85 years of inspiring students to think outside
John Muir once said, “In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.” I believe Muir would relish our commitment to allow our students to play outside, to rest outside, to think outside, and in that commitment giving them the opportunity to flourish in ways beyond what they seek. In the pages that follow, I hope you experience vicariously the fresh and exciting ways Rocky Hill Country Day students grow and explore.

Diane Rich
Head of School
We’ve been here for 85 years, growing from a small schoolhouse in 1934. In 1941, Nathan Hale, a descendant of the Revolutionary war hero, named our school Rocky Hill Country Day School. As such, we joined the progressive Country Day School movement. This movement was designed to replicate the academic rigor and character building of the best boarding schools, but in a country campus setting where students could still live at home. The philosophy focused on the whole child—enriching their mind, body, and spirit—as we still do today.

True to our motto “know thyself,” which we and our students continue to aspire to, we decided to restore our name back to Rocky Hill Country Day School this fall. We have retained the original crest for use on official documents, and designed a modernized one as our logo to reflect our forward thinking mindset. With one foot firmly rooted in our heritage and the other in our future, we are excited to continue educating students and helping children to grow for another 85 years and beyond.

1935
Dorothy Marshall moves the preschool to Lucius Eldredge homestead on Division Street and it is named Rocky Hill after the area.

1937
The 1st official schoolhouse is constructed for preschool through 3rd grade and is financed by Garry C. House.
**The Art of Service**

Rachel Armentano, Middle & Upper School Art

Creative endeavors can have deeper meanings that lead to the empowerment and understanding of others.

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**Service Learning**

Connecting education with social responsibility

Ashley Lee, 1st Grade

How education can impact communities through acts of social good.

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**Literally Outside**

The power of nature in education

Eric Wyzga, Lower School Science, and Karah Chartrand, Middle School Science

Why outside learning helps students to develop essential skills unavailable in conventional classroom settings.

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**Milestones**

Learning from our past, looking to our future

Diane Rich, Head of School, and Beth DeGerlia, Assistant Head of School for Advancement

Where we came from, how we got there, and where we’re going in the future.

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**More than Books**

Wendy Gustavel, School Librarian

How the RHCD library has evolved from a repository of literature into a creative and emotional sanctuary.
Taking a LEEP
Michael Jedrey, Head of Middle School

Understanding the lives of students across the world provides invaluable context for experiences at home.

Understanding the Experiences of Others
Rachel Armentano, Middle & Upper School Art, and Belinda Snyman, Upper School English

Students learn how international relationships break down barriers and stimulate positive conversation.
1941
Nathan and Lillian Hale purchase Rocky Hill Day School for $5,000 and add Country to the name.

1945
Rocky Hill Country Day School graduates its first 9th grade class.

Creative thinking not only leads to creative solutions, but also to impactful community endeavors.
The Art of Service
Rachel Armentano, Middle & Upper School Art

I love teaching art. In addition to creativity, art encourages students to think outside the studio and consider multiple points of view. The hope I have is that my students realize they have the opportunity to make a difference in the future, in a world where they will live as adults. I also want them to realize the impact that design has on their daily lives. Tying service learning to art is a powerful way to achieve all of this.

This past fall, I helped with a Preschool service project that benefited Amenity Aid, a local organization that provides personal hygiene items to Rhode Island shelters. We connected the students’ study of dental hygiene to the initiative by making art with toothbrushes and floss, displaying the work at a local coffee shop, and facilitating a toothbrush drive. Student learning remained the center of the project, while at the same time impacting a large audience who left more informed or inspired.

Each February, RHCD hosts a Middle School art show and a few years ago, I included our first Empty Bowls exhibit, a project that generates awareness of hunger in communities through bowls made by students. 7th grade students created papier-mâché bowls and wrote accompanying artist statements focused on empathy. This multi-disciplinary study revealed how meeting basic human needs, like food, impacts the social-emotional lives of students. Each student represented two emotions through design, one on the inside and the other on the outside of the bowl. One was a negative emotion that a young person could experience if their basic needs were not consistently met, the other by a positive emotion that well-supported, healthy students regularly experience throughout their school day, such as focus, pride, and excitement.

The 8th grade installation educated attendees about poverty. The class set up a dinner table in the middle of the art show with their bowls set on mono-printed placemats. Spoons and placecards were also designed to incorporate the characteristics of varying levels of food insecurity and facts about poverty locally, nationally, and globally. As their admission fee, each family who attended was asked to bring a bag of canned goods for the North Kingstown Food Pantry.

Connecting service learning to art projects is invaluable. The more we share what we are doing, making, and learning with the School community, the stronger the impact our art, learning, and connections become. The challenge is explicitly encouraging a culture of empathy and action, pushing past a sense of guilt or pity for those receiving the donations by understanding that social issues such as poverty and inequity are not everyone’s fault, but everyone’s responsibility. Using the process of art-making, installation, and event planning, outreach education can extend student potential. With this, students will continue to learn, look for, and appreciate the relationship between knowledge, art-making, action, and community.

1948
RHCDS moves 245 students to Hopelands after major renovations.
School is incorporated as a non-profit.

1954
Hurricane Carol strikes just prior to the opening of school—clean-up is a community effort.
1956
Perkins Hall is the first new building constructed on campus and is named after Rose Perkins Hale, Nathan’s mother.

1959
Gibson Hall is built, named after Jane & Kirkland Gibson. Summer Camp continues to financially support the School. Mr. Hale purchases JAF dinghies for the sailing program.

Literacy is only one facet that builds the unique character of the RHCD library.
More than Books  Wendy Gustavel, School Librarian

As technology allows us to access books and information on our devices from anywhere in the world, librarians are faced with a challenge: do we really need libraries in the 21st century? The answer, indubitably, is yes. Libraries have always been more than centralized repositories of resources. They are places where people connect, collaborate, rejuvenate, and explore.

When I was offered the opportunity to serve as the RHCD librarian, I immediately accepted; I wanted to create a space where everyone felt free to be themselves and explore new ideas. I began by weeding our collection of print resources. This opened up space to create two distinct areas, one for Lower School and another for Middle and Upper School. The Lower School side features a colorful rug for storytime, round tables for art projects and collaborative work, displays for series books and graphic novels, and a basket of stuffed animals. The Middle/Upper School side includes comfortable seating that can be moved to accommodate collaborative group work or independent study, colorful rugs, and plants to create a welcoming and calm atmosphere.

I believe that libraries should be safe, where diversity is celebrated. To communicate this, signs are posted throughout the library stating, “diverse, inclusive, welcoming, accepting, and embracing safe space for everyone.” To demonstrate an appreciation for diversity, displays are set up each month focusing on the history and contributions of various groups. Thus far, we’ve featured authors and resources for Hispanic Heritage Month, National Disability Month, and Indigenous Heritage Month.

Once we transformed the physical environment and created a welcoming atmosphere, the next step was to get more students into the library. While Lower School students have library classes once per rotation, Middle and Upper School students do not have scheduled library times. To introduce our older students to all that the library has to offer, Middle and Upper School English teachers now host book tastings where students explore some of the most popular titles on our shelves while munching on treats. Middle and Upper School teachers also present academic honesty and research skills lessons, and mindfulness activities are available for students when they need to take a break.

While I can share data that demonstrates how many students visit the library each month and how many books are checked out per week, the greatest measure of the library’s success comes in the interactions I have with students every day: when a preschooler stops by with his mom after school to give Mrs. Nibbles the Library Mouse a hug goodbye; when a Middle School student stops by between classes to tell me about his dog; when an Upper Schooler takes a nap between an exam and sports practice. Yes, our library is a place to read and work and learn and research, but it is also a place to breathe, regroup, and be yourself!

1962
Nathan Hale retires and Robert C. Smith becomes Headmaster.
Uniforms, the crest, the yearbook, the alma mater, and the motto “know thyself” are established.

1967
Rocky Hill graduates its first 12th grade class.
Taking a LEEP
Michael Jedrey, Head of Middle School

For many years, the Middle School used the week prior to March break for collaborative programming, notably an immersive program called “World Cultures Week.” But as our School moved towards project based learning, we saw an opportunity to make the program student-driven and more in line with the key aspects of PBL. As a consequence, in the spring of 2019, the Middle School’s first LEEP Week was born.

