

The PotomacTerm

The Alumni Magazine of The Potomac School • Spring 2010

Celebrating the Lower School



A New Decade of Giving 2010

SPRING AUCTION: A GREAT SUCCESS

It was a festive evening enjoyed by all. Your generous support will provide tuition assistance for one in seven deserving students and professional development opportunities for our treasured teachers.

Thank you to everyone for a wonderful evening that so generously funded our faculty professional development and student scholarship programs. This year's event featured an expanded online auction, followed by the live auction, silent wine auction, raffle drawings and the excitement of Fund-A-Dream.* The festive evening recalled decades past with sea breezes, bell-bottoms, and other icons of yore. But the funds raised are all for the future benefit of Potomac.

A special thank you to auction chairs Julie Gerstel and Sally Ewing Sagarese '85 and their team of volunteers who so ably and generously gave of their time and talents.

The Auction is Potomac's largest parent-driven fundraiser. Your support is critical to our School's success.



**Fund-A-Dream is a 100% tax-deductible donation directly benefiting faculty professional development and student scholarships. In previous years, families could support faculty and scholarships by becoming sponsors of Fall Frolics in October. This year, those sponsorships were replaced by Fund-A-Dream.*



Dear Potomac Community,

The future begins here, in the Lower School, which lays the foundation of all that we do at Potomac. It is the place where students find their voices, develop their individual characters, and listen to and support each other. It is the place where traditions take root, and where our values and vision come together to define the mission of the school.

One of every three students comes to Potomac in kindergarten, grade 1 or grade 2. Most will be with us for their entire pre-collegiate schooling. Over time they help mentor new students, modeling our culture and values so that all of our students come to love and appreciate Potomac and all that it stands for.

At Potomac we believe that “learning happens everywhere” and it seems to happen most rapidly in these early years. In their play and in their work these young students embrace the joy of discovery, imagination and wonder. We are astounded each day by what they learn and even teach us, reminding us that every member of the Potomac community is an essential component of a dynamic learning community.

Young children are almost fearless in their approach to new ideas, experiences and people. It is magical to watch that early innocence become a way of viewing the world that we can encourage and nourish through the remaining years of school. Those who teach and work with our young children model curiosity, engagement and intellectual daring. They know the importance of staying current on best practices and research. At the same time, they know how important it is to be on the playground jumping rope or throwing the ball or learning the rules of a new game the kids themselves have invented. Indeed, I enjoy playing four square with the children, who have created an elaborate web of rules only marginally related to keeping the ball in play!

Our students and teachers are enjoying our beautiful new Lower School building, which was purposely designed to support our mission, the philosophy we share for educating children, and the experiences we want Lower School students, teachers and parents to have. In every space and corner one hears the animated voices of our youngest scholars as they begin their journey into a future that they will help shape.

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

Geoffrey Jones
Head of School

The PotomacTerm

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with any changes of address (including for college students or adult children
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update our list. Thank you!



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CELEBRA



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THE

Lower School



“Nothing that matters has been left behind.”

Headmistress Carol Preston’s words of nearly 60 years ago, when The Potomac School moved from its charming yet cramped building on California Street in the District to a sprawling, wooded campus in McLean, could just as easily be spoken today. Seven months after the first students poured into their classrooms in the new Lower School building, life is humming along there as if it has always been so. Memories of the old have melded with the new, traditions have seamlessly migrated into the new spaces, children are learning and growing by leaps and bounds, and even longtime faculty have become accustomed to the views down the halls and through the windows.

Entrance to the new Lower School building, completed in September 2009





We have taken what is special with us,” Head of Lower School Donna Lewis says with satisfaction. She notes that the new building has retained a feeling of openness—with gathering spaces of all sizes—and a strong connection to nature with big windows and access to the outdoors from every classroom. The open library remains central to the division as it was in

the old space, though now it includes additional teaching and reading spaces apart from the main flow of traffic.

All the beloved traditions—including weekly Assembly, Kindergarten Circus, class plays, “buddy classes” with other divisions, Sandwich Day and many more—continue to enhance the learning of the School’s youngest students and to make the Potomac experience truly special. The

purposefully designed spaces have given faculty exciting opportunities to sculpt the instructional program in the most optimal way for our children.

“We espouse a clear philosophy based on a deep understanding of childhood and the role of developmental readiness. Our methodology is based on research in learning theory and best practices,” explains Lewis. Because each child’s journey

Meredith Murphy '02

Kindergarten assistant teacher Meredith Murphy '02 had to laugh. After school one day, a mom exclaimed, "My daughter loves school! She said all they do is play all day long!" In fact, while the kindergarten teachers work very hard teaching their young students a full curriculum of early reading, math concepts, science, social studies, art and music, play is a crucial element of the delivery process. "I said, 'I promise you we work for most of the day, but if [your daughter] thinks it's play, then that's great!'"

Now in her third full year at Potomac, Murphy says she always wanted to be a teacher, and always loved working with younger kids. While growing up at Potomac, she took every opportunity to help out in Lower School classrooms. She majored in education at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. Before coming to Potomac as a teacher, she taught 6- to 12-year-olds at a special education school in Connecticut. She plans eventually to go back to school for a Master's degree in education.

"I love the kindergarten age, because they're learning everything for the first time," she says. "Especially rewarding is the second half of kindergarten, when reading takes off. The children love school, they love learning."

"Potomac does an incredible job of getting every child involved. The building is literally bursting with color, and the kids get all kinds of opportunities—to speak at assembly, to be really hands on. They get involved in everything. They're not sitting at desks all day."

Murphy is thrilled with the new Lower School building. "I loved the old building, but it was time for an upgrade," she says. When she started teaching, she worked in the very classroom she had as a kindergartner. "The new building has the exact same feel, a close-knit feel. But the classrooms are bigger, more comfortable; the art room is fabulous, and



there's a nice big science room with a great view. Every classroom has big windows."

A great thing about teaching at Potomac, she says, is that continuing education is encouraged and even facilitated. Last year, when the kindergarten team found a math workshop they wanted to take, Lower School Head Donna Lewis immediately encouraged it and arranged for substitutes. Murphy also took part in the reading course offered to Lower School faculty earlier this year (see sidebar, page 13).

In addition to teaching in the Lower School, Murphy coaches Intermediate School and Upper School girls in field hockey and lacrosse. An athlete in both sports while at Potomac, she continued playing lacrosse in college. Now she enjoys the chance to work with a variety of ages every day.

"We have crafted for our young children a separate world where they have a voice and feel safe and valued, thus developing a hunger for learning."

is a unique passage through many developmental milestones, Potomac's early childhood curriculum takes into account the maturing needs, abilities and interests of the children, all of which vary greatly.

The Lower School curriculum covers a broad range of literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music and more. In the spirit of carrying Potomac's beloved traditions into the present and future, we offer a modern-day look at the traditional core curriculum of reading, writing, and arithmetic, as seen through the eyes of our current Lower School students.





Blending the Old with the New

...Reading

Your mind is on fire when you are reading.” So says Melissa Davis to the second graders in Ross McEwen’s class during a discussion of Kate DiCamillo’s *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. “You are thinking lots of different thoughts when you are reading—what are they? Remember that reading is thinking.”

Davis is part of the K through 6 Learning Support Team, five teachers who spend their time on reading and writing

instruction as well as keeping up with the latest research and best practices. In partnership with the classroom teachers, the team works with students in small groups, or with the entire class, three to four times each week.

Davis begins each day’s lesson by connecting to material the children have recently learned—in this case, difficult words. “What do you do if you get to a tricky part?” The children put their heads together with their reading partners. Jack Savage and Connelley Smith conclude, “If you read to the end of the sentence, you will probably figure it out.”

Today’s mini-lesson, as she calls the 15-minute readings and discussions with the kids, is about “how we use a lot of different thinking when we are reading.” Davis shows the class by thinking out loud as she reads. “What do you think this means — a hollow rabbit?” she asks, dropping her voice to a whisper. “Talk with your reading partner.” Again, Jack and Connelley consult. “He doesn’t feel anything,” says Jack. “He might get lost again,” says Connelley.

“The stories are often so engaging that the children don’t think beyond the plot. I take them back to thinking about the au-

"Your mind is on fire when you are reading."

thor's messages, the nuances in the story — these are skills they will apply for years to come," says Davis.

Potomac has been implementing the Balanced Literacy approach over the past seven years. "Potomac has been incredible providing professional development (such as the Columbia University Teachers College program) to all of the Lower School teachers. Our reading program is as good as it is because of the intense professional development opportunities we've all had," says Davis.



Sarah Corson, former 2nd grade teacher

When looking back fondly at their Potomac years, many Lower School alumni of a certain era are sure to bring up one name: Sarah Corson, second grade teacher. They might remember making dragon bread, complete with the traditional dragon-slaying ceremony in the woods. Or they might recall spending weeks writing and illustrating their own books, then celebrating their effort with sparkling cider at a lavish book party. Many were delighted to receive a packet in the mail after graduation containing selected second-grade work, carefully saved over the years by their beloved teacher.

Hers was a commitment to creativity, to infusing work with play, to setting high standards and encouraging each student to want to meet those standards. "I happen to think it's really important how you start off [in life]," she says. "I always felt as a teacher of young kids that I was doing something worthwhile, very important. I totally believed in it, that it made a big difference to these children."

"Every year was challenging and different," she continues. "There's nothing like the first day of school as expectant children come through the door." And by the end of the year, "The students were ahead of me, I was in the background encouraging, coaxing, celebrating. Knowing they needed to leave, have new experiences. Helping them let go."

Corson began her years at Potomac as a parent to sons Trevor '84 and Ashley '91. Her first impression of the Lower School was a rainy day at recess. "You'd think it would be a grumpy time," she says. "What I noticed was, everyone was so happy! Teachers, students... I remember thinking, 'I wish children everywhere could have this experience! I wanted my own kids to be a



part of it." She plunged in, too. With a Master's degree in education from Harvard and previous experience as a teacher in the Newton, Massachusetts, public schools, she volunteered at the school, substitute taught, and in 1980, she began her 18 years as second grade teacher. Her last students graduated in 2008.

It was "such an interesting environment," she says. "Parents, colleagues, students, people around you all the time willing to extend themselves for the benefit of the community." She says it was important that the Lower School was always part of the School as a whole. She also says she remembers all of her students and loves finding out what they are doing with their lives.

For her part, she has moved to her beloved Maine, where she is an active participant in a small lobster-fishing community near Acadia National Park. Her new passion is writing fiction. At work on a novel for girls, ages 7 to 10, she says, "I'm a student myself again, and I love it! I'm working hard, really hard!"

...Writing

Janice Michaels' third grade has just ignited Friday Assembly with infomercials "selling" the books they have carefully written and constructed to their Lower School classmates, teachers and parents. "Everything you ever wanted to know about soccer for only \$9.99!" announces Garrett. "You can become an expert on guinea pigs!" says Kristen.

Back in the classroom Whitney Bowen speaks with confidence about how she learned about the process of writing by developing her nonfiction book on the human body. "You should write about



LS TEACHERS TAKE CUSTOM LITERACY COURSE

The Potomac School both encourages and expects its faculty and staff to continue to grow professionally. The Lower School has a comprehensive multi-tiered long-range professional development plan aimed at honing skills around a common language of understanding in early childhood education and best practices. Part of that plan included sending the kindergarten team to a graduate-level course in reading development at the University of Virginia (UVA). But with interest high among other members of the faculty as well, the decision was made to bring the course to campus instead. "It was a wonderful opportunity to solidify the integration of the teaching of reading across classes and grades," says Nancy Powell, LS reading and language arts specialist.

The UVA instructor was able to design a custom course for Potomac, creating an on-site workshop tailored to Potomac's classrooms and resources. The eleven participating faculty members ranged in teaching

experience from one to 20 years.

Potomac provided substitutes for the first two sessions of the course so that teachers could participate in the workshop during working hours. The remaining four sessions were held after school. Teachers were able to practice in class between sessions, sharing ideas and collaborating on each classroom's literacy work station. "We really strengthened our team for literacy," says Powell.

Powell herself knows the power of lifelong learning. An elementary school teacher for 20 years, 11 of them at Potomac, Powell recently completed her Master's in reading education at the University of Virginia with financial help from Potomac. She has also attended "Schools Attuned" with Dr. Mel Levine at the University of North Carolina, spent three summers at Columbia University's Reading and Writing Project with Lucy Calkins, and attended numerous workshops, seminars, and trainings. "You really are never finished learning," she says.



what you are very passionate about,” she says. She discusses the parts of the brain, bones, muscles and cartilage, and provides her own illustrations throughout. “This is throat cartilage,” she explains. “The science teacher and I looked at it under the microscope.”

Max Wehner dedicated his book *All You Need to Know About Mechanics* to his Dad. “The book is really about physics,” Max explains to junior Nick Diewald, who has arrived with his Upper School English class to see what the third grade has produced. “It is about energy, movement and momentum, and Newton’s Law,” says Max. “That’s funny. We are discussing Newton’s Law in my physics class,” replies Nick.

