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September 2009

One Size Never Fits All

By Head of School John Gulla

Sometime last June, after classes had ended and the pace on campus was beginning to slow down, at least a little, Ina Loobeek, Blake's PK-12 mathematics department chair, gave me a book, "A Mathematician's Lament," which she suggested I read.

Coincidentally, the book was written by a mathematician now teaching at a school where I'd once been a math teacher. I read it in a sitting (it's not long and is actually available in large part online for free at www.maa.org/devlin/LockhartsLament.pdf). Paul Lockhart's view is inspired, idealistic, in some ways unrealistic, but fully worth careful consideration. Some may read it as a screed. I prefer to see it as a well-intentioned provocation. What follows are some of my favorite nuggets:

- "If teaching is reduced to mere data transmission, if there is no sharing of excitement and wonder, if teachers themselves are passive recipients of information and not creators of new ideas, what hope is there for their students?"
- When explaining geometric proofs, Lockhart writes, "This is a unique art form within the world of rational science. We are trying to craft a 'poem of reason' that explains fully and clearly and satisfies the pickiest demands of logic, while at the same time giving us goose bumps."
- In describing what makes a successful teacher: "If you don't have a personal relationship to your subject, and if it doesn't move you and send chills down your spine, then you need to find something else to do. If you love working with children and you really want to be a teacher, that's wonderful — but teach something that actually means something to you, about which you have something to say. It's important that we be honest about that. Otherwise I think we teachers can do a lot of unintentional harm."

Reading this book was a powerful reminder to me that the central task of a teacher is to inspire. Remember Yeats and his admonition that education is the "lighting of a fire not the filling of a pail."



Head of School John Gulla

In schools we often debate how best to strike the balance between skill development and content mastery. We achieve neither, or do so only superficially, unless ours is a foundation built on a desire to know. I've long held that almost anyone can be a fairly successful teacher if one's students arrive in class wanting to learn, hungry and curious, and dying to more fully understand truth and beauty.

If students are excited about history and eager to read it on their own for pleasure, if students are deeply intrigued by the explanatory and predictive power of science, if students are really jazzed about music or poetry or Spanish, then skill development will be something they'll eagerly pursue on their own initiative, and content mastery will not only flow naturally, but it will endure. The most important element of the art of pedagogy turns on the relationship established between an individual teacher and an individual student. The teacher needs to figure out how best to excite the passions, to develop the trust that encourages risks, and to invite the student into an active engagement with new worlds and new ways of thinking.

How does this happen? There is no formula. If there were, the challenges of education would be met overnight. Lockhart describes one approach, and I believe that there are elements of his pedagogy that should be present in every teacher's practice. But his approach does not work for all students. Some children

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From the Head of School

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need a little pail filling before their fires can be lit. Our great strength as a school rests on our ability to gather a student body with somewhat similar and significant cognitive strengths and aptitudes and to bring them together with a talented, committed group of teachers who will come to know each student well. Drawing on techniques that may borrow from theory ranging from Plato to Rousseau to Dewey, each teacher attempts to establish a relationship with each child and to entice, cajole, encourage and otherwise convince each student to take a year-long trip exploring literature, mathematics, art and other topics so fully worthy of their attention and appreciation.

We welcome to Blake, for the 109th year of our school's work with children, 164 students who are beginning their first year with us. I look forward to their contributions and the contributions of their families and the joys of our work together in this community.

LEGACY DAY 2009: Preparations Underway



One of the first major events of the year is only a month away. Convocation and Legacy Day 2009 will be held on Friday, Oct. 9 and involves all kindergarten through grade 12 students, faculty and staff. Watch for more details on Blake's web site and in the October Parent News. If you are interested in volunteering for this all-school event, please contact Cheryl Appeldorn at (952) 925-5661.

Pesticide Information Form

All Minnesota schools are required to inform parents and guardians if certain pesticides are applied on school property. Blake minimizes the use of pesticides that could potentially harm people, animals or the environment, but some of the products we use are included in the state law. If you would like to be notified or learn more about Blake's application of pesticides, please fill out the form found on BlakeNet (forms section) or contact Ken Nivala, director of buildings and grounds, at knivala@blakeschool.org.

You Are Invited to Attend Your Parent Party

Sponsored by The Blake School Parent Association Hospitality Committee

Get acquainted with the parents of your child's classmates at these casual, grade-level get-togethers for Blake parents. There is no agenda — just come and have a great time! All parties take place on Saturdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Please note that beginning this year invitations will be sent out electronically only. Taher Inc. will cater and provide beverage service for all these grade-level parties. If you have more than one party the same night, please feel free to move between locations.

All parent parties take place on Saturdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Location</u>
September 26	6 10 and 11	PCR Bovey
November 7	9 7 and 8	PCR Bovey
November 14	Pre-K/Kindergarten (Blake) Pre-K/Kindergarten (Highcroft)	PCR Highcroft Foyer
January 23	1 and 2 (Blake) 1 and 2 (Highcroft)	PCR Highcroft Foyer
February 27	3 and 4 (Blake) 3 and 4 (Highcroft)	PCR Highcroft Foyer
April 10	12 5 (Blake and Highcroft)	PCR Bovey

Blake Fans Live the Tweet Life

Whether you're an avid Facebook user, a loyal Tweeter, a news enthusiast or are totally LinkedIn, Blake wants to meet you there! Check out the recent additions to the School's social media repertoire:



Become a fan of The Blake School on Facebook! Search for us under "The Blake School (MN)."