LEEP stands for Learn, Explore, Envision, and Present. The goal of LEEP Week is to have students work in mixed-aged groups to address the driving question, “What would be a solution to address a pressing issue facing the residents of a specific location in the world?” Students were grouped by areas of strength, combining those who were proficient in a variety of disciplines with the idea that these groupings would lean into shared areas of competence in a new and effective manner.

Each group received an envelope containing a longitude and latitude along with a driving question. They were also given their own room as a homebase where they would...
meet and work. Being student driven also meant that the students were responsible for the direction of their group’s investigation.

The students researched their locations, identified an issue to address, brainstormed solutions, and built model prototypes. Some of the issues being tackled included freshwater scarcity, access to education, water and air pollution, affordable housing, food security, and healthy eating.

“I learned that even though there may be large bodies of freshwater, the freshwater might not always be clean. So even though people have access to water, they can’t drink it.” Nate Lee ’24

“The most important thing I’ve learned during this project is that kids are dying in Kinshasa because they don’t have basic needs.” Katie O’Neil ’25

Workshops were scheduled throughout the week where students heard from experts on being an entrepreneur and building a startup as well as how to create an “elevator speech” and effectively pitch ideas to investors. Groups also had a session with mentors during which they presented their ideas, fielded probing questions, and received feedback.

I was always impressed by the discussions following these workshops, as it was clear they sparked new ideas and helped refine solutions.

The final day of LEEP Week was the most exciting. Groups finished the construction of their prototypes, created informational posters and pamphlets to display with their prototypes at a showcase, and practiced their two minute pitch. The showcase was set up in the gym where other students, faculty, and parents could hear the groups describing their project solutions. For the culmination of the showcase, each group had two minutes on stage to present their pitch, and make their case why their solution should be funded. The audience then used a polling app to vote for what they felt was the best solution.

Deeper learning happens when experiences are authentic and meaningful. Projects such as LEEP Week allow students to direct the path of their exploration and be responsible for everything they produce. They make real-world connections and contemplate actual solutions to problems. Which leaves just one question: Where do we LEEP to next?
In 2019, students in the Lower School learned to distinguish between service learning and community service. Community service provides needed services, goods, or acts of kindness for an individual or group. Service learning takes what you have learned through a school curriculum and uses it as inspiration to benefit others.

Over the past two years, the students have been learning about courage, forgiveness, gratitude, and compassion through the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement Curriculum. They also explored the difference between basic human needs and wants. Equipped with this understanding, students have taken their knowledge of social-emotional learning and put it into action through several projects this past year.

This Thanksgiving, Lower School took part in the first-ever Turkey Trot, a mile-long fun run around campus. With the sun shining,
Rhode Islanders have always been innovators. It’s great to see our next generation joining forces across the state as they design solutions for real-world problems.

Governor Gina Raimondo

participants enjoyed perfect conditions to stretch their legs, all while collecting canned goods that were donated to the North Kingstown Food Pantry.

In October, Lower School launched a service learning module designed to explore fundamental human needs and the distinction between community service and service learning. As part of the module, the students demonstrated ‘compassion in action’ by making friendship bracelets for the Mexican children in Guadalajara.

For the second year, the Middle School collected items for the North Kingstown Food Pantry’s Thanksgiving baskets. The students smashed their goal of 450 cans of food with a whopping 700!

Thank you to all of the families who donated and the MS Student Council for organizing. The food pantry was blown away by our generosity.

On November 15-16, we hosted the 2nd Annual social good hackathon, ‘Hack for Global Good: Solution2Pollution.’ With 35 industry mentors/expert judges and over 70 students from across the state, Solution2Pollution developed bold solutions to local and global pollution. Governor Gina Raimondo provided an official citation for each of the participants, noting, “Rhode Islanders have always been innovators. It’s great to see our next generation joining forces across the state as they design solutions for real-world problems.”

Upper School students joined over 6 million young people from around the world to raise awareness for environmental issues at the Global Climate Strike. The walkout took part in 150 countries with a goal to “kickstart renewed action on climate change.”

And all that is just the beginning; it will be exciting to see how Rocky Hill Country Day School students continue to take what they have learned and see what they are able to do to make a positive impact on the world we share.

Participants in the first annual Turkey Trot on a fun run around campus.

The second annual hackathon addressed the impact of global pollution.

1991
R. Leith Herrmann is hired as Headmaster. Tennis and Field Hockey teams are state champions.

1994
Rocky Hill School boasts SENE championship teams for Boys’ Soccer, Basketball, and Lacrosse.
1996
James J. Young III ’70 is the first Rocky Hill School alumnus to be hired as Headmaster.

1998
Fiber optic cable is installed on campus.
Field Hockey team wins state championship.
Mural restoration is completed in Hopelands.
Design Thinking
Using future technology to understand today’s world

Charlie Laurent, 4th Grade

FIRST LEGO League is much more than a robotics competition. As a Project-Based STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) learning experience, the FIRST LEGO League challenges students in myriad ways. It is rooted in design thinking as participants engage in an authentic design and ideation cycle. This year, the team was charged with “observing how cities and buildings grow, thrive, and change.” Team members set to work on developing an innovative solution to a problem facing their community. Using design thinking they:

• identified and researched the problem
• developed an empathy for those affected by the problem
• ideated possible new and innovative solutions to the problem
• developed prototypes of possible solutions
• tested the prototypes
• refined and reworked their prototypes

Students also discovered what it means to be innovative. They were encouraged to challenge the rules, learn from failure, collaborate with others, stay curious, and take risks.

Providing students authentic, stimulating, and fun opportunities to practice innovation using design thinking is a crucial component to teaching the whole child. As Alvin Toffler, author of the classic book, Future Shock, posited fifty years ago, “The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.” Fifty years later, the Rocky Hill Country Day School Robo-Mariners team members are sure to be a fully literate and successful group of 21st century global citizens.

Robo Mariners won the Project Innovative Solution award in the First LEGO League Rhode Island State Championship!


“The illiterate of the 21st Century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”

Alvin Toffler, Author

2001
First laptop classroom created.
Allie’s Playground is dedicated in memory of Alexis A. Boss ’89.
Sailing program is revived.

2004
Opening of Alan F. Flynn, Jr. Academic Center.
RHS Teaching Model is formalized.
Understanding the Experiences of Others
Rachel Armentano, Middle & Upper School Art, and Belinda Snyman, Upper School English

A key facet of our Think Outside mantra is to inspire students to look beyond our borders and discover ways that Rocky Hill Country Day School can have an impact on a global level.

In the spring, the 8th grade drew portraits of orphaned children in Pakistan as part of a program called the Memory Project, an initiative that connects art classes in the United States with orphanages around the world. Each student received a photo, name, age, and favorite color of a child living in an orphanage in Pakistan. The portraits were then delivered to Pakistan, along with 3,000 similar pieces from students at schools across the country.

Such initiatives are critical as they encourage young people to become tolerant cultural ambassadors who can look beyond rudimentary markers such as skin color and religion. Studies conducted by the Memory Project reveal that many people in the USA and Pakistan regard each other negatively with significant levels of mistrust. In response, the project seeks to change the narrative in future generations by stressing the commonalities between people, not their differences.

This year’s 8th graders will create portraits for children orphaned by the conflict in Syria. The students will be encouraged to consider how it feels to lose everything to war, and to see their art as a way to create a positive memory for young people who have had to flee last minute and leave everything behind.

Students are often inspired by the texts they read and the characters whose lives they get to inhabit. Yet those experiences often remain illusory. When students engage with the stories of others and become conduits for those experiences, they discover the responsibility of carrying and retelling those stories.

Sharing Voices, a 10th grade English project-based-learning module for exploring the subject of identity in the United States, challenged students to gain a deeper appreciation of the immigrant and refugee experience. The project focused on what sophomore students discovered about themselves and others as a result of discussions on personal experience, collaboration, and reciprocity.

Building on the competencies developed during the freshman English and Biology project, Behind the Cells (a personal approach to the science behind cancer) the sophomores conducted interviews with immigrants and refugees before transcribing and writing their stories: journeys of suffering, violence, and hardship, yet also unwavering courage, resilience, and perseverance. While celebrating the power of the human spirit and the kindness of strangers, the students learned about determination. They were reminded of the ways that we are different, yet also what we have in common. In their reflections, the students discovered what it means to negotiate one’s identity and claim one’s new sense of place.
Peter Branch joins as the 9th Head of School. Trinity Repertory Company forms an official partnership to direct theater productions.

