

# *the* CURRENT

SUMMER 2018

THE MAGAZINE OF CHARLES RIVER SCHOOL

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## Honoring Social Activism

YOUR VOICE MATTERS



CHARLES RIVER  
SCHOOL



# *the* CURRENT SUMMER 2018

## CHARLES RIVER SCHOOL MISSION

Charles River School honors the pursuit of academic excellence and the joy of childhood. We nurture each child by igniting curiosity, encouraging creativity, and cultivating intellectual engagement. Our graduates know themselves, understand others, and shape the future of our diverse world with confidence and compassion.

## CHARLES RIVER SCHOOL DIVERSITY STATEMENT

*We commit ourselves to:*

- **Cultivating** cultural competency and diversity throughout our curriculum, our student body, and our faculty and staff
- **Deepening** our knowledge and appreciation of the many aspects of cultural identities, in ourselves, our local communities, and globally
- **Providing** an environment and an education that equips children and adults to become successful, contributing members of a global society
- **Understanding** both historical and current implications of diversity, power, and privilege
- **Engaging** in this complex work with careful thought and an enduring dedication.

And most of all, we commit ourselves to fostering a school community in which each of us is welcomed, recognized, and valued as an individual and as a member of the Charles River School family.

## HEAD OF SCHOOL

Gretchen Larkin

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CHARLES RIVER  
SCHOOL





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"I'm inspired to use my voice and stand up for what I believe in."

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# The Power of One Voice

**DURING THE SUMMER OF 1990**, I was living and working in Burlington, Vermont with a group of friends before heading into our senior year in college. I have fond memories from that carefree summer, yet none is as clear and significant as one particular day — June 19. I had the day off from my internship at the Vermont Children's Forum and wasn't serving any shifts at McCarthy's Family restaurant in Stowe. Coincidentally, my roommates weren't working either and we decided to spend the day exploring the city of Montreal.

Five of us piled into my well-loved, aging Volkswagon and drove north. When we arrived, we began walking towards Old Montreal and quickly found ourselves swept into a large crowd leading us towards a roar of chanting and upbeat live music. The crowd's energy became louder and more powerful by the second and we landed in the Champs-de-Mars among a mass of people, numbering in the thousands. We soon realized this was neither a simple city festival nor a summertime celebration.

I could never have imagined being in the presence of such greatness, but there, before my eyes, was Nelson Mandela. Four months after his release from prison, Mandela stopped in Montreal for a four-hour visit specifically to thank the Canadian people for their fight for social justice. He spoke of their unending support to end apartheid, racial tyranny, and messaged to all that we must never ever give up. It was an awe-inspiring experience to bear witness to a person who embodied such grace and dignity, and to be in the presence of someone who endured immeasurable oppression and adversity, yet rose triumphant without spite and filled with hope and gratitude.

The life lessons within Mandela's message that day were infinite, and each time I recall this profound moment, it carries a different meaning. As I write this article on what would have been Mandela's 100th birthday, I am reminded of the power of one's voice.



5th graders Jack Murray, Gabby Wood, Brooke Travis, and Elizabeth Lapides with Head of School Gretchen Larkin

We are raising our children in complicated times, and we must not take for granted the joy, respect, and freedom to be oneself, which permeates our CRS community. We must call upon these attributes to help children gain the confidence to use their voice to speak up for themselves, for others, and for what they believe.

At CRS we achieve our mission by creating a culture where the power of each child's unique voice is embraced. It takes courage and determination for children to learn how to stand up, and as you will see within the pages of this magazine, our students, alumni, and faculty are using their voices to create change in order to make a difference in the lives of others. In the words of Nelson Mandela,

**"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."**

*Gretchen Larkin*

## Model UN Team Earns Top Awards at International Conference in NYC



Model UN students at the conference in New York ▲

**IN MARCH**, 15 CRS students joined more than 1,300 students from around the world at the 19th annual International Middle School Model United Nations Conference in New York City. CRS students represented the country of Bangladesh on eight committees on topics including “Improving Food Security to Support the Return and Resettlement of Displaced Populations,” and “Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife.” Two CRS delegations received the Secretary General Award (one is awarded per committee to delegates who are judged to be superior in all areas); congratulations to Isobel Mathews, Carson Moellering, Hannah Lapides, and Patricia Plunkett, the recipients of these awards.

## NAIS Chief Innovation Officer Visits CRS

**IN APRIL**, CRS was thrilled to welcome Tim Fish, Chief Innovation Officer for the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), to lead a workshop with CRS faculty. Tim challenged faculty to think about how we create the best schools for kids that are both affordable and accessible. He encouraged faculty to try new things to find those that work best for our school/their classrooms (and then do more of that!). He guided faculty to consider what makes CRS uniquely CRS, and to focus on who we are as a school, the things that hold us back, and those that are creating our momentum. It was an inspirational afternoon, and faculty will collaborate to continue the work that began during the workshop.



NAIS Chief Innovation Officer Tim Fish leads faculty workshop ▲

## CRS Students Recognized in SISAL Awards

**CONGRATULATIONS** to 8th graders Hannah Lapides and Tori Eysie for recognition of their artwork in this year's SISAL (Small Independent School Art League) Show. Hannah received 3rd place in Mixed Media for her composition "Camden Sunset," and Tori earned an honorable mention in the same category for her work "Untitled Landscape." This year, 15 independent schools participated in the SISAL awards, which are juried by a panel of artists.

One/Two students Ari Itzkovits and Kyle Prusov perform in the Variety Show

## Giving Back



**THIS SPRING**, CRS's philanthropic efforts included students volunteering at Powisset Farm and hosting our own variety show. At Powisset, middle school students spread 15 yards of woodchips in the barnyard and raspberry patch, spread two yards of gravel around the gazebo, painted the barnyard viewing platforms, and planted *thousands* of onion plants. The fantastic Variety Show (organized by the Parent Association) included acts by students, alumni, and faculty ranging from musical performances to a pie eating contest! The evening raised more than \$2,000 for the Red Cross.

## "Cooking for a Cause" Receives Award & Grant



**STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-8** who participate in the "Cooking for a Cause" elective were honored with a special recognition award and monetary grant at the recent Parents' Independent School Network (PIN) meeting (hosted by CRS). PIN supports students' service to the community with annual awards. The "Cooking for a Cause" elective, led by faculty member Kent Rouillard, is one of almost a dozen CRS middle school electives with a community service component.

◀ Cooking For a Cause elective participants and faculty member Kent Rouillard

# London Professional Football Club Holds Camp at CRS



**IN JUNE,** Leyton Orient, London's second oldest soccer club, held a camp at CRS for players ages 5–14. Participants had the opportunity to train with players and coaches from the Leyton Orient team. During the camp, WBZ Chief meteorologist Eric Fisher visited campus and broadcasted the weather report live from Dover. Members of the team also visited campus and held a mini-clinic for One/Two students in the Activity Center.

Members of the  
Leyton Orient  
team coach  
students in Grade  
One/Two.

## Students Receive Accolades for Writing

**SIXTH GRADER** Claire Salvin and 7th grader Maddie Li were both recognized for their writing this spring. An essay by Claire was selected as one of five finalists (from among more than 4,500 entries) for the Best Published Writer Award in the Young Writer's Spine-Chillers Contest. Her essay "Hushed" was published in the collection. Maddie received the Regional Silver Key Award in the Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition for her novel "Varies," which was selected from among the nearly 350,000 works of art and writing submitted across 29 categories.



## CRCAP Recognized as Best Arts & Crafts Camp

### CRS'S SUMMER PROGRAM —

Charles River Creative Arts Program — was recognized this spring as the "Best Arts & Crafts Camp" by *Boston Parents Paper*. From a myriad of arts options, to soccer, tennis, swimming...the offerings for campers are incredible. Favorite classes from the past like Soapstone, Mockumentary, and Trash to Treasure continued this summer, intermixed with new offerings like "Build Your Own App" and "Best Band Ever (Project X)." In its 49th season, CRCAP is showing no signs of a midlife crisis as it continues to fill summer days with color and life.

## Students Shine in Singing

**CRS STUDENTS** Patricia Plunkett and Sarah James both had impressive accomplishments in music this spring. Eighth grader Patricia earned chair 2 for a vocal soprano spot in the Eastern District Festival (out of 134 youth who auditioned for her section), and 6th grader Sarah was selected to perform with the Boston Symphony Orchestra Children's Choir. It's wonderful to see these results of their continued hard work and dedication.

## 8th Graders Give TED-style Research Talks

**EACH YEAR** in social studies class, 8th grade students research a topic of their choosing and present their findings to the CRS community. This year, for the first time, their presentations took the form of TED-style talks. Students' independent research included interviewing experts in the field, conducting surveys, and reading information from trustworthy sources. They created slides as visual aids to support their talks, which were attended by parents and students in grades 5–7. This year's broad range of topics included media bias, Title 9, caffeine, the Vietnam War, climate change, and women in politics. "It was very scary at first, but once I started to talk, I wasn't nervous at all — it was just like a normal conversation. I learned so much from the project!" said 8th grader Allie Ehlinger.



## French Students Travel to Québec



**IN JUNE**, 14 CRS French students and a number of parents traveled to Québec City under the guidance of French teacher Julie Weeden pour une grande aventure! Students learned about the beginnings of French civilization in North America at the Place Royale and le Quartier du Petit Champlain, visited the Village Huron in Wendake, and explored Québec City. From Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré's shrine, to Montmorency Falls, to feasting on les crêpes, croissants and a bowl of chocolat chaud, students were truly immersed in Québec history and culture. "It was so rewarding to see our students using their language skills and their cultural knowledge in an authentic environment," said Julie Weeden. "Whether ordering lunch at an outdoor café or pretending to be a French soldier, I was proud of each one of them for taking risks, paying careful attention, and using what they had studied in class."



