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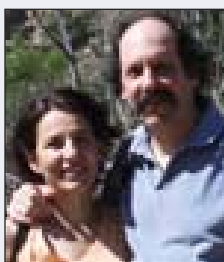


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**May/June 2010**

## Parent Contributions Make the Difference

*By Head of School John Gulla*

I approach this time of year with decidedly mixed feelings. Anticipation of the many year-end activities — Olympic Days, exams, the Hollywood Classic (see you there on Saturday, May 1), the Parent Association volunteer luncheon (see page 2) and Commencement — mingles with recognition that all too soon our busy campuses will become relatively quiet as we complete another school year at Blake.

While Camp Acoma and summer programs, the tenth summer of LearningWorks, facility maintenance and other operations will keep some of us busy during the summer months, without our full community of students and teachers, Blake shifts into summer mode and takes on a different rhythm. Our daily connections with parents slow down, and this is one of the dynamics of the school year I miss the most. The daily conversations, e-mails, phone calls and meetings (well, maybe not all of the e-mails and all of the meetings) with Blake parents never fail to inspire and impress me. Committed, loyal, loving and hard-working, you are as much a part of the daily pulse of Blake life as our students and staff.

In this era of increasingly remote networking and electronic communication, the importance of your personal involvement at Blake cannot be overstated. Parents, grandparents, other family and friends, all of whom volunteer at this School, contribute significantly to the outstanding educational experience for which Blake is known.

As I write this piece for the final Parent News of the year, I always try to list some of the less visible volunteer tasks as well as those more easily recognized. This year, I decided to use the [online volunteer form](#) as a reference. As I tabbed through the options for 2010–11, I was reminded of the breadth and depth of all you do for us. You help build sets for our plays, volunteer in the lunchroom, order Bearwear, and plant flowers and butterfly gardens. You help coordinate events for parents (e.g., grade-level social gatherings and coffees), provide weekly treats and



**Head of School John Gulla with Parent Association President Ellen Hoeg (right) and President Elect Etta Barry (left)**

recognition for staff, and coordinate countless activities for students (e.g., dances, service trips, cast parties). You provide leadership in new and innovative ways each and every year (e.g., Literacy Fest, the Green Team, the Classic, Legacy Day). You reach out by hosting international students and you reach in by visiting classes to provide expert perspectives. You read books to students, make Annual Fund phone calls, and help collect used clothing. You staff the concession stand while wearing mittens and carry umbrellas on field trips. You provide carpool support and arrange college visits. For all these things and more, you have our deep gratitude.

As I extol your involvement and applaud your efforts, I also request your help yet one more time this year. The Parent Association — of which every Blake parent is a member — is the nerve center and engine behind nearly all the volunteer efforts at Blake. The leadership committee is planning for 2010–11 and beyond and needs your input regarding volunteering at the School. What would make it easier for you to be involved? What improvements might you recommend? They also are examining the current model for the monthly division Parent Association meetings.

*continued on page 2*

## Parent Contributions

*continued from page 1*

Please take a few minutes to complete their short [online survey](#). Your input will help them more effectively coordinate their efforts and make better use of one of the School's most valuable resources, your time.

The faculty and staff here at Blake know that one of the hallmarks of this School I most consistently cite to colleagues at other schools is our parent involvement. I was struck by your commitment when I began here 12 years ago, and I continue to be humbled and proud of our School-family partnership. Together we make the most and best difference in the lives of our children. Thank you for all you do and for all you give. Enjoy your summer, and please, volunteer again next year!

### Seeking Volunteers for 2010–11

We are looking for volunteers to fill a number of positions at all divisions next year. We need your help — room reps, support for events and special programs. Check out the [online volunteer form](#) today and let us know what might work for you. Thank you!

## A World of Thanks

### Parent Association Volunteer Luncheon — May 12

Please join us for the annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on Wednesday, May 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Bovey Chapel on the Blake campus in Hopkins. This luncheon gives all members of the Blake Parent Association Executive Committee and me an opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all you have done this year. Come enjoy a delicious lunch and delightful entertainment. All volunteers welcome! Please R.S.V.P. to Etta Barry at [parent\\_association@blakeschool.org](mailto:parent_association@blakeschool.org).



*Ellen Hoeg  
President, Blake Parent Association*

## Parent News: Changes in Store — Coming to You Next Year

The Parent News team has been hard at work, not only pulling together this final issue of the year, but planning for the next. We've been gathering feedback and examining the many options for delivering this important all-school newsletter to our readers, and we're excited to announce that changes are on the way! Look for the new and improved first issue of Parent News arriving as an e-newsletter in late August.

We look forward to the official unveiling late this summer!

## Arts Abound!

*By Wendy Morical*

Spring is a time for creation and re-creation. You see it throughout nature, and you definitely see it on all the Blake campuses! Music, theater and visual arts are bursting with talent and enthusiasm. Rie Gilsdorf, head of the Blake arts department, took some time away from her busy life bouncing from campus to campus to tell us a bit about what spring will bring at the School.

