



Director's Corner



Laura Mlatac
Head of School

Fall has just arrived, but every time I sit down to write an opening article for *The Challenger*, I spend hours reflecting on the past few months. Throughout the summer we renovated classrooms and buildings and hired additional faculty members in anticipation of our largest enrollment in our school's history! With excitement and enthusiasm, we opened the doors on August 22, and 144 students brought our halls back to life by bringing laughter and smiles that only students can bring.

One of our returning primary students introduced me to his classmates on the first day of school as the lady who is always smiling. It was a moment that I will never forget, as it is my pleasure to spend my years as an educator with such a unique and inspiring group of students. Watching the students at Guilford Day become involved in a positive educational experience is a dream we all share. Thank you for sharing this dream with us, because our dreams are becoming reality.

As you read through this issue of *The Challenger*, I hope you will spend a few moments reflecting on the difference Guilford Day is making or has made for a child you know. I read through a card a parent gave me last year just about every week, and the front of the card has an inspirational verse by Helen Steiner Rice that I would like to share with each of you-

*The unexpected kindness from an unexpected place,
A hand outstretched in friendship,
A smile on someone's face,
A word of understanding spoken in a time of trial
Are unexpected miracles that make life more worthwhile.*

Enjoy, and thank you for believing in the mission of Guilford Day School!

Laura Mlatac

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 13
Property Workday

Friday, October 19 and Monday,
October 22
IEP Conferences

Tuesday, October 23
Teacher Workday

Monday, November 12
Veteran's Day - School Closed

Wednesday, November 21 - Friday,
November 23
Thanksgiving Vacation

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The Complete Educational Experience
www.guilfordday.org

Admissions

At Guilford Day School, as with any private school, admissions is the fuel that drives the engine, and we have fortunately been running on high octane for the past few months! We opened the doors this year with 144 students which is by far the highest enrollment in our school's twenty year existence. As I have said in the past, most of the success we have had in attracting new families to Guilford Day is in direct response to the outstanding job our teachers are doing in the classroom. Families are constantly sharing stories with me during the admissions process about friends or other acquaintances that have had great experiences here.

Our primary area (grades 1-3) continues to grow at an amazing rate, and the middle and high school grades are at or near capacity as well. We continue to be optimistic that this growth trend is going to continue at a rapid pace, and we are currently making concrete plans about the future growth of our facility. Another wonderful by-product of this amazing growth is the ability to hire new faculty members who bring their own unique flavor to our campus. The atmosphere at Guilford Day is uplifting and extremely positive at this time, and we are truly thankful to have each and every family share the experience with us. Our plan is to continue this pattern of controlled growth throughout the 2007-2008 school year, so sit back, relax, and turn the next page with us as we continue writing this wonderful story.

-Tim Montgomery



New Students Grades 1-5



New Students Grades 6-8



New Students Grades 9-12

Summer Programs

Summer programs at Guilford Day School have always been a viable part of the school's overall mission. The summer of 2007 was no exception as over 50 students took part in some aspect of our summer programs. Along with individual tutoring services, we offer our sentence and paragraph writing programs and our SMILE program, which is a multi-sensory language program. High school students attend our traditional summer school in order to repeat courses or take new courses for credit. We offer our summer programs as a community service, and many students from neighboring public and private schools attend Guilford Day during the summer. Many of our current full time students at Guilford Day School started by tutoring here or by attending one of our summer programs. Our summer programs also offer an opportunity for new enrollees for the fall to get a head start at experiencing the learning strategies and techniques they will be exposed to at Guilford Day. Our summer programs certainly serve to compliment what we do during the school year at Guilford Day, and the relationship continues to work beautifully.

-Tim Montgomery

Professional Development Workshops



On August 13 and 14, the two days before teacher workdays officially started for the 2007-08 school year, many teachers were already at school, learning strategies that would help them become more effective teachers. The two workshops were *Proficiency in the Sentence Writing Strategy* and *The Course Organizer Routine*, both of which are strategies that were developed by Kansas University. All of our English teachers and most of our other teachers have now been trained in *The Sentence Writing Strategy*, so once the students learn it in English class they will be expected to use it across the board. Once students master *The Sentence Writing Strategy*, they learn *The Paragraph Writing Strategy* and then progress to *The Theme Writing Strategy*.