## Ian Travis Earns Spot at State Geography Bee

**SEVENTH GRADER** Ian Travis was the champion in the CRS Geography Bee for the second year running, and 6th grader Eva Tutin earned second place. Ian was one of 100 students in Massachusetts who qualified for the State National Geographic Bee, which took place in April. Thousands of students compete in Massachusetts, and millions across the country.

◀ Ian Travis and Eva Tutin with Head of School Gretchen Larkin

# 5th Graders Become Citizen Scientists



5th grade citizen scientists Nathan Gomes, Lisa O'Leary, Elizabeth Lapidis, Brooke Travis, Priya DuBois, Alex Lowitt, and Jackson Beehr

**IN MAY**, under the guidance of science teacher Annie Kenney, 5th graders began a citizen science project to support and monitor the presence of salamanders in the CRS Wetlands Laboratory. In citizen science, members of the general public collaborate with professional scientists to collect and analyze data relating to the natural world. With climate change, scientists are noticing a decline in certain species of amphibians; salamanders are an indicator species in that they help gauge the health of a wetland.

According to specialists from the Massachusetts Audubon Society, there were seven to 10 spotted salamander egg masses in the CRS vernal pool. Students measured a 10-meter by five-meter transect near the vernal pool, placed 50 untreated pine boards one meter apart within the space, monitored the areas beneath the boards for the presence of salamanders, and reported their findings to Mass Audubon. Next year's 5th graders will continue the good work that was begun this spring.

## Steve Trust Speaks on Technology in Early Childhood

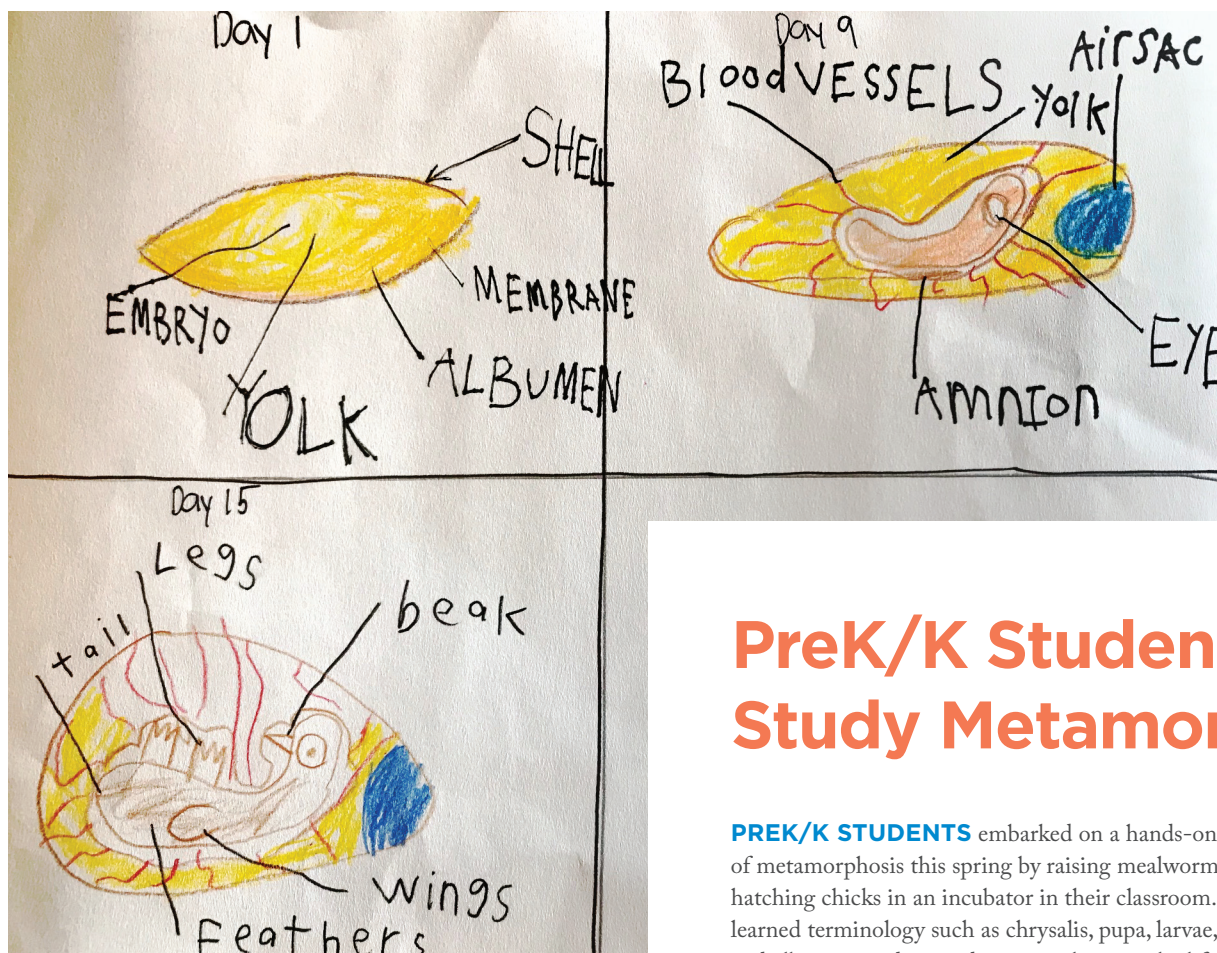
**IN APRIL**, Steve Trust, CRS Director of Academic Technology, led a discussion at Dover Nursery School on "Keeping Family at the Center: Technology and Digital Media in Early Childhood." The evening included research on the impact of technology and digital media on early childhood, and practical advice for raising healthy, well-balanced children in an age of ever-increasing technology. Steve talked with parents about how children's play is impacted by technology, what constitutes a healthy balance of digital media, and how to separate genuine learning opportunities from the hype.

## CRS Hosts Diversity and Inclusion Breakfast

**THE CRS CULTURAL** Competency Committee hosted a successful Diversity and Inclusion Breakfast in April. Parents were invited to come and learn about the important work we are doing, as a school, around issues of diversity, inclusivity, empathy, and cultural competency. Topics of discussion included our Early Childhood Community of Color, and our 6th/7th/8th grade affinity groups. Parents also had the opportunity to view and read about student work across the PreK-8 classrooms, and talk with other parents and faculty members. The event was the most well-attended of recent CRS breakfasts, which speaks to our community's commitment to this effort.



◀ Parents Leslie Harlan, Tracy-Ann Bain, Petrena Wood, Olga Gomes, and Grade 4 co-teacher Teresa Baker at the Diversity and Inclusion Breakfast



▲  
One student's timeline of the chick's development within the egg, while eagerly awaiting it's hatching!

## PreK/K Students Study Metamorphosis

**PREK/K STUDENTS** embarked on a hands-on study of metamorphosis this spring by raising mealworms and hatching chicks in an incubator in their classroom. They learned terminology such as chrysalis, pupa, larvae, embryo, and albumen, and created projects showing the life cycle of a chick, butterfly, frog, and ladybug. This work helped develop students' ability to form hypotheses, engage in close observation, and draw conclusions. This project naturally led to students contemplating the incredible changes they have made, themselves, since the beginning of the school year.



## Marcel Liu Nationally Ranked for Swimming

**7TH GRADER** Marcel Liu has recently made impressive achievements in swimming. At the USA Swimming New England Championship in March, he set the record for the 50Fly in the 12 & Under Age Group, earned four New England Champions, two silver medals, three bronze medals, and 3 relay bronze medals. Also in March, in the YMCA Swimming New England Championships, Marcel set the record for the 50Fly in the 12 & Under Age Group, and earned three New England Champions and two relay medals. Marcel is currently ranked at number four nationally for the 50Fly! Over the summer, he is training for the New England Senior Championship; he is one of only two 13-year-olds in New England who is able to participate in this open-age championship and compete against college swimmers.

# Creating Leaders Through Athletics

By Paul Rupprecht, Director of Athletics



Paul Rupprecht,  
Director of Athletics

**AS I COMPLETE** my second year as Athletic Director, I reflect on a personal motto that I use to approach athletics and academics on a daily basis at CRS: Excellence with Integrity.


Athletics at Charles River School is the perfect platform to reinforce core school values, build relationships, and cultivate critical thinking and leadership skills through competition. While society today increasingly applauds participation and frowns upon competition, I believe both are important. It is vital that we encourage CRS student-athletes to step out of their comfort zones and test themselves physically, mentally, and emotionally. This is the foundation of developing the “whole child.”

Experiences on the fields, courts, or trails all provide opportunities for reinforcing core school values. During competition, athletes must deal with both winning and losing, and all of the emotions that go along with each. At CRS, we teach the importance of winning and losing with grace and class, and that fair play and sportsmanship are the things that distinguish them as CRS students. Winning is a great thing, but not if you have to sacrifice your beliefs and integrity to do it.

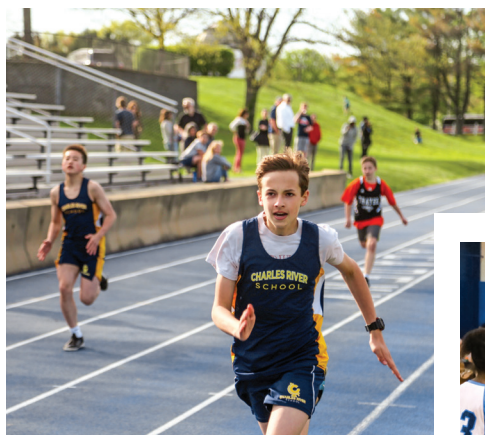
In encouraging competition to strengthen critical thinking and leadership skills, we help to prepare the next

generation for the realities of the modern world. In her book *Why Bright Kids Get Poor Grades, And What You Can Do About It*, psychologist Dr. Sylvia Rimm argues that competition is essential in education because it teaches children the lifelong lesson that failure can occur, and when it does, children learn to “identify the problems, remedy the deficiencies, reset their goals, and grow from their experiences.” Athletics complement this lesson. When kids compete on the athletic field, whether against themselves or others, they gain intrinsic motivation and a higher ceiling for achievement. Competition also helps our CRS athletes set goals and find the motivation to challenge themselves to improve.