On the Lower School campuses, budding artists are putting the final touches on their drawings and paintings, which have been framed and put on the auction block for the Blake Classic. Students had the opportunity to work with glass artist Malcom Potek as part of the McGuire Visiting Artist program. Each student made a lasting creation of glass that will be part of permanent exhibits on each campus.

Fresh off their Orchestra Hall performance at the North Central American Choral Directors conference, the Middle School Choristers will give a concert at the School in late May. Hear all the Middle School choirs, bands, strings and Integrated Arts 8 students in their upcoming spring concerts. These groups typically play to a packed house, so arrive early!

The Upper School's Martha Bennett Gallery is currently hosting works from Studio 12, the capstone of the Upper School visual arts program exhibiting senior student pieces from points throughout their studies at Blake. These works will be on display in the gallery until May 14.

The Upper School band and choir recently embarked on tours to Omaha and Kansas City respectively. These three-day adventures are greatly anticipated annual events. Both groups will have spring performances during the month of May. Additionally in May, the chamber orchestra will be performing in the MacMillan Performing Arts Center.

### SPRING GALLERY SHOWS

Martha Bennett Gallery

Studio 12: April 12–May 14

Second Semester Student Review: May 17–June 9

### SPRING PERFORMANCES

May 5 — US Choral Concert, MPAC 7:30 p.m.

May 10 — MS Strings Concert, MPAC 7:30 p.m.

May 11 — US Strings Concert, Bovey 7:30 p.m.

May 12 — US Band Concert, MPAC 7:30 p.m.

May 17 — MS Band Concert, MPAC 7:30 p.m.

May 21 — US Theater Workshop Production, Black Box 7:30 p.m.

May 24 — MS Boy Choir/Treble Choir/IA8 Concert, MPAC 7:30 p.m.

May 25 — MS Choir 6 and Choristers Concert, MPAC 7:30 p.m.

# Congratulations to Odyssey Robotics

Blake and Breck high school students joined forces to design and build a robot to compete in the Minnesota North Star Regional Competition sponsored by FIRST Robotics. After three days of fierce and fun competition against more than 60 other teams, our combined team, known as Odyssey Robotics, made it to the quarterfinal round. Odyssey Robotics distinguished itself during the competition as a high-speed, omni-directional robot that was particularly adept at defending two goals in a soccer-like competition called Breakaway. In Breakaway, two alliances of three teams compete on a 27-by-54 foot field with bump-like ramps. Teams remotely move their robots on the field to both score goals and defend two goals.



The Blake/Breck Odyssey Robotics team (photo by Breck student Taylor McCanna)

Odyssey Robotics would like to thank its sponsors, Medtronic and Dunwoody College of Technology, for their generous support. The team also is very grateful for the awesome volunteer mentorship and hundreds of hours of support provided by coaches Allen Hill, AJ Colianni and Michael Oden and mentors Mike Sheffels, Mike Fandel, Paul Kadue, Chris Kadue and Ryan Osborne.

## Heads Up: 2010 Textbook Buyback Period Coming Soon

As you may remember, Blake's virtual bookstore partnership with MBS Direct offers a great cost saving opportunity for families with their Buyback Program. You can return your purchased textbooks (certain criteria do apply) and get a refund check for partial original costs.

This year Blake will be coordinating days for buybacks at each campus — details below. **We strongly encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to bring books to Blake for processing. An important note: all textbooks being sold back to MBS must be accompanied by a printed quote sheet, obtained by going online to the virtual bookstore, and pulled within three weeks from the scheduled drop off.** For instructions, see this detailed section of the [MBS website](#).

Buyback dates for Middle and Upper School students are found below (again, all books brought to school MUST be accompanied by a printed quote). If a family chooses to manage the selling back of textbooks to MBS on their own, please note the deadline to submit books for the buyback is June 11, 2010.

- **Seniors: Buyback drop-off days at school will be May 10–14, 2010.** Books with accompanying quotes will be dropped off in homeroom.
- **US Students/Grades 9–11: Buyback drop-off days at school will be June 7–9, 2010.** Books with accompanying quotes will be dropped off in homeroom.
- **MS Students/Grades 6–8: Buyback drop-off day at school will be June 8, 2010.**  
\*\*Note this also is Valleyfair day!  
Books with accompanying quotes will be dropped off in homeroom.

Please contact Janet Herron (Upper School) at (952) 988-3703 or [jherron@blakeschool.org](mailto:jherron@blakeschool.org) or Cheryl Dame (Middle School) at (952) 988-3600 or [cdame@blakeschool.org](mailto:cdame@blakeschool.org) with questions.

## Breakfast at Blake SPONSORED BY THE BLAKE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### Join Us for Breakfast at Blake!

Meet and mingle with our great alumni and parent community. Hear interesting speakers on relevant topics — business, sports, arts, music and more!

