



The Huntly HERALD

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A Message from the Head of School, Kathleen Grove



Dear Alumni, Families, and Friends of Wakefield Country Day School,

As we continue to raise funds for our new science labs and the primary classroom modular that freed up the space for the labs, I find myself thinking about how we allocate our budget here at WCDS. I am proud to say that we maintain the principle on which our school was founded: to make a high quality education accessible to many families in our area. To

do this we have kept our tuition charges lower than most of our competitors, (now approaching or exceeding \$20,000), and invested our funds in our classrooms and faculty while maintaining buildings with a modest "footprint." Thanks to the Board of Directors' strategic plan, we have retired virtually all our debt, and we are steadily increasing teacher salaries in order to compensate our faculty at competitive levels.

Of course, at this time of enrollment, I consider the impact of our approach not only on our current families but also on prospective families. Our rigorous curriculum delivered in a family environment attracts those who want their children to learn that hard work and good character earn rewards and that people who share those values, regardless of income level or nationality, can achieve. By keeping our "bricks and mortar" profile low, we model for our children where we should invest—not by borrowing large sums to build but by managing our funds to hire the best and the brightest for our classrooms. Where we need upgrades to serve instruction, we are acquiring them, from computer and science labs to Smartboards and new textbooks. Within this environment every child is known, cared for, and expected to achieve. The college acceptances and merit scholarship offers earned by this year's seniors validate the WCDS approach.

Thank you for your contributions to our fund-raising! I hope you will take the time to see our improvements, marvel over our students' accomplishments, and congratulate our faculty for a job well-done!

Kathleen Grove
Head of School

Wakefield Encourages Global Perspective

Whether it is:

- prep school students representing Belgium, Italy and other selected countries at a Model United Nations Conference;
- the primary school students singing about "Christmas Around the World;"
- seventh grade students immersing themselves in British history via a trip to the United Kingdom during winter sports week;

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This year's Model UN team represented the interests of Italy and Belgium at a recent meeting of the UN "General Assembly" at East Carolina University



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- a student participating in a relief organization's efforts in Uganda; or
- the entire student body exploring the cultures of other nations through International Day's games, costumes and cuisine;

WCDS' activities clearly demonstrate the school leadership's commitment to instilling "respect for and communication and understanding among varied cultures." Since its inception, solidly anchored within Wakefield's classical curriculum has been the close

examination of not only western civilization, but also the exploration of eastern cultures, religions, and philosophies. In these days of evolving world maps and emerging new nations, an awareness and understanding of other cultures has become even more critical in the pursuit of stability and peace throughout the world. We are hopeful that the historical grounding and global perspective acquired within these walls and beyond will help our students as they navigate through the many challenges and opportunities that the twenty-first century will bring their way.

This year's International Day explored the cultures and customs of eighteen different countries, and included a traditional Japanese dance by Shota Tachibana; a sample of Japanese & Thai female attire modeled by Hideko Ninomiya & Wanrawas "Mew" Yindeedej;



a "beat box" performance by Korean student SeongMuk Jeong; a lesson in German Christmas ornament-making by Franzi Schemmann; and an origami demonstration by Hideko Ninomiya.



Belén Olagaray-Tallon, a native of Spain studying at WCDS this year, shared her flamenco talents at the annual dance recital.

Tenth Grader Pursues Fluency in Chinese

For the past four years, tenth grader Katie Huang has been studying Chinese at the Experimental Chinese School in Northern Virginia. Last year, she earned a scholarship from the National Taiwan Normal University and spent over 7 weeks in Taipei studying Mandarin and Chinese culture. Katie plans to continue her studies until she becomes fluent in the language.

Seventh Grader Travels to Continent of Africa

Henry Johnson, a seventh grade student at WCDS, spent ten days in February exploring Uganda, a journey he said he "will remember forever." Henry accompanied his father, Chris Johnson, who is chief executive officer of Air Serv International, a not-for-profit humanitarian aviation organization that provides transportation to relief organizations throughout Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Housed in Entebbe, Henry spent quite a bit of time at Air Serv's hangar and maintenance facility, which