I have met some of the most influential people in my life through sports. Whether it was a coach, competitor, doctor, or teammate, they made an impression that has lasted the test of time. In the CRS Athletics Department, we work very hard to surround the kids with the most positive, supportive, and instructional coaching staff possible. One example of such a coach is our very own Billy Beauzile, who coaches soccer and basketball. Billy has built — and continues to build — individual connections with nearly all of the kids in the school and their families; these are the types of coaches and relationships that we value at CRS.

As we continue to inspire and shape future generations here at CRS, we must hold strong to our time-proven core values and not shy away from the challenging road that lies with competition. Today’s world is a competitive one, and it takes people who can cope with failure, overcome adversity, and lead with fairness and compassion. We aim to challenge and expose our students to developmentally-appropriate situations and provide them with the tools necessary to succeed here, and in all future endeavors. 

8th grader Carson Moellering and 7th grader Marcel Liu race for the finish



Tori Eysie and the 8th grade girls basketball team face off against Derby



Girls lacrosse triumphs over DCD at home



8th grader Tommy Hicks went undefeated in tennis this spring

## Winter & Spring Sports Wrap Up

### CRS students remained active this winter with Basketball and Fitness Club:

The **BOYS 6-8 BASKETBALL TEAM** had a strong season finishing with a 5-7 record. Led by 8th Graders Kam Kerr and Carson Moellering, the young team never showed any hesitation playing against more seasoned and bigger opponents.

The **GIRLS 6/7 BASKETBALL TEAM** finished the season with a stellar 6-4 record. The girls played some very impressive games against strong competition, and developed confidence, poise and control throughout the season.

The **GIRLS 8TH GRADE BASKETBALL TEAM** showed outstanding growth and determination last winter. The girls grew as a team, learned essential skills, and made incredible improvements from the previous years.

**FITNESS CLUB** took part in games, Challenge Days, and the weekly fitness obstacle course, strengthening their arms, legs, heart and core. Participants enjoyed finding new and creative ways to exercise their bodies on campus, after working their minds during the school day.

### This was a strong spring for CRS sports teams and all teams finished their seasons with great results:

The **TRACK AND FIELD TEAM** set several impressive school records this season. Eighth grader Kam Kerr really came into his own running a stellar 62.9 second 400 meters, 8th grader Grady Savage threw a monstrous 33-foot shot put, 6th grader Julian Ram-Tylerbest soared in the long jump with 14' 3", and 5th grader Gabby Wood set school records in the 100 meters, 200 meters, 400 meters, and the long jump...wow!

The **GIRLS LACROSSE TEAM** finished the season with a 4-4 record. Seven different members of the team contributed to the team's scoring, and all players experienced tremendous growth. Thank you to our 8th graders Isobel Mathews and Ella Dormitzer, who were excellent leaders for the team, both on and off the field.

The **TENNIS TEAM** also finished the season with a 4-4 record, and got stronger with every match they played. Players worked with different partners throughout the season. Congratulations to 8th Grader Tommy Hicks, who was undefeated this season.

# Congratulations to the **CLASS OF** **2018**





**ELLA BAIN**

"CRS has impacted me in so many ways — I have become someone who can voice her opinions and ideas, I've taken so many more risks, and I've made unforgettable friendships here. I am most definitely going to miss CRS next year and my forever family. Good luck to everyone, love you guys!"

"I have been going to CRS since day one, I was pretty much raised here. I will miss the community I have grown up in, especially the teachers."

**SARAH BO**



**ELLA DORMITZER**

"I am going to miss the community at CRS. The school has a certain way of making everybody feel welcome."



**ALLIE EHLINGER**

"During my time at CRS, I have gone from being scared of the kindergarteners in the grade above me to being ready for high school. I will never forget how CRS has taught me to speak up, take risks, work hard, be kind, give all I can, get back up when I fall, and fearlessly be myself."



**THEONI ETHRIDGE**

"One of the things I'll remember most about my time here at CRS is the people. I want to thank all my teachers, and to the Class of '18, it wouldn't have been the same without you. I'm going to miss all of you and our time together."

"One of the things I'll remember most about CRS is the connections with everyone — students and teachers. I've known most of the kids in my class for 10 years and I know that connection will always be there in the future."

**TORI EYSIE**





**GIANNA  
FILIPPOU**

"CRS is an amazing community with lovely people. Faculty are so gentle and helpful to everyone in the classroom. This community has impacted me in such an amazing way that I could have never imagined at another school. I will miss my teachers and my friends at CRS."



**SOPHIE  
GARBER**

"CRS has taught me to be myself and not let others get in the way. I will miss all the great teachers that have helped me become the person I am today."

"The thing that I will remember the most about CRS is how close the community is. I feel like I know everyone, which is something that I really love. I'm going to miss all of my unbelievable friendships that I have made here as well!"

**MADDIE  
GUILIANO**



**JULIAN  
HOWLAND**

"CRS taught me that it's okay to be who you are and that everyone should be accepting of everyone. CRS has helped me overcome my shyness, and taught me that you should be brave and know that no one will make fun of you. I could not thank CRS enough for everything they have done to change my life."

"At CRS I was allowed to be so much more than just an athlete or a student. I don't think many schools can create the same depth of friendships that CRS has."

**TOMMY  
HICKS**



**KAMRYN  
KERR**

"Something that I have learned about CRS is that once you come here everyone wants to be your friend; no one will exclude you, and they will always count you in."



"One thing I love and will miss about CRS is knowing every student's and teacher's face, and the family-like feel of the community. Almost every teacher knows my name and always says hello to me when I pass them on campus. Thank you to CRS, all my friends, and my family for such an amazing nine years; I couldn't have asked for a better elementary and middle school experience!"

**HANNAH LAPIDES**



"I will miss the close, family-like, and friendly community at CRS. I will miss knowing and being friends with everyone."

**RACHEL LOWE**



**ISOBEL MATHEWS**



"CRS has been the best experience of my life. Because of the supportive, caring, and comfortable environment CRS gives us, the Class of '18 has become my family and so has everyone at CRS. I will miss everyone so incredibly much. CRS has helped me grow into the person I am today. I can't thank CRS enough for what it has done for me."

**CARSON MOELLERING**



"I have had such an amazing time at CRS. One thing that I will bring with me from CRS is to always keep my mind open to other possibilities and solutions. I will miss all of the interactive projects that made all of this creative thinking possible. I truly advanced as a learner, and it sparked my interest in so many different things. Thank you to all of my teachers for making this wonderful experience possible."

"CRS taught me that I can excel at things I thought I could never be good at, like math and organization. Charles River gave me the independence and confidence I needed to learn, grow, and succeed."

**PATRICIA PLUNKETT**



**GRADY SAVAGE**

"CRS has taught me that it's ok to be who you are and to always accept people for who they are."



# Honoring Social Activism

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS**

By Megan Page, Director  
of Communications

**DURING THEIR YEARS** at CRS, students come to know themselves and begin to understand what they can offer to the world. Starting with the seeds of service and philanthropy, our youngest students learn that they can make an impact by giving back. As they grow, they learn that their voices can also be very powerful tools; they come to understand the importance of raising those voices, and realize the impact that they each can have — as individuals.

Through opportunities for philanthropy and service, students gain perspective and empathy by giving back to others. Be it raising money for Unicef as they trick-or-treat on Halloween, donating food for the Needham Food Pantry at Thanksgiving time, or taking part in a Variety Show to raise money for the Red Cross, students across the grades are willing and active participants in these efforts.

Alongside philanthropy and service, helping students find (and use) their voices is interwoven into the CRS curriculum. PreK/K students learn what it

means to be an upstander through reading and discussing age-appropriate literature; 3rd graders study individuals who have made positive change in our world; and 5th graders research Americans who made a difference in the history of the United States, who, in the words of 5th graders, “inspire us with their determination and bravery, and to speak out for what is right.” The 7/8 English curriculum is layered with opportunities for students to use their voices such as the “Sending Our Voices Out Into the World” project, where students write to organizations in support of causes they believe in. Through Model United Nations, students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade learn firsthand about civil discourse, diplomacy, and compromise, and can begin to imagine taking action on a global stage.

Fourth graders at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the Senate



4th graders become Senators for a day

It takes time to find and develop one's voice. Students must gain perspective, empathy, compassion, and courage. They must know themselves, believe in their opinions and ideas, and have the opportunity to speak about those opinions and ideas. A snapshot of the curricula in Grades 4 and 7/8 illustrates how CRS supports our students in this journey.

## Finding Their Voices

In the elementary grades, students' focus on philanthropy evolves and expands to include social justice. In Grade 4, students continue to experience directly helping others through their Kiva loan program, where they raise money to make microloans to entrepreneurs in Africa and around the world. However, they have reached an age where they can begin to understand that they can make an impact not only through service, but also with their voices.

“We also want to help students understand the responsibilities of citizenship, like voting and serving on a jury,” said Grade 4 co-teacher Teresa Baker. “We don't expect them to take on the difficult questions of the world today, but to help them to understand they have the power to voice their opinions and share their concerns, and that there are people they can reach out to with their thoughts. Their voices matter, even as young children.”

Fourth grade's study of Ancient Greece and the first known democracy provided a foundation for learning about civics in the United States. Under the guidance of CRS Librarian Marta Willett, students gained an understanding of the importance of a citizen's voice in a democracy and how that relates to social activism. They reviewed the Constitution, Bill of Rights, the three

branches of our government, how a bill becomes a law, and the way that the government works — including comparing state and federal governments. Students also researched issues that interest them (like homelessness, hunger, the environment, and immigration) and selected a few issues to address in group letters to representatives. Students also conducted community service projects related to their chosen issue, such as picking up trash or raising money for a related organization.

As part of this unit, 4th graders journeyed off campus to the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the Senate, where they became United States Senators for a day and learned about how a bill is passed. During their visit, they participated in discussion about extending the school day, had the opportunity to voice their opinions, and even to vote! Fourth graders shared their thoughts about the visit:

"I'm inspired to use my voice and stand up for what I believe in."

