

# THE BRONXVILLE SCHOOL FOUNDATION

*A Community Commitment to Public Education*

## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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Vol. 15, Spring 2010

### All School Global Education Initiatives

Helping students to acquire the skills needed to live in an increasingly interdependent global community has become a priority in the Bronxville School. Sparked by the presentation made by a group of 7 faculty members about their trip (supported by Bronxville's Staff Development program) to visit peers in China, the school's principals, working together with the Board of Education, committed to incorporating a global perspective into Bronxville's curriculum. While time-honored traditions such as a rigorous liberal arts curriculum and student exchanges with schools in Spain and France continue, opportunities for students of all ages to interact directly with the international community have been added to the district's educational offerings.



A partnership with a school in El Triunfo, Ecuador was established by Elementary Spanish teacher, Millie Guzman. Last year, the fifth grade painted a shed to raise funds to provide technology equipment that would allow them to "visit" the students in El Triunfo via Skype. This year, the 5th graders are increasing their knowledge of Ecuadorian culture and gaining expertise in speaking Spanish by skyping with their peers.

The fifth grade students are not the youngest students, however, to have communicated with members of the global community. Through LitWorld, a partnership was established with the Red Rose School in Kibera, Kenya giving Bronxville's primary grade students the opportunity to create and exchange digital books with children in Kibera. In addition, throughout the Fall our 3-5th graders involved their parents in a school wide reading of *Listen to the Wind* and discussing author Greg Mortenson's efforts to establish schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. These family conversations spurred additional stories about individuals who have made a difference in the lives of others, and creating a rich source of ideas for discussion in the elementary school classrooms.

The Middle School formed the Global Ambassadors' Club in an effort to connect with the global community. Under the leadership of Mary Schenck, English teacher, the group has participated in video-conferences with a school in Vietnam. This group of students has also been instrumental in planning two global awareness days that provided all middle school students with an interdisciplinary view of the issues facing the global community. The topics, drawn from the United Nations' Millennium Goals, focused on world hunger in 2008-9 and on universal primary education in 2009-10.



High school students have been active as well in the global community. Last summer, high school counselor, Jim Agnello, escorted Nora Gerson, senior, and Ahmed Ebrahim, junior, to Kitonga, Tanzania, to work in an orphanage that was established by relatives of a Bronxville family. A school was opened at the orphanage in January, 2010. This summer, additional students from Bronxville will visit Kitonga to establish a partnership with the newly formed school.



The tradition of exchange programs with schools in Spain and France have continued, and this spring eleven high school students will travel to Caen. An additional fourteen students traveled to Nicaragua to build homes. Joining them this year was Bronxville alum, Patrick Clarke '05, who participated in the Nicaragua project while he was a student at our school. Art students visited Greece last year and traveled to Spain during the 2010 spring break; and 24 HS and MS drama students will perform at the Fringe Festival in Scotland this summer.

While the service learning projects and exchange programs are the most visible manifestations of the global education initiative, vitally important work is also taking place behind the scenes. The faculty has been hard at work revising the curriculum so that students have the opportunity to develop the problem-solving skills, creativity and innovative approaches that will be needed to address the complex issues facing the global community. These efforts are gradually transforming the curriculum to provide a worldview through the literature that is read, the topics that are discussed, and the context in which issues are taught. The Bronxville School Foundation has been instrumental in moving the global education initiative forward through its support of several of the grants proposed by teachers with an eye towards global awareness.

# Bronco Sports Fall Season

Is there something in the water in Bronxville that promotes athletic prowess? Some might think so, given the extraordinary performance of the Bronco sports teams in 2009-2010.

## FOOTBALL

It was a season for the history books! And The Bronxville School Foundation played a big role, having donated more than \$10,000 worth of sleds and other athletic practice equipment to the team this past year. The first hint of Bronco Football success came in the second game of the season. For the first time in 9 years, the Broncos beat perennial powerhouse Dobbs



Ferry. This was Dobbs' first regular season loss since 2000, breaking its 60 game winning streak. The undefeated Broncos went on to beat defending state champs, Croton-on-

Hudson, both in the regular season and the Sectional final. From there, they proceeded up the Thruway to beat Section 9 champ Ellenville and then Section 5 champ Hoosick Falls in the most exciting game of the season. As the season progressed, the intensity level was palpable. With the advent of Facebook and on-line transmission of the game over the internet, alumni from all over attended the playoffs or watched the Broncos on their computers. As the season continued into late November and daylight hours waned, the Broncos could be seen practicing on Chambers Field under spotlights in the darkness; they even practiced alongside a longstanding alumni game on Thanksgiving morning. For the first time since 1997, the Broncos made the historic trip to the Carrier Dome in Syracuse for the State final on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This time, however, the Broncos played for the Class C, as opposed to the Class D championship. The senior captains, running back Brian Murray and center Blair Law (son of Susan Kely Law, Class of '78), along with numerous others, had been sidelined with injuries the entire week leading up to the final game. Nevertheless, the team rallied; Bronxville fans donned their blue face paint and our Bronco mascot engaged the crowd but defending state champ Southwestern proved hard to beat, defeating the Broncos 38 to 14.

