A Message from the Head of School

The 2014-2015 school year marks a milestone for the improvement of Wyndcroft facilities. Thanks to the leadership of many, including several strategic thinking Boards of Trustees, we have successfully built a campus.

Each day we celebrate the new and improved spaces as they allow faculty to offer the best pre-preparatory education to children. Newly dedicated spaces for the performing arts and athletics along with an improved “flow” create an efficiency of movement throughout the main building greatly enhancing the lives of our students and staff. No longer do we need to prioritize use of the large community space; we have much more flexibility.

In reviewing the history of the school and its buildings, I am amazed at changes. My tenure takes me back only as far as the addition and then removal of the modular classrooms, and the blessing of the Dau House. What bold moves those were for our small school. I know many of you can remember far earlier transformations. All of these improvements have one thing in common: providing the best opportunity for upholding the mission of the school, not only for current students, but also future generations.

This year we enjoy the completed Early Learning Center, spaces perfectly tailored for the needs of young children, and a main school building enhanced to foster increased creativity and collaboration while holding fast to the traditional values of academic excellence and leadership. This would not have been possible without the vision and support of so many of you. And for that, I humbly say, thank you!

I hope you enjoy the new electronic format of Wyndchimes. Do we have your email address so that we can send it directly to you? In an effort to be “greener” the winter and spring editions will be electronic versions, while the summer edition will be mailed in July.

Gail Wolter
Head of School
A Campus Created!

Fun Facts About The New Addition

- On, Thursday, October 2, the Second Graders were the first students to enjoy a gym class in the new gymnasium.
- The sound system for the new auditorium space has been moved from backstage to the new balcony.
- Mrs. Nancy and Mrs. Lori report that the new walk-in refrigerator and freezer in the expanded kitchen space has given them more room to move and create yummy treats for our students!
- The gymnasium space, including the locker rooms, has been designed to be locked off from the rest of the school so the space can be used by outside organizations, without giving them access to the rest of the school.

On a blustery afternoon in November, The Wyndcroft School officially dedicated its new addition. Speaking at the dedication ceremony were Gail L. Wolter, Head of School, and David Allain, President of the Wyndcroft Board of Trustees. Both thanked everyone involved with the campaign for their dedication to Wyndcroft, especially the donors. “I thank you, all the generous donors who have helped make this expansion possible and for supporting all the future generations of Wyndcroft School students. Thank you for joining us in celebrating this special day and for the part you have played in this important historic project at Wyndcroft,” said Allain.

Capping off the afternoon’s agenda was the unveiling of the new school cornerstone. Building and Grounds Committee members Jeffrey Gorrin and Erik Paulson had the honor of unveiling the stone. (Picture at left. Keith Hallman, absent from photo.) These men were instrumental in the planning and construction process of the new addition.
Mrs. Wolter presented the school's Non Sibi Award to the two “Creating a Campus” Campaign Chairs: Marianne Lieberman and Alice M. Sharp ’58. Over the past three years, these two women gave of their time to ensure the success of the campaign. Today’s dedication was a celebration of their efforts and the fruits of their labors. After the ceremony, Lieberman celebrated the day by kissing the W in the middle of the new wooden gym floor.

**Wyndcroft and the Philharmonic**

The dedication ceremony was highlighted with a performance by the Pennsylvania Philharmonic String Quartet who performed a preview of their upcoming concert series. The quartet is a part of the Pennsylvania Philharmonic, a new symphony based in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

The mission of the Pennsylvania Philharmonic is to present the highest quality orchestral performances throughout Pennsylvania. More than half of these performances will take place in schools directly benefiting students.

Earlier in the month, Wyndcroft’s Upper School (Grades 5-8) attended a concert held at a local high school.
Facility Rentals

The Wyndcroft School

Hourly Rental Rates

**Gymnasium**
Non-Profit: $55 per hour
For Profit: $65 per hour

**Auditorium**
$25 per hour

**Combination***
*Includes use of Gym and Auditorium
Non-Profit: $70 per hour
For Profit: $80 per hour

Full-weekend and holiday tournament rates and rentals are also available.

The perfect space for your next event!

The Wyndcroft School Gymnasium and Auditorium are now available for use by community organizations and businesses. Whether you are planning a corporate meeting or business fair, looking for rehearsal space for a drama or music program, or indoor practice space for your sports team, the Wyndcroft School has space that fits your needs.