— Senator Ramos-Starmer

"I thought that it would be incredible to be a pretend Senator because I thought my ideas could become laws. It turns out that it was a lot more work than I expected. Not everyone will agree with your ideas and you have to try to convince them or compromise."

— Senator Hendler

"I felt proud. [This trip] helps kids believe in themselves and be able to use their voices."

— Senator Mistry

"I felt very important and confident being a senator for the day. Everyone took me very seriously and it made me feel good."

— Senator Bain

"Students come to understand that they can have an impact and that, even as kids, they can make a difference by sharing their ideas and opinions," said Grade 4 co-teacher Laura Mutch.

## Perspectives on Justice

In 7th and 8th grade, the overarching theme for social studies is "Perspectives on Justice," creating a platform for students to continue finding and using their own voices, and understanding their role, as citizens, in our society. Students examine the thinking behind the Constitution, and look at the Bill of Rights and "freedom of expression." Two areas of focus within the curriculum are the mock trials, and helping students to think about issues that are important to them and how they can communicate about those.

In the Mock Trials project, students conduct their own trials at CRS, complete with a judge and jury of CRS parent volunteers, and traditional courtroom roles. Through the trials, students learn about the rules of evidence, dissect witness statements looking for evidence of guilt or innocence, and develop questions for direct and cross examination. As part of this project, 7/8 students also participate in the Harvard Trial Advocacy Workshop, in which they travel to the Moakley Courthouse in South Boston and serve as jurors for Harvard Law students' practice trials. Through these experiences, CRS students come to understand the elements of reasoned argument, burden of proof, and the meaning of "innocent until proven guilty."

This year, the shooting in Parkland naturally presented a tragic but important issue that students felt compelled to address. "This shooting hit the kids differently than other school shootings, and I think that may have been due to the way in which Parkland students spoke out about their rights," reflected Christina Raskin, 7/8 Social Studies teacher.

CRS 7/8 students felt compelled to take action, and found many ways in which they could use their voices. In English class, they wrote letters to students at Parkland, and in Social Studies, they planned a Day of Action. The plan for the Day of Action, April 20, was conceived entirely by 7/8 students and involved much collaboration; participation was optional, and students who elected not to take a stand on gun violence could participate by researching an issue that they felt strongly about. During the Day of Action, 7/8 students:

- Visited classrooms throughout the school to talk with younger students about activism through age-appropriate activities/programs that they had planned in advance with classroom teachers.

- ▶ Stood silently on the lawn arm-in-arm in recognition of the lives lost to gun violence.
- ▶ Conducted a march on the Dover Town Green carrying signs they had made; Chief McGowan of the Dover Police Department met students at the Green and talked with them about the importance of what they were doing and their First Amendment rights (Freedom of Speech), and also about what was not permitted (disrupting traffic, causing a safety hazard, etc.).

Seventh and 8th grade students also visited the Massachusetts State House this spring, where they had the opportunity to discuss our role, as civilians, in our government, and the many options for making our voices heard. Students met and spoke with eight legislators about issues that are important to them, including the upcoming ballot question that would repeal the 2016 law protecting transgender people from discrimination, and whether using hand-held cell phones while driving should continue to be permitted in Massachusetts.

Chris Raskin articulated a student's experience in this way, "Something we do in so many different ways at CRS is to help students figure out what they believe, and how to articulately express those beliefs. CRS students learn to speak up in class even when they're the only person who holds a specific point of view, and they also learn to listen and disagree respectfully with differing perspectives. During their years here, students practice both speaking up and speaking out — skills they'll use throughout their lives."



"Something we do in so many different ways at CRS is to help students figure out what they believe, and how to articulately express those beliefs."

— Chris Raskin, 7/8 social studies teacher

7/8 students and faculty Kent Rouillard and Julie Weeden at the State House with Norfolk and Suffolk Senator Michael F. Rush and Norfolk Representative Denise Garlick.



While social advocacy, and finding one's voice, becomes a focus as students mature, philanthropy and service remain a focus, as well. In this photo, the Singing Elective performs at Fox Hill Village retirement community for an audience that included CRS alumni and past parents. Middle school students also volunteered as a group at the Family Pantry of Cape Cod and Powisset Farm this spring.

# May Day

**IN CRS TRADITION,** we welcomed grandparents, parents, and special friends to campus for a May Day celebration. Visitors spent time in classrooms with students and attended a special assembly including a performance by each grade, with Grade 5 performing the longstanding May Pole Dance. Despite the construction, this year's Egg Drop contest took place from the fire escape at the back of Founders House with some very inventive entries!



- 1 7th graders Maggie Mullahy, Katrina Lundberg, and Ian Travis take center stage for their egg drop
- 2 PreK/K students present their rendition of "Chicken Little"
- 3 5th grader Emily O'Leary begins the Maypole Dance
- 4 6th grader Colin Levine with grandparents Barbara and Robert Levine
- 5 5th grader Nathan Gomes with parents Olga and Joao
- 6 One/Two student Katherine Plunkett with grandfather Bob Pemberton



# Spring Fling

**SPRING WAS IN THE AIR** at CRS on a Friday in April, as parents gathered for our third annual Spring Fling. It was an incredible evening filled with games, good food and friends. This year's party kicked off with trivia ("Are you smarter than a CRS student?"), and guests had the chance to try their hand at games like blackjack, a wine toss, or even shoot some hoops. We had an extraordinary show of support in a "Fund-a-Need" effort for a new laser cutter (and the associated ventilation system) for our new technology lab; in just two minutes, we raised \$42,250, blowing our target out of the water by more than \$10,000! We also raised \$1,265 through games to support faculty professional development.

Special thanks to the dedicated Spring Fling committee: Chair, Heather Willis, and her team including Kristin Hendler, Leslie Judge, Mary Kalamaras, Lindsey McElligott, and Christen Peterson; to Aqueela Culbreath-Britt and David Itzkovits for making the trivia portion of the evening so much fun; to those who volunteered before, during, and after the event; and to Bully Boy, Zelus Beer, and Dover Wine Company for their generous donations.

**7** Parents Paige Stowers, John Buchanan, and Leslie Harlan; **8** Spring Fling Committee members parents Kristin Hendler, David Itzkovits, Heather Willis, Aqueela Culbreath-Britt, Mary Kalamaras, Lindsey McElligott, Christen Peterson, Leslie Judge, and Assistant Director of Development Rachael Burbank; **9** Parents Sara Ginsberg and Janniece York with parent and Director of Academic Technology Steve Trust; **10** CRS parents Larry Pratt, Rich Tutin, and Annie Gauger; **11** The spirit of competition ran high during trivia! **12** CRS parents Robin Pedder, Kristi Westerling, Gary Levine, and Mick Judge



## Sports Day

**AFTER RAIN LAST YEAR**, we welcomed a sunny Sports Day this May! In keeping with CRS tradition, activities included all-school field games like bubble races and perpetual tag, and older students took part in hyperspace, throwing, jumping, and relay races. This year, 7th graders Sophia Ethridge and Eirwen Kamphorst brought a philanthropic aspect to the day by encouraging all students to donate their change in a Blue & Gold fundraiser, raising \$461.52 for the Medfield Animal Shelter. This year, the GOLD team emerged victorious! 🐾

**13** The bubble race always brings lots of laughs; **14** Friendship and buddies transcend team color; **15** Go Otters! **16** Rock, paper, scissors, go! **17** 4th graders Lucas Bain and Ollie Li race through the hurdles



# > Elevate & Celebrate Campaign Update



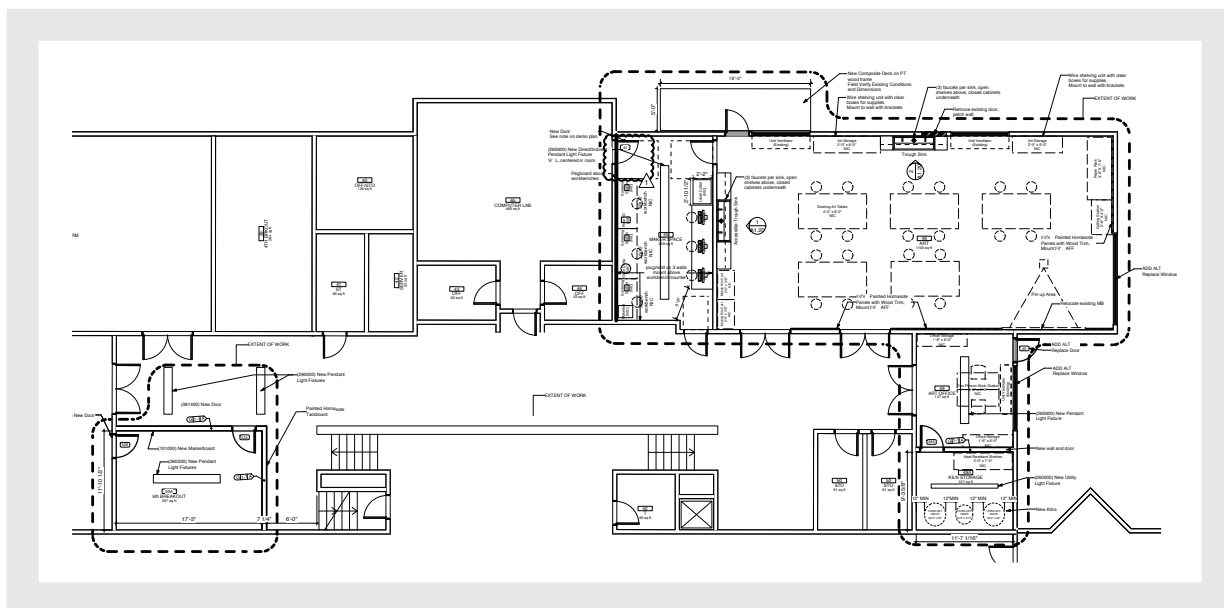
**THE ELEVATE & CELEBRATE CAMPAIGN** has been one for the record books! In March, we surpassed our goal of \$10M, an incredible feat for our small but mighty community of parents, alumni, past parents, faculty, grandparents and friends. No one could have predicted that we would raise such an astonishing sum in just 19 months of fundraising for a new middle school building, the school's endowment, and the CRS Annual Fund. Congratulations to you all!