2012
1:1 iPad program launched in the Middle School.

2013

Such initiatives are critical as they encourage young people to become tolerant cultural ambassadors who can look beyond rudimentary markers such as skin color and religion.

Rachel Armentano, Middle & Upper School Art

A snapshot of the immigrant and refugee population of Rhode Island that our students interviewed as part of the Sharing Voices PBL.
The power of nature in education

Eric Wyzga, Lower School Science, and Karah Chartrand, Middle School Science

THE SCIENCE OF THINKING OUTSIDE

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “In the presence of nature, a wild delight runs through man.” As one who lived in and saw nature as the key to success and serenity, Emerson would have felt at home at Rocky Hill Country Day. With 84 waterfront acres, a Garden Classroom, the on-campus Land of Fires trail, and a collection of more than 80 species of trees, it seems only natural to be outside as often as possible during the school day. Science classes in particular are predisposed to flourishing in an environment such as RHCD, and while being outside is an easy way to make a connection between the classroom and the “scientific world,” thinking outside is so much more than taking a walk in nature.

Providing access to a world bigger than themselves opens up student thinking. We empower learners to make connections between the classroom and “real life.” We create an environment both inside the classroom walls and in the expanse of the outdoors that helps students explore the relationship between the natural world, their education, and their future. Our unique campus and perspective frees our students because they are not limited to the confines of textbooks and classroom walls. Students are encouraged to think outside the classroom, think outside their local community, and think outside the ordinary.

By encouraging students to think outside and engage in nature, RHCD provides future generations the skills and experiences they need to make a greater impact on the world around them.

2016

Dr. James Tracy is installed as 10th Head of School. A new fleet of sailboats is acquired, thanks to the Jump on Board campaign.

2017

Rocky Hill appoints first Director of Innovation, Entrepreneur-in-Residence, and Innovator-in-Residence. Student Competencies and Project Based Learning more fully define the curriculum.
WHY OUTSIDE IS IMPORTANT

If you observe any living organism, they naturally meet their needs in an outdoor environment. Organisms respond to the world, then adjust to grow in a way they are instinctually driven. But it is difficult, almost impossible, to recreate this process in zoos or the garden centers of your favorite DIY hardware store. The habitat isn’t optimal, the ecology is limited, and as a result growth is impacted.

You can look at outdoor education through a similar lens. The outdoors has always been an instinctual place to be, even an imperative place to learn. Outdoor education has been around since the early days of humanity. In my experience, being outside is critical for a young learner in creating a healthy educational experience. For students, outdoor interactions are more vivid than a Google search. It is restorative to a young mind and is readily available to those who use it. Learning outdoors is not just a leisure time activity. It is essential to the health of children, and connections are made through the tiniest of their interactions with it. I don’t necessarily mean “nature time” either; I simply mean just getting reunited with what the outdoors has to offer. From natural history to art and science, we are lucky that the RHCD campus is available to all faculty and students, and using it as a pedagogical platform may come in many forms. Initiatives like our Lower School Environmental Education Program and PBLs that require leaving the desk behind and getting students doing more outside can transform learners into the peaceful organism they were intended to be, allowing them to learn their own boundaries in a natural way. They remember how to interact, thrive, and learn as generations once did. Even on the youngest levels, students learn independence and resilience, and easily become engaged in the process of learning. Outside can also foster self-respect and inspire creativity; it still amazes me how giving an outside lesson can bring a concept to a more tangible level and allow the participant to interact with what they are intending to learn.

That is why we encourage our students to Think Outside at RHCD. We are fortunate to have a campus that facilitates and supports this understanding of life itself; there really is nowhere better to learn and thrive within the organic embrace of nature than Rocky Hill Country Day School.
2019 was an incredible year for School Athletics. Championships at major tournaments were celebrated throughout the year, but as this piece explains, not everything is won on the field of play. Rather, preparation, inspiration, and mindfulness are key elements to sporting success at RHCD.
Through attention to detail and a commitment to The Mariner Way, all these Athletics Department programs were on the rise in 2019, and each was underpinned by three key elements:

**RESILIENCY**
- In the winter of 2019, we welcomed guest speakers to the Upper School who outlined how developing resiliency led them to their Olympic and professional sport dreams.
- Athletics embraced many changes in 2019, from team leadership structure, to coaching changes, schedule revisions, and new programming emphasis. How we respond to changes is one of the hallmark ways that we practice our resiliency as student-athletes and coaches.

**EFFORT**
- In the fall preseason, we were joined by a group of former US Navy Seals who put our athletes through their paces in a mixture of physically and mentally challenging exercises. This program, jointly funded by the Boosters and the Terry Coes Innovative Teaching Award, allowed us to bring a heightened level of competitiveness and determination to our preseason.
- The spring saw our first annual Student-Athlete Leadership Academy take place over multiple days, where aspiring team leaders got the chance to learn about resolving conflict, creating buy-in, and managing a group of their peers.

**PRIDE**
- Booster Club membership has jumped by 150% and the Student Booster Club has become the largest student club on campus!
- Homecoming and Blue & White Night drew the largest attendance ever, bringing together current students, alumni, families, and faculty for a fun-filled two days of Mariner pride.
Homecoming weekend continued with some new and returning traditions this year! On Friday afternoon we hosted three Middle School games and an Upper School Cross Country meet, before turning attention to our 2nd Annual Blue and White Night. With over 350 people in attendance, the night included food trucks, a DJ, bonfires, and lawn games all organized by the Booster Club, as well as smores sponsored by the Alumni Association. This was a great night for families, alumni, and friends to watch games and have fun reminiscing around the fire pits.

Saturday kicked-off with four Upper School conference games: Girls and Boys Varsity Soccer, Field Hockey, and Boys Junior Varsity Soccer playing in front of a homefield crowd of more than 500 spectators. Additionally, our Alumni Association held its semi-annual meeting with great representation from several decades. They discussed exciting plans for the year and heard updates from Head of School Diane Rich and Board President Don McCaughey.
Throughout the day, fans cheered the sports teams and ate at the BBQ lunch, while our littlest guests enjoyed bouncy castles, face painting, and tractor rides. A Corn Hole Tournament hosted by the Booster Club had more than 20 teams in the field and proved to be a tough competition, with Phil Hackett ’10 and Tory Dumas ’10 taking top honors.

The festivities concluded at Line Sider Brewing in East Greenwich where many community members gathered for casual conversation and cheer. This was a wonderful way to wrap up a new tradition at Rocky Hill Country Day School, and we hope to see many families and alumni next Homecoming!

SAVE THE DATE
HOMECOMING WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 2020
If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.

Sir Isaac Newton
Milestones
Learning from our past, looking to our future

Diane Rich, Head of School, and Beth DeGerlia, Assistant Head of School for Advancement

Rocky Hill Country Day School’s 85 year history reveals many moments when the School reached a new level of success or evolved its educational model. This edition of The Bulletin provides a look into our past and some of the milestones that have defined us as a leader in education. Equally important are the stories that celebrate the momentum of the School today. Each turning point builds upon another, and it remains our charge to continue to evolve the School while honoring what makes it so unique.

As you comb through our archives, many themes emerge: the strong sense of community, a whole-child approach to education, the importance of each student’s individuality. These values are displayed in the nimble and adaptable way the School meets the needs of its students and the faculty who make the time and effort to know them. These principles endure as recognizable hallmarks of the student experience.

Rocky Hill Day School began as a preschool in a private home in 1934, and relocated to the Eldredge family home in 1935 under the leadership of Dorothy Marshall, the School’s first headmistress. By 1937, the School had expanded to serve students in preschool-grade 3, necessitating a new schoolhouse that was financed by Garry C. House, father of Harriet Eldredge, the matriarch of the Eldredge family. In the fifty-year edition of The Bulletin, Charlotte Eldredge Blaine ’45 shared, “I still remember how much fun it was to have all of those kids come every day to play...Reminiscing about those times brings back happy memories of people I shall never forget.”

Upon Marshall’s retirement in 1941, Assistant Headmaster, Nathan Hale, purchased the School and changed the name to Rocky Hill Country Day School. At the time, the School served 28 children. By 1948, Mr. Hale had converted it into a non-profit, expanded the program to preschool-grade 9, and grew the student body to 200+ students. Thanks to support from trustees Kirkland Gibson, George Waterman, Jr., and others, Mr. Hale relocated the School to the Hopelands estate. Carla Gibson Queen-Cook ’58 spoke to Mr. Hale’s legacy in the 1984 Bulletin, “Rocky Hill, under the leadership, philosophy, and spirit of Nathan Hale, was not only the beginning of my education, it was also the core.”

