

Eagle Hill **E** Southport

# Reporter

SUMMER 2009  
In this Issue:  
Alumni Update  
Around School  
Dede Warner  
The Big Game  
Beach Day



# Eagle Hill-Southport Summer 2009 Newsletter

## Table of Contents:

Evolution of an Event - Gifts from the Sea Gala . . . . .	3
A Change of Heart . . . . .	4
Profile: Dede Warner . . . . .	4
Supporting your Grandchild . . . . .	5
Alumni Update. . . . .	6
Beach Day . . . . .	7
Cross Country Update. . . . .	8
Brought Together by Pancakes. . . . .	9
Mel Staborski's Big Dance . . . . .	10
The Big Game. . . . .	10
Student News . . . . .	10
Around School . . . . .	11
Save the Date: Soaring Eagles Golf Classic. . .	back cover

## Mission

The mission of Eagle Hill-Southport is to help children with learning disabilities develop a foundation of skills, gain an understanding of their abilities, and prepare for a more traditional program.

The school emphasizes academic, social and athletic skill development and strives to prepare students to be independent learners and citizens. Each student's program is individualized and includes a mix of academic classes, tutorials and extracurricular activities that reflect the child's diagnosed needs and unique learning profile.

Long term motivation, confidence building, advocacy skills and a strong work ethic are emphasized. The school serves as a resource for its current families and also the larger community through its summer school and tutoring services.



## Board of Directors

Sandra Bisset	Jennifer Sterling
David Blackburn	James Tice
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Leonard Tavormina	David Crandall
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Lea Sylvestro	
<i>Parent Liaison</i>	

## Supervisors/Advisors

Steve Sylvestro	Kathleen Gallagher
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Hallie Buckingham	John Robbins
<i>Student Activities/</i>	<i>Master Teacher/</i>
<i>Professional Development</i>	<i>Athletic Co-ordination</i>
Jeff Ruggiero	David Sylvestro
<i>Instruction &amp; Curriculum</i>	<i>School Psychologist</i>



# Evolution of an Event – The Gifts from the Sea Gala

“We want people to be comfortable, to relax and have fun. The economy’s a problem. What would appeal in these stressful times?”

From the depths of comfy couches at Chat n’ Chew, inspired by the velvety chill of a fruit smoothie, chairs Louise Foerster and Beth Jones pondered the challenge of a theme that would entice guests to the school’s spring benefit despite the grim news in the financial pages.

Beth piped up, “What do our kids like best? What do even alumni students remember with bright eyes and a grin? Beach Day! That could be our theme.”

Yes. Beach Day. For many students, the highlight of the school year is that final celebration at Penfield Beach. What could be more carefree than a breezy evening amid shells and kites?

Once the committee assembled, ideas abounded. Games. We needed games. Twister? Fishing for duckies in a kiddie pool? Skee ball?

Hmmm. Skee ball would be tough, but it sparked thoughts of a boardwalk. “Or an arcade,” said Carmela Kaufman. “Mitch and I can help with that.” And so, it came to be that a photo

booth, pinball machine, sports car driving booth and electronic hoops were available for the thrill of our guests. Add a tarot reader, margaritas and a D.J. and that’s a fun party.

What else goes into a gala event? A gathering of parents one night at the school to make fifty kites. Beth pinching a nerve after hours spent gluing shells to terra cotta pots. Len

Tavormina photographing portraits to include in a program assembled by Colleen Brandon. Louise Foerster coordinating a luscious collection of wines. Regina Flaherty and Morag Grassie setting up shifts, organizing the wish list, festooning the Giving Tree tent with necklaces of sea shells. Kim Brown arriving with a 12’ stand-up paddle board – an extraordinary prop

good omen.

Guests arrived in flip flops, khakis, Hawaiian shirts, shorts, sarongs and sundresses. They mugged for pictures in the photo booth and played hoops in the hall. They danced to “Bare Footin,” “Brown Sugar” and “Surfin Safari.” They sampled scallop puffs, crab cakes, shrimp salad and devilled

eggs served up by our own chef, Kim Keehan, with the able help of her mother, Pearl.