Wakefield Celebrates Christmas Around the World



Angels, wise men, shepherds and reindeer were but a few of the visitors to Wakefield Country Day School on December 13, 2007. Led by WCDS's talented music teacher Regine Roger and instrumental music teacher Mark Moccio, and accompanied by pianist Emma Sue Amos,

the music department presented "Christmas Around the World" for the listening pleasure of a standing-room-only crowd of parents and friends who gathered in the Cowherd Auditorium that evening. The songs presented included holiday favorites from the United States, England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain, as well as traditional songs in celebration of Hanukah. Students



in kindergarten through seventh grade sang their hearts out, joined at different points by the Wakefield band and the upper school's show choir, the Wakefield Singers. The evening's festivities opened with *Joy to the World*, and included such favorites as *O' Christmas Tree*, *Deck the Halls*, *Mele Kalikimaka*, *White Christmas*, *Silent Night*, and *Silver Bells*. The evening's singing ended with, *We Wish You a Swingin' Holiday*.



Travels to Africa, continued from page 2

supports the organization's aircraft fleet in Africa and acts as a support hub for relief flights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad.

When asked to describe his trip, Henry talked about the widespread poverty he had observed, as well as the beauty of the country. He described a day he spent in the company of a local Ugandan – visiting the man's home, meeting his family – and how he had been struck by the many hardships the family faced, noting the size of their home (10' x 5') and the fact that it housed seven people who slept two to a mattress.

While in Uganda, Henry said he had no trouble communicating because most of the people speak English as well as Swahili, and that he enjoyed experiencing the local food, which included goat and tilapia (the local fish



from Lake Victoria). He also spoke of how the trip made him realize the many things we enjoy as Americans and take for granted, such as roads. In Uganda, there are only three paved roads in the entire nation, the rest are dirt roads.

Henry's most memorable experience was flying over Lake Victoria. He also visited Jinja, the source of the Nile, toured the Botanical Gardens and Zoo, and on several occasions he observed Uganda's national bird, the East African Crowned Crane.

This is not Henry's first visit to the African continent; last April he traveled with his father to Mozambique, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. When asked if he had any interest in pursuing a career that would take him to that part of the world in the future, Henry indicated that he would like to become a pilot and fly relief missions throughout Africa.

Academics

Certamen Results

On January 12th at the Flint Hill School in Oakton, Virginia, Wakefield students participated in a Certamen contest, where teams of students throughout Northern Virginia competed to correctly answer questions on Latin, Roman history and culture, and Greek and Roman mythology. After the preliminary rounds, the top teams at each level advanced to the finals, where the students competed for medals or trophies. By the end of the day, the Level I Advanced Latin team of John Morgan Christoph and Will Mullany had captured a second place trophy, and the Level I Beginner's team of Konstantin Langenberg and Marc Cugnon had earned a tenth place slot among the 20 competing teams.

7th Grader Places 7th in National Geographic Bee

On January 4th, WCDS held a National Geographic Bee competition among its students in grades four through eight. Using questions and answers provided by the National Geographic Society, the competition tests students' knowledge on a wide range of topics such as physical regions, topography, cultures, populations, economic characteristics, and map details of other countries.

This marks the fifth consecutive year in which WCDS has participated at the school level in this national competition, and the participants were Wakefield students who had placed first and second in their class competitions held in December.



The ten finalists were: 4th grade – Tor Mowatt-Larssen and Christopher Parios; 5th grade – Willow Lynn and Amy Chadduck; 6th grade – Alex Foster and Sam Nolan; 7th grade – Alejandro Rodriguez (Alternate Ashton Yarnall) and Henry Johnson; 8th grade – John Morgan Christoph and Kaitlin Burgess.

After a series of rounds, the contest narrowed to two

3rd Quarter Head of School Honors



Marguerite Beattie
Grade 12



Taylor Hammelman
Grade 12



Audrey Speer
Grade 11



Christine Pankow
Grade 9

Geography Bee continued

finalists: John Morgan Christoph and Alex Foster. The two competed in a "best out of three" championship round, with each student answering his first two questions correctly. John Morgan won the final round when he correctly answered the third question, "...the United States island territory where the official languages are English and Chamorro and the motto is, 'Where America's Day Begins'" (Answer: Guam). This is the third year in a row that Mr. Christoph has placed first. Based upon a multiple choice test he subsequently took, he went on to compete among the top 100 scorers in Virginia's state competition, placing 7th in the top 10.