*A complimentary breakfast buffet will be served. Please R.S.V.P. by Thursday, May 13 to Sarah at (952) 988-3445 or [advancementsvp@blakeschool.org](mailto:advancementsvp@blakeschool.org).*

**Speaker: Becky Roloff, CEO of the YWCA**

**Thursday, May 20 7:30–8:30 a.m.  
Upper School, Cherne Forum**



Becky Roloff is the chief executive officer of the YWCA of Minneapolis. Roloff previously was a senior vice president at American Express Financial Advisors, and she also has held positions with the Pillsbury Company and Cargill. Roloff's current board service includes: Ready for K, C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc., and Allina Hospitals and Clinics. She is a member of the Minnesota Women's Forum, the Greater Twin Cities United Way Women's Leadership Council and is the current president of the Minnesota Women's Economic Roundtable. Roloff is an aspiring triathlete. She also enjoys reading, needlepoint, piano and travel. She published her first children's book in 1996. She holds a bachelor's degree from the College of St. Catherine and an MBA with distinction from the Harvard Business School. She and her husband, Mark, have two sons, Luke '03 and Sam '07. The topic of her presentation will be "Lessons Learned: The Journey from Charity to Justice."

## Thank You from Parent Association President Ellen Hoeg

As I sit at my computer on this late spring afternoon, I have a great deal of empathy for our seniors (the class of 2010, that is, not my fellow AARP mail recipients). The 2009–10 school year is ending, and my tenure as Parent Association (PA) president is quickly drawing to a close. Each school year is special, and this year was certainly no exception. New things were learned, new friends made, new challenges conquered, and we have even more to look forward to in the coming year.



2009-10 Parent Association President Ellen Hoeg

It has been an incredible honor for me to serve as the Parent Association president. I had the great fortune of working closely with so many dedicated parents, students, faculty, administrators and volunteers. I don't have space here to thank each person individually, but I do want to thank my fantastic and fun executive team: Etta, Stacey, Ellen, Beth, Sohen, Kimberly, Searcy, Julie, Asta, Nick, Jane, Joy, Karin, Sue, Leslie, Ruth, Anne, Brenda, Becky and John — you made this year terrific for me. Thank you!

Nary an activity occurs at The Blake School without some level of support, sponsorship, coordination or involvement from the Parent Association, including bingo nights, pancake breakfasts, pumpkin parties, cast parties, graduation ceremonies, holiday events, fundraisers, faculty appreciation, community service, new student welcomes, parent parties, Homecoming, parent support groups, dances, dance lessons, social events, spring flings, ski and snowboard day, haunted houses, no-agenda coffees, Community of Concern gatherings, student internships, divisional and all-school parent publications, Bearwear sales, the Blake Classic, Celebration of Community, diversity and pluralism initiatives, volunteer coordination, School and Family Partnership activities, and department-specific curriculum support. Our dedicated and involved parent community is what makes all of these events possible.

This year we launched a number of new initiatives: a combined LiteracyFest for the Lower Schools; joint PA meetings with multiple divisions and the Boosters; going green with electronic parent party invitations, parent publications and volunteer solicitation; and terrific guest speakers on important topics such as sleep, nutrition, learning differences, internet safety, pluralism and building strong families, caring kids and a better world. By all accounts, it was an exciting and successful year.

But by some metrics, this year was a challenge. Our parent community is busier now than perhaps ever before, and this has resulted in diminished attendance at some of the divisional PA meetings and greater difficulty in filling the volunteer positions needed to support various PA initiatives. To that end, I urge you to respond to the [Parent Association survey](#) so that we can make the adjustments necessary to better serve and involve you — all of you — next year.

To parents graduating their last Blake student this year, thank you for sharing your student with us, and thank you for all you have done for our community. We will miss you. To all of you who will be back next year, I encourage you to get involved with the Parent Association in whatever way works for you. Over the years, the Parent Association has introduced me to some of my closest friends, and for that I am truly grateful.

## faculty profile



## Silvana Dessi-Olive

By Linda Thrasher

What do a French orthopedic nurse and an American physicist have in common? Quite a bit, according to Upper School French teacher Silvana Dessi-Olive and her husband, Keith. Back in 1985, Dessi-Olive was working as a nurse in Paris when she met her future husband, who was living in Geneva. They met through mutual friends in Europe, where they married, then relocated to the United States.

Dessi-Olive moved to the Twin Cities and pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree in French at the University of Minnesota. After graduation in 1996, she joined the Blake staff. Dessi-Olive's personal frustration with learning to speak English greatly influenced her decision to become a language teacher. "I studied English for nine years in France," she says. "I could read the language, but I could not speak it. For me it's important to have an emotional and cultural connection to the language. Language is not just words on paper — it's something you need to relate to."

