THE BRONXVILLE SCHOOL FOUNDATION

A community commitment to public education.

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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BRONXVILLE SALUTES ITS CHAMPS

The Bronxville School athletes are as strong as ever! This fall our school teams had very successful seasons. Of the eight fall varsity teams, five sent teams and individuals to the states; an amazing feat for our small town! A team or individuals have to win their Section, and then win their Regional Tournament to finally compete at the State Championship Tournament. New York is divided into eleven Sections and the Sections are further divided into Classes (AA, A, B, C and D) based on student enrollment. Thus, schools of similar size play one another throughout the season and vie for the Sectional Championship during play-offs. For a small school like Bronxville, even one Sectional Title would be great. This fall, the Broncos captured three Sectional Titles, which is almost unheard of!! The boys' soccer team, the field hockey team and the girls' cross country team each won their respective Sectional and Regional playoff games, and each of these teams moved on to reach the quarter final of the State Tournament.

For the first time in Bronxville School history, the boys' varsity soccer team won the New York State Section B Class Championship with a season ending record of 23-1-1. They



beat East Aurora, the only undefeated team in New York State in class B, 2-0, in the final game at the National Hall of Fame field in Oneonta. The boys' soccer team had a special addition to their coaching staff for this fall season only. Bronxville High School Alumnus, Andre Borges, class of 2000, provided great inspiration and training for the team. He took time out from his own soccer career to help coach. And until this fall, Stu Bush was involved with coaching the boys' soccer team in some capacity for 35 years and, upon his retirement last year, was told there is always an empty chair for him help!

State Championships for the Girls Cross Country team seem to be as common as blisters on runners' feet, with the Broncos winning their seventh Class C State title overall and the third in five years. Coach Jim Mitchell continues to develop

successful runners from middle school through high school. Our team of seven girls beat out Rhinebeck's talented Cross Country team by only four points, a very tight race. Of the seven girls,



two are in 8th grade, two are juniors and three are seniors. The Bronxville Girls' Field Hockey Team also had a very suc-



cessful season, outscoring their opponents during the regular season 47-12. This put them in great position as they entered the playoffs.

After successfully defeating their opponents in

the playoffs to first win the Section 1 Class C title, they went on to win the Regional title a week later, and progressed to play in the State quarter finals. Unfortunately, they lost this game to Marathon, 3-0. Losing only three seniors, the team has hopes of returning!

Both the Girls' Swim Team and Girls' Tennis Team also had great success this fall. The girls' swim team made a big splash in the Section 1 conference! One of their relay teams quali-

fied for the State championship as did a few individuals for certain strokes. The girls' tennis team had several players make it to the Section finals, and one of the doubles



teams qualified for the state championship. Our tennis team had many 8^{th} grade girls, so we will surely see them competing at this level over the next four years!

And, if that's not enough for the Bronxville Athletes to accomplish . . . the pace continues with Coach Jim Mitchell's girl's winter track relay team recently winning States with its 4×800 relay team. In addition at Nationals 3 relay teams each earned All American status. Now, 38 of the girls Jim Mitchell has coached have won 138 All-American Certificates. Let's Go Broncos!

Spotlight on Alumni

An Interview with Chris Bohjalian

Chris Bohjalian, Class of 1978, is the author of eleven novels, including several New York Times bestsellers, and a Sunday columnist for Gannett's Burlington Free Press.

Q: Did Bronxville inspire you in any way to become a writer?

A: I'm a writer at least in part because of Bronxville. My couple of years at the school were terrific, I learned a ton and wouldn't have wound up at Amherst otherwise, so I will always feel an enormous amount of gratitude. It is an unexpectedly welcoming place. I arrived there not knowing a soul just before my junior year, and on the first day of school Vito Priore the football coach asked me to come out and play, even though I weighed about 110 pounds and was horrible, so I could meet other kids. And I did, and it was great.

Q: What teachers did you admire?

A: Dr. Cosgrove, Dr. Simonetti and Ms. Ribner Zendel. I still remember Dr. Cosgrove teaching me how to use the word "however" correctly in a student newspaper article, and Ms. Ribner Zendel teaching gothic literature.