This spring, the Board of Trustees approved increasing the campaign's final goal to \$10.5M in order to support two important elements of the campaign that have not yet been properly funded:

**Phase 2 construction:** With our new middle school building in place, demolition of the Founder's House annex began in July. The language classrooms previously located on the second floor of this



**Top to bottom:** Students at work in classrooms and on the steps in the new building / Spanish teacher Kent Rouillard and 7th grader Ian Brassard in the new Spanish classroom



Phase 2 design of Community Building illustrating new *MaD Wing* and 5th grade breakout space

The French breakout room provides an unusual and inspiring respite from tables and chairs



## June Gathering

**Below, left to right:** Building Committee co-chair Jim Blackwell, Board Chair Sarah Lapides, Head of School Gretchen Larkin, and Building Committee co-chair Reg Foster by the amphitheater seating / Big smiles from Campaign Committee co-chair, Joanna Travis / Sally Saltonstall Willis '52 and Leslie Jackson Judge '91 celebrating how far CRS has come



annex are now in the new middle school building, and the art room is now located where the Grade 6 classroom was previously. The art room is part of a new *MaD Wing* (Media and Design Wing) in the Community Building, and is adjacent to the technology department and new design lab for integrated technology, design and art curricula. Additional funds are needed to complete renovations in the Community Building.

**CRS endowment:** To date, we have raised \$911,750 towards our goal of contributing \$1M to the CRS endowment. We hope to raise additional funds towards our goal in order to deepen and broaden our financial assistance capacity for CRS students.

In June, we had a small gathering in the newly-completed middle school building to thank our campaign and building committee volunteers for their many hours of hard work on behalf of CRS. With one more year of fundraising before us, we are optimistic we will surpass our goal of \$10.5M. Many thanks to all of you who have given so generously to this extraordinary campaign so far!

# Middle School Construction Update

**ON MAY 16TH,** Gretchen Larkin and the school mascot, the Otter, led our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from Foster Hall to the new middle school building where their teachers were waiting in their brand new learning spaces. It was a momentous occasion seeing the students all file in, mouths agape, and watching them explore the multiple breakout spaces, study areas, and flexibly-furnished classrooms that, as of that day, became *their* classrooms. We hope you received the video capturing these joyous moments!

The students and faculty completed their school year in the new building before breaking for summer vacation. In September they will return and continue settling in, establishing new traditions and exploring ways to use this wonderful new space.

With an improbable timeline of just five weeks, our building team turned its eye to renovating the Community Building. Where the Grade 6 classroom and two breakout rooms once stood, there is now a massive art room with state-of-the-art kilns and workspaces. The technology department is now connected to the art room in the new MaD Wing, and includes a design and engineering space equipped with 3D printers, a laser cutter, programmable drones and robotics kits. In this new space, CRS students will be able to bring their two-dimensional art work and engineering ideas to life with three-dimensional designs. Finally, a new breakout classroom has been added outside Grade 5 to equip the students with the space they need for project-based and small-group study.

Our Building Committee co-chairs, past parents Jim Blackwell and Reg Foster, deserve special praise for the extraordinary number of hours they have devoted to these construction projects at CRS over the past two years. Without their tenacity, commitment and generous spirit, we simply would not have met such an accelerated construction timeline, been able to move our students into the new building in May, or enable the CRCAP campers to occupy the new art room in late June.

We hope that all of our past families and alumni will feel welcome to come by campus whenever they are nearby to see these remarkable new learning spaces that will support the faculty and curriculum for future generations of CRS students! 🐾



▲  
The Otter with Grade 6, 7, and 8 students and faculty just moments after entering the new building for the first time

## Greg '00 and Will '03 Kantrowitz




"The ten years I spent at CRS were as influential to my development as any force in my life outside of my parents. CRS instilled in me a deep appreciation of diversity, the arts and natural science, all of which play key roles in my life today. Learning about solar panels in 7th grade science class helped lead me to my current career on Wall Street financing renewable power generation facilities. I'm excited about giving back to CRS because I know my contribution will make a difference and know how impactful a CRS education can be."

— Greg Kantrowitz

Greg lives in Brooklyn, NY and is a Vice President in Citi's Global Power Group with a specialization in renewable energy.

"I was fortunate to attend three outstanding schools in my life, but CRS had by far the biggest impact on my development as a student and as a person. It helped shape the way I think, the way I view the world, and the way I approached my education. The hard skills I learned were important, but the fact that it turned me into a well-rounded, intellectually-curious person has been invaluable throughout my academic and professional careers."

— Will Kantrowitz

Will lives in Hoboken, NJ and manages strategy for the Global Listings group at the New York Stock Exchange, where he helps oversee 2,400 listed companies. 

# March for Our Lives

**MARCH 24TH**, tens of thousands of students, parents, teachers, and others marched through the streets of Boston, joining demonstrations around the globe called March for Our Lives. The tragic shooting in February in Parkland, Florida has led demonstrators to push for stronger gun control.

A graduate of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland was quoted in a *Boston Globe* article about the march:

*Her alma mater will be known as the place that "started the movement that we are a part of today," said Leslie Chiu, a graduate of Stoneman Douglas who attends Northeastern University.*

*"Our generation will carry with us the weight and burden of countless lives lost and we will take it upon ourselves to ensure that on their behalf that we are the last ones in this environment of daily shootings," she said.*

We live in a world where these events, which were once rare, sadly have become a reality. Thank you to those members of the CRS community who took part in these marches, supporting change and a safer future for our students and our schools. 🇺🇸



1 Director of Development Jessica Thompson Somol '84 with daughter Charlotte Somol '17; 2 Leslie Jackson Judge '91 with her friend Liz at the march; 3 Davis '16 and Julian '18 Howland, with mom Janie at the march; 4 CRS Science teacher Annie Kenney (right) with members of her extended family; 5 Grade One/Two student Harvey Pedder with little sister Lulu at the march

"You have been the heart and soul of CRS! You are so deeply woven into the fabric of the school that your presence will be felt here long after we're all gone."

1



"Your commitment, knowledge, and passion are inspiring. You have instilled all those things here at CRS, and have made your presence indelible."

"It has always given me great comfort to hear your voice and share our stories, and know that while the boys were at Charles River you were there to watch over them."

5



# Honoring Desi

"Through it all, your personal grace, style, and loving heart have been the CRS special sauce."

"She embodies the warmth, dedication, enthusiasm, and open-minded philosophy of this incredible school. Scores of students, families, and staff wish her all the best."

"Thank you for always looking out for me, always being willing to give me a hug, and always keeping me honest."

**FOR DECADES**, "Ask Desi!" has been a common refrain at CRS, and with good reason. A fountain of knowledge, a welcoming presence — Desi Doulos-Ayers has given tirelessly of herself on behalf of CRS — first as a parent, and for more than 30 years as the first person you'd encounter upon entering the front office. At the close of the school year, Desi embarked on her well-deserved retirement.

All who are part of our community have been touched by Desi, and we hold a deep appreciation for her extraordinary commitment to CRS. As one member of the CRS community said, "How can you begin to count the number of ways you have touched the lives of CRS students, parents, and faculty?" While words cannot do justice, we share these thoughts written in tribute by members of our CRS community. 🐦

1 Desi Doulos-Ayers, queen of the party; 2 Love abounds for Desi from young and old alike; 3 Desi with former CRS art teacher Walter Horak and his wife Betsy; 4 A standing ovation for Desi following remarks by Walter Horak and Gretchen Larkin, Head of School; 5 Former Director of Development Linda Fenton, Desi, and Former faculty member and Director of Studies Toni Chute

"We count on you to hold memory, to make things right, and to ever be a voice of reason and civility."

"From my first day at Charles River, Desi made me feel a part of the community. Her kindness and compassion will always hold a place in my heart."

"Much gratitude for all the ice packs and band aids, and overall kindness that you showed to my sisters and me."

4



"You have been an extension of every family at CRS."

"We were so lucky to have you by our side."

3



"I vividly recall Desi's warmth during my years at CRS. Being of middle school age, having her smile, calming approach, and all-knowing personality was so comforting."

# New Faculty



**Elizabeth  
Albany**

**GRADE 3  
CO-TEACHER**

Lizz earned her bachelor's degree from MIT in brain and cognitive science, her Master's of Education in mind, brain, and education from Harvard Graduate School of Education, and completed the MIT/Wellesley College Scheller Teacher Education Program (STEP) for certification in elementary education. Prior to joining CRS, Lizz taught first-grade math and science at BASIS North Central, a charter school in San Antonio, TX. She also served as a curriculum advisor for EXPLO at Wellesley, advising instructors on best-practices for delivering the curriculum to middle school students. Lizz is a co-founder and consulting member of the Disruptive Equity Education Project (DEEP).



**Kathleen  
Boucher-  
Lavigne**

**GRADE 6 MATH  
AND SCIENCE  
TEACHER**

Kathleen joins CRS from the Tremont School, where she worked as the Middle School Math and Science Teacher. Her experience has focused on middle school and developing social-emotional environments, leveraging her training in Responsive Classroom and Collaborative Problem Solving. Kathleen earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Amherst College, where she graduated Cum Laude. She earned masters' degrees from Smith College in teaching and elementary education, and in exercise and sport studies. Kathleen has extensive coaching experience and will coach CRS field hockey and lacrosse next year.