Dessi-Olive introduces her students to French literature and history, allowing them to explore the language outside the confines of a textbook. On a recent Blake trip to Guatemala, she watched students learn to manage a new language and become better listeners. Her observations on this trip reinforced her commitment to teach language in the classroom within the context of culture and current events. For example, after a recent earthquake struck Haiti and news reports repeatedly showed the impoverished country, Dessi-Olive challenged her students to explore the French-speaking country through its historical roots by analyzing its culture, arts and literature.

Dessi-Olive took the 2007–08 school year off from teaching to obtain her master's degree in educational psychology. Outside of the classroom, Dessi-Olive enjoys running, cooking and reading. She and her husband have two children, both of whom are Blake alumni. Jonathan '04 is studying architecture at the University of Minnesota, and her daughter, Lea '07, is an economics major at the University of Chicago.

## Eighth Graders are Persuasive!

*It is a time-honored tradition that every Blake senior and eighth grader give a speech during the school year. This year, each eighth grader worked with an English teacher to prepare and deliver a persuasive speech. Many outstanding speeches were delivered. Below are selected excerpts from speeches given by Karl, Maddy and Tyler.*

### Facebook: Friend or Foe?

*By Karl*

Face it, Facebook is amazing! There are 300 million Facebook accounts in the world. Facebook is not just another website, it is the largest social networking site in the world. ... But wait a minute. Life isn't just about profile pictures, best friend contests, sweetness battles and how-popular-are-you quizzes.

The biggest problem is not that we have Facebook, it's the amount of time we spend on it. The average Facebook user spends 40 minutes a day on Facebook. That translates into 243 hours a year. Imagine if you spent that time studying! If I were to ask you why you joined Facebook, the majority of you would say that you did it to connect with your friends or stay in touch with people you don't see on a daily basis. I will explain this is just a delusion that we are all told to believe. The average Facebook user logs onto Facebook more than six times a day. Checking Facebook six times a day is more than just staying in touch with your friends, it is an addiction.

Instead of checking, posting and stalking a little here and a little there, you could call a friend or even see a friend face-to-face. The value of seeing someone face-to-face and spending time with them is much greater and meaningful to a friendship because you are sharing experiences you never could have had on Facebook. Why not live for the moment instead of living for the photos you want to post on your page? Our usage of Facebook isn't just to reconnect or stay in touch, it is an obsessive amount of time that could be spent with your friends instead of the computer screen.

Now is the time to be a real friend instead of one of hundreds or thousands of so-called Facebook "friends." Do your best to be the friend who talks to people face-to-face. Be the person who puts school ahead of a social networking site. Be the kid who works on himself and not just his Facebook profile. All of us can be that kid.

### How Barbie has Impacted Our Society

*By Maddy*

[W]ill Barbie be one of the toys you purchase for younger friends, relatives and, some day, your own children? I had a Barbie when I was growing up, and I was amazed at all the things I could buy for her. My Barbie had a pool with a slide and a red convertible. When I started researching this topic, I went to Target to see how Barbie has changed since then. I was surprised to see how fashionable and materialistic Barbie had become and the skimpy outfits she wore. ...

Barbie gives young kids an unrealistic view of what women should look like. Comparing Barbie, if she were real, to the average American woman, Barbie weighs 25 pounds less and is 4 inches taller. Barbie's body proportions are much different than the typical American woman. Barbie has a 38-inch chest, compared to 36 inches for American women, an 18-inch waist compared to 32 inches, and 34-inch hips compared to 41 inches. This isn't realistic.

The whole point of fun with Barbie is dressing her up in the large number of outfits she has and then putting her in one of her many expensive, stylish Barbie cars and playing with her in any one of her mansions or vacation homes. ... Barbie gives young kids the feeling that you have to have money to be happy and people will only like you if you have a lot of physical possessions.

While Barbie is an independent woman, doesn't rely on Ken and has had hundreds of careers, she can likely be a negative influence on young kids and may be a poor role model. ... If we let parents become aware of the negative influence Barbie can have, then they will make an educated decision on whether they buy Barbies for their child or not. Even if the parent lets Barbies be a toy that their child plays with, hopefully they will make sure their child understands that Barbie isn't what you are expected to measure up to.

### The Benefits of Failure

*By Tyler*

[I] would argue that the best way [to learn] is through failure. We, as a society, need to better understand the benefits of failure. Our school, our country, and the human race in general, should all know how to learn from failure. First you need to acknowledge that you have failed. Then you can learn how persevering from failure leads to success. Finally, I can show you how fear of failure hinders innovation and creativity. ...

Many people don't recognize that failure is, in actuality, often a necessary step toward success. Failure can be used as a wake-up call if you're not putting in enough effort. Success recognizes nothing higher than itself, but failure offers opportunity to learn for the future. Ultimately, you cannot move on to success without moving on from failure. ...

When we fear failure, we make it harder to succeed. Fear of failure leads to less risk-taking, less free thinking and less creativity. Bono, the lead singer for the band U2, said in his 2001 Harvard commencement address, "[f]ailure is not such a bad thing ... I'm sure it's what you fear the most. But from an artist's point of view, failure is where you get your best material."