Picking Books is the subject Margot Labrecque explores. She describes in detail the process of writing her book, beginning with an outline of the main topic and sub-topics on a large sheet of blank paper, and moving to the multiple drafts and editing checklist. “I changed my book a lot,” she says as she shows her revisions. “Reading in the Wildest Places” is one of the chapters, colorfully illustrated. “You want to make your pictures interesting; bright colors will draw people to your page,” she explains.

Writing Workshop, which is employed by all teachers in the Lower School, stems

from Lucy Calkin’s program at Columbia University’s Teachers College. Michaels explains that the nonfiction writing unit followed the personal narratives study the children completed last semester. Each week she introduces a new concept, for example: how to brainstorm; how to show, not tell; what does it mean to write a topic sentence?

“They’ve all internalized the writing process now,” says Michaels. “The most

difficult part is writing the revisions. How do you keep making your prose clearer, especially when you are so close to the project?”

“I was surprised by the variety of topics they chose to write about. Even with the sports topics, which is what you might expect third graders to write about, the students wrote some creative chapters, such as how to celebrate after you score!”



Curt Winsor '78

Potomac Family Shares the Lower School Experience

The essence of Potomac is found and nurtured in the Lower School," says Curt Winsor, '78, a former Lower Schooler himself and current parent of first grader Eliza. "That foundation is carried through the rest of the School experience." Winsor's daughter Devon, a current ninth grader, also attended Potomac's Lower School.

Winsor remembers arriving at Potomac as a first grader. He says he appreciates the parallels with his daughters' experiences, and particularly values the traditions that are expressed through assemblies —today, just as they were in his time. Music, playing and learning outdoors were an important part of Winsor's Lower School experience, just as they are now for Eliza.

"My daughters have enjoyed the interaction between divisions, which provides a sense of continuity for both younger and older students," says Winsor. Daughter Devon believes the new building builds that connection both literally and figuratively. She appreciated the "opportunity in Lower School to create a foundation of friends and build from there."

Winsor believes Potomac's most important strengths are its teachers, assemblies and the ability to educate in a creative way while adhering to rigorous standards.



Daughter Devon remembers fondly learning about fractions with Mrs. Powell, who brought in a chocolate pie to illustrate the concept. Sister Eliza also loves math, as well as art and recess. She describes the new Lower School as "really new and big and great."

"Potomac is a unique place and a unique community," Winsor says. His family connection with the School is deeply rooted. Three of his four sisters attended Potomac, and sister Anita Edwards '79 has a daughter in kindergarten.

Winsor is founder and chairman of the board of the Bank of Georgetown. He was born and raised in Washington, DC, except for periods abroad with his foreign service family.

...Arithmetic

The kids in Christine McCarthy's third grade class are perched on the rug so close to her that she has just enough room to move around the U.S. map projected on the white board. We are looking at average rainfall in September in about 10 cities across the country. "What region gets the most rainfall in September?" she asks, emphasizing the word region. "Remember what we learned about regions in social studies."

Almost every hand is up; the energy is palpable. Despite the fact that only cities are shown, quite a few of the students quickly perform the calculations in their heads. "The Southeast!" somebody responds. "Now, let's look at decimals in a different way," McCarthy continues. "How do you say how many centimeters of rain fall in September in Birmingham?" The correct answer ultimately emerges, after a few incorrect responses: ten and three-tenths.

"Are we ready to go back in our brains to December when we studied

measurement?" she asks. "What are the teeny guys called?" "Millimeters," several children answer. Moving deftly between fractions and decimals, McCarthy asks, "How would you say three millimeters as a decimal and a fraction?" Theresa takes a risk, as the class had not yet studied the thousandths place, and volunteers. The children clap when she correctly writes the fraction ten one-thousandths on the whiteboard. "Now," McCarthy continues, "Who wants to be in charge of rainfall in St. Louis?"





This is “Everyday Math,” developed by the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project, distinguished by its focus on real world problem-solving, which Potomac Lower School teachers have been using in part for years and are now using full-time. “It takes education concepts and combines them with the major strands of math in a spiral kind of delivery,” McCarthy explains. “You keep coming back to concepts and looking at them in different ways.”

The class is a whirlwind of activity, with some members standing on chairs to measure the ceiling with meter sticks, while others work intently in their work books, either singly or in groups. This visitor is impressed—with the quality of the teaching, the skills on display and, perhaps most of all, with the engagement of every single child in the room.



Fostering a Generosity of Spirit

Potomac is a nurturing school that values early childhood, a critical time in the development of a young person that will impact future decisions, relationships and performance. Faculty know that learning happens everywhere and so combine academic rigor with an emphasis on the social and emo-

tional development of each child. They also know that they provide the foundation for a dynamic experience that will carry into Upper School and beyond.

“In our fast-paced world, it is so easy to let childhood slip away,” Donna Lewis reminds us. “In our Lower School, we are all about preserving the

magic of that fleeting time in a child’s life. We have crafted for our young children a separate world where they have a voice and feel safe and valued, thus developing a hunger for learning. We hope that they sense their connection to the larger School so they can see the journey that lies before them.”



Potomac Family Funds Environmental Initiatives

Potomac parents Frank Fernandez and Katherine Kim are passionate about the natural world, and their recent gifts to The Potomac School reflect their commitment. The couple chose to fund two different initiatives related to the environment: They sponsored the Science Deck at the new Lower School building, and they created a new endowment fund for the environment, which will help educate students in the environmental sciences and “help make Potomac a greener place,” says Fernandez.

Fernandez has worked on issues related to climate change and renewable energy for more than 10 years, first at the World Bank and later forming his own company specializing in bringing clean energy to developing countries and trading in carbon credits on the international market. Kim has worked in education for many years, and is now devoted to Potomac activities as involved mom of Lucas (2nd grade) and Emma (kindergarten). They also have a three-year-old, Alex.

When the family decided to make a major gift to Potomac earlier this year, they realized the timing was particularly beneficial. “It was good to give at a moment when the economy wasn’t doing so well,” says Fernandez. “We felt it would be especially appreciated by the community.”

They plan to continue regular contributions to the fund in the future. “We’re going to be here at Potomac for many years, so we want to stay involved in giving back to the community,” says Fernandez.



Potomac Embarks on Strategic Planning Process

We at The Potomac School are constantly assessing our work and looking ahead at ways to grow, both in our areas of strength and in areas we need to improve. We do this in our everyday work — in evaluating our students’ success, through faculty peer coaching, and through ongoing administration initiatives. But, periodically, we engage in a “bigger ideas” Strategic Planning Process, led by the Board of Trustees, which allows us the time as a community to brainstorm, reflect, assess and plan around ideas that can positively impact the future trajectory of the School. We look to the broader Potomac community to provide input to that process, which ultimately results in a plan with measurable objectives and outcomes.

In our last recent strategic planning process, begun in 2002, we focused on three areas: 1) the Potomac learning community; 2) academic curriculum and programming; and 3) our support structure—business operations and facilities. We are proud of the notable progress we have made in all three areas, which are highlighted on pages 22-23.



Our work on the new Strategic Plan began last year with the development of the document *Preparing for Exemplary Lives: Defining Excellence at The Potomac School*, which describes the foundations of our educational mission. This year we are taking that work forward, focusing on four broad areas. These include:

Academic Distinction

Moving beyond excellence, we will strive for a leadership role in the independent school community. That includes an ongoing pursuit of student learning and achievement at the highest levels, academic programming, and faculty and staff development.

Connecting our Community

We will strive to create deeper partnerships among the members of our broader Potomac community to enable us to even more successfully come together around common purpose and strengthen the sense of belonging and inclusion. Modeling our foundational values, we seek to attract students and families who embrace a wide spectrum of ideas as well as represent different cultures and races.

Exemplary Lives

We will examine ways to develop the character, leadership and scholarship habits that prepare us to lead exemplary lives. That includes balance within our lives, making healthy choices and a commitment to service and citizenship.

Sustainability

We will examine our fiscal responsibilities (endowment, revenue and advancement); the stewardship of our facilities and campus; and how we can continue growing while preserving what is most extraordinary and best in our Potomac School culture.



These are areas that reflect our deepest values and aspirations for our School. We have invited all members of our community to participate in this ongoing process, including faculty and staff, parents, alumni, the wider community and the students. Committees are working to create goals and measurable objectives in each of the four areas, based on input from the community, including a School-wide survey, parent meetings and other opportunities to participate. We expect to complete this strategic plan by the end of June, which will focus on how best to advance the School and its mission forward over the next several years.

Strategic Plan Initiatives Accomplished 2002-2009

PEOPLE

Faculty & Staff

Recruitment/ Retention

- Total compensation increased nearly 50%
- Reduced faculty attrition
- Designed Intern Program as recruitment source: five interns hired

Professional Growth

- Professional development opportunities for faculty multiplied
- Instituted annual professional development workshop for all faculty
- Focus on collaboration among/across grade levels
- New review/evaluation process for faculty/staff

Potomac Community

Communications

- Created director of communications position
- Developed powerful web presence and information network

- Developed CampusNET to support teaching and learning
- Revitalized all electronic and print publications

Diversified Leadership

- Created summer leadership retreats for US students; revitalized IS student government
- Encouraged faculty to seek leadership training and opportunities
- Promoted three division heads and two associate heads from within the faculty
- Expanded leadership in diversity/inclusivity initiatives to include representation across faculty
- Added diversity coordinators to Administrative Team
- Restructured Parent Association; created staff liaison position providing direct administrative access
- Reinvigorated community participation, e.g. Curriculum Coffees, "Conversations with the Head"



PROGRAMS

Expansion

- Increased enrollment in upper divisions
- Broadened range of curricular offerings in US

Curriculum

Academic Excellence

- Redesigned math curriculum grades 5-10 to optimize continuous/accelerated growth
- Refocused language arts instruction K-10 through faculty professional development and improved assessment
- Partnered with UVA and Marymount to offer onsite School-specific graduate courses for faculty

K-12 Journey

- Established curriculum mapping and the teaching strategy Understanding by Design as foundations for K-12 articulation of content, skills and assessment
- Developed cross-divisional committees and structures to support seamless grade and division transitions

Technology Integration

- Established hard-wired and wireless infrastructure and access throughout School
- Brought telephony, Internet access, e-mail and desktop computing to every classroom and office

- Developed state-of-the-art security program with redundancy in each system

Differentiation of Instruction

- Coordinated comprehensive student support services K-12
- Established ongoing training for faculty to support both advanced and remedial instruction
- Restructured our staffing in resource support and guidance
- Created the Upper School Writing Center



STRUCTURE

Financial Operations

- Restructured every aspect of our business operations

Human Resources

- Created human resources department and increased focus on assistance to employees

Institutional Advancement

- Completed construction of our new Lower and Upper School facilities and new campus signage
- Added nine adjoining acres to campus, increasing opportunities for outdoor learning

Stewardship

- Sought and implemented grants to revitalize our natural areas, including funding for two sustainability positions
- Established stewardship as major theme in our master plan

Transportation

- Doubled capacity and usage of transportation system to include expanded Neighborhood Service and free Shuttle Service, allowing us to attract students from throughout the metro area, meet transportation goals and provide better service
- Improved appearance of buses and branding of School through bus signage

news on campus

Potomac Welcomes John Mathews as Middle School Head

A force of energy is roaming the halls of the Middle School this year. New Head John Mathews can be seen on any given day leading an assembly, teaching a guest lesson in class, or working one-on-one with students, faculty or any number of collaborators from other divisions. Known for his remarkably rapid mastery of the names of every student in Middle School, Mathews has impressed students and parents alike with his engaging personality, hard work and enthusiasm for the Potomac community.

A graduate of Columbia University, Mathews grew up in the area, attending Green Acres School in Rockville and Sidwell Friends in DC. He comes to Potomac after a number of years in New York City, first teaching grades one, three and four at Grace

Church School and then teaching and working as Assistant Head of the Lower School (Pre-K-5) at Riverdale Country School. He also taught high-risk kids everything from biology to Ultimate Frisbee at a Summer Bridge program in Kansas City, culminating the experience by directing a musical.

Such versatility serves him well at Potomac. He spends a great deal of time in individual classrooms while also focusing on the big-picture issues of the division. Mathews says he loves working with this age group, as they are old enough to understand more complex concepts but young enough to adapt to and embrace change.

He says he appreciates being part of a K through 12 community, “which can provide such a deep knowledge of a child from his first school days to her near adulthood.”



He values working with the other division heads and wants to enhance the opportunities for working across divisions.

Mathews admires Potomac’s devotion to “generosity of spirit,” most recently

demonstrated by the grass roots campaign for Haiti initiated by the fifth grade. He says, “As Middle School Head, I will work every day to help nurture that spirit and the special joy of learning that is so evident at Potomac.”