2nd Grader Receives Chess Trophy

On Saturday, February 2nd, seven WCDS students traveled to Fredericksburg to compete in the Scholastic Grade Chess Tournament sponsored by the U.S. Chess Federation. Students representing schools throughout Northern Virginia competed against other children at the same grade level, and Wakefield second grader **Bernie Cieplak** came home with a 5th place trophy (out of a field of 17). The chess club, coached by Wakefield science and math teacher Alexander Popkin, is a new addition to WCDS' extracurricular activities. Back in the fall, the team won 3rd place in a competition among other schools throughout northern Virginia.



Service News

Key Club Donates Funds to Local Food Bank



Back in December, members of the Key Club hosted a *Soup for Supper* event to raise funds for the Blue Ridge Food Bank. Students, parents and friends were encouraged to come early to the annual Christmas concert, socialize and sample a wide range of home-made soups. The club's first attempt had been "snowed out," requiring the student chefs to prepare their favorite soup recipes not once, but twice. Their perseverance paid off; the weather

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2nd Grader Recognized in National Writing Competition

Two local representatives from Coldwell Banker visited WCDS during March to recognize second grader Douglas Griffin for his winning entry in their company's national contest on how a "house is a home." Douglas participated in the 3rd Annual "My Home: The American Dream" contest jointly sponsored by Coldwell Banker and Scholastic. His entry described in his own words how his home fits the criteria of, "a special place to share dreams and build family memories that will last a lifetime." The school received a check for \$100, which Douglas requested be applied to purchasing "funny books" for the library.

Wakefield Senior Launches Pilot Program to Help Promote Literacy

Last summer, when Wakefield librarian Susanna Spencer casually mentioned at a Rappahannock county non-profit meeting the literacy efforts of a foundation for which she was helping to raise funds, little did she know that her comments would sow the seeds of encouragement for a WCDS student to launch a new reading program for underprivileged Washington, D.C. elementary school children. Senior Katherine Russo heard about the Bares Circle Foundation's efforts to encourage reading among disadvantaged young students and decided she wanted to do something to help the foundation expand its program. As a result of Katherine's efforts over the past six months, twenty-one first graders at Watkins Elementary School in northwest Washington, D.C. are now enjoying twenty-five different books especially geared to their reading level throughout the academic year. Katherine had been following the series of articles in the Washington Post examining the crisis in the Washington, D.C. school system and decided that a program that could help instill a love of reading in young children might be one small way to help improve a student's chances of success. After doing some research on the foundation, Katherine learned that its Reading Circle program was operating in schools in Arizona, Ohio and New York, but not locally. The



program is based on the premise that encouraging a young child to read is "the most important way to improve that child's entire life." Katherine agreed and contacted the foundation's staff to see if it would be possible to introduce the program to an elementary school in the Washington, D.C. area. They were delighted and offered to help in



any way they could. Katherine next determined how much money she needed to raise in order to sponsor a class for one year, set about raising the funds, and then sought to find a recipient school.

After researching D.C. elementary schools, Katherine identified several that had fairly high levels of students in assisted-lunch programs and factored in schools that had received low marks in their most recent reading and math evaluations. She corresponded with several principals, and Mr. Brandon Eatman of Watkins Elementary School seemed to be the perfect fit, when he responded that he thought the program "sounded interesting" and suggested that she contact his first grade teacher, Ms. Sharon Dorsey.

Some background on the Reading Circle program; to help promote reading among young children, the foundation has developed a core of books ranging from pre-kindergarten through second grade, in consultation with literacy specialists. After identifying a school and determining the reading level of its students, books are distributed in envelopes addressed personally to each child in the participating class. After the children have enjoyed reading their first story as many

Literacy Program, cont'd on p. 12

Assembly Held Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.



Wakefield's Wednesday assembly on January 16 focused on Martin Luther King, Jr. In her opening invocation, Head of School Kathleen Grove prayed for "...the brotherhood of mankind, and justice for all." She then spoke briefly about the virtue of the month – courage, and "the courage it can take to do what is right." In the school's ongoing practice of learning well-known songs, the students sang "We Shall Overcome," a song recognized around the world, from Ireland to India to South Africa. Then the Key Club gave a special presentation on Dr. King, which began with a slide show created by 10th grader Adrian Wassel. The soundtrack that accompanied the photographs included spirituals and excerpts from Dr. King's speeches. Key Club members Kristina Stone, Saheel Mehta, Jesse Marsh, and Katie Von Fange then read excerpts from the famous "I Have a Dream" speech. In thanking the Key Club members for their presentation, Mrs. Grove emphasized Dr. King's worldwide influence in nonviolence and initiatives for justice.

