

# GSR

THE GILL ST. BERNARD'S SCHOOL MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2021



WE'RE  
THRIVING





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### MISSION STATEMENT

Gill St. Bernard's School provides a balanced, diverse and secure community that prepares students academically, socially, and ethically for college and a meaningful life.

### CORE VALUES

Courage • Integrity • Respect • Compassion • Excellence

Please note that all June 2021 events, including Commencement, Unit Program, Upper School Spring Concert, and the Senior Breakfast, will be covered in our next *GSB Alumni Magazine*! Stay tuned!

# FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Friends,

A little over a year ago, a global health crisis brought life as we knew it to a halt. In one week, we made the transition to all-distance learning, and our traditional closing events became “virtual” or drive-through. In addition, our faculty and staff tackled a full summer immersed in intense tech training. September loomed large as another academic year lay ahead, without any guidance or vaccine, and the likelihood of continued outbreaks remained high.

Through determination, collaboration, and just plain hard work, we developed detailed plans for reopening our campus with in-person classes. Investing heavily in PPE, testing, and technology, along with the cooperation of the entire school community – students, parents, staff, and teachers – our campus successfully reopened last fall. I am proud to report that we remained open more days for in-person learning than any other school in the region.

One year later, we may look back and now see what a remarkable feat this academic year has been. Indeed, our school thrived. The boys’ soccer team ranked #1 in New Jersey, and finished fourth in the nation. The golf team won its first-ever Somerset County Championship, and girls’ basketball reached the final game of the Skyland Conference Tournament. Lance Hollingshead ’24 was our first golfer to win the NJ Non-Public B State Championship. Additional noteworthy accomplishments include Caroline Solondz ’21 winning her 100th fencing match and Joe Licata ’22 clinching the Somerset County Championship in the shot put and discus. Our baseball team received the first seed, and our softball team earned the number two seed for the Non-Public B State Tournaments!

Undaunted by the pandemic, our Parents’ Association hosted a myriad of community-building experiences, including a Welcome Breakfast, a virtual Brew and Pizza Night, and Book Club meetings. There were also highly successful Pie Sales, Bingo Night, and a memorable live-streamed spring Fashion Event. Given that “the show must go on,” a virtual production of our kindergarten’s portrayal of Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker* illuminated screens in December, as did musical concerts and recitals. In the spring, the GSB Performing Arts Department safely brought back live theatre to the PACC with its creative in-person production of Richard Roger’s *Two by Two*. Cast members performed behind plexiglass cubicles, while audience members enjoyed the show in masks and socially distanced seating.

This year, our important work in diversity, equity, inclusion, and community (DEIC) continued. Using the three-phase action plan as our guide, Culture Night and Pride Month were celebrated, as well as Parent and Alumni of Color meetings. Pollyanna training was provided to allow for thoughtful curriculum review. The formation of various affinity groups enhanced student and community engagement, and a Mentor Program was created with Upper School students and our fourth graders to promote greater understanding. Finally, the Board of Trustees established a standing Board Diversity Committee and developed a statement on the importance of diversity at GSB.

Unquestionably, the past 15 months proved difficult for everyone. Vast challenges tested us all. Yet, through our collective efforts, Gill St. Bernard’s continued to provide our students with a quality, in-person experience. Some changes will become permanent, others sunset in June. Yet, throughout the year, we remained true to our mission and core values. As a result, our school is stronger than ever.

Stay safe and be well.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S.A. Rowell". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

S.A. Rowell  
Head of School

A TRIBUTE TO OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL FOR

20

YEARS OF  
SERVICE



Dear Friends,

Sid Rowell became the fifth Head of Gill St. Bernard's School in 2001. Under his leadership, GSB has achieved significant growth in campus size, academic rigor, arts and co-curricular offerings, and athletic competitiveness. In 2001, our endowment was under \$400,000; today it is more than \$10 million – fully positioning the school for a bright future.

Quite notably, our campus has grown in size and stature during his tenure. The list is long: an addition to the Conover building in 2002, constructing the Athletic Center in 2004, completing the Hockenbury Academic Center in 2009, the Todd Quad in 2011, and an addition to Founders Hall in 2013. The Conger Alumni House replaced the Cottage in 2014, the Delicker Farm property, now called Home Winds Farm, was reacquired in 2015 and, in 2016, the GSB Field House was built. In 2018, the Performing Arts & Community Center (PACC) became the majestic welcoming presence at the school's west entrance. In 2019, the former theatre was renovated to become the SBS Pavilion & Parents' Association Student Art Gallery.

Sid joined GSB at a pivotal time in its history. His clear vision, always balanced and open perspective, and unwavering belief in our mission and core values have served him in leading our school with distinction into the twenty-first century. Perhaps the most challenging of his 20 years has been the most recent one, and it is to his credit that Gill St. Bernard's School remained open, flexible, student-focused, and ready to navigate all the challenges that we faced.

On behalf of the GSB Board of Trustees and the entire school community, we applaud Sid Rowell for 20 years of outstanding leadership with this (surprise to him) feature. Sid, your years of service are a significant milestone for you and in the school's history. We thank you sincerely and acknowledge with great pride all that you have done to help make Gill St. Bernard's School what it is today.

Doug Matthews, Chair  
GSB Board of Trustees



If you look at Gill today, you can't help but be impressed by the tremendous strides that have been made under Sid's

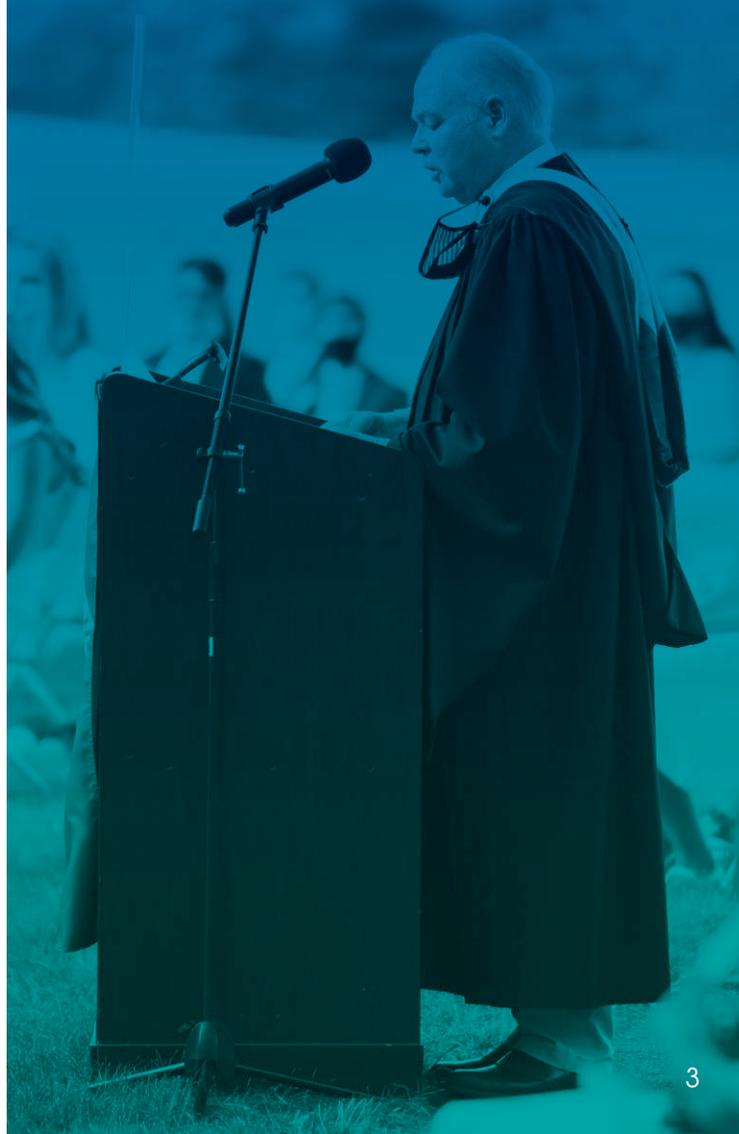
## LEADERSHIP

over the last, it's amazing to say it, 20 years. The new Upper School, two new gyms, the fantastic arts building, and Home Winds Farm. The school's reputation has continued to expand: academically, in sports, and in the arts. And Gill has maintained its focus on

## BALANCE & COMMUNITY.



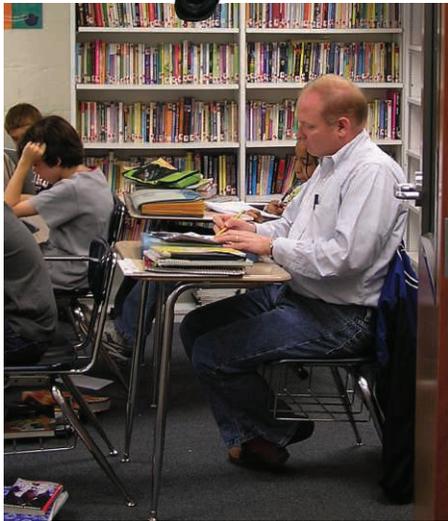
Sam Corliss  
Lindabury-Thomas Trustee  
Award Recipient and Board  
of Visitors member





### Annual Trustee and Former Trustee Dinner

In a surprise honor of Sid's 20 years of service, Doug Matthews presented Sid with 19 red socks, one for each year of service, and one GSB blue pair – for this past and most challenging year. (Sid wears red socks every day.) He then presented a lovely bottle of Joseph Phelps Insignia Proprietary Blend 2001 (20 years old).



## Over the years, Sid has always LISTENED & SUPPORTED

courses that make sense for our students. In the Upper School, an increase in enrollment and the need to remain relevant has inspired new course offerings at every level. Since my arrival in 2009, Sid has supported three huge growth areas: college guidance, learning support, and mental health counseling services. We have come such a long way. Sid's leadership and his desire to remain relevant helped the Upper School grow and evolve over time.



Kerri Small  
Director of College Guidance



2001

2004

2009



Sid Rowell named Head of School



Athletic Center



Hockenbury Academic Center



One of the most **SIGNIFICANT** changes to our culture under Sid's leadership has been in athletics. Across the board, our teams are achieving at a very high level, and we're attracting student athletes who go on to successful college careers when they graduate from Gill. His **COMMITMENT** to building and maintaining a strong athletic program was clear from the start, and much **APPRECIATED** by all who compete and coach for the Knights.

” Dave Pasquale  
Dean of Student Life & Head Baseball Coach



It was an honor to work with Sid over many years. He was always looking ahead with a

## VISION TO IMPROVE THE EXPERIENCE OF STUDENTS

at the school. As Head of School, Sid drove the renovation of almost every structure on campus, if it wasn't built new during his tenure. He instituted the Honor Code and established the Honor Board. He made sure that GSB established a diversity statement, and that it is displayed in every campus building and in all classrooms. In addition, he expanded college guidance, athletics, the faculty, and the curriculum, especially in the areas of math and science, and the Fine and Performing Arts programs.

” Jim Diverio  
GSB Director of Development (2003-2019)



2011

2015

2018

2018



Todd Quad



Home Winds



The Field House



Performing Arts & Community Center

# WHAT AN AMAZING SEASON



At the buzzer, Gill St. Bernard's celebrates its 3-2 home victory over Pingry to capture the Central West, Non-Public Section Title on Nov. 21, 2020, becoming the #1 team in NJ.

# GSB WINS NJSIAA CENTRAL WEST NON-PUBLIC BOYS' SOCCER FINAL OVER PINGRY

What an amazing season! Gill St. Bernard's boys' soccer finished its undefeated season with a 13-0-1 record, named first in the state and Team of the Year for 2020 by *NJ.com* and fourth in the country by the United Soccer Coaches.

"I'm so proud of our boys," said Head Coach Tony Bednarsky. "I've been a coach here for 32 years, and this is by far the best team. To finish number one in the state – especially for a school our size – and to be ranked nationally, it's amazing. They showed resiliency and did not let anything stop them. A total team effort."

With its final 3-2 victory over Pingry on Nov. 21, 2020, the Knights captured the NJSIAA Central West, Non-Public Section Title. Gill goals were scored by David Frankel '22, Micaah Garnette '21, and Gavin Scavino '22.

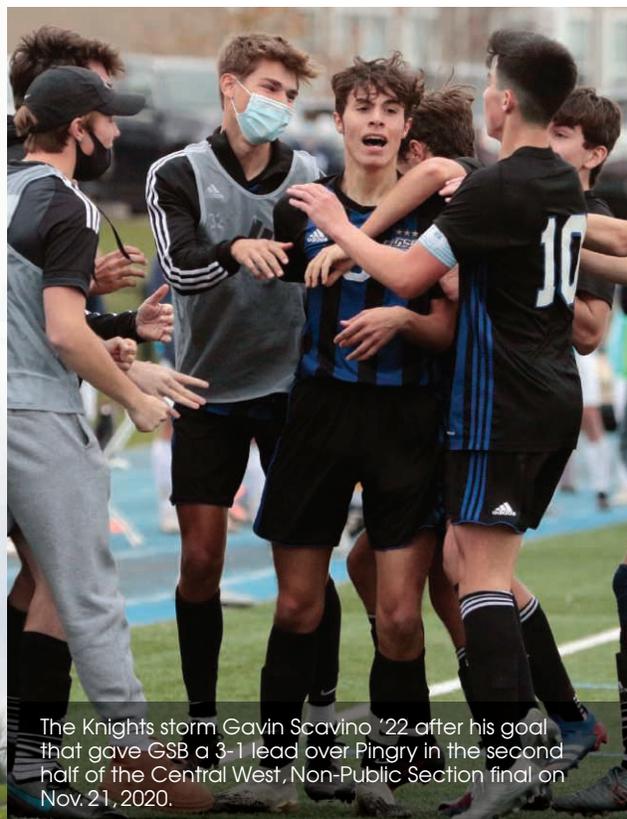
The final matchup pitted GSB, the first-ranked team in the state, against second-place Pingry. That the two top teams would play each other proved unusual, but this past fall, due to the pandemic, districts were divided regionally instead of in traditional groupings.

"It was an atypical year because of COVID," said Coach Bednarsky. "Last year, we won five championships – we won everything you could win – and I remember thinking: What can top that? Then COVID hit." His team adapted seamlessly, even after battling Monroe Township after a 14-day quarantine, marking the team's only tie.

Athletic Director Will Taylor could not be prouder. "What our boys did this season is nothing short of a miracle," he said. "It's incredible what they were able to do, especially given the circumstances. We are the best team in the state, ranked number one ahead of everybody. It's impressive."