Follow us on Twitter at LifeatBlake.



Subscribe to alumni, athletic, arts and other School news on Blake's web site via RSS feeds.



Join The Blake School Networking Group on LinkedIn.

And be sure to bookmark The Blake School online at www.blakeschool.org!

Where to Find What & Getting the Word Out

As we move more Blake communications and information online, we acknowledge there is a plethora of options, contact people and deadlines for getting the word out, and it is sometimes confusing to know where to find what. Two helpful reference documents can be found on the parent page of Blake's web site at www.blakeschool.org. They include:

- 1) **Blake Online Resources/Where to Find What** — a handy reference to help navigate the information waters of school news, grades, publications, forms, etc.
- 2) **Communication Options/Contacts & Deadlines** — an overview of the School's various communication options with deadlines and contact information (i.e. Friday folders, the Bearometer and Parent Link).

Questions? Please e-mail Cathy McLane in the Communications Office at cmclane@blakeschool.org.

Blake Welcomes New Board Members

The Blake School is pleased to welcome four new members to the Board of Trustees. Their terms begin this fall.



Andrew Humphrey '78

Andrew and his wife, Alison, have three children — Clare '08, George '11 and Grace '15. He is a partner with the law firm Faegre & Benson, where he has worked for 22 years and currently serves on the Management Committee. Prior to this, he clerked for the Honorable Frank Easterbrook of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit in Chicago. Andrew currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Lakewood Cemetery. He was the mayor of

Wayzata from 2005 to 2008, during which time he served on the Executive Committee of the Regional Council of Mayors. Previously, he served on the Wayzata City Council, was on the Board of Directors of MNBIO, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral Foundation, Minnesota Academic Excellence Association, Project for Pride in Living Inc. and HealthSystem Minnesota Foundation, and was on the Visiting Committee for the University of Chicago Law School. Andrew earned his B.A. from Amherst College and a J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School. "I am honored to join the Blake Board of Trustees. I care deeply about Blake, both as an alumnus and a parent," Andrew says. "It provided me with a challenging and inspiring education and had a significant impact on my life. In these difficult economic times, excellence in education will be even more important for our entire community, and I look forward to helping the School preserve and enhance that excellence."

Kate Mortenson

Kate and her husband, David C. Mortenson '84, have three children — Jack '15, Norah '16 and Charlie '19. Kate is an independent consultant, advising nonprofit organizations on their program strategies and initiatives. Currently, she is working with an early childhood education nonprofit to advance early childhood education policy in Minnesota. She has 10 years of leadership experience with community organizing and coalition building in education, public safety, and parks and open spaces. Prior to her independent consulting, Kate was a managing editor for Conus Communications, a division of Hubbard Broadcasting. She also has served in the United States Peace Corps in the Comoros Islands. She is a current member of the Blake Advancement Committee, a MacPhail School of Music trustee, a member of the Minneapolis United Funding Advisory Committee and serves on the Membership Committee of the Minnesota Keystone Program. Kate is a past trustee and parent association chair of the Seattle Country Day School and was a trustee of New Discovery Preschool in Seattle, Wash. She has a B.S. in broadcast journalism from Boston University. "My desire as a Blake trustee is to reflect the mission and values of the School in planning and governance," Kate says. "Guided by the School's time-tested principles of respect, love of learning, integrity and courage, I look forward to giving my best for Blake's strong future."



Hussein Samatar

Hussein and his wife, Ubah Jama, have three children — Hanad '14, Habon '22 and Harun (age 9). He is the founder and executive director of the African Development Center, an entrepreneurial nonprofit working within the African communities in Minnesota to start and sustain businesses, build wealth and promote community reinvestment. In this role, he has created several culturally targeted alternative finance products and frequently addresses

financial, governmental and other community institutions on the topic of building wealth in emerging markets. Previously, he was a commercial banker with Wells Fargo and Norwest Banks. Hussein currently serves on the boards of several development and civic organizations, including the Minneapolis Foundation, CommonBond Communities and the Dean's Advisory Board of the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota. Previously, he held a two-year term as the Minneapolis Public Library Board's Finance Committee chair. A Humphrey Institute Policy Fellow in 2003–04 and a German Marshall Memorial Fellow in 2007, Hussein earned an M.B.A. from St. Thomas University and speaks five languages. "Blake is an amazing institution in many ways, and I hope to help continue its excellent legacy in educating all of our students to reach their fullest potential," Hussein says. "We are living in an increasingly interconnected and intertwined world, thus Blake's mission and values are more relevant than ever before. And our students' success academically and socially depends on how well we prepare them for the world that they will inherit."

Susan Wolf

Susan and her husband, Gene Borgida, have two children — Alex '17 and Jake '17. She is McKnight presidential professor of law, medicine and public policy, Faegre & Benson professor of law, and professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota and a faculty member in the University's Center for Bioethics. She is founding director of the University's Joint Degree Program in Law, Health & Life Sciences and founding chair of the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences. Before joining the University faculty in 1993, she was a fellow in the Program in Ethics and the Professions at Harvard University. Susan has served on a variety of governmental and institutional panels, including the American Bar Association Coordinating Group on Bioethics and Law, American Society of Reproductive Medicine Ethics Committee, and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Ethics Committee. She has acted as advisor on topics to the U.S. Congress's Office of Technology Assessment, American Medical Association and others. She is an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement



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As they retire from the Board, Blake recognizes Varadarajan "V.V." Chari and Edmund Chute '70 for their commitment to and support of the school. Thank you!