## SWIMMING

Girls swimming lost just one meet out of 11 this fall to powerhouse Ursuline. They swam a tough schedule, generally against schools much larger than Bronxville. Four swimmers, Giovanna Patafio, Claire O'Reilly, Maureen O'Reilly and Nicole Sears, qualified to swim at Sectionals. Bronxville's 200 free relay team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Sectionals and then qualified to swim at States, along with Giovanna Patafio and Nicole Sears who were awarded All League recognition. The team this year was comprised of 26 swimmers, three were divers as well.

## TENNIS

Having lost some talented senior players in the last two years, girls tennis had a rebuilding year with an ultimate record of 8 and 5. Number 1 singles player Amanda Austi won both the League and the Conference championship.

## BOYS SOCCER

A year after Boys Soccer won the New York State Class C Championship, the rebuilding Broncos were still able to make the Sectional finals. With an overall record of 9-8 and 2, they lost to second seed Westlake in the Sectional finals.

## GIRLS SOCCER

The undefeated Girls Soccer team suffered a heartbreaking defeat in the Sectional Finals to three time defending State champ Briarcliff. Senior Co-captains Christie Bonfiglio and Megan Bond (daughter of Fred Bond, Class of '79) have both committed to playing soccer next year in college.

## FIELD HOCKEY

A year after going all the way to the State Finals, the 2009 Bronco Field Hockey team finished their regular season undefeated and had high hopes



of going all the way again. After winning the Section, Bronco Field Hockey experienced a tough 1-0 loss in the Regional finals to upstate powerhouse Hoosick Falls. The tremendous talent on the team did not go unrecognized outside Section 1-Rachel Kim, Annie Longobardo

(daughter of Guy Longobardo, Class of '78) and Brooke Gogel received All-State recognition. Those three also received the coveted Golden Dozen Award which recognizes student athletes for both athletics and academics.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Both Boys and Girls Track saw great success this fall.

The Boys ended their fall Cross Country season as League champs and placed 6 runners in the "All League" category out of a total of 14 for the entire league. Sophomore Dayton Flannery was named All County and All-State and his 8<sup>th</sup> grade brother earned an All County title. Dayton qualified for States and finished with an impressive 20<sup>th</sup> place out of a total of 129 runners.

Bronxville's Girls Cross Country team dazzled the competition again under the leadership of veteran Coach Jim Mitchell. They won their 8<sup>th</sup> State championship, their second consecutive win. No other girls Cross Country team in Westchester has won the state championships. Led by senior Henrietta Miers who will run next year for Princeton, the girls team secured the title with stellar performances by 9<sup>th</sup> graders Meredith Rizzo and Amelia Phillips as well as by Emilie Hoeffler and Courtney Campbell.





## Bronco Sports Winter Season

### **WINTER TRACK**

The Winter Track season was similarly successful. Girls Track placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Westchester County championships, a great finish considering they were running against many much larger schools. At the States, the girls relay team had a second place finish in the 4x400m relays.

The Boys Winter Track season brought more great things. Bronxville won the "Triple Crown" of Boys Indoor Track. They were League champs, Westchester County Class C champs and Section 1 Class C champs. Senior Nat Recine who ran the 60 meter dash and the 200 meter dash and junior Henry Palermo who threw shotput were voted to the All Westchester County Team by coaches from around the county.

### **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Like many other Bronco teams, Girls Basketball faced much stiffer competition this year after the leagues were geographically rearranged. Despite this, the girls won 4 more games this season than they did in 2009, finishing the season with a 6-11 record. Sophomore Grace Devlin (daughter of Allison Shuker Devlin, Class of '76) led the team with 126 points.

### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

Now playing in a tough league that includes three Class A teams-Eastchester, Pelham and Ardsley-the Broncos held their own against these much larger schools. After losing to Eastchester early on, the Broncos came back with a glorious victory over Eastchester, 57 -53, in January. They lost to powerhouse Pelham in the last seconds of a game in February. The Broncos finished their season 8-11. Senior Derek Richter (son of Nina Reetz Richter, Class of '81) was the high scorer with 307 points followed by senior Matt Troja (son of Tom Troja, Class of '73) who had 226 points and 44 3 pointers.

### **SKIING**

The Bronxville Boys and Girls Ski Team saw great success on the slopes this season. The girls finished the season 6-2, losing their top skier



Sheridan Sunier at the start of the season when she was injured in a race. The boys team finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a 7-1 record. Both teams had a record number of skiers qualify for sectionals this year. Freshman Petey Dejoy finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in slalom, qualifying for states. Captain Karl Benziger (son of Paul Benziger, Class of '77) was named first alternate. Petey was the first Bronxville boy to qualify for states in a decade.

### **ICE HOCKEY**

Competing against Class AA schools such as New Rochelle and 2009 state finalist Mamaroneck, the combined Eastchester/Tuckahoe/Bronxville ice hockey team finished its season with a respectable league record of 3-3 and an overall record of 7-14. Ten of the 23 members of the team are from Bronxville including the top scorer sophomore Ian Palfrey.

