

Guilford Day School Challenger

Volume 5
Issue 2



Director's Corner

The verdict is in! It is official! Guilford Day School IS dually accredited by the Southern Association of Independent Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Guilford Day School was originally accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1998, but in 2007 we decided to expand our accreditation process and are now officially accredited by both associations!

In November 2008, Guilford Day hosted a team of 5 visiting educators. The visiting team members found Guilford Day School to be a unique community where the relationships between teachers, parents, and students were unusually warm and personal. The team noted that many of our families expressed that in contrast to previous experiences, "we have our child back." In addition to the positive environment the school strives to offer all students, the team characterized the



Laura Mlatac
Head of School

school's program by "very small classes, scheduled periods of active movement, regular check-ins with advisors, and an interactive curriculum." As we all know, these are some of the key ingredients to student success.

The school is thrilled to also share that the chair of the visiting team, Gordon Bingham (former Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of Independent School), stated that Guilford Day's school improvement process and plan is as good or better than any he has ever seen.

We all should be extremely proud to be part of a committed school family that specializes in making a difference in the lives of bright, young students who learn differently. We truly appreciate your support through this ongoing process. It is a privilege and honor to be part of Guilford Day School's learning community! Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Every Thursday morning
Open House - 8:30 - 10:30
Sunday, February 8
Open House - 2:00 p.m.
March 2 - 20
Senior Internships
March 27 and 30
IEP Conferences
April 13 - 17
Spring Break

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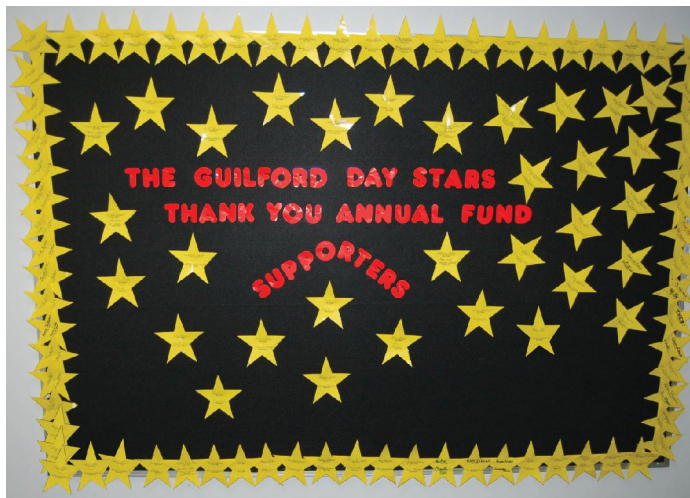
2008-2009 Annual Fund

Steve and Sue Bailey - Co-Chairs, Fundraising Committee, Board of Trustees

Here is your chance to pick a hero. We've all met them, that person or group of people that make an impact on our lives or the life of someone we love. At Guilford Day we call those people Shining Stars and here is your chance to choose your special Shining Star.

The theme for the Annual Fund this school year is Shining Stars. We are looking for the person or people that make, or made, a difference. Maybe it's a teacher, a student, or a counselor. How about a past student, past friend, a past mentor? This is your chance to recognize that person and help the Annual Fund.

The Annual Fund enriches us all by funding projects such as curriculum enhancement, professional development, improved technology, and tuition assistance. There is no better way to help improve Guilford Day for all of us than doing it in the name of your Shining Star. Give your Star their place in the GDS Hall of Fame with their personalized Shining Star. Stars are available at the School. Write down your Shining Star's name and include a gift for the Annual Fund to let everyone know who shines brightly at Guilford Day.



Thanks to everyone who has already made a contribution and recognized their Shining Star. Who is your Shining Star?

13th Annual Guilford Day School Golf Classic



We would like to take this opportunity to share some very exciting news with you. Whether or not you have participated in the Annual Guilford Day School Golf Classic in the past, you definitely do not want to miss it this year. We are lucky enough to have secured Bryan Park's Champion's Course for our 13th annual tournament. Golf Digest rated this course one of the best sites not to have hosted the US Open, and this is the same course that will host the U.S. Amateur Public Links 85th Championship in 2010.