Longtime Potomac Teacher and Dean Bill Cook Takes Helm of the Intermediate School

Faculty, students and administrators know him as the cerebral leader who inspires us to ponder essential questions, to tap our commitment and capacity to learn, and to recognize the importance of everyday work. He has been many things in his 20 plus years at Potomac—Academic Dean, Upper and Intermediate School history, ethics and Latin teacher, basketball, soccer and lacrosse coach. Now serving as Intermediate School Head, Bill Cook has stepped in to fill an important leadership role with an age group he particularly enjoys. In fact, he taught this

age many years ago at Delbarton School in New Jersey.

“This age group poses unique challenges but has unique opportunities to develop and flourish. Early adolescents have emerging skill sets that enable them to begin to understand themselves and their place in the world. The purpose of the Intermediate School is to support each child as he or she navigates that complexity,” he says.

Cook notes that the hallmark of the IS is the advisory system, which provides a structure designed to ensure that each and every child is known by a caring adult, not just as a

student but as a person. “Building the resilience these young people need to embrace and engage the intellectual world with confidence depends a lot on caring adults from whom they can draw strength.

“These students are more intellectually capable than we sometimes expect, revealing a richness of imagination and engaging with a lot of energy. We continually seek ways to capitalize on their extraordinarily creative and original thinking,” he says.

Cook’s goals for the faculty include continued refinement of the teaching strategy “Understanding by Design,” be-

coming more sophisticated in the methods and interpretation of assessments to advance learning, and integrating curriculum and skill development as part of the K-12 academic continuum.

Cook is known for his expertise on the neuroscience of learning and its application in the classroom. He is perhaps most proud of his role developing the 9th and 12th grade trips, which work to align kids philosophically to the goals and ideals of the School. “The institutionalization and gradual success of these trips over the years have been very exciting,” he says.



Potomac Taking Leadership Role In Science and Technology

With the goal of becoming a national leader in science and technology education, The Potomac School has created the K-12 Science and Engineering Research Center (SERC).

Potomac has been enhancing its already strong technology programs for the past several years. An innovative pre-engineering program has provided new challenges for a group of ninth-grade students. Our ro-

botics program has introduced a rigorous, hands-on engineering experience to Upper School students as well as a newly formed sixth grade team. Seniors taking the Engineering Design elective study structural engineering, physics and aerospace engineering. Many students have pursued independent projects in science and technology—several of which have included partnerships with local university research

teams. Lower School students are benefiting from a bright and expansive new science room with a new bird aviary as well as a salt water aquarium with live coral.

SERC will expand these programs and put Potomac's overarching goals into action over the next several years under the leadership of director Bill Wiley in concert with faculty from all four divisions. The Center will use a multi-disciplinary approach that includes not only an array of cutting-edge science and tech-

nology learning opportunities but also a curriculum that develops powerful skills in communication, team building, strategic thinking, change management, project management and ethics.

The integrated K-12 structure of Potomac provides the advantage of introducing key experiences and skills early in a child's education. Thus older students are enthusiastic and prepared to tackle complex challenges as well as keep up with today's accelerated pace of technical research and discovery.



Top Left: The Siemens Foundation named Potomac School junior Grace Young and teammate Jennifer Wang, a senior at Montgomery Blair High School, as regional finalists in this year's Siemens Competition for Math, Science and Technology, the nation's leading research science competition open to high school students.

Their project, one of thirty selected from 1,200 submittals, was based on physics work they completed last summer at the Joint Quantum Institute at the University of Maryland. **Above right:** Engineering Design students applied their structural engineering knowledge in a friendly competition to build the strongest possible bridge of dry spaghetti and epoxy that could span a 75cm gap, weigh no more than 750 grams and provide room for a toy car to traverse. The winning bridge could support a whopping 113 pounds. Their next project will focus on the physics of flight and aerospace engineering and will culminate in the design, building and testing of ultra high-flying water rockets. **Above left:** The newly-formed 6th grade girls First Lego League robotics team attended their first tournament at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab. They competed on the basis of their robot's performance as well as on their ability to work as a team and present a solution to a transportation problem. They were rewarded with the Technical Award and advanced to the Maryland state championship, where they were awarded first place for their presentation on solutions to Potomac's traffic problems.

Potomac Partners with Chinese School

Early this year Potomac signed a sister-school agreement with Tsinghua High School in Beijing, a science and technology magnet school affiliated with Tsinghua University. The relationship will be broad in scope, covering areas as diverse as environmental science, the arts, Model UN, leadership development, robotics and foreign language. In addition, Potomac will use the relationship as a platform for a broader Asia Studies program.

“We will be looking more intently at China as a world power with its involvement in every aspect of the world, from economics to politics to culture,” says Head of School Geoff Jones, who traveled to China over the winter break with Chinese Studies teacher Graham Bauerle and Foreign Language Department Head Daniel Shannon.



Potomac Head of School Geoff Jones and Tsinghua High School Principal Wang Dianjun shake hands during the sister-school signing ceremony in Beijing in December. Behind them (l-r) are Potomac Foreign Language Department Chair Daniel Shannon, Potomac fifth grader William Mullen, Tsinghua High School Vice-Principal Shi Ping, Potomac Chinese Studies Teacher Graham Bauerle, Exchange Program Coordinator Jenny Zhang (obscured), Potomac Chinese Program Counselor Angel Mullen, Potomac parent Michael Mullen, Tsinghua University Professor of Education Wang Xiaoyang, Tsinghua High School Vice-Principal Liu Jun.

Tsinghua University, the premier science and technology university in Beijing, has two associated schools — Tsinghua High School and

a K-12 International School. A group of 17 Potomac students traveled to Beijing in March to spend two weeks on Tsinghua High's campus. We

will return the hospitality in January 2011, when a group of Chinese students will travel to Potomac.

Potomac hosted Chinese educational leaders from the Chinese Embassy in Washington at our first Leadership Forum on Potomac's campus in April 2009, which included 60 students from metro area independent schools. The forum focused on China's response to the global economic crisis. One of our distinguished guests, Dr. Wang Xiaoyang of the Chinese Ministry of Education stationed in Washington, DC, helped us develop the partnership with Tsinghua High School.

If you would like a more in-depth look at all the fun that was had during the China trip, visit Shannon and Bauerle's blog at <http://potomacinchina.wordpress.com/>.

Fall Frolics Expands with Friday Fiesta

The Potomac community celebrated its 32nd annual Fall Frolics Carnival in October. In spite of cold, rainy weather, more than a thousand people packed the hallways and spilled out of the classrooms while enjoying carnival games, fortune telling, the student raffle, Potomac Bazaar, Nearly New and much more. This year, a Friday Fiesta was added to the week of festivities, and parents

and faculty had a wonderful time getting in some early holiday shopping at Marketplace before heading over to the Crossroads for dinner and dancing.

Over the years, Fall Frolics has raised millions of dollars for faculty professional development and student scholarships. The Potomac School's strong commitment to its teachers and students would not be possible without the

ongoing support of its dedicated volunteers. Every year, hundreds of students, faculty and parents give thousands of hours of time to support this beloved tradition. The Potomac School would especially like to thank Melissa O'Gorman and Mary Nevarez, our 2009 Fall Frolics Chairs, for their strong leadership, generosity and devotion to Fall Frolics.

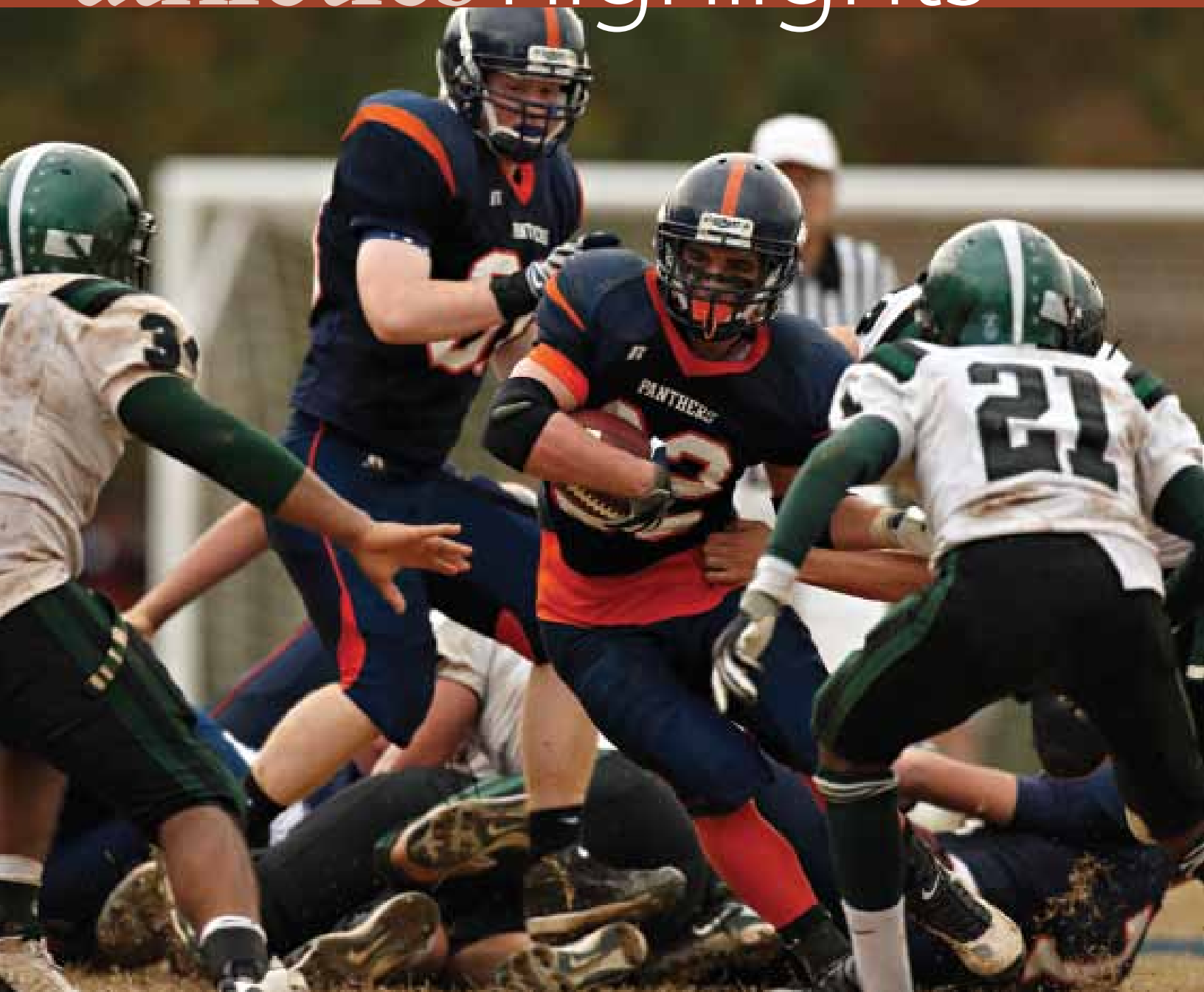
Mark your calendars for



2009 Fall Frolics Chairs
Melissa O'Gorman and Mary Nevarez

next year's Fall Frolics on Saturday, October 16. We hope to see you there.

athletics highlights



Football Revels in 7-Game Streak

It was a season of superlatives for the Potomac varsity football team. Following a seven-game winning streak, the Panthers finished with a 7-2 regular season record and made the Virginia State playoffs for only the second time in School history.

The team was led by Potomac's Director of Boys Ath-

letics Rob Lee, who returned to the head coach position this year after an 11-year hiatus.

"It's great to be back coaching football again. It was a blast, and the kids were fantastic," he says of the experience.

The season started with a solid 28-17 win at Randolph Macon Academy, where the Panthers amassed 423 rush-

ing yards and 19 first downs on offense. The next three games followed suit with outstanding rushing attacks and solid defense to secure three more wins. Then, in a contest against Trinity Episcopal of Richmond that featured nine lead changes, Potomac prevailed on a last-minute drive to win 41-37.

Potomac held its next two opponents scoreless and briefly sat at the top of the MAC with two tough games left to play. Though the Panthers suffered losses in their last two games – battling Maret to a score of 13-6 and Flint Hill to 21-13 – Potomac maintained

its number three ranking in the top division of the VISAA and secured a state playoff berth for only the second time in the history of its varsity football program. The Panthers fell to Liberty Christian Academy in the playoffs.

Junior Conor McNerney led the team's offensive play with more than 1,800 yards in rushing. Junior defensive tackle Jack Rhodes, junior linebacker John Marinelli and junior free safety Ian McNerney were leaders for the defense.

"We had a magical run," says Coach Lee. "We can't wait for next year."



