

Guilford Day School Challenger

Volume 6
Issue 2



Director's Corner



Laura Mlatac
Head of School

"One kind word can warm three winter months" - Japanese Proverb

Just as many of us were wondering if winter would ever come to an end, the sun is peeking through to signify that the seasons are changing and so is Guilford Day School. While the school's mission, beliefs, and instructional practices remain the same and at the center of all decisions, we are embarking on new opportunities in order to advance the school's ability to serve those with learning differences.

Guilford Day School is sponsoring a workshop in April, *Best Practices for Working with Students with Learning Disabilities*, with The Hill Center and The Piedmont School. This will be Guilford Day School's first time collaborating with schools with like missions to provide a venue for educators concerned about students who learn differently.

The School is also working with the Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) of North Carolina to begin the Learning Disabilities Association of the Triad. As the school considers expanding our facility and programs, we feel it is the perfect time to reach out to those in the Triad who would like to come together ten times a year to support one another. Along with founding the Triad chapter of LDA, we are honored to begin working with additional parent support groups in Greensboro and beyond to share

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Upcoming Events

Spring Break

March 29 - April 5

Teacher Workday

Monday, April 5

Washington, DC Trip (grades 7, 8, 11, 12)

Wednesday, April 7 - Friday, April 9

IEP Conferences

Friday, April 23 and Monday, April 26

Fundraiser at REFS Restaurant

Tuesday, April 27

PFA Family Spring Picnic

Thursday, April 29, 6:00 pm

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Board of Trustees

Linda Hale, Board of Trustees Chair

It's already March and with only a few more months of school remaining, we continue to be excited about the work our committees are doing in support of the School. We've been focused on:

- *Ensuring the school's financial stability
- *Increasing fundraising goals
- *Gathering feedback for the branding project
- *Completing the compensation package for faculty & staff
- *Improving the facility and planning for an expansion project
- *Recruiting new trustees

In these challenging economic times, our primary work has been to ensure financial stability for the School. I am pleased to say that Laura and her staff have done an excellent job of operating the school within its budget and have enrolled additional students, which has provided additional income for program and facilities. The Board is particularly grateful for the increased contributions from the Annual Fund for the purchase of an activity bus, new athletic uniforms and SmartBoards for the classrooms.

Our work on the branding project continues with North Star Marketing Firm. The community's role has been critical in providing North Star with feedback for the project throughout the year. Our intention is to continue to find ways to communicate more clearly to the greater Triad community the incredible value that Guilford Day provides to students with learning differences. We will share with you the results of this project as soon as it is completed.

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Parent Faculty Association

Mary Horan, PFA President

The Parent Faculty Association would like to thank you for your continued support this year. The goal of the PFA is to give the parents and the staff a forum in which to communicate and to contribute to the overall success of the school's mission.

One critical way to help our school is by joining the PFA. This year we have had 85 families and 25 staff members join the PFA. To date, the funds raised through the membership dues and the annual Innisbrook sale allowed the PFA to contribute \$8,800 to the Teachers Continuing Education Fund, the Annual Fund, and numerous other activities and programs.

The PFA is currently collecting donations that will fill three gift baskets that will be raffled off at the Annual Spring Picnic on Thursday, April 29th at Bur Mil Park. Each basket will be on display in the lobby starting in April. A few of the items collected thus far are a night at the O. Henry Hotel, dinner certificates, and tickets to the Grasshoppers. Each raffle ticket will be \$5.00. The PFA hopes to raise enough money to help us to meet our income goals and to be able to meet our financial obligations.

If you would like to volunteer or take on a leadership position within the PFA, please contact me at 273-9929 or maryhoranog@bellsouth.net or Nancy Spruill, Membership/Volunteers Chair at 282-6550 or nspruill@triad.rr.com. We look forward to seeing you at the Spring Picnic on the 29th.

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our knowledge and resources.

As Guilford Day School continues to expand our reach and serve our learning community and beyond, thank you for all the kind words you have shared with us this past winter. Your support is what inspires us all to strive for excellence in our classrooms and in all forums in which we have the opportunity to impact students' learning experiences.

Enjoy this edition of The Challenger!

Guilford Day School Community Programs

Tim Montgomery, Assistant Head of School

A sometimes far too well kept secret in our community is the outstanding job done by our staff who participate in our Community Programs at Guilford Day School. During the school year as well as in the summer months, many of our teachers tutor students from local public and private schools in all areas of academic need, with, reading and math being the two most requested subject areas. Over the years Guilford Day School tutors have gained an impeccable reputation for not only addressing specific academic needs, but assisting in rebuilding the self esteem and confidence in students in our community, much like they do for our own students on a daily basis. Also during the school year we offer The Knight Club (TKC), which is an after-school homework assistance program. TKC is led by a team of academic professionals who not only assist the students with homework but allow computer, library, and outside time for them as well.