Failure should not always be avoided. By choosing not to recognize the benefits of failure, we are afraid to try a new idea. ... After getting a bad grade on a test, look it over to see what you got wrong and why you got it wrong. When you fail, look at why you did so and what you can do to make a different effort the next time. These simple acts can set you up for improvement or success the next time around. The truth is, plenty of people fail but not enough of them use it to their benefit. I'm not asking you to fail purposely, I'm asking you to use failure to your advantage when it happens. I'm asking you to assess your mistakes and try again. I'm asking you to benefit from failure.

## All-School

### BLAKE CLASSIC

Please join parents, faculty, staff, alums and friends of Blake for the Hollywood Classic 2010. The Blake School's biennial all-school fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 1 at 6 p.m. in the Blake Ice Arena.

### PARENT VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

Please join the Blake Parent Association

Executive Committee for Blake's annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon on Wednesday, May 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Bovey Chapel. All volunteers are welcome. Please R.S.V.P. to Etta Barry at [parent\\_association@blakeschool.org](mailto:parent_association@blakeschool.org).

### BREAKFAST AT BLAKE

The final Breakfast at Blake of the school year

will be held on Thursday, May 20 in the Upper School's Cherne Forum from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. The speaker will be former Blake parent and current YWCA Executive Director Becky Roloff.

### MEMORIAL DAY

There will be no classes on Monday, May 31 in recognition of Memorial Day.

May DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION	June DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION
5/1	Blake Classic	6 pm Ice Arena	6/14	Summer Programs Opening	
5/12	Parent Association Volunteer Lunch	11:30 am–1:30 pm Bovey	6/28	LearningWorks Summer Program Opening Day	
5/15	Joint Arts/Science Expedition				
	LearningWorks Welcome Day				
5/19	Student Services PK–12 Parent Group	8:45–10 am PCR			
5/20	Breakfast at Blake (Becky Roloff)	7:30–8:30 am Forum			
5/26	Student Services PK–12 Parent Group	7:30–8:30 am PCR			
5/31	No School PK–12 Memorial Day Holiday				

## Spend Some of Your Summer With Us at Blake!



**Online Registration for Summer Programs 2010 is now open! Check out the new math courses, sign up for the fun of Camp Acoma or any one of the many classes and courses available this year. Register today.**

**Questions? Please contact David Cole at [dcole@blakeschool.org](mailto:dcole@blakeschool.org).**

**Camp Acoma:** Camp Acoma continues its 40-year tradition of providing engaging supervised activities with three options to choose from: Camp Acoma Cubs (ages 4–5), Bears (ages 6–11) and Acoma Leadership Camp (ages 12–15). Please note the new two-week Acoma session on our Highcroft campus.

**Academics:** Our selection of academic courses will challenge students who want to accelerate their learning or work more deeply within given subject areas. Included with the traditional math, study skills and sneak-peek offerings are an Upper School creative writing course and an honors pre-calculus course.

**Athletics:** Explore our athletic camps! Our exceptional coaches will offer instruction for girls and boys in a number of sports. They include, but are not limited to, lacrosse, soccer, baseball, basketball, swimming, golf and archery.

**Enrichment:** Blake's summer enrichment program provides learning in a fun and creative environment. Students may choose from theater, art, robotics, debate and chess. There are a number of opportunities to combine a morning activity with an afternoon program to create your child's own unique fun-filled experience. We also anticipate offering the course Comic Book Life and a scratch computer class on the Highcroft campus.

**Specialty:** Students may continue to take advantage of courses created by the Science Museum and the Twin Cities Jazz Workshop, along with a new advanced-level art course taught by the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and string and music tutorials led by our experienced Blake faculty.

## Lower School

For contact phone numbers and e-mail addresses, please use [The Blake School online directory](#) (found in password-protected BlakeNet). Other questions? Send an e-mail to [parent\\_association@blakeschool.org](mailto:parent_association@blakeschool.org).

### ERB TESTING

The School is conducting its annual standardized testing for grades four and five. The Blake campus testing was completed in April. We would like Highcroft students to be in school and well rested during their testing week, which is Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 7.

### PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

Please join us for the last Parent Association meeting of the school year, featuring guest speaker Jon Halpern, Lower School counselor, who will help us learn how to optimize sibling relationships during the long summer months. Our other topics include an introduction to next year's Parent Association leaders and end-of-the-year information from Barry Wadsworth, Sherry Faubion (LSH), Julie Vang (LSH) and Ann Bellin.

**Highcroft campus:** Monday, May 3, 8:30–10 a.m., Highcroft Meeting Room

**Blake campus:** Friday, May 7, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Pillsbury Conference Room

Please note: The Blake campus meeting was rescheduled for Friday, May 7. A light lunch will be provided. Blake Pre-K and kindergarten students who do not typically stay for afternoon activity program may register to stay for lunch and will be supervised during the meeting. Please e-mail Ann Bellin at [abellin@blakeschool.org](mailto:abellin@blakeschool.org) by May 3 to register your child.