Junior Conor McNerney (facing page, center) led the varsity football team to an outstanding season, rushing for more than 1,800 yards. The defense, including Junior Nick Shashy and Sophomore Cameron Kahl (left, taking down an opponent), was also strong. Senior Alex Falconer (bottom left) and Junior Michael Duffy (bottom right) contribute key plays.





Clockwise from top left: Junior Kathleen Smith, Junior Campbell Millar and Senior Captain Sarah Hunt were part of this year's talented girls varsity soccer squad.

Girls Soccer Boasts Stellar Record

The Potomac varsity girls soccer team produced another fantastic regular season, finishing with an impressive 12-1-2 record. The team's only loss was to rival NCS in a tough 1-0 battle. Led by senior goalkeeper and captain Churchill O'Connell, who once again proved herself the best goalie in the ISL, the team boasted

a strong defense anchored by captain Maddie Brennan and junior Kathleen Smith. On the offensive side of the ball, captain Sarah Hunt, along with junior Campbell Millar and sophomore Samantha Kaplan, led the way for the Panthers for much of the season.

Potomac controlled much of its own destiny during the

season, with outstanding victories over Paul VI and Sidwell Friends. But two ties down the stretch with Georgetown Visitation and Flint Hill ultimately proved costly for the Panthers, dropping them to fourth seed in the ISL tournament and pitting them in a tough rematch against Sidwell. Despite only being able to field 12 players, Potomac played well for much

of the tournament game, battling hard for 80 minutes but coming up short in a 2-1 loss. It was a difficult ending for an unusually talented team. Potomac will look to rebound next season with a strong returning team and with hopes to recapture the league banner.

Boys Soccer Reaches State Final Four

It was a great run for the Potomac boys varsity soccer team, who advanced to the Virginia State Final Four for the first time in school history. The boys had

gone undefeated in their last 12 games of the regular season and scored an impressive 39 goals during their streak.

In one of Potomac's most exciting games of the season

against MAC rival Sidwell Friends, the Panthers mounted a strong comeback from a score of 1-3 to tie the Quakers at 3-3 in the closing minutes of the game. Sidwell was

ranked #1 in the metro area by *The Washington Post*.

During the MAC tournament semifinals, the Panthers defeated Georgetown Day School 2-1 in overtime. In the finals, the Panthers again met #1 seed Sidwell, but fell by a score of 3-1.

The Panthers next turned their focus to the Virginia State Tournament, where they battled St. Christopher's to the 1-0 victory that put them in the final four. However, the Panthers fell short of reaching the championship game when they dropped the match against #1 seed Episcopal, 1-0, on a dreary, rain-soaked field in Richmond.



Clockwise from top left: Senior Matias Rodlauer, Junior Hugh Danilack and Sophomore Jamie Lovegrove battle it out on the soccer field.



Above, the girls cross country squad sets out alongside competitors at a meet at Flint Hill. Right, Senior Shivani Kochhar is a four-time member of the All-State cross country team.

Girls Cross Country Finishes with Top State Runners

The girls cross country team performed well this season against a challenging field. They finished third at the renowned Maymont U.S. Army meet in Richmond on September 26, a contest that draws many top regional and national competitors.

At the ISL championships at Episcopal High School on October 31, the girls squad finished a close fourth in the league. And at the Virginia State Championships at

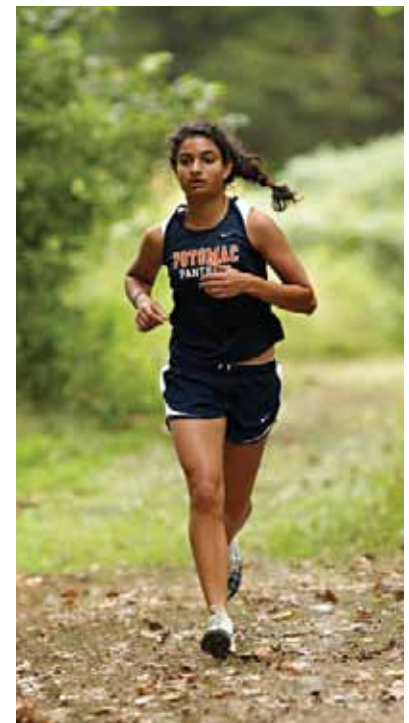
Woodberry Forest November 13, the girls ran well despite cold weather and rain. They placed sixth out of 12 teams.

Senior Anneka Wilson completed her high school cross country career in fine style, winning her third ISL title and her second state championship. Senior Shivani Kochhar, a four-time member of the All-State cross country team, placed sixth overall in the ISL and 11th in the state.

Next year the team will be relatively young, says Coach

Jenny Bodine, with a number of promising runners including top-seven freshman Julia Keller. “The future is bright despite losing five seniors,” says Coach Bodine.

This year the team enjoyed a newly created 3.1 mile home course. The challenging and hilly course covers much of the School’s 96-acre campus, including the grounds of the Lower School, the perimeter of the Gum Tree fields, the Lee Property and the trails of Pimmit Run.





Post-Season Awards

The following students were honored with post-season awards by the Independent School League (ISL), the Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC), the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association (VISAA) and *The Washington Post*.

ISL All League Team Selections (girls)

Cross Country: Shivani Kochhar
Anneka Wilson

Field Hockey: Jill Britton

Soccer: Maddie Brennan
Campbell Millar
Churchill O'Connell

MAC All League Team Selections (boys)

Golf: Brian Carson
Robert Lobban

Cross Country: Jack Kaplan
Nick Kensinger

Soccer: Hugh Danilack
Andrew Jones
Matias Rodlauer
Bennet Varney

Football: Jorman Heflin
Conor McNerney
Ian McNerney
Jack Rhodes
Nick Shashy

VISAA All State Teams:

Cross Country: Shivani Kochhar
Anneka Wilson

Field Hockey: Jill Britton

Boys Soccer: Andrew Jones – *First Team*
Matias Rodlauer – *Second Team*
Bennett Varney – *Second Team*
Hugh Danilack – *Honorable Mention*

The Washington Post All Met Teams

Football: Conor McNerney
Honorable Mention

Girls Soccer: Churchill O'Connell
Campbell Millar
Honorable Mention

Boys Soccer: Andrew Jones
Honorable Mention

Field Hockey: Jill Britton
Honorable Mention

Cross Country: Anneka Wilson
Second Team

Potomac athletes honored with post-season awards included (top, left to right) Junior Hugh Danilack, Senior Churchill O'Connell, Senior Jill Britton and Junior Conor McNerney.

slice of life





Facing page and top: Junior and Senior girls compete in the traditional Powder Puff flag football game during Homecoming weekend. Upper Schoolers dress up for Spirit Days (top right), and athletes and the Panther mascot play to the crowd at the Homecoming Pep Rally (above and right).



Clockwise from above: St. George and the dragon engage in combat during the traditional eighth-grade performance. Seniors enjoy some music on the beach during the senior trip at Chincoteague, Va. Saxophone players at the Upper School Fall Concert.





Can you do the Turkey Tango? Kindergartners perform this fun dance at the Thanksgiving Assembly, top. Above, seventh graders on their trip to Caroline Furnace. Left, Lifers walk new kindergarten students into the Opening Day assembly.



Clockwise from top: Fourth graders recount the history of Hannukah at the Middle School Festival of Carols. The Upper School fall play, *Cat's Cradle*, plays to a full house in the Black Box Theater. Upper School musicians entertain the crowd at the Fall Concert.



Left: The Intermediate School chorus, led by teacher Jerry Rich, performs at the IS Winter Concert. Below: A cappella groups Mag 7, left, and Quintessence, right, perform at the Upper School Winter Lights assembly. Bottom: First graders get in the spirit at the Lower School Carols Concert.



alumni activities

Families Go Green



The Potomac School's passion for the outdoors and the land runs deep. Alumni joined current families and Potomac staff to help support this tradition on Fall Environmental Stewardship Day, October 3.

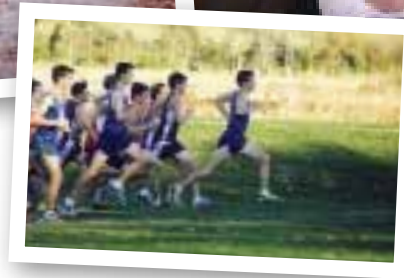
The campus restoration project included clean up and preparation of the natural parts of campus for the fall and winter. Environmental sustainability staff also offered mini-classes on topics such as vermicomposting (composting using live worms) and led a long walk on the trail. A good time was had by all.

Potomac Community Celebrates Memory of Landon Schmitt '99

Alumni, teachers, family and friends gathered for a 5K cross country run at Potomac on Thanksgiving morning in honor of champion runner, athlete and friend Landon Schmitt '99, who passed away last year.

Despite the misty weather and muddy shoes, spirits were high and all shared fond memories of Landon, including his demolishing the competition in high school cross-country

races. In addition to getting a few out-of-shape alumni to dust off their running shoes, the race brought former English teacher and cross-country coach Marcel Gauthier all the way from Salt Lake City, as well as Landon's brother, Jonathan Schmitt '93, from Dubai. The race will be held again next year, and everyone in the Potomac community is invited to participate.



Snapshots, left and bottom: Landon Schmitt often led the pack in cross country races during his years at Potomac. Right: Schmitt at a Global Community Service Foundation event in Vietnam, where he lived and worked after college.

Alumni Take On Students in Squash, Basketball

In the traditional Friday after Thanksgiving Alumni Sports Challenge, alumni turned out to compete with current Potomac teams in a day of camaraderie and fun. On hand were Potomac Boys Athletics Director Rob Lee '78, Squash Coach Steve Hufford, and Upper School Basketball Coach Levi Franklin. Players and fans included students, alums, past parents and grandparents.



Alumni participating included (back row, l-r): Chris McNerney '04, Robert O'Connell '05, Len Pfeiffer '06, Matt Linden '07, Mac Reed '07, Tim Prowitt '08, Kevin Gamble '97, Peter Prowitt '04, Brent Locey '04, Brian Fairbank '03, Robbie de Picciotto '04, Daniel Rizk '09, Coach Matt Carlin. Front row (l-r): Dominic Dickerson '04, Dan Direnfeld '05, Greg Namrow '07, Mike Fischer '04, Marty McNerney '03. Left, Peter Prowitt '04 goes up for a shot.



Alumni squash players included (back row, l-r): Tim Shaver '00, David Scott '09, Tyler Stilwell '07, Charlie Lonaeus '07, Russ Powden '07, Brian Donovan '07, Jamie Beddow '07, Shane Donovan '05, Bradley Allen '01, Gustaf Lonaeus '05, Patrick Harris '04, Matt Nims '01. Front row (l-r): Coach Steve Hufford, Aaron Kur '07, Nick Echeverria '07, Justin Stilwell '05, Jay Subhash '00. Above, Justin Stilwell '05 in action.



Above: Emily Andrews '98, Mark Zeisel '96, Ian Maxwell '98. Right: Patrick Harris '04, Taylor Manning '05



Thanksgiving Gathering Attracts Scores of Young Alumni

More than 125 alumni attended Potomac's annual "young alumni" gathering the Friday after Thanksgiving. While the event has traditionally catered primarily to college-age alums, the scope was increased this year to include all Potomac alumni dating back to the first

high school class of 1990. The get-together was moved from its long-standing home at Garrett's to one of DC's newest bars, George, located right off Wisconsin Avenue in Georgetown. A large contingent stayed long into the night to catch up and dance with old Potomac friends.

Big Apple Alums Gather

More than 55 Potomac School alumni gathered January 25 in New York City to reminisce, catch-up and enjoy each other's company. Organized by the Potomac Alumni Office and an outstanding host committee of New Yorkers, the event was a wonderful opportunity to bring together alumni, a group that is so important to The Potomac School. Attendees represented alumni classes spanning from 1958 to 2005. Former and current

faculty Sheila O'Marah, Linda Anderson and Heyden Rostow were also on-hand to round out the balmy winter evening at the Yale Club of NYC.

This event marks a renewed effort to connect alumni with others living nearby. If you would like to host an alumni reception in your community, please call Director of Alumni Relations Laura Miller at 703-749-6329 or email lmiller@potomac-school.org.



Top (l-r): Chris Cramer '96, Mina Faltas '96 and Julia Bissell '97. Left: Kate Coyne '98 and Jody Goehring '99. Above (l-r): Will Lamson '96, Potomac Assistant Head of School Sheila O'Marah and Sartaj Ajrawat '02.

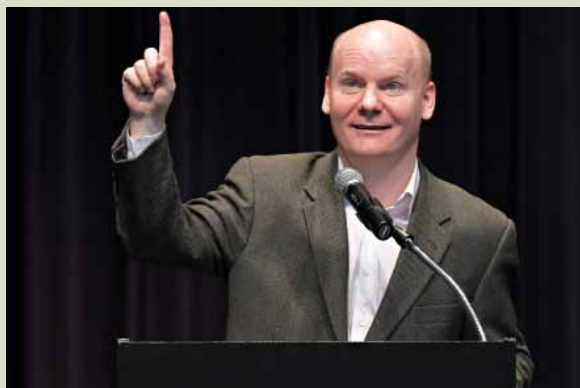


Alumni and Past Parents Entertained by "The Fool"

A number of alumni and past parents joined Potomac Upper School students and faculty the morning of January 20 to hear a dynamic presentation by Tom Gardner, founder, CEO and co-chairman of the financial advisory company The Motley Fool. The event was part of the Distinguished Speakers Series, a project of the Parent Association that brings speakers to campus to enhance students' exposure to a wide variety of interesting viewpoints and topics.