Focus on Science

At the Wakefield assembly of January 30, 2008, the focus was on science. Selected students presented their class or individual science projects, including their hypotheses, controls and variables, results, and conclusions. Rachel Cieplak described her grade one class project: determining which potato chips were the greasiest.

Special Assemblies

Megan Burgess and Catherine Deane shared their grade two class project investigating which colors absorbed the most sunlight, while Connor Poe and Alex Smith shared their grade two class project on which toothpaste produces the



brightest teeth. In grade three, Lucas DuMez and Harrison Wells discussed the effect of the color of dye on the speed of dissolving, and Megan Kelley and Monica Marciano analyzed the rate of dissolving among different sugars. In grades four through six, students completed individual projects. Evan Lester presented on the effect of music on the heart rate, Nikolas Patton spoke on the growth of stalactites and stalagmites, Joseph Dowell explored solutions and their effect on water freezing, Torri Sanders presented on comparative bubble baths, Amy Chaddock explored the amounts of salt in cookie recipes, Shivam Mehta compared diapers' absorbency, and Grace Alexander investigated the effect of soft drinks on teeth. The science fair judges recognized six students for their exemplary science projects: James Allen Christoph for *Wings—Which Flies Farthest?*, Julia Weir for *Drop it like it's Hot!*, Lily Lauben

for *Mastering Memory*, Ixel Ochoa for *How to Diet a Candle*, Shivam Mehta for *Hefty Diaper*, and Thomas Pearson for *Moldy Old Cheese*.

WCDS Assembly Rated "Out of This World"

Those who attended the WCDS February 6th assembly enjoyed a presentation that was "out of this world," when the pre-kindergarteners presented their well known Planet Play.



The children first sang "The Sun Has Spots," written last year by the first grade with performer, writer and recording artist Paul Reisler. Then the children onstage informed the audience about the planets of the solar system, with the whole group singing a verse between each individual child's recitation.

2008 Dance Recital

WCDS held its winter sports awards ceremony on Friday, March 7th, gathering together team members, families and friends to reflect on the winter season and to honor Wakefield athletes for their abilities and good sportsmanship. The evening began with



a special Dance Recital, featuring the choreography talents of Wakefield's five Dance Team members. The performances Friday night covered a wide spectrum, including Belén

WCDS Sports

Winter 2008 - Recap



The winter athletic season was one of great change for many of our teams. With the exception of the varsity girls basketball squad, most rosters were filled with new names. Each of our varsity teams was under new direction;

the girls were coached by Lisa Bodine, the boys by Daniel Webb and Hurley Smith, and the dance squad by Lindsey Zanchettin.

Varsity Girls' Basketball

With some of the girls experiencing their third different varsity basketball coach in four years, it took several weeks for another new system to become familiar. Despite the relative youthfulness of the group, the team played well in several of its opening games. Four early season losses were by five points or less, as the team got off to a 1-6 season start. Things improved substantially after the Christmas break, and the girls came back with a five-game winning streak. The final record of 9-11 included a fourth-place finish in the Delaney Athletic Conference (DAC) and a win over RMA in the opening round of the DAC Tournament. **Katherine Russo** and **Rachael Carrier** were each named second-team all-DAC.

Varsity Boys' Basketball

After the loss of four seniors from last year's squad, the new version of the Owls team had to search for an identity. The long losing streak that began the season complicated matters, but WCDS responded with a stellar second half to dispose of Fresta Valley just before Christmas.

The new-found momentum allowed the Owls to compete in several close games during the month of January, including conference victories over Quantico and Fredericksburg Academy. WCDS finished with a 5-15 mark. **Andrew Smith** was named first-team all-DAC and **Brian Shafran** was tabbed as a second-team selection.

Varsity Dance

This group performed at halftime at each of our home basketball games, entertaining the audience with a choreographed routine. The squad participated in the DAC Dance tournament at Fredericksburg Academy, and two members of the group, **Joy Heddleston** and **Cynthia Rodriguez**, received second-team all-DAC recognition at the event.

