

**USPA Newsletter
November 2009**

Greetings Upper School Parents!

We are now well into a terrific fall at BB&N; we would like to thank the many volunteers and staff who have worked so hard in hosting myriad fun and informational events across this campus. The USPA just hosted a terrific evening with Dr. John Knight, the Director of the Center for Adolescent Substance Abuse Research at Children's Hospital, who passionately spoke regarding how educators and parents can help navigate our teens successfully through the maze of high school social experiences, stressing setting consistent and high expectations, while providing common sense support and guidance throughout these critical years. Dr. Knight presented the latest research on brain development and substance abuse among teens worldwide, intertwined with stories of area teens, very similar to our own children, whose lives ended tragically due to poor choices. Rebecca Upham, Head of School, Dr. Jack Knapp, Upper School Director and Mary Dolbear, Middle School Director all spoke regarding the importance of community and partnership between parents and school in navigating and supporting our children throughout their time at BB&N. In addition, Susan Terry, Director of the Suffolk County D.A.'s office informed parents of the changes in the Social Host Liability Law and how a drug or alcohol charge can impact your child's criminal record. Dean of School Rory Morton also spoke informing parents on the changes on the Common College Application where students and school officials are required to report any suspension or misdemeanor in the student's high school career to prospective colleges. Upper School Counselor Doug Neuman joined this group of administrators in a fruitful question and answer session following the speakers. The evening was jointly hosted by the Upper and Middle School Parents Associations and was attended by more than 100 Upper, Middle and Lower School parents.

This past weekend the Admissions Offices of the Upper and Middle Schools hosted a very welcoming, informative and successful Admissions Open House at the Upper School, which was supported by an army of parent and student volunteers. Our campus was filled with contagious spirit in support of our enormously successful athletic teams throughout this homecoming weekend, despite the dreary weather!

Thanks again to all of you who make our community strong, welcoming and vibrant!

Sincerely,

Lisa Aulet and Tammy McLeod, USPA Vice Presidents
Maureen DiChiara and Kasey Kaufman, USPA Assistant Vice Presidents

News from PIN (Parents Independent School Network):

On October 2nd, PIN sponsored a discussion with Dr. Karen Postal who spoke about brain development and how parents can help enhance executive function in our teenagers. To see the minutes and slides from this presentation, please contact PIN reps Susan Flahive, susan.flahive@comcast.net or Cory Little, cory_little@mac.com for questions.

PIN is an independent school network of over 68 participating schools in the Boston area that has provided many useful lectures for parents and faculty since 1985.

Upcoming USPA events:

- **Thursday, November 12th USPA Meeting, 7pm:** Dr. Knapp will report on the current and future direction of the Upper School, including implications of the E.E. Ford study, an overview of the NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) visit and a student generated plan for vertical organization of some aspects of school life, based on Bivouac squads. History Department Chair Gustavo Carrera will also speak regarding the globalization and future direction of the history curriculum at BB&N.
- **Saturday, November 14th: One School-One World (11am-2pm) and Grandfriend's Day (9am-11am)**

Please come and enjoy this free event, which brings our three campuses together in celebration of music, food, games, art, information booths and more, sponsored by BB&N faculty, families and our various organizations, initiatives and clubs. Two years ago, over 500 families came to learn origami, tasted Asian-Indian delicacies, watched student hip-hop dance, and bounced in the Russian Club's Kremlin Moonbounce!

- **Wednesday, November 18th: Community Service Afternoon**
(THIS IS MUD WEEK - NO SPORTS EXCEPT FOR TEAMS IN THE FINALS)

Each fall during Mud Week, US students are provided the opportunity to participate in an afternoon of community service with their peers. Students will leave after dismissal and return to campus in the late afternoon. (Times vary depending on the site.) Sign-up sheets will be posted in the academic building beginning Monday, November 2. Permission slips will be available at school and are due back by Tuesday, November 17. Please encourage your child to grab a friend and sign up! Students will be awarded 3 hours of community service credit for this work.

This year, students will be traveling to: Associated Early Care and Education, Cambridge Community Center, Charles River Conservancy, Community Servings, Ellis Memorial and Eldredge House, Greater Boston

Food Bank, Haley House, Sancta Maria Nursing Facility, Somerville Boys and Girls Club, West Cambridge Youth Center, West End House, and Women's Lunch Place.

Should you have any questions, please contact Faculty Community Service Coordinator Gabriela Gonzenbach, gabriela_gonzenbach@bbns.org, or parent organizers Robin Gilbert, robinsuegilbert@aol.com and Lynda Ceremsak, ceremsak@comcast.net.

- **Tuesday, December 8th Mini Classes for Parents, 7-9pm**
We have a terrific line-up of faculty creating a rich array of parent classes for this evening. More details to follow!

Volunteer Opportunities:

- **One School-One World**, please contact Kate O'Kelly klokd@yahoo.com
- **Community Service Afternoon**, please contact Robin Gilbert robinsuegilbert@aol.com

Please check daily the Upper School Events and Athletic Calendars for the latest info on campus-wide events.

NOVEMBER LISTING FOR US ARTS

The BB&N Upper School Petropoulos Group Visits Open Studios at Harrison Ave

The Petropoulos Program will host a **November 6th** visit to First Friday, on Harrison Avenue in Boston: Art Gallery Openings and Open Studios. This is a really fun way to be part of the Boston Art scene. The BB&N white bus, which holds 14 students, departs school at 6:00 pm. The group tours the galleries until 7:30 or 8:00, has dinner and returns to school by 9:00 or so. For more information contact Parrish Dobson, parrish_dobson@bbns.org.

The BB&N Upper School Fall Theatre

"The Execution of Justice" will be performed at the Upper School Theater
Performance dates are **November 19 at 3:30 pm and November 20 and 21 at 7:30 pm.**

Tickets are \$5 at the box office or at 617 800 2260.

The show is a riveting account of the trial of Dan White, the man accused and convicted of murdering San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk. Referencing the playwright, Emily Mann, Athol Fugard has written: "More than any other American writer of our time, ...her work has demonstrated the central importance of theatre to the psychic well-being and sanity of a society." PG 13

The BB&N Upper School Visual Arts Gallery

There will be an exhibition of work by a local artist from November 16 - December 7. The artist will most likely be a painter.

The Upper School Student Exhibition will open December 9 - January 20. There will be a student gallery talk on January 14, from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Parents are especially welcome to this event.

Submitted by Liz Marran

Elizabeth.marran@umb.edu

Useful Links:

- Dr. Knight, referenced above, urges parents to sign the Students against Destructive Decisions “Contract for Life” with their teens. You can download a copy of the contract at www.sadd.org/contract.htm
- And, in case you missed Dr. Knight’s terrific talk, his PowerPoint presentation is on our website at http://www.bbns.org/sites/default/files/docs/dr_knight_presentation.pdf

(This link may work best if you copy and paste directly into your browser.)