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Grades and Publications Online

Remember, Blake is moving all primary communications online this year, including:

- **Grades** (current) and **schedules** (for Middle and Upper School students only). Parents will be alerted via e-mail when grades have been posted. Grades, schedules and attendance can be found on NetClassroom.
- **Publications**, including Friday folder materials, the Bearometer (MS) and the Parent Link (US) will be posted on BlakeNet. Parent News (including this issue) can be found on Blake's public web site. Again, parents will be alerted via e-mail with appropriate links when the publications are posted.

All of the above can easily be downloaded and printed out at home or at work. We will continue to format all materials in a printer-friendly manner.

Additional notes:

If you are not receiving School e-communications or if notifications stop coming to you, please let us know. Various e-mail providers have different mechanisms in place that can interrupt service, but the Communications Office may be able to help you. Please e-mail Cathy McLane at cmclane@blakeschool.org with any questions.

Please be sure to review and check your spam blocking criteria. Giving permissions to blakeschool.org messages may be possible and will help ensure you receive School communications.

Be aware if you are using a work/business e-mail as your preferred e-mail, there may be restrictions in place for e-mails that come en masse. Setting permissions for blakeschool.org may be possible, but you often have to request that setting.

If for any reason you cannot access information online (no e-mail or limited Internet access), please contact your division office. They will help set up a method for you to receive paper copies.

If you haven't registered for a user name and password for BlakeNet or NetClassroom (MS and US families), we highly recommend you do so. To register for:

- **BlakeNet**: simply click on the "New User" button on the BlakeNet login page (access BlakeNet from the home page of Blake's public web site) and follow the prompts. You will receive a confirmation of registration within 48 hours (excluding weekends).
- **NetClassroom**: e-mail your request to us at netclassroom@blakeschool.org.

faculty profile



Paula Sadler Fuhr

By Susan Grant Palombo

What a delightful summer afternoon I spent at Caribou Coffee with Middle School math teacher Paula Sadler Fuhr and her new daughter, Piper. One of my children

had Paula as a teacher, so I thought I knew her, but the breadth of her interests and experience surprised me. Since Paula grew up a daughter of educators, you might think she just followed that career path, but she did not initially set out to become a teacher. After obtaining an undergraduate degree in biology and math from Beloit College, Paula entered the public health statistician master's program at the University of Minnesota. It was her research project on teen use of tobacco and alcohol that set Paula on her journey toward teaching adolescents. She received her master's degree in education from the University of St. Thomas and has since worked in education both here in Minnesota and in the United Kingdom.

Paula's interest and skill in research and statistics led her to focus on early interventions in math. "There is a lot of research on why children have trouble with early stages of reading," she explains, "but we do not have nearly as much information on why students have trouble in the early stages of math. I am part of a team effort at Blake to become more deliberate in our math teaching methods." According to Paula, this effort includes more integrated collaboration with other teachers on specific math concepts and better use of technology in the classroom.

When Paula is not busy teaching or caring for Piper, she enjoys reading and scrapbooking. She and her husband are both outdoor enthusiasts who enjoy running Grandma's Marathon and traveling. Paula has also been a faculty advisor for LearningWorks at Blake.

The Blake Classic is Back!

The School's all-community biennial fund-raiser returns to the Blake Ice Arena on Saturday, May 1, 2010. The Blake Classic brings together friends and fund raising in one exciting event. Proceeds from the Classic go to support important needs in Blake's art, academic and athletic programs and to further enhance the educational experience of all children at Blake. In addition, the Classic helps fund the Blake Parent Association, which is responsible for many wonderful community activities and events, including parent grade-level parties, Lower School pumpkin parties, Middle School dances and the Upper School graduation party.

We warmly invite all parents to attend the Classic. Stay tuned for more information, or get in on the fun now by volunteering to help organize this worthy event. For more information please contact Classic Co-Chairs Jane Mortell (jhmortell@aol.com) or Joy Solomon (joyasolomon@msn.com).

Blake in Cuernavaca

By Izzy Eisenstadt '12

I wake to the blaring sound of the alarm clock. Street noises fill my ears. My roommate and I are both groggy. We walk downstairs to the kitchen where we hear a radio jingle followed by a man speaking rapid Spanish. Our madre Mexicana (host mom) greets us with sincronizadas (ham and cheese quesadillas). We finish breakfast, pick up our bags and head down the cobblestone street. We pass political graffiti, a tortillería (general store) and Servicio Omar (a car repair shop). By now we are used to frequent calls of “hola chicas” and beeps from passing cars.