Gardner gave an engaging speech about the "Five Things

I Wish I'd Learned in High School." He advised students to beware the lure of easy credit, since low monthly payments and high interest rates on credit cards can quickly balloon into debt that can limit your choices years later. He argued that finding a job you love is much more rewarding than working at something you hate or don't respect, just to earn money. He encouraged students to invest in the stock market and suggested some ways to find a good investment. He noted that the same advice applies to both looking for a job and looking for invest-

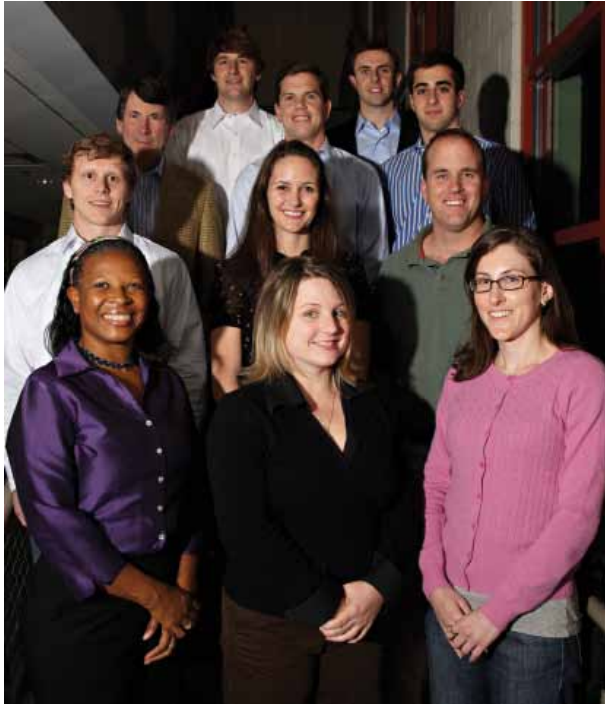


ments: Find places where people love to work and love to shop.

Alumni interested in hearing

future speakers should email Laura Miller at lmiller@potomacschool.org for details.

Alumni Governing Council



The 2009-2010 Alumni Governing Council includes many new faces. The team is doing a great job planning activities and building alumni programs. Pictured from front, left to right: Lola Singletary '78, Ann Renzy Maclean '86, Cameron Kilberg '98; Second row: Reed Landry '99, Sarah Fennell '03, Bern Hoffmann '86; Third row: Dick Schmitt, George Wisecarver '95, Esfandyar (Yar) Batmanghelidj '10; Back row: Andrew Warin '03, Reed Kuhn '95. Not pictured: Jamie Sullivan '96.

Alumni Delight in Washington Revels

Washington Revels' 27th annual celebration of the Winter Solstice transported more than 160 Potomac alumni and current families to Italy at the end of the 15th century. Revels Executive Director Greg Lewis, his wife Susan, company manager, and son Marc '02 performed with a cast of more than 75, ages 8 to 80. Potomac fifth grader Layla Alexander and third grader Emelie Jarquin Manegold were part of the cast; former teacher Nancy Lindsten Taylor '67 was Children's Music Director, and Terry Winslow '58 and current parent Roxana Oppenheimer Day '71 worked backstage.

The Washington Revels, founded by longtime Potomac music teacher Jack Langstaff, began as seasonal celebrations of the winter solstice and rebirth of spring at Potomac in the 1950s and '60s. Potomac alumni and teachers helped form the Washington Revels in the 1980s, and many members of the Potomac community have acted and sung in every performance since that time.

Members of the Potomac community attended the traditional afternoon reception December 5 at Washington, DC's Lisner Auditorium as well as one of two performances that afternoon and evening.

ALUMNI

Are You
Out of
the Loop?

Between editions of *The Potomac Term*,
1,798 of you are missing out on...

- The monthly alumni e-newsletter "Llama Notes"
- E-alerts on fun alumni networking events near you
- The latest buzz on Potomac's campus
- And more!

What to do about it?

Contact Laura Miller at lmiller@potomacschool.org,
call 1-800-725-8664 or go to
www.potomacschool.org/alumni and reconnect.

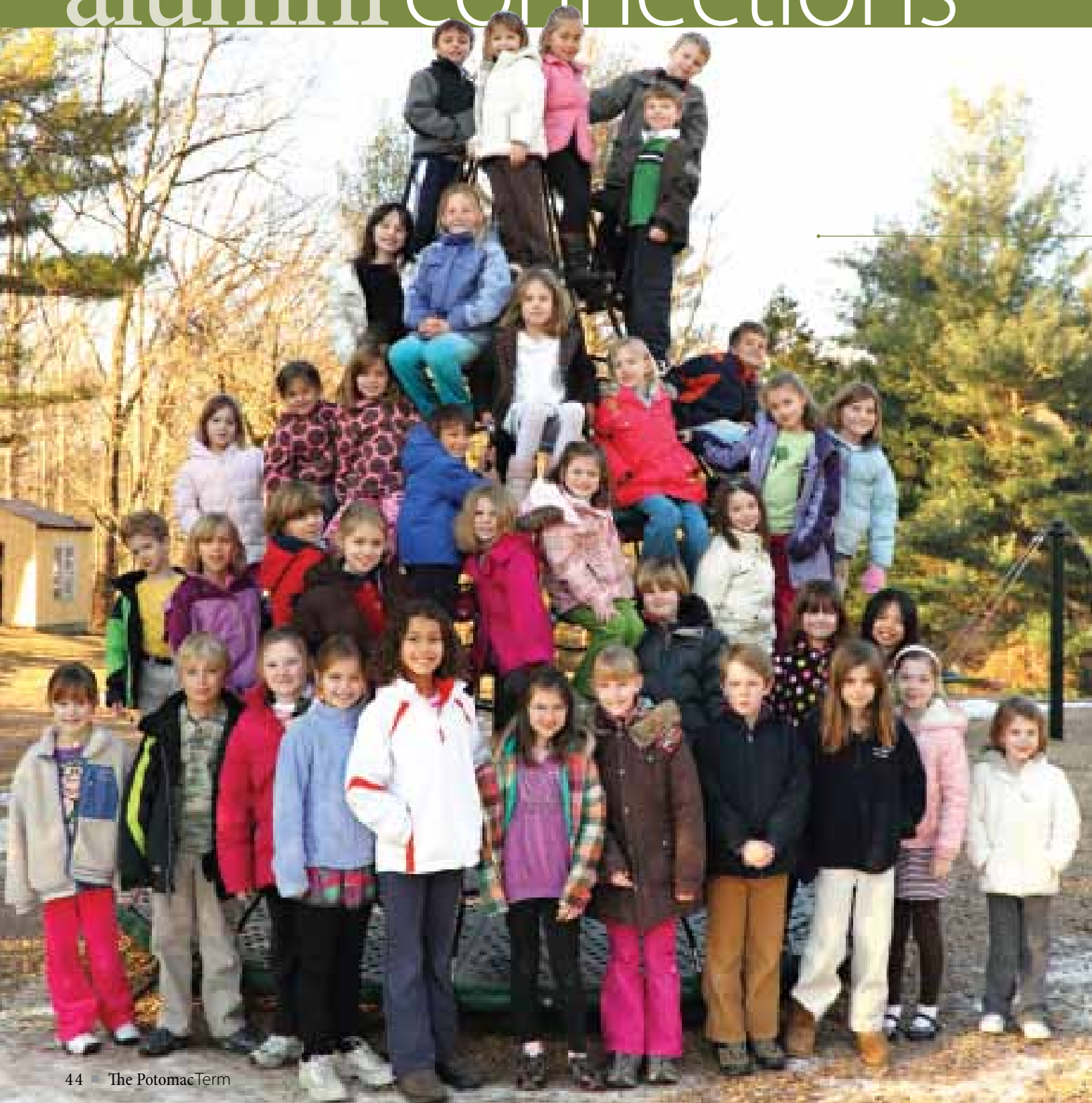
Don't stay out of the loop! Contact Potomac today.



SHEPPARD FERGUSON

Top: Susan Lewis with current parent Dawn Renzy Bellinger '77 at the Potomac Revels reception. Left: Eliza Jarquin Manegold '82 helps daughter Emelie '19 with her makeup. Right: Revels Director Greg Lewis.

alumni connections



middle school

Back (l-r) **Tyler K. Crowley** (Ayse Uzer Crowley '85), **Hayden R. Cherouny** (Merrell Redway Cherouny '82),

Theodore L. Tierney (Christopher R.

Tierney '79), **Tobias M. Robinson** (Farida Moreau Robinson '80), **Abraham H. Wilson** (Speke Wilson '79), **Alex Crowley** (Anne Sprunt Crowley '69), **Charles K. Ausbrook** (J. Keith Ausbrook '73), **Miles W. Wilson** (Speke Wilson '79), **James L. Pitzer** (Lavinia Lemon Pitzer '82), **Sebastian B. Cox** (Alison Vest '81). Front (l-r): **Sydney Frazier** (David B. Frazier '77),

Catherine F. Mathias (Robert M. Mathias '77), **Gwyneth C. Catto** (William H. Catto '78), **Rebecca W. Crowley** (Anne Sprunt Crowley '69),

Isabella N. Sagarese (Sarah Ewing Sagarese '85), **Catherine H. Frank** (Randolph A. Frank '72), **Grace W. Moses** (David Moses '76), **Gabrielle M. Cecchi**

(Enrico Cecchi '85), **Mary K. Ausbrook** (J. Keith Ausbrook '73), **Courtlynn T. Caskin** (Christopher S. Caskin '77), **Lily E. Longwell** (Natalie Washburn Longwell '86), **Claire M. Pitzer**

(Lavinia Lemon Pitzer '82), **Eleanor L. Frank** (Randolph A. Frank '72), **Margaret M. Ewing** (John C. Ewing '78).

Top (left-right): **John W. Sagarese** (Sarah Ewing Sagarese '85), **Emily H. Dunn** (Annabelle Redway Dunn '85), **Elizabeth W. McKean** (David McKean, Jr. '82), **William J. Schermerhorn** (Sarah Kilberg Schermerhorn '95), **William C. Fearey** (Paul Fearey '78). Second from top (l-r): **Elizabeth Winsor** (Curtin Winsor III '78), **Elizabeth Oskoui** (Ramin Oskoui '78) **Riley Schermerhorn** (Sarah Kilberg Schermerhorn '95), **Malena G. Cecchi** (Enrico Cecchi '85), **Giuseppe Cecchi** (Enrico Cecchi '85), **Caroline K. Lay** (Prentiss Vallender Lay '85 and Mark Lay '76), **Mikaela Catto** (William Catto '78). Third from top (l-r): **Natasha Edwards** (Anita Winsor-Edwards '79), **Anabel M. Kadri** (Sarah McClure '82), **Marisa B. Kadri** (Sarah McClure '82), **Elias Lerner** (Renee Lettow Lerner '83), **Madeline Schermerhorn** (Sarah Kilberg Schermerhorn '95), **Samantha Gerstel** (Aunt Allyson G. Bloom '92), **Theodore Gerkin** (Allyson Bloom '92) **Isabel L. Tierney** (Andrew Tierney '80), **Katherine R. Newton** (Virginia Young-Newton '83), **Annabel L. Resor** (James P. Resor '75). Second from front (l-r): **Enrico B. Cecchi** (Enrico Cecchi '85), **Anna Lerner** (Renee Lettow Lerner '83), **Harrison Kehler** (Charles Kehler '84), **Jacqueline C. McElroy** (Charisse Mortenson McElroy '91). Standing at front (l-r): **Holly Crowley** (Kenneth Crowley '85), **David J. McKean** (David McKean, Jr. '82), **Ellen P. Oskoui** (Ramin Oskoui '78), **Megan K. Sharkey** (Christine Rosenhauer Sharkey '83), **Emelie Jarquin Manegold** (Elizabeth Jarquin Manegold '82), **Jamie Gerstel** (Aunt Allyson G. Bloom '92), **Carla B. Cecchi** (Antonio Cecchi '84), **John W. Stody** (Anne L. Metcalf '79), **Megan M. Tierney** (Andrew Tierney '80), **Mary-Shea V. McDowell** (Robert McDowell '78), **Caroline Dunn** (Annabelle Redway Dunn '85). Not pictured: **Christopher Jarquin Manegold** (Elizabeth Jarquin Manegold '82).