Having recently attended a Smothers Brothers performance, auctioneers Dave and Steve Sylvestro were in fine form, and maybe

even borrowed a few lines from that other famed pair. As prizes such as Indulgent Inns, a Nantucket Get-away, pearls from Kasson Jewelers, fishing excursions, cooking lessons from Mise en Place, a Boston/Red Sox overnight, and a clambake from Napa & Company were placed on the docket, hands shot into the air as bids whirled. The Giving Tree came close to a sell-

out, and the Vespa raffle raised more than last year’s Porsche. The dip in the economy was reflected in the final numbers, but one wouldn’t have known from the lively participation in every area.

At 9:30, development director, Dave Crandall, was due to relinquish responsibility for the dragon red Vespa he had so faithfully squired to car shows, coffee shops and street corners with the help of a bevy of volunteers. At the designated time, Louise Foerster pulled the ticket and Barbara Evans was the lucky winner.



and auction donation from Shippan Surf and Skate! Rebecca Kudwitt atop a ladder for what seemed like hours, stapling kites to the walls. And a flurry of parents tying bows, hanging curtains, creating auction boards and affixing starfish to linens.

Despite a week of bleak forecasts and two days of clouds, on May 2 the skies cleared and the sun shone. A

*Continued on next page*

"It was fun to work with creative parents who gave so much of their time and energy to make the benefit beautiful and enjoyable for all," said Louise after the fact. "Beth and I were so moved by the outpouring of donations and help from the school community.

The best part for me was looking around the room during the auction and seeing all the bright, happy faces of people having a wonderful time together and supporting the school we love."

We are deeply grateful to our generous

and energetic chairs, to the committee members who so enthusiastically gave their time and help and to all who donated and attended. Your participation generated \$67,400 for financial aid and toward the specific items represented in the Giving Tree.

## A Change of Heart

How does a class of beginning readers who began this school year hating reading become a foursome so excited by their books that they have trouble sitting still in their seats?

"I could barely read a page in the fall," says Tristan Carey. "Now I've read 24 books. It's like going into your own imaginary world where you see the things in the story." Callum Stirton chimes in, "My parents used to say I was just wired differently. But now, my skills have sky-rocketed! I've read 45 books!"

"Second grade was very hard for me," explains Sophie Miller who has read 30 books. "But there are great teachers and great friends here who really help people." Jacob Agona, 23 books, says, "I've learned to read in my two years here." He leans across his desk with a wide grin and says to teacher Michele Iglesias, "How did you do it? How



did you change us?"

"Magic," she teases with a smile.

But magic is hard work for these students and their teacher. It has involved goals set and attained, marked by a huge construction paper chain that snakes the length of three walls of the room. Each link bears a student's name and the number of books read at

that time – 122 books in all. Callum, Tristan, Sophie and Jacob are justifiably proud of their achievement. All four are reading above grade level and each one has earned the Accelerated Reader trophy of the week. "I think they may be the only class that has that distinction," says Ms. Iglesias.

When asked what they feel makes a good story, the answers are swift: "Action! Suspense! Adventure! Ships!" With a gleam in his eye, Tristan adds, "And maybe just a little violence..."

## Profile: Dede Warner

In addition to managing the weekly and monthly calendars as well as coordinating dismissal and mailings, Dede Warner is the first voice and face that prospective parents and students encounter by phone or in person. She provides information and reassurance – plus a cup of coffee and a video – when families arrive at the school to begin the application process.



"Often, the kids are anxious," she says. "I've collected a group of objects on the counter by my desk. Some were gifts from students, others were found around the school – a one-armed dinosaur, a pink pony, a

plastic monkey, some chestnuts. For whatever reason, they captivate kids and those little toys can be the distraction that helps them relax. I remember when Janet Brogan (alumni parent and current board member) and her daughter Gillian fashioned a prosthesis for the dinosaur from a post-it note. And student Ben Ferguson just loved that monkey.

I gave it to him when he left us and went to Forman."

Known for her sense of humor and spirit, Dede is also a touchstone for staff and current students. "There are always a few kids like Brett Tritschler

and Garrett Cutler who make a point of dropping by almost daily."

Having begun her career with Eagle Hill as a teacher at the Greenwich school in 1981, she joined the staff in Southport in 1986. She laughs as she recalls teaching her 2:1 students Ben Guaglianone and Alex Novak in the hall, an oversized garbage can placed next to them to catch the water leaking from the ceiling. "There just wasn't enough space as enrollment increased and before the renovations, we had to be creative."