We arrive at school at 8 a.m. and split into small classes for instruction in grammar, plus conversation, writing and reading comprehension. Breaks are spent playing Ping-Pong in a tiled, open-air courtyard or walking to the bakery for an oreja (ear cookie). At 1 p.m. we walk back home to eat comida, a big late-lunch meal of chicken with mole verde and rice, with our host mom. Delicious! We chat. Every day our Spanish gets better. At 3 p.m. we meet friends by the bright blue bridge. We cross to go into El Centro. We pass through the zócalo, or town square, where couples sit on benches and vendors sell balloons, henna and jewelry. In front of a statue of Morelos (the priest and revolutionary after whom the Mexican state of Morelos is named), Mexican teenagers are breakdancing. We stop at the Italian Coffee Company (Mexico’s Starbucks, only better) for a chocolate frío. A child comes up to us and tries to sell us gum.

With more than 1.5 million inhabitants, El Centro is big, but slow moving and relaxed. We spot the Palacio de Cortés, built atop Aztec ruins where Hernán Cortés and his wife once lived. We walk to the open market to look at the merchandise and to bargain. Around 7 p.m. we retreat to our homes to eat a light dinner of sopes (fresh tortillas topped with refried beans, shredded chicken



Izzy Eisenstadt '12, Masha Berman '10, Reed Pomerantz '11, Zeynep Tuzcu '10 and Sam Block '10 on top of Mt. Tepozteco, Mexico.

and crumbled cheese). Our host mom prepares tasty atole (hot corn-meal, vanilla and cinnamon drink). We go upstairs, do homework and then walk to a friend’s house. On the way, we pass an Internet café and a store selling pirated CDs.

Twenty-one Blake students and Upper School teachers JJ Kahle and Janet Williams spent 33 days together in Cuernavaca, just south of Mexico City. We studied Spanish and took excursions to other cities and sites including a mountain in the Bohemian town of Tepoztlán, the fresh-river water park Las Estacas, the impressive pyramids of Teotihuacan, the church-filled town of Puebla, the (expatriate) Robert Brady Museum, and an orphanage called Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Our Little Brothers and Sisters). In Mexico City we visited the Museum of Anthropology and the Frida Kahlo Museum, and we explored. Each student’s experience was unique and probably differed in some ways from mine, but we all learned how to assimilate, live and function in Mexican culture.

Biking Through Argentina

By Peter Olson '10

Taking off on our bikes the first day of the trip last June was fun, but looking back it is funny how oblivious we were to how much work was before us. After some initial bad luck with flight cancellations and delays, 10 other students and I, along with Upper School Spanish teacher Jon Dicus, landed in Salta, a large city in northern Argentina. We set up camp, had some down time and ate an interesting dinner consisting of cow cheek, intestine and liver at a local restaurant. Biking on the flat, busy road out of Salta was easy and fun. We got many looks from natives and had many pictures of us taken via cell phones. The first night we camped in somebody’s backyard. The second night we camped in a campsite, cooked noodles and cleaned our dishes with near-boiling water. We all dozed off pretty quickly. From here the days started to blend together. We repeatedly biked long hours, set up camp, ate dinner and fell asleep. But every day the landscapes surprised me. On every stretch of flatland and during every climb, we were surrounded by shifting landscapes so diverse it reminded me of visiting all 19 planets in the “Star Wars” trilogy (desert planet, city planet, forest planet etc.).

Our most difficult challenge was biking over a long mountain pass, a whole day and a half of uphill biking! Five to six hours of biking normally took us 80 kilometers. Going straight up hill in the same amount of time, we covered only about 30. As a swimmer, I know all about challenging myself and listening to the voice inside telling me to keep going. That is exactly what kept us all going. “Stop when you see a llama tied to a post. That’s the top,” we had been told. By the middle of the next day, we all saw that lazy, old, drooling, overweight llama. The next day, our last of the trip, we started our longest trek yet. We ended our 450-kilometer ride in a suburb of Tucumán called Yerba Buena.

Traveling by bike through Argentina allowed us to meet new people every day and provided opportunities we may have missed if we had traveled by car or plane. Driving across Argentina we would have covered much more ground, but we would not have been able to interact with so many people. Dozens of interesting things happened every day because we could stop and take random breaks and meet new people. I biked next to a galloping wild donkey for a few hundred yards. I ordered 30 empanadas every few days and ate at a delicious \$11 (33 pesos) all-you-can-eat steak buffet.

This trip had a perfect balance of new experiences, beautiful landscapes and hard work. Reaching the last hostel gave me an unparalleled sense of accomplishment. Through this hard work, the trip taught everybody something about themselves. We got to know ourselves internally and externally, essentially helping us to realize our place in the world.



LiteracyFest

LiteracyFest 2009 continues to celebrate the goals of Blake's past years "Book Fair." Together, we'll build community, celebrate literacy and raise funds for the Lower School.

We're opening a whole new chapter

OCTOBER 1 AUTHOR CELEBRATION

Blake Campus Auditorium
An evening Q & A / book signing with Gennifer Choldenko, acclaimed author. A workshop experience with Gennifer follows for selected classes on October 2.

OCTOBER 5-6 BOOK EXCHANGE

Blake & Highcroft Campus Libraries
Bring your books! Join in on this two-day event to recycle used books among students.

OCTOBER 13 BOOK FAIR & BOUTIQUE

Highcroft Campus Gym & Dining Room
Browse our annual Book Fair for the latest in children's literature and limited-edition Blake wearables.

NOVEMBER 6-7 SHOPPING EXPEDITION

Barnes & Noble, Galleria The Bookcase, Wayzata
A weekend shopping event at two local bookstores. A percentage of each purchase directly supports the Lower School.