Congrats! Honored by *NJ.com* as Team of the Year for 2020! Larry Levanti Photography



The Knights storm Gavin Scavino '22 after his goal that gave GSB a 3-1 lead over Pingry in the second half of the Central West, Non-Public Section final on Nov. 21, 2020.



Photo credits for three *NJ.com* photos: Scott Faytok for NJ Advance Media



(l-r) Micaah Garnette '21 and Nicholas Collins '23 rejoice at Micaah's second goal, late in the first half against Pingry.



## 2020 HIGH SCHOOL BOYS ALL-AMERICA TEAM MICA AH GARNETTE '21

The United Soccer Coaches selected Micaah Garnette '21 to the 2020 High School Boys All-America Team, an honor that places him among the best high school soccer players in the nation. For his 2020 soccer season, Micaah scored 21 goals with 14 assists in 14 games, leading his team to capture the state title and a fourth-place national ranking.

For Head Coach Tony Bednarsky, the All-America recognition is fitting for a player who exemplifies GSB's core values in all areas of his life. "Beyond his proven stats and records in soccer, Micaah is an unselfish, consummate teammate who encourages the younger players," he said. "As good as he is on the field, he has character and integrity and is a person of honor off the field."

Athletic Director Will Taylor shared these sentiments. "This is a great honor for a player who had a fantastic career at Gill, and not just his senior year," he said. "This couldn't have gone to a better kid. He's a quality person, an all-American in every respect."

Micaah, who came to GSB as a sophomore, liked the small class sizes and one-on-one quality time with teachers. Of course, he was excited to play soccer for the Knights, alongside teammates Jordan Canica '21 and Adam Berrocal '21. The three played together for three years and served as co-captains their senior season.

"We formed a nice trio," said Micaah. "Our last two seasons were really special. Our junior year, we won five championships, and this year, with COVID, we are number one in the state and fourth in the country. Our team really bonded. We went through everything together, training and all the controversies over the summer. Our team got closer, and you could see it on the field."

Above all, Micaah is thankful to Coach Bednarsky, Athletic Director Will Taylor, and Trainer Glen DePino for working so hard to provide a season and ensure the team's safety during the pandemic. "We were lucky to have a season, kids in other states weren't able to," he said. "To have a season at all, with only one COVID shutdown and to be so successful, it's because of them. It's a testament to our school."



## COACH OF THE YEAR (AGAIN!)

The United Soccer Coaches – the largest soccer coaches' organization in the world – named Head Coach Tony Bednarsky the 2020 Coach of the Year. The honor covers the East Region of boys' high schools in the private and parochial sector and marks his 32-year coaching career at GSB.

"This is a well-deserved recognition," said Athletic Director Will Taylor. "What Tony has accomplished in his career at GSB is incredible. The number of wins does not even come close to his ability as a coach and the care he shows for his players. Coach Bednarsky is a Gill icon."

For Head of School Sid Rowell, the awards cap off a stellar season. "All of us at Gill St. Bernard's are justifiably proud of the achievements of our boys' soccer team this year," he said. "In particular, the special recognition of both Head Coach Tony Bednarsky and senior Micaah Garnette '21 makes clear that our program is truly the best in the state this year."



“ I’M SO PROUD OF OUR BOYS. I’VE BEEN A COACH HERE FOR 32 YEARS, AND THIS IS BY FAR THE BEST TEAM. TO FINISH NUMBER ONE IN THE STATE – ESPECIALLY FOR A SCHOOL OUR SIZE – AND TO BE RANKED NATIONALLY, IT’S AMAZING. THEY SHOWED RESILIENCY AND DID NOT LET ANYTHING STOP THEM. A TOTAL TEAM EFFORT. ”

- HEAD COACH TONY BEDNARSKY



Jordan Canica '21 recognized as boys' soccer Second Team All-State

Adam Berrocal '21 selected as boys' soccer Third Team All-State

Micaah Garnette '21 named 2020 Player of the Year, Skyland Conference Boys' Soccer Player of the Year, two-time boys' soccer First Team All-State, the 2020-21 Gatorade New Jersey Boys' Soccer Player of the Year

## THREE STANDOUT KNIGHTS

NJ.com gave honors and praise to our three captains:

*"Gill St. Bernard's was led by its tremendous attacking trio of Micaah Garnette, the 2020 Player of the Year, Villanova commit Jordan Canica and midfielder Adam Berrocal. That group combined 40 goals and 31 assists this season as Gill St. Bernard's scored key regular wins over Pingry and Hunterdon Central before its state tournament run included wins over Immaculata, Notre Dame and Pingry again."*



”

One particular treasured memory is the championship soccer game my junior year. I piled into the car with my best friends on our way to Kean. Packing into the stands, everyone became part of something greater, GSB as a whole. We screamed until we lost our voices and shook the stands for every good play. It didn't matter that it was 30 degrees or that we had four assignments due the next day, teachers and students were simply happy to be there together.

- Sydney Lapper '21





WE  
ARE  
HERE,

AND  
WE  
ARE

THRIVING.

This is Balance.

# MAKING IT WORK

During these unprecedented times, Gill St. Bernard's community, comprised of faculty, staff, students, parents, and families, came together to navigate the public health crisis that changed our lives. Despite all the challenges presented by the pandemic, GSB hosted in-person classes the entire academic year, beginning in August, and marked more in-person days than any of our peer schools. Our dedicated community made this happen by diligently following daily COVID-19 protocols, including temperature checks, health assessments, social distancing, and mask-wearing. Our profound gratitude to our entire GSB community for coming together to make this school year so successful.



# HOW WE DID IT

## GSB Fund: Our School's Greatest Philanthropic Priority

Our generous community joined together to support the GSB Fund, which directly financed the unanticipated costs associated with providing a safe and flexible learning environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. To outfit our campus with better safety and health resources, Gill invested more than \$1 million. The GSB Fund directly supported these initiatives, including PPE and sanitation supplies, new technology, additional staff to fulfill our health and safety protocols, and weekly COVID-19 testing for all students, faculty, and staff.

In addition to these unanticipated emergency needs, the GSB Fund remains an essential resource that also covers anticipated budget items to enrich our programs and curriculum. Because of our community's generosity, the GSB experience is a reality for our students and faculty. Thank you to all our donors who supported the GSB Fund during this extraordinary year! **Because of you, our future looks bright!**



## GSB FUND: COVID-19 RESPONSE

### Campus Enhancements: \$400,000

- Outdoor tents and seating
- Reconfiguring campus spaces into classrooms
- Desk partitions
- Safety reminders and directional signage

### Technology: \$250,000

- Campus-wide wireless network upgrade
- Faculty iPads to enhance distance learning
- Laptops for all faculty and staff

### Health & Wellness: \$300,000

- Weekly COVID-19 testing for all students, faculty, and staff
- Temperature scanners
- Enhanced sanitation protocols

### Emergency Tuition Assistance Fund: \$58,000

- Financial aid to families that experienced significant losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic

### Personal Protection Equipment: \$150,000

- Masks and shields
- Disinfecting wipes
- Hand sanitizer

### Professional Development: \$55,000

- Global Online Academy's Designing for Online Learning Course
- Summer Technology Training Workshops
- Responsive Classroom Training

# LOWER SCHOOL CELEBRATES 100<sup>TH</sup> IN-PERSON DAY!

By Alice Roche Cody

This is **Balance.**

While celebrating the 100th day of school is a huge Gill St. Bernard's tradition, this year's anniversary assumed an even greater importance, given the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Despite all the challenges with protocols and restrictions, our GSB campus remained open for 100 days so that our students could learn in-person with their dedicated teachers. Today's awesome party at the Lower School Meeting marked this impressive milestone, a testament to the commitment of our students, their parents, and our teachers.

"It's amazing to see our students dancing in their classrooms," said Lower and Middle School Director Kyle Armstrong. "Our 100th Day celebration this year is extra special because of the pandemic. The fact that we have been here – seeing teachers and students on a daily basis – is terrific. Let's throw a party!"

With that, the fun started as parents joined in remotely, Zooming in to see the LS classes whoop it up in a grand way. Our kindergartners, dressed up as 100-year-olds, kicked things off with a parade featuring kids in flowered house coats, pink curlers and slippers, old cardigans, and argyle sweaters as they teetered by using walkers and canes. Then PE Teacher Steven Leo warmed up the crowd by leading 100 exercises, including squats, jumping jacks, lunges, and push-ups.

Next came Ms. Fedon's favorite tradition, the 100th Day Museum, which showcased first grade's assorted collections of 100 items. There were Sophia's 100 stuffed animals, Maddie's coins shaped to form a heart, Robbie's cascading dominoes, and Amelia's 100 eyeballs. As this marked Logan Bee's third 100th day celebration, he completed a 300-piece *Harry Potter* puzzle that he displayed with an excited, "Ta-da!"

Next, the party moved to Home Winds Farm, where LS Science Teacher Lynn Prosen introduced Farmer Ned inside the animal barn, as recently born goats climbed about. "Baby goats are called kids," he said, adding that four sheep will soon become mommas again. "We're excited to see how many lambs there will be, but I don't think it will be 100!"

Then LS Dean of Student Life Jill Fedon found a note in her office for the Lower School Knights, left behind by the one-and-only GSB Knight, who said, "Congrats on 100 days, and sorry I missed your dance party!"

Did someone say dance party?!

With that, Reel 2 Reel's song, *I Like to Move It*, blared and everyone – even Mr. Armstrong – cut some fine rug.

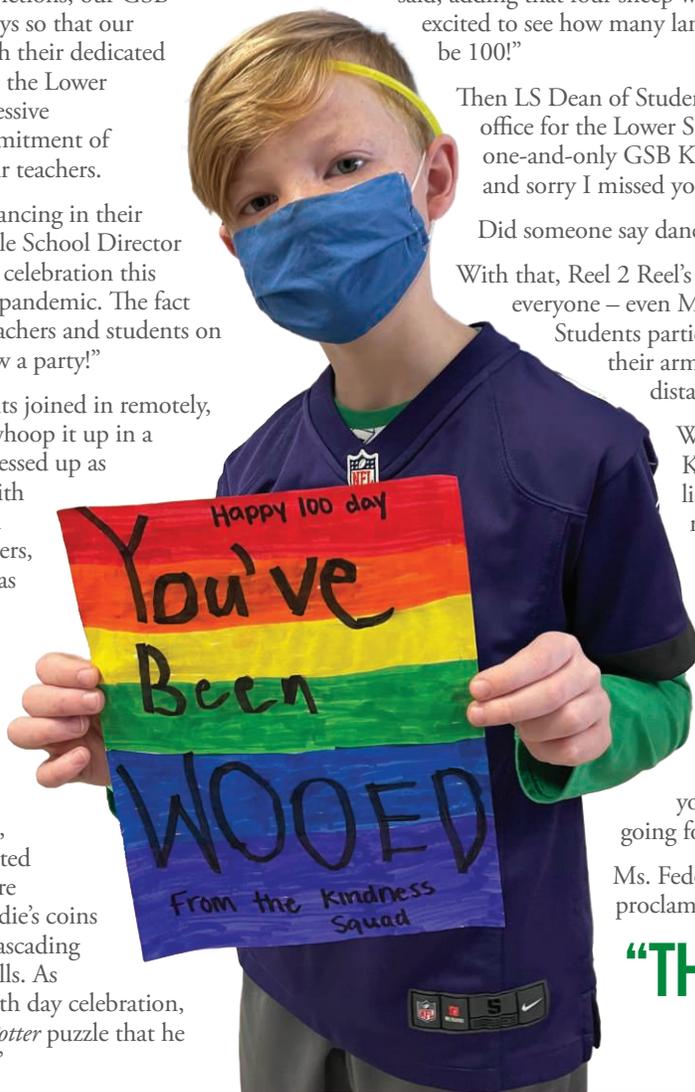
Students partied wearing glow necklaces, waving their arms, wiggling, with some even doing a distanced-conga line in their classrooms.

When the music quieted, fourth grade's Kindness Squad read their poem, with the lines, "We learn to always give our best, no matter how hard the hardness gets," a nod to resiliency, making the most of things, and thriving, even in the face of numerous protocols and restrictions.

Finally, Mr. Armstrong shared his heartfelt thoughts: "Thank you, parents, for sharing your kids with us on a daily basis and for joining our call today. I look forward to a time when you can be back here with us. Let's keep going for another 100 days!"

Ms. Fedon closed things out with an apt proclamation....

**"THIS IS THE BEST DAY EVER!"**



## TURKEY DAY TRADITION LIVES ON!



Our GSB community rallied strong for our school's 19th annual celebration. While coronavirus restrictions canceled our Annual Turkey Trot, the spirit of Thanksgiving prevailed, with 409 frozen birds collected for the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, the largest statewide anti-hunger and anti-poverty organization. Thank you to all who donated!

## SPRING FEST



Warm weather graced this year's Spring Fest on April 30, as students enjoyed after-school doughnut truck treats, while catching lacrosse, baseball, and softball games. Go, Knights!

## PROM



GSB hosted its first-ever on-campus prom. Held at Hemm House on May 28, 2021, our seniors and their dates enjoyed an outside, boardwalk-themed event full of food, dancing, and downpours.

# A DAY OF GIVING GSB FOUNDERS' DAY

GSB's inaugural Founders' Day, a day of giving held on March 10, 2021, proved a big success! This community-wide event celebrated our school's founders, Reverend Thomas A. Conover and Miss Elizabeth Gill, whose generosity continues to make a lasting impact on generations of Gill St. Bernard's School students. We asked alumni, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff, and friends to honor their contributions with a gift of their own to continue their legacies for today's GSB students.

**Three-hundred and ninety donors answered our call and raised a total of**

**\$132,320** for our  
**GSB FUND.**

Matching gift challenges targeting alumni, parents of alumni, and overall participation helped to inspire donors. We are grateful for the generosity of our matching gift challenge donors. Thank you for helping to make our first Founders' Day a success!

# Home Winds - A Farm for All Seasons

Edward “Ned” Lincoln feels most comfortable at work, feeding goats, tilling soil, or planting seeds at Home Winds Farm. Last July, he returned to the Somerset Hills area to become the school’s farm manager. Both his job and its location suit him perfectly.

“I have roots here, my parents still live in Bernardsville,” he said, taking in the 208-acre farm landscape surrounding him. “I love it here. The rolling hills are beautiful. Of all the places I’ve lived, I’m happiest here.”