lower school





intermediate school

Back (l-r): **Muna Juma** (Aisha Al Hussein '83), **Jessica Howard** (Victoria W. Howard '77), **Rosemary S. Ewing** (John C. Ewing '78), **Adam J. Moses** (David L. Moses '76), **Sydney M. Robinson** (Farida Moreau Robinson '80). Middle (l-r): **Grace Cherouny** (Merrell Redway Cherouny '82), **Clare M. Mathias** (Robert M. Mathias '77), **Brooks Arundel** (Peter W. Arundel '75), **Nicholas W. Arundel** (Peter W. Arundel '75). Front (l-r): **Kelly O'Gorman** (Scott E. O'Gorman Jr. '76), **Anna Regan** (Nina Howard Regan '78), **Chris Caskin** (Christopher S. Caskin '77).

upper school

Back (l-r): **Broadway Jackson** (Broadway Jackson '76), **Alexander J. Day** (Roxana Oppenheimer '71), **Cyrus Nassikas** (John N. Nassikas '74 and Georgia Chafee Nassikas '74), **Devon H. Winsor** (Curtin Winsor III '78), **Ann Bellinger** (Dawn Renzy Bellinger '77), **Allegra R. Wilson** (Speke Wilson '79), **Emma C. Regan** (Nina Howard Regan '78), **Jenna Meza** (Scott Meza '71 and Anny Lowery Meza '71), **Kip Strong** (Henry L. Strong '72). Front (l-r): **Cameron Kahl** (Caroline Baldwin Kahl '72), **DeLacy G. Rosse** (Gray D. Rosse '74), **John Henry Strong** (Henry L. Strong '72), **John E. Bennett** (Frank C. Bennett '73), **Philip L. Bennett** (Frank C. Bennett '73), **Alexander Nassikas** (John N. Nassikas '74 and Georgia Chafee Nassikas '74), **Caroline Resor** (James P. Resor '75), **Elizabeth A. Pitzer** (Lavinia Lemon Pitzer '82), **Zachary Meza** (Scott Meza '71 and Anny Lowery Meza '71). Not pictured: **Jessica Catto** (William H. Catto '77), **Carrita M. Thomas** (Paul D. Thomas '76), **Max R. Ausbrook** (J. Keith Ausbrook '73), **Rebekah Ausbrook** (J. Keith Ausbrook '73), **John S. O'Gorman III** (Scott E. O'Gorman '76).



Dear Alumni:

As Potomac School alumni, we know that traditions shape our experiences. Indeed, traditions form the cornerstone of the unique character that Potomac builds in its students. Lower School, the focus of this issue of *The Potomac Term*, marks the start of “capital-T” Traditions, such as Kindergarten Circus, Assembly and Holiday Carols, and also “lower-case t” traditions such as gathering in the hallways to work on a math game, riding the Llamas to far-off lands and wandering along the trails to Pimmit Run. Even students who begin their Potomac education after Lower School enjoy learning about these traditions and come to cherish the many opportunities to interact

with our youngest students. The Alumni Governing Council (AGC) wants all of our alumni to feel connected with Potomac, past and present, so that traditions continue to have meaning today and tomorrow. I have asked the AGC’s executive committee members to share with you, in their own words, how we, as a Council, hope to make that happen:

From AGC Vice President Reed Kuhn ‘95:

I was pleased to rejoin the AGC for another term, this time as vice president. As a Potomac “lifer,” with memories tracing all the way back to Kindergarten Circus and growing plants in the Lower School science garden, I’ve had plenty of time to appreciate and value The Potomac School experience. I continue to be amazed by the impressive accomplishments of my classmates. It is this sense of respect, pride and awe that drives me to serve on the AGC, with the goal of helping to strengthen the alumni network. Joining me this year is an influx of capable new AGC members, and we have harnessed our increased momentum to kick off some important new projects.

The focus of my effort has been formulating the AGC’s inaugural strategic plan. The process of strategic planning requires both introspective thoughtfulness and careful, forward-looking, strategic vision. Combining these with specific assessments and goals will allow us to execute our plan, track progress, and understand where we have excelled or lagged in our ongoing efforts. It will also give future council members a better platform for success.

I am happy to report that among our resources is the current Upper School Student Government President Yar Batmanghelidj. Yar’s student presence is a new addition to the Council, and he has already contributed generously and is working to improve the earliest phase of transition from students to alumni, which is a critical aspect of achieving our Council’s goals.

From AGC Secretary Ann Renzy Maclean ‘86:

I joined the Council for several reasons, not the least of which are my fond memories of the Lower School. At the 2009 Homecoming soccer match, I took great pleasure in playing on the Llamas and the Wishbone with my kids, as I did as a child. The new Lower School building is a source of pride for Potomac, as is the fact that future generations will learn the same values we learned in Lower School.

My second year on the Alumni Governing Council has been busy. I set up a Facebook page for the class of 1986 and have caught up with many classmates and alumni. In February I helped with the Annual Fund Phonathon. In addition, I am currently working on an alumni art gallery outing, similar to the Pompeii exhibition event at the National Gallery last year. All ideas are welcome.

This year’s Reunion will take place April 30 through May 1, which for the first time will include all alumni. I especially look forward to the Friday night reception at school (open to all classes). I am also eager for the Spring Alumni Tennis event on May 22. All abilities are welcome.

Please join us for at least one AGC-planned event this year!

We want to keep in touch with you, so please remember to login at www.potomacschool.org and let us know what you are doing.

Sincerely,



Lola J. Singletary ‘78
President, Alumni Governing Council



L-R: Maclean, Kuhn, Singletary

class notes

We encourage you to visit the alumni online community at www.potomacschool.org to keep in touch with former classmates and find out how to participate in current Potomac School activities. To submit an item for Class Notes, contact your class correspondent or Director of Alumni Relations Laura Miller at lmiller@potomacschool.org. Some classes need a designated correspondent—if you are interested in serving as a representative for your class, please contact Laura Miller for more information.

We reserve the right to edit submissions to Class Notes for style and length.

Got Facebook? If you have a Facebook account, search and join the official Potomac Panthers Alumni Group!

1932

Mary Wilson Neel writes, “I had my 91st birthday at my summer home on Sequam Lake, NH, with my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren visiting.”

1938

Rev. James G. Birney recently had a TIA but seems to be fully recovered. He and his dear second wife, Bobbie, are living happily in an ‘old folk’s home.’

John Dugger writes, “Three years ago Norma and I moved the six blocks from our family home in the Sumner community in Bethesda to Sumner Village, a group of condominium apartments surrounded by woods. It has easy access to the Capital Crescent Trail, the best hiker-biker trail in the Washington area, which passes our way on its route from Silver Spring to Georgetown. Surgery last August, with several weeks in Sibley Hospital, has slowed my sports a bit, but I play tennis and expect to be back on the bicycle shortly, as well as doing cross-country skiing in February. Norma remains in the travel business, and we have traveled to a number of exciting desti-

nations, such as Vietnam and Thailand. Our daughters (**Julie ’85** and **Patsy ’91**) caught the same bug and travel abroad a lot too when their work permits. We have often enjoyed visiting Potomac School, which has new buildings and a very impressive campus—as well as an impressive academic record. We suggest that you make a visit soon!”

Ernie Graves reports that although his golf game has deteriorated, he remains in good health, leaving to his wife the responsibility for honors at golf. He spends a good deal of time as chair of a committee developing the design for a new clubhouse for the Army Navy Country Club. He has three granddaughters and one grandson who have graduated from college; the grandson is now First Lieutenant in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. Two grandsons and one granddaughter are still in college.

Phil Nash continues to walk with his dog in Central Park, though his current dog is not as proficient in catching rats as a previous family dog, Brunhilde. The current dog was acquired in Vieques, where Phil and his wife maintain a vacation home.

Phil remains active in the commodity business, which he finds interesting and often exciting. He expects to retire in the next several years.

1942

Katherine Stanley-Brown Abbott writes, “I am the class correspondent for our tiny and, alas, dwindling class, but I try to stay in touch via news from *The Term*. Still loyal after all these years!”

1945

Georgiana Glenn Rodiger writes, “I am still a psychologist seeing patients and a pastor of two small churches.”

1947

Sheila Smith Cochran writes “I am excited to have my daughter **Cary Cochran ’71** nearby as she moved from Chicago to Alexandria, Va.”

Sally White Lee writes “no new news—here in winter months and in Maine for summer—4 children, 11 grandchildren.”

1949

Mary Gale Buchanan writes,

“I am busy in Annapolis—giving tours of the Naval Academy and keeping up with classmates!”

1951

Chrissie Watling Paddock writes, “I’m thrilled to announce that I became a first-time grandmother on Sept 30 when twin boys, Palmer Watling Paddock and Parker Wright Paddock, were born to my son, Peter, and wife Gina. Happily, they are healthy and adorable...and live right here in Naples, Florida!”

1952

Sorrel Mackall McElroy reports that she has four grandchildren at Potomac!

1953

Mary Murray Bradley Coleman writes, “I continue to enjoy being retired. Busy with volunteer work, tennis and paddle tennis, family, friends and a two-year-old yellow lab.”

1954

Edythe M. Holbrook writes, “My involvement in the world of cultural diplomacy continues—as chairman of the advisory

council of the newly founded Baltic Youth Philharmonic and as “American Mom” to a magnificent young Russian violin soloist Misha Simonyon, who will perform with the New York Philharmonic in July. I have returned to the world of foreign policy, joining the board of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy.”

1956

Leith McLean Adams writes, “I am having a delightful life, moved out of NYC after 35 years to Newport, RI, loving every moment of it madly sculpting, painting and playing. May you all be well!”

1959

Cornellia Biddle Saltzman writes, “Garden is great, health is good, son Charles and family have moved to Austin, TX, from San Francisco and daughter Clia and family remain in Rancho Santa Fe, CA; we have five grandchildren 2 to 13 years old; mother is 92 and frail.”

Patricia Makins writes, “Still in San Mateo, tending and eating out of my garden, attempting botanical watercolors.”

Kitty Bass Cloud writes, “Larry and I divide our time between Woods Hole and Peterborough, NH. I continue to paint in both locations. We have three grandchildren. Everything said about the joys of grandparenting is true!”

1960

Eve Auchincloss Lilley writes, “All is well with the Lilleys and 2 doggies. I am still testing and working with children with learning disabilities and still involved with all things ballet. We now have 10 grandbabies ranging from 2 to 17 years of age. All is well!”

1962

Louise McVickar Marx writes, “Our daughter and her family live in Amsterdam and our son and his family in Wellesley, MA. Each has two boys. I would love to see any classmates in Haverford or on the Vinyard. 1962 seems so long ago!”

1963

Anne Williams is still traveling extensively (Iraq, China, Lebanon, Nigeria) in 2009, doing economic development. Anne had great visits with **Harriet Sweeney, Fraun Felter** and **Edie Warner**.

1964

Alison Peake writes, “My son Trevor got married this past May and my youngest, Avery, will marry this coming May. Life is good!”

1966

Natalie Shiras writes, “I continue to enjoy the Berkshires as pastor of Church on the Hill in Lenox. News this year is my son Alex married the beautiful Petula, originally from India.”

Cricket Beauregard-Lewis writes, “It’s been fun to see **Brad Mackenzie**, as he’s back East to see his son every month or so. **Sally Hamby ’66** and her daughter visited in January. I’ve been rowing in an 8 boat on the Charles this summer and fall—ready to begin again in the spring.

1967

John Wolf writes, “I have moved (actually in the process as I write) to Wellfleet, MA, on Cape Cod from St. Louis, where I have lived for the past 21 years.”

1971

Ann L. Edgeworth writes, “I am working on a new HBO series called “Boardwalk Empire.” We spent two weeks in Europe last summer and two weeks in Rehoboth too.”

1972

Elizabeth P. Koehler writes, “Potomac’s dedication to music, poetry, nature, nurture and spirit stay with me. I pass these passions to my daughters May (11) and Lynne (9) for them to experience at their own pace.

1977

Vicki W. Howard writes, “My daughter is an 8th grader at Potomac and loves it! I am looking forward to watching her play tennis, perform in the musical, and all the other events she enjoys. I look forward to connecting with my old Potomac friends on Facebook.”

1978

Ian Angus Kerr is teaching, studying historical archaeology, sailing and most of all enjoying life!

1979

Bill Hoffman is in his third year of teaching at the American School in Mumbai, India.

1980

Romey Pittman writes, “I am working full-time on the reconstruction of our house (lost to fire last year) and looking forward to returning to education next fall. **Cecilia Van Hollen, Tory Vest, Kathy Rankin** and I had a lovely weekend reunion in Hillsdale, NY, this summer. Looking forward to our 30th!