The Course Organizer Routine helps teachers to lay out a map for the year that provides a framework for learning and sets course expectations. At the beginning of the school year, parents and students received a course organizer from each teacher that gives them a good idea of what can be expected for the coming year. Dr. Dan Boudah from East Carolina University was the instructor for both workshops. Dr. Boudah is a familiar face at Guilford Day School, as we often recruit him for professional development workshops. He has extensive experience with many of the Kansas University strategies.

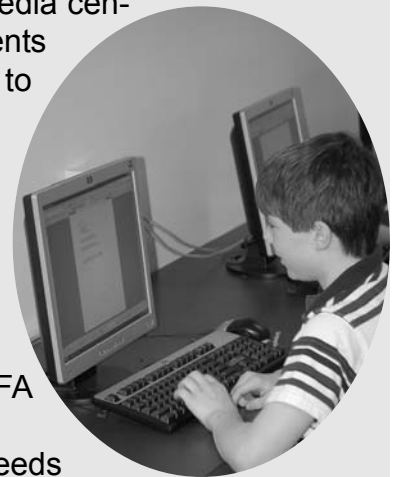


Technology

Hopefully you have noticed the changes in our website this year! We have given our website a complete makeover that will benefit current and future families alike. We hope that prospective families will be able to find out a lot of information about us and get a feel for the school that makes them want to call us up for a tour. Current families will find lots of important information on various sections of the website. The Current News, Athletics, and PFA pages are some of the pages that are updated most frequently in order to provide our families with a resource of current information. We hope that you will check us out at www.guilfordday.org and visit us frequently!

Many of our fundraising ventures this year have a focus of technology. All money raised through this year's Annual Fund will be used for updating computers around campus. Our three

priorities are to purchase a laptop cart to create mobile computer lab, completely update the back computer lab in the media center, and to update faculty and staff computers. Updating the computer lab in the media center will allow our students more frequent access to advanced software used for things like reading text aloud, doing graphic art, practicing for the 8th grade computer test, and improving keyboarding skills. The PFA has also identified the school's technology needs as its educational initiative this year.



Frankie Grove
6th Grade

The Log Cabin



One of the primary classrooms

The Log Cabin has undergone some major renovations in order to make it more functional for our students. A wall was put up in one of the spaces, making two small classrooms for our primary students. The main room in the cabin is used by the primary students for morning meeting and other group gatherings, as well as for music classes.

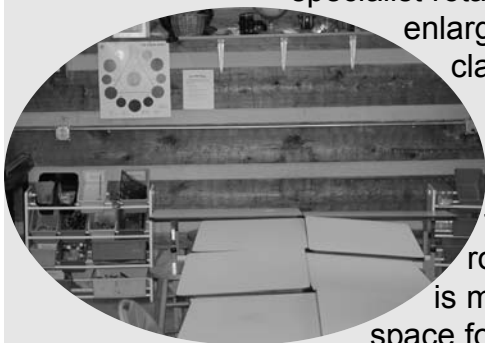
There is also room in the main space for another classroom. The bathroom in the cabin has also been updated and refurbished. The primary students benefit from having a contained building in which they attend most of their classes.

Kay and Courtney, with help from J and Mary Emily, are able to structure the school day for these young students slightly differently than the rest of the school in order to provide the most instructional benefits.



The music classroom

First through fifth graders, along with many of the sixth graders, take music as part of their specialist rotation. Kay McMurphy is the music teacher and has welcomed the enlarged space in the cabin as she begins the second year of music class at Guilford Day School.



The new art space

Matt has moved his art classes out into the remaining space in the cabin, which was formerly just used for storage. It has been transformed into a wonderful space that includes lots of light and room for all of our creative minds. One important characteristic that is most evident in the new art classroom is that there is a lot more space for students to work on, store, and display their art projects.



Patrick Dudley (1st) and Jack Blaisdell (2nd) show off their bookmarks.