**Dibby  
Moder**

**READING  
GROUP  
INSTRUCTOR**

Former CRS Kindergarten teacher and Dean of Faculty, Dibby will rejoin CRS in the fall as a Reading Group Instructor for students in Grade One/Two. Previously, she was a member of the CRS faculty for nearly 20 years. Dibby recently earned her certification as an Orton-Gillingham Tutor (Associate Level), and will bring that expertise to her new role. She earned her bachelor's degree in philosophy from Dartmouth College, and her master's and doctorate degrees in school psychology from New York University.



**Dr. Kimberly  
O'Brien,  
PhD, LICSW**

**SCHOOL COUNSELOR  
(PART-TIME)**

In addition to her new role at CRS, Kim is an instructor in psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and a research scientist at Boston Children's Hospital and Education Development Center. Recently, she served as a part-time school counselor at the Groton School. Kim has 13 years of experience as a licensed clinician, and extensive teaching expertise in mental health and substance use. She has published over 30 research articles and has been funded by the National Institute of Health for research and training related to teen suicide. Kim earned her bachelor's degree from Harvard University, where she graduated cum laude. She received her master's degree and doctorate in clinical social work from Boston College, and completed her post-graduate training at Brown University.



**Elena  
Pereira**

**GRADE 5  
CO-TEACHER**

Elena recently completed the Shady Hill Teacher Training Program, and worked with early childhood and elementary students at schools such as The Family Cooperative, the Andrew Peabody School, and The Advent School. Elena has completed training on the Reggio Emilia approach to education, including a study tour in Italy. She will bring her passion for and experience with multi-cultural curricula, diversity and inclusion, and co-teaching to CRS. Elena received her bachelor's degree in early childhood education and child studies and her master's degree in elementary education from Lesley University.



**Laura  
Woodring**

**EXECUTIVE  
ASSISTANT  
TO THE HEAD  
OF SCHOOL**

Laura joined CRS in the spring from Boston College, where she worked for more than 20 years in roles including administrative assistant, academic and support assistant, and program director; at BC, she worked in the premedical programs, Chemistry Department, and most recently Boston College Law School, directly supporting the Dean of Students and serving as the office's first line of contact. Laura earned her bachelor's degree in management from Regis College, and her master's degree in education administration and student development from Boston College. 🐾

# New Trustees



**Deirdre Levine**

## SECRETARY

During Deirdre's eight years as a CRS parent, she has co-chaired the Annual Fund and the Fall Fair, served on the Development and Enrollment Management Committees, as a Class Parent, and as a frequent Admissions Tour Guide. Deirdre was also a member of the Parent Council for three years, and served as the New Family Coordinator on the Parent Association Board. Previously, Deirdre assisted with the development and administration of cancer clinical trials for the East-ern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG). She earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Loyola University, and lives in Needham with her husband, Gary, and their son Colin (Grade 7).



**Steve Ginsberg**

Steve currently serves as the Chief Financial and Operating Officer for the Noble and Greenough School. Steve has held a number of roles since joining the school in 2000; currently, he oversees the day-to-day finances and operations, long-term planning, construction planning and projects, human resources, and Nobles Day Camp. He coaches the boys varsity soccer team, and teaches a senior elective called Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Steve earned his bachelor's degree from Williams College and his master's degree from the University of Massachusetts. Steve lives in Natick with his wife Sara and their two boys, Caleb (Grade 2) and Jordan (PreK).



**David Itzkovits**

David is the CEO of Sanlam Global Investment Solutions, an international division of the Sanlam Group, a financial services firm based in South Africa. At CRS, David has served on the Finance Committee for the past two years and volunteered his time for events such as the Spring Fling. David earned his bachelor's degree from McGill University, his MBA from the Ivey Business School at the University of Western Ontario, and is a CFA charter holder. He enjoys running and fundraising for charities. David lives in Needham with his wife Kara and their two children: Ari (Grade 3) and Kayla (Grade One/Two).



**Mary Kalamaras**

Mary works as a freelance editor and writer in the fields of science, medicine, technology, and business. Her previous roles included developmental editor at the National Academies Press, senior book editor at Discovery, Inc., and editor at Stewart, Tabori & Chang and The Philip Lief Group. At CRS, Mary serves as the chairman of the Development Committee, and is a member of the Elevate & Celebrate Campaign Committee, the Building & Grounds Committee, and the Spring Fling Committee. She and her husband John also run the games for the CRS Fair. Mary received a BA in journalism and mass media from Douglass College, Rutgers University. She lives in Dover with her husband, John, and son, Adam (Grade 7).



**Laura Mutch**

## EDUCATIONAL STAFF TRUSTEE

Laura joined CRS in 2013 as a Grade 4 co-teacher; she has also served on a hiring committee, as chair of the Communications Committee and the Professional Development Committee, and mentored new faculty. With 30 years of experience in teaching, Laura's previous roles include teaching Grades 3 and 6 at the Sharon Alternative School, working as a Response to Intervention teacher for math at Clyde Brown Elementary School, and in the same role for language arts at Pine Hill School. Laura earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. She lives in Sherborn with her husband, her daughter who attends Union College, and her son who is a student at Dover-Sherborn High School.

## RETIRING TRUSTEES

Sincere thanks to former faculty member **Rachel Kellar**, former parents **Jim Blackwell** and **Tori Stuart Guiliano**, and current parent **Gary Levine** for serving on the Board of Trustees and volunteering their time, energy, and insight on behalf of CRS. 

# Building a Stronger Future for Disadvantaged Youth

## Lisa Schmid Alvord '61, 2018, *Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient*

By Jessica Thompson Somol '84,  
Director of Development

**DOCUMENTARY FILM PRODUCER.** Emmy Award winner. Advocate for children and education. Visionary. Lisa Schmid Alvord, Class of 1961, has worn many hats and no ONE descriptor could possibly capture all that she has accomplished and done on behalf of others. Following a successful career as a documentary film maker and journalist, Lisa has made serving children from low-income families her life's work. As the recipient of the 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award, we honor her for her tireless devotion to giving at-risk children life skills and a strong foundation for the future.

Lisa spent her elementary school years at CRS. She commuted to CRS from Millis each day with her older brothers, Paul '55 and Mark '59. Following CRS, Lisa attended the Winsor School and then Boston University. After college, Lisa worked as an investigative reporter for Channel 12 in Providence, RI, traveled to the Easter Islands in New Guinea to work on a documentary, and returned to work at WGBH and at WCVB Channel 5, where she was a producer for *Chronicle*.

In 1984, Lisa produced several films on education, including the Peabody Award-winning documentary "Somerville High." This documentary took an honest look at the school and its problems and exposed Lisa to the significant challenges both students and educators face in the US educational system. In 1992, she won an Emmy Award for an *ABC After School Special* called "In the Shadow of Love: A Teen AIDS Story."

In the early 1990s, Lisa joined forces with CRS alums Kippy Dewey '60 and her brother Toby '62, to address the escalating violence facing inner-city youth in Boston. Together, they founded an innovative organization called Urban Improv, which uses improvisational theater to teach violence prevention, conflict resolution, and decision-making skills. Under Lisa's leadership, Urban Improv partnered with Boston Public Schools to develop a social and emotional learning program for students. Since 1992, it has served more than 70,000 children in the greater Boston area, helping them explore challenging issues such as peer pressure, teen pregnancy, gangs, bullying, and racism. In 2002, Lisa and her Urban Improv team won a New England Emmy for "RE:Action!" — a two-part special showcasing the organization's methodology (directed by CRS alum Peter Temple '62).

Spending summers in Westport, MA Lisa has a strong connection to the Massachusetts Southcoast. Lisa recognized an opportunity to change the lives of young girls in the New Bedford area through education. According to the *Boston Globe*, "The city is home to many low-wage workers whose daughters battle poverty and the pull of traditional roles." Working with a coalition of community leaders, educators, financiers, fund raisers, nonprofit executives, parents and a Board of Directors, Lisa opened Our Sisters' School in 2008, an independent, tuition-free, non-sectarian middle school whose mission is to educate and inspire economically disadvantaged girls from the New Bedford area and empower them to step into the future with valuable life skills and a mindset of achievement and excellence by providing a safe, supportive, and academically challenging environment. Many OSS graduates go on to receive full academic scholarships at independent schools such as Andover, Milton Academy, St. George's, Loomis Chafee, and others.

"The school's faculty and staff work closely with students' families and other volunteers, building ties between school and community, and developing the kinds of personal and institutional support that will ensure the continuing success of the students in high school, college, and in later life," said Lisa. "There are over 150 volunteers involved in the day-to-day operations of the school, reflecting a deep commitment from the local community."

Lisa Schmid Alvord has made an enormous impact on the lives of so many, and CRS is honored to present her with this year's 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award. 🐦



Lisa Schmid Alvord '61 (pictured here with husband Joel, and Head of School Gretchen Larkin and her husband Bill) was surrounded with applause from CRS alumni, current parents, and family at the annual Boston Alumni reception in April.

# Young Alum Brings Passion for Social Justice

## Emily Whitten, Class of 2014



By Rachael Burbank, Assistant Director of Development

**EMILY WHITTEN '14**, this year's recipient of Charles River School's Young Alumni Award, is a passionate voice for social justice — whether galvanizing her friends to make holiday cards for incarcerated minors, ensuring that local elementary school libraries have books that represent diversity, or attending rallies and demonstrations in Boston. There is no doubt that her interest in social justice is rooted in the 7/8 curriculum and in her involvement with the CRS Model UN program. She took to heart what she learned at CRS, and has continued to strive to consider others' perspectives and to take action where she can.

For two years, Emily served on MA State Senator Karen Spilka's youth council, providing her with the opportunity to weigh in on pending legislation at the State House, observe lawmakers in session, and help strategize ways to increase the involvement of youth in the government. She was also selected as one of the Massachusetts representatives at the World Affairs Seminar held at Carroll University, an annual program that brings together students from around the world for a week-long intensive seminar on education and social justice issues.

In high school, Emily was an active member of the National Honors Society and committed many hours to community service. For the past four years, she has spent several weeks each summer volunteering for a summer academic enrichment program for elementary children. She was a founding member of the Natick High School Peer Advocates, a group created to encourage conversations about diversity and inclusion within the Natick High School. Through this group she was trained by "Facing History and Ourselves" to moderate difficult discussions; subsequently, she helped plan an evening of speakers last April called "Brave Conversations," where she led a breakout session.