Booster Club News

The Blake Booster Club was established to support extra-curricular activities and to promote school spirit within the community. The Boosters raise funds by selling Bearwear (apparel and merchandise with School logos) and by supporting concessions sales at many athletic events. All parents and alumni are invited to participate in the many Booster activities.

Last year the Boosters funded a soccer goalie coach, purchased 50 band/orchestra chairs for the MacMillan Performing Arts Center's stage and new seating for its lobby, funded a table at the annual Athena Awards banquet, updated the championship banners for our teams, and funded busses to transport students to state championship tournaments for a total giving of more than \$20,000.

You are invited to attend the Booster meetings, which will be held four times this year. Look for meeting notices in Parent Link (US), Bearometer (MS), Bear Essentials and Parent News.

Bearwear apparel and merchandise are for sale at the Booster store, adjacent to the Athletic Department Office in the Middle School. Store hours are 3 to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the school year. Bearwear will also be for sale at these special events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sept. 3	Fall MS Athletics Mtg.	MPAC
Oct. 9-10	Homecoming	MS
Oct. 18	Bearwear Sale	US
Dec. 11	Bearwear Boutique	MS
Jan. 24	Bearwear Sale	US
Jan. 30	Carnival in the Bears Den	MS
April 21	Bearwear Sale	US
June 2-3	Olympic Days	LSH/LSB

Blake's Online Calendar: The Place to Go

Be sure to consider Blake's online calendar* (found on the public web site at www.blakeschool.org/calendar/) the go-to resource for events and activities at Blake. Clicking on a hyperlinked event name will open a window with event details, such as location, time, contact, etc. Note: the calendar filters (right-hand column of the home page) allow you to search by program or division. For definitions of what each calendar view will include, as well as tips for navigating the calendar, be sure to check out the new Calendar Tips & Hints (pdf) available on the calendar home page in the right-hand column.

Also, you can sync filtered versions of the Blake calendar with personal home pages and/or mobile devices. View instructions for syncing the calendar using iCal or iGoogle by clicking on the "Sync Calendars/iCal" link also found in the right-hand column of the calendar home page.

The calendar is a continual work in progress and a huge undertaking at all times. Please be sure to let us know if you have any problems or suggestions by e-mailing us at calendar_help@blakeschool.org.

**Now with a special interface for mobile devices*

Blake Welcomes New Board Members ...

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of Science and of The Hastings Center, as well as a past member of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities Board of Directors. Her research has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation and private foundations. Susan received her A.B. summa cum laude from Princeton University and her J.D. from Yale Law School. "I very much look forward to serving on the Blake Board of Trustees. Education has been the foundation and focus of my career, as a teacher, scholar and researcher," Susan says. "I care deeply about educating our children and preparing them to contribute and learn throughout their lives. It will be a pleasure to collaborate with other members of the Blake community to fulfill the School's mission of providing an excellent education in a diverse and supportive community."

All-School

LABOR DAY

School will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7 for the Labor Day holiday.

CONVOCATION & LEGACY DAY

All-school Convocation will be held on Friday, Oct. 9 from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. in the Gordy

Aamoth Jr. Memorial Stadium on the Blake campus (weather permitting). Convocation will be followed by the fourth annual Blake Legacy Day.

HOMECOMING

Blake's Homecoming is for students, faculty, staff, families and alumni. Join us on Saturday, Oct. 10. Activities will be held on the Blake campus.

BREAKFAST AT BLAKE

A special Reunion edition of Breakfast at Blake will be held on Friday, Oct. 9 from 8 to 9:15 a.m. in the Bovey Chapel of the Blake campus in Hopkins. All Blake parents and alumni are invited to attend. The speaker will be 2009 Outstanding Alumna Barbara Forster '55.

September

DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION
9/1	Classes Begin – Gr. 2–12	
9/7	No School, Pre-K–12, LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
9/18–20	Rosh Hashanah	
	School and Family Partnership Mtg.	8:30–9:45 am Forum
9/19	Last Day of Ramadan	
9/27–28	Yom Kippur	

October

DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION
10/7	Student Services Pre-K–12 Parent Group	7:30–8:30 am PCR
10/8–10	Homecoming & Reunion Weekend	
10/9	Convocation & Legacy Day	BC
	Breakfast at Blake	8–9:15 am Bovey
10/10	Reunion/Homecoming Activities	11 am–2 pm MS

Lower School

JOINT LOWER SCHOOL PARENT ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP MEETING

There will be a joint Lower School Parent Association leadership meeting for all chairs and room representatives on Wednesday, Sept. 9 from 8:45 to 11:30 a.m. in the Bovey Chapel on the Blake campus.

Learn about Lower School curriculum and activities from teachers and administrators. A lite bite will be served at 6 p.m., and the formal program will follow at 6:30 p.m. on each campus. There will also be an introduction to the strings program at 6 p.m. on each campus.

LITERACY FEST (FORMERLY BOOK FAIR)

Please see page 6 of Parent News to learn about this year's Literacy Fest, and join us on Thursday, Oct. 1 in the MacMillan Performing Arts Center as we welcome this year's guest author, Gennifer Choldenko. Watch for more information in Parent News, Friday folders and throughout the school.