The bucolic working farm includes two greenhouses, animal barns, a two-acre garden, two Class-A trout streams, a stocked pond, an apple orchard, and pastures for cattle, chicken, donkeys, sheep, and goats. This sprawling addition to campus was made possible by a land re-acquisition in 2015 that brought GSB back to its roots. Founded in 1900, St. Bernard’s served as a farm school for boys until the land was sold in 1965 to Carl Shirley. Then, 56 years later, the land returned to Gill, thanks to the generous philanthropy of Mr. Shirley’s daughter, Betsy Michel. Her former home is now called Hemm House, after GSB Honorary Trustee Bob Hemm, SBS ’46.

GSB’s faculty has seamlessly blended Home Winds into its curriculum, making the land an extended multidisciplinary classroom. Sixth graders tap its maple trees each winter, Lower and Middle School students study the environment in STREAMS (Sustainability, Technology, Research, Engineering, Agriculture, Math, and Service), and Upper Schoolers learn about animal science with John Taeschler, Science Department chair, and Mr. Lincoln. Local veterinarian Andrea Freeman ’95, a GSB trustee, often demonstrates live ultrasounds on pregnant goats for the course.

“Home Winds is an unbelievable resource for our students,” said Mr. Lincoln, pointing out the pavilion where outdoor sessions meet. “A lot of students have never seen chickens, sheep, donkeys, or goats in person, and they get really excited. It’s a neat program and a tremendous way to differentiate our school and make an impact.”

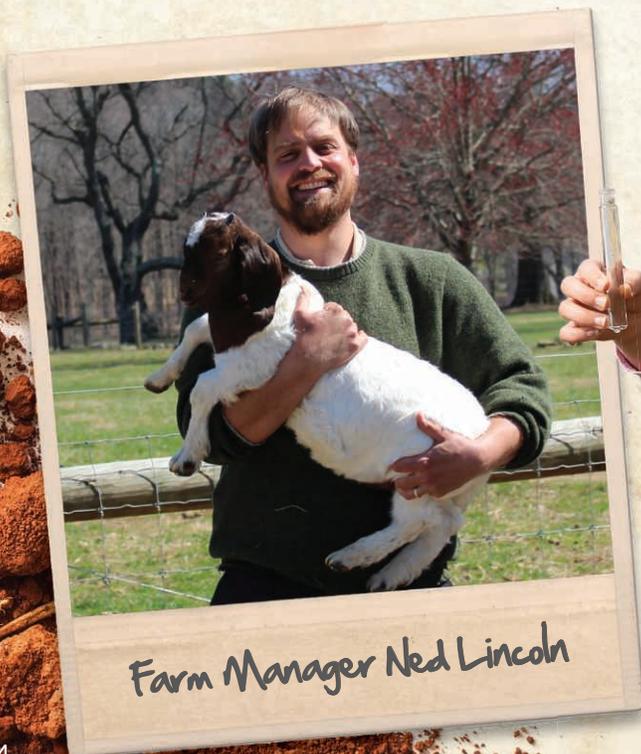
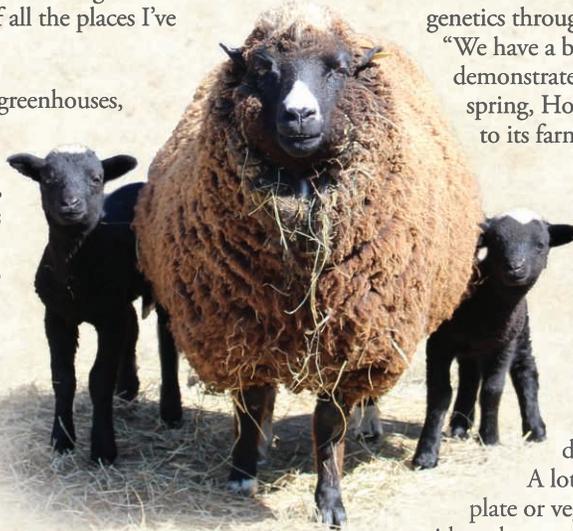
Take the chickens, for example. “Our students learn about genetics through our diverse flock of chickens,” he said. “We have a breeding program, and it’s exciting to demonstrate how genetics and breeding interact.” This spring, Home Winds welcomed 15 lambs and six kids to its farm family.

The chance for students to learn about farming firsthand sets GSB apart from other schools. “Agriculture is the foundation of our technological civilization, and Home Winds is a huge opportunity for our students to understand that,” he said. “There are layers of production here – fruits, vegetables, a variety of animals – and students can develop a real context for what they eat.

A lot of people look at meat on a Styrofoam plate or vegetables in grocery bins, and they have no idea what goes into it. Our students gain that experiential knowledge, which enables them to be more informed.”

Teaching animal science and showing students the various aspects of agriculture are extremely gratifying for this farmer. “What they’re learning matters,” he said. “We’re creating a link between their education and the real world. Breeding is applied genetics, and nutrition science in animals is applied biology and chemistry. I feel incredibly lucky to be making an impact on the next generation.”

**Be sure to visit GSB’s community farm stand for fresh produce, golden honey, and delicious eggs!**



Farm Manager Ned Lincoln





Eighth graders in Jennifer Schuchman's science class view goat ultrasounds with Dr. Andrea Freeman '95, a local veterinarian and GSB trustee.



(L-R) Darya Tahmasebi '25 and Addy Angell '25 investigate exothermic and endothermic chemical reactions.



Sixth graders in Montana Vasquez-Grinnell's Science and STREAMS class help transplant iris plants.



## Meet GSB Beekeeper Jon Ramsay '09



Jon Ramsay '09 is thrilled to be back on campus and tending his alma mater's beehives, including a new donor-funded Flow Hive, which lets students see bees in action and allows honey harvesting without opening the hive, for minimal disturbance to the bees. Mr. Ramsay, a master beekeeper certified through Cornell's two-year program, spoke recently as a guest lecturer at the Upper School's animal science class. He'd like to make this a regular occurrence by integrating beekeeping into the Middle and Upper school science curriculum. Expanding GSB's bee colonies is also a top priority.

"We're hoping to grow the program with more hives," he said. "We're starting with four hives and hope to build up to 10-plus hives in the future. You can split hives once every year, some stronger ones more than once. If all goes perfectly, next year we'll have eight, and 16 the year after that."

Mr. Ramsay also helps other GSB alums by tending their backyard hives. A big benefit to his on-campus efforts – fresh and delicious Home Winds honey, for sale at our community farm stand!

“REAGAN LOVES GILL - EVERYTHING ABOUT IT. WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HER GETTING SAP FROM THE TREES, HAVING IT ON PANCAKES, AND WHAT SHE WAS GOING TO USE TO MAKE A BIRD FEEDER AND SHE SAID, 'YOU KNOW, MOM, A REGULAR DAY AT GILL IS LIKE A FIELD TRIP DAY AT PUBLIC SCHOOL.' I THINK THAT SAYS IT ALL ABOUT HOW REAGAN FEELS ABOUT HER SCHOOL!”

- EILEEN O'CONNELL P '27





# PAUL MULCAHY '19

## HE MAY BE SCARLET NOW, BUT HE'S STILL OUR KNIGHT!

*By Alice Roche Cody*

It has been two BIG years for Paul Mulcahy '19. Our kindhearted, headband-wearing #4 basketball standout is still spreading our school's core value of compassion. On the court, the 6-foot, 6-inch Rutgers point guard psyches up his teammates and extends his hand to help fallen opponents. With the launch of Grateful4 Foundation, Paul seeks to inspire a chain reaction of selfless acts. Big Ten noticed and honored the Bayonne native with its Sportsmanship Award.

His freshman year, Paul played in all 31 Rutgers games, averaging 3.7 points and 2.5 rebounds. Led by Coach Steve Pikiell P'25, the squad was nationally ranked, the first time since 1979. Then, just as the team warmed up for the Big Ten Tournament in Indianapolis, officials canceled all games due to coronavirus fears. This past season, the Scarlet Knights came back strong. Paul helped bring RU to the Big Ten quarterfinals and the second round of the NCAA "March Madness" Tournament.

A tough competitor, he played through a dislocated pinky on his dominant hand and a broken nose that required him to wear a face guard.

This spring, with his casted arm in a sling after surgery to repair his pinky tendon, Paul shared about navigating college sports during COVID, celebrating his 21st birthday, and his best GSB memories.

**Question:** Congratulations on a great basketball season! How was it, being at Rutgers and playing basketball on such a talented team, all during a pandemic?

**Answer:** It was a long year. Starting last June, with the team on campus, we got COVID-tested every day, through the end of March. Being around every day, it would take a toll on anybody. I'd go from my apartment to workout to my apartment. No outside anything. Fortunately, we had no shutdowns. We were one of the few schools in the country not to miss a game. We took pride in that. But I missed a lot. I had no social life. I was scared to leave. I didn't want to be that guy. It was a lot of sacrifice.

**Q:** Let's talk about last year, what was it like having such an awesome season, and then everything being called off right as your team took the court for its Big Ten Tournament game?

**A:** My freshman year for basketball was really good. The senior class had above-average players. We should have been in the tournament. I played a big role for the team my freshman year.

This year, I knew I had to play it safe and stay healthy. This whole season was about missing freshman year. To get it back. That was big. The way it ended the year before. People talk about how many years Rutgers didn't make tournaments, but I didn't feel any pressure. Rutgers is a huge community with passionate fans. I keep hearing how happy and proud they are of us.

**Q:** How did you balance college classes and basketball during the pandemic?

**A:** This past season I was more locked in. There wasn't much to do. I found it easier with classes online. My first and second semester were rough. I was tired and drained. I'd go to practice and get to class. This year I took online classes at our workout facility, and I have a great academic advisor, Ms. Larson. I'd go to basketball – school – room. Every day felt the same. I didn't remember games. The biggest thing was trying to stay safe. There was a lot of fear. I was used to seeing my family and my girlfriend, and I couldn't see them. Then my family got tested to hang out. Now I'm living back at home. I'm seeing the effects. People lose themselves.

**Q:** How did you manage and what kept you going? Was there anything you drew on to get you through? An inner resilience or your faith?

**A:** Over the last couple months, I've grown my faith. I find safety in that. It's a growing thing. I'm closer to God and what I believe in. It played a big role. That's the first time someone asked me that – thank you for asking that. I'm not perfect. I have a lot to learn.

**Q:** That must have been tough being so isolated from your family and friends as well as playing games in empty arenas. The RAC (Rutgers Athletic Center) is usually packed, electric with noise.

**A:** I'm a Mama's boy, the first son with five siblings. Last year, my freshman year, I'd have 20 to 40 family members and friends at each game. This season, it was hard not seeing them. I'd win a game, go back to my room, lose a game, go back to my room. No fans at the RAC. Sometimes it looked like we had no energy. It was a tough year. It's hard to judge this year because no matter how hard it was, it wasn't normal.

**Q:** Congrats on the Big 10 Sportsmanship Award. What does it mean to you?

**A:** That was cool. I didn't know a thing about it. It was more about what I'm doing off-court. It's awesome. The Big 10 and Rutgers have done a lot for me. There are lots of things I want to get done, and to be seen in that light is great.

**Q:** Can you tell me about why you started your Grateful4 Foundation?

**A:** This year was tough with COVID. It was hard to get things done. A lot of the guys and I try to do good things within the New Brunswick community, as safe as possible. My girlfriend helps, too. This summer, I'm running a one-day basketball clinic in Bayonne. We'll bring people together from different backgrounds and help people who are less fortunate. It's great to see smiles on people's faces. There's a lot going on in the world and in Bayonne. The people in Bayonne are from all over the world. I want to keep connecting. Gratitude is my main focus. It can change your perspective. Sometimes I struggle, and it's a good way to reset.

**Q:** Your foundation is centered on gratitude. What are you grateful for and what do you hope to accomplish?

**A:** Growing up, I saw a lot of different ways of life. I just had my 21st birthday party, and all my best friends who were there are from completely different backgrounds and lifestyles. But we're all the same. Genuine hearts. Gill has amazing people. Families took me in; I lived here with different families. Now I have a platform and want to reach as many people as I can. A lot of people in Bayonne and around the world are exactly the same as me, but they haven't been given the same opportunities. I want to spread the idea of gratitude and inspire a chain reaction of selfless acts. I'm not putting my name on it. Grateful4, it has my number. It's less about me and more about helping people. Keep an open mind, keep gratitude first.

**Q:** On your Rutgers page, it says one thing that many people don't know about you is that you spoke at your high school graduation. What was that like, giving a speech to your Gill community?

**A:** That was the coolest thing I did! In eighth grade, coming in, I never thought about it being an option. I was young and immature. At graduation, I was so grateful. I talked about being appreciative and how thankful I was to all the families and teachers who helped me.

**Q:** What are some of your favorite GSB memories?

**A:** Every day was something new. Laughing with my friends. Some of my best friends I met my first day here in eighth grade. There are really, really good people at Gill. Graduation was cool. Watching other sports teams, like soccer. Beating Ranney, they were fourth in the country. That was a big win for us.

**Q:** What do you miss most about Gill?

**A:** The people. Definitely the people. I don't miss the commute! I love the people. Gill is such a close community. No matter what grade you were in, you were connected. The teachers are amazing. Rutgers is great, but Gill was my first glimpse of the real world. Gill was a great, positive situation for me. I got lots of different perspectives. Amazing people. Mrs. Armstrong took care of me for five years. Glenn, the trainer, is a good dude. Mr. Wendell influenced me. Coach Sina was huge in my life, and Mr. Hercules, my math teacher, helped me. I don't want to forget anyone. Everyone was so good to me.

To view Paul's GSB graduation speech, visit our Alumni Page at [www.gbschool.org/alumni/gsb-magazine](http://www.gbschool.org/alumni/gsb-magazine).



Photo by Ben Solomon



# Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Community (DEIC) Action Plan Update

Belonging is a core principle at Gill St. Bernard's School. In our community, this means understanding and accepting that we each represent a life experience shaped around dimensions of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religion, political beliefs, and so many others.

Beginning in our early childhood education program and continuing through Upper School, we affirm and embrace these distinct experiences as a basis for fostering and affirming a strong sense of self, community, and a greater global understanding.