As a member of the NHS Gender and Sexuality Alliance, Emily presented to local educators about discussing LGBTQ topics in the classroom with middle-school aged students. Emily is also a founding member of the Natick Freedom Team, an organization comprised of government officials, clergy, and public safety officers dedicated to fostering unity within the community. One of their first initiatives has been to establish a hotline, monitored by the Natick Police, to report biased-motivated threats, violence, and harassment. In addition to her academic demands, Emily has worked at the Natick afterschool program for years.



Emily Whitten,  
CRS Class of  
2014 and  
recipient of the  
2018 Young  
Alumni Award

Emily believes strongly in giving back to CRS and has actively volunteered at the school since she graduated — as an assistant field hockey coach, an Open House tour guide, speaking on admissions panels, and preparing mailings. She has returned to work with the CRS GSA to discuss developing resources for CRS families to learn about LGBTQ+ topics, and presented to Spanish classes about her travel in Costa Rica.

This June, Emily graduated from Natick High School and was the recipient of four different awards and scholarships: Global Citizenship Achievement Award; Virginia Tartakoff Social Studies Award; Katie von der Leith Spirit Scholarship; and Johnson Elementary School Scholarship. She will join the class of 2022 at Bryn Mawr college in Pennsylvania this fall. We congratulate Emily on her extraordinary achievements and on receiving the 2018 CRS Young Alumni Award! 🎓



# Alumni News

## 1930s

**SUSAN BULFINCH RITGER '31** recently moved to Thirwood Place, a senior living community on Cape Cod.

## 1940s

**BARBARA ALDEN CAMPBELL '43** is still painting and showing her artwork — even selling some which is hard to do these days. She says, “Best wishes for the new CRS building!” ■ **[1 & 2]** Gretchen Larkin visited Fox Hill Village in Westwood, MA to have lunch with some members of the CRS community. **MADELINE GREGORY '43**, Bob and Patsy Lawrence (parents to **ROB '61**, **JEFF '63** and **FRAN '65**) and Dale Cabot, wife of alumnus **CHARLES CABOT JR. '42** were treated with a singing ensemble of 6–8 grade CRS students. CRS Director of Development **JESSICA THOMPSON SOMOL '84** was also in attendance.

## 1950s

**BEN TAYLOR '59** and his wife, Kate, were honored by the United

Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley with its 2017 Tocqueville Society Award.

## 1960s

**AILEEN SANGER BRIGGS '60** reports that life is full and happy! She is still consulting for environmental concerns and has recently become reacquainted with CRS in the past few years. She says, “I can’t say enough positive things about the direction the school is going!” ■ **KIPPY DEWEY '60**, the founding director and Artistic Director of Urban Improv and founder and leader of the Freelance Players, recently announced that the two organizations were unifying under one name, “Rehearsal for Life” — we wish her the best of luck with this growing organization! ■ **JEFF LAWRENCE '63** retired from Iron Mountain Data Storage after 29 years and is looking forward to sailing, traveling and thinking about what might come next!

## 1970s

**MEG KING '78** traveled to Tanzania with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Climb2Cure program to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. Meg has been working and fundraising for this organization for the past 20 years, personally raising \$11,000 for the climb program! She also enjoys spending time outdoors, hiking, biking, skiing, gardening and is looking forward to catching up with classmates in November for their class reunion! ■ **JIM NOYES '78** is actively involved with the Peer Support Initiative in New Hampshire and works for the Peer Support Center in Keene, NH. ■ **BELLE HUNNEWELL STAFFORD '78** moved to Fryeburg, ME where her daughter is a junior at Fryeburg Academy. She is the manager of the country store in Tamworth, NH and works in a busy dance studio in Fryeburg. Belle’s son is working and travelling around New Zealand during a gap year before heading to college in the fall.

## 1980s

**CHRIS MIX '81** recently moved to Wellesley with his wife, Susie, twins

Amanda and Brian (age 11) and Owen (age 14). He works at Agios, a pharmaceuticals company focused on developing anti-cancer therapeutics. ■ **PHIL THISSE '81** and wife Tara welcomed their fourth child, Benjamin, in May 2017; he joins older siblings Adyline, Maya and Avery. Phil still performs with his band, Eddy's Shoe, as well as performing solo acts. He works as Marketing Director for Rehabilitation Associates in Norwood. ■ **[3] ZANDER SPRAGUE '82** and his daughter, Katy, travelled to the Blue Grotto in Malta — amazing to see where a CRS t-shirt can travel! ■ **[4] ALISON CAMPBELL '83** shared this photo of her sitting with her son **BENJAMIN '19** on the amphitheater seating in the new middle school building at its public opening in May. In the background is Founders House where Alison had her 7th and 8th grade years. ■ **LAUREL "LOIE" DEVORE ACEVEDO '84** lives in Manhattan and is working independently as a private fine art advisor to clients as well as consulting to museums and foundations on patron cultivation. ■ **[5] PETER HOROVITZ '84** visited CRS in June 2018 with his daughter, Sophia, while touring Northeast colleges. ■ Congratulations to **CHRIS WILLIS '89** whose Cambridge restaurant, Pammy's, was named the *Boston Globe's* Restaurant of the Year in 2017!

## 1990s

**DAN DAHARI '92** is part of a traveling live performance series called the "Suitcase Stories" which features foreign and US-born residents sharing refugee and immigrant stories. The series hosted workshops at his other alma mater, Cambridge School of Weston, in April 2018. ■ **[6] DEB WILLIS DOWLING '94** writes that her son, George, will attend St. Bernard's in New York City for Kindergarten this fall. Deb's children George (age 5) and Sally (age 3) love their 80-pound rescue dog, Tank, eating melted ice cream sandwiches, wearing mismatched pajamas to school, picking dandelions, scooting down sidewalks and cheering on the Yankees! Don't tell their grandmother, **SALLY SALTONSTALL WILLIS '52**, but George wears his Aaron Judge tee with great pride! ■ **[7] JEFFREY RAIDER '95** hosted Gretchen Larkin and **DEB WILLIS DOWLING '94** at Harry's headquarters in New York City in February 2018.



## SAVE THE DATE

## Late 80's Reunion

On **Saturday, October 20**, all members from the CRS Classes of 1987, 1988 and 1989 are invited to come back to Dover for a fun-filled day. Bring the family along for the day and enjoy the annual CRS Fall Fair on our campus and then meet your classmates for wine and cheese in the new middle school building at 4:30 pm. The party will continue at the Dover American Legion where you can reminisce about your favorite CRS memories.

For more information about this reunion or to help organize one for your class, please email [alumni@charlesriversschool.org](mailto:alumni@charlesriversschool.org).

## IN THE KNOW



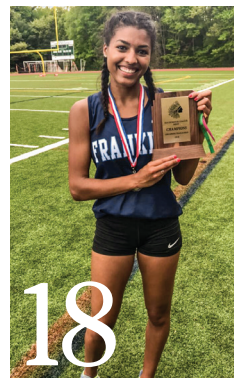
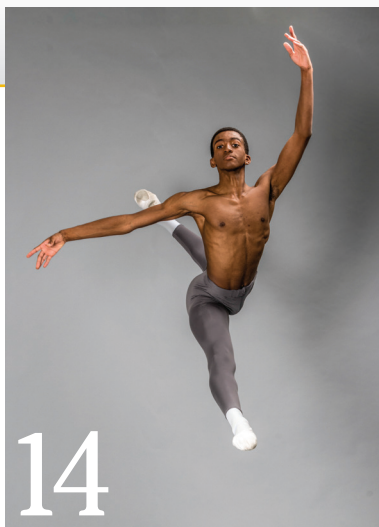
### 2000s

■ [8] **ERICA HINSLEY '01** and husband Chris welcomed baby boy Brooks in December 2017. ■ **DREW TUCKETT '01** finished his first year at UCLA Anderson and working with an early stage venture fund that focuses on FinTech investing in Santa Monica. ■ [9] **KATIE REED BRUNO '02** and husband Mike welcomed baby girl Zoe in April 2018 weighing in at 9 pounds, 4 ounces and 21 ¾ inches long! ■ **ANANT SHUKLA '02** is currently a second-year resident in Urology at Madigan Army Medical Center. ■ **JEFFERSON SMYTHE '02** is pursuing a career in the law. He moved from Cape Cod to Manchester, NH to work with Stonyfield's in-house corporate counsel. ■ **DAVID MASTERMAN '04** recently completed his first year at the Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago. ■ **ADELAIDE SMYTHE '04** recently moved to Brooklyn and is working in advertising. ■ [10] **CARLY REED RENSHAW '05** married Jackson in December 2017 at the Barn at Gibbet Hill in Groton, MA. CRS alumnae **MICHELA GAFFNEY KANE '05** and **KATIE REED BRUNO '02** were bridesmaids and the ring bearer and flower girls were children of Carly's brother, **COLIN REED '90**. ■ **LOUISA SMYTHE '06** is living in Austin, TX. She is the marketing manager for Magento, a cloud-based B2B and B2C commerce platform.

### 2010s

**TESS DUPRÉ '12**, a sophomore at Colby College, played on the women's hockey team this winter and netted her first game-winning goal against the University of New England.

