



Support our Eagles!

# Eagle Eye

Volume II, Number 2

*Dore Academy*

February, 2007

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

With the excitement of spring, comes many opportunities to be involved at Dore. We are busily preparing for the Jazz it Up! Auction, Grandparent's Day, Spring Program, Upper School Formal, Field Day, Awards Day, and Graduation. Be on the look-out for more information on these springtime events.

Without the help and dedication of the Parent Council and Parent Volunteers, we would not be able to end the school year with so many exciting events. I give my heartfelt thanks to all of you.

I look forward to seeing all of you this spring, and wish the students a successful second semester.

*Roberta Smith*

## NEW HEALTH OFFICE

Dore Academy wishes to express our sincere gratitude to Ranger Construction for our wonderful Health Office. Elizabeth and Bernie Funck are the owners of Ranger Construction and the parents of former student Jack Funck. Elizabeth is also on Dore's Board of Directors.



*Nancy Lukacik*



The new Health Office was designed with enough room to allow for a cot for students to lie down if they are not feeling well. It also provides plenty of room for storage of supplies. Having a sink in the Health Office is a big bonus, allowing for wound and hand washing to be done in the room.

*Thanks to Elizabeth and Bernie Funck for modernizing Dore Academy with a state-of-the-art Health Office.*

## HAPPENINGS AROUND THE SCHOOL

Life in the Lower School has been anything but boring. In addition to the usual everyday academics, many other activities have been taking place over the past few months. The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, under the direction of Linda Phillips, David Mullis, and Brooke Hall, went on a walking tour of downtown Charlotte to see the art and architecture. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders with their teacher, Kelly Young, also made a trip to see the new courthouse since they are studying about laws and government in the U.S. All of the 40 Lower School students went to Queens University to see Slim Goodbody talk about maintaining a healthy body. One of our students even got to go on stage and do a one-handed cartwheel!



*Bailey and Muffin*

Our annual Halloween parade through the neighborhood was canceled this year due to rain. The students, however, did get to parade through the Middle and Upper School, and they even managed to pick up some candy along the way. Muffin, our Dore dog, was the hit of the parade wearing her pumpkin costume donated by the Alford sisters.

Our Christmas party had a visit from Santa Claus who passed out all the gifts that the students exchanged with each other. Each student got a chance to sit on Santa's lap and tell what he or she wanted for Christmas—even Ms. Moon! Some students begged their moms to let them watch Santa take off in his sleigh, but he was gone before we knew it.



*Taylor and Santa*

Since Reading is the subject we're all working so hard to improve, each grade has a certain number of minutes they must read and record in their Reading Logs each night. Those who read the allotted number of minutes each month are permitted to go to the Reading party at the end of the month. These parties are attended by almost all the students and it is wonderful to see them begin to love reading. A librarian from one of the local libraries visits once a month and reads stories to the Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades. The students love these visits and are always so interested in the stories.

David Vergato, our music teacher, is taking on the challenge of starting a band with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. All 10 students have either purchased or rented an instrument to begin learning. Notes from trumpets, clarinets, flutes, and saxophones are resounding from the music room over in the Annex. Hopefully, they will have a song or two ready for us in the Spring Music Program. The plan is to keep adding to the band as students enter the 5<sup>th</sup> grade so that in a few years we'll have a good size band.

*Anne Moon*

## EAGLES BASKETBALL

As the Basketball season comes to a close, I would like to thank our team for all their hard work. Team players are: Conley Adams, Jason Bishop, Robert Griffin, Will Harris, Joseph Overman, Evan Short, and Nathan Walker.

During the 2006-2007 Basketball season our team played against the following schools: Back Creek, Carmel Christian, Carolina International, Charlotte Christian, Charlotte Prep, Countryside Montessori, Fletcher, Garr, Heritage Christian, Home School, and St. Michael's. The boys put forth their best efforts and team spirit was always strong. They played extremely hard and with a great deal of determination. I wish my eighth graders all the best, and I am looking forward to working with my returning players.

Thanks to all the parents, faculty, and staff for all of the support provided to our team during the season. Without your support, none of this would have been possible.

The Athletic Program is pleased to announce that we will once again have a golf team in the spring. We hope you will come out and support our golf team as you did our basketball team.

*Coach Shannon Byrne*

## **STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

The Student Government Association consists of a group of students involved in community service activities. We elected our government officials through an upper-school wide vote. Congratulations to the officers and members of the Student Government!

### ***Officers***

*Nicole Rushing—Vice President*

*Evan Short—Treasurer*

*Mary Lucas—Secretary*

### ***Members***

*Erin Nicholson*

*Anthony Parker*

*Matthew Reilly*

We have spent a great deal of time identifying possible charities for which to volunteer. This November we were involved in setting up a food drive for Loaves and Fishes. The members of the SGA made posters to hang around the school to remind everyone of the dates of the food drive. This drive was very successful. Dore Academy received a letter of thanks with a sign thanking our students for collecting 407 pounds of food for the hungry. We are currently working on determining our next community service project.