## Alumni News

### **BHS Class of '69 Celebrates 40th Reunion!**



Over sixty members of BHS '69 and guests celebrated a great 40th Reunion in Bronxville the weekend of October 23-25, 2009. Festivities began on Friday evening with a wonderful reception at the home of Pam Lippe ('70), followed by a smaller

group sojourn to Pete's Park Place Café in the later hours. Saturday morning featured an excellent tour of the school led by BHS senior, Annie Longobardo and Peter Thorp, member of the Bronxville School Foundation Board. The 20 classmates who made the tour were impressed by the many improvements to the school facilities. Peter commented that it was the noisiest group of 58-year-olds he had encountered! Marc Guild and Denise Alvarez were the biggest talkers.

Heavy rain showers on Saturday afternoon did not deter a hearty group of fans from coming out to cheer the Bronco football team on to their first victory of the Class C sectionals. A Chambers Field tailgate party included nine members of the undefeated '68 Bronxville football team: Rick Alvarez, Bud Denniston, Randy Ely, John Brickley, Bob Luckey, Martin Hopwood, Jim Fernald, Dennis Kammerer, and Jay Van Kirk, along with a special visit from former assistant coach Bob McGrath. On Saturday evening, the class gathered at The Bronxville Field Club. The group was very honored to have as their guests former head football coach (and later Principal) Bob Spenik, and retired Director of Music at the high school, Al Mingrone. Letters were read from class members who could not attend, Adrienne Atkins Stearns read a wonderful 1964 poem written by Anne McSpadden about her students, and Gale Whedon Dewar gave us an update on the success of her son Danny, who has Cystic Fibrosis and is running in marathons! Dancing among the group this year was sparse and ugly, but class members enjoyed the wonderful 60s music cds (provided by John Brickley). Of course, we also took a moment to remember eleven of our classmates who have passed away.

Careful budgeting and a small donation by each attendee in the reunion fee enabled the class to make a \$500 donation to the BSF Endowment Fund. This sum was matched after the reunion by nine other class members, making the total contribution \$1,000. We want to thank everyone near and far who took the time to attend this year with special thanks to members of the reunion committee: Jim Fernald, Betsy Lawyer Allinson, and John Schoen. For those who missed the gathering, there is a group site on FaceBook called 'Broncos 69' which is public. There is also a password-site at [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) which features over 400 classmate photographs from the past 50+ years. Please contact John Schoen ([john.schoen@msnbc.com](mailto:john.schoen@msnbc.com)) or Jim Fernald ([jfernal@nbc29.com](mailto:jfernal@nbc29.com)) for information on how to view these or post additional photos on this site.

### **BHS Class of '74 35TH REUNION WEEKEND**

The Class of 1974 celebrated it's 35th Reunion with a tremendous turnout the weekend of Sept 25-27, 2009. The festivities began with a buffet dinner at the home of Jill Pearson Rappaport co-hosted by Andy Paul. More than 80 classmates came from nearby and far away, including



California, Colorado, Washington, Florida, France, Norway and the Caribbean. The next day included a tour of the school lead by the Bronxville School Foundation, dinner at the Tap House organized by Alvaro

**BHS Class of '74 35th Reunion Weekend cont'd**

Saralegui, Bennett Fletcher, Richie Hopwood and Kevin Connors and then a victorious Bronco homecoming game under the lights. Both evenings ended with a late-night crew at Pete's...no surprise. Sunday was a day of rest with some meeting for small brunches and final goodbyes. The weekend was a huge success and Facebook (thanks to Charles Luce and Michael Peters) facilitated the communications before and after the event. We're already discussing when and where to meet next!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY! BHS Class of '77**

Memorial Day weekend has always been a special holiday for Bronxville, especially for those of us who fondly remember rubbery chicken on the school field in our patriotic garb. So the class of '77 chose that weekend to celebrate its collective 50th birthday, 32 years after high school graduation. The obligatory Friday night at Pete's, a hilarious school tour on Saturday, a VERY festive tent party at Sarges that night, and a GREAT brunch at Gays on Sunday. Anyone who was ever at school with us was invited, so there were 151 invited (we graduated 121) and 68 (plus 30 dates) showed up. Only 13 are MIA. It could not have been more fun - so go to your reunion when you get a chance!

**BHS Class of '79 30TH REUNION WEEKEND**

The Bronxville School Class of 1979 celebrated its 30th reunion the weekend of October 16-17. The group of 40 plus (some as far away as Switzerland, Ireland and California) gathered Friday evening at the welcoming new guest house of Mary and Chris Behrens, reminiscing past midnight with a 70s soundtrack and Yankees playoff win in the background. Saturday late morning brought a tour of the School followed by a 40-0 Bronco football blow-out of long-time rival Tuckahoe, where the group caught up and mingled with a variety of alumni from different classes and many former teachers/coaches (no comparisons to the '79 Tuckahoe game were permitted). The reunion was capped off by a rousing party Saturday night at the Field Club, with lively dancing to music by '79 class favorite band LfP and a host of amateur singers and musicians from the class. The outstanding decorations featured many photos and sports articles from back in the day and enlarged posters of each yearbook page of the graduating class, with memorial ribbons affixed next to the pictures of those whom we've lost over the years. Later, diehards went to Pete's Tavern for one last memory as it is closing after so many years. Kudos to the reunion committee of Ginna Wiese Sesler and Mary Taylor Behrens with help from Michele Epley Bond and Pier Frigerio who all did a superb job throughout, using Facebook to bring everyone together and share their photos and memories. We're already looking forward to the 35th!