After taking a break to raise her two children, she returned to the school as a substitute teacher in 1992 and took her current position as office administrator in 2004. "When I started, there were only twenty-five students. I love it when those kids come back to visit."

# Supporting Your Grandchild

## Thoughts from Dick and Mickey Kleefield, Grandparents of Trevor Dymnt

“Eagle Hill has literally saved Trevor’s life,” says Dick Kleefield in reflecting on what the school has done for his grandson, Trevor Dymnt. “You have reawakened not only Trev’s athletic skills, but those of his talent for art and music... and done so in one academic year. If this is not a miracle, then I have never experienced one.”

Richard and Martha Kleefield – known informally as Dick and Mickey – are intimately familiar with children with learning disabilities. Their son Jim has Asperger’s syndrome, and their public schools didn’t recognize the condition though they tried valiantly to overcome his difficulties. Their prognosis for Jim’s future was that he would be fortunate to obtain a high school diploma. However, Jim himself realized that he needed a school that had a history of educating students with “different learning styles.” It wasn’t until the Kleefields sent their son to Cushing Academy at the suggestion of Howard Green, a world-renowned educational consultant in Westport, that Jim’s learning potential blossomed. “That school was transformational for our son, just as Eagle Hill is for our grandson,” said Dick, whose son has been a successful broadcaster for more than twenty years.

Both Dick and Mickey, at different points in their successful careers, have taught and still consider themselves teachers. Mickey who is an alumna of the University of Pennsylvania, with a degree in Elementary Education, taught for several years. Dick, despite having a learning disability, obtained his undergraduate degree at Columbia College and his doctorate at the University of Pennsylvania. Dick is a member



of the senior clinical faculty at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York. Dick also has served on Cushing Academy’s Board of Trustees for twenty years. Their affinity for education makes them particularly appreciative for the intense personal attention that their grandson is now receiving. “Eagle Hill provides the unique educational environment with ‘individualized’ curricula that children simply cannot receive in the public schools, despite the schools protestations to the contrary”, Dick observed. “The faculty at Eagle Hill are truly exceptional and are clearly proud of their school and its enormous history of documented achievement” What is absolutely remarkable is that their pride becomes fully shared with the student body.”

Beyond the classroom, both Dick and Mickey have had rewarding careers in their professions and in the community-service Dick practiced Orthodontics in Westport and Norwalk. This eventually led to his founding of the Westwalk Orthodontic Group, P.C. Mickey is an equally accomplished professional in the field of fashion- design having worked as a high-level fashion-coordinator for thirty plus years. She has managed Top Drawer, located on the Post Road in Westport for twenty years. Dr. and Mrs. Kleefield feel it is vitally important to support this educational ‘gift’- Eagle Hill-Southport - and so served as Grandparent Co-Chairs of this year’s Annual Fund. In closing, Dick posed this rhetorical question...Can we ever give back enough in exchange for our beloved grandson’s life? The answer is a... **RES IPSA LOQUITUR...** *The Act Speaks For Itself*



# Eagle Hill-Southport: Alumni Update

**Diana Bondy** graduated from Wheaton College this spring with a BA in psychology and a minor in education. She reports that she has loved her four years of college and particularly enjoyed her position as the equestrian team captain. After a summer trip to Paris – a commencement gift – she will be moving to Massachusetts to work as a paid intern at The Chestnut Hill School.

Having just completed his sophomore year at Cushing Academy, **Ian Boyle** has developed a talent for silver-smithing. Several of his pieces – bracelets, pendants, cufflinks and bowls – appeared in the Cushing Academy Visual Arts Magazine. He was also honored to create his cousin's wedding ring. His interest in theater has led to involvement in all aspects of that field and he corroborated on the design for the program of "The Trojan Women," set up the display cases for a variety of shows, and performed in "Kiss Me Kate," "The Merchant of Venice," and "Pygmalion." For his contributions to the department, Ian earned the school's "Performing Arts Production and Service Award."

**Bobby Brown** is taking a post-graduate year at the Grove School. In keeping with his love of cooking, he is working at Lenny and Joe's Fish Tale and hopes to go to Johnson and Wales University.