*Michelle Gesing*

## **VENTURING**

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 14 (and have completed the eighth grade) through 20 years. Venturing's purpose is to provide positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Dore's Venturing members are: Michael Dougherty, Will Loftin, Jay Murphy, Jack Opper, Justin Wilson and Mishka van Witzenburg.

In addition to our popcorn tin sales of \$1,547.00 (which provided a profit of \$422.28), we went fishing and hiking on one of Charlotte's greenways. In December we got together at NetPlay and had a Christmas party while we played computer games! Recently we ventured to Inner Peaks and spent the afternoon climbing. Our big trip of the year will be to Winterplace Ski Resort in Beckley, West Virginia. We'll rendezvous with other Venture Crews and Explorer groups from the Mecklenburg area for a day of skiing. We are currently collecting food for Loaves and Fishes in the campaign known as Scouting for Food. This is the biggest campaign Loaves and Fishes has which nets about 1/3 of all the food donated for the year. Our Crew will be collecting canned goods at Dore as well as going to one of the collection sites to help sort food. We're still planning other activities for the rest of the year!

*Judy Dougherty*

## 2006 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

As you probably already know, the Christmas concert was a huge success. We had a large audience and they seemed to really enjoy the program. The Middle and Upper School guitar ensembles played several Christmas carols including “Joy to the World,” “Angels We Have Heard on High,” “We Wish You a Merry Christmas,” and a version of “Jingle Bells” that included an audience sing-along section. The Jazz Combo played Vince Guaraldi’s “Christmas Time is Here” (from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*), and “Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire” which featured trumpet and vocals. The Lower School tipped its hat to different religious holiday traditions with songs like “My Little Dreidel,” and “Kwanzaa.” The 5<sup>th</sup> grade added to the program by giving us a rapped version of “’Twas the Night Before Christmas” led by Mr. Mullis. Several readings also took place. The grand finale was “The Twelve Days of Joyous Instruments” in which the entire Lower School sang and played instruments—this one definitely got a lot of laughs. To wrap up the program, all of the students and the teachers participated in singing “Give Peace a Chance,” which was tied into the theme for the art portion of the concert. Many compliments were given to the students for all of the hard work that went into making the concert a huge success.

*David Vergato*

## PEACE RESOUNDS

During the month of December, students in the art program competed in the “*I Think Peace Is...*” Poster Contest. The students were given the challenge to express their personal opinions, ideas, and beliefs about peace in a visual form. These posters were created using a variety of art materials, including markers, paints, and collage. Each poster reflects our students’ unique view of the meaning of peace and its relevance to our culture. It is my hope that our students will continue to pursue their notions of peace, tolerance, and compassion, and be mindful of their actions in the world. If you haven’t had a chance to see these beautiful works of art, please take a moment to visit the display located in the lobby and the multipurpose room.

During the Christmas Program, the following contest winners were announced: Katelyn Alford, Kruesi Barker, Jason Bishop, Michael Bruch, Sammy Fischbeck, T.J. Francomano, Robert Griffin, Christie Kunich, Savannah Ockerbloom, Michael Oldham, Brett Patenaude, Sarah Pozzi, Taylor Roach, Nicole Rushing, Andrew Slesinger, Chase Smith, Donna Swanson, and Daniel Valder. These students were recognized with a Pizza and Ice Cream Sundae party sponsored by the PTC.

*Brooke Hall*





*"I Think Peace Is...." Poster Contest*

## Maria M. Leahy Chosen for "Who's Who Among American Teachers"

Maria Leahy, Middle and Lower School reading and written expression teacher, was recently chosen for "Who's Who Among American Teachers." In order to have received this award, a student from Mrs. Leahy's past, who has been honored as a "Who's Who among High School Students," nominated her for this accolade. As a teacher, the number one goal is to lead, motivate, and inspire students to grow and be successful in their lives. Receiving this tribute from a former student means that Mrs. Leahy has achieved a great thing, inspiring a child to be his/her best. Receiving this award is a true honor for Mrs. Leahy. Please join us in congratulating her.



*Maria Leahy*

# Board of Directors

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE:** **FROM KAREN A. GEIGER, CHAIR**

At last fall's retreat, the Board decided that in order to build the strength of Dore Academy, we would focus on three things over the next year: first, strengthen our "signature experience" – those curricular elements that target the unique needs of our students, and that offer an experience those students cannot get elsewhere; second, to organize a more strategic and effective fundraising plan; and third, to develop and communicate key messages about Dore Academy to our referral sources and to the community at large so that we can attract appropriate students, excellent teachers, and new donors.

In the first quarter since that retreat, we have made significant progress on all of these fronts:

Rob Thomas, our Development Committee Chair, has developed and implemented a plan to gather and code all donor information since Dore Academy opened. We are in the process of loading that data now into our fundraising software.