Our DEIC Action Plan serves as our school's guiding framework designed to continue the progress towards making GSB a more diverse and inclusive environment. Rooted in our school's Strategic Plan, its mission is to focus our collective efforts on supporting a school community where individuals from diverse backgrounds and life experiences can both contribute and thrive. To that end, GSB made tremendous progress this past academic year through careful and deliberate collaboration among students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, senior administration, and our board of trustees. Through these multi-pronged efforts, we continue to enhance our curriculum, programs, policies, and practices to create long-term comprehensive and sustainable improvements. Above all, we seek to provide an environment where all can bring their full authentic selves to school.

On these pages, we illustrate our progress by illuminating some key highlights. Please know that so much more is occurring behind-the-scenes, as we all strive to make GSB an inclusive, equitable, and diverse learning environment. This representation is merely a sampling, not an exhaustive expression of all our combined efforts. Of course, there's always more to be done. We promise to continue working together, as a community, to ensure that GSB is a place where everyone thrives.

For more information about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and to view GSB's DEIC Action plan, please visit our website:  
[www.gsbschool.org/about/diversity-equity-inclusion](http://www.gsbschool.org/about/diversity-equity-inclusion).

This is **Balance.**

# Actions & Initiatives

## 1.

### Creating Intentional Connections

- Parents' Association Diversity Committee
- Parents of Color Forum
- Alumni of Color Network
- Trustee Diversity Committee
- Curriculum development through professional education series hosted by Monique Vogelsang of Pollyanna, Inc.
- Expanded DEIC team to include three equity & inclusion liaisons across all three school divisions

## 2.

### Building Trusting Relationships

- Parent education with Monique Vogelsang of Pollyanna, Inc.
- Student Affinity groups:
  - New groups including Hispanic Heritage Club, Asian Culture Club, Middle Eastern Culture Club, Middle School GSA, and Middle School Stand Up Stories
- Fourth-Grade Mentor program with Upper School Affinity groups

## 3.

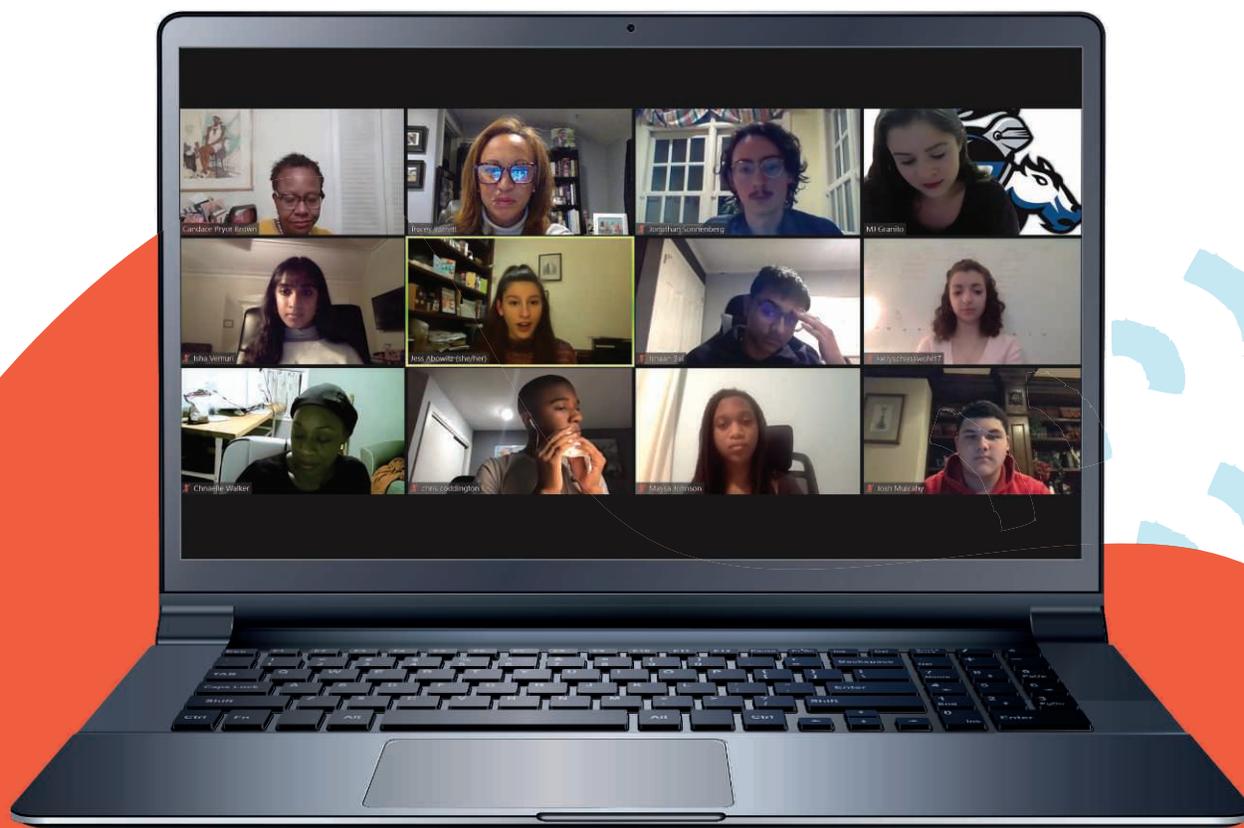
### Invite Opinions and Perspectives

- *Middle School Equity & Inclusion Summit: See Us. Hear Us. Empowering Students to be Change Agents in Their School*
- *NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference and concurrent People of Color Conference* for faculty and administration
- Middle and Lower School faculty racial literacy education with Monique Vogelsang of Pollyanna, Inc.
- Student discussion forums
- Student reflections and town hall presentations

## 4.

### Engage in Purposeful Storytelling

- Family Culture Night
- Winter Holiday Photo Montage
- Black History Month 28-Day Pledge
- April Pride Month
- Heritage Month Recognitions



## NAIS Student Diversity Conference

For the first time in GSB's history, six Upper School students attended the *NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference* on Dec. 1-4, 2020. At the virtual conference, Ishaan Bal '22, Mary Jane Granito '22, Maysa Johnson '22, Isha Vemuri '22, Christopher Coddington '23, and Josh Mulcahy '23 explored issues of culture and identity. To help students prepare, three GSB alumni – Jonathan Sonnenberg '15, Kelly Schiesswohl '17, and Jessica Abowitz '18 – shared their guidance during a Zoom call. And for the concurrent *NAIS People of Color Conference*, GSB attendees included Upper School Director Joel Coleman, Lower and Middle School Director Kyle Armstrong, Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Candace Pryor Brown, Social Studies Teacher Charlotte Hogan, and English Teacher Kim DiMasi.



## Middle School Equity & Inclusion Summit

On Oct. 15, 2020, GSB hosted the virtual *Middle School Equity & Inclusion Summit*, featuring keynote speaker, Rodney Glasgow, head of Sandy Spring Friends School in Maryland. More than 150 students and teachers from 15 independent schools participated in the summit, partially funded through the generosity of The Peter and Randell Schmidt Fund for Community Service. Afterwards, MS students formed a leadership group to explore ways to support student MS affinities and coordinated a new Stand Up Stories initiative to share experiences and explore ideas of inclusivity, equity, culture, and more.



## Winter Holiday Photo

GSB families responded to a call-out from the PA Diversity Committee for images depicting the diverse ways we honor winter celebrations, including Diwali, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas, Boxing Day, Kwanzaa, New Year's Day, and Three Kings' Day. Family snapshots include sparkling fireworks, gingerbread houses, menorah lightings, traditional cookies, eggnog cheers, stockings hung by the chimney, elves on the shelves, and Christmas trees decorated with the latest GSB ornament.



Pictured, (l-r): Gill for Diversity members Kiara Donegan '22 and MJ Granito '22, Ishaan Bal '22, head of the Asian Culture Club.

## Student Forum

More than 30 students and faculty members came together virtually on Jan. 21 for a student-led forum to talk about affinity spaces and how mental health can affect students' sense of identity and belonging. Hosted by Gill for Diversity, the event was a collaborative with our Affinity Groups and clubs: Black Student Union, Hispanic Heritage and Culture Club, Middle Eastern Culture Club, Gender & Sexuality Alliance, Asian Culture Club, and Mental Health Club.



## Two Student Reflections for MLK Day

To commemorate Martin Luther King Day, Upper School students Maysa Johnson '22 and Travian McNair '21, president of GSB Student Government, presented personal reflections about Dr. King. For Maysa, this quote from Dr. King still resonates today: "Nothing in the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance or unconscious stupidity." Travian honored Dr. King and said that he would not be here today without the freedom fighter's work and struggles: "We are all dreamers trying to find our place in the world. I will never forget to leave an impact on those around me."



# Black History Month

Through a 28-Day Black History Month Pledge, our Parents' Association Diversity Committee engaged more than 110 participants in the GSB community with daily messages celebrating achievements of African Americans.

During a virtual visit with TAHIRA – a talented storyteller, musician, and poet who shared her heartfelt *Freedom Stories* – our Lower School students shimmied and waved their hands to inspiring spirituals, enjoying this lively celebration of Black History Month.

Max Siegel, CEO of USA Track & Field, virtually visited the Middle and Upper School on Feb. 8, 2021. The first African American to graduate Notre Dame Law School with honors, Mr. Siegel is a sports and entertainment executive and owner of Revolution Racing, a NASCAR race team. For him, sports and music provided the perfect platforms to unify and connect with broad audiences. "We belong to a global community – it takes all of us to come together to address issues and improve relationships."





## April is Pride Month at GSB!

A student Diversity Forum led by the Gender and Sexual Alliance and Gill for Diversity Clubs discussed the importance of recognizing identities and celebrating diversity within our community. GSA Co-Founder Jack Riccardo-Wood '17 virtually visited a GSA meeting to help plan the forum. Other Pride events included the GLSEN Day of Silence on April 23, 2021, when 20 Upper School students remained silent to bring attention to LGBTQ+ harassment and discrimination; and a Middle School student presentation on the history of Pride Month. When asked about their favorite part of Pride Month, an Upper School student reflected on their appreciation seeing students and teachers wearing rainbow outfits and stickers. "It meant a lot to me to see these steps towards acceptance and celebration of who I am. All sorts of identities are important to recognize and be proud of, especially in a world that may not accept them."

## Culture Night

At the Third Annual Culture Night on April 8, 2021, more than 50 families celebrated the many heritages at GSB through virtual presentations of food, music, and discussions highlighting countries and traditions from around the world. Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Tracey Goodson Barrett co-hosted the event with Parents' Association Diversity Committee co-chairs, Reema Puri P'19, '21, and Antoinette Segreto P'32, '32. "Community is at the heart of what we do at GSB," said Ms. Barrett. "Our Culture Night helps to promote inclusion and belonging by engaging our students, families, faculty, and staff to share their cultures, heritage, and traditions."

## Board Diversity Statement

The Gill St. Bernard's Board of Trustees supports a welcoming, inclusive, and equitable community that celebrates diversity of culture, experiences, perspectives, and expression.

We will continue to affirm the importance of inclusiveness and belonging among our students, our faculty, our staff, and our families. We value a community that embraces and is strengthened by a broad range of talent, interests, lived experiences, and cultural representations, all of which enhance our understanding and appreciation for the GSB community and the world around us.

We celebrate a learning environment that encourages conversation across perspectives, and a curriculum that supports diverse points of view that enrich inquiry, deepen knowledge, promote growth, and prepare students with cross-cultural skills necessary to engage in an ever-changing and connected world.

We support, through intentional and ongoing engagement, the creation of a kind, empathetic, and equitable community that respects and honors all aspects of what makes each individual unique to ensure that everyone has access to a positive GSB experience.

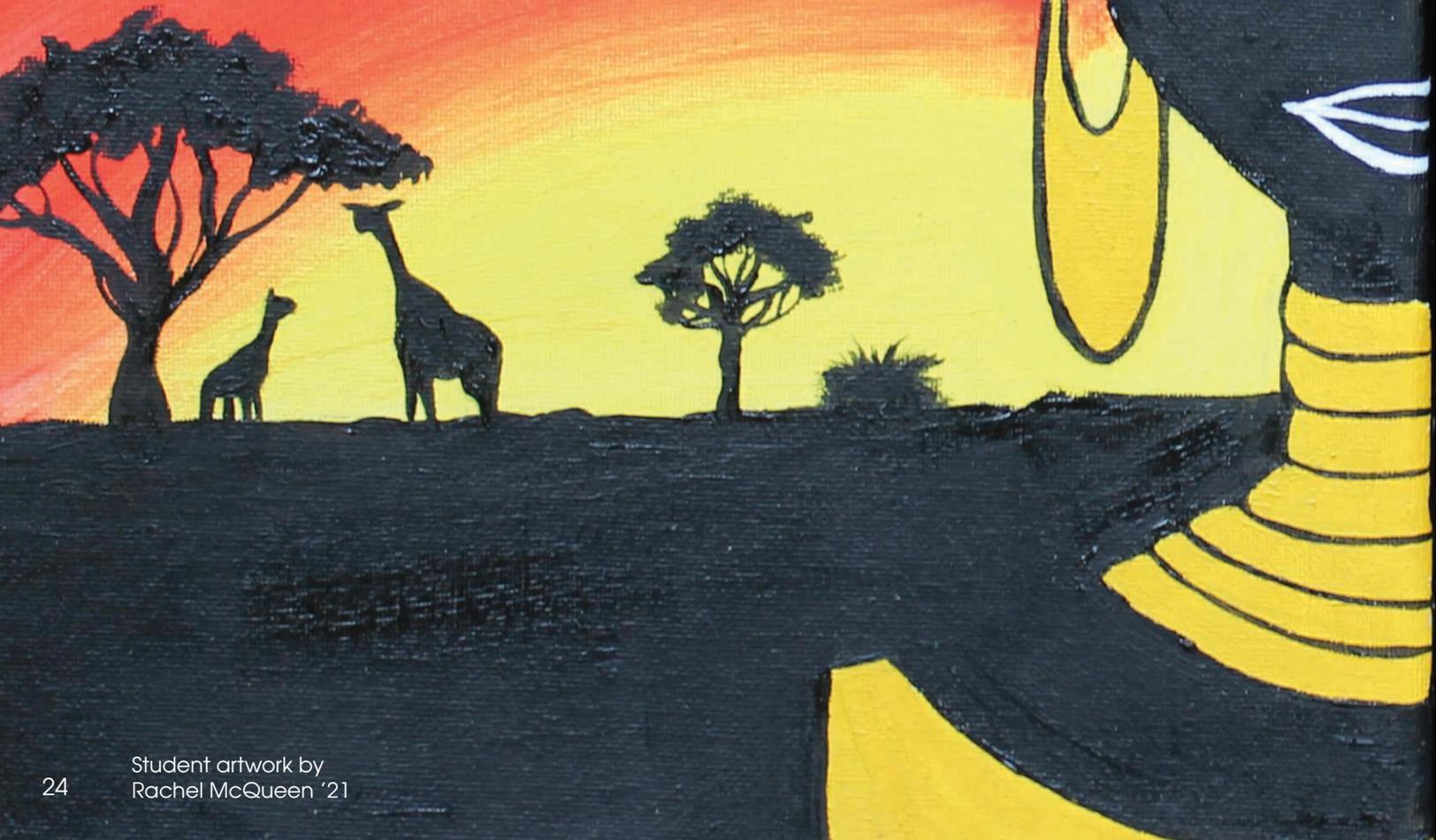
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# EQUITY AND INCLUSION

are at the very center of all that we do here at GSB.