We would love for you to be a part of this exciting event! Please mark your calendar for Monday, May 4, 2009. Your participation in the 13th Annual Guilford Day School Golf Classic can take one of many forms: you can enter a team, sponsor a hole or a player, or donate goods or services from your business for use in the tournament. All funds raised support the Tuition Assistance Program at Guilford Day School. Please contact Terry McDaid at ttmcdaid@aol.com for more information or send back the enclosed registration form. The form can also be found on our website.

Homecoming 2009

Homecoming 2009 turned out to be a week-long celebration of Guilford Day School Spirit, culminating in two very well-attended basketball games! Spirit Week was a chance for teachers and students alike to show off their fun outfits in the themes of Pajama Day, Decade Day, Favorite Team Day, Western Day, and School Spirit Day. Tim sure had a lot of explaining to do on his admissions tours that week, as he passed by lots of people in crazy costumes! Friday afternoon, the entire school went to the Y for a pep rally to celebrate the senior soccer players and cross country runners as well as introduce the basketball team and cheerleading squad.

Friday night brought the beginning of a fun tradition, the Alumni vs Faculty and Parents basketball game, complete with the “Silver Knights” cheerleading squad, made up of some very fun-loving faculty members. Although the Silver Knights lost the basketball game, everyone in attendance had a lot of fun.

The basketball team played Fletcher School from Charlotte, and emerged victorious! The first Annual Guilford Day School Homecoming Ambassadors were recognized at halftime. A near record number of spectators were in attendance for this exciting night.



Primary Ambassadors Elizabeth Smith, '18 and Matt McMillen, '18; Junior High Ambassadors Eden Halevy, '12 and Shawn Hardin, '12; Senior High Ambassadors Chandler Burnett, '09 and Ryan McDougal, '09; Intermediate Ambassadors Ansley Craig, '15 and Mitchell Geiss, '15.



Silver Knights Cheerleaders
Linda Stell and Julie Bean



The Silver Knights included parents Crystal Jones, Carla Morgan, Barry Halevy, and Rusty Burnett.



Anna Oates, '12, Eden Halevy, '12 and Becca Balabanis, '12 in their 80's gear



So many Panthers' Fans!!



The alumni team: Marc Nelles, '07, Chris Dorier, '07, Will Raines, '07, and Jairus Barbee, '04



Carter Walton, '09, Win Johns, '09 and Chelsea Dye, '10 on Western Day

Knights Athletics



Chris Jones, '09, Cody McCraw, '09, Ryan McDougal, '09 Jacob Jefferson, '09, and Ben Breitenstein '09 put their game faces on.

along with his good post play, he is also an excellent three-point shooter. Another beneficial player to have on the floor is senior guard Jacob Jefferson, who is a strong defender and sound fundamental player. The team is now approaching a busy closing stretch of the season, fueled by strong senior leadership and consistent effort.

Guilford Day School is fortunate to have nine dedicated cheerleaders for the 2008-2009 school year. Freshmen Becca Balabanis and Eden Halevy are the co-captains. The other members include senior Traci Case, junior Chelsea Dye, sophomore Rebecca Tysinger, freshman Annie Sullivan, and seventh graders Shelby Andrews, Nicole Jackman, and Madison Reynolds. The bigger squad provides the team with more options for stunts, formations, and enthusiasm. The cheerleaders hosted a pep rally on January 16th for Homecoming, which was a huge success. Their coach, Hallie Rojas, proudly said, "I was amazed at the level of confidence the girls displayed. All their hard work paid off, and the entire school was there to witness it!"

The first day of the 2008 flag football season got underway in late October. 23 athletes in grades five through eight showed up for coaches Erin Sheaks and Sterling Miller. The season consisted of four regular season games and two playoff games. Spirits ran high throughout the season despite a regular season record of one win versus three losses.



Trey Read, '15 runs with the ball.

The Boys Varsity Basketball team opened their season strong with early wins against New Garden Friends and NC School of the Deaf, and since then have remained very competitive in a number of close contests. With a small team of less than ten members, each player has seen significant floor time and has contributed greatly to the team's development. As point guard, junior Ben Breitenstein capitalizes on his solid ball handling skills and ability to score. Senior forward Chris Jones benefits the team with his great work ethic and good ability to play post. Senior Ryan McDougal plays forward and center and



Shelby Andrews '14, Madison Reynolds, '14, and Chelsea Dye, '10 lift Nicole Jackman, '14.

