

Upper School Parents' Association December 2009 Newsletter

Greetings Upper School Parents,

The holiday season is upon us following many terrific events this past month including Jack Knapp's last great 'State of the Upper School' night with an update on our newly globalized history curriculum. The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the One School - One World event where more than 600 people forged through the soggy Nor'easter to celebrate the 2nd BB&N tri-campus affair, highlighting our various and varied initiatives, programs, clubs and curriculums. There were over 60 tables of exhibits, 17 Main Stage student performances, artwork from all three campuses', and the Russian Club's Moon Bounce. So many of you volunteered in so many ways to make this event and so many others happen and we want to thank you! Our community has never been so vibrant and connected!

Looking forward please be sure to **RSVP** for the **USPA Mini-Class night on December 8th** at the following link: <http://www.doodle.com/tc2unit8x2ztqcp2> (Descriptions are the next page).

Thanks everyone for all you do and for supporting the USPA!

Very sincerely,

Lisa, Tammy, Kasey and Maureen, your Upper School Leadership Team

December Calendar:

- **December 8th** (Tues.) **USPA Mini-classes**, 6:30pm registration, 6:45 classes begin, 7:30 dessert and conversation. Location: Upper School Campus
- **December 12th** (Sat.) **Upper School Winter Concert**, 7:30pm. Location: First Parish Church, Brookline. Performers include the Upper School Orchestra, the Upper School Chorale, The Knightingales and Voices of the Knight who will be singing music from Handel's Judas Maccabeus and the musical "Ragtime" among other things. The orchestra will perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C minor, one of the most popular pieces in Western Classical Music, and unquestionably one of the most important works of the 19th Century.
- **December 17th** (Thurs.) **US Jazz Concert**, 7pm. Location: Choral/Dance space (Room 210). The BB&N Upper School Jazz Ensembles under the directorship of Pandelis Karayorgis, present 'A Jazz Concert'. This exciting event features the 9th Grade Jazz Ensemble, the Tuesday Jazz Ensemble and the Thursday Jazz Ensemble. They will perform Lullaby for Realville by Sun Ra, Cool Struttin by Sonny Clark and Boogie Stop Shuffle by Charles Mingus

Keep scrolling...

Please save the date...

- **February 6th**, (Sat.) USPA Mystery Dinner!!! (6pm)

The Arts...

The BB&N Upper School Student Art Exhibition, Dec 9 - Jan 20th

The Upper School student art exhibition will begin December 9th and run through January 20th. On Thursday, January 14th at 5:30 - 6:30, all are invited to attend a reception where a selection of participating students will speak about their work and discuss the creative process of making their art. The exhibition will include ceramics, design, drawing/painting, mixed media, photography, printmaking, sculpture and woodworking.

Volunteers: Please check class pages for many upcoming opportunities!

December 8th Mini-Class Descriptions:

Dueling with Letters or a Touch of Russian Language and Culture: “H” is an “N?” “Z” hides in front of “E?” “И” is for “Pushkin? And a Frenchman killed him in a duel? Sit in on this mini course, and you’ll discover the tricks of the Russian alphabet from Russian language teacher **Willa Chamberlain**, be able to read literary works in the original (the titles, that is), and re-live a famous nineteenth-century duel!

Who am I? We will study Dunbar’s poem “We Wear the Mask” as an exploration of ourselves. Dunbar wrote the poem in 1896 when African Americans were depicted in literature as happy with their lot in life. Dunbar refers to the true plight of African Americans within his poem, but the message is universal: We all wear a mask to hide certain aspects about our identity. With English teacher **Alda Farlow**, we will consider why we hide certain qualities about ourselves behind masks.

Statistical Sampling: What It Means and What It Doesn't: What does it mean when a poll reports that X% of a sample of voters report they intend to vote "yes" on a ballot question? Math and computer teacher **Mark Fidler** will show us how to create, collect, and analyze samples, and teach us some concepts behind statistical sampling.

Ponzi Schemes 101: Discover how Madoff and others may trick unsuspecting investors! Participate in a hands-on activity to see firsthand how wealth is created. Math teacher **Tim Kendrick** reminds parents to “bring your checkbook!”

Gerrymandering and the House of Unrepresentatives: With gerrymandering expert and Upper School Director **Jack Knapp**, we will learn why everyone will be watching the wrong election results in 2010, ignoring a serious threat to our democracy.

From Penrose, to Primrose, to Pentagrams: Finding Connections Through Art, Science, and Mathematics: This inter-disciplinary hands-on workshop, taught by science teacher **Rachel Riemer** and woodworking teacher **Paul Rulmann**, will explore five-fold symmetry, and use science, nature, and mathematics as sources of inspiration for creating individual works of art.

Free childcare available, contact Tammy McLeod at tammyj.mcleod@gmail.com