Q: Tell us about your latest book, Skeletons in the Feast. A: This is my favorite of my books because of its gravitas. My other novels tend to be set in New England in the present, and this was my first work of historical fiction. I spent a lot of time interviewing holocaust survivors who had been in that corner of Germany and Prussia in that nightmarish six-month period, and their stories were consistently breathtaking.

Q: How about Bronxville, which you've called Cheever-esque.

Any literary potential there?

A: Bronxville does have a cameo in my next hardcover book that comes out in 2010. It's a thriller about a domestic abuse murder-suicide set in New England, and one of the narrators is the local minister who grew up in Bronxville, and he briefly retreats there where his mother still lives. Bronxville may have an even larger role in subsequent novels.

Q: You've said you're a dinosaur. Please explain.

A: I'm a dinosaur in two ways: I write a column in an indus-

try that's beleaguered in the digital age, and I write novels in an era when there are 20 million fewer people reading at least one novel a year than 20 years ago. There will always be people who want the content of newspapers and books, but how that's delivered in the future, whether it's Kindles or MP3 players or something else, and how that affects content remains to be seen.

Q: You said the least interesting perspective you've written from is the balding middle-aged man's. Should I take offense?

A: No. When I'm writing fiction, it's much more interesting to have to stretch, and view the world from the perspective of the 14-year-old girl in Midwives, or the 26-year-old female social worker in The Double Bind, or the African-American foster child in The Buffalo Soldier, or the transsexual in Trans-Sister Radio. All those sorts of experiences demand pushing the envelope. At the same time, all my books are filled with autobiographic minutiae.

Q: Do you follow your bloggers, and what if one day they showed up at your door - is that a good book right there? A: I do read all the reviews of my work, in part because increasingly bloggers sell books. If they showed up at my door I guess I'd invite them into the house for a Red Bull, and give them a tour of my library.

Q: You're a Fitzgerald fan. What do you think of what Hollywood did to Benjamin Button?

A: I don't think anyone in the 20th century wrote sentences as consistently luminescent as Fitzgerald. I just loved Benjamin Button, how that bauble of a short story became this epic romance is absolutely beyond me, and I think it's Hollywood filmmaking at its very best.

Q: Lastly, what would you like to say to all those Bronxville book clubs considering your work?

A: Thank you for slumming with me. Most of the groups that I talk with read George Eliot one week and then the next week they go slumming with me, for which I'm grateful. I speak to a number of clubs by speakerphone and am always happy to do so, it's my way of thanking them for choosing my work among so many alternatives, and in the digital age I want to support anyone who still reads pulp.

Bronxville School Facts: Did you know?

~ APs ,or Advanced Placement Tests, taken by 10th, 11th & 12th graders more than doubled since 2003. 487 AP Tests were taken by Bronxville High School students in 2008. The introduction of AP classes was started by a grant from the Bronxville School Foundation in 1999. The first advanced placement course we offered was AP English, followed by World History taught by Delia Grogan Selby the following year. We now have over 15 AP class offerings in a wide variety of disciplines. 109 of our students have been named AP Scholars and scored above a 3 out of 5 on 3 or more AP exams. In addition 91% of the Test

Scores of our students were a 3 or better which "Qualifies" that student for college credit. 85% of the seniors have taken at least one AP exam and most take multiple.

~ Overnight school trips remain an exciting part of our ES and MS educational experience. Since 1982, our second grade students have been going on the farm trip spending two nights and three days. Our seventh graders have for over 50 years visited Williamsburg. For the last 20 years, our eighth graders have visited DC. This year their plans include visits to the White House, the Supreme Court and Capitol Hill.

Farewell to Faculty

Dan Alexander

In 1969, Dan Alexander began his career of teaching music in his hometown of Memphis, Tennessee. Ten years into his career, he found a position at the Bronxville Elementary School. Here, he was able to put into practice his theory, acquired from "A Course In Miracles," that it is



better to teach using a thought system based on love, and not fear. Throughout his thirty year tenure here, Dan has maintained the position of "Elementary Music Specialist." He has observed what he feels is a change from a relation-ship-based, nurturing system to one that is impersonal and less child-oriented. He counters this by performing with the children when they are having fun, and teaching them in a manner that lets them enjoy the learning process. Dan has served on many committees in his time at the School, but serving on the "Lincoln Center" committee (which helped teachers receive training in the Performing Arts), and on the Elementary Principal Search Committee rank amongst the most memorable.