Colin R. Poole writes, “I finally met the woman I have

waited for all my life. Kristine is a fabulous sculptor and ballroom dance teacher. We were married in June on a little island in Greece surrounded by wonderful friends from all over the world. We did our stateside wedding at Home Depot dressed as goats with guests dressed as fairies and elves—major motion picture in progress. Oopah. See what we are up to at colinpoole.com.”

1981

John Arundel and his wife Christine joyfully welcomed Amelia Diane Arundel on November 30, 2010. John is enjoying his job as Associate Publisher of Washington Life Magazine.

Jennifer B. Davis is currently a stay-at-home Mom to Lea, 4½, and Esme, 3. She is thinking about heading back to school next year.

1982

Tristram Carlisle writes “I keep in touch with **Lewie Hamady**.”

1984

Trevor Corson’s latest book is now out in paperback: *The Story of Sushi: An Unlikely Saga of Raw Fish and Rice*. Trevor has also expanded his activities as America’s only “Sushi Concierge” from New York City to Washington, D.C. For more information visit: www.SushiConcierge.com.

1986

Shawn Banerji writes, “The Banerji’s moved from NYC to CT this past year. I’m still working in midtown so I get my city fix. All good. I always like to hear what ’86ers are up to.”

Justin Cashman, an orthopedic surgeon, has been back in the DC area for 7 years and lives

in Annapolis with his wife, Kelly, and their three children Kelsey (8), Connor (5) and Caden (18 months). He writes, "I haven't seen anyone from Potomac since returning to the area but would love to get in touch. I do know two of Potomac's faculty members. John Mathews and I were great friends at Sidwell Friends. I heard he recently started at the school. I also heard that Blake Howard, who is a friend I met in the early '90s in Chautauqua, NY, is also working at the school. Can't believe it's been almost 25 years since we've seen each other. Time flies."

Robert Der writes, "I'm doing great. I live in the NYC area with my wife, Liz, and our two sons Jamie (3) and Connor (10 months). I saw Ted last winter in LA. Also had dinner with Jamie Kehler, Jamie Mayberry, and Paul DeGeorges about a year and a half ago. My son Jamie was there too, so it was a three Jamie outing. I see Paul pretty regularly and am looking forward to his wedding this spring."

Nikki Gililand Micheli writes, "My family and I are doing well in DC. The snow has been fun and we have been trying to hit the slopes as much as possible. Our restaurant, Portofino (theportofinorestaurant.com), will be celebrating its 40th year.

Call and I can meet you there anytime!"

Teddy Shapiro writes, "All's well out here in LA. My kids, Kate and Julian, are 4 and 2, respectively. They're great little exhausting people. I've been continuing to write music for films, which I love doing."

Zania Pearson continues to work for the State Department (17 years and counting!) these days as a web editor. She is glad to report that she really enjoys the office and the work. In Feb 2008, Zania traveled to Africa

as part of the advance team for President Bush's five-country tour. She reports that it was "pretty AWESOME." Last year health was an issue but she is on the mend now. Zania's daughter is currently a sophomore at Macalester College (MN). Zania writes, "I'm sure some of you have just barely married or have just started getting used to the pitter-patter of little feet, but hers are often running for the Metro or planes or some friend's car! So that is me in a nutshell at the moment. Can't wait to read the other fascinating updates."

1990

Nikkia Despertt writes, "My husband, John, and I had a baby girl, Alaysia Kennedy (below)! It's hard to believe she is one-year-old now, walking around and a bundle of energy. We're having a blast! We also re-opened our restaurant BB's Home Cooking (Georgetown, TX) earlier this year (below). Things are going well!"



1991

John McLean is an M.A. candidate at Central Michigan University for a degree in film theory.

Tim J. Wisecarver writes, "My wife Christine and I live in Arlington, VA, with our two-year-old son Ashton. I am in frequent contact with many DC area alumni including **Michael Semchyshyn**, **Billy B. Barton** and **Morgan Till**. I am happy to report that after 18 years things haven't changed much as Dr. Semchyshyn and I continue to live the "rockstar" dream moonlighting in our band, Naked Grace. During the day I work for a small data management consulting practice, CadenceQuest, servicing clients in the federal government sector.

1992

Kathryn Modecki writes, "I am currently a fellow at the Prevention Research Center at Arizona State University. I am an expert in juvenile delinquency and the intersection of psychology and law. I am also on the board of directors for Outward Bound USA, at-risk programs, having led 30 day court-ordered wilderness trips for delinquent youth for three years. Finally, I am the mother of 7-month-old twin girls! I am available to speak with Potomac students or alumni regarding any of these topics."

Allyson Bloom writes, "I recently had the opportunity to see **Stuart Salyer** while in Boston. And now proud to be a Potomac parent as my son, **Teddy Gerkin '22**, started kindergarten this year."

1993

Sanam Oveyssi writes, "I have been living in London with my husband and son of 15 months."

1994

Ryan Malone writes, "I recently won a case before the United States Supreme Court. The case, *Yeager v. United States*, involved

the scope of double jeopardy protection following a hung jury. Since 2002 I have practiced criminal, constitutional and appellate law in DC at Ropes & Gray. My wife, Liz, is an attorney at Skadden Arps in DC. We met in law school at the University of Virginia. We would be delighted to catch up with Potomac people in the area, so please look me up either here or on Facebook."

Mia Whang Spiker writes, "I'm in my last year of law school and will be working at Sullivan Cromwell Washington, DC. I love being a Mom. My daughter, Portia, is now a year old!"

Wendell Solomon Sweet was born this year to **Julia Morrill Sweet** and her husband Jesse Sweet.

1995

Ada-Marie Walsh Aman writes, "I am living in Richmond and practicing corporate law part-time for Hunter Maclean, a Georgia-based law firm. My husband Matt and I have a 2-year-old daughter, Clare, who keeps us busy!"

Jay Carter Brown writes, "After Potomac I went to St. Paul's School in Concord, NH, and spent one semester of my senior year in Beijing on a study abroad program. Then I went to Princeton and majored in Art History with a certificate in East Asian Studies. In 2002 I moved to China to work on The Nature Conservancy's China Program, based in Yunnan Province, southwest China. I've been living there ever since. In 2005 I started Lijiang Studio, a cultural program in a farming village in Yunnan, which works with artists from various parts of the world to produce works of art original to that place. I've been in love with a wonderful woman named Zhou Qiao for the last

four years but no baby weights to report yet.”

Chris C. DeMuth writes, “After several years in New York City, my family and I recently moved to New Canaan, CT. My wife, Elizabeth, is a full-time mom of our year-and-a-half old son, Christopher (*below*).



The three of us traveled to Alaska in late August and early September for some hiking and kayaking and plan on returning in November. I continue my work at Rangeley Capital, an event driven hedge fund. Additionally, I am spending time working on Rangeley Capital Foundation, which is responsible for giving to and handing investments for educational and medical endowments.”

Scott Farrell writes, I moved back to DC after college in Montana. My wife, Maura, and I live in The Palisades. When we aren't working, we like traveling and hanging out with our friends as much as possible. Thank goodness for Facebook. I still keep up with several of my friends from Potomac. I work for a locally based company called ePlus Government in Herndon, VA. My brother **Jay Farrell '92** is a vice president of our parent company.”

Bill A. Frisbie and his wife, Amie, just celebrated their son Luke's first birthday, and live in McLean. Bill is working at Gladstone Capital in private equity

and still sees a lot of '95 classmates on the weekends.

Ed McNamara writes, “My wife, Kirstyn, and I are living in Arlington and run into our Potomac friends in the area frequently. I play golf on the weekends with **Brian Pence** and **George Wisecarver** at Riverbend, and just sponsored some younger Potomac alumni (**Brian Fairbank '03**, **Carl '00** and **Victoria Fairbank '98**) as new members to the club. After spending the last nine years helping to coach The Potomac School boys basketball team, I am 'retiring' due to a new job that is occupying a lot of my time. I've loved the experience of coaching Potomac students over the years, and am amazed at the changes that have taken place on the campus.”

David Maxwell writes, “My wife, Claire, and I have been living in New York City for the past 10 years. Currently, I am managing the Canadian subsidiary of Surgical Appliances, a Home Health Care company based out of Cincinnati, Ohio. I have been doing a lot of traveling throughout the U.S. and Canada. I haven't seen any classmates beside **George Wisecarver** and **Scott Farrell**, but if anyone visits Ottawa, Canada, give me a shout.

Nan Ellen Nelson has been appointed by the White House to the Peace Corps headquarters to help coordinate special events. “I am very much enjoying this opportunity to serve our country in this way, and I feel privileged to work at the Peace Corps promoting world peace and friendship around the world,” she writes.

Elyse Sudow Howard writes, “We welcomed baby Max Dylan Howard in August 2009. He is doing great and big brother Eli is adjusting well. Would love to hear from any Potomac folks

coming through Vail to ski!”

Nelse Winder writes, “I am working as a nurse at UCSF in the pediatric cardiac ICU. I've been in SF for 2 years now and love it. Now that I am not travel nursing anymore, I've been doing a lot of other short trips. This past May I went to Croatia which was amazing, and next February I am going back to New Zealand for the second time.”

George Wisecarver writes



“My wife Katie and I moved to the DC area in 2007 and are living in Old Town Alexandria. We love having the bike path and all the Old Town amenities within walking distance. We try to get outdoors as much as possible on the weekends for golf, tennis or a run along the Potomac. I have seen classmates **Reed Kuhn**, **Carter Byrnes**, **Slater Harding**, **Bill Frisbie**, **Scott Farrell**, **Ed McNamara** and **Brian Pence** recently... all are doing well.”

1996

Several members of the class of 1996 spent parts of September and October celebrating their classmate **Christopher A.S. Crampton's** marriage. In September, **Christina Bennison**, **William Clarkson**, **Blair Farr**, **Seth Gaudreau**, **James Maxwell**, **Jamie Sullivan** and **Mark Zeisel** gathered in Washington, DC, to mark the end of

Christopher's bachelorhood.

The participants enjoyed a Nats game, a delicious crab dinner and some quality time catching up with old friends. In October, the action moved to Dallas for the wedding. Most of the bachelor party participants, in addition to **Bill Miller**, **Will Lamson**, and **Kyle Brookshire**, were in town for the festivities.

Left to Right: Christina Bennison, Kyle Brookshire, Seth Gaudreau.

1997

Emily Winland Gribble writes, “My husband and I are excited to announce the birth of our son, Michael Lee Gribble. He was born on July 26, 2009, in Durham, North Carolina.”

Capt. Conor W. Hiney is based with the U.S Air Force 4TN Fighter Group in England and graduated from U.S. Air Force “Top Gun” School in December 2008. He will be going for a 2nd tour in Afghanistan in December and then permanently to Nellis Air Force Base outside Las Vegas in April 2010.

John Conlin Meenan (Jack) was born on June 17, 2009, in Washington, DC, to Anna and **Michael Meenan**.

Ebbie B Wisecarver writes, “I'm living in New York City and working for Steven Holl Architects. Work has been exceptionally busy since I started with the company nearly four years ago, but I still manage

to travel and see old Potomac friends like **Channing Powell, Jon Soverow '96** and **Peter Kloman '96**. I try to enjoy the outdoors as much as possible in the city, going for long runs in Central Park or along the East River."

1998

Melissa Deland is no longer selling windows. She is now selling residential real estate with Foundation Realty Group.

1999

Yorke Allen and his wife, Virginia, will be having a baby any day now (she will have been born by the time this is published) and he is very nervous! Yorke continues to work at Jones, Lang, Lasalle in Tysons Corner and enjoys quiet evenings at his McLean townhouse.

Trenholm Boggs spends most of his weekends in the duck blind or sailing out on the Chesapeake. He continues to work at the government printing office, which requires travel to all parts of the U.S. and a recent trip to Europe. He lives in Georgetown with **Win Huffman '01** and **Reed Landry**.

Christian Gomez is living in Philadelphia pursuing an MBA at Wharton. He is also getting his Master's at SAIS in DC and hopes to eventually return to the workforce. He enjoys seeing many of his Potomac '99 friends and can't wait for the 10-year reunion.

Keith Huffman is living in DC, attending law school and poised for a strong playoff run in his fantasy football league.

Pamela Hilary Kasenetz is in her second year of an internal medicine residency at GW hospital.

Sasha Cooper-Morrison writes, "I am in Valenzuela,

Paraguay, working as a Rural Development Specialist with two Rural Women's Groups, teaching computer office management; working to raise money to build a center for The Women's Group who live outside the town of Valenzuela. I will be there until July 2010."

Doug Trabant is living in DC, working for a mid-level defense contractor, and anxiously awaiting a Washington Capitals Stanley Cup victory in June 2010.

2000

Keya Anjaria is busy completing her doctoral work in Turkish Studies in London, England. Her doctoral thesis is on the Turkish Novel.

N'Erin Brown and Velicia Sutton have left the workforce to pursue Master's degrees in DC and NY, respectively.

Billy Cook traveled through India for two months in 2009 and, not long after his return, began teaching science at St. Patrick's in Washington, DC.