After completing ninth grade at Fairfield Country Day School this spring, **Dylan Connelly** will be heading to Loomis Chaffee School in the fall. He played soccer and varsity lacrosse this past year, but his passions have revolved around his interest in marine biology. While at Eagle Hill, his parents won an aquarium in the benefit auction which triggered an enthusiasm that has persisted. He is scuba certified and has gone diving in the Fiji Islands and Belize at eco-resorts.

In her freshman year at The Harvey School, **Kathryn Crum** made the headmaster's list last term while taking 11<sup>th</sup> grade honors math, physics and English. Her performance schedule was hectic with roles in "Grease" at the Ridgefield Playhouse and in a play at Harvey's Black Box Theater. During spring break, she went to Austria to sing with a Renaissance and Baroque group with which she has performed for three years.

3-D animation has become the focus of **Jon Edford's** company – Jon Edford Design. Photography has turned into a practical hobby as he uses photographs as the basis for creating animated training videos for pharmaceutical companies.

**R.J. Fitch** is director of the Hull Funeral Home in Danbury. He is married and has a little girl.

**Matthew Garner** received both his undergraduate degree and a masters in public health (MPH) from Dartmouth College. He will be attending medical school at Yale University in the fall.

**Ben Guaglianone** is a rising senior at Lesley University.

Forman School senior **Kevin Gunderson** has played guitar and sometimes drums in the Advanced Band class since sophomore year. After school, he plays with the band Death 182.

Wilton High School junior **Will Kistler** received a "Commitment to Community Distinguished Citizen Award" for his help in cleaning out an old shed and re-fitting it for vegetable storage at Ambler Farm. Will made Eagle Scout last year and has since served as a junior assistant scoutmaster. He has also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for three years.

New Canaan High School graduate **Maddie Mauk** is now a freshman at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Throughout seventh grade at Fairfield Country Day School, **Lorin Myer-**

**Tobey** has maintained an "A" average. He also plays soccer on the Beachside premier soccer league as well as travel lacrosse on the "A" team.

After graduating from the University of Chicago with a degree in the classics, **Malcolm Nelson** enlisted in the army. He completed boot camp in January.

Congratulations to **Jamie Reinhardt** on his engagement! It is definitely a new era for Eagle Hill-Southport now that our former students are getting married! Jamie is also scheduled to receive his PhD. in marine ecology from the University of Connecticut Avery Point.

**Lucy Reinhardt** just graduated from the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio with a degree in Art History.

Having graduated from Wilton High School in 2008 with a 3.9 GPA, **Michael Sackstein** has just completed his first year at George Mason University where he has continued to enjoy photography, mountain biking and "a little piano."

Having graduated from Pratt University in New York where he studied communication design, animation and graphic design, **Karl Schipul** now does video, 3-D animation and illustration for Signature Advertising in Southington, CT.

Yale graduate **Derek Shiller** is currently enrolled in a PhD program in philosophy at Princeton University. He has kept in touch with fellow alumni **Matthew Garner** and **Malcolm Nelson** since their friendship began at Eagle Hill in 1995.

Now in his final year at Rumsey Hall, **Jackson Skinner** has been inducted into the "Varsity Club" which means that during his time at the school, he has received six varsity letters, three in cross country (where he was named Most Improved in 2007 and Team Captain in 2008), two in wrestling, and one in crew. Theater has also remained an interest. Last year, he played the Major General in "Pirates

of Penzance” and this year portrayed Lazar Wolf in “Fiddler on the Roof.” Piano has also continued to be a focus, after six years of study. Jackson will be heading to The Williston Northampton School in Massachusetts in the fall.

After graduating at the top of his class at The Forman School, **Michael Yormark** will be attending Syracuse University’s Whitman Business School in the fall. He was also invited into the National Honors Society.

**Bryan Reid** graduated from St. Joseph’s University in June and is now on to law school.

**Christopher Mansfield** is now a sophomore at Quinnipiac College and doing well

## Beach Day

Luckily, warmth and sunshine are not prerequisites for a successful Beach Day. This free-wheeling extravaganza of sand, surf, games, barbecue and ice cream always draws alumni and good times, but rarely a ray of sun. Joining students and staff at Penfield Beach on June 11 were alumni

**Noah Shernow, Jackson Skinner, Creighton Mann, Ben Ferguson, Chris Hopf, Ben Tice, Kathryn Crum, Matt Watson, Michael Sackstein, Lucia Sato, Ian Boyle, and Drew and Chad Sterling.**



# Cross Country Update:

This has been an extraordinary year for the cross country team, coached by Tom Peets, Melanie Higgins and Jacque Horelik. The sport has seen a spike in interest at the school with twenty-six runners signing up for the fall season and twenty-one runners for the spring, more than any year past.