Retirement will bring opportunity to explore new horizons, though the prospect of not being in the classroom does make him a bit sad. However, winning his fight with Guillain-Barre Syndrome (which causes numbness and paralysis in the limbs) will enable him to attain his goal of performing in the theater. He intends also to do some volunteer work.

Dr. Ellen Carney

Dr. Ellen Carney, who has taught at the Bronxville School for 27 years, explored a number of other career opportunities before beginning her teaching career at a private school. She particularly enjoyed working at a political magazine in Manhattan. Once in Bronxville, she introduced an AP course in English literature and then taught both



the AP English course and French IV for a number of years. She has served on various committees during her tenure at the Bronxville School, including the Scheduling Committee and the Professional Development Board. She also served as Senior Class moderator for 10 years, started the Debate Club and the Respect Life Club a decade ago, to name a few! Dr. Carney notes that the pace of change at the Bronxville School has increased just as it has in the world in general. She used to tell parents on Back-to-School night not to think that children were going to have the same experience they

had in high school. Now she finds that the younger siblings of students that she taught 4 or 5 years ago do not have the same experience. One unfortunate byproduct of this pace of change is the high level of anxiety among the seniors to get into college. While all of our students are accepted at great schools, she has found that the tension level beforehand has escalated to an enormous degree.

The aspect of Dr. Carney's job that she has most enjoyed has been her interaction with the students whom she has seen mature and grow. That being said, she is very excited about retiring and really feels like this a beginning of a completely different life. She has so many plans that she needs a list so that she won't forget any of them.

Maryann DeRuvo

Maryann DeRuvo will be retiring this spring after 20 years of service to the Bronxville School, its students and the community. During her 20-year tenure at Bronxville, she has taught both 4th grade (18 years) and 5th grade (2 years). She has also served on the Staff De-



velopment Governing Board.

Prior to Bronxville, she took a 7 year hiatus to raise her two children, and attend school to attain her Master's degree in Special Education, with a focus on Learning Disabilities. At Bronxville, Mrs. DeRuvo has seen a number of changes in education: enrollment in the Elementary School has almost doubled with a corresponding increase in the teaching staff and there has been an infusion of technology into the classrooms, which has completely changed the way we teach and the way the children learn. As a result, the students (and teachers!) have become more and more "techno-savvy". Maryann has amassed a great deal of knowledge and materials over the past 20 years, a gift which she will be leaving with the next generation of teachers. Although it will be difficult for her to leave, she is purposefully leaving while she is still passionate about her work and her students. She is looking forward to spending more time with her family (both her daughters and 4 grandchildren live nearby) and to focusing on the projects and activities that she has never had the time to do: working in her garden, being at the family beach house, and learning to knit, playing bridge and golf-

Maryann has inspired students, faculty and parents with dedication, insight and kindness over the years. She will be missed a great deal.

Mary Ann Johnson

Having grown up in Bronxville, and having graduated from the Bronxville School, Mary Ann Johnson was intrigued and excited when she learned of Bronxville's new position of Social Worker for grades K through 12. At that time, she had been a Social Worker at the John Jay High School for over fourteen years. She has now held that same



position in the Bronxville School for thirteen years. Over that time, she has seen revolutionary changes take place in the school, mostly technology-driven, such as the "whiteboards," and the classroom commuters. Even administratively, everything is communicated through online channels. Combined with the new construction of the past ten years, everything has

"morphed" into a new and exciting teaching environment. On top of all that, Mary Ann feels that the disastrous flood of two years ago wound up having the positive effect of bringing administration, teachers, and students closer, as much adaptation and cooperation were required to continue school activities

The one constant throughout her tenure has been the students, whose energy, enthusiasm, and spirit make them fun to be around.

