always the need to balance the desire for details and the bigger picture.

This newsletter invites you to take a peek into this community with the broader lens, but not to worry we will continue to publish *Sparks Fly*, our campus specific newsletter, for coverage of our local events. At the Middle School, we recognize that your children are not quite independent enough to relay key information, and yet, the channels of communication differ now without a core homeroom teacher. Parents can struggle to feel

connected to the school in any consistent and ongoing way so look for the monthly *Link* and Middle School Parent Association newsletters. Parents will gain both the big picture as well as the pulse of our campus through information updates and our highlights. Everyone is invited and encouraged to get involved, share and keep track of exciting happenings and events in all arenas on all three campuses. Together, we can create a connecting structure, something analogous to a link of a chain.

A warm welcome to all and stay tuned.

Upper School

Jack Knapp

Director, Upper School

Louis Sullivan, the great Chicago architect, once wrote that "form ever follows function" and his words ring so true to me this month with the opening of the Upper School academic year amid the splendors of the new building to whose construction so many contributed so generously.

It is a wonderful addition, one that will make a special contribution to the sense of community we are building at BB&N. This is particularly true because student and faculty input and suggestions are everywhere: from David Seliger's stairway to the internet cafe to the redesigned commons area to the smallest detail, perhaps the backrests for students to lean against when they're studying by the windows. Everything says to our students and faculty: "You're the heart and soul of the school, we've built something designed to be comfortable for you, a space that says education should be purposeful—but it can also be fun at the same time."

We had our opening assembly last week on the green commons area that the new building surrounds. One comment that I heard repeated many times was, "This is so cool." My sentiments exactly. The essential greatness of the school will remain the passionate interchange between students and teacher, but that discourse is so enhanced by our new space. At that assembly, Ms. Upham announced the naming contest and invited student contributions to it. The only rule, she said, was that it could not be named for a person in keeping with the wishes of the anonymous donor who provided a key challenge gift at the beginning of the capital campaign. This is also probably a wise restriction given the number of friends who deserve to be thanked for this great addition to the school.

I don't know what we're going to call the new building, but I do know one thing: schools exist as places where students and faculty learn together in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Louis Sullivan would be proud of what the BB&N community has accomplished.

All School

Rebecca T. Upham

Head of School

Welcome to the first edition of *The Link*! This is our foray into electronic newsletters. With the simple push of a button we have retired *The Notebook* and ushered in a new age

of parent communications. One of our goals is to deliver news to you in a more timely fashion. But another equally important goal is to give parents from one campus access to perspectives on educational issues from people on other campuses, too. In this issue of *The Link*, each of the campus directors joins me in sharing their insights and observations on these first few days.

There's an energy and excitement that comes with the start of any school year. But this year that energy has been particularly high and the excitement for faculty and students especially palpable. Upper School Director Jack Knapp captures in his letter the enthusiasm and pride all of us have for an extraordinary new building. Early in the design phase for the new US building and renovation project, I articulated the desire to create, with our new building, a heart to that campus. I'm stunned at how successfully our team translated that concept into reality.

Speaking of the heart of the matter, a defining characteristic of this School is the strength of the relationships that teachers form with their students. We have long known and sensed this is an important predictor of academic achievement and at our opening faculty meetings, speaker Bill Pollack affirmed this with a very startling finding.

Bill Pollack is an expert on boys' development. He is the Director of the Centers for Men and Young Men at McLean Hospital and Assistant Clinical Professor (of Psychology) at Harvard. As a parent, you may know him as the author of *Real Boys*. Ironically, I first became aware of his work with boys when I was in a girls school. As an educator, I thought he was doing for the lives of boys what others (especially Carol Gillian and Mary Pipher) had done for girls. Believing that life has become more complicated for our boys and that the cultural messages they are sent increasingly confusing, I asked Dr. Pollack to speak to the faculty about boys, their development, and schooling.

From his early work, three things struck me: (1) how powerful the fear of shame is for boys; (2) their need to have the freedom to express their full range of emotion and capabilities (something not just devalued but discouraged by our culture); and (3) the observation that we live in a culture that constantly expects boys to disconnect from other people, to stand on their own two feet, when what they most seek are genuine relationships with others.

Schools can be tough on boys. The youngest among them need about five recesses a day. Lacking that, they need classrooms that are active. Normal neurological development follows different path and timetable from their girl counterparts and the ability to read usually comes 14 to 18 months later. That's hard, especially if the culture around you places too much emphasis on when you read and not enough attention to your interests and abilities. This is one reason I'm proud of the collaborative work taking place with the teachers and reading specialist in the Morse Building. Pre-literacy skills and interests are as important to us as the advent of decoding words and assigning meaning to paragraphs.

So, here's the startling fact. And it's one that links Pollack's early work on relationship with his more current work on schooling: For boys, achievement in 4th grade is directly linked to the relationship they had with their teacher in *kindergarten*!

We know relationships matter. Our teachers are excited to have the students back. Year after year, they report that it is the relationships they form with students at BB&N that makes the profession so rewarding and each year special.

(A follow-up note. Dr Pollack's remarks were very well received by the faculty. We hope to have him back for more in-depth, grade specific conversations with faculty later this year.)

Giving Update

A BB&N Annual Fund Primer

WHO: Parents, Alumni/ae, Past Parents, Grandparents, Faculty, Staff, and Friends

WHAT: The BB&N Annual Fund

WHEN: 2007-2008 School Year

WHERE: Throughout the BB&N community, near and far

WHY: It's all about the gap...that is, the gap between tuition dollars and the actual cost of educating each student. The BB&N Annual Fund exists to fill that gap and meet the annual financial needs of the school. This year the gap is \$5,736.

HOW: Through the tireless efforts of an army of Parents, Alumni/ae, Past Parents, Grandparents, Faculty, Staff, and Friends, all working together to reach out, on all levels, to all constituencies, to ask for support of what is of greatest value to all of us...education and our children.

This year, the BB&N Annual Fund goal is \$2.35 million dollars, which will fill the gap and guarantee our continued commitment to Financial Aid, Professional Development, Technology, Faculty Compensation, Academic Programs, Arts, and Athletics. In the end, the Fund plays a crucial role in continuing the tradition of excellence that all have come to expect from a BB&N education.

As we prepare to kickoff the 2007-2008 BB&N Annual Fund, kindly consider joining our outreach effort and inquiring about ways to become involved. We welcome your enthusiasm on behalf of BB&N.

Opening Minds Campaign Passes \$42 Million Mark

BB&N's [Opening Minds Campaign](#) enters the third year of the public phase with nearly \$46.4 million received in gifts and pledges toward a goal of \$62 million. The new Upper School campus that opens to students and faculty this month was funded through generous gifts from early Campaign donors. Join us on Saturday, September 29 for the [Opening Doors Celebration and Alumni/ae Homecoming](#) to celebrate this Campaign milestone.

The Opening Minds Campaign continues to seek support for BB&N's endowment for faculty compensation and professional development, financial aid, and academic programs, as well as ongoing support for the School's operating budget through the [Annual Fund](#). For more information about the Opening Minds Campaign, contact Janet Rosen at janet_rosen@bbns.org.