Mr. Hale retired in 1962, but not before he established a robust summer camp program, built both Perkins and Gibson Halls, and purchased a fleet of dinghies for the sailing program. He was succeeded by Robert Smith who established the alma mater, the motto “know thyself,” and the School crest. By 1967, Rocky Hill had graduated its first 12th grade class and was the first accredited school of its kind in southern Rhode Island.

The next 53 years marked an incredible journey that has brought us to today’s Rocky Hill Country Day School. From the expansion of the campus, to the advent of technology, to a commitment to discussion- and project-based learning, we have always been able to think outside the box and deliver an impactful, whole-child learning experience. It was Sir Isaac Newton who famously said, “If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants.” As we look toward a promising future for Rocky Hill Country Day School, we must never forget the foundation on which we stand and the remarkable people who have brought us to where we are today. We certainly have a history and a future worth celebrating!

The Alan F. Flynn, Jr. Academic Center is a signature building that serves as our Upper School and is the most recent major construction project on campus. Gone are the days of lectures and desks in rows. Discussion-based learning provides students and teachers the opportunity to collaborate, communicate, and engage at a much higher level.
AROUND THE ROCK

SLAVE MEDALLION PROJECT
On August 25, the Slave Medallion Project held a ceremony at Patriots Park in Portsmouth for the installation of its first marker. 4th Grade teacher, Charlie Laurent, and his class were invited to attend due to their work as Junior Historians with the Medallion Project and Smith’s Castle. Our campus will be the future site of a medallion installation.

LAND ART WITH CATHERINE MORAN
2019 Artist-in-Residence, Catherine Moran, initiated a project that encouraged students to use the natural landscape as a canvas and explore site specificity, environmentalism, and decay. The students collaborated in small groups to create their own land art and earthworks around campus.

FIRST PEOPLE’S DAY ASSEMBLY
In October, students participated in an assembly to discuss the important cultural significance of First People’s/Columbus Day to the indigenous community. Members of the Narragansett tribe/ RHCD alumni performed traditional dances and then led a discussion about how the designation of “Columbus Day” might affect indigenous communities across the country, rationale for changing the name of the day, and other topics that people tend to wrestle within the debate over the day’s appellation.

JAMES LA PORTA TELECONFERENCE
On October 30th, students in Ms. Buecheler’s and Mrs. Snyman’s junior English classes were treated to a long-distance discussion with James LaPorta, a senior correspondent at Newsweek covering military affairs and a United States Marines Corp veteran as part of their “Experience of War” project.
A VISIT FROM ‘GWENDOLYN, THE GRACEFUL PIG’

On November 13th, Lower School students were treated to a performance of Gwendolyn, the Graceful Pig by author David Ira Rottenberg and the Story Time dancers. Students presented the author and dancers with handmade cards and flower bouquets to express their gratitude for the wonderful show.

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

The Deckhands put on a lively performance of The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee for the musical this year. Our partnership with Trinity Rep continues to flourish.

RHCD CHORUS

Under the direction of Ms. Serotta, the chorus shared an array of songs to a full house during the winter concert. The program featured solo performances, all-school collaborations, and instrumental support from the band.

2019 MINDFULNESS CONFERENCE

In June, 2019, RHCD and Center for Resilience designed and hosted a national mindfulness conference. With over one hundred participants, renowned keynote speakers, and a wide array of engaging and research-based topics, the annual conference was a huge success, supporting the integration of mindfulness education into public, private, and parochial school communities through the lens of administrators, educators, and health and wellness professionals. This year’s conference will be held on June 20 at RHCD. Go to mindfulness-conference.org for more information.

MAKING CARING COMMON

The time when high school students explore their formative experiences alongside their peers can present challenges relating to the many aspects of identity, both from one’s own internal perspectives, as well as those formed by sharing those perspectives. As many of us can relate, it is often quite a daunting place to find oneself at such a tender age. Accordingly, the extent to which young people feel safe amid the frenzy of adolescence is often determined by the practices in which schools create spaces that not only claim to be "safe," but more importantly, prove the authenticity of safety through action. Last year, Jannessa Ya (10th grade) and Sam Weiler (12th grade) were elected to the Youth Advisory Board of Making Caring Common—a project hosted by Harvard University that gives students the power within their schools to create and sustain authentically inclusive and safe environments in which to learn and have meaningful experiences. As members of the Advisory Board, Jannessa and Sam collaborated with other high school students from around the country to provide guidance for MCC’s efforts to build programming that focuses on teaching empathy, providing students and parents with strategies to address personal biases, and develop effective ways of discussing national and world events in ways that foster increased perspective and build an awareness of truth in media reporting. Jannessa and Sam also worked on their own individual projects that they implemented at RHCD to further the School’s commitment to authentic inclusivity.
FACULTY & STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Band Director Jack McNamara has been sharing his passion and talents with the student body for 14 years. His ability to articulate the impacts for his students is a result of his enduring relationships with student musicians, regardless of ability. He has brought out the best in his students, ranging from 5th grade beginners to accomplished All-State musicians.

McNamara’s talent has not gone unrecognized. He was recently elected to conduct the 2020 Rhode Island Music Education Association All-State Junior Band, the result of a selection process by peer conductors across the state. RIMEA pursues all aspects of music education, supporting 130,000 member music educators from preschool-aged children to graduate students of music.

RHCD THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

RHCD’s national and international footprint expanded even further in 2019, as faculty and staff, including Mrs. Dowling, Mrs. Fonseca Lanham, and Mrs. Bernardino presented at industry conferences across the globe.

Tara Dowling
Director of College Counseling
New England Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (NEACRAO)
Planning Committee for Regional Conference, New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC)
Professional Development Sub-Committee (USA)

Susan Fonseca Lanham
Global Impact Advisor, Director of Communications
Keynote speaker Mastercard “Seeding Next Gen Leaders” Innovation & Leadership Summit (Brazil/Rio de Janeiro), Latin America “Mujeres en Decisión” (USA/Florida), EIA’s Environmental Information Association “The Emerging Potential of Female Leaders” (USA/Georgia)

Elaine Bernardino
Lower School World Languages and Culture, Languages Department Chair
CCSU Conference for Language Teachers, ‘Teaching French through the UN Sustainable Goals’ (USA/Connecticut)
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

On November 5, Mrs. Caity MacDonald, 5th Grade teacher, her husband, Brian, and (now) big sister, Ella, welcomed baby Jack into their family.

Dean of Student Life and Upper School French instructor, Madame Eléna Rich, and her husband, Patrick, announced the birth of their son, Jules Emerson Rich, on December 14, right on his due date!

Music Teacher and Performing Art Department Chair, Mrs. Emily Serotta, and her husband, Tyler Justin, also had a baby boy, Rises Serotta Justin. Rises was born on December 31, 2019, helping mom and dad ring in the New Year in style.

SERIOUS SCIENCE

New Upper School science teacher, Christine Comeau, spent three days last summer at a Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE) professional development workshop on Prudence Island. Christine spent time reviewing estuarine science concepts and active ways to bring these ideas into the classroom. Activities included salt marsh research, national water quality data sets, and climate change with a special focus on Narragansett Bay. Christine also attended a professional development workshop sponsored by the University of Rhode Island, in collaboration with KidWind Energy. The workshop focused on the topic of wind energy and renewable energy infrastructure, wind energy technology, and the environmental impacts of offshore wind farms.

JESS RUSSELL: MASTERING ENGLISH

In the summer of 2019, Upper School English teacher Jess Russell graduated with a Master’s in English from the Bread Loaf School of English, part of Middlebury College. Her graduate classes ranged from Old English to post-colonial South Asian Literature, Milton to poetry writing. This is her second Master’s. Her first is in French Literature.

FACULTY AND ALUMNI GIVING BACK

Art teacher Rachel Armentano volunteered for Amenity Aid by delivering toiletries to the Amos House in Providence. She was pleasantly surprised to hand off the donations to recent BU grad and RHS alum Ellie Farber ’15 who was interning for the development department this summer!