This year, our work has expanded in both breadth and depth as we assess and evaluate what it means to be

# CONSCIENTIOUS COMMUNITY MEMBERS.





While imperfect at times,  
we remain constant on the  
path toward building a

# **STRONGER COMMUNITY**

and, ultimately, a

# **BETTER WORLD.**

”

Tracey Goodson Barrett  
Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



# SPEAKERS

## Alumni in Conversation

Screenwriter **Adam Aresty '03** and cultural curator **Lamont Tory Stapleton '06** came together virtually on Oct. 8, 2020, to discuss the short film *Laws of the Universe*, released on the *YouTube* sci-fi channel *Dust*. Written by Adam, the film tells the story of a prisoner trapped in his cell after an alien spacecraft appears in Los Angeles. "I believe science fiction allows you to explore messaging beneath the surface of what you see directly in front of you," said

Adam, a Fordham University faculty member. "My goal for the project is to help humanize marginalized people." Lamont, a Los Angeles-based community activist, is a member of GSB's Athletic Hall of Fame and co-founder of *Between the Lines*, a prison basketball program aimed at rehabilitation. "My passion has always been celebrating individuality and accepting the differences that make us all unique," he said. "It's important to me that when people think of those who are incarcerated, they look beyond the surface. No matter what circumstances a person may face, every life has purpose."



Adam Aresty

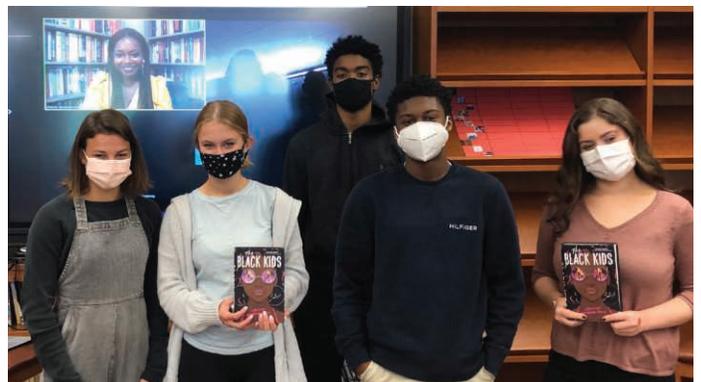


Lamont Tory Stapleton

“My passion has always been celebrating individuality and accepting the differences that make us all unique.”

## Christina Hammonds Reed

In October, the Upper School virtually welcomed Christina Hammonds Reed, author of the YA novel *The Black Kids*. Ms. Hammonds Reed and Upper School Librarian Kristen Armstrong talked about the novel's many topics – mental health, friendship, racial inequality, college admissions, and American history. Members of the GSB Project LIT Community Book Club asked Ms. Hammonds Reed questions about her book and her writing process. After the large group presentation, Ms. Hammonds Reed virtually stopped into the elective *The Politics of Identity: Race, Class, and Gender in the United States*.



## Julie Berry

Award-winning children's book writer Julie Berry virtually visited the Lower and Middle School on Dec. 4, 2020. Her overall advice to our students: put down the cell phone, play outside, and follow your dreams because they are attainable. "If you want to make art – to make something that someone wants to read – it's revising, revising, revising," she said. "Stick with it until it's great."



## Rita Williams-Garcia



For a Black History Month celebration, children's book author Rita Williams-Garcia visited grades fourth through sixth to talk about her career and inspire budding writers. A *New York Times* bestselling author, Ms. Williams-Garcia penned 12 young adult and middle-grade novels, with her latest release titled *Gone Crazy in Alabama*. The Zoom event was made possible through

a partnership with the Somerset County Library System (SCLS), which supports area schools with complimentary programming initiatives. Fifth grader Ryan Dicks '28 enjoyed the discussion with Ms. Williams-Garcia and shared his takeaways: "She sold her first story to *Highlights* at 14. When she's frustrated by a story, she does boxing. Her advice is to be readers and be open to the world and curious." What impressed Sophia Corrado '28 about the award-winning writer? "I learned that it was different for her as a child living in New York City because she wasn't allowed to play outside," said Sophia. "In kindergarten, instead of drawing, she liked to write stories. Her first book, *Blue Tights*, is about accepting yourself."

## Maggie Doyne

The Global Awareness Club welcomed philanthropist Maggie Doyne as a virtual guest speaker on Feb. 24, 2021. After graduating from Mendham High School in 2005, Ms. Doyne took a gap year to travel and ended up in a remote village in Nepal torn apart by a civil war. The poverty and hardship she witnessed changed her life, and she worked to establish a children's home, a women's center, a big sisters' home, and the Kopila Valley School. Named the 2015 Hero of the Year by *CNN*, Ms. Doyne also founded BlinkNow, a nonprofit that provides financial support for her community-building efforts in Surkhet, Nepal.

To date, Ms. Doyne has provided a home to 55 children and the Kopila Valley School enrolls 500 students. She encouraged GSB students to create their own story. "I went 8,000 miles away, but you don't have to go 8,000 miles away to make a difference. This is my story. I'm excited to see your story."



## Jen Calonita



Children's book author Jen Calonita visited fourth, fifth, and sixth grades to talk about her "secrets of the trade" and how she became a writer even though she disliked reading as a child. Her latest release, *The Retake*, revolves around Zoe, a sixth grader who discovers a time travel app on her phone. Ms. Calonita, who gave GSB students a signed book plate for her newest release, *The Retake*, imparted inspiring advice. "If you enjoy writing, keep at it!" she said. "You never know where it's going to lead!"



## Jarrett J. Krosoczka

On April 28, *New York Times* best-selling author and illustrator Jarrett J. Krosoczka virtually visited all three GSB divisions to give drawing demonstrations and talk about his creative process. With more than 40 titles, Mr. Krosoczka authored and illustrated the popular *Lunch Lady* graphic novel series; picture books, such as *It's Tough to Lose Your Balloon*; and his graphic memoir, *Hey, Kiddo*. His visit was made possible by a Parents' Association grant. *Hey, Kiddo* is autobiographical, and through graphics, it explores how Mr. Krosoczka grew up with his grandparents and without his mom, who spent time in jail and rehab but always sent him drawings with her letters. That this YA title became a National Book Award Finalist made it even more popular and accessible. "The silver sticker on the cover put it into the hands of adults who had never read graphic novels," he said. "I had so many grandmas using *Hey, Kiddo* in their book clubs."

# LIFERS 2021

**OUR LIFERS ARE  
THOSE STUDENTS  
WHO ATTENDED  
GILL ST. BERNARD'S  
SCHOOL FOR  
12 OR MORE YEARS.**



Bart Benoit



Ava Escousse



Anneliese Gattoni



Laura Howard



Liam Jones



Christopher Lake



Sydney Lapper



Sophie Nourbakhsh



Stella O'Connor



Zoe O'Connor



Caroline Solondz



Natalie Sturman



Alek Tobias



Cody Torgovnik



Connor Udoff

# ALUMNI WEEKEND

Even though alumni festivities could not be held on campus this past spring, gathering virtually provided the next-best opportunity for GSB graduates and their families to connect. On Saturday, April 24, 2021, the morning started with a welcome and virtual campus tour led by Head of School Sid Rowell. Next, Claire Diab '78 led a yoga class for all, followed by Connection Circles, where alumni gathered around virtual tables to make connections based on shared interests. Thank you to those who joined the riveting conversations, and our gratitude to former faculty members Mike Chimes and Peter and Randi Schmidt, who served as Connection Circle hosts. As always, it was fun to see John and Barbara Ripton. Many thanks to Interim Alumni Director Shannon Ludlum '03 for making the day's events such a success!



## Connection Circles



**Creators Collective** for artists and creators in different sectors, hosted by author/screenwriter Adam Aresty '03 and director, musician, and choreographer Jay T. Jenkins '75, moderated by Mike Chimes.



**Business Minds**, hosted by Sean Ages '05 M.A., M.B.A., International Global Studies Process Manager at Google and Lauren Calone McCallum '00, Vice President, Broker Relations/Corporate Access at Epoch Investment Partners, Inc.



**Impact: Nonprofit Professionals**, hosted by Caragh Corcoran '13, GENYOUth Manager, Programs and Events and Court Clayton '95, M.B.A., Chief Development Officer at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, moderated by Peter and Randi Schmidt.



**Health and Well-Being**, hosted by Bettina Hayles Giordano '78, M.M.H., Medical Humanities Specialist, Emilia Giordano '06, M.A., Wraparound Facilitator, and Olivia Giordano '12, M.P.H., Project Manager for National Institute for Children's Health Quality.



## 50th Reunion Celebration for The Gill School and St. Bernard's School Alumni '70 and '71!

Our nostalgic evening of fun featured pianist Matt King, whose live-streamed performance from the PACC even welcomed requests. Music proved the perfect setting to reminisce. For Joan Murdock Fulton '71 and Christine Sellars Cotton '71, the night gave two friends who had not seen each other in 25 years a delightful chance to reconnect. Fred Welles '71 appreciated the framed photos of his classmates Billy Hoos and Artie Chambres, who passed away their senior year, honored with Carole King's song *You've Got a Friend*.

# Message from the PA President Sheri Cohen

In a year full of virtual events, I am proud and grateful to announce that our Parents' Association allocated more than \$30,000 back into our classrooms. We provided books, technology, and science equipment for the Lower and Middle School, Lower School playground enhancements, and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion speaker for Middle and Upper School students. We also enhanced the ceramic classroom and completed our pledge for the Performing Arts & Community Center. Although we approached our events differently this year, we still built community and exceeded our fundraising goals. Thank you! And a special thank you to our Executive Committee – Sacha Marcucci, Dawn Richardson, and Suzanne Hardy – who signed on for another year of leadership. We look forward to next year – hope you will join us!



On Oct. 23, 2020, more than 125 GSB families came together virtually to enjoy homemade pizza and brew, while tuning in to live-streamed music from our Performing Arts & Community Center. Stephanie Amoroso '11 played piano and sang her beautiful, original lyrics. Musicians Cort Corbin and local band Hub Hollow also performed. Thanks to our GSB families, Burnt Mills Cider, and GSB-family-owned Conclave Brewing for making this fun fundraising event a success!



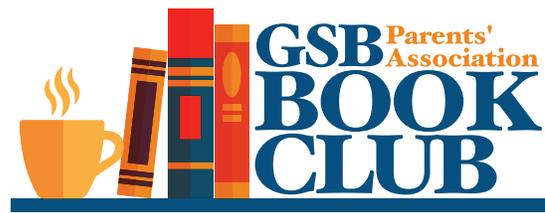
Bingo Night was all about fun, games, and light-up glow glasses as more than 350 members of our GSB community Zoomed in for our second annual disco-themed Family Bingo Night. Dressed in glittery '80s outfits, event co-chairs Caroline Champion and Emily Maillet once again hosted the successful event with high enthusiasm.

“Even though we couldn’t be in person this year, we still wanted everyone to be entertained from home,” said Ms. Champion, who thanked the Bingo Committee for the balloons, streamers, and disco tunes at Home Winds Farm for the swag bag pickup. Mr. Bingo – Tony DeVergillo – once again delivered a lively show in full-bling attire, and special guest Head of School Sid Rowell called numbers in a glitzy jacket. More than 25 winners secured extra-special treats from the door prize raffle, scavenger hunt, and trivia games. The PA is truly grateful to Laura and Hank Brucker for donating a summer weekend at their LBI beach house. “Part of the PA’s mission is to host events that build community,” said PA President Sheri Cohen. “Our Bingo Committee worked hard to create a dynamic and exciting virtual event. It was amazing that more than 100 GSB families came together to share in this exciting Friday night celebration.”

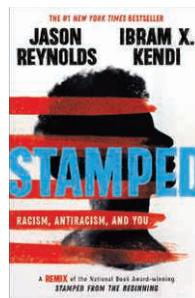


# LA VIE EST BELLE

More than 150 guests Zoomed in to the Parents' Association's April Fashion Event, *La Vie Est Belle*, which celebrated senior moms in a prerecorded catwalk outside Windswept Boutique in Mendham. Highlights included a trip to the City of Lights by event co-chairs Cheryl Fritzlo P'19, '21 and Lynn Farscht P'21, complete with "green screen" selfies at the Louvre. For the remote silent auction, bids built during the week and benefited the PA's annual allocations. Local vendors – Bling It Up, Bonnie Jennifer, KK's Boutique, Summer Love Designs, The Tempting Table, Ward Vintage Jewelry, and Windswept Boutique – donated a percentage of sales to benefit our PA. Thank you for your support!



A new Steering Committee initiative, the PA Book Club served to build our GSB community. With morning and evening sessions throughout the year, the group discussed *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds, *Finding Audrey* by Sophie Kinsella, and *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. "Reading a good book is a wonderful escape during these crazy times," said PA Book Club Chair Monica Micera. "Having a book club can provide a great platform to learn, share ideas, and discuss different topics."



## Our Teachers & Staff are Superheroes!!

For Teacher Appreciation Week, the GSB Parents' Association thanked our teachers and staff for their valiant efforts. The five-day celebration fit for superheroes featured gift cards, goodie baskets, a casual dress-down day, and bagels from Manhattan Bagel of Westfield. The week culminated with take-home family dinners from Bella's Burger Shack in Basking Ridge and Blaze Pizza in Bound Brook. Thank you!

What I will miss most about GSB will be the sense of community and belonging. From my very first day, everyone was welcoming and amazing. My love for my school only grew every year that passed. GSB is truly a special place, and I couldn't be more grateful to attend and be part of such a balanced and remarkable community.