Middle School Boys' Basketball

With five new starters in the lineup, Coach Charles Cowherd faced a daunting task in getting his troops prepared for the always tough Valley Middle School Conference (VMSC). Still, with a solid mix of underclassmen to accompany the older returnees, the Owls showed steady progress through a season which featured many ups and downs. The boys finished with a record of 3-15, but the invaluable experience gained by the eleven eligible returnees for next season should prove most beneficial.

Middle School Girls' Basketball

This group faced a similar predicament to the boys, needing to replace four starters from last year's squad. Still, this young group played exceptionally well early in the season, sporting a four-game winning streak before Christmas. The team, coached by Ann Pankow, won its first-round game of the VMSC tournament over Randolph-Macon Academy before falling to eventual champion SVCA in the semi-finals.

Olagaray's demonstration of Flamenco dancing, Cynthia Rodriguez and Joy Heddleston's interpretation of "Swan Lake," Mary Shaffier's rendition of "Almost Lover," and Annelise Riedel's celebratory, "Oh What a Night." The

group also performed its signature number, "Apologize" and offered a finale dance montage, preceded by a vocal performance by Sadie Albert, a gymnastic routine by Katie vonFange, and a special magic show by 2nd grader Bernie Cieplak.



*Congratulations to **Andrew Smith**, who made the Washington Post's list of "top twenty scorers" in Northern Virginia for high school varsity basketball.*

WCDS 6th Grader Helps Out at UVA



On Sunday, February 24th, sixth grader **Alex Foster** had the unique opportunity to act as a “ball boy,” for his favorite team, the Cavaliers, when UVA played North Carolina State in Charlottesville’s John Paul Jones Arena.

It was a great game, with Virginia winning 78-60. According to Alex, both teams were extremely friendly and it was “a terrific opportunity to get to know the players.”

WCDS Well-Represented in USTA Junior Tennis Tournaments

In addition to fielding a varsity tennis team in the Delaney Athletic Conference, this year WCDS has five students who have been competing at the junior level in United States Tennis Association (USTA) matches and tournaments. Among them is 10th grader **Cooper Weir**, who has played in one tournament thus far this year.



Sisters **Harper and Lucy Van Ness** are currently competing in tournaments at the Mid-Atlantic level, after beginning the sport four years ago at the local Rappahannock County Park. Now in grades 5 and 7, the girls are practicing at a minimum of three times a week for competitions that take place throughout Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. “It

is a sport, but more like a language, that offers you the opportunity to meet and play with all different types of people,” observed Brenda VanNess, their mother. “It is a wonderful individual sport that over time helps build courage, confidence and the ability to handle stress. It is a lot of fun!”

Another participant in the USTA is seventh grader **Hannah Tufts**, who finished second in the Westwinds Athletic Club fourteen-and-under tennis tournament held in mid-February. Hannah advanced to the finals with a hard-fought three-set victory



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Athletes of the Month:

November/December Athletes

Wakefield Country Day School’s female athlete of the month for November / December was **Rachael Carrier**. According to Athletic Director Mike Kenney, “This young lady has spent several years on the varsity basketball team



in relative obscurity. However, during the past season, she took on more of a role, not only in scoring, but also in leadership. Rachael became the Lady Owls’ most consistent outside shooter and is a big reason why WCDS was able to stay in contention in most games.”

Wakefield’s male athlete of the month for November/ December was **Andrew Smith**. Observed Mr. Kenney, “This young man had previously been an integral part of the basketball team, but in past years most of his contributions were in a supporting role. This year, as one of only two returning starters, Andrew became our leading scorer and rebounder.” During the season, Andrew set a career-high with 36 points when the Owls defeated Mt. View Christian Academy.



WCDS 2008 Winter Athletic Award Winners



On Friday, March 7th, WCDS held its Winter Athletic Awards Ceremony. Athletic Director Mike Kenney, who served as master of ceremonies, reflected on the strong WCDS winter

sports season, and Head of School Kathleen Grove complimented the athletes for their sportsmanship and the parents for their support. Each team coach spoke in turn about his or her team and thanked the players for their tremendous efforts. Individual awards were given, including the categories of most improved player, most valuable player, and the coach’s award.

January Athletes

Brian Shafran was named Wakefield Country Day School's male athlete for January. According to athletic director Mike Kenney, "Brian had to perform under fire this season, with no previous experience at the varsity level. He was asked to undertake challenges normally



reserved for older athletes and played admirably, helping to lead WCDS to several key victories. As the team looked for another proven scorer, Brian accomplished that feat commendably, increasing his scoring load and going over the 20-point mark three

times in February."