HEAD OF SCHOOL PRESENTED AT AISNE HEAD’S RETREAT

Head of School, Mrs. Diane Rich, presented at AISNE’s 2020 Heads’ Retreat on January 29. Mrs. Rich led an important conversation with her peers on the changing education landscape and the essential elements needed to foster an environment where schools can thrive. These were identified as transparency, collaboration, creativity, and calmness of mind—values seen everyday at Rocky Hill Country Day School.
FACULTY & STAFF MILESTONES

Each year we recognize those faculty and staff whose years of service reach a five-year milestone. In 2018-2019 the following individuals were recognized:

35 years (1984-2019)
Holly Cotta, Head of ACE

30 years (1989-2019)
Timothy Greenwood, MS History
Michael Jedrey, Head of MS
Niki Stanley, ACE Teacher

20 years (1999-2019)
Theresa Conroy, MS Mathematics

15 years (2004-2019)
Matthew Gnolfo, US Foreign Language

5 years (2014 - 2019)
Harold Ambler, US English
Rachel Armentano, Middle & Upper School Art
Caitlin MacDonald, 5th Grade
Jessica Russell, US English Department Chair

LEGACY FAMILIES

We are pleased to highlight our current students who had a parent attend RHCD.

Morgan Boss ’26, Sydney Boss’23, and Charlotte Boss ’22 (Monica Iacono Boss ’91)
John Daly ’33 (Mary Wilbur ’95)
Alex Hinson ’28 (Kristen Barber Hinson ’93)
Jake Krikorian ’24 (Jason Krikorian ’87)
Alex Lehouiller ’24, Dylan Lehouiller ’21, Luke Lehouiller ’26, and Max Lehouiller ’20 (Lia DiLeonardo Lehouiller ’90)
Abby Millard ’27 and Will Millard ’30 (Jill Osowa Millard ’94)
Nick Mitchell ’31 (Kristin McLimans Mitchell ’02)
Audrey Monaghan ’31 (Megumi Osada Monaghan ’98)
Juliana Sardelli ’30 (Brian Sardelli ’01)
Sam Weiler ’20 (Mary Lynne Kennedy ’80)
NEW FACULTY & STAFF
Rocky Hill Country Day School welcomed 17 new faculty and staff members for the 2019-2020 school year.

Left to right: Elaine Bernardino, Languages Department Chair; Christine Comeau, Upper School Science; Helen Dembinski, Academic Center for Enrichment (ACE); Amadeus Finlay, Communications and Media Editor; James Himmelman, Music; Hannah Hudson, Middle & Upper School French; Natalie Joseph, 3rd Grade; Bridget Keane, Middle School English; Katy McNamara, School Nurse; Marina Mitchell, Controller; Emily Seddon, Kindergarten; Dan Shaker, Technology Support Specialist; Anna Slaybaugh, Upper School Math; Iveth Streisand, Middle & Upper School Spanish; Jake Sutterlin, Upper School Math; Dawn Temple, Upper School Photography; Sean Tucker, Lower School Physical and Health Education; and Brady Wheatley, Upper School History and Social Studies Chair.

WELCOME ABOARD: Shawn Kerachsky

We are pleased to welcome Shawn Kerachsky as the newest member of the Board of Trustees. Shawn, along with his wife, Erin Reedy, and their daughters, Lily ’22, Katie ’23, and their son, BJ ‘25, joined the Rocky Hill Country Day community in 2012. Shawn joined the Board of Trustees in 2019 and serves on the Strategic Planning Committee.

Born in Brooklyn, Shawn’s family moved to Tolland, Connecticut when he was young. On completion of his school career in The Constitution State, Shawn attended Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts where he played soccer, worked at the Sports Information Desk, and served as the Sports Editor for the school newspaper. Graduating in 1995, Shawn was the recipient of the Russ Granger Award for Academic Excellence and Athletic Achievement, and a 1995 GTE Academic All-America Nominee.

Following a career as a consultant at Fleet Financial Group, Shawn co-founded a consulting firm, TransparenC, Inc. and worked with Fortune 500 companies for over 15 years to help them solve operational and strategic challenges. In 2016, Shawn joined the Corvias Group, a privately owned family of companies that provides creative, sustainable, and long-term solutions for a wide range of clients including the military, higher education, and the public sector. They bring deep expertise in public-private partnerships and work with partners that share their core values of improving communities. In his role as Strategist, Shawn is responsible for increasing the overall impact of the company.

An ardent supporter of many nonprofit organizations, Shawn has a close connection with Project GOAL (a coeducational community partner program offering students academic support and inspiring success through soccer), founded by his college roommate. In his spare time, Shawn enjoys reading, traveling, any—and ALL—sports, and deep-sea fishing.
FROM THE PTL

Dear Rocky Hill Country Day School Families,

What an exciting year it has been...and we’re only halfway there. To mark the School’s new campaign, “Think Outside,” the Parent Teacher League hosted an outdoor back-to-school coffee for parents on the first day of school, before running a Del’s Lemonade stand for the community at Convocation.

The PTL has been working hard to bring our community together through events and communication, and to show appreciation to our outstanding faculty and staff. Our leadership team regularly shares information about important events and activities, and encourages everyone to get involved!

One of the greatest examples of parent volunteerism at Rocky Hill Country Day has been the creation of the Boosters. A group of parents led by RHCD dad, Chris Cote, the Boosters focus on supporting athletics and the arts by increasing fan participation, encouraging students to try new activities, and raising funds for items outside the usual budget.

The PTL wants our dedicated RHCD faculty and staff to know how much we appreciate them. We gave pies to all on Thanksgiving, and organized parent volunteers to bake and buy 80 dozen treats for an annual holiday cookie giveaway before winter break.

It all comes from personal experience. My husband and I made the decision to send our daughter to RHCD in large part because of its caring parent community. The day we visited, the 4th grade was celebrating Valentine’s Day, and when we picked up our daughter, she had a paper bag filled with personalized Valentines from the kids. I knew that behind those nice kids were wonderful parents who took the time to make us feel welcome.

Thank you for being caring, supportive, involved parents, and continuing to make Rocky Hill Country Day School the best it can be.

With gratitude,
Kristen Connell
PTL President
Parent of Skye ’24
ptl@rockyhill.org

PTL LEADERSHIP
President
Kristen Connell
Vice President
Open
Treasurer
Erin Reedy
Secretary
Lauri Fine
Immediate Past President
Julie Hayes

DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES
Lower School
Jill Millard
Middle School
Elissa Contillo
Kerry Bowater
Upper School
Roselle McConnell

CLASS REPS
Preschool
Justine Caldwell
Kindergarten
Traci Fairchild
Carolyn Gnirke
1st
Melissa Edelmann
2nd
Suzanne Duncan
3rd
Allison Kettlety
4th
Christie Rishworth
5th
Kara McKamey
Hillary Ramos
6th
Missy Walker
7th
Erica Gregg
Erin Reedy
8th
Robin Corsi
9th
Tammy Raposa
10th
Julie Hayes
Lauri Fine
11th
Ellen Schulte
12th
Lynne Arabian
Kirie Reveron
On September 23, 2019, the community gathered together for the 21st and final Fall Classic. The day began with the tennis tournament before a round of golf at Potowomut with many of our vendors, parents, and friends. The event concluded with a lively dinner, our Class Basket raffle, and live and silent auctions. We are so thankful to all who supported the event as sponsors, participants, donors, and volunteers. The event netted $55,000 for the School including a generous $17,750 raised to help fund the purchase of our new 34-seat school bus!

The Orient Express Gala, held on May 18, 2019 at the Atlantic Resort Newport, was a smashing success. With nearly 200 guests in attendance, we were thrilled to net $106,000 to support our school! Our senior class lifers, Jason DeGerlia ’19 and Chloe Ponte ’19, presented a compelling message and fun video to get the crowd excited for the auction, before our favorite band, Mystique, had the crowd dancing the night away. Thanks to all who made it a night to remember. We couldn’t have done it without an amazing committee and the generosity of our community.
Commencement

On Friday, June 14, we celebrated the Class of 2019 as they became the School’s 52nd graduating class. It was a joyful day under sunny skies as parents, friends, and family recognized the close-knit group that included 11 international students, two lifers, accomplished athletes and performers, talented musicians, service-minded citizens, and academic standouts. Courtney Nicolato delivered the commencement address.