While at Bronxville, Mary Ann has been involved with several initiatives involving the health and wellness of the students, such as the Family University program, peer mentoring, Project Understanding, and the Freshman Transition Program. She is looking forward to retirement and its challenges, and is contemplating a job that will enable her to utilize her previous social worker experience, to help with bereavement issues. She feels that her years of dealing with the students will remain a wonderful memory.

John Kehoe & the Middle School: A Blue Ribbon Relationship

No one has a closer connection to the recognized, "blue ribbon" excellence of the Bronxville Middle School than Dr. John Kehoe. When Dr. Kehoe arrived at Bronxville School in August 1981 as a young high school Vice Principal, serving under the legendary Bob Spenik, Bronxville already had an acclaimed school system divided into an elementary school (grades K-6th) and a high school (grades 7th -12th).

In March 1985, John was asked by the School Board and then Superintendent Bill Grantham to help design and implement the creation of a new "middle school" that would consist of the 6^{th} , 7^{th} and 8^{th} grades and would be located within the Bronx-ville School system's single-building structure.

While remaining Assistant Vice Principal, Dr. Kehoe spent the next 15 months working with teachers and parents to create a middle school environment that would focus on the particular social and physiological issues faced by pre-adolescents, while continuing to deliver a challenging and stimulating curriculum for the students. He recalls that the planning process was based on collaboration and communication, as he overcame initial skepticism from some who questioned the need to mess with existing success. The response he offered to the community was "why not make good better?" The result of his dedication was the birth of the Middle School in September 1986, which - then as now - emphasized an advisory and mentoring program that addressed "growing up issues" within small groups inside the classroom. He believes that this Middle School template has been instrumental in "staying out in front" of pre-adolescent issues before they become bigger problems. Naturally, Dr. Kehoe served as the Middle School's first Principal for the next 14 years. He is proud that the school won a New York State blue ribbon award for excellence in only its third year of existence. He feels the award validated the quality of the Middle School's programs and provided some measure by which to evaluate the school on an ongoing basis.

In 2000, Dr .Kehoe moved into his current role as Assistant Superintendent of the entire school system, a position that focuses more on administrative and personnel issues and less on curricular issues. It was during this period that he helped guide the school and community

through two titanic challenges: the school re-construction program and the school restoration project following the 2007 flood. Even though he has moved on from his day-to-day oversight of the Middle School, he is proud that the Middle School won a federal blue ribbon award for excellence last year. As with the state blue ribbon award, he sees this award as a nice confirmation of the school's success over the last 20 years and the teamwork by all involved: students, teachers, administrators and parents.

Reflecting back on the last 28 years at Bronxville, Dr. Kehoe echoes a sentiment we've often heard from educators who have spent their careers here: he has loved his job in a way he wishes others could replicate. He has no plans to step down, and he continues to spend his free time visiting with his family and umpiring baseball games at the high school and college level. All in all, he's had a blue ribbon career while helping to bring blue ribbon excellence to the Middle School and the entire Bronxville school system.

GRAMATAN VILLAGE

Are you concerned about the well being of parents or relatives residing in the Bronxville area?

GRAMATAN VILLAGE, a not-for-profit community supported membership organization founded in 2007, helps seniors to live comfortably in their current homes or apartments in the greater Bronxville area. Volunteer opportunities- Cultural & social events- Guidance in emergencies. For information contact our Executive Director, Julie Dalton at 914 337-1338 www.gramatanvillage.org

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Read all about the exciting grants the Foundation was able to fund last year at www.bronxvilleschoolfoundation.org.

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The Bronxville School Foundation supports enhancements to the quality of all facets of education in all three schools. Thanks to the generosity of our donors \$325,000 was awarded last year. We are hopeful that our Alumni, parents and community will help us achieve or exceed that level...

Laugh

Katie's Run On Thanksgiving Saturday more than 500 people gathered on the front lawn of the Bronxville School for the 2nd Annual Katie Welling Run/Walk. A crisp - blue sky - fall day was the

perfect back drop for participants to work off their Thanksgiving Day delights traversing the two and half mile course through Bronxville. Before the race began, the entire group, dogs included, posed for the traditional picture on the front steps of the school.