Our Gymnasium features a full-sized basketball court with 6 baskets, volleyball and soccer set-up, and a wooden floor. The Auditorium is a multi-purpose space with a stage as well as a floor that is perfect for sports as well. Locker room and kitchen facilities are also available.

For more information or to reserve your rental, contact Ken Dorris, Athletic Director
1395 Wilson Street, Pottstown, PA 19464 • (610) 326-0544 • krdorris@wyndcroft.org

WWW.WYNDCROFT.ORG
Celebrating New Spaces

The addition of the new gym, classrooms and hallways to Wyndcroft made an immediate impact on the day-to-day life of the school. Here’s a look at the new spaces and how they are being utilized.

1. On Tuesday, October 14 and Wednesday, October 15, the annual **Book Fair** was held in the new auditorium space. In past years, the Book Fair would have meant the cancellation of gym classes but not this year! Gym classes went on as scheduled, being held in the new gym, while the auditorium housed both the Book Fair and lunch time.

2. The Annual **Holiday Bazaar** was held on Friday, December 5. This annual treat is usually another reason that gym classes would be cancelled. However, this year, the Bazaar was held in the new gymnasium. The new auditorium space was then used for gym classes and lunch. The new gym also allowed more vendors to be added to the day for increased revenue for the WPTO and more choices for shoppers.

3. The new **Multi-Purpose Room**, our new Smart Space, has sees many uses: a class team building event, indoor recesses, collaborative learning space for upper school classes, yearbook planning and more. With new furniture, the room is lovely and bright and gets used everyday!

4. With the addition of **new classroom space**, the Upper School classes are almost all held in the second floor of the school. This allows for new, more efficient traffic patterns in the hallways which is appreciated by students and staff alike.
Arts in the Auditorium

Besides the Dedication Ceremony, the new auditorium space has already played host to a number of performances this school year.

1. The first official production in the new auditorium space was the Fourth Grade Play: *A Kid’s Life*. The play explored what children might play and learn from being completely unplugged for a day.

2. A Wyndcroft tradition continued in our new space when the Pre-Kindergarten class performed their annual Thanksgiving Chapel. The 4-year-olds performed as Pilgrims, Native Americans and turkeys while singing and reciting seasonal songs and poems.

3. The 17th Annual Season of Celebration was held on Thursday, December 11. This musical celebration of the season featured performances by the Wynd and String Ensemble, Select Chorus, Wyndcroft Chorus, and the Third Grade Singers. Miss Exley, Wyndcroft’s Music Director, made sure to use the new auditorium space to its fullest by positioning singers on the new balcony for a few songs, effectively surrounding the audience in sound.
Wyndcroft Welcomes New Faculty

**Phillip Ballantine** joins the Wyndcroft staff as the Performing Arts Director. Mr. Ballantine served as the interim Drama Instructor last spring and is excited to now join the staff full-time. A resident of Royersford, he enjoys working with the Steel River Playhouse as a private instructor and summer camp counselor. Mr. Ballantine is a graduate of Gettysburg College with a degree in Psychology and Drama. He brings nine years of professional performing arts experience to Wyndcroft. In his first full year as a faculty member, he is most looking forward to working in his own classroom and implementing multi-cultural themes to the drama curriculum. In addition, the spring musical and class plays are always highlights of the calendar.

**Naomi Schmidt** comes to Wyndcroft via the Belmont Massachusetts Public Library as the new Librarian. She is a recent transplant to Pottstown, currently living at the Hill School with her family where her husband serves as a Chemistry and Physics teacher. Her son Solomon joins the Wyndcroft family as well as a member of the Early Childhood class. As the Wyndcroft Librarian, Mrs. Schmidt is looking forward to a new library catalog system and helping to bring more technology into the library and study skills classes. More technology will make the library more accessible to the entire Wyndcroft community. She is very excited to be at Wyndcroft and to share her love of books with our students.

Alumni Spotlight

The Dedication Ceremony held on November 16, saw many members of the Wyndcroft community returning to the school. Past board members, alumni, faculty and staff. It was a wonderful reunion of people all with one thing in common - The Wyndcroft School.

One unanticipated reunion was that of Alumni classmates from the Class of 1958: Alice M. Sharp and Lloyd Collander. Both are pictured at right.
Professional Development at PAIS

Every Friday of Columbus Day weekend, Wyndcroft faculty and staff gather for an in-service day to evaluate the school year’s early progress and come together as a team to maximize the remainder of the school year. This year’s in-service day had the same goals, but was a bit different than most typical in-service days. Instead of staying on the Wyndcroft campus, the Wyndcroft faculty traveled to The Episcopal Academy to attend the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools conference. Throughout the day, faculty took part in workshops and networking opportunities that were specifically designed for their grade-level or area of focus.