Valedictorian

The class valedictorian was Esteban Wu, a decorated student who received many accolades as a Mariner including qualifying as a National Merit Scholarship Corporation finalist. At RHCD, he was also an accomplished musician and student-athlete. A testament to his character, Esteban was the Head Prefect of the Upper School and served as a member of the student council. Esteban started at Stanford University in the Fall of 2019.

“…As you depart Rocky Hill School today and look to what’s next, know that the piece of paper you will receive is a gift. It’s a gift to you from your family and their unwavering support. It is a gift to you from yourself as a result of hard work and dedication. It should also be a gift to those around you. Spread the knowledge of what you have learned here and use that gift to build up those around you.

Courtney Nicolato, President and CEO of United Way of RI
AWARDS

Alumni Athletic Achievement Award | Steven Lora
Community Service Award | Manny Maldonado
Dr. Richard R. MacMahon Science Award | Jacob Pogacar
Dumas Modern and World Languages Award | Faythe Schulte
Flynn Award for Sportsmanship | Johnette Williams & Siyuan “Peter” Chen
Gregor/Coes Award in Mathematics | Lignan “Nina” Zheng
Howland Music Award | Jacob Pogacar
Lifer Award | Jason DeGerlia & Chloe Ponte
Lillian Boynton Hale Art Award | Emily Atanasoff
Peggy and Henry Sharpe English Award | Johnette Williams
Roberta Wintersteen Knight ’61 History and Social Sciences Award | Esteban Wu
Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award | Dan Bentley ’79
Kirkland Gibson Faculty Summer Enrichment Fund | Rob Lee & Eric Wyzga
San Antonio Faculty Faculty Achievement Award | Whitney Barker
William W. Mauran Bowl | Faythe Schulte

Class President, Jason DeGerlia, presented the class gift, a set of team benches for the sports teams. Manny Maldonado was selected to deliver the class speech. Both reflected on the many accomplishments of the class, including nearly 5,000 hours of service performed by the students, several sports championships, and an array of performing and visual arts accomplishments.

RICHARD S. BARKER SR. ’54 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
Dr. Mary H. Grant

The Richard S. Barker, Sr. ’54 Community Service Award is given in recognition of continuous support and significant service to the Rocky Hill Country Day School community. In 2019, we were pleased to present the award to Dr. Mary H. Grant. Mary has been a dedicated volunteer and advocate for RHCD over the last decade; her commitment has been unwavering and her leadership transformative. Mary joined the Board of Trustees in 2009 and has served on several committees and as Chair of the 2012 Strategic Plan Steering Committee. She has brought a breadth of independent school experience and wisdom to all of her work on behalf of the School. Outside of RHCD, Mary’s dedication to education has spanned nearly 45 years both as a teacher and administrator. Thank you, Mary, for your service and for your true care and concern for the students and faculty of Rocky Hill Country Day School.
Hello fellow alumni,

I am thrilled to be your Alumni Board President for the 2019-2021 tenure. The Alumni Board is comprised of Rocky Hill Country Day alumni with ranging graduation years and differing life paths, but whose roots are firmly planted in RHCD. We are committed to serving our school and I welcome and encourage you to stay equally involved and connected!

RHCD has continued to thrive over the years. Our school has a well-deserved reputation for leadership in the community, fostering intellectual curiosity, compassion, and outstanding character within the student body. I am amazed by the accomplishments of the students and alumni of our school and I am proud to be part of that legacy.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunities I was given to learn and grow at RHCD. As president, I am excited for the chance to give back to the community. RHCD gave us foundations to succeed in life. Now is the time for us to consider how indebted we are to these hallowed halls and to support our school with gifts of talent, time, and treasure. Join me in getting involved—we’d love to have you back at the “family table!”

Stay connected and get involved:

rockyhill.org
alumni@rockyhill.org
mwalker@rockyhill.org

Missy Walker
Associate Director of Development
401.884.9070, x296

@RockyHillCountryDay
@RockyHillAlumniAssociation
@RockyHillCountryDay
@RHCDMariners
@RockyHillCD

With warm regards,
Maria Charbonneau Danckert ’12, PharmD.
RHCD Alumni Association President

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Rocky Hill Country Day School Alumni established a scholarship to be awarded annually to an alumni child or grandchild who best embodies the qualities of an RHCD student through outstanding scholarship, sportsmanship, or citizenship. Recipients demonstrate a financial need as stipulated by the School’s financial aid policies and procedures. The current fund stands at $20,000 and will be endowed once it reaches $25,000. Three students have received the $1,000 award since its inception.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund and made a difference for legacy students!
Joyce Hempstead retired as director of communications from The Roxbury Latin School in West Roxbury, MA, in June 2018, and has been basking in gardening, house projects, art, and catching up on reading, being a self-proclaimed “shameless sloth” ever since. Joyce and Jerry’s son, Peter, now lives and works in San Francisco, and daughter Bethany was married to Alex Glasser in West Park, NY, in July 2019—the highlight of the year.

Roy Bennett shared that he has been busy with several lighting design projects including Paul McCartney’s European Stadium Tour, Lady Gaga’s Stadium Tour, and Kelly Clarkson’s Las Vegas Residency among others. He is also excited to be serving as the creative director/production designer/lighting designer for an upcoming TV special about Rupi Kaur, a New York Times #1 bestselling author, illustrator, and poet. Life is busy but very exciting.

Daniel Bentley and his wife Carolyn and daughter Hope still reside in McKinney, TX. Dan and many of his other family members attended Reunion. Dan shared he really enjoyed seeing his classmates at the event. Dan says, “As we all get older with each passing year, the important life lessons we learned at Rocky Hill shine brighter than ever. We must always be thankful for those gifts we hold in our hearts.”

Erin Clement writes, “We had such a good time at our 35th Reunion in June that we made dinner plans later in the summer. It was terrific to see everyone.”
In January 2020, RHCD alumna and Executive Director of North Kingston Chamber of Commerce, Kristin Walberg Urbach, introduced Governor Raimondo at the Chamber’s #windwinri program. The project commits all of Rhode Island to be powered by renewable electricity by 2030. Kristin also served as a panelist at the 2020 Providence Business News Summit: Economic Trends | The RI Economy.

Tracey Brown is presently working as a psychometrist. She and her husband Dan live outside Baltimore, MD with their two children: Colin, two years old, and Bailey, three years old.

Alisha Newton Schoop shares, “We bought a new home in 2018, welcomed our first child, a baby girl, Emerson, in May 2019, and I’m celebrating five years of working at CVS corporate. I was recently promoted and am running all brand activation and awareness campaigns for the beauty, personal care, consumables, and general merchandise departments.”

Mariah Vietri Willson married Roger Willson on July 13, 2019, in Rye, NH, at Wentworth By the Sea Country Club. They currently reside in North Hampton, NH.

Paul Zarrella shared a Rocky Hill Country Day School connection: “When we built the Williams & Stuart Real Estate Headquarters we put in a full gym to help provide balance and good health to our agents and employees. The gym didn’t get too much use in the first year. Then we hired Jared Zimmer ’89 to come in a few days a week to provide personal training. The gym became much more active with several agents using the gym on a daily and weekly basis. Their bodies and minds are in a much better place for it; it’s been a great fit.”
2007
Sarah Pontarelli married Evan Katz in a beautiful ceremony on the lawn of the Eisenhower House in Newport, RI on September 7, 2019. The wedding party included RHCD alumni, Caroline Robertson Welch ’07, Libby Hanks ’09, and Will Pontarelli ’12.

2017
Sara Gasrow shares, “I’m currently a junior at Johnson & Wales University studying Advertising & Marketing Communications. I began an amazing internship at the Staples Corporate Office in Framingham, MA, this summer, where I have become a year-round Digital Marketing Strategy Intern for the new Staples Studio coworking project. It’s worth noting that I began my journey at Staples while I was still a senior at Rocky Hill! Working on a startup team within a corporation has been an incredible experience that I’m very excited to continue.”

2009
Will Kimball is approaching six years with Recrue Media, a digital advertising agency based in East Greenwich, RI. Will moved to Georgia in 2016, bought his first house in 2018, and got married September 19, 2019, to his wife, Courtney, in Santorini, Greece.