**CLASS GIFTS**

*THE CLASS OF 1959 will have a Koussa Dogwood planted to commemorate their 50th Reunion this past fall. Additional funds raised at the Reunion were donated to the Foundation to support their ongoing grants program.*

*Thank you to THE CLASS OF 1969 for their Reunion gift to the Foundation's Endowment Fund. In addition, a brick was purchased for the Alumni Walk in memory of Holly Spencer.*

*The following classes also purchased bricks for the Alumni Walk: CLASS OF 1953 Deceased, CLASS OF 1953 55th Reunion, CLASS OF 2008, CLASS OF 2009*

**Alumna Leaves Generous Bequest to The Foundation**

Elna Wallace, a member of the Bronxville High School graduating Class of 1940, passed away on November 9, 2007. In her will, she made a bequest of \$700,000 to the Bronxville School Foundation. A like bequest was made to Smith College, in Northampton, MA from which she graduated in 1944. During her life, Ms. Wallace enjoyed travel, opera, theater, ballet, bridge, and reading. She lived in Paris, New York, and most recently in Lexington, MA. Her career involved writing in various capacities. She worked as an Editor for McKinsey & Co., and for the Singer Company as Publications Manager, and as a freelance editor/writer for various business people. Ms. Wallace's gift has been designated for the Foundation's Endowment Fund, which provides operating expenses for the ongoing activities and functions of the Bronxville School Foundation.