The keynote speaker of the day was Adam Bellow, the Founder and President of eduTecher and eduClipper. His session looked back on the past, present and future of education with a lens on the role of technology - a topic that was appreciated by all. A favorite quote from his presentation, as noted by Cathy Forrest, Upper School Language Arts Teacher, is “It’s no longer about finding answers: it is about asking better questions.”

Denise Carles and Pat Kolarz, Wyndcroft’s team of Kindergarten teachers, were presenters at the conference. Their topic, “Differentiate! Reach and Teach All Children Using Literacy Games,” was well-attended and they received positive feedback from the participants. After the presentation, Mrs. Kolarz remarked that “it was a privilege to share our ideas with other teachers.” The duo is pictured below.

When asked what their favorite part of the day was, many teachers commented on how much they appreciated being able to talk with peers from other schools. Mrs. Griffaton said, “I met third grade teachers from across Pennsylvania and we shared assessment ideas, new and interesting spelling programs and useful websites.” Mrs. Raudabaugh said, “The lunch with other fourth grade teachers was a very valuable part of the day. I definitely walked away with some ideas I would like to try in my classroom.”

This in-service day was made possible through donations made to the Dr. Kate Wunner Professional Development Fund. For more information on this fund and how you can support the Wyndcroft faculty, contact Susan Rutherford, Director of Development.

Have you connected with Wyndcroft online yet?

Besides our website [www.Wyndcroft.org](http://www.Wyndcroft.org), we are also on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Wyndcroft](http://www.facebook.com/Wyndcroft).

We have launched a new blog, The Non Sibi Scroll. You can read that at [www.wyndcroft.org/blog](http://www.wyndcroft.org/blog).
From the Non Sibi Scroll

Did you know that Wyndcroft has a blog? Each week, a different member of the Wyndcroft community brings their unique perspective about the school to the blog. You can read more at www.wyndcroft.org/blog. Here's an entry about one of Wyndcroft’s favorite traditions, The Batwing Ball, as submitted by Lois O’Brien, First Grade Teacher.

It’s that time of year again, featuring bats, owls, hoots and howls. All this excitement got me curious about “Halloween.” The name itself really comes from a special religious festival honoring saints. In English, this day came to be called All Hallows’ Day and the night before it was All Hallows’ Eve, The name “Hallowe’en” first appeared around the middle of the sixteenth century, and we have been using it ever since – spelled without the apostrophe, of course!

Then, I began thinking about the Halloween traditions at Wyndcroft and specifically The Batwing Ball. When did it start? Everyone likes to do a little detective work, so I began investigating. I not only looked into some yearbooks but asked some fellow co-workers who have been here many “Halloween moons” what they remembered. This is what I found out.

Around 1987, Wyndcroft’s Headmaster was Mr. Gerald P. McGrath. With the help of the 8th Grade parents, he organized a party in the gym (which is now the computer, library, meeting and drama classrooms). The children paraded through with their costumes and tasted special treats. In 1995, Dr. Alvin Coleman took the role as Headmaster. In an article, Dr. Coleman mentions the phrase “The Batwing Ball” and describes it as a haunted house created by the 5th Grade. Through the mid-90’s there was the usual parading of costumes through the classrooms and many of the teachers remember night time Halloween parties. There was even a contest as to which grade could create the best decorated pumpkin. Around 1998, Dr. Kate Wunner became the new Head of School. She has the distinction of creating the Batwing Ball as we know it today.

As a First Grade Teacher, I have the pleasure of attending the Lower School Batwing Ball, which is held during the school day. Through the month of October, my students can hardly contain their anticipation for the event. Now that this year’s Batwing Ball is a memory, we can look forward to next year with all the excitement and anticipation of another great tradition at Wyndcroft.

Do you know a family that could benefit from a Wyndcroft education?

Invite them to attend on of our upcoming Admissions events:

Look and Learn: On select mornings from 9-11AM, Wyndcroft offers an informal way to explore our school, giving parents the opportunity to meet teachers and administrators, visit a classroom and learn how Wyndcroft can benefit your child. Walk-ins are welcome but these events are for parents only.

Thursday, January 15, 2015 - Tuesday, February 10, 2015 - Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Information Session: For families considering a Wyndcroft education, join us for classroom visits and meet faculty and students at our Information Sessions.