### NOON DISMISSAL

The Lower School will have a noon dismissal on Friday, May 14. Extended Day is available by

pre-registration. Look in your child's eFriday folder for registration forms.

### GRADE 5 VISITS MIDDLE SCHOOL

On Monday, May 10 from 9 to 11:30 a.m., fifth graders will visit the Middle School for an orientation session. This visit is intended to familiarize students with the campus and ease their transition. Students will meet some of the sixth grade teachers, hear from current sixth graders and learn about the Middle School program.

### GRADE 5 LOWER TO MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITION WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, May 18 from 8:45 to 10 a.m. in the Pillsbury Conference Room, there will be an opportunity for parents of fifth graders to learn how to help foster a smooth transition to Middle School. The Middle School specialist and counselor will facilitate the conversation and answer parent questions.

### MAYFEST

Our annual spring planting and clean up of the Highcroft campus grounds will take place on Tuesday, May 18 from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. Look for more information in your eFriday folders. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Megan Dayton or Kathy Murphy.

### OLYMPIC DAY

Students from both Lower School campuses will come together on Olympic Day for a variety of field games emphasizing cooperation and team spirit. Parents are encouraged to come and join

the fun. Water bottles, sunscreen, umbrellas and appropriate attire are recommended. Olympic Day for kindergarten through second grade students from both campuses will take place on Wednesday, June 2 from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. on the Highcroft campus. Olympic Day for students in third through fifth grade from both campuses will take place on Thursday, June 3 from 1:15 to 2:45 p.m. on the Blake campus. If needed, Friday, June 4 will be the make-up day for rainy weather.

### LAST DAY OF CLASSES FOR PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The last day of class for pre-kindergarten students is Monday, June 7. This also is the last afternoon session for children enrolled in the pre-kindergarten afternoon activity program. The closing picnic will take place that evening from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Blake campus pre-kindergarten families will gather in the Howard Memorial Courtyard. Highcroft campus pre-kindergarten families will gather on the Pre-K terrace. More information will be sent home by your child's teacher.

### SCHOOL CLOSING CEREMONIES

The last day of classes for students in kindergarten through fifth grade is Tuesday, June 8. For the Blake campus, school will be in session from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. with the closing ceremony taking place at 9 a.m. The Highcroft campus school day will be in session from 1:30 until 3:30 p.m. with the closing ceremony at 2 p.m.

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

May DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION	June DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION
5/3	LSH Parent Association Mtg.	8:30–10 am HMR	6/2	LSB/HC Olympic Day, Grades K–2	1:30–2:45 pm LSH
5/3–7	LSH ERB Testing for Gr. 4 & 5		6/3	LSB/HC Olympic Day, Grades 3–5	1:15–2:45 pm LSB
5/7	LSB Parent Association Mtg.	11:30 am–1 pm PCR	6/4	LS Olympic Day Rain Date	
5/10	Gr. 5 Visit to MS	9–11:30 am MS	6/7	Last Day of Classes for Pre-K	
5/11	MS Gr. 5/6 Learning Lunch	Noon–1 pm Bovey		LSB Pre-K Picnic	5:30–7:30 MS Courtyard
5/14	LSB Gr. 3 Sharing Program	8:30–9:30 am Bovey		LSH Pre-K Picnic	5:30–7:30 HCPK Terrace
	LS Noon Dismissal		6/8	LSB Closing	9 am MPAC
5/18	Student Services LS Parent Workshop (Gr. 5 Lower to Middle School Transition Workshop)	8:45–10 am PCR		LSH Closing	2 pm LSH Gym
	LSH Mayfest	3:30–4:15 pm LSH	6/15	LS Families of Color Picnic	5:30–7:30 pm LSH Upper Playground
5/19	Admissions LSH New Student Picnic	5:30 pm LSH Upper Playground			
5/24	LSH Room Representative Orientation Mtg.	8:30–10:30 am HMR			
5/26	Admissions LSB New Student Picnic	5:30 pm LSB Playground			
5/27	LSB Room Representative Orientation Mtg.	8:30–10:30 am PCR			

For contact phone numbers and e-mail addresses, please use [The Blake School online directory](#) (found in password-protected BlakeNet). Other questions? Send an e-mail to [parent\\_association@blakeschool.org](mailto:parent_association@blakeschool.org).

## Middle School

### PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Middle School parents are invited to attend the final Parent Association meeting of the school year on Friday, May 7 from 8:45 to 10:15 a.m. in the Pillsbury Conference Room. Please join us for a healthy, hearty breakfast while catching up with your fellow Middle School parents and hearing the latest news from Middle School Director Joe Seivold. The featured speaker will be PK-12 Social Studies Department Chair Deana Jaeschke Clapp, who will discuss changes to the Middle School social studies curriculum for the upcoming school year.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL ERB TESTING

Spring is time for our annual standardized testing week for all Middle School students. Blake uses the achievement and aptitude tests from the Comprehensive Testing Program produced by the Educational Records Bureau (ERB) in Boston and the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, N.J. We would like students to be in school and well rested for the tests. Parents are asked to avoid scheduling outside appointments for their children during this week. Middle School ERBs are scheduled for Tuesday, May 4 through Thursday, May 6. The make-up day will be Monday, May 10.