**2009 Alumni Donors Listed By Graduation Year**

- Ms. Virginia Deady Draper 1932
- Mr. James Sheehan 1934
- Ms. Janet Morse Johnson 1935
- Mr. Brower McClintock, Sr. 1935
- Mr. Paul Littlefield 1938
- Dr. Arthur Schelberg 1938
- Estate of Arthur Dornheim 1938
- Mrs. Katharine Anderson 1940
- Ms. Betty Dornheim 1940
- Mr. Robert Barnett 1941
- Mrs. Margaret Gumb 1942
- Mrs. Winifred Riggs Portenoy 1943
- Ms. Julie Smith 1943
- Mrs. Joan Greeff Deschere 1944
- Mrs. Jane Kerr Mitchell 1944
- Mr. Robert Coldwell 1945
- Mrs. Claire Mirwald Collins 1945
- Mrs. Barbara Dexter Marshall 1945
- Mr. Robert McGrath 1945
- Mr. Alfred Latimer II 1946
- Mr. S. Gilmer Towell 1946
- Mr. Michael Murray 1947
- Mr. John Anderson 1948
- Mrs. Janice O'Neill Brintnall 1948
- Miss Eleanor Pennell 1948
- Mrs. Rebecca Underhill 1948
- Ms. Barbara Dietrich McGrath 1949
- Mrs. Anne Cover Briggs 1951
- Mr. Donald Farley 1951
- Mrs. Connie Hicks Jiranek 1951
- Mr. Merritt Harber Powell, USA(Ret.), 1951
- Mr. Robert Riggs 1951
- Mrs. Audrey Barrett Bower 1952
- Mr. Howard Broek 1952
- Mr. George Childs, Jr. 1952
- Mr. A. Corwin Frost 1952
- Mr. Richard Miller 1952
- Ms. Laura Stichter-Bryson 1952
- Class of 1953
- Mr. Robert Ganger 1953
- Ms. Cadence Allison Geneaux 1953
- Ms. A. Lynn Williams 1953
- Mr. M. Jay Epley III 1954
- Mr. Douglas Horne 1954
- Mr. Oliver Stafford 1954
- Dr. Irene Koppel 1955
- Mrs. Perry Ann Hugill Kurtz 1955
- Mrs. Gail Scudder Carr 1956
- Mr. Lee Fuller, Jr. 1956
- Ms. Ann Hufnagel Rafferty 1956
- Mr. Neil Dickman 1957
- Mrs. Anne Spencer Flannery 1957
- Ms. Anne Keller Torell 1957
- Mrs. Dale Balfour 1958
- Mr. Walter Beebe 1958
- Mr. David Braun 1958
- Mrs. Nancy Deitric Braun 1958
- Mrs. Carole Falter Camberlein 1958
- Mrs. Judy Chadourne 1958
- Mrs. Judy Martin Clements 1958
- Mrs. Linda Young Delaney 1958
- Mrs. Stinceon Ivey Dennen 1958
- Mr. Trevor Dupuy, Jr. 1958
- Mr. Alfred Goodykoontz 1958
- Mr. Richard Haumann 1958
- Ms. Joyce Heckman 1958
- Mr. Albert Maurice 1958
- Mrs. Gay Morison 1958
- Mr. Joseph Murphy 1958
- Mr. Ken Parratt 1958
- Mrs. Jane Congdon Quinby 1958
- Mr. Roger Scott 1958
- Mr. Edward Thomas 1958
- Mr. Tony Thompson 1958
- Mrs. Robin Brown Woods 1958
- BHS Class of 1959
- 50th Reunion Gift '59
- Mr. George Chapman 1959
- Mr. Michael Beebe 1961
- Mrs. Genevieve Bartlett Fricks 1961
- Mrs. Susan Teipel Murphy 1961
- Ms. Adrienne Sullivan Smith 1962
- Mr. L. Gordon Harriss 1964
- Ms. Susan Stieglitz Sutton 1964
- Mr. James McElzey 1966
- Mr. Robert Rabsey 1966
- Mr. Gregory O'Connor 1967
- Mr. Gary Reetz 1968
- BHS Class of 1969
- 40th Reunion Gift '69
- Anonymous 1969
- Mr. Thomas J. Edelman 1969
- Mr. Jim Fernald 1969
- Ms. Michele Folman 1969
- Mr. Dennis Kammerer 1969
- Ms. Mimi Kaupe 1969
- Mr. Frank McGowan 1969
- Lt. Col. John Moore USMC(Ret.) 1969
- Ms. Ann Fishburn Orminski 1969
- Ms. Candace Marshall Monaco 1970
- Mr. Pete Bevis 1971
- Ms. Linda Greaf Jones 1971
- Ms. Jean Corley Yankus 1971
- Mr. Clyde Reetz 1972
- Mr. Bruce Gillespie 1973
- Mr. Frederick McGrath 1973
- Ms. Karen Skinner-Twomey 1973
- Mr. Kevin Connors 1974
- Dr. James Hudson 1974
- Mr. Andrew Paul 1974
- Ms. J. Jill Pearson Rappaport 1974
- Ms. Nancy Routh 1974
- Mr. John Gazouleas 1975
- Mr. John Marshall Jr. 1975
- Mr. Thomas McGehee 1975
- Mr. Jeffrey Pettee 1975
- Ms. Peggy Benziger Williams 1975
- Mr. Jeffrey Cooney 1976
- Ms. Sarah Mollman Underhill 1976
- Mr. Paul Benziger, Jr. 1977
- Mr. Douglas Bond 1977
- Mr. Alexander Ciaputa 1977
- Mr. Roger Goodell 1977
- Ms. Suzanne Miller Bloomer 1977
- Ms. Patricia D'Angelo Ranieri 1977
- Mr. Michael Sargent 1977
- Mrs. Sharon Shuttleworth 1977
- Mr. Brian Byrne 1978
- Mr. Christopher Cooney 1978
- Ms. Susan Kely Law 1978
- Mr. Guy Longobardo 1978
- Mr. William Mullally 1978
- Mr. Brendan Sachjen 1978
- Ms. Mary Taylor Behrens 1979
- Ms. Michele Epley Bond 1979
- Mr. George Shively 1979
- Dr. Polly Kanganis 1980
- Ms. Claire Fay 1980
- Ms. Nina Reetz Richter 1981
- Ms. Charlotte Lovschal Cooney 1982
- Mr. Timothy Fasel 1982
- Mr. Edmund O'Toole 1982
- Mr. Gregory Porto 1982
- Mr. Steven Thomas 1982
- Mr. Mark Epley 1983
- Ms. Maria Dikeos 1984
- Mr. Edward Martin III 1984
- Ms. Jennifer Wilson-Buttigieg 1985
- Ms. Laura Flannery Pettee 1987
- Ms. Kimberly Wilson Wetty 1989
- Ms. Kelly Mulcahy Dolan 1990
- Mr. Michael Hart 1990
- Mr. Christopher Mestl 1993
- Mr. Benjamin Donohue 1994
- Mr. Raymond Childs 1995
- Ms. Claire Donohue 1996
- Mr. Daniel Patrick Farrell 1996
- Ms. Alexis Pope 1996
- Ms. Erin Leigh Childs 1997
- Mr. Michael Donohue 1998
- Ms. Elizabeth Hayden 2000
- Ms. Andrea Kung 2000
- Ms. Allison Santoro 2001
- Ms. Jessica DiMenna 2002
- Ms. Margaret Hayden 2002
- Mr. Michael Murphy 2002
- Ms. Meg Williams 2004
- Ms. Meghan Connor 2006
- Mr. William Gay 2007
- Mr. Sebastian Reetz 2007
- Ms. Kathryn Williams 2007
- Class of 2008
- Ms. Virginia Connor 2008
- Ms. Georgia Rodman 2008
- Mr. Robert Williams 2008

**CALLING ALL GRADUATION CLASSES ENDING IN "0" OR "5"! SAVE THE DATE! HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2010 OCTOBER 1-2, 2010**

**IN MEMORIAM:**  
Arthur Dornheim '38  
Abby Wright Bartlett '66  
David W. Foster '78  
Anna Christina Tombakis '80  
Katie Welling '02  
Barbara & James Donohue