The playoffs, however, were a different story. In the opening playoff game, Guilford Day played a very strong New Garden Friends School and lost despite sixth grader Trey Read scoring three touchdowns. In the second game, an excited team played High Point Friends School again after losing to them in the season opener 14-12. A very hard fought contest saw Guilford Day emerge victorious with a 24-18 win and third place in the contest. Eighth graders Jared Lindsay, John Shinn, and Patrick Rymer accounted for the Knights' scoring. It was a terrific group of students who worked hard throughout the season. Erin and Sterling are very proud of each and every one of them. The next sport for middle school athletics is volleyball. Updates on athletics schedules can always be found on our website.

Kids Are Authors



Clockwise from bottom left: Ryan Judge, '14, Austin Garner, '14, Michael Shutter, '14, Frankie Grove, '14, and Zach Robbins, '14.

“Kids Are Authors is an annual competition open to Grades K–8 and is designed to encourage students to use their reading, writing, and artistic skills to create their own books.

Under the guidance of a project coordinator, children work in teams of three or more students to write and illustrate their own book. The creative process of working in teams helps provide a natural environment to practice editing, teamwork, and the communication skills necessary for future success. All students involved get a sense of pride and accomplishment from submitting the team project. Two Grand Prize winning books will be published in each of these categories: Fiction and Nonfiction. The winning books will be published by Scholastic and sold at Book Fairs throughout the country.”

After reading this description on the Scholastic Book Fairs website, English teacher Patty Kiley decided to have her seventh grade English students enter the contest. According to Patty, the book must be 21-29 pages plus illustrations. As the teacher, she can only mediate and discuss what is needed in a story, but she must keep her opinions and editing advice to herself. The book must be 100% student work. Patty says, “they are so excited and we will work on it intermittently along with our Kansas University Writing Strategies. Along with the writing experience, they will also learn how to compromise, brainstorm, plan, change plans, accept when their ideas aren’t adopted by the group, and all kinds of awesome stuff!”

On top of the instruction in class, the boys also received some advice from a published author. Patty’s mother is Helen Goodman, a local mystery writer. After Patty told her about the project, she wrote a letter of advice to Patty’s students. She wrote to them about conflict, tone, plot, and dialogue. Some of her best advice is to “write what you know.” She also echoed Patty’s instruction that it is a good idea to make a loose outline before you begin writing, but you don’t have to strictly adhere to the outline if you think of a better idea.

After sitting in class with the boys one day, their excitement is evident, as well as their acknowledgement that they will be learning how to compromise without getting their feelings hurt. Ryan Judge explained that “the first day that we started, we wanted to just start writing without doing the skeleton and the outline of the story.” Michael Shutter realized that “when we kept disagreeing, it made it harder to write the story.” So the boys have taken a step back and have worked together to come up with an outline of a plot, the main conflict, the target age group, the setting, and the purpose, which is to entertain. So far, the book will be about an 18 year old waiter named Norman Tucker, who is the recipient of a \$2.5 million tip by a mysterious man. The story is about how this enormous amount of money will change his life and will center on the conflict that Norman will face between wanting to be generous with the money and wanting to spend it on himself.

One thing is for sure, the boys will surely learn as much from the process of working together as they will from writing the book itself. As Frankie Grove put it, “In everything we’ve gone through, we could write a book about ourselves writing a book!” The entry deadline is March 15 so stay tuned for more details on this exciting project!

Student Spotlight



Jared Gasaway, '11

Tenth Grader Jared Gasaway had the unique experience of attending the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security in Washington, DC in October. Jared participated in this event with hundreds of other high school students from all over the United States. A description of the program that Jared attended, can be found on the NYLF website (<http://www.nylf.org/ns/about.cfm>).

“The National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security (NYLF/NS): Exploring American Diplomacy, Intelligence and Defense provides an intense and stimulating exploration of the field of government service for high school students.