PICTURE DAY AND RETAKES

Blake campus — Monday, Sept. 14, retakes: Tuesday, Oct. 20.

Highcroft campus — Wednesday, Sept. 30, retakes: Wednesday, Oct. 28. Ordering information will be in Friday folders.

NOON DISMISSAL

Lower School students will be dismissed at noon on Friday, Sept. 25 for a joint faculty meeting. The Extended Day program is available. Registration forms will be in Friday folders.

GRAND FRIEND DAY

Friday, Nov. 6 is Grand Friend Day for Pre-K–5 students on the Blake and Highcroft campuses. Invite someone special in your student's life to join us for a morning of learning and activities.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHTS

Highcroft campus: Tuesday, Sept. 22

Blake campus: Thursday, Sept. 24

PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The first Parent Association meeting of this school year is on Thursday, Oct. 8 at 11:15 a.m. in the Highcroft Meeting Room. Every parent at Blake is a member of the PA, and participation is vital and encouraged.

*Susan Hitchner Fluke, vice chair, Blake campus
Aleya Champlin, vice chair, Highcroft campus
Lower School Parent Association*

September

DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION
9/1	Orientation Conferences for Gr. Pre-K–1	8–4 pm LSB/LSH
	LSB Parent Coffee for Gr. 2–5	8:30 am Bovey
	LSH Parent Coffee for Gr. 2–5	8:30 am HDR
9/2	Orientation Conferences for Gr. Pre-K–1	8 am–4 pm LSB/LSH
9/3	Classes Begin—Gr. Pre-K, K & 1	
	Morning Extended Day Begins for Pre-K–1	
	LSB Parent Coffee for Grades Pre-K–1	8:30 am Bovey
	LSH Parent Coffee for Grades Pre-K–1	8:30 am HDR
9/4	Noon Dismissal for Gr. Pre-K–1	
9/8	Afternoon Activity Program Begins for Pre-K	
	Afternoon Extended Day Program Begins for Pre-K–1	
	Full Day Program Begins for K–1	
9/9	Joint Parent Assoc. Leadership Mtg.	9–11:30 am Bovey/PCR
9/10	LSH (Gr. 2–5) Back-to-School Night	6–9 pm LSH
9/11	Friday Afternoon Activity Program Begins for K	

DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION
9/14	LSB Picture Day	
9/17	LSB (Gr. Pre-K–1) Back-to-School Night	6–9 pm LSB
9/21	Student Services LS Parent Workshop	8:45–10 am PCR
9/22	LSH (Gr. Pre-K–1) Back-to-School Night	6–9 pm LSH
9/24	LSB (Gr. Pre-K–1) Back-to-School Night	6–9 pm LSB
9/25	Noon Dismissal	
9/30	LSH Picture Day	
	Student Services Parent Workshop	8:45–10 am PCR

October

DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION
10/1	Literacy Fest Guest Author Celebration	6 pm MPAC
10/5	Student Services Parent Workshop	8:45–10 am LSH
10/8	Parent Association Mtg.	11:15 am–12:45 pm HMR

Middle School

PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

Parent Association meetings are held on the first Friday of every month and include presentations by administration, staff and special guest speakers as well as campus news and updates. The first meeting will be on Friday, Sept. 4 from 8:45 to 10:15 a.m. in the Pillsbury Conference Room. Next month's meeting will be on Friday, Oct. 2 at 8:45 a.m. in the Pillsbury Conference Room.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPING TRIPS

On Thursday, Sept. 10 and Friday, Sept. 11, Middle School students will attend retreat-style overnight camping trips. Sixth grade students and faculty depart for Camp Ocaghowan in Amery, Wisc., on Thursday, Sept. 10 at 8:30 a.m. Eighth grade students and faculty will attend Camp Iduhapi in Loretto, Minn., and will also be departing at 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 10. All sixth and eighth graders will return on Friday, Sept. 11 at 3:30 p.m. Seventh graders and faculty will have two days of off-campus excursions returning each day at 3:30 p.m.

PARENT CURRICULUM NIGHT

Middle School Parent Curriculum Night is on Tuesday, Sept. 15. There will be a lite bite at 6 p.m. in the MacMillan Performing Arts Center (MPAC) lobby and the program will begin at 6:45 p.m. in the MPAC. Parents are then invited to follow their child's daily schedule and meet with teachers.

GRADES 7 & 8 FALL BBQ

On Thursday, Sept. 17, seventh and eighth grade students are invited to attend the fall BBQ from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on the loggia, followed by a varsity home football game.

MAGAZINE DRIVE

Save your subscription renewals and new magazine orders for the annual Middle School Parent Association magazine drive. The drive begins on Wednesday, Sept. 23. This is the only fund-raiser for the Middle School, and proceeds directly benefit Middle School students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PICTURE DAY

Friday, Sept. 25 is picture day. Order forms will be sent home with your child prior to picture day. Individual photos will be taken throughout the morning. Please do not schedule appointments for your child during this time.

LEARNING LUNCHES

All parents are welcome to join Middle School Director Joe Seivold for an informative discussion on a variety of issues concerning Blake Middle School students. Lunch will be provided. The eighth grade learning lunch is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 29. The sixth grade learning lunch is on Tuesday, Oct. 6, and the seventh grade lunch will be on Tuesday, Oct. 13. These lunches are held in the Pillsbury Conference Room beginning at noon and lasting approximately one hour.