Bridget Kist writes, “I spent four weeks in Moshi, Tanzania working as a nurse in a local hospital. With a focus on pediatrics, I cared for pediatric patients with various ailments ranging from burns and abscesses to pneumonia and other bacterial infections. I also spent time in the labor and delivery ward, which allowed me to assist in births and emergency Cesarean sections. Outside of the hospital, I was fortunate enough to travel for five days, camping in Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park.”
Kaylynn Polley has taken a break from college to organize with Sunrise, a youth-led political movement focused on climate activism and action. She's traveled the country for training and events, helped organize four climate strikes, started a new hub in Rhode Island, and is looking forward to continuing her fight for racial, political, and climate justice in 2020 and beyond.

2019

Jason DeGerlia enjoyed his first semester at Massachusetts Maritime Academy and recently completed a 52-day sea cruise as part of his Marine Transportation winter experience. He and over 400 other cadets set sail for Puerto Rico and then ventured to the ports in Panama, Costa Rica, Curacao, and Tampa as they learned the ins and outs of running the TS Kennedy, a 540 ft training ship.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Dan Bentley ’79

At Alumni Reunion, Dan Bentley ’79 was recognized as the recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award. Dan joined the Class of 1979 in the 9th grade, and during his years at Rocky Hill Country Day School, he fostered an appreciation for the arts, participating in drama, chorus, and band. He also served as a member of the student council. After graduating, Dan majored in business at Brigham Young University and went on to earn a Master’s Degree in Business Administration, a Master’s Certification in Project Management, and his Master Black Belt in Six Sigma. After college, Dan helped create and grow multiple call center operations in Fortune 500 companies and served in various senior level management positions. He is currently a Senior Vice President for Bank of America. Beyond his career, Dan gives back to his community by serving on the Family Violence Community Impact Grant committee for the United Way of Dallas and on the finance committee for Stonebridge Ranch, the largest HOA in Dallas, Texas. Dan has never forgotten his roots at Rocky Hill Country Day and visits annually. He has also been a March Madness sponsor and loyal supporter of the School.

Do you have an idea for an alumni event or want to get involved? Please let us know!

alumni@rockyhill.org
ALUMNI ATHLETICS

RHCD continues a strong tradition of engaging alumni as coaches. We were thrilled to have eight alumni return to our fields and courts during our Spring 2019, Fall 2019, and Winter 2020 seasons: Monica Iacono Boss ’91 (Girls Varsity Lacrosse), Alex Champagne ’04 (Boys Middle School A Basketball), Douglas Cochran ’16 (Middle School Boys Lacrosse), Trixie Webber Dumas ’81 (Middle School Girls Lacrosse, Varsity Field Hockey), Chelsea Frost ’10 (Middle School Girls Lacrosse), Courtney Harrington ’13 (Middle School Field Hockey), Kristin McLimans Mitchell ’02 (Girls Varsity Basketball) and Jared Zimmer ’89 (Middle School Boys Lacrosse, Boys JV Soccer).

LEGACY EVENT

The first annual Legacy Family Social took place on January 30th in the Carriage House. Guests included alumni and their children, who also attend or attended RHCD, and spanned graduation years from 1979 to 2031. Everyone had fun perusing old yearbooks and Bulletins and sharing stories about their years at Rocky Hill Country Day School.

NEW YORK CITY

The Rocky Hill Social at Dorrian’s Red Hand, Manhattan on January 31 was an occasion to remember! Members of the RHCD community young and old, near and far, joined for a festive evening of connecting, reconnecting, and networking. Many thanks to Amy Archambault Dorrian ’94 for hosting us.

HAPPY HOURS

Our July Happy Hour at Bayberry Beer Hall and December Home for the Holidays Social at Apponaug Brewing Company brought alumni and faculty together to catch up and reminisce in casual, festive settings. Special thanks to the McKenney Family and Kristin Soderberg Waugh ’83 who co-own Apponaug for their hospitality!

INNOVATION

We are so grateful to the following alumni who served as mentors at our 2nd Annual Statewide Hack for Global Good: Jeffrey Ellis ’59 (pictured), Terry Gold ’90, Anessa Petteruti ’17, and Keith Ranaldi ’99.
Rockin’ Reunion

The Alumni Men’s Lacrosse players, including members of the RHCD Boys Lacrosse Team

Mariah Vietri Wilson ’06 and Jane Carder Knowles ’81

Heather Lind ’18, Shane Woolley ’15, and Douglas Cochran ’16

Jamie Frost ’17 and Will Janikies ’17
The 2019 Alumni Rockin’ Reunion took place on Saturday, June 8th and it was an experience that will live long in the memory books. You might even say it rocked! Highlights included:

- More than 100 alumni, current and former faculty, and friends
- Classes spanning 1943 to 2018
- The classes of 1979 (40th Reunion) and 1984 (35th Reunion) had the highest attendance
- Full team fielded for the men’s lacrosse game (plus substitutes)
- Food trucks such as Rhode Island classic Haven Brothers, Gansett Poke, Del’s Lemonade, and Allie’s Donuts rounded out the Ocean State fare
- RHCD’s faculty/parent acapella group, The Narragansett Splash, warmed up the crowd with some fun tunes
- Live music from Matt Gnolfo and the Queensboro Hustlers kept the party going
- The annual silent auction raised $1,550 for the Alumni Scholarship Fund
- And a big deal for Rhode Island... the weather was perfect!

2020 ALUMNI REUNION
SATURDAY, JUNE 6

All alumni and current and former faculty along with their families and friends are invited to come “Back to the Hill” for a day and evening of reminiscing, reconnecting, and festivities including:

- Special Recognition for Years ending in 0s & 5s
- Athletic Games: Men’s Lacrosse, Women’s Field Hockey, Co-Ed Basketball, Soccer & Tennis
- Food Trucks, Cash Bar, Complimentary Clam Chowder, Allie’s Donut Cake & Del’s
- Alumni Art Exhibit
- Lawn Games
- and much more!

Have any questions or want to get involved? Please email alumni@rockyhill.org.

Members of the Class of 1979: Betsy Blanchard Rafferty, Sherry Branson, Andrea Borden, Noel Nutini, Dan Bentley, Trixie Webber Dumas ’81, Sam Dumas, and Jeff Clark

Members of the Class of 1984: Joe Pedorella, Charlie Blanchard, Sarah Price Klenck, Scott Biddle, Lisa Ekman Mullen, and Erin Clement

Members of the Class of 1969: Bruce Ide, George Neale, Chris Hoxsie Morris, and Hank Rosenthal
DEVELOPMENT REPORT
Beth DeGerlia, Assistant Head of School for Advancement

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

This has been an exciting year for the School. We have been celebrating our rich history and the 85-year legacy entrusted to us as we take the School into a new decade, 2020. With this year we have seen a new branding of the School, our highest enrollment in over a decade, an impressive array of student projects and accomplishments, and an increased effort to strengthen the connections we have with our families, alumni, and friends of the School. Head of School Diane Rich has hosted many social events aimed at connecting with our community and sharing the vision for the School. We started the year with a series of meet and greets for our new and returning parents. Additionally, we hosted our first Alumni Legacy Family Social, returned to New York for a regional gathering, brought trustees past and present together to reconnect, thanked our leadership donors with a special event, and hosted an international parent luncheon. We look forward to more events this spring as we bring together those who share a love for the arts, athletics, and RHCD in general. These special opportunities bring our community together and remind us of the amazing School community we are all a part of.

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

This year’s Rocky Hill Fund campaign has centered around our 85th anniversary. Throughout the year we have been sharing 85 Moments Supported by the Rocky Hill Fund on social media. The Rocky Hill Fund is truly our most important fundraising initiative as it provides funding for critical programs and needs not covered by tuition. If you are passionate about academics, the arts, athletics, the campus, our faculty, or tuition assistance, the Rocky Hill Fund is the best way for you to lend your support. This year our goal is to raise $320,000 for the Rocky Hill Fund and another $75,000 for special projects and campus needs. I hope as you read the highlights in this issue of The Bulletin you will be inspired to contribute and share your support. The campaign runs until June 30th and gifts can be sent by mail or given online at rockyhill.org/giving. Thank you to all who have given to date! Additionally, we will officially launch a new estate planning website aimed at assisting families with questions about planning for their financial future.

2019-2020 ROCKY HILL FUND COMMITTEE

Parent Co-Chairs
Erica Gregg and Joe Tamburini
Nici and Mike Lanowy
Kelly McElroy and Brian Dunckley
Laura and Carlos Vares

Alumni Chair
Sally Kenyon Grant ‘87

Grandparent Chairs
Joan and Jack Osowa

Faculty and Staff Co-Chairs
Jody Cicchese
Stephanie Cruff
Meg Getsinger

THE ROCKY HILL FUND | Make a Difference

All gifts to the Rocky Hill Fund help us achieve our mission each and every day. Please make your gift to support today’s students and honor 85 years of changing the lives of children.