Enhancement

The first through fifth grade students attend Enhancement as their last class of the day. Students are split into four groups that rotate through library, keyboarding, dance, and guidance/study skills. This year's Enhancement curriculum incorporates the new and exciting element of community service. Once per week, students will be involved in a service project that will improve the lives of people in our immediate or worldwide community while teaching the students the importance of helping others. Already this year, students have picked up mulch at the playground, made bookmarks for a local nursing home, and collected food for Greensboro Urban Ministries. Other projects on the agenda will benefit our troops overseas and Hospice of Greensboro. The students and teachers are excited about having room in the school day to participate in community service.



Fourth grade students collecting food for Urban Ministry

Fall Athletics Update

The Guilford Day School Knights varsity soccer team is off to a solid start this year, led by Coach Doug Long and assisted by former Guilford Day student, Eddie Harris. Fielding a squad made up mostly of eighth graders, freshmen, and sophomores, the Knights are 1-2-2 so far this season. The year began with a tough loss at Bishop McGuinness with the Knights allowing six unanswered goals. The next match against the Elon School showed great improvement, but the Knights fell to defeat again with a score of 1-3. Our first goal of the year came in this game from an outstanding pass by Dalton Collins and a great goal by Riley Setliff. Our first home match saw our first victory with the Knights defeating Carlisle Academy 3-2 in a well fought victory. The team showed great promise as our eighth graders stepped up with two goals from Hayden Boyles and stellar goalie work from Matthew Hoffman. Our sophomores got in on the action when Ben Breitenstein also scored a goal. The Knights played tough defense as they held Bishop McGuinness and Carlisle each to a tie. The last two



Hayden Boyles, 8th grade

games of the season are against Caldwell (away) and Elon (home). We hope to see you on October 11 for the last home game of the season!

Varsity cross country has had a great season so far. Coach Frank Freeman has recruited what might be a record turnout of 10 runners this year. With the large number of runners, plus the varied trails and parks we have practiced and run on, the season has been really fun. The runners are looking forward to their next race on October 10. We hope to see you out at a meet, supporting our runners this fall!



Win Johns, 11th grade



*Tommy Branson,
5th grade*

On Tuesday, September 4, an excited group of fifth through eighth grade students gathered together for the first practice of the fall season. Of this group, there are eleven returning players from last year's team. In fact, several of these "veterans" will be doing double duty as they help out the varsity team. Hayden Boyles, Matt Hoffman, and new eighth grader Sam Leftwich have already seen action on the field with the varsity team. These players, along with the other returning players, will add a great dimension to our team. The practices have been energetic, and the players have been terrific as they have gone through their drills. So far, the team has beaten B'nai Shalom by a score of 3-1 and tied New Garden Friends School by a score of 1-1. The team consists of 22 enthusiastic players, led by Coach Sterling Miller, so be sure to check the website for the remaining schedule so that you can catch the next game!

The middle school has a new sport to look forward to this year! If you are here during recess you will see many of our students getting ready for flag football season. Although this is the first year for flag football at Guilford Day, the interest is already very high. Football season will be squeezed in between soccer and volleyball. Middle school basketball will start in January and cross country will start in early spring.



*Becca Balabanis and Daniel
Panosh, 8th grade,
Aaron McDonough, 6th grade*

PFA News

The Family Picnic on September 6 was a wonderful success for all involved. Due to our large number of students at GDS this year, the picnic was moved to Bur-Mil Park, where we had more room to spread out. Everyone enjoyed food catered by Ham's and Stamey's as well as lots of homemade desserts. Parents were able to meet their child's teachers, friends, and other parents, while the students all had a great time at the park. The next big PFA event is a Property Workday on Saturday, October 13 from 8:30 to 12:00 pm. Bring your work gloves, wheelbarrows, and garden tools as we improve the Guilford Day School property both inside and out. Thanks for all of your support of the Innisbrook Fundraiser! You helped us raise a lot of money to improve our school! Don't forget to keep your eye out for the monthly PFA newsletter, arriving in your child's Thursday Envelope. Also check out the PFA page of the website for updated information.

Student Updates

Even though most of the articles in the Challenger focus on what's going on right now at Guilford Day, we also want to begin spotlighting how our former students are doing. Each edition, look out for updates on former graduates and students.