Dance team members **Joy Heddleston** and **Cynthia**

Rodriguez were named Wakefield's joint female athletes for January. "These two young ladies took on roles of not only performing, but also providing leadership and instruction to their teammates,"



noted Mr. Kenney. He added, "Their hard work and determination was exemplified in being named Second-Team All-Conference at the Delaney Athletic Conference championships held at Fredericksburg Academy."

February Athletes



February's athletes were **Taylor Hammelman** and **Saheel Mehta**. In announcing the recipients, Athletic Director Mike Kenney noted, "Often in the course of athletics, most of the attention and accolades go to the person who scores the most points or has the most steals. There are many other factors that allow a team to be successful. In basketball, some of these factors include defending the opposing team's best player, getting the ball to the leading scorer in the right position, grabbing key rebounds, and setting a screen to free up your teammate." February's two students exemplify those characteristics.

"Both worked extremely hard at practices and logged many minutes on the court, with very little fanfare, doing what they could to help their teams be successful."



DAC Winter Sports All-Conference Players

The following individual awards were given:

Boys Varsity Basketball

Most Valuable Player: Andrew Smith
Most Improved Player: Brian Shafran
Coach's Award: Alex Shafran

Girls Middle School Basketball

Most Valuable Player: Hailey Miller
Most Improved Player: Makenzie Magaro
Coach's Award: Alex Cancio-Bello

Girls Varsity Basketball

Most Valuable Player: Katherine Russo
Most Improved Player: Rachael Carrier
Coach's Award: Isabelle Eastham

Boys Middle School Basketball

Most Valuable Player: Alex Foster
Most Improved Player: Tim Johns
Coach's Award: Will Mullany



Tennis

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that went to a tiebreaker in her opening match and then won by 6-4, 6-4 in her semi-final. Hannah lost in the finals to a young lady ranked 86th in the mid-Atlantic region.

New sixth grade student **Thomas Pearson** has been playing since he was seven and joined the USTA at the end of last summer. In one match, at Dominion Valley in Gainesville, he made it to the finals and was runner up – so came his first trophy, which set the stage for further USTA matches.

This winter Thomas, now eleven, played doubles USTA matches (under 14's), representing Chestnut Forks of Warrenton against the rest of the state teams. He and his partners kept Chestnut Forks in the top 3 positions until the last two matches. In early March, Thomas played in the Annandale S & H Club Annual Open. While he lost in his first round to the winner of the whole series, he also played 3 matches in the consolation games, winning 6 – 2 in the quarter finals, 6 – 4 in the semifinals, and 6 – 4 in the finals.



Little Owls Take to the Slopes

In its pursuit of furthering the school's fitness goals for its students, Wakefield Country Day's focus in February was on developing "skills to participate in lifelong fitness activities," by extending its physical education program to the ski slopes. Thanks to the organizational skills of physical education teacher Julie Vaught, second, third, fourth and fifth grade students traveled to Massanutten, where they received ski lessons and spent time trying out their skills on the slopes.



Winter Events

Art from the Heart 2007- a Visual and Culinary Delight

Those who attended this year's Art from the Heart event back in December were treated to both visual and epicurean feasts. Billed as "an affair to remember," the 2007 art show was indeed just that. The evening was held



in a spectacular winter wonderland setting of silver and white, created by auction chair Nancy Moon Smith and featured the works of forty-two professional artists. While guests toured Wakefield's "gallery for a day," they sampled gourmet fare created by world-renowned chef and restaurateur (and Wakefield dad!) Dayn Smith. This year's artists

offered works in oil, pastel, watercolor, mixed media, paper, ceramics, acrylics, and pen & ink, and also included jewelry, monotypes and photographs. Smith took time off from his latest venture, the Perla Restaurant in San Juan's newly renovated La Concha Hotel, to create a host

Alumni Return for Annual "Silver Bucket" Game

On December 26th, Wakefield Country Day School hosted its annual "Silver Bucket" game, a long-standing tradition when the alumni return to WCDS to play the varsity basketball teams. This year, the players for the alumni far outnumbered the varsity players, so recent graduates graciously assisted the varsity players. Even so, with frequent substitutions, the alumni won. Spectators (parents, spouses, children and non-playing alumni) enjoyed catching up and snacking on pizza and soft drinks while they cheered on their teams. Head of School Kathleen Grove stood on the sidelines midway between the opposing teams and cheered for "Wakefield," which seemed a safely neutral choice. All in attendance enjoyed seeing so many alums, especially some who had not been back to school for many