In the summers, we offer Courses for Credit in our high school for students who either need to repeat a course or want to complete a new course. We also have our SMILE program which addresses student needs in the areas of reading and written language, our Sentence Writing and Paragraph Writing programs, and tutoring in all subject areas either in a one-on-one or a small group format. Every summer, many Guilford Day students and an equally large number of students from other schools take advantage of this valuable opportunity to keep their academic skills sharp by working with our well-trained team of professionals. For more information on our Community Programs, visit our website or contact Assistant Head of School Tim Montgomery at (336)282-7044 ext. 4642 or by email at tmontgomery@guilfordday.org.



Knight Club staff member Diane Howard assists fifth grader Sydney Rhyme with her homework



Guilford Day School is now on Facebook!

Become our fan for an easy way to stay updated with campus events. If you are an alumni or former student, be sure to request to join the Guilford Day School Alumni Page as well.

Alumni Spotlight

Life After Guilford Day School

On February 19, we held a roundtable discussion for parents to hear more about the long term impact of a Guilford Day School education. Parents of fifth through tenth graders were in attendance to ask questions of our two alumni, Eric Gal '05 and Marc Nelles '07, who both currently attend UNCG. The two major concerns expressed by the parents were the transition from the small, family environment at Guilford Day to a larger college environment and the extent to which Guilford Day's high school coursework prepares students for college. The benefits that came up over and over again by the alumni were how well they learned to self-advocate for themselves and how well the study and organizational strategies were ingrained during their time here.



Marc Nelles '07 and Eric Gal '05 discuss the benefits of their Guilford Day School education now that they are in college

Eric graduated from UNCG this spring with a degree in theater education and has returned to earn his second degree in English education. He would like to become a teacher. Eric attended Guilford Day School from sixth through twelfth grade and was very active in our drama department. Marc is currently a junior communications major. He attended Guilford Day School from ninth through twelfth grade and was a very accomplished athlete.

Eric and Marc both reported a fairly easy transition from Guilford Day to UNCG. Eric went to the residential college at UNCG, where he lived and took classes all in the same building and with many of the same students. He felt that the close-knit environment was similar to Guilford Day School, but “was still college intensive coursework, and I couldn’t have made it without the strategies I learned at Guilford Day...I really transitioned well from GDS; the sense of structure and organization really helped. The teachers helped me learn how I learn best...One of the most important things I learned here was how to advocate for myself. The Office of Disabilities (at UNCG) is not going to come knock on your door...When I came to GDS, I was ashamed of my disability, but I learned that I do have strengths and everyone is different.” Marc did not attend the residential college, but instead stayed in a regular dorm for his freshman and sophomore years. Marc said that “class size was a big concern for my parents, but at Guilford Day I learned how to advocate for myself. Just being able to go talk to my professors breaks a large class down to a 1-on-1 situation. I am able to develop a the same type of relationship with my professors that I had with my teachers here.”

The varied personalities of these two young men influenced their social transition to college. Eric describes himself as being shy, a trait which was helped by his self-advocacy skills. The close-knit atmosphere of the residential college helped him use his self-advocacy skills to develop a better social life. Marc describes himself as very outgoing. He was in a small educational environment from fourth through twelfth grade, and appreciated the wide variety of people he encountered once in college. Listening to Eric and Marc describe their different experiences at the same school demonstrated the need for students to find the place that best suits their strengths.

When asked how their Guilford Day School education prepared them for college coursework, Eric and Marc discussed various aspects of their education here that prepared them for what they were to face in college. Eric took some “hard classes (at GDS), but they were manageable

Student Spotlight

Jacob Mendelson

Eighth grader Jacob Mendelson has been a student at Guilford Day School for the past five years. He has recently become an avid swimmer, swimming year-round for Greensboro Swimming Association and also in the summers for Hamilton Lakes Swim and Tennis Club. Jacob has been swimming for about a year and really loves his time in the water. Although he likes swimming year-round, he prefers outdoor season. Jacob competes in local meets but also travels to meets in cities such as Charlotte and Raleigh.



Jacob's best strokes are freestyle and backstroke. His best events are the 50 free, 100 free, 100 back, and 200 back. He has recently added the 500 free to his repertoire, which is 20 lengths of a standard (25 yards or meters) pool. For Jacob to have only been swimming for a year and to be competing in the 500 free is an impressive feat since this event requires a lot of stamina and endurance.