- Ava Escousse '21



# ARTS

## Murder in the Studio Radio Show

Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, when in-person performances were prohibited, our faithful acting troupe did not disappoint. On December 15, the GSB Players premiered Agatha Christie's radio play, *Murder in the Studio*, a duo of one-acts entitled *Personal Call* and *Butter in a Lordly Dish* – whodunnits that brought thrills and chills. Our GSB community tuned in remotely opening night to hear mysterious tales of murder and mayhem in a fundraiser for the Performing Arts Department, and a pre-recorded link was provided to all the following day.



## The Nutcracker

This year's virtual performance of *The Nutcracker* had it all – magical mice, dancing chocolate kisses, flutists on tiptoes, and a cameo by Kyle Armstrong, Lower and Middle School director. The GSB Kindergarten Ballet Company's production upheld a 30-year GSB tradition, even during a pandemic. The uplifting show featured delightful dancers filmed in front of a green screen to adhere to COVID-19 protocols.



## Lower and Middle School Winter Recital

The December 2020 winter sights and sounds continued with a virtual recital, presented by GSB Lower and Middle School students. Music teachers Kathleen Burke and Sheri Alexander thanked parents for their musical support: "We thank you for the opportunity to share the gift of music with your children and for your incredible support in encouraging them every step of the way. It is our privilege and joy to work with each one of them as they continue to hone their skills and explore their musical potential."



## Spring Musical

In March, the award-winning GSB Players presented four spectacular live and in-person performances of the moving Broadway musical *Two by Two*, a reimagined tale of Noah's preparations for the Great Flood. Thanks to the tremendous teamwork of the cast, crew, producers, and directors, the GSB Players delivered a socially distant show that followed COVID-19 guidelines to the delight of our audiences, who in turn, adhered to all protocols, including masks, temperature checks, and spaced seating in the Performing Arts & Community Center.

After more than a year without live productions, Performing Arts Chair Paul H. Canada warmly welcomed audiences back into the theater. "It was wonderful to be able to perform in front of a live audience again," said Mr. Canada. "I was so proud of the cast and crew and how they embraced the challenges presented by the pandemic. One might say that the limitations that were placed on them in no way limited them!"

Onstage, Mr. Canada's vision as set designer enabled the 14 actors to deliver lines, dance, and sing without masks inside plexiglass boxes configured in a two-tiered structure built by Todd Ross, assistant director of Performing Arts, and Joe DeVico, coordinator of instructional and visual technology. Student performances proved flawless, and the creative staging added to the entertainment, especially during the synchronized dance routines choreographed by Margery Schiesswohl, ninth-grade dean. Thank you to the entire GSB community who worked tirelessly to make this show happen!

## Spring Recital 2021

From piano players to talented violinists, 27 GSB students took to the stage on May 3, 2021, in the Performing Arts & Community Center, bringing their music to life in an in-person, socially distanced performance. Giacomo Messina '25, Middle School guitar player, charmed the audience with his guitar chords.



## Middle School Spring Choir Concert

On May 19, 2021, our Middle School singers presented a live, in-person concert in the Performing Arts & Community Center. Enhancing songs with a body percussion routine, a bucket drumming song, and a boom-whacker number, our singers dazzled their audience. A highlight came when seven eighth graders performed our Middle School traditional song, *For Good*.



## Lower & Middle School Instrumental Recital

This year's instrumental performance was presented virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions. Even though Elizabeth Carney, LS music and band teacher, could not bring her students together to play as a group, she created a video to highlight her students' talents. And despite the challenges, the music prevailed!



# Exploring Identity through Art

For Sarah Isusi's Advanced Placement 2D Design class, three seniors explored the theme of identity through a sustained investigation, as they created a series of 15 pieces of artwork throughout the school year. "What they are doing is brave and relevant," said Ms. Isusi. "Each student is addressing her experience as a Jewish American girl, a Korean American, and Filipino American." All artwork was featured in the GSB Spring Art Show.



## Lila Mortensen '21

"Sharing my cultural identity with the hope of broadening the perspectives of others is the goal of my sustained investigation. Personal growth and realization were also a part of my artistic process, as I was able to learn more and transform aspects of my South Korean culture into unique and compelling interpretations. Some pieces remind me of experiences from my youth, while others are more generalized and universal to South Korean culture, such as the *Dancheong* pattern, green tea teacup, and rose of Sharon pieces."



## Mady Most '21

"My heritage and religion are an essential part of me. I live my life with the guidelines of Judaism. I embody these values: family, peace, love, and *Tikkun Olam* (repair of the world). The question I asked myself during the investigation was: *How can I make others understand my heritage? How can I depict the generational trauma that still haunts the Jews to this day?* The main themes are personal anti-Semitic experiences, my identity, and symbols that align with Judaism."



## Ella Baker '21

"With Filipino and European ancestry, these aspects of my identity complement, compare, and conflict with each other. At first, I created pieces that centered more around the negative aspects of being mixed. With the rise of anti-Asian hate at the pandemic's start, the strife between these two sides of myself induced a pessimistic attitude towards my heritage. I came to realize that there was beauty to my complex heritage; I embraced the uniqueness of a family tree spread across both halves of the globe. I saw myself as a product of two beautiful cultures coming together."



## 2020-2021 FALL, WINTER & SPRING SPORTS

### FALL SPORTS

#### GIRLS' TENNIS

Even though the girls' tennis season was cut drastically short due to the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantines, Ray Knight, the new varsity coach, liked what he saw. "I got the opportunity to work and practice with the team, and I was happy with their enthusiasm and efforts," he said. "We had a few practices and got shut down for two weeks. When we went back, we played eight matches but got eventually shut down again, which meant no playoffs for the team." Congrats to Mayjah Jean-Pierre '21, named First Team All-State Non-Public Singles and Second Team All-State Singles.

#### GIRLS' SOCCER

The fall season tested the girls' soccer team, from pandemic protocols and shutdowns to a more competitive division. But at every turn, these athletes proved their determination and resiliency, ending with a 6-5 overall record and 6-4 division record. "While we didn't get to play a full season, just being out on the field was an opportunity we cannot underestimate," said Head Varsity Coach Mike Williams. "We got to feel that moment of normalcy, and in a positive way, too, by beating good competition." Delaney Yates '23 and Lea Gnoy '22 were named Conference First Team, and Grace Crimi '23, Caroline Solondz '21, and Dana Lotito '24 made Second Team.

#### CROSS COUNTRY

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, cross-country meets were cut short from 13 to six. Despite the restrictions and unprecedented challenges, from lack of competitors to lost traditions, Coach Mike Parker said athletes exhibited dedication and resilience, always giving their best. The 16-member boys' squad captured fourth place at the State Sectionals with James Koether '21 placing 15th and Andrew Young '21, sidelined all season, able to run. The girls' squad made the most of a shortened season with limited competitors.

#### GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Our girls' volleyball team proved so successful that it can now transition out of its three-year probationary period to become a varsity team within the Skyland Conference next season. This promising news comes after a 5-1 record in a shortened season that shifted from fall to spring. "The girls are driven and dedicated," said new Head Coach Christina Temnycky. "We had fun as a team, and we were rewarded with wins."

### WINTER SPORTS

#### BOYS' BASKETBALL

With a final 7-4 record, GSB boys' basketball ranked second in the Skyland Conference and 18th in the state. Congrats to Knight Denver Anglin '22, named Second Team All-State for All Groups. Denver, who averaged 27.9 points a game, also made First Team for Skyland Conference selections. Forward Drew Kania '22 was awarded Second Team honors, and Naas Cunningham '24 earned honorable mention.

#### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Ranked No. 11 in the state, GSB won its first nine games of the season and made it to the championship game in the Skyland Conference Tournament's top bracket. Shout out to center Caileigh Walsh '21, named second team All-State for All Groups and Skyland Conference Player of the Year. Next season, she will play for Northwestern. In Skyland Conference honors, point guard Ella Fajardo '21, who will join FDU's team in Teaneck next year, was named Second Team, and Jess Cooper '23 received honorable mention.

#### CHEERLEADING

"The conference canceled in-person cheerleading at games this past winter because no fans were allowed due to the pandemic, and this was most unfortunate for our senior, Taylor Farscht," said Athletic Director Will Taylor. "We wish Taylor all the best, and I'm thankful for all she did for Gill in past seasons. We look forward to welcoming our cheer team back at games next winter."



## FENCING

Despite a rocky start due to snowy weather and COVID-19, GSB fencing quickly got in gear to complete a competitive season and finish fifth in their bracket. With eight female fencers on the girls' squad – one less than a full team – the Knights still proved a formidable force during their 10-match season. Senior standout Caroline Solondz '21 only lost one bout, logging an impressive 29-1 sabre record and hitting her 100th dual-meet win. Épée fencer Zoe O'Connor '21 ended with a winning 26-4 record. Next season, Coach Stephen Olson hopes to attract new fencers for the boys' and girls' squads.

## ICE HOCKEY

Just as our ice hockey team found its groove, COVID-19 quarantine restrictions forced its season to an abrupt end, one game before conference playoffs. This unwelcome finish came as the Knights showed tremendous progress on the ice, with a 3-4-2 record. Forward Brenen Lavoie '21 and defensive players Liam Jones '21 and Matt Cooper '21 practiced diligently to hone their skills, and seniors Connor Udoff '21 and Jake Schmidt '21 also demonstrated great gains. Head Coaches Greg DaSilva and Chris Wiggins said resiliency will be this team's legacy.

## INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

During a shortened season filled with outdoor practices and reduced competitions, our Knights competed in dual meets at Newark Academy, Morristown Beard, and Mount Saint Mary's. GSB hosted the First Annual Indoor Shot-Put Invitational and participated in the Rebel Shot-Put Meet in Toms River and the High Intensity Indoor Long Jump International in Fairfield. At the Adidas Indoor Nationals in early March, Knight Joe Licata '22 threw a personal record of 53'-7.5" in the shot put, placing 14th overall against throwers from around the country.

## SWIMMING

This season, new Head Swim Coach Mike Schaefer found his dream team. His dedicated girls' squad broke two GSB records. At the Somerville season opener, the 200 Medley Relay racers, Margaux Scott '24, Maddie Souldanian '22, Tahlia Kofman '24, and Scooter Hulsen '22 swam a 2:02.53, breaking the 2018 GSB record by 5.42 seconds. Against Bernards, they reset their record-time to 2:00.53. Also at the opener, Margaux swam the 100 Breaststroke in 1:12.12, beating the record by 7.07 seconds. Then, she broke her own record with 1:10:47 against Bernards. Co-Captains Laura Howard '21 and Lena Dreskin '21 committed earnestly to COVID-19 protocols, and Ryan Brandl '22 served as the third captain.

“HOW HARD THEY WORKED, HOW MUCH THEY WANTED TO WIN, AND THE SUCCESS OF THIS TEAM – THAT WAS ALL ON THESE GIRLS. ALL I DID WAS GUIDE THEM. IT WAS A GREAT SEASON, DESPITE IT BEING SHORTENED AND HAVING LESS PRACTICES. EVERYONE MADE THE MOST OF IT.”

- HEAD SWIM COACH MIKE SCHAEFER

FOR FULL TEAM COVERAGE, VISIT OUR NEWS PAGE AT: [WWW.GBSCHOOL.ORG/MYGSB/NEWS](http://WWW.GBSCHOOL.ORG/MYGSB/NEWS)



## SPRING SPORTS

*At press time, our spring sports teams approached playoffs; our coverage includes regular season play. We added extra highlights for our spring teams, sidelined last year due to the pandemic.*

### BASEBALL

For the first time in school history, GSB earned the #1-seed in the Non-Public B North Sectional Tournament. Seniors Joe Skapinetz (Lafayette College), Matt Kalinak (Clark University), and Jake Sempervive (Rochester Institute of Technology) led the Knights to prolific heights, and each will play college ball. Matt is the team's leadoff hitter, Jake bats second, Joe hits fourth, and the three will likely combine for over 100 hits this season to pace an offense that scores over nine runs per game. They proved themselves on the mound and in the field, demonstrating a versatility that established them as three of the most accomplished players in Somerset County.

During the season, our Knights won eight of the first ten games, including an impressive opening day shutout of state power St. Peter's Prep, as well as victories over local rivals Bernards, Ridge, and Rutgers Prep. After a brief three-game slide, the boys rebounded with five consecutive wins over a six-day span that included dramatic one-run triumphs over Pingry and division-leading Voorhees. Even with a tougher schedule, our Knights reached the NJSIAA Sectional Finals in three of the last four years and hope to take it further in the 2021 state tournament.

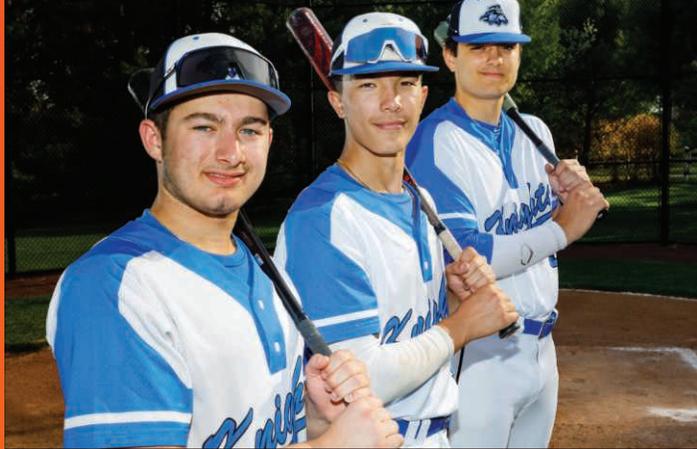
### SOFTBALL

With one of its best seasons in recent history, GSB softball earned a 16-2 record as it entered the season's home stretch. Our Knights are ranked #5 in the *Courier News'* Top 10, #9 for Non-Public NJ schools, and #2 seeded for playoffs in Parochial B South. Senior leaders, on and off the field, include Claire Brouillard '21, Ellen Besjak '21, Maddie Ricciardulli '21, Erin Barno '21, Rachel McQueen '21, and Emilia Tobey '21, who all performed their best. Congratulations to Claire for picking up her 300th career strike in GSB softball's 10-0 win over Voorhees. Juniors Scooter Hulsen '22 and Phobe Kirsh '22 proved strong behind the plate, while Stephanie Vasquez '22 gave outfield depth. Sophomores Vanessa Mavraj '23 and Jess Cooper '23 contributed power and strong defense, while newcomers Brooke Baisley '24 and Julianna Perri '24 played like veterans, adding speed and athleticism.