Art from the Heart continued

of culinary delights for those who attended. The menu included delicacies such as tuna tartar with ginger, soy and sesame and lobster bisque with Armagnac cream for the patrons reception, followed by pan roasted sea bass with black truffle risotto, shrimp in red curry and coconut sauce with lemongrass, and orechiette and artichoke barigoule salad for the general reception. Based on the rave reviews registered by this year's guests, the bar has certainly been raised for future WCDS events.

As auction chair Nancy Smith noted, this annual Wakefield fund raiser "offers a wonderful continuum between local professional artists and budding Wakefield artists, with the accomplished artists serving as an inspirational example for our students."



Under the creative direction of the art department's chair Suzanne Zylonis and assisted by Debbie DuMez, the show featured special class projects that were created especially for the event. The works, presented in a variety of media, ranged from the gorgeous colors of the kindergarten's version of



years. The girls' varsity had scrimmaged an AAU team that morning, so those team members played basketball all day yet were still smiling as everyone bid farewell much later in



the day. Those alumni who attended the event left with a t-shirt that read, "Tradition Never Graduates."

VanGogh's *Iris*es to the one-of-a-kind *Point-to-Point* scene drawn by the 6th grade.

Funds raised through Art from the Heart not only enhance the school's fine arts program, they also help the school provide increased exposure to the arts to students who are able to attend WCDS because of its tuition assistance program. This academic year, 34 students received over \$159,000 in scholarships and financial aid.

Alumni News

- The first assembly of 2008 featured recent WCDS graduates, who took turns describing their universities, discussing their experiences, and advising both the seniors and the younger students as they look to the future and consider their college options. This year's alumni line-up consisted of Dan Carrier '07 (James Madison University), Patrick Dale '07 (University of Virginia), and Ben Luke '07 (University of Virginia).



- **Wedding Vows Exchanged**
Best wishes to Erin Nilan (Class of '99), who exchanged wedding vows with Kevin Puttre on December 29th at St. Louis Catholic Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Among the wedding party were two other WCDS alumni: Erin's brothers James (Class of '05) and Andrew (Class of 01).



Newest Owlets

Congratulations to Alexe van Beuren (she attended WCDS from 1986-1991 and 1994-1998) and her husband Kagan Coughlin, who are the proud parents of Annaliese, born January 6th, 2008. Alexe currently resides in northern Mississippi and is a writer with a regular feature in the [North Mississippi Herald](#).



WCDS welcomes a new addition to the Wakefield family -
- Sadie Seaborn -- little sister of Grace (grade 2) and Jackson (kindergarten). Sadie was born on February 8, 2008.

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cooperated for the second event, and many families chose to visit the buffet line, commenting on the hearty offerings. That evening, the students raised \$650, which they presented to representatives of the Blue Ridge Food Bank at an assembly on February 6th.

Literacy Program, continued from page 5

times as they wish, the books are then mailed back to the foundation in a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and another book is mailed back to each child.

After many weeks of follow up, Katherine successfully launched the pilot project for this region. She traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet the 21 students in Ms. Dorsey's first grade class, explained the program and distributed the first set of books. Then, just before Christmas, she returned to the school and was able to give each child a hard-back book as a gift to keep.

When asked how she felt about her experience, Katherine's response was, "This project has been incredibly rewarding for me personally. It was amazing to meet the first graders at Watkins Elementary School and witness their happiness in receiving their books. If reading is indeed the pathway to great adventures, I hope that in introducing this reading program I may have helped encourage some children to explore a few of those paths." Because of Wakefield's emphasis on "service" as an important component in the education process, Head of School Kathleen Grove has been extremely supportive of Katherine's efforts. She has asked the Key Club to adopt Watkins Elementary School as a service project for next year, thus ensuring that the reading program will continue beyond Katherine's graduation.

Special Thanks To:

- *Mark and Michelle Hale – Mark and his staff (Artistic Iron and Rigging of Amissville), for designing and installing the wrought iron rail for our auditorium stage, and Michelle for the grounds work she has done, as well as for her input on the girls locker room renovation;*
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www.wakefieldcds.org

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