This six-day program introduces students to challenging careers in defense, intelligence, the diplomatic corps and more. Students participate in thought-provoking question and answer sessions with highly respected, internationally recognized civilian policy makers and senior military officers, who provide rich insights into current issues and discuss the strategies that helped them succeed. The government's leading academic institutions also open their doors to our students, where they are educated in diplomacy, international affairs and military strategy.

During the course of the Forum, students take part in a national security strategy exercise that draws on their program experiences and teamwork. They employ a crisis decision-making process similar to that employed by the nation's top policy makers, giving them an opportunity to use critical thinking, leadership and public speaking skills to tackle the complexity of national decision-making.”

Jared returned from the forum with strengthened leadership skills as well as a new understanding of national security.

Calling All Alumni!!

As Director of Communications, one of my New Year's Resolutions for 2009 is to maintain better contact with the alumni and past students of Guilford Day School. We love our alumni and would enjoy seeing more of you and hear what you're doing. We would love to see better alumni turnout at Homecoming and the Golf Tournament. And...we are trying to plan a special alumni event for this spring. In order to accomplish some of these goals, I need to update the contact information for the alumni. Past parents and/or alumni, please send me an email at jennifer@guilfordday.org to let me know

your updated contact info and feel free to let me know what's going on in your life. I will certainly pass it on! You can also look us up on the Facebook “Guilford Day School Alumni” page.



At the Alumni Basketball Game in November 2008, clockwise from top left: Will Rains '07, Marc Nelles '07, Sam Rich '05, Chris Chrysson '05, Coach Tim Montgomery, Eddie Harris '03, Mike McDonald '05, Jairus Barbee '04, and Chris Dorier '07



Alumni Mark Davis, '04, Trent Joseph, '04, and Jairus Barbee, '04 catch up at Homecoming 2009.

Professional Development

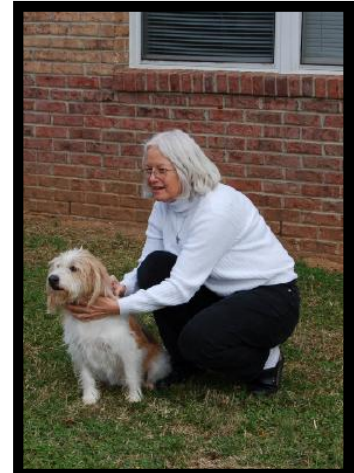


Matt Zigler and Jeremy Allen work with Happy, dog of Page Keel.

On January 5, while students in public schools heard bells ringing in the halls, Guilford Day School students had one last day to sleep in. Their teachers, however, were hard at work. On this professional development day, teachers attended a series of mini-workshops taught by their coworkers. Topics of the workshops included many strategies, ranging from the Highlighting Strategy to the Cornell Notes Strategy to Writers Notebook to the RIDE strategy for word problems.

For lunch, the faculty “took over” Griolis, a nearby Italian restaurant owned by the Giaimo family, whose son Antonio is in seventh grade here at Guilford Day. After lunch, teachers accepted the challenge of

training someone else’s dog in order to explore positive behavior management from a new angle. The dogs brought laughter and frustration to the afternoon. By the end of the day, teachers were equipped with new ideas and strategies to put in place in the new year.



Susan Hughes works with Annie, dog of Vicki Payne

Frankenstein Invades Guilford Day School!

Each year, the seniors in Susan Hughes’ Senior English class read Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*. The beginning of the novel finds Victor Frankenstein obsessed with creating the body of a human being. His frustration, obsession, and final outcome are what drive him crazy. In order to give her students just a mere glimpse of the frustration that Victor Frankenstein experienced, Susan assigns a very unique project. Each student has to make a Frankenstein “creature” of his/her own. Some of the guidelines for the project are that it must be between three and six feet tall, it must have movable joints, it must contain a skeleton and a body, be able to stand on its own, and that it must resemble a human. Students can use whatever materials they desire and must report their experience to their classmates. Most students do experience some level of frustration as they try to meet all of the project’s guidelines, but many feel satisfied with (and sometimes attached to!) their final product.



Alex Roseman, '09 and “friend”



Tracy Case, '09 and Chandler Burnett, '09 with their creations

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

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