### GOLF

GSB welcomed Keith James as its new coach, and his philosophy proved in-line with our core values. "I want my players to understand that their commitment and attitude toward playing golf should be synonymous with the finest aspects of the game, namely integrity, honor, and respect," he said. "I also strongly encourage my players to embrace teamwork in this often individual sport."

A special shout-out to Anuj Puri '21 for his hole-in-one, a 132-yard Par 3 on hole #4 at Beaver Brook Country Club against North Hunterdon on April 22. The boys' squad won its first ever Somerset County Championship on April 26. Lance Hollingshead '24 finished first overall, shooting a 71, and his brother Graeme '21 took third with a 75. Sophie Chang '21 finished second among the girls shooting a 74. Next year, Graeme will play golf at Gettysburg College and Sophie will compete at Lehigh. At the NJSIAA Tournament of Champions on May 18 and 19, Lance finished first in the Non-Public B Division and third overall in the state, shooting a 2-under-par 68.



## BOYS' LACROSSE

With the biggest roster in the past four years, the boys' lacrosse team was led by a Senior Leadership Council made up of the seven seniors who rotated each game as captains. Our Knights showed great progress, with a 9-3 record for season play and a 3-2 record for Skyland Conference league play, after logging no league wins the past two years (the 2020 season was canceled due to the pandemic). The team earned a fourth seed spot in the state tournament for Non-Public B schools and hosted a June home playoff game after receiving a first-round bye. At press time, Junior Air Force Commit Connor Albertson '22 closed in on 100 ground balls in a season and he also led the team on takeaways. Hobart Commit Ellis Wilson '22, who won Skyland Conference Player of the Week for May 17, closed in on another 100-plus saves in a season, with 87 at press time. Attackman Will Deo '23 leads the team in total points (42), goals (21) and assists (21), Liam Jones '21 logged second in total points with 31, and Mark Mazzatta '21 captured third with 24 total points.

## GIRLS' LACROSSE

This season was all about family bonding. With 26 players, juniors and seniors became Big Sisters, paired with their sophomore and freshman Little Sisters. "The main goal this year is to have a FUN season that's productive and progressive and continues to build our program," said Head Coach Denise Wilson.

The spring roster had three returning seniors, including Hayley Armstrong '21, who will take the field next year at Ithaca, and a new player, Stevens Commit Daria Hadiyan '21; six returning juniors, with Sydney Goldberg '22 as an experienced transfer; five returning sophomores, with one new player and a strong transfer in Ava Robustelli '23; and eight freshmen. To further highlight the family atmosphere, Hayley's mom, Kristen Armstrong, served as the indispensable assistant coach.

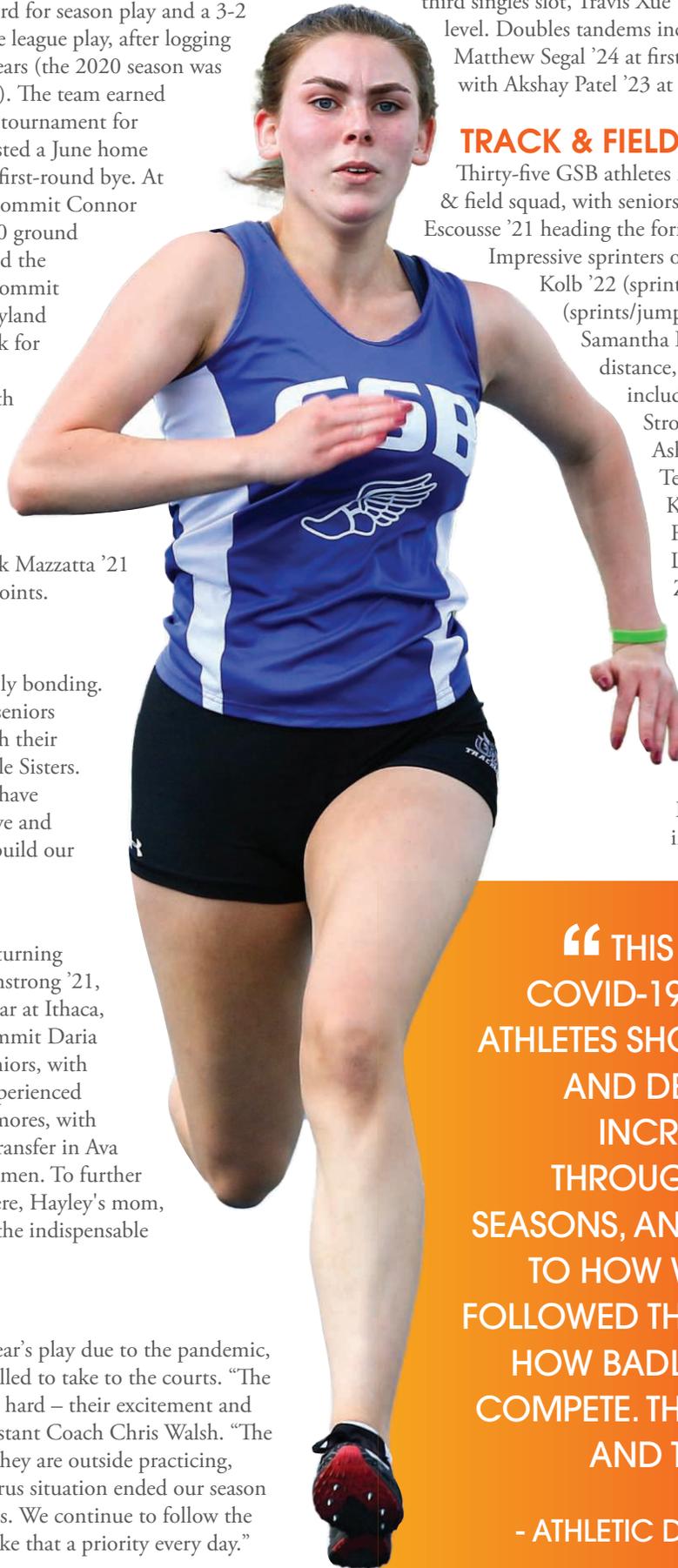
## BOYS' TENNIS

After an abrupt close to last year's play due to the pandemic, our boys' tennis team was thrilled to take to the courts. "The boys have been working really hard – their excitement and enthusiasm is great," said Assistant Coach Chris Walsh. "The most important thing is that they are outside practicing, after the challenging coronavirus situation ended our season last year after just five practices. We continue to follow the COVID-19 protocols and make that a priority every day."

Both Head Coach Ray Knight and Coach Walsh remained impressed with their varsity squad. Ryan Shin '21, a second singles player on varsity since freshman year, served as captain. Michael Isserow '21, first singles, worked hard to earn his position. In the third singles slot, Travis Xue '23, took his game to the next level. Doubles tandems included David Isserow '22 and Matthew Segal '24 at first doubles, and Lex Webber '24 with Akshay Patel '23 at second doubles.

## TRACK & FIELD

Thirty-five GSB athletes made up this spring's track & field squad, with seniors Sohan De Silva '21 and Ava Escousse '21 heading the formidable pack as co-captains. Impressive sprinters on the girls' squad included Mia Kolb '22 (sprints/jumps), Molly Walker '22 (sprints/jumps), Aniyah Boston '23, and Samantha Leo '24 (sprints/jumps). As for distance, strong talent for the boys' team included James Koether '21, Will Strong '22, Tyler Tellalian '23, and Ash Patel '21, with Emma Ryan '22, Tess Kelly '22, and Michaela Kroon '22 on the girls' side. For throwers, state-ranked Joe Licata '22 led the squad with Zac Saunders '22 as another power-thrower in both shot put and discus. At the Skyland Conference Track & Field Championship on May 20, Joe won both the boys' shot put and discus titles. Isha Vemuri '22 and Emma Ryan '22 proved a strong duo in the discus.



“ THIS YEAR, WITH ALL THE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS, OUR ATHLETES SHOWED DEDICATION AND DETERMINATION. IT IS INCREDIBLE WE MADE IT THROUGH ALL OUR SPORTS SEASONS, AND IT'S A TESTAMENT TO HOW WELL OUR ATHLETES FOLLOWED THE GUIDELINES AND HOW BADLY THEY WANTED TO COMPETE. THEY WORKED HARD, AND THEY PLAYED HARD.”

- ATHLETIC DIRECTOR WILL TAYLOR

# PATRONS

## Keeping Campus Safe

Britany Silverman Nelson '97, P'31, '34, '34 appreciated all the pandemic protocols that GSB enacted to keep her daughters safe at school. Her family decided to help fund weekly COVID-19 testing through the Kenneth & Claudia Silverman Family Foundation. "We were looking for a way to give back this year," she said. "It was obvious that Gill had effective protocols in place like no other school. I felt safe sending my kids, and it was great to see all the students on campus." As a former GSB trustee, Mrs. Nelson understands the work and funding from an institution's perspective that would go into developing such a robust safety program. "I wanted to make sure our specific funds went towards testing to applaud Gill on a job well done, as well as relieve some of the financial burden the school endured in doing so."



Pictured: (back row l-r) Claudia Silverman, Britany Silverman Nelson '97, Toby Nelson, Kenneth Silverman, (front row l-r) Piper '34, Peyton '34, and Riley '31 Nelson

# Why I Give

## For the Bees

Always fascinated with bees, Upper School Chemistry Teacher Jeffrey Ludlum '01 considered setting up a hive in his yard. When he heard that Home Winds Farm was looking to expand its beekeeping program, he decided to help by funding a hive. But not just any hive. After extensive research, he picked an innovative Flow Hive that allows beekeepers to tap honey without disturbing the bees and enables students to watch the bees working. "I wanted to help build up the beekeeping program, and this way, I don't have to take care of the hive," he said. "Then I mentioned it to my mom, and she said, 'I love bees, I think I'll do the same.'" So Laura Ludlum, mom of Jeffrey, Shannon Ludlum '03, and James Ludlum '05, contributed as well. "It's such a cool project that can help students learn," she said. "I'm always looking to support Gill, especially its theater and its bees."



## It Takes a Village

In her professional world, Antoinette Segreto knows that diversity and inclusion are critical to success and bring magic to her high-performing teams. When parenting her twins, Edward '32 and Emily '32, she remains mindful of it, and recently, she helped bring awareness to GSB.

Ms. Segreto, co-chair of the newly formed Parents' Association Diversity Committee, helped fund Lower and Middle School faculty racial literacy education with educator Monique Vogelsang of the non-profit Pollyanna Inc. The teacher training proved so successful and well-received that Ms. Segreto helped extend the conversation via Zoom to all GSB parents and guardians.

"I wanted to help connect what's being done at school with what many of us are doing at home," said Ms. Segreto. "In bringing this program to Gill, we all are focused on continuing to develop our children as global citizens. Our focus in this important area is part of what defines us as a very special community."

## Sam Corliss Honored

At the annual Trustee and Former Trustee Dinner on May 21, 2021, Sam Corliss, a longstanding trustee, received the Lindabury-Thomas Trustee Award. Mr. Corliss' relationship with GSB began 30 years ago, when he and his wife, Kathrine, enrolled their 3-year-old son, Vander, who became the stone-soup child that year with classes held at Stronghold Mansion.

"Sam Corliss is what a former GSB Board Chair Joe Behot called a 'professional trustee,'" said Head of School Sid Rowell. "Sam understood independent schools, their needs, and we were blessed by his thoughtful contributions over the years."

Mr. Corliss, in turn, expressed his appreciation to the GSB community, especially its faculty and staff. "Being an educator is a real calling, and as my son reminded me, Gill has been enormously fortunate in the folks who pursued that calling here. There is nothing more important to us as parents than the people who guide the development of our children." In fact, Vander can still remember the name of every teacher he had at Gill and the positive impact they had on him.



## Retiring Trustees

Head of School Sid Rowell thanked retiring trustees Karen Young P'21, '21, '25, who served one three-year term on the finance committee, and Vlad Torgovnik P'16, '21, who completed three terms. "Karen made a number of contributions to our school community; her advice and counsel were always solid and extremely helpful," said Mr. Rowell. "Vlad's service included being chair of the Finance Committee, treasurer, and member of the Executive Committee. He was responsible in stewarding the school's resources, helping to build and balance annual budgets, and he was essential in refinancing our long-term debt. Vlad also was instrumental in recruiting other members of the community to serve on the Board of Trustees."

## New Board of Trustee Members

At the 2020 Convocation, GSB Board of Trustees Chair Doug Matthews P'16, '18, '24, officially welcomed our new trustee Reema Puri P'19, '21 (pictured). In addition, Laura Brucker P'22, '23, and Caroline Evans Jones '78 joined GSB's leadership this year.



## GSB Classic is Back!

Warm weather and a worthy cause drew 80 golfers for our 15th annual GSB Classic at Hamilton Farm Golf Club on Monday, May 17. After a glorious day on the course that raised \$86,196, players gathered under the tent for cocktails and dinner.

Proceeds from the GSB Classic support the endowment for need-based financial aid at Gill St. Bernard's School. A very special thanks to co-chairs, Celeste Campos P'21, '24 and Brenda and Stephen Liberti P'24, '26 as well as GSB Classic committee members, golfers, volunteers, and our generous event sponsors!

For further coverage, please visit : [www.gbschool.org/post-page/~board/website-news/post/15th-annual-gsb-classic](http://www.gbschool.org/post-page/~board/website-news/post/15th-annual-gsb-classic).

# FACULTY NOTES

April 16, 2021

## RETIRING FACULTY

### Three Faculty & Staff Members Retire with a Combined 75 Years of Service



Sara Swartz



Karen Blair



Barbara Bator

This spring, GSB bid good-bye to three dedicated faculty and staff members: Middle School Language Arts Teacher **Sara Swartz**, Associate Director of College Guidance **Karen Blair**, and Middle School Administrative Assistant **Barbara Bator**.

During her 37 years of loyal service to GSB, Ms. Swartz P'11, '13 taught PreK, third grade, and sixth-grade language arts. Over the years, she also coached tennis, produced the Lower School yearbook, and shared her passion for gardening. A master teacher, she earned the St. Bernard's Award of Excellence in Teaching in 2003. In retirement, she plans to spend time in Florida and finish her New Jersey home renovations.