GRADES 7 & 8 DANCE

Please mark your calendar for the first dance of the year on Friday, Oct. 23 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in the Blake dining room.

*Donna Magarian, vice chair
Middle School Parent Association*

Parent News Campus Calendar: New and Improved

You will notice we are combining and simplifying Parent News' Campus Updates and Calendar sections. Campus update information and details can always be found in your division-specific newsletters and publications, and up-to-date event dates, times and other details can be found on Blake's online calendar. Questions or suggestions? Please e-mail us at calendar_help@blakeschool.org.

August			October		
DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION
8/31	Gr. 6 Breakfast Gr. 7 & 8 New Student Lunch	7:30 am BC Loggia 11:45 am-1 pm Bovey	9/25	Picture Day	
			9/26	Gr. 6 Parent Party	5:30-7:30 pm PCR
			9/29	Gr. 8 Learning Lunch Student Services Parent Workshop	Noon-1 pm PCR 6:15-8:30 pm MS Lib
September			October		
DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION
9/4	Parent Association Mtg.	8:45-10:15 pm PCR	10/1	Student Services Parent Workshop	8:45-10 am PCR
9/10-11	Camping Trips	Off Campus	10/2	Parent Association Mtg. Gr. 6 Skating Party	8:45-10:15 am PCR 3:30-5 pm Ice Arena
9/15	Curriculum Night	6 pm MPAC	10/6	Gr. 6 Learning Lunch Student Services Parent Workshop	Noon-1 pm PCR 7-9 pm MS Lib
9/17	Gr. 7 & 8 Fall BBQ	5:30-7 pm Loggia			
9/23	Magazine Drive Kick-Off				
9/24	Student Services Parent Workshop	8:45-10 pm PCR			

Upper School

SENIOR PARENT COLLEGE NIGHT

Parents of this year's senior class are invited to join the College Counseling staff on Wednesday, Sept. 9 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the Juliet Nelson Auditorium.

JUNIOR PARENT COLLEGE NIGHT

Parents of this year's junior class are invited to join the College Counseling staff on Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in the Juliet Nelson Auditorium.

PICTURE DAY

Upper School students will have their pictures taken between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 21. Retakes will be scheduled later in the fall.

CURRICULUM NIGHT

You are invited and encouraged to attend Curriculum Night on Wednesday, Sept. 23 to meet your student's teachers and learn more about his or her class schedule. A light dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.

GRADE 11 COFFEE WITH THE DEAN

Join Grade Dean Max Delgado for coffee on Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 8 to 9 a.m. in the Cherne Forum.

GRADE 9 DESSERT WITH THE DEAN

Parents of freshman are invited to join Dean Dion Crushshon for the year's first Dessert with the Dean on Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Upper School's Dayton Library.

GRADE 10 COFFEE WITH THE DEAN

Sophomore Grade Dean Jim Mahoney hosts the first Coffee with the Dean on Friday, Oct. 2 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Cherne Forum.

UPPER SCHOOL BONFIRE

Upper School students may attend the annual Homecoming bonfire on Friday, Oct. 9 from 8:30 to 11 p.m. on the Blake campus in Hopkins.

HOMECOMING DANCE

All Upper School students are invited to this year's Homecoming dance on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. on the Blake campus in Hopkins.

*Maureen Rudd, vice chair
Upper School Parent Association*

August			September			October		
DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION	DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION
8/26	New Student Orientation & Gr. 9 Welcome	9 am–3 pm US	9/21	Picture Day	8 am–3 pm	10/1	National College Fair	Off Campus
8/27	Community of Concern Education Evening	7–8:30 pm US	9/23	Curriculum Night	5:30–9 pm US	10/2	Gr. 10 Coffee with the Dean	8:30–9:30 am Forum
8/31	Community of Concern Education Evening	7–8:30 pm US	9/26	Gr. 10 & 11 Parent Party	5:30–7:30 pm Bovey	10/4	MISP College Fair	12:30–3 pm SPA
			9/29	Gr. 11 Coffee with the Dean	8–9 am Forum	10/9	Bonfire	8:30–11 pm MS
			9/30	National College Fair	Off Campus	10/10	SAT Testing	8 am–1 pm US
				Gr. 9 Dessert with the Dean	7–8:30 pm US Lib		Homecoming Dance	8:30–11:30 pm MS
9/1	Welcome Back BBQ	5–7 pm US						
9/9	Senior Parent College Night	6:30–9 pm JNA						
9/12	ACT	Off Campus						
9/13–14	Senior Overnight Retreat	Off Campus						
9/14	Parent Association Mtg.	11:15 am–1:15 pm Alumnae						
9/15	Student Services Parent Workshop	8–9 am Forum						
9/16	Junior Parent College Night	6:30–9 pm JNA						

2009–10 Family Calendar Corrections

Please check below to make sure you note these important changes to your 2009–10 Family Calendar. Remember, the most up-to-date resource for all school events, activities and directories is Blake's online calendar, which can be found on our web site at www.blakeschool.org.