The Board raised \$20,000 so that we would have 40 new Dell desktops with flat screen monitors in all of our computer labs by the time school opened. We also received 6 used laptops donated by General Dynamics, where Bob Selee is VP of Finance. Because of both Board, as well as parent and faculty contributions, Dore now has 12 SmartBoards, 19 laptops, 13 LCD projectors, and 67 desktops all running Windows XP Pro and Office 2003.

Blair Stanford, our Marketing Committee Chair, has developed the content for a talk Roberta will give to local groups in the next few months about learning disabilities and about our school.

Gregg Walker, on our Development Committee, has arranged several dates for Roberta Smith to speak to area Rotary Clubs.

One hundred percent (100%) of the Board participated in December's Annual Fund-raising effort.

This past spring we also addressed the appearance of our Annex lobby. This is a small area, long overlooked as a simple "pass through" but one which is often prospective parents' "first glimpse" of Dore Academy as they wait to talk with our Admissions director, Mrs. Commendatore. June Allison, our Facilities Committee Chair, handled the project and she says the refurbish was simple: remove the cast off "extras," add a new front door and brick steps, some fresh paint, a new loveseat, some recovered chairs, side tables, lamps and newly framed and prominently displayed Accreditation certificates and other awards. Now we are proud of our "first appearance."

Finally, we hope our new landscaping has caught the eye of parents and visitors to Dore. Beginning last spring ABM Landscaping and parent David McDonnell, ABM's general manager, made long held plans happen. The project was envisioned a few years ago when it became clear that we would lose to disease two lovely maples which had long graced Dore's entrance. As we planned to remove those trees, we commissioned a new landscape plan for the front of the school. Unfortunately, with other more pressing educational needs, the estimated costs of implementing that plan simply weren't in the budget. That's where Mr. McDonnell and ABM stepped in. We showed him our plans and he offered for ABM to do the entire front for \$5,000, a price we couldn't resist AND, he agreed to landscape the area between the School and the Annex, now graced with a much wider brick walkway, gratis! Thanks to him and to June Allison for taking the lead on making this happen. We are so pleased to have young plants and trees in place which, as they mature, will continue to enhance the appearance of our facility.

## **CONGRATULATIONS MOE STACKHOUSE** **THE TINA PATTON VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AWARD**

In recognition of Tina Patton's inspiring life and of the outstanding volunteer leadership she provided to Dore Academy, Dore Academy will present, annually, The Tina Patton Volunteer Leadership Award to that person who has best exemplified Tina's commitment to Dore. While her son Jed was a Dore student, and long after Jed graduated in 1993, Tina was a great friend to Dore Academy. She helped and inspired members of the Dore community for nearly two decades. Through those years Tina served in many capacities. She was auction chair, President of the Parent Teacher Organization, and a member of the Board of Directors. She believed that a Dore education should be enriched with additional materials, equipment, and field trips even when their costs weren't covered by tuition. She was a leading advocate of Dore's first use of computers and software.

Tina Patton set an example for all of us who wish to help children who have learning disabilities and attention disorders. No task was ever too large or too small for Tina, as those people fortunate enough to work with Tina will attest. Tina's work at the helm of a project assured its success. But she also often worked behind the scenes, providing the good judgment, skills, and energy necessary to make an event or project successful. She was a team player and a skillful team leader. Her projects and accomplishments brought people together, created good cheer, and benefited Dore greatly. In addition to being a tireless and very effective worker, Tina was a great ambassador and advocate for Dore. She set the standard to which we all aspire.

The Tina Patton Award is given annually to a member of the Dore community who has performed extraordinary service as a volunteer. The Award recognizes that person whose volunteer activities with Dore have demonstrated a personal commitment to helping children with learning disabilities and attention disorders. The honoree's dedicated concern and involvement have benefited Dore Academy and its community of students, parents, alumni, and friends. Through his or her volunteer activities, the honoree has demonstrated creativity, teamwork, compassion, and generosity of spirit. These characteristics exemplify the qualities that shown throughout Tina Patton's life.

The recipient of the Tina Patton Award will receive an engraved crystal gift to commemorate Dore Academy's gratitude and appreciation. In addition, the recipient's name will be placed on the Tina Patton Award plaque residing at Dore Academy.

The selection committee for the Award will consist of the Head of School, the Board Chair, the Marketing Chair, and the Chair or Co-Chairs of the Parent Teacher Organization. John Patton and the Chair of the Board will be ex-officio members of the selection committee. Nominations for the award will be sought and received during the spring term each year. The selection committee will meet to make its decision prior to graduation. The Award will be presented at the earliest appropriate occasion thereafter and will be announced to the media.

***The 2005-2006 recipient of the Tina Patton Award was awarded to Maureen (Moe) Stackhouse. Moe is the parent of Sam (grade 3). Moe is President of the Parent Teacher Organization.***



*Moe Stackhouse, John Patton, Roberta Smith*



*Moe accepting the Tina Patton Award*