Katie, a 2002 Bronxville High School graduate, died three

Mr. and Mrs. William Contessa

years ago in a fire shortly after her 21st birthday. The Run/Walk, which doubled in size from last year, was a tribute to how much Katie was loved by her community. Katie's mother, Helen Welling, was warmed



by the sea of smiling faces and expressed gratitude that "her Kate" would never be forgotten.

Don't miss this magical event next year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 28th, 2009. See you there!

The Second Annual Katie Welling Memorial Run/Walk Donors

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Reunion Fever!

BHS CLASS OF '88 20th REUNION WEEKEND

The Bronxville High School Class of 1988 celebrated its 20th High School Reunion the weekend of October 10th and 11th. The weekend kicked off on Friday evening with an informal get together at The Station House (formerly The OX) for a trip down memory lane. On Saturday morning a handful of

graduates and their families met at the flagpole on Pondfield and were given a lovely tour of the school. Afterwards, everyone grabbed lunch

at their favorite spot and met at the

Elementary playground for an informal picnic and continued to catch up as their kids played. The evening was spent at the Bronxville Field Club.



BHS CLASS OF '78 30TH REUNION WEEKEND

The reunion weekend began with over forty classmates and their spouses attending a party at Susan Kelty-Law's home on Sherman Avenue. Despite the constant threat of rain, the weather cooperated. There were many first time attendees

and many eled great Sara Bust-Spain, man from Christine from Eng-Tony Rid-Seattle,



who travdistances: induy from Frank Ritt-Singapore, Mattimore land, and nell from who can-

celled his trip to London and brought his wife and stepdaughter.

Saturday night, the group met at Chambers Field to watch the Homecoming Football game. Despite the non-stop rain, it did not prevent us from reconnecting with some teachers and coaches, notably the ever cheerful Vito Priore. By halftime, many drenched spectators had already headed to Fogarty's where most stayed well past midnight and were fortunate enough to spend some quality time with the NFL commissioner, Roger Goodell. The reunion's impact continues as Facebook aficionados have posted many photos at "Bronxville Class of 1978". As a result of these postings, we have heard from many classmates who were unable to attend.

BHS CLASS OF '73 35TH REUNION WEEKEND

The Class of 1973 celebrated their 35th Reunion this year over the September 2008 Homecoming Weekend. The planning committee (Yvonne Gannon Cunningham, Anne LaCava Beckett, Ellen Corley, Tom Troja, and Dave Shea) decided to have in-home parties on Friday and Saturday nights around the Homecoming Football Game.

The weekend started with a tour of Bronxville High School organized and led by Class of 73's very own Mary Petite Yoo who was able to give insight into the state of the school as she is a parent of current and former Bronxville students. Friday night, a 40-60 person party of classmates, spouses and friends gathered at the home of Ellen Corley's parents, the Brunie's, on Elm Rock. This party was particularly fun since this is where the class held their Graduation party. On Saturday there was another tour of the school in the

On Saturday there was another tour of the school in the morning and many classmates gathered to watch legacies, such as Jim Mitchell's son, play JV football.

The highlight of the weekend was the Saturday evening Cajun food and Premium Beer barbecue at Tom Troja's where Classmates mingled on Tom's front porch, went to the Football Game, and then came back for post-game festivities in the old "lot" style tradition well into the night.

What particularly made this event memorable was that well-

loved classmates, Murray Davis and Omar Khalifa came all the way from Australia to be there. Another unexpected value-added aspect of this year's reunion was that Chris and Roberta Reed, Leigh Barbour and John Shepley were able to capture hundreds of photographs of the event. To see more of these shots, join the Bronxville Friends group on Facebook (which is growing bigger by the day thanks to Howey Dugan). For information on how to access the Bronxville Friends Facebook site, feel free to contact Ellen Corley at eacorley@aol.com.

BHS CLASS OF '58 50TH REUNION WEEKEND

In October 2008, forty-nine members of a graduating class of eighty-nine, traveled to Bronxville from afar: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Quebec, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and even Paris, France. Some had not been back to Bronxville since graduation. Weekend activities got underway on Friday evening with a cocktail party hosted by Alan and Rita Steinkamp at their Elm Rock Road home (nametags appreciated), followed by dinner at Roma's.