**IN HONOR OF:**  
Michael Bond '09  
Bond, Epley & Warble Families  
Christine Higgins  
Dr. Rachel Kelly



# THE BRONXVILLE SCHOOL FOUNDATION

## Making A Difference!

### In Technology & Equipment:

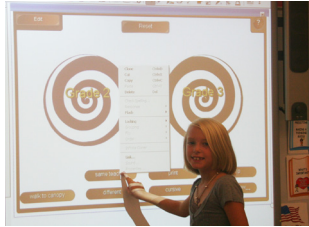


Technology Curriculum Mapping



Video Editing Equipment

### In the Classroom:



Smart Boards



Skeleton Model for Art Classes



Senteo Test Scoring System



Seated Tiered Risers for Chorus Room

### In Physical Education & Athletics:



Cardiovascular Equipment



Outside Zip Line for Project Adventure

### In Leadership Initiatives:



Freshman Transition Program



Support for Sister School in Ecuador



Football Field Training Equipment



Support for the Nicaragua Club

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 \$362,000 was awarded last year. We are hopeful that our Alumni, parents and community will help us achieve or exceed that level.

**Total Grants 1991-2009:  
\$4,200,000**

Read all about the exciting grants the Foundation was able to fund last year at [www.bronxvilleschoolfoundation.org](http://www.bronxvilleschoolfoundation.org)

## Farewell to Faculty



### Dennis Davan

In the fall of 1973, Dennis Davan stepped right into the middle of it, because at what was then Bronxville Junior High, Dennis Davan became the first-ever science teacher of sexual education to a co-ed group of students. Previously, the boys and girls had been

broken into two separate classrooms for this part of the bio curriculum. He was young, new to teaching, energetic, and, boy was he fun! Right from the outset, he developed a way for students to ask a question without having to raise their hands in class and risk embarrassment. He had a special box where anxious hands could anonymously place those delicate questions. He confidently assured the students that he would answer any reasonable inquiry to the best of his ability. Of course, the more enterprising adolescents would try to come up with questions that would either make the class laugh or make Mr. Davan flustered. Neither ever happened. He found a way to scientifically address and answer just about every question in that box. He gained the respect of 37 years' worth of science students as he "taught" them.

Before coming to Bronxville, Mr. Davan taught part time at Hunter College High School while earning his Masters degree at Columbia University. He received his undergraduate degree from NYU. He was first hired to teach 7th and 8th grade Biology. Over his 37-year tenure, he has taught Biology at both the High School and Middle School. In 1983-1984, he taught the first AP Biology course in the High School; there were 7 students enrolled in this class. It has only been in the last few years that he has settled back into full time teaching in the Middle School.

In the 1980's Mr. Davan was actively involved in the committee that spent two years on the development of the present Middle School. He has also been very involved in the staff development and has served on numerous search committees for positions from principals to teachers to counselors. Mr. Davan has also served on District Curriculum Committees.

In reflecting, Mr. Davan says that the school has changed very little physically and that the biggest changes are in the students themselves. They are more comfortable with adults, more communicative, and don't hesitate to challenge. Technological improvements have delivered masses of information to their fingertips. On the one hand, this amazing revolution has opened up so many new paths of learning, but on the other, students don't seem to enjoy reading as much. He loves the rewards of teaching and he loves his students. To him, there is no better job in the world.

So now what for retirement as "Denny" steps out of the middle of it? Well, there will be no retirement... yet. However, while circumstances make this the right time for Mr. Davan to end his career at the Bronxville School, he hopes to continue teaching, possibly at a private school. When he does finally retire he will spend his days reading, drawing, painting and "seriously" traveling. We are thankful and grateful for his years of energetic service and we wish him the best.



### Donnie Kravitz

Donnie Kravitz will be retiring this spring after a 4 decade career as an educator. Remarkably, Donnie spent all 40 years as a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher including the last 16 at Bronxville Elementary School. Donnie

has served on many key committees and advised the administration on curriculum enhancement, staff development and policy changes as the enrollment and teaching staff nearly doubled during her tenure. While she has been at the forefront of embracing new technologies and learning tools like computers and smart boards she has observed

### Donnie Kravitz cont'd

increased competition for children's attention from cell phones, television and video games. Maximizing the positive technology, while minimizing exposure to distractions has been a hallmark of her teaching career. Donnie is excited about her next chapter and looking forward to spending more time with her granddaughters reading more books, traveling and perhaps even learning to speak French. She has mixed emotions about saying goodbye to her students, parents and fellow teachers that she has shared so much with during such a special time of change and growth in education and at our school. Donnie has inspired students, faculty and parents with dedication, insight and wisdom over the years. She will be greatly missed.



### Mickey Kennedy

Micki Kennedy began her career at the Bronxville Schools in September 1972 as a study skills teacher for the 7th and 8th grade and a reading teacher for 9th thru 12th grades. She received her Masters in reading from UVA and received her undergraduate degree

from Manhattanville.

When Mrs. Kennedy came to Bronxville, the Study Skills program was brand new and she was its first teacher. This class was created for the students in Junior High School who did not take a foreign language. In 1977, she started the Resource Room in the High School for 7th to 12th graders, where students could work on advancing their learning skills and study habits.