■ [11] **CASEY ROTHSCHILD '12** recently competed on nationally-televised American Ninja Warrior. To qualify for the show, Casey competed with 70,000 other contestants and placed in the top 5 women in 6 preliminary competitions. Casey is the youngest woman in the show's history to complete the course, an astounding achievement for someone who just started training for this sport last fall. She is a rising junior at Wesleyan College in Connecticut. ■ **EMILY CHEN '13** completed her first year at McGill and received a fellowship to study at Shantou University in China during the first part of summer. ■ CRS alumnae [12] **ALEX CONDRIN '14** and [13] **ALIZA WARD '14** spent time this Spring on our campus in Dover completing community service and senior project requirement. Both girls volunteered in the early childhood classrooms. ■ [14] **ZION HARRIS '14** signed a contract with Richmond Ballet II for next season. ■ [15 & 16] Alumni from the **CLASS OF 2014** recreate their CRS graduation photo four years later! **LUKE DEWEES** is heading to Wesleyan, **AVERY PHILLIPS** is on her way to Skidmore, **CHLOE SAVAGE** will be a freshman at Swarthmore and **NOAH EVANTASH** is entering the engineering program at Northeastern. All attended Concord Academy after CRS. ■ [17] **LILLIAN MACLEAN '14** graduated from Worcester Academy with high honors and was inducted into The Cum Laude Society. She posed at graduation with **MADELINE SURGENOR '00** who is the Dean of Academic Success and Assistant Dean of Student Life at Worcester Academy. ■ **OWEN ASNIS '15** was elected President of the Noblelonians, the a capella men's singing group at Nobles. He was also elected Student Body President for the upcoming school year. ■ **CHRISTOPHER CHEN '15** will be a senior at BB&N this fall and will spend the summer working



## REUNION GIVING

# Pay it forward

Give back to CRS in honor of your reunion! All classes celebrating milestone reunions are encouraged to make a gift to the CRS Annual Fund to help pave the way for the next generation of CRS alumni. With a gift of \$10 or \$500, you can make a big impact on our community with a charitable gift to the school. Annually, 175 alumni around the world give back to CRS, please consider joining them and paying it forward.

Donate online by visiting [www.charlesriversschool.org](http://www.charlesriversschool.org) and click on "Support CRS" or use Venmo @charlesriversschool.



and volunteering at Children's Hospital. ■ **EMMA CROLL '15** is a rising senior at Concord Academy and completed a rigorous semester at the High Mountain Institute in Colorado. She completed a wilderness first responder certification in June and will be an assistant NOLS leader for a month in Alaska this summer. ■ **ARI PIERRE '15** is in the Spanish National Honor Society as well as the Science National Honor Society at Franklin High School. She is a member of the Connect for Cancer and Young Physicians clubs and competes with the Franklin High School spring track team. ■ **[18] BELLA PIERRE '15** is a member of the French National Honor Society and Science National Honor Society at Franklin High School. She is a member of the Connect for Cancer and Young Physicians clubs also. She has excelled on the track team earning many medals. Her 4x200 team had the fastest time in the state last year and

completed in the New Balance Nationals Meet in NY. Bella was a star in the 100-meter hurdles and ranked fourth in the state! Ari is her biggest fan! ■ **SOPHIE MAGRI '16** is a rising junior at Worcester Academy and is looking forward to trips this summer with her family to NY, DC, FL and Mexico. ■ **[19] TORIN HARRIS '17** is a sophomore at Dana Hall. She is studying two languages and hopes to add a third! She was one of two students selected to do a study abroad exchange program in Australia next year. ■ **[20] Alumni from the CLASS OF 2017** came back to support the Class of 2018 during the 8th Grade play, *Annie*, in March 2018. ■ **MELANIE CHEN '17** traveled this summer with the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra on their European tour. The tour included playing in famous concert halls in Berlin, Prague, Salzburg, Budapest, Vienna and Amsterdam. ■ **BEN CROLL '17** is a

rising sophomore at Middlesex School and had a stellar year competing on two varsity teams and contributing to an 8-2 lacrosse season. He will be photographing in Iceland this summer. ■ **TREVOR MCDONALD '17** made honor roll twice and high honor roll once in his first three semesters at Pomfret. He also joined the varsity basketball team! ■ **PATRICK MCGUCKEN '17** is attending Beaver and participated in cross country in the fall and tennis in the spring. He will be volunteering at the New England Aquarium's Live Blue Ambassadors this summer, heading to Boy Scouts camp in West Virginia and a cross country camp in Maine. ■ **CHARLOTTE SOMOL '17** is enjoying her summer after freshman year at Dover-Sherborn High School. She is participating in a service hike in the Colorado Rockies and spending time working and having fun on Squam Lake in NH.



## Community News

**[21]** **MATT** and **JESSICA TWIEST**, along with their 2-year-old son Theo, are finishing up their 8th year in London, recently becoming citizens. From 2006–2010, Matt taught Grade 4 and Jessica taught Grade 6 at CRS. Now, they teach at the American School in London; Jessie is a Grade 6 humanities teacher and the middle school English department head, and Matt teaches Grade 5 humanities. They hope to arrange a visit in the coming year and say “hello” to everyone at CRS! ■ **DAN GRAY** (former science teacher from 1971–1975) recently retired after 47 years teaching; he and his wife, **SUSAN DORSEY GRAY** (former Grade 1 teacher from 1967–1975), have moved to the Cape. Dan is still an avid birder and they love spending time with their daughters, Courtney and Whitney, their husbands and their 5-year-old grandson who live outside Washington DC. ■ **[22]** Former parent and trustee **MICHAEL VANIN** visited campus in April 2018 to see the construction progress on the middle school building. Michael is father to **CARA '07** and is pictured here with Grade 6 co-teacher Bill Walsh.

## In Memoriam

*The Charles River School community extends its sincere condolences to the following families.*

**AMEY AMORY DEFRIEZ '39** died in January 2018. Amey had a lifelong interest in education, including three decades of board work at the secondary school and college levels. She also served for 10 years as a trustee of the Huntington Theatre Company and New England Deaconess Hospital's Mind/Body Medical Institute. ■ **PUTNAM MCDOWELL '36** died in January 2018. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 27 years and college sweetheart, Rosamond Brooks McDowell '37. From an Air Force fighter pilot, to CEO of Hillman subsidiaries, to nonprofit board chairs, Putnam took risks in his career and gave back to the charities important to him and his family. ■ **KATHARINE “KAY” PLIMPTON**, former CRS faculty member, passed away in February 2018. Kay was a music, math and drama teacher from 1962 until the mid-1970's, as well as the Grade 3 assistant teacher. She is mother to alumni Samuel '61, Jane '63, Frank '66, and Jack '68. ■ **SALLY TAYLOR**, former trustee and mother to Davis '74, Ned '76, and Gus '82, passed away in January 2018. Sally gave back to many charities but is most known for her 31,996 hours as a Massachusetts General Hospital volunteer. She served on the CRS Board of Trustees for many years in the mid-1970's. ■ **CHRISTOPHER OLSON '74** passed away on January 25, 2018. 🕊



## Create a legacy

Honor a CRS classmate, teacher or member of our community by purchasing a commemorative brick that will be laid outside the new middle school building. You can also make a gift in their memory to **Elevate & Celebrate: The Campaign for Charles River School** as we make the final push to reach the \$10.5M goal.

For questions about purchasing a brick or making a gift in memory, please contact us at **508-785-8267** or [alumni@charlesriverschool.org](mailto:alumni@charlesriverschool.org).

# THE CRS ANNUAL FUND

Thank you for investing  
in the joy of learning.

A Charles River School education is more than just learning how to read, write, and solve math problems. Our students cultivate a curiosity about the world around them, and develop empathy for those in their community and beyond. The CRS Annual Fund is vital to supporting the faculty who design these unique experiences that positively impact every student.

**THANK YOU** to the **445 donors** who contributed **\$701,367** to the 2017-2018 Annual Fund. Your support represents a powerful vote of confidence in the CRS mission and we are so thankful for your generosity.

## 2017-2018 ANNUAL FUND BY THE NUMBERS

**94%**

PARTICIPATION  
FROM CURRENT  
PARENTS

**14%**

ALUMNI  
PARTICIPATION

**100%**

CURRENT  
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THE  
**CLASS OF  
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**66**

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**48**

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To learn more about the CRS Annual Fund, please contact **Jessica Thompson Somol '84**, Director of Development,  
at **508-785-8215** or **[jsomol@charlesriverschool.org](mailto:jsomol@charlesriverschool.org)**.

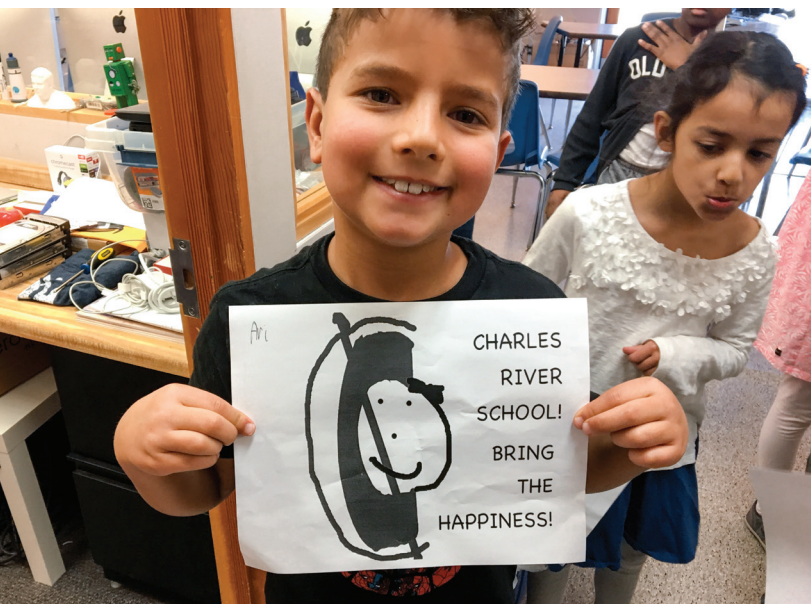
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## Your next *Current*

Beginning this year, the *Current* will move to **one issue each year**. This will be a more robust publication with highlights and news from throughout the year. Look for us in your mailbox next summer!

## Save the Dates

- **CRS Road Race in Dover** // Sunday, October 14
- **CRS Fall Fair** // Saturday, October 20
- **Late 1980's Reunion** // Saturday, October 20
- **Admissions Open House** // Saturday, November 3
- **Winter Festival** // Friday, December 21