Jacob's favorite swimmer is Jason Lezak, who won one bronze and two gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Summer Games. Like Jacob, Jason Lezak is also an excellent freestyler, winning his individual bronze medal in the 100 free, and earning the US a memorable come-from-behind victory in the 4x100 free relay.

Jacob spends many hours a week in the water. He plans to contribute his strength and endurance to the Guilford Day School cross country team this spring.

Alumni, continued overwhelmed when I got to college. It taught me how to handle higher-level stuff. I also learned HOW I learned while at GDS, and that really helped my transition." Since Marc participated in every sport every season here at Guilford Day, he was almost always balancing academics and athletics. He says about his time here, "everything was manageable, and I developed study skills and strategies. Everything I learned in the four years (at GDS) helped me manage my course load my freshman year."

The alumni were asked "when did everything "click" for you, that you have to do things for yourself? When did you appreciate the environment here? Realize that this is me and I am in charge of my next experience?" Both responded that experiences during their junior year helped things "click" as far as planning their next step. Marc said that junior year is when he started looking into colleges. He knew that going to college was important to him, so he began working in that direction. He said that Susan Hughes' junior English class was really the tipping point. "She really stressed writing because it is so important in college. I wanted college to be in my future, so that helped it kind of click." Eric also began looking into colleges during his junior year, assisted by some school-sponsored college tours. "Those field trips were really insightful. We talked to some students and professors and I began to realize what I was going to face in the next few years. It made me realize that everything I had been doing up to that point was helping me get ready to transition."

Thank you to Eric and Marc for sharing your experiences and insights with us. The parents who attended found the session very helpful. We are planning another session for an evening in May with some of our alumni who do not attend local colleges. We hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be another very informative and engaging session.

Homecoming 2010

The excitement for Homecoming 2010 started building on our first day back from Winter Break, as students and teachers came dressed in their favorite comfy pajamas for Pajama Day. Spirit Week continued with themes such as Wacky Tacky Day, Favorite Team, Crazy Hat, Super Hero or Favorite Decade Day, and School Spirit Day, which culminated in a school-wide Pep Rally honoring the current Varsity Basketball team as well as the Fall Varsity teams.

Friday night, spectators enjoyed the first ever defeat of the Alumni Team by the Parent-Staff team. To be fair, the Alumni Team was a little short on players, but in the eyes of the Parent-Staff team, a victory is a victory! After a family pizza party, the Varsity Basketball team played Trinity Christian Academy. While the Knights trailed in the first half, the packed crowd enjoyed watching a hard-fought, come-from-behind victory!

The 2010 Homecoming Ambassadors were presented at halftime. The Ambassadors are two representatives from each of our four schools who are chosen by their peers and teachers for exemplifying the ideals of a Guilford Day student. Ambassadors exhibit exemplary citizenship, responsibility, school spirit, and academic performance. Representing the Primary School were third graders Jackie Ognovich and Kyle Hand. Representing the Intermediate School were fifth grader Eleanor Shafer and sixth grader Aaron Mansell. Representing the Junior High School were eighth grader Madison Reynolds and ninth grader Ira Lifland. Representing the Senior High School were seniors Chelsea Dye and Ryan Taube. Congratulations to these students, as well as to the victorious Knights!

HOME COMING



2010

2010 Homecoming Ambassadors

Front row: Eleanor Shafer, Aaron Mansell, Jackie Ognovich, and Kyle Hand; Back row: Chelsea Dye, Ryan Taube, Madison Reynolds, and Ira Lifland



Representing the Alumni Team:

Nick Kocreja, '04, Carter Walton, '09, Marc Nelles, '07, and Chris Dorier, '07



The Parent-Staff team sizes up the competition



Freshman Adrian Serpe takes a big shot in the win over Trinity Christian



Junior High students Taylor Eagle, Tyler Ray, Alex Gough, Austin Garner, Nicole Jackman, Rachel Teague, and Taylor Nardi in their most creative spirit wear



Chris Drier '07 and Marc Nelles '07



Teachers Linda Stell, Jessica Sherard, and Erin Cawley get in the spirit on Wacky Tacky Day



Fifth grader Matt Machado proudly shows his support for the Heels on Favorite Team Day



Tenth grader Ben Gann shows off his outfit on Wacky Tacky day



Staff cheerleaders Erin Cawley, JoAnn Caligiuri, Kathryn Spooner, and Patty Kiley show off their moves



How many Steve Smith fans can you have in one school? Fourth grader Brad Cranford and fifth graders Chris Shutter and Danny Naviera support the Panthers on Favorite Team Day

What's Going on Around Campus?