Since joining the guidance team in 2002, Ms. Blair proctored more than 300 AP exams, traveled the U.S. and the world with the Spring Unit, and served as a judge for the tenth-grade research paper award. She helped hundreds of GSB students with their college applications, always asking them to *dig deeper*. Ms. Blair looks forward to summers in Maine, winters in Florida, and not worrying about college deadlines.

Ms. Bator, who started at the Middle School in 2002, kept both directors she worked for organized, on task, and on time; she ensured that the MS functioned at its highest level and served as the virtual glue that kept everything together. In all, she gave her patience and unyielding positivity to MS children, parents, and teachers. She looks forward to new adventures and spending more time with her family.

*Congratulations to all! You will be missed!*

Dear GSB Alumni,

It has been nearly six years since we retired from what seems like a lifetime of involvement with Gill St. Bernard's School. GSB continues to be, and will always be, an essential part of our lives and our connection to so many graduates is deeply satisfying, especially in these cloistered times of the pandemic.

We were reminded of these connections during one recent 24-hour period of time when we exchanged messages with six alums from six different graduating years. Prior to a Zoom exchange about this year's Virtual Alumni Day with Acting Alumni Director Shannon Ludlum '03, Court Clayton '95, and Caragh Corcoran '13, we had heard the most recent details of the New York City Council campaign of Billy Freeland '05. In an email from Bruce Easop '09, we learned of the forthcoming publication of an article in the *Stanford Law Review*. No sooner had we disconnected from Zoom than we received a message from Sydney Sherman '11, inviting us to virtually attend her astrophysics Ph.D. defense at the University of Texas at Austin!

These moments, along with so many ongoing exchanges with alumni from the past 45 years, remind us why teaching is such a wonderful profession. As the calendar pages turn from one year to another, the lives of students move steadily on and we continue to look forward to how their stories turn out. What other profession offers us a glance of past, present, and future? We're grateful for that.

All the best,

Peter and Randi Schmidt

## FACULTY MEMBERS ENTER PRESTIGIOUS KLINGENSTEIN INSTITUTE

"We are incredibly proud of our colleagues **Tracey Goodson Barrett**, **Brendan Flanagan**, and **Evangalina Peña** for their acceptance into the Klingenstein Center at Columbia University," said Head of School Sid Rowell. "Its reputation for academic rigor and providing a uniquely transformative experience for participants is renown, and our GSB students will ultimately be the beneficiaries of their participation."

Ms. Barrett, Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, will begin the Two-Summer's Master's Program in Private School Leadership, while both Mr. Flanagan, Technology and Integration Specialist, and Ms. Peña, Middle School Science teacher, will attend the Klingenstein Summer Institute for Early Career Teachers. The Klingenstein Center, a premier graduate program for independent and international school leadership, offers educational programs bolstered with resources and research from Teachers College and Columbia University.

# CLASS NOTES 2020-2021

## the FORTIES & FIFTIES

### CLASS OF 1946

Honorary GSB Trustee **Bob Hemm '46** published his memoir, *The Life of an Explorer: From 1 to 91 Years-Plus*, which delves into adventures exploring, skydiving, flying, and sailing. He attended St. Bernard's School on scholarship and graduated from Virginia Tech. His advice: "St. Bernard's School prepared me to grow up physically and socially with new-found confidence. I also discovered a strong sense of what it takes to succeed in life, not just financially. The teachers lived with us and were always available. St. Bernard's gave me a very strong sense of direction."

### CLASS OF 1951

**Howard Oliver '51**, who lives in Tennessee, called to reminisce about working on the St. Bernard's School farm and milking the cows. He was happy to hear that the cows are back! An Athletic Hall of Famer, Howie recalled his friendship with Junie Hockenbury, and how they used to do farm chores together.

### CLASS OF 1952

**Edwin Simpson '52** retired after 25 years in the Marketing Department of the Business College at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He also ran a small consulting company, The Delphi Group, in Dayton, Ohio. Currently, he enjoys coastal sailing and researching genealogy.

## the 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

### CLASS OF 2003



Alana Baer's '03 twin babies.

**Alana Baer '03** and Derek Martin's twins, Eli and Mabel, were born July 9, 2020.

### CLASS OF 2007

**Amanda (Maybaum) McLaughlin '07** received a Ph.D. in 2020 from Seton Hall in higher education leadership, management and policy. Her dissertation was titled, "Helicopter Parenting in Higher Education: A Content Analysis of Parental Involvement as Discussed in the Media."

### CLASS OF 2008

**Kyle O'Neill '08** reported his family's happy news that Kyle Jr. was born October 15, 2020. "Our Daughter Mildred loves being a big sister and helping take care of the baby!" he writes.



Congratulations! Kyle O'Neill '08 welcomes his new son.

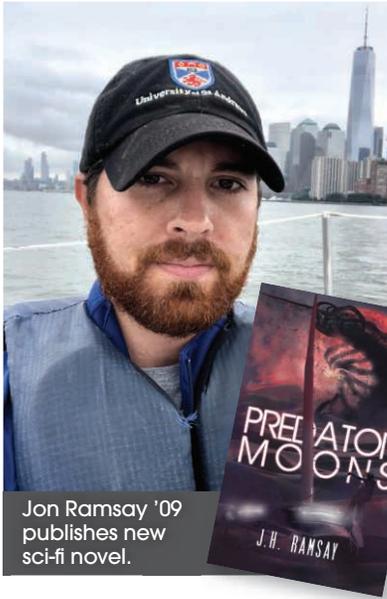
### CLASS OF 2009

**Robert Lo Giudice '09** graduated from New York Law School in 2016 and then completed a global sports law and sports management companion degree at Columbia University in 2017. He serves as the U.S. head of legal affairs for Elys Game Technology, Corp., a fully licensed and integrated online and land-based gaming operator.

**Alexis Nedd '09** was excited about the June 1, 2021, release of her debut novel, *Don't Hate the Player*, which received a *Kirkus Reviews* star. "My editors at Bloomsbury and I finalized the text earlier this year, and since then it was off to the races with panels, publicity, and promotion on the young adult fiction circuit," she said. "I love finally being able to talk about the story, which is about a Puerto Rican high schooler who secretly competes in a high stakes e-sports tournament." She is hard at work on her second novel.



Alexis Nedd '09 with the release of her new novel.



Jon Ramsay '09 publishes new sci-fi novel.

**Jon Ramsay '09** published his debut science fiction novel, *Predator Moons*, which received a *Kirkus Reviews* star. He dedicated his book to the GSB teachers who inspired his love for writing: Randi & Peter Schmidt, John & Barbara Ripton, Larry Bostian, and Michael Maurer. The audio book version is read by fellow alumna Savannah (Schechter) Lynx '12. Jon is working on the sequel, to be released next year.

### CLASS OF 2010

**Blakely Mulder '10** earned a Ph.D. in School Psychology from the University of Maryland in August 2020. She dedicated her dissertation to former teachers, including Mr. Maurer, Dr. Lutz, Mrs. Orr, and Mrs. Ripton. "It takes a village," she wrote. "This work represents the culmination of 22 years of formal learning. It is dedicated first and foremost to all the teachers who challenged me and fostered my curiosity."

### CLASS OF 2016

**Destiny Salter '16** graduated cum laude from Princeton University and received the prestigious Toni Morrison Prize. "I was blessed enough to be awarded the prize by former U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize Winner Tracy K. Smith," she wrote.

### CLASS OF 2018

**Jessica Abowitz '18** attends Wellesley College and landed a four-month internship with Congressman Tom Malinowski of New Jersey. An international relations/political science major, she is taking a minor in Korean language and culture.



Jessica Abowitz '18 lands internship with Congressman Malinowski.

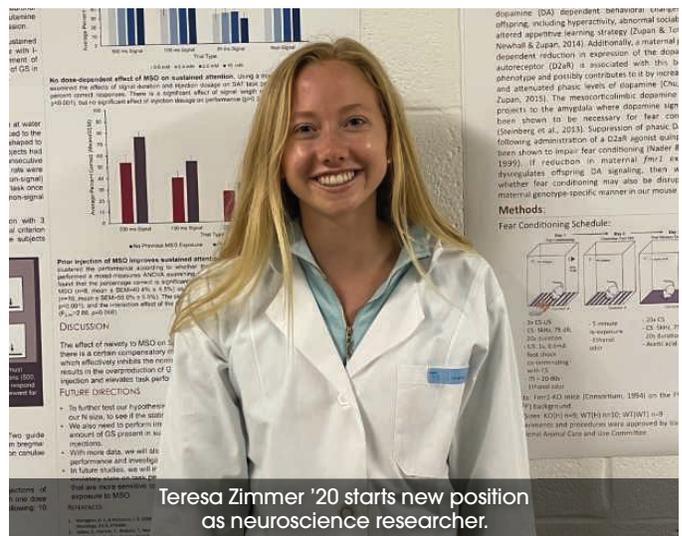
### CLASS OF 2020

**Emily Smith '20** received the first-ever Felicia B. Jamison Scholarship awarded by the Martin Luther King Observance Committee. Through the scholarship, the Morristown-based group honors the legacy of Dr. King by supporting a student who embodies the principles to which he dedicated his life, such as social justice, equal opportunity, and peace. Emily, who received \$2,500 toward her education at Boston University, was thrilled to receive this prestigious award in honor of her hero. "Dr. King inspired me to do my best to help others in any way I can. I've worked hard to educate others about important topics like equality, equal access to opportunities, and issues that continue to affect the Black community."



Emily Smith '20 receives first-ever Felicia B. Jamison Scholarship.

**Teresa Zimmer '20** started a new position as neuroscience researcher at Vassar, working under neuroscientist Dr. Lori Newman. "The Newman Lab studies the unique role of astrocytes, the support cells in the brain, in attention, learning, and memory," she writes, adding that they hope "to provide targets for novel therapeutics for neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia, and ADHD."



Teresa Zimmer '20 starts new position as neuroscience researcher.

# OBITUARIES



**Evelyne "Jarry" (Smith) Maughs '35** passed away peacefully on October 1, 2020, at the age of 104. Beloved wife of the late Dr. Sydney B. Maughs; loving stepmother of the late Lynn Schroeder, loving mother of the late Edward J. "Ned" Maughs; devoted

grandmother of three and great-grandmother of four. Jarry spent much of her youth in Paris, where she began a lifelong love affair with France. A graduate of Rollins College, she helped found the first women's rowing team in the South. Jarry served as an officer of the family-owned business, the Dr. J. H. McLean Medicine Company. An avid world-traveler, she witnessed the treasures removed from King Tut's tomb. Until her death, Jarry was one of the few living people who watched singer and dancer Josephine Baker perform live in Paris in the late '20s.

**Lois Helen Eccles Matteson '48** passed away on Feb 27, 2020, surrounded by her family.



**Ernest "Walter" Carr Jr. '51** passed away March 13, 2019, in New Port Richey, FL. Ernest was a varsity letterman in football for St. Bernard's all four years, JV football assistant coach, a member of the Rifle Club and Chess Club as well as the class treasurer. He fought in the Korean War in the Army 2nd Division and

was a stationary engineer by trade. Ernest retired from E.R. Squibb in Princeton and is survived by his daughter, Debbi; his son, Ernest III; and three grandsons, Ernest IV, Tyler, and Andrew.



**John L. "Larry" Everhart Jr. '62** of Lebanon and formerly of Fanwood passed away peacefully on March 22, 2021, surrounded by his wife and two children. A Saint Bernard's School graduate, he received his undergraduate degree from Franklin and Marshall

College and two master's degrees from Drexel University and Kean College. Larry will be remembered as a kind, generous, and considerate man who was welcoming to all who knew him.

**Brian D. Kaywork '92**, a loving father, loving husband, chef, mentor, coach, and armchair philosopher, passed away on April 30, 2021, from an unexpected heart attack at the age of 46. While his life was cut tragically short, he will be forever remembered for living his life fully, following his passions, caring deeply for those around him, and for his constant pursuit of exploration and adventures. Brian is survived by his wife, Tara (Lieb), his son, Hayden, his parents, Mary and Edward Kaywork, his brothers, Tym and Nick, his sisters, Aly and Mary-Kate, and a large family of uncles, aunts, and cousins.

**Michael Woskey '01** passed away on June 22, 2020. An active member of GSB's theatre program, he went on to pursue higher education at the University of Washington, RVCC, Rutgers University, and Seton Hall. His diverse reach for various majors revealed his great thirst for knowledge. To say Michael had a big personality would be an understatement to his larger-than-life attitude. He is survived by his mother and father, Kathy and Michael, his siblings, Tara, Heather, and Matthew, Heather's husband, Craig, his nephew, Carter, and his dog, Foxy.



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## GSB CLASS OF 2021 COLLEGE LIST

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| American University (2)                       | Hood College                                  | The University of Tampa                    |
| Baylor University                             | Indiana University-Bloomington (2)            | Trinity College                            |
| Boston College (2)                            | Ithaca College                                | Tulane University of Louisiana             |
| Boston University                             | Lafayette College (3)                         | University of California-Berkeley          |
| Bryn Mawr College                             | Lehigh University (2)                         | University of California-San Diego         |
| Bucknell University (2)                       | Marist College                                | University of Denver                       |
| Case Western Reserve University               | Montclair State University                    | University of Maryland-College Park        |
| Clark University                              | Northeastern University (4)                   | University of Miami (4)                    |
| College of Charleston                         | Northwestern University (2)                   | University of Michigan-Ann Arbor           |
| College of William and Mary                   | Nova Southeastern University (BS/DO)          | University of New Haven                    |
| Cornell University (2)                        | Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus (4) | University of Notre Dame                   |
| Davidson College                              | Purdue University-Main Campus (2)             | University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh Campus |
| Elon University (3)                           | Rochester Institute of Technology (2)         | University of Rhode Island (2)             |
| Emory University                              | Rowan University                              | University of Richmond                     |
| Fairfield University                          | School of the Art Institute of Chicago        | University of Scranton (2)                 |
| Fairleigh Dickinson University-Florham Campus | Skidmore College                              | University of Toronto                      |
| Florida State University                      | Southern Methodist University                 | University of Virginia-Main Campus (2)     |
| Georgetown University                         | St John's University-New York                 | University of Wisconsin-Madison            |
| Gettysburg College                            | Stevens Institute of Technology (3)           | Vassar College                             |
| Elon University                               | Syracuse University                           | Villanova University (4)                   |
| Haverford College                             | The New School                                | Wake Forest University (3)                 |
| High Point University                         | The University of Alabama                     |  |