WAYS TO GIVE

1 Cash/Check
Make your check payable to Rocky Hill Country Day School.

2 Online
Make a recurring pledge or one-time gift online at rockyhill.org/giving.

3 Matching Gifts
Don’t miss an opportunity to double or triple your contribution with an employee matching gift; ask your HR department if your company offers this benefit.

4 Other Opportunities
Donating appreciated securities, distributions from a 401k, real estate, and other assets can provide tax benefits to you while supporting the Rocky Hill Fund.
I give to RHCD because the Rocky Hill community was a 2nd home for me and I am grateful for the teachers and staff members who made high school a memorable experience!

Dennis Wu ‘10

"We give to the Rocky Hill Fund as our way of saying ‘Thank You’ to all the faculty and staff at Rocky Hill Country Day for their hard work and dedication. Our gift goes directly to where it’s needed most: supporting the education of our children.

Nici and Mike Lanowy
Rocky Hill Fund Parent Co-Chairs
Jordan ‘21 Ben ‘17 Giles ‘16

When faculty give, it is a vote of confidence in the School that I hope will inspire other members of the community to give with the potential to make a bigger impact.

Meg Getsinger, Visual Arts Department Chair

THANKING OUR COMMUNITY

We deeply appreciate the generous support we received from donors last year. Below is a summary of giving for 2018-19. Our community was very generous, with 1,044 donors contributing more than $632,000 to the School in the form of cash contributions, ticket sales, and gifts-in-kind to the Rocky Hill Fund, Fall Classic, Gala, Alumni Scholarship, Senior Class Gift, and various special projects. This was a $44,000 increase over the prior year! From this we netted $485,000 for the School. Thank you!
## Class Scribes

Alumni: Please send your Class News for the next Bulletin to your Class Scribes or to alumni@rockyhill.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Lucy Tillman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alumni@rockyhill.org">alumni@rockyhill.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Nancy Hoxsie Mead</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nancyhymead@gmail.com">nancyhymead@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Christine Hoxsie Morris</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alumni@rockyhill.org">alumni@rockyhill.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Roger Ray</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ray4@cox.net">ray4@cox.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Lori Silverstein Dorsey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oreocatri@cox.net">oreocatri@cox.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>Catherine Tingle Fairbairn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alumni@rockyhill.org">alumni@rockyhill.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>Joyce Hempstead</td>
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<td>Donna Tocco Greenaway</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dotocogreenaway@gmail.com">dotocogreenaway@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Mary Jean Keelber Roche</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mjmom02@aol.com">mjmom02@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Susan Magee Rinebolt</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alumni@rockyhill.org">alumni@rockyhill.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Sarah Shaw Siskin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:forked427@comcast.net">forked427@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Charlotte Pillsbury Wood</td>
<td><a href="mailto:charliettewood@comcast.net">charliettewood@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Mary Lynne Kennedy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MLKMDW@gmail.com">MLKMDW@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Lisa Batty Spicuzza</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alumni@rockyhill.org">alumni@rockyhill.org</a></td>
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<td>Pamela Timperley Buckenmaier</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alumni@rockyhill.org">alumni@rockyhill.org</a></td>
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<td>Jo-Anne Coghlin Intrator</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Erin E. Clement</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eec0715@gmail.com">eec0715@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>Elisabeth Brown</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Zeph2Pixie@yahoo.com">Zeph2Pixie@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lauren Smith</td>
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<td>Liana Magner</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Lisa Dorson Borge</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Tracey Brown Banach</td>
<td><a href="mailto:traceyEb@hotmail.com">traceyEb@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Rebecca M. Krasnof</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Erica Harrington Perkoski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ericaharrington@msn.com">ericaharrington@msn.com</a></td>
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<td>Marianne C. SanAntonio</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alumni@rockyhill.org">alumni@rockyhill.org</a></td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Katherine Hoagland Scott</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ks42780@gmail.com">ks42780@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Megan Andreozzi Fox</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mcandreozzi@gmail.com">mcandreozzi@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Stephanie Socia Kalb</td>
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<td>2001</td>
<td>Bridget Sullivan Garmisa</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Kristin McLimans Mitchell</td>
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<td>Nicholas Pereira</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Kristin Kacewicz Clarke</td>
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<td>2005</td>
<td>Kate Corvese Noelte</td>
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<td>Laura-Verado Goodrich</td>
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<td>Patricia L. Capuano</td>
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<td>Allison E. Rooney</td>
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<td>Ellie Sharpe</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Shannon M. O’Rourke</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Courtney Harrington</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Kayla DiSegna</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Amanda Siegel</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Lauren Silva</td>
<td><a href="mailto:silva.la@husky.neu.edu">silva.la@husky.neu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Sadie Reimer</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Hannah Lawson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hmlawson00@gmail.com">hmlawson00@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Johnette Williams</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jowilli19@earlham.edu">jowilli19@earlham.edu</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please email alumni@rockyhill.org if you would like to be your Class Scribe.
IN MEMORIAM

Rocky Hill Country Day School offers condolences to the families and friends of those community members who have passed in the last year.

Linda Anderson
Former Trustee; mother of Christopher Anderson ’89
January 12, 2020

Alice Boss
April 7, 2019

Harriett Eldredge Brisson ’49
August 24, 2019

Sabra Carter
Former Faculty Member; Mother of David Carter ’75, Plant Operations
January 28, 2020

Alan Friedman
Father of Allison Friedman Horowitz ’05 and Lauren Friedman Koblick ’02
September 4, 2019

Jerry Holmquist
December 18, 2019

John Kacewicz
Father of Kristin Kacewicz Clarke ’04
September 13, 2019

Kenneth Knowles
Grandfather of Hannah Knowles ’08 and Sarah Knowles ’08, Father of Ann Snapp ’70, and Father-in-Law of Benjamin Snapp ’70 and Jane Knowles ’81
March 9, 2019

Jean Powers
Grandmother of Emma Powers ’12
September 2019

Lee Steele ’54
February 27, 2019

Cathy Sweeney
Grandmother of Jack Sweeney ’21 and Meghan Sweeney
March 26, 2019

REMEMBERING HUGH CAMPBELL

We fondly remember former Headmaster Hugh David Campbell who passed away October 1, 2019. Hugh served as Headmaster from 1967-1975.

Husband of Eleonore “Lorli” Trapp Campbell, with whom he shared 65 years of marriage, Hugh graduated from Milton Academy, Yale University, and Middlebury College. Hugh’s work as an educator took him to Canterbury School, The Roxbury Latin School, and ultimately to Rocky Hill Country Day School where he served as Headmaster. In 1975, the couple moved to Waitsfield, VT, where Hugh worked as a financial planner.

Hugh was a devoted father to his seven daughters Elizabeth Peters, Peggy C. Sanders ’74, Jeanie Lero, Polly Moore, Erika Copeland ’78, Hope McAndrew and Martina C. Price ’82. He loved spending time with his 16 grandchildren, working in his woodshop and garden, and the challenge of watercolor painting. Hugh enjoyed fly fishing in Vermont, Colorado, and Utah. The fishing and painting came together when he wrote and illustrated a children’s book on the life of a trout. He will be missed.
Alumni Reunion  
June 6, 2020

Commencement  
June 12, 2020

Mindfulness Conference  
June 20, 2020

Summer Camp  
June 22 - August 7, 2020

Blue & White Night  
September 25, 2020

Homecoming  
September 26, 2020

Open House  
October 18, 2020

Hack for Global Good  
November 13-14, 2020

Mariner Madness  
November 20, 2020

Grandfriends Day  
November 24, 2020

2020 MINDFULNESS CONFERENCE
STRENGTHENING SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

JUNE 20, 2020
mindfulness-conference.org

2020 MINDFULNESS
CONFERENCE
STRENGTHENING SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

JUNE 20, 2020
mindfulness-conference.org

OPEN HOUSE
October, 18, 2020 | 1:00 p.m.

RHODE ISLAND
HACK FOR GLOBAL GOOD
By students. For students.

November 13-14, 2020
hackforglobalgood.org

Back to the Hill
Alumni Reunion
Saturday, June 6, 2020