Guilford Day School Spelling Bee

Each year, we host the Guilford Day School Spelling Bee for students who choose to participate. Eleven fourth, fifth, and sixth graders competed in the first part of the bee. All of the students did very well. The end of the competition was a real nail-biter.

Sixth graders Yele Williams and Hannah Wright spelled many words correctly before Hannah came out on top, which qualified her for the regional spelling bee. Eight seventh and eighth graders competed in the second part of the bee. Once again, all participants did very well. Eighth grader Stephen Spruill faced off against seventh grader Mark Bostic in the final round. For the fourth year, Stephen won the right to represent Guilford Day School in the regional spelling bee. On Tuesday, February 16, Hannah and Stephen traveled to Bethel Charter School in Roxboro to participate in the regional spelling bee, where Stephen placed fourth and Hannah placed eighth. Congratulations to these two students, as well as all of our Guilford Day School Spelling Bee participants.



Seventh grader Marc Bostic works on a word while eighth grader Stephen Spruill looks on



Fourth grader Matt McMillen and sixth graders Paula Kirkpatrick, Yele Williams, and Hannah Wright compete in the Guilford Day School spelling bee

Traveling Trunk Visits Primary

The Primary classes had a volunteer from the Greensboro Historical Museum come out to the cabin to do a Traveling Trunk presentation on February 25. The trunk was filled with information about transportation, from the invention of the wheel to the present. The volunteer did a great job of discussing each method of transportation and when he was finished, the students had the opportunity to ask questions as well as come up and look at all of the things that he brought with him. Our Primary students really enjoyed this learning opportunity!



Primary students Patrick Dudley, Jackson Terrell, Hunter Bell, and Parker Deaton check out the items that came out of the Traveling Trunk



Civil Rights Museum

February 1 was a memorable day in Greensboro and one of our seniors, Ryan Taube, was a part of the excitement. Ryan was among the first visitors to the Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro. He and Clare Abel toured the museum that celebrates the nonviolent protests of the 1960's. The museum, housed in the historic 1929 F.W. Woolworth Building, showcases many of the artifacts donated by area people from the Civil Rights era. Although the counter stools that the Greensboro Four sat on are in the Smithsonian Museum, the rest of the counter stools and the counter itself are in place as they were on February 1, 1960.

On-Site Lego Field Trip

Our on-site Lego field trip in January for grades one through eight was such a success that we scheduled an after-school enrichment program this spring for grades three through nine. In the January session, students assembled race cars and actually raced against their classmates. Students worked with a partner to follow pictures in a manual in order to assemble their car. The students had to work together to follow the complex directions and experience success. These Lego Engineering sessions are not only fun but educational as well. In the after-school program, students will also work in a lab type setting with a partner. We will be anxious to view the creative structures that these young engineers build each week.



Fourth graders Jack Blaisdell and Brad Cranford study the manual to figure out their next step



Seventh graders Erica Muller and Jaylon Smallwood race their finished products



Seventh graders Colby Pleasants and Trey Read work together to complete their Lego car

Earth Science Field Trip



Ninth grader Taylor Eagle controls his kite as he explores the changing wind conditions

Linda Stell's Earth Science classes took a tour of our county to investigate the use of alternative energy sources. The first stop was the Proximity Hotel. They are the first, and still the only, LEED® Platinum Hotel in the USA. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is the “nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.” The Proximity Hotel has the highest green rating given, yet they did not compromise comfort or style in obtaining it. There the students learned about geothermal cooling practices, sustainability, thermal heating, and use of solar panels. Although it was way too windy to go to the roof, the panels were

explained in interesting detail.

Next, we loaded up the bus and went to the Old Guilford Mill in Oak Ridge. The students were able to see the history behind the use of water as a power source. It is the oldest functioning water mill in the state. The owner took us around the grounds and showed us the inner workings of the gears. It was not operational during our tour because the cold conditions increased the chances that the old pipes would freeze and crack.

After a warm lunch, the group came closer to home for its final stop: Bur Mil Park, to learn about wind power. Kite flying is an excellent way to feel the changing dynamics of wind. The wind was constant at about 25mph and gusting into high 30's to mid 40's. It was so cold but was a terrific day for kite flying.