On Saturday morning we were given a tour of the school, which has undergone a number of renovations since the late

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The evening's festivities were held at the Bronxville Field Club, where the featured entertainment was a DVD show of the '58 Bronco "boys will be boys" high jinks, spring vacations in Fort Lauderdale and Baccalaureate (some commented that it looked like an episode of Mad Men).

A remembrance of deceased classmates, best count twelve, followed dinner, along with memories of high school happenings amusingly retold by the class president, and finally a rousing chorus of "Beer, Beer for Old Bronxville High" led by Michael Gates Gill, the classmate of recent note with his authorship of "How Starbucks Saved My Life".

The weekend's events concluded with a brunch at Fogarty's where the only regret expressed about the weekend was that we didn't have enough time to talk to every classmate.

A reunion memento that classmates will cherish is a booklet of biographies and reflections, compiled by Jeanne LaBorde Scholz, where '58ers had the opportunity to tell about the persons they have become since leaving Bronxville High School, and how they got there. Fascinating reading!

BHS CLASS OF '53 55TH REUNION WEEKEND

The 55th reunion of Bronxville's Class of '53 took place on the weekend of October 3rd. George Carneal, working with (recently married) Nan Tobin Webber & class president Bob Webber, contacted nearly every living member of the class, reaching back to grade school days. The festivities were initiated on Friday night with a cocktail party for the 40+ participants hosted by Mimi & Bob Wein. On Saturday, Ann Day Reynolds arranged for a luncheon at the library's Yeager Room, which was followed by classmates' presentations moderated by Meg Meyer Jungkuntz. Included were Stephen Fitzgerald's exquisite nature photography talk, Grace MacDougall Mynatt's community restoration project in North Carolina, John Bourhill's experience as an ordained minister, Hank Holmes discussing his management consultant's career in Thailand, and Jake Warren's experiences in the airline's industry. This was followed by an objective review of the current financial markets by Wall Street's Malcolm Clarke & Jacques Theriot. Sugar Allison Genereaux arranged for the Saturday dinner at the Bronxville Field Club with Eliot Vestner entertaining us with his talented piano rendition. Class treasurer Diane Rosenquest Todd's budget provided for the placement of two "bricks" in the Alumni Walk. One is in recognition of our 55th weekend, and the other in memory of our deceased classmates, which unfortunately includes recently departed Tim Allen & Bob Morell. Next is the 60th, and hopefully it will attract the classmates who were not able to attend this very special event.

BHS CLASS OF '48 60TH REUNION WEEKEND

The Bronxville High School Class of '48 held its 60th Reunion over the weekend of June 6th. Over 50 came from as far

away as Texas to attend the welcome Friday cocktail party, Saturday picnic and dinner and Sunday Brunch. The planning committee of Elliott Bates, Morell Coon, Mary Alice Carol McCombe, Etta Schumann Parker, Midge Whitestone Riggs, Phyllis Stevens Sharp and Cynthia Towell Shively planned the events for months ahead, which turned out the greatest number ever of BHS alumni for their 60th.



This Newsletter was compiled with articles by Beth Aherne, Mary Taylor Behrens, Mariellen Sullivan Carpenter, Linda Young Delaney, Carrie Moseley Mandala, Quentin Murphy, Ed O'Toole, Mike Sargent, George Shively, Phyllis Steven Sharp and, Wayne Soodek, and Peggy Williams. Production assistance was provided by Kim O'Toole.

The Alumni Walk was created in 1994 and has been enthusiastically built by donations from graduates of all ages, entire classes, as well as families and friends wishing to honor former students. More than



1500 bricks grace the path at the entrance to the Bronxville School. This year 86 bricks were added to the Walk. A complete listing of new additions to the Walk are posted on the Foundation web site www.bronxvilleschoolfoundation .org . Add your brick today by completing the enclosed card or calling the Foundation Office at 914-395-0515.

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Ms. Allia Benner '06
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James Emmett Kearney '93
James Emmett Kearney '93
Jamifer Bernett Kearney '93
Jennifer Bernett Kearney '93

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Mr. Brennan Warble '86

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