After nine years in Los Angeles and New York City, **Jendayi Croom** has moved back to the DC area and is living in Prince George's County, MD, with her family. She secured a job at *The Washington Post* as a business analyst last March, got engaged in November, and is planning her wedding for early April 2010. Life is taking off and she can't wait for the upcoming chapter with her husband-to-be.

Ilia Doman currently lives in California and is employed as a news producer at KGYT-TV, the ABC station in Santa Barbara.

Jon Haworth spent most of the 2008-2009 school year substitute teaching at Potomac before returning to London in June for the second half of the year. He is now back in Washington,

DC, hunting for jobs, so feel free to get in touch with him if you have any suggestions!

Milada Hejtmanek graduated in May 2009 with an M.A. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from UNC Charlotte. She was able to do some traveling around Europe for two months between graduation and resuming her job (full-time now) at Bank of America. She is hoping to make the move back to the DC area or to NYC in 2010. She had a great time meeting up with her classmates at the Thanksgiving event at George. "Looking forward to seeing more people and catching up more at the reunion at the end of April."

Andrew Horn graduated in 2004 from the University of Wisconsin, after which he joined the Marines. He served four years as an officer in the Marine Corps, was stationed in 29 Palms, CA, and was deployed to Iraq. He returned from Iraq last September and then went through selection for Army Special Forces (Green Berets), successfully completed the course and was selected for training. He then switched over to the Army and is now a Captain in the Army in the Special Forces training pipeline stationed at Fort Benning in Georgia, near Atlanta.

Sima Jaafar Nasr got married in Washington, DC, in April 2009 to Nadim Nasr.

Kathleen Kiernan is graduating from University of Southern California medical school in May, will be starting her residency in June and is hoping to relocate back to the East Coast. She is also really excited that she's getting married over Memorial Day weekend to her wonderful fiancé. The couple met in medical school.

Kelly McMahon is currently living in Athens, GA, where her

husband, Dave, is finishing up vet school. She has been doing some freelance marketing work and remodeling their house. Neither Dave or Kelly had much prior construction experience, so it has been quite an adventure! Their daughter, Kenzie, is two and is a ball of energy. They are expecting another little girl. So, all in all, life is super busy, but that's the way they like it!

Matt Meenan and Emily Duncan finally got married last year and reside in Tenleytown in Washington, DC.

Louisa Thomas is happily married and living in New York after spending a year in Berlin writing for *Newsweek* and occasionally for *The New York Times Book Review*. She is currently completing her first book, *Conscience*.

2002

Vitoria Sylos-Labini writes, "I'm in the third year of my clinical psychology doctoral program—love working with adults and families at a group counselling center and living in Ft. Laudy."

2003

Pete Carrington writes, "I will be completing a Master's in social work at the end of this year from Hunter College and hope to pursue something involved in prisoner re-entry and later parole/probation work....**Eric Rosenthal** and **Kirk Goehring** had an enjoyable party over Halloween, lots of old faces and interesting costumes. I've been whistling 'wild mountain thyme' to the point of neurosis since I heard it in a bar close to eight months ago, and of course remember marching over the tundra during May Day." He is still in Brooklyn and hoping for a visit from Potomac friends.

Elizabeth Cook reported

that an excited group of '03 alumni flew out to San Francisco to attend **Alison Ayer Heyman's** wedding. **Andrew Warin, Lauren Huber, Frank Craighill, Daniel Gavula, Elizabeth Cook and Forest Kettler** spent the day on bikes touring the bay area (*below*).



Andrew Duncan has been working as a consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton in Washington, DC, while living with fellow Panthers **Andrew Warin** and **Brian Fairbank**. In October, he officiated his sister **Whitney's** '98 wedding at Sundance Resort in Utah.

Rachel Dyke writes, "I live in San Francisco, CA—this is my seventh year in the Bay Area

and I love it. I work for SunRun, a start-up that provides solar PV electricity as a residential service. We are growing very quickly, and I've found the solar industry to be extremely dynamic and rewarding. This Fall **Alison Ayer** got married in Half Moon Bay, CA. Twenty

or so people from our Potomac class of 2003 came out for the wedding, and it was truly one of the great highlights of my years on the West Coast. Alison's wedding was beautiful and it was so much fun to spend time with good friends from home in San Francisco. I am constantly reminded of Potomac traditions like May Day, Homecoming, and Red/Blue Day and will always feel grateful for the education I

received at Potomac."

Alison Ayer Heyman is still living in New York City, enjoying working at Google with fellow Potomac alum (and good friend!) **Ashley Bender**. She recently married David Heyman in Half Moon Bay, CA, with many of her '03 classmates in attendance." (*below*).



Eric Rosenthal is living in New York City with fellow Potomac alum **Kirk Goehring**. He has been working in commercial real estate finance at Gramercy Capital since graduating from UVA. He is glad to hear the Potomac football team is doing well and wishes the seniors good luck.

2004

Pete Dalla is working in Barcelona for Banco Sabadell. He writes, "Work is going well, and living abroad has been a great experience." Fellow 2004 classmate **Genna Beier** is also there studying at the University of

Barcelona. They hang out every now and then and try to remember verb conjugations from Spanish with Mr. Thomas.

Christopher McNerney is working at MAXIMUS, the nation's leading professional services firm, in Reston, VA, and enjoys being back in the DC area. He recently attended the wedding of fellow classmate **F. Ryan Yonkman**, who now lives in Pensacola, FL, and is training to be a Navy pilot. Several '04 grads were in attendance as well, including **Mike Fischer**, best man **Peter Prowitt, Brent Locey, Samantha Simon, Mike Nichols, Jake Gross, David Brady, Maggie Beddow, Claire Linden, Charlie Tansill** and **Mike Murphy**. Brothers **Skipper '01** and **David Calvert '05, Jamie Nemeroff '05** and **Timmy Prowitt '08** were also in attendance.

2008

Chris Tompkins writes, "I graduated from Lawrenceville in June '09 and am currently a freshman at Davidson in Davidson, NC."

2009

Connor Tetrault writes "I made the SMU men's lacrosse team."

in memoriam

G. Peter Shiras

Former Potomac Head of School Peter Shiras passed away at age 83 on February 9, 2010. He led Potomac from 1961 to 1964.

Among Shiras' greatest achievements was helping to lead the School through the transition to coeducation. As an active supporter of the Civil Rights Movement, he was also instrumental in introducing the first African-American students to Potomac in the early 1960s.

Shiras taught English for 58 years, which took him to New York, Athens and Istanbul. Following his tenure at Potomac, he served as Interim Head of Robert Academy. He also taught at the Hawthorne School, Sidwell Friends School and Eastern High School, where he helped start the Freedom Annex, a program to empower African-American students. In 1964 he volunteered with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Martin Luther King's organization, in St. Augustine, Florida.

Shiras loved poetry, Shakespeare, golf, opera, birds and boats. He was married for 58 years to Rosie Shiras, who died in 2008, and is survived by his daughter, Natalie '66, son, Peter '68, and four grandchildren.

Elinor Burns

Elinor (Eilie) Burns, who taught in the Middle School for nearly three decades, died February 9, 2010, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, after a long illness.

Burns came to Potomac in 1961 from California with an undergraduate degree from Smith College and a Master's in education from Harvard. In the early 1970s she spent a year in England exploring the "integrated day" concept, which involves providing a more flexible schedule of activities in the classroom that will foster children's growth in many areas at their own rates of development. After a year at Beauvoir, she returned to Potomac.

Students in Burns' fourth grade classes will remember her introduction to the ancient world, stories from Norse mythology and the books she read aloud. She shared with her students her solid liberal arts education, a strong sense of fairness and a well-disciplined mind, and they experienced her deep respect for each child. Many will also remember her much-loved cairn terriers, Annie and Megan, who were part of her classroom for years. Burns' friends and colleagues will remember her wonderful sense of humor, as well as her erudition, her loyalty and her thoughtfulness.

Junius (Joe) Moore

The Potomac community mourns the passing of Junius "Joe" Moore, a beloved bus driver and office assistant for nearly four decades. Moore was "nothing short of a legend around here," recalls Facilities Administrator Perry Swope. He transported generations of kids, most enduringly on the Cathedral DC bus route, and acted as the designated go-to errand man for the school. Swope remembers Moore as "the quintessential character," well liked but often devilish with a penchant for pulling legs and practical jokes. He was known for his abiding love of life and humankind, his sense of humor and his mortal fear of snakes. Joe was universally known, loved and respected as he was the veritable public face of the school in McLean at the bank, the post office, the government center, fire station, hardware store, etc."

Anne Distler Browne '41

Aldus H. Chapin '45

*Father of Lisa Chapin '72,
Nina Chapin de Rochefort '74
and Chip Chapin '75*

Jamison Cherinston '60

Worth Daniels '38

**Elizabeth P. Wheeler
Dunn '18**

Leslie Arends Eckel '62

Virginia Lutz Elwell '54

Jean Morden
Former faculty

Ann Simpson Mulvey '48

Florence Nelson '46

Laughlin Phillips '38

Maury Reyburn '28

Joan Simpson
Former faculty



Thanks to the generous support of parents, alumni, faculty and friends, the Annual Fund helps Potomac achieve excellence. Every gift, regardless of its size, supports essential programs and provides students with countless opportunities, from conducting experiments in the science lab to playing on the soccer field.

Help Potomac achieve excellence

The 2009-10 Annual Report will be moving to an online format this year. If we do not have your current e-mail address and you would like to receive the Annual Report electronically, please e-mail development@potomacschool.org.

We invite you to join us with your own gift. Please visit www.potomacschool.org or call the Annual Giving Office at **703-873-5557**.

Family Gives Generously of Time and Resources

Beth and Tom Eckert's relationship with The Potomac School began in 1996, when daughter Kathryn '09 entered Kindergarten. Since then, two more children, Lindsay '11 and Ryan '12 have followed in their sister's footsteps.

Throughout their years at Potomac, Beth and Tom have become involved in many aspects of school life, making generous gifts of time, talent and financial resources. These gifts include Beth's leadership roles in Panther Pride, the auction, the spring benefit, the hospitality committee and many others, Tom's service on the Board of Trustees, and their combined support of the Annual Fund, The Campaign for Potomac's Future, the Auction, Book Fair, and other special projects.

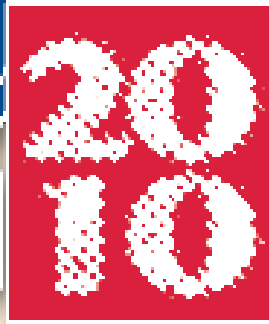
Through their participation in the Second Century Endowment Society, Beth and Tom's support of the School will extend far beyond Ryan's graduation in 2012. As Co-Chairs of the Society, Beth and Tom lead a group whose members have committed to provide for Potomac through their will or estate plans and will help ensure that Potomac's excellent teachers and outstanding programs continue to flourish.

"Our family has been a huge beneficiary of being part of the Potomac community for these many years. Education is very dear to our hearts, and planned giving of this nature is the way to assure that Potomac remains at the forefront of educating the future generations of leaders."

We are delighted to have Beth and Tom Eckert as our partners in philanthropy.



Membership in the Second Century Endowment Society is open to everyone. For more information about planned giving opportunities, visit www.potomacschool.org or contact Potomac's Associate Director of Development, Jinene Christian, at 703-749-6326 or jchristian@potomacschool.org.



REUNION

All alumni are welcome!

The Alumni Governing Council
and The Potomac School
Alumni Office are pleased to
welcome you back for

Reunion Weekend

April 30 – May 1, 2010

**All the latest information is at
www.potomacschool.org/alumni.
Questions? Call 703-749-6329
or email alumni@potomacschool.org.**

- Make plans now to join the celebration, rekindle friendships, share memories, and visit the Chester Gymnasium, Civali Courtyard, the new Lower School and Engelhard Performing Arts Center.
- Return and discover Potomac through a beautiful blend of the old and new, tradition and progress, and academics and play.
- Celebrate May Day Friday with fellow alumni, faculty and students.
- Enjoy a Friday night reception for all alumni and faculty.
- Greet friends at the Alumni Luncheon on Saturday and hear Head of School Geoff Jones speak about Potomac.
- Attend your Class Dinner at a classmate's home.

**Celebrating
the classes
ending in
0, 4, 5 and 9**



THE POTOMAC SCHOOL

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APRIL 30–MAY 1

Reunion: All Classes Invited with Special Celebration of Class Years Ending in 9, 0, 4 and 5

- May Day
- Friday Night Reception for All Alumni and Faculty
- Nature Trail Walk
- Alumni Luncheon
- Class Dinners

MAY 7

Grandparents Day

MAY 22

Alumni Lacrosse and Tennis

MAY 26

Alumni Governing Council Meeting 6:30 pm

JUNE 16

Graduation

For more information, visit our Web site at
www.potomacschool.org.