Sunday, February 9, 2015 at 1:00PM

Contact Julie Romain, Director of Admissions at (610) 326-0544 x113 for more information.
Wyndcroft Alumni Reunion Classic

Friday, January 2, 2015
1:00 to 4:00PM

In the NEW Wyndcroft Gymnasium

Call Mr. Dorris at (610) 326-0544 x119 or kdorris@wyndcroft.org to reserve your spot!

Attention Wyndcroft Alumni!!

Come back to The Wyndcroft School and spend an afternoon socializing with fellow Alums, faculty and staff. Check out our new gymnasium and renovated performing arts spaces.

If you want to try out the new wooden floor, sign up for the first ever Wyndcroft Basketball Classic. Officiated by Wyndcroft’s own Ken Dorris, let him know you will attend so teams can be organized. Tip off for basketball is 1:30PM.

You don't have to play basketball to attend. Just come ready to have fun with some old friends and reminisce about your time at Wyndcroft.

WWW.WYNDCROFT.ORG/ALUMNI
Giving to The Wyndcroft School

Annual Giving Fund
The future walks in these halls...
Gifts to this fund support current operational and educational needs of the school. Thank you to both the Board of Trustees and our Faculty and Staff for their 100% participation in this fund.

Endowment Fund
Endowment helps to protect the long-term goals of the school. It provides income that ensures we can support our faculty and maintain our facilities for generations to come.
Jeffrey and Lissa Longacre
Christopher and Anna Norton
John Norton

Restricted Fund
Restricted gifts are directed for specific uses within the school.
Deborah and Craig Kachmar
Alice M. Sharp '58

Dr. Kate Wunner
Professional Development
This fund allows our teachers to learn and grow along with the students, keeping them up-to-date on the latest teaching techniques and theories.
Anonymous
James and Jo Ann Bathurst
Joseph and Cheryl Donley

The following giving list includes combined giving to this year’s Annual Giving Fund, Endowment Fund, Restricted Fund and the Dr. Kate Wunner Professional Development Fund through December 15, 2014.

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In Memoriam^*
Gifts have been given to the school in honor of the following:
John J. Dau
Alan Norton
Elizabeth C. Parker ’92
Suzanna Rauscher

Matching Gifts*
Cedarcrest Foundation
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2014-2015
Annual Giving Class Captains
We wish to extend a special thank you to our Parent Chairs and Class Captains, a group of parent volunteers who work on behalf of Wyndcroft to increase current family participation in the Annual Giving Fund.

Parent Chairs
John and Nicole Gvodas

Early Childhood - Nicole Gvodas
Pre-Kindergarten - Bernadette Sparling
Kindergarten - Linda Gosnell
First Grade - Bridget Hallman
Second Grade - Sal Ali
Third Grade - Maria Shields
Fourth Grade - Dana Mullaney
Fifth Grade - Susan Rafetto
Sixth Grade - Diane Charleton
Seventh Grade - Erica Logar
Eighth Grade - Cynthia Munoz
Save the Dates

The Wyndcroft School invites you to attend the following events:

**State of the School Membership Dinner**  
Friday, February 20, 2015 at 6:30PM  
Enjoy dinner and socializing with other members of the Wyndcroft community and hear an update on the state of the school from the Board of Trustees.

**The Wyndcroft Players present Willy Wonka, Jr.**  
Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28, 2015 - 7:00PM both nights  
Roald Dahl’s *Willy Wonka Jr.* follows enigmatic candy manufacturer Willy Wonka as he stages a contest by hiding five golden tickets in five of his scrumptious candy bars. Whoever comes up with these tickets will win a free tour of the Wonka factory, as well as a lifetime supply of candy.

**Extravaganza & Auction**  
Saturday, May 2, 2015  
The Extravaganza & Auction comes home to Wyndcroft! Experience Wyndcroft’s newest addition as you have never seen it before! A fun night out for persons 21 years of age and older to support Wyndcroft. For tickets, to donate a prize or sponsor the event, contact Susan Rutherford, Director of Development at (610) 326-0544 x114.

**Graduation Ceremony**  
Friday, June 5, 2015 at 9:00AM  
Come celebrate the conclusion of another school year and the matriculation of the Class of 2015. As is tradition, each member of the class will say a few words during the ceremony. This is always a touching day and a great reminder of how confident and prepared Wyndcroft students are when they leave our halls.