The fall edition of the Challenger features two of our graduates who went on to graduate from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). Taylor Patrick graduated from GDS in 2000 and SCAD in 2005 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. He majored in Computer Motion Graphics with a minor in Graphic Design. He started his first job with a company called ID8 Creative Co. in Binghamton, NY. He worked as a computer motion graphic designer, graphic designer and video film maker. He is living in New York City doing computer motion graphic design with a company called Nitrous TV and graphic and fashion design with a company called Art Zulu. He loves his work and of course loves the city.

Eric Rizzo graduated from Guilford Day School in 1999. He graduated with an Associate's Degree from GTCC in 2003 and went on to graduate from SCAD in 2005. Since then he has worked in Atlanta for Brandmovers as a creative designer/art director and now works in Miami for Royal Caribbean International as a web designer. Graduates and former GDS students, we'd love to hear your news and feature you in an upcoming edition!

What We're Reading at Guilford Day

Shelby Andrews, a sixth grader, is reading *I, Jack*, by Jack the dog, as told to Patricia Finney. Shelby says "This book is about a dog and his family. He is the dad of the puppies and he's trying to take care of them because the mom dog is lost, but he doesn't really know what he's doing. I like this book because I like to read about dogs and the funny things they do."

Sterling Miller, a middle and upper grades math teacher, is in the middle of two books. "I am reading *Tales from Q School* by John Feinstein. It is a fascinating book about people who are trying to

qualify for the PGA tour. It is so interesting to read about the rigors and heartbreaks that these athletes experience. Their hopes are dashed in just one golf stroke. I am also reading *The Longest Day*, by Cornelius Ryan, which is a gripping tale of D-Day. I really enjoy reading about history in such detail."

Joseph Watkins, a fourth grader, just finished reading *Verdi*, by Janell Cannon. "Verdi is a yellow snake that doesn't want to turn green. He is really funny. This book reminds me of *Stellaluna* but I like this one better."

New Team Leaders

With the influx of so many new students and teachers for the 2007-08 school year, two new team leaders were selected. Susan Hughes remained the team leader for grades 10-12, and looks forward to another successful year leading our oldest students and their teachers. Donna Barrier became the team leader for grades 1-6 and Matt Zigler became the team leader for grades 7-9.

Donna is beginning her twelfth year at Guilford Day School. She attended both high school and college in Greensboro, receiving her B.A. and MEd. from UNCG. She moved to Charlotte for her first two years of teaching, but moved back to Greensboro, where she taught in the Guilford County School System for over 30 years before coming to Guilford Day. Donna has been a wonderful team player during her tenure here and has many unique characteristics that make her a wonderful leader for grades 1-6. She truly values the mission of Guilford Day, which is evident in her interactions with students and their families. She is a dependable colleague and a good listener who has always been willing to help her fellow teachers. Donna is very excited to be a team leader in a year where we have experienced so much growth of new families and new teachers. In her free time, Donna enjoys gardening, traveling, reading, and collecting miniature lighthouses from places she has visited.



Although Matt is relatively new to Guilford Day School, the combination of his first year here and all of the experiences he has had in the past make him wonderfully qualified to lead the grades 7-9 team. Before Matt joined the GDS team in 2006, he taught at a private boarding school in Siler City for 5 years. Matt taught all mediums of art from painting and drawing to sculpture and ceramics, as well as graphic design and philosophy. He also spent one year as the Dean of

Students, directly overseeing the student life program and supervising on-site dorm staff. Before teaching, Matt was a counselor at an outdoor therapeutic program in Tennessee. Through all of this varied experience Matt has learned patience with students, how to build consensus and a positive feeling of accomplishment among staff, as well as how to be efficient with tasks so that teachers can spend more time on what they really want to: creating interesting and exciting lessons for their students. Matt is looking forward to working closely with his team, perfecting the new art studio, and working with his new Photoshop class. When he is not at school, Matt tries to spend as much time painting in his studio and tubing on the Haw River as he can while the weather is still warm enough.





Guilford Day School Mission Statement

The mission of Guilford Day School is to enable students with specific learning disabilities and/or attention deficit disorders with average to above average intellect to reach their highest potential by establishing and maintaining a safe, supportive, and positive educational setting that creates opportunities for success, challenges expectations, and builds a strong foundation of skills and knowledge that leads to successful transitions.



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