### LEARNING LUNCHES

Plan to attend the upcoming learning lunches:

**Fifth/sixth grade:** Tuesday, May 11, noon to 1 p.m., Pillsbury Conference Room

**Eighth grade:** Tuesday, May 18, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Upper School

### MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING BAND CONCERT

The Middle School bands will perform their spring concert on Monday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the MacMillan Performing Arts Center. There will be a reception in the Bovey Chapel following the concert.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL CONCERT FOR BOYS CHOIR, TREBLE CHOIR AND GRADE 8 INTEGRATED ARTS

The Middle School Boys Choir, Treble Choir and eighth grade Integrated Arts students will perform their spring concert on Monday, May 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the MacMillan Performing Arts Center. A reception will follow.

### MS CHOIR 6 AND CHORISTERS CONCERT

The spring concert for the sixth grade A and B choirs and the Choristers will be held on Tuesday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the MacMillan Performing Arts Center. A reception will follow.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL STRINGS CONCERT

The Middle School strings musicians will perform on Monday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Bovey Chapel. A reception will follow.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

The final Middle School dance will be held on Friday, May 14 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in the Blake dining room. Students will help with the planning of this dance. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders are all invited to attend. The cost is \$5 per student. Students arriving

after 8 p.m. must come to the dining room with a parent and check in. Please pick up your child promptly at 10 p.m. Please contact parent volunteer Dede Carter with questions.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING FLING

Fun awaits all Middle Schoolers at the Middle School Spring Fling on Friday, May 28 from 2 to 3:25 p.m. in the loggia area. For more information or to volunteer to scoop ice cream, please contact Stephanie Simon.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL EXAMS

Middle School final exams are set for Wednesday, June 2, Thursday, June 3 and Friday, June 4. School will begin at 8:30 a.m. and be dismissed at noon on Thursday and Friday.

### VALLEYFAIR DAY

The annual Middle School trip to Valleyfair will be Tuesday, June 8, rain or shine. Buses will run on the usual schedule. Students will depart from the Middle School at 9:30 a.m. and return around 3 p.m. in time for bus or carpool rides. Transportation to and from Valleyfair, as well as admission to the park, will be provided.

*Donna Magarian, vice chair  
Middle School Parent Association*

May DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION	June DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION
5/4-6	MS ERB Testing		6/2-4	MS Final Exams	
5/7	MS Parent Association Mtg.	8:45-10:15 am PCR	6/2	MS Awards Assembly	2:15-3:20 pm MPAC
5/10	MS Strings Concert	7:30 pm Bovey	6/3	MS Noon Dismissal	
5/11	Gr. 5 & 6 Learning Lunch	Noon-1 pm PCR	6/4	MS Noon Dismissal	
5/14	Gr. 6, 7, 8 Dance	7:30-10 pm BDR	6/7	MS Noon Dismissal	
5/15	Joint Arts/Science Expedition		6/8	MS Valleyfair Day	Valleyfair
5/17	MS Band Concert	7:30 pm MPAC	6/9	MS Closing	11:15 am MS Loggia
5/18	Gr. 8 Learning Lunch	11:30 am-1 pm US			
5/24	MS Boy Choir/Treble Choir/IA8 Concert	7:30 pm MPAC			
5/25	MS Choir 6 and Choristers Concert	7:30 pm MPAC			
5/28	MS Quarter 4 Ends				
	MS Spring Fling	2-3:25 pm MS Loggia			

For contact phone numbers and e-mail addresses, please use [The Blake School online directory](#) (found in password-protected BlakeNet). Other questions? Send an e-mail to [parent\\_association@blakeschool.org](mailto:parent_association@blakeschool.org).

## Upper School

### SAT TESTING

SAT testing is scheduled for Saturday, May 1 and Saturday, June 5 at the Upper School. Students will need to arrive by 7:30 a.m.

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS

Advanced Placement courses culminate in the administration of AP exams, which are scheduled at various times during the weeks of May 3 and May 10. If your child is in an AP class, check with your student or teacher for the time and date of the course exam.

### SPRING MUSIC CONCERTS

The Upper School choral music community will perform its spring concert on Wednesday, May 5, and the Upper School string ensembles will perform on Tuesday, May 11. Blake's Upper School bands will present their annual spring concert on Wednesday, May 12. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in the MacMillan Performing Arts Center followed by a reception in the Bovey Chapel. All are welcome.