During her tenure at Bronxville, Mrs. Kennedy has taught at all three schools. When the Middle School came into existence in 1986, she worked with students in the Resource Room, where, given the difficulties middle-schoolers often experience as they mature, Ms. Kennedy found this teaching experience to be most rewarding. Her goal was to help the students feel positive about themselves, and she feels she has been successful helping these students build their self-esteem. She is passionate when she talks about the rewards of teaching "how to learn." Her love of her students and seeing them realize their accomplishments have been the favorite parts of her work. For the last 2 years Mrs. Kennedy has taught Skills in the Elementary School, observing with wonder the development of the next generation.

Over the years, Mrs. Kennedy has been very active in Staff Development in the Bronxville Schools. She has been a teacher representative for the PTA several times and an officer of the BTA (Bronxville Teachers Association). She also played an important role on a technology committee that ushered in new computers and digital technology. In the Middle School, she was the teacher for the Community Service Club, and since the Young Republicans Club was formed in the High School six years ago, she has been its teacher-advisor. There, she has helped teens express their ideas, assist candidates and collect donated items for our soldiers.

After 37 years, Mrs. Kennedy has very mixed feeling about leaving her "home". She is thrilled about the prospect of continuing her own education. There is a world of knowledge out there and she is eager to grab it! She is very interested in nature and preserving the environment and will continue learning at the Botanical Gardens and the Audubon Society. She is also hoping to make a compilation of her father's articles. Her dad, Vincent Bellew, was Superintendent of Recreation for Eastchester and wrote a weekly column entitled "Our Town" for the Eastchester Record. He has left a legacy of memorable moments that she would like to share about the history of the town. She has left us with a similarly vivid and special catalogue of memories.





## Jim Mitchell

In 1978, thirty-three year old Jim Mitchell answered an advertisement in the Sunday New York Times for an interim Latin teacher position at the Bronxville School. He interviewed with then-Principal, Bob Spenik and then-Assistant Principal, John Zidik during a blizzard. They immediately offered him the job to start the very next Monday.

The job was only to last to June, which suited Mr. Mitchell because he was not sure about being a full-time Latin teacher. Although he loved Latin—he was a graduate fellow in Classics at Fordham University and a Latin teacher at Cathedral Prep in Queens for six years—his other love was coaching track, which began with his coaching successes at Cathedral Prep and then at Fordham.

During those fateful first months at Bronxville, Mr. Mitchell realized he really enjoyed teaching Latin to our students, who he found to be both smart and motivated, and a good fit for his engaging, results-oriented personality. Bedecked in his loud tweed jacket and short bushy hair, he signed on to teach another year of Latin and dabbled at coaching JV Boys Soccer and Varsity Girls Basketball in the winter with Jim Long. In the spring, he was asked (perhaps after some petitioning on his part) to take on a fledgling girls track team that was just getting started in the wake of Title IX and desperately in need of a real coach.

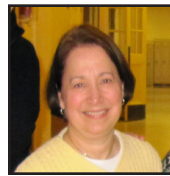
History is made in these moments. As we all know, he stayed and thrived, splitting nearly a dozen Latin classes annually with Linda Gould and helping to establish Latin as a bulwark of Bronxville's language curriculum. All the while, Mr. Mitchell has coached the girls track team for thirty-two years and counting, thus becoming perhaps the most successful coach in school history.

Here are just a few examples of his success. In 2006, Coach Mitchell was the first inductee into the Armory High School Hall of Fame. Forty-one of his runners have won 159 All American certificates and their relays have won three National Championships and one National Record. More importantly, dozens of his runners have continued to compete for several great colleges. A few years back, at the Outdoor Nationals, the announcer said over the loud speaker: "That's Bronxville, the finest one square mile of track in the United States."

What Mr. Mitchell has liked most about teaching is interacting with students and having a positive impact on so many of them, just as a few of his own teachers impacted him. Using his ability as an Irish storyteller, he has related to students by finding common ground with them. Indeed, he loves to talk about all sorts of things of interest to the students—well beyond Latin and track. Mr. Mitchell's classroom is a compilation of his 32 years, filled with numerous trophies, plaques and pictures of his teams. His desk and shelves are overflowing with Latin books, both old and new, and a white board filled with Latin prose by Cicero. "Mitch's" friendly and easygoing manner and his interesting classroom make everyone feel comfortable.

Mr. Mitchell may be retiring from teaching but, thankfully, he will still be at Bronxville School coaching. He recently set up a facebook page where he reconnects with his former students and runners. So while students can no longer hang out in his class, they will be able to catch up with him on the 'net or at the track around 3:00 pm everyday, where he has been a fixture for the past thirty-two years.