Date	Event
9/10	Back-to-School Night LSH (Gr. 2–5)
9/17	Back-to-School Night LSB (Gr. 2–5)
9/22	Back-to-School Night LSH (Gr. PK–1)
9/24	Back-to-School Night LSB (Gr. PK–1)
11/6	Noon Dismissal LS/MS/US
12/4	No 1pm Dismissal for US

Final Notice:

This is the last edition of Parent News that you will receive via mail. Future editions available online

Blake is moving all of its publications online including this monthly newsletter — Parent News. Beginning with the October issue, all future monthly issues will be available on Blake's public web site. Watch for Bear Essentials to alert you to when the next issue is available online. Parent News will still be formatted in a printer-friendly manner, allowing for easy downloads and printing. Please e-mail Cathy McLane with any questions at cmclane@blakeschool.org.



Challenging the mind, engaging the heart

PARENT NEWS is published under the auspices of the Communications Office and the Parent Association. Deadline for information submissions is the first of the month prior to issue date. Contact the editor or parent representatives: Editor, Ruth O'Neill (952) 541-4791, cincobill@aol.com; Upper School, Maureen Rudd (612) 377-2552; Middle School, Donna Magarian (612) 823-3219; Lower School-Blake, Susan Hitchner Fluke (612) 929-2925; Lower School-Highcroft, Aleya Champlin (952) 476-0258; Parent Association President, Ellen Hoeg (612) 377-5102; Blake Today, TBD; Calendar, Joni Starr, Head of School's Office (952) 988-3405.

CODES: MPAC—MacMillan Performing Arts Center; PCR—Pillsbury Conference Room; US—Upper School; MS—Middle School; LSB—Lower School Blake Campus; LSH—Lower School Highcroft Campus; LS—Lower School, both locations; BC—Blake Campus; CCR—Crosby Conference Room; NSDR—Northrop Campus Small Dining Room; BDR—Blake Campus Dining Room; HDR—Highcroft Campus Dining Room; BLCR—Blake Lower Conference Room; MTC—Middle School Media/Technology Center; JNA—US Juliet Nelson Auditorium; HMR—Highcroft Meeting Room.

Homecoming & Reunion October 8–10, 2009

Catch some school spirit during the Reunion & Homecoming festivities taking place Oct. 8–10. A schedule of events for parents and students is listed below. For the entire schedule, please visit www.blakeschool.org and click on "Alumni." If you have any questions regarding Homecoming & Reunion, please contact Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Becky Ankeny at (952) 988-3433.

Friday, October 9 (Blake Campus)

		Location
8–9:15 a.m.	Breakfast at Blake: Reunion Edition Alumna of the Year Barbara Forster '55	Bovey Chapel
9:45 a.m.–2 p.m.	Convocation & Legacy Day	Aamoth Stadium
6 p.m.	Varsity Football Game Blake Bears vs. DeLaSalle Islanders	Aamoth Stadium

Saturday, October 10 (Blake Campus)

11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.	Children's Activities	Howard Courtyard & Varsity Baseball Field
Noon–2 p.m.	Picnic Lunch	Loggia
Noon	Boys' JV Soccer vs. DeLaSalle Boys' C Soccer vs. DeLaSalle Girls' JV Soccer vs. Minneapolis South Girls' C Soccer vs. Minneapolis South	
12:30 p.m.	Girls' JV Volleyball vs. DeLaSalle Girls' C Volleyball vs. DeLaSalle	
1:30 p.m.	Girls' Varsity Soccer vs. Minneapolis South	
2 p.m.	Girls' Varsity Volleyball vs. DeLaSalle	
3:30 p.m.	Boys' Varsity Soccer vs. DeLaSalle Alumna Athlete of the Year Award presented to Louise Wakefield Otten '65 at halftime of the boys' varsity soccer game.	

Please consult the Blake web site for the Middle School athletic schedule.

Fall Volunteer Opportunities — Sign Up Electronically Today!

Volunteer opportunities abound for Blake's fall events including Homecoming, Legacy Day and Literacy Fest. And the Parent Association's new online volunteer recruitment system makes it easier than ever to sign up! To volunteer for these events and more, please follow these instructions:

1. Go to www.blakeschool.org
2. In the tan column on the left side, select "Parents"
3. Select "Volunteer Now"
4. Select "Fall Volunteer Form"
5. Enter your contact information. Please use a separate form for each volunteer.
6. Browse "All-School Volunteer Opportunities" or "Opportunities by Campus"
7. Select the event(s) that match your interests and availability
8. Select "Submit" and you are finished!

Seasonal opportunities will be updated and posted on Blake's web site. You can sign up today or any time throughout the year. If you already signed up via paper, you do not need to sign up again electronically, but please note that electronic sign up has now entirely replaced the old paper system.

Volunteers help bridge the gap for everything from chaperoning field trips to selling Bearwear to helping manage the Classic silent auction. It is also a great way to meet other parents. Watch for e-mail alerts about opportunities that best fit your interests, talents and availability. There are one-time as well as yearlong options. Please consider helping in whatever way makes sense for your family.

Questions? Please contact volunteer coordinator Brenda Broucek at (952) 473-0961.

The Blake School provides students with an excellent, academically challenging education in a diverse and supportive community committed to a common set of values. Students are expected to participate in an integrated program of academic, artistic and athletic activities in preparation for college, lifelong learning, community service and lives as responsible world citizens.

Love of Learning • Integrity • Respect • Courage