### JUNIOR-SENIOR PROM

The junior-senior prom is on Saturday, May 15 from 8 p.m. until midnight. Hosted by the junior class, this gala event includes dinner and dancing at the Wayzata Country Club. All juniors and seniors are welcome and encouraged to attend either solo, with an escort or with a group of friends. Invitations with details about the event were mailed to juniors and seniors.

### PARENT ASSOCIATION MEETING

Please join us for the final Parent Association meeting of the year on Monday, May 10 in the Cherne Forum. Upper School Director Marc Bogursky will review the year. Also, the incoming chair, vice chair and secretary for the 2010–11 Upper School Parent Association will be introduced at this meeting. Arrive at 11:15 a.m. for a luncheon buffet and an opportunity to socialize with friends. The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. and conclude at 1 p.m.

### UPPER SCHOOL ACTING/MUSICAL THEATER PERFORMANCES

The workshop production class will be performing Friday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Adams Black Box Theater. This production uses a cast of freshmen and sophomore actors with juniors and seniors crewing the show. Please join us. Admission is free. Students in the musical theater class and acting class will perform selected scenes and songs from their work this semester. The performance is on Thursday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the Adams Black Box Theater. Please join us for this delightful evening. Admission is free.

### END OF QUARTER/EXAM WEEK

Quarter IV ends on Friday, May 28. Exam week begins Tuesday, June 1 and ends on Friday, June 4. Two exam periods will be held each day from 8:30 to 11 a.m. and from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Each student is responsible for knowing his or her exam schedule. Students need only be in school to take their exams. Lunch is served every day.

Parents and students are responsible for transportation to and from the Upper School on exam days.

### SENIOR PROGRAM SHARING NIGHT

Senior Program Sharing Night will be on Monday, June 7 at the Upper School from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Seniors will present educational insights gained from their three- to six-week senior program experience.

### THESPIAN AWARD DINNER

The Thespian Award dinner will be on Tuesday, June 8 at 6 p.m. in the Black Box Theater.

### AWARDS CEREMONY AND CUM LAUDE DINNER AND INDUCTION

The Upper School awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday, June 9 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Juliet Nelson Auditorium. The Cum Laude dinner and induction will be that evening at the same location at 6 p.m.

### COMMENCEMENT

The class of 2010 graduates will be honored at commencement ceremonies on Thursday, June 10 at 7 p.m. in the Howard Memorial Courtyard on the Blake campus in Hopkins.

*Maureen Rudd, vice chair  
Upper School Parent Association*

May DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION	June DATE	EVENT	TIME/LOCATION
5/1	SAT Testing	8 am–1 pm US	6/1–4	US Year-End Exams & Projects	
5/3–7	US AP Exams		6/3	Thespian Award dinner	6 pm Black Box
5/5	US Choral Concert	7:30 pm MPAC	6/5	SAT Testing	8 am–1 pm US
5/10–14	US AP Exams		6/7	College Admission Simulation for Gr. 11	8 am–1 pm US
5/10	US Parent Association Mtg.	11:15 am–1 pm Forum		Senior Program Night	5:30–9 pm US
5/11	US Strings Concert	7:30 pm MPAC	6/8	US Thespian Awards Dinner	6–8 pm Black Box
5/12	US Band Concert	7:30 pm MPAC	6/9	US Awards Ceremony	8:30–10:30 am JNA
5/15	Joint Arts/Science Expedition			US Cum Laude Dinner & Induction	6 pm US/JNA
	Junior/Senior Prom	8 pm–12 am Wayzata Country Club	6/10	US Commencement	7 pm MS Courtyard Off Campus
			6/12	ACT	
				SSAT	8 am–12:30 pm US
5/17	Three-Week Senior Program Begins				
5/21	US Theater Workshop Production	7:30 pm Black Box			
5/27	US Acting & Musical Final Performances	7:30 pm US			
5/28	Last Day of US Classes				

## **Jack Edie World Citizen Endowed Fund Event — June 3 8:15–9:45 a.m. Bovey Chapel, Middle School**

Blake is hosting a special event to celebrate Jack Edie (longtime Blake teacher, coach and headmaster) and his dedication to global education. The event will take place on June 3 from 8:15 to 9:45 a.m. in the Bovey Chapel of the Middle School to raise money for the Jack Edie World Citizen Endowed Fund. The fund was established in Edie's honor to support Blake students and teachers in their pursuit of knowledge and experiences that broaden their international understanding. Parents are welcome to attend this event. Please R.S.V.P. by Thursday, May 27 to (952) 988-3445 or [advancementrsvp@blakeschool.org](mailto:advancementrsvp@blakeschool.org).

Glenda and Fritz Corrigan '60 and Walt McCarthy '57 and Clara Ueland '56 have donated a challenge gift to match up to \$100,000 in new contributions to the Jack Edie World Citizen Endowed Fund. Gifts to the Edie Fund will enable Blake students and faculty with financial need to benefit from the transformational experiences that come from travel/study abroad.



**Jack Edie**

*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*



*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](mailto: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.