*Postscript: The author, Mary Taylor Behrens, Class of 1979, was a first hand witness to Mr. Mitchell's start at Bronxville, as a Latin teacher in 1978 and 1979, and she had Coach Mitch (as he was called then) as a Basketball and Track Coach in 1979. Mr. Mitchell had an immediate impact on both the Latin Department and the Track Team. His success, even in the first year of coaching was remarkable—bringing the first girls 4 x 800 relay to States and placing third. "I ended up loving Latin as a result of Mr. Mitchell (in the combination with Magistra Gould) and loving track due to Coach Mitchell's infectious love of the sport. I went to Georgetown to run track on scholarship, and I minored in Classics all thanks to Mitch. My story is just one of so many that could be told of how Mr. Mitchell has had a major impact. While I had a front row seat thirty-two years ago, my 10th grade son has a front row seat (well actually it is a back row seat!) in Mr. Mitchell's classroom this year, his final year as a Latin teacher. 'Back to School' night was filled with so many memories. Feels like a complete circle."*



## Linda Orsenigo

Next year's annual 7th grade trip to Williamsburg will feel different without veteran American History teacher Linda Orsenigo at the helm. For the past 33 years, Linda has inspired Bronxville students to reach out and touch history with her animated style and limitless energy. Linda was one of the pioneering teachers who -- under the leadership of John Kehoe -- helped launch a revolutionary concept: Bronxville's creation in 1986 of 6th-8th grade Middle School.

Before coming to Bronxville, Linda taught for a short time at East Cherry Hill High School in New Jersey. In 1977, she took a position teaching American History to Bronxville's 11th Graders. A few years later, she took on the interesting task of teaching 7th graders a culturally based American History class while continuing to teach European History in the High School. While the advanced skill level of High School students made her job stimulating, she loved the enthusiasm of the 7th graders "who could give spirited debates but who were also not afraid to dress in costume." Ultimately, Linda found her niche in the 7th grade American History program where she has seen the curriculum change over the years from thematic to chronological based coursework. She feels the chronological based curriculum makes the most sense to her students.

Since the 1970's, Linda has seen the most dramatic changes in teaching with the advent of the middle school concept of teaming with other teachers to address the students' educational and personal needs at such an important time in their lives. The team concept enabled teachers in all subjects to convene regularly and learn more about how students were developing in all of their classes. She also feels the advisory concept -- each Middle School teacher regularly meets to discuss life issues with a small group of Middle School students -- has been very beneficial. She particularly enjoyed being one of the first few "core" teachers to implement the system at Bronxville, which has enabled her to develop her love of each of the kids whom she has taught here. Linda adamantly tells parents "there is a place for every child. Make sure to reward their efforts and compliment them for hard work."

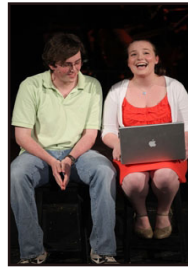
What will she do in retirement? Apart from taking a rest from grading papers, Linda is excited to become more involved with some interesting charities, and to tackle another passion she has been forced to put on the back burner -- the reading of countless biographies she has been stockpiling over the years. "I have kept all the reviews of these biographies...now I get to read them!" Linda says she may even want to come back as a sub "at least while some of the kids still remember me." We, who were taught by her as far back as the '70s, know that they will remember her for years to come. Thanks, Linda.



### Bronxville School Alumni Walk

The Alumni Walk, created in 1994, 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 1450 bricks grace the path at the entrance to the Bronxville School. This year 58 bricks were added to the Walk. A complete listing of new additions to the Walk are posted on the Foundation website [www.bronxvilleschoolfoundation.org](http://www.bronxvilleschoolfoundation.org). Add your brick today by completing the enclosed card or calling the Foundation Office at 914-395-0515.

**Be sure to check out The Bronxville School Foundation website [www.bronxvilleschoolfoundation.org](http://www.bronxvilleschoolfoundation.org) for more Alumni news. Click on the "Alumni" section.**



## JUST SING!

Over sixty students from Bronxville's Middle and High Schools had the unique opportunity to perform in an original musical production, JUST SING!, along with two professional puppeteers. This musical was written especially for the Bronxville School and underwritten by The Joe Raposo Music Group to benefit the Bronxville School Auditorium. The show featured the music of Joe Raposo, multi Grammy and Emmy winner who lived in Bronxville until his death in 1989. With packed

houses for all three performances JUST SING! was successful not only as a fundraiser but also as a fantastic experience the Bronxville students will never forget. Following the last performance the entire cast, crew and audience sang with heartfelt emotion Joe's signature song, *Just Sing*. Everyone, young and old left the theatre humming Joe's songs.

*If you are interested in making a donation to the auditorium please mail contributions to The Bronxville School Foundation, 177 Pondfield Road.*

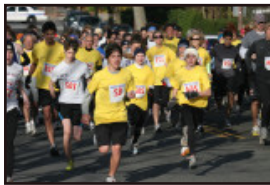


The Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend 2009 was the Third Annual Katie Welling Memorial Run/Walk. Despite many Bronxville families heading up to Syracuse to support the football team more than 400 people gathered on the front lawn of the Bronxville School. The Run/Walk, is a wonderful community event that is becoming a Thanksgiving tradition. It honors Katie Welling, a 2002 Bronxville High School graduate, who died 4 years ago in a fire shortly after her 21st birthday. The Run/Walk is organized by Katie's classmates from 2002. Lots of hugs, laughter and good feelings were shared as everyone came together out on the track at the end of the race where there were refreshments during the award ceremony.

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 the 4th Annual  
 Katie Welling  
 Memorial Run/Walk  
 Saturday,  
 November 27, 2010**