Front row: Adrian Serpe, Taylor Eagle, Michael Branson, Evan Aydelette, John Shinn, Alex Gough, and Bryan Turner. Back row: Kenny Morton, Patrick Rymer, Jared Lindsay, Tyler Ray, Will Rankin, and Ira Lifland

Knights Athletics

Varsity Cheerleading

Coach Hallie Rojas



The Varsity Cheerleading squad energizes the crowd at the Homecoming Game

The 2009-2010 GDS cheerleading squad definitely exceeded expectations this year. The ten girls started their work preparing for the season at camp this summer, where Hillary Fogelman from Elon College came to teach the girls new material. They then implemented these skills at the basketball games where the cheerleaders provided a festive spirit. Coach Hallie Rojas was amazed how well the girls worked together trying innovative stunts and dances. This year the squad was led by sophomore captains Eden Halevy and Caitlin Greene. Senior Chelsea Dye, junior Rebecca Tysinger, sophomores Becca Balabanis and Annie Sullivan, and eighth graders Nicole Jackman, Madison Reynolds, Shelby Andrews, and Amy Stockard also played key roles. The most exciting part of the season was getting GDS pumped up for Homecoming at the school wide pep rally. That night was definitely amazing as the cheerleaders led the fans in chanting “Go Knights” as the team seized a victory.



Eighth grader Nicole Jackman being lifted by her teammates

Varsity Basketball

Coach Doug Long

Varsity Basketball’s season ended with the Knights traveling to Morganton, NC and defeating the Bears of the North Carolina School for the Deaf. Our record for the year was 3 - 16, highlighted by a great homecoming victory over Trinity Christian Prep School. Senior Ben Breitenstein



Senior Ben Breitenstein drives to the basket



Junior Dalton Collins looks to pass

provided tremendous offense and defense this year, and senior Matt Finch found his way around the court more and more as the year progressed. Junior captain Dalton Collins established himself as the leader of the Knights, playing every game as hard as he could and leading the team in diving on the floor for loose basketballs. Junior rookie starter Rob Stockard was an integral part of the season and the most improved basketball player on the team. Mike Ray, though playing only half the season, was the leading scorer and shot blocker for the Knights. Freshmen Adrian Serpe and Mike Branson learned what it takes to play guard at the varsity level; Adrian led the team in scoring during an early season ballgame. Freshman Evan Aydelette filled in at forward, having a big rebounding presence in our last win against the Bears. The eighth graders playing up on varsity could not have been a better addition to the team. Eighth grader Holt Brockman led the Knights at

point guard most of the year, improving his basketball skills on a daily basis. Eighth grader Kevin Williams was a great contributor at center and forward, providing much needed rebounding and scoring for the Knights. We are still a very young team but with the hard work and great attitude of our players, the Knights are looking forward to great years to come.

JV Volleyball

Coach Erin Cawley

The team kicked off the season at the beginning of the 2010 season with 23 athletes. We won our first game against New Garden Friends, but then had a hard time earning our second win. There were concerns that the team would not make the playoffs, but in a close match against B'nai Shalom, the Knights proved to be quite the competitors. Our first playoff game was against Greensboro Montessori. Led by eighth grade captains Ryan Judge and Madison Reynolds, and seventh grade captains Trey Read and Owen Tomaszewski, the Knights won three games out of five, surprising everyone, including themselves, when they earned a spot in the Championship game. In Coach Cawley's absence, Coach Long stepped up and coached the team through five grueling games in an effort to win the Championship round. Even though the Knights were not able to conquer High Point Friends, they



Seventh grader Alex Japp passes the ball as his team looks on



The hard working athletes of the JV Volleyball team

managed to leave the crowd and the families of Guilford Day proud of their valiant efforts. We never gave up, going into the playoffs as the fourth seed, and managing to finish in second overall. Coach Cawley has never been prouder of any athletic team she has had the privilege to coach and looks forward to another great season next year. Special thanks to Coach Long, Mrs. Stell, and Mr. Miller for their help and support throughout the season, and to Becca Balabanis and Taylor Eagle for being the best assistant coaches anyone could ask for!

Board of Trustees, continued from page 1

We appreciate the incredible commitment and dedication of the staff. In the fall, the Compensation Committee completed their work on creating a compensation package for the faculty and staff so that we will be able to retain the excellent teachers and administrators we currently have and, when necessary, attract highly qualified employees.

The Expansion Committee has been working all year on improving the school's facilities and planning for an expansion project to improve the learning environment for our students. We will be communicating with you as the plans and finances unfold.

There is more work to be done before the summer and we are looking forward to making more progress. We are now looking forward to spring!

Guilford Day School

Mission Statement

We offer students with learning differences a comprehensive educational experience in a supportive environment where they can reach their highest potential

www.guilfordday.org



Guilford Day School
3310 Horse Pen Creek Road
Greensboro, NC 27410