Our students excelled in the Fairchester Athletic League (F.A.L.) meets in which 170 students from thirteen schools competed. The top five students earning ribbons in their division were: Payton Alexander, Haden Haynes, Andrew Braverman, Julien Sy and Sullivan Desmond. Also receiving recognition for placing in the top ten in their division were: Katarina Wilson, Leyna Kudwitt, Christina Yergey, Jake Cavanaugh, Cary DeYoung, and David Gombos.



Payton Alexander has the distinction of being the first Eagle Hill student to place first in the championship meet as well as overall in her division.

While the F.A.L. meets are thrilling, it is the Sylvestro Invitational that stirs talk year-round, having become a much-anticipated tradition. The school's top runners test their mettle in a race at Sherwood Island, each hoping to claim the coveted, heavily-

medaled, red and green jackets. Chuck Peacock and Hadon Haynes were this season's proud recipients in a ceremony at morning meeting.

The team also mentored the brand new cross country squad of St. Thomas Aquinas. A mock meet was held in order to review procedures and the exchange was so positive that there are plans for an annual friendly competition.



# Spring Sports Teams



## Brought together by Pancakes

“**W**hat I liked about the event was that it was the start of everybody’s day. Kids were in their soccer and baseball uniforms, the fife and drum corps in their knickers and vests, the firemen in dress uniform. This has become a Southport tradition – a kick-off to the parade.” Jeff Ruggiero

was enthusiastic about the turn-out for the fifth annual pancake breakfast.

“We went through 550 plates and enough Bisquit to make 1500 pancakes!” He laughed

in recalling one tiny girl “barely visible over the counter” who came back for twelve pancakes. “There was a carnival atmosphere, with students, staff, parents, trustees, alumni and friends milling about.”

Contributing to the sense of festivity were decorations and resources that had served the school well throughout the school’s spring line-up: red and white geraniums and fanciful kites from the Gifts from the Sea Gala, floral centerpieces and flags from the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon. Of course, face-painting by Michele Iglesias and Jay Riha, and

Bob Perry’s clown-antics rated high as fun factors as well.

Among those eager to sample crispy bacon, blueberry, chocolate chip and plain pancakes and Len Tavormina’s grilled sausages were alumni **Ian Boyle, Jon Edford,**

**Michael Sackstein, Bobby Brown, Karl Schipul, Brian Smith, Jeff Emswiler, Peter Vasone, Jack Stow, Matt Watson, Nick Graham,**

**Neil Doocy, Theo Aris, Stuart Rudkin, Ben Guaglianone, Kyle Tisdale, and Lily and Davis Baer.**

Once replete, visitors to the school gathered along Main Street for the Blessing of the Fleet parade. The school was well-represented among the fife and drum corps, vintage cars, bagpipes and firemen by our uniformed cheerleaders and athletes, the McMahon family mini-horses in Eagle Hill colors and plumes, and headmaster Len Tavormina acting as grand marshal.



# Mel Staborski's Big Dance

A ray of sunshine breaks through heavy clouds to the thrum of a symphonic interlude. A blond woman - Mel Staborski, played by Rachael Stabers - gazes out to sea. Bob Perry, white-faced and garbed in black in his role as Death, approaches. When he tells Mel that her time has come, she proposes a deal. If she can assemble a basketball team mighty enough to beat Death's own, her life will be spared. But where to find such awe-inspiring players? Among the athletes of the *Fighting E*, that's where.

Where posters might serve to drum up spirit in some schools, at Eagle Hill, anticipation of the student/faculty basketball game was fanned to fever pitch via the cinematic savvy of advisor John Robbins and a cast of talented teachers and students. "Mel Staborski's Big

Dance" premiered during morning meeting to riotous applause.

As the movie unfolded, Mel and Death vied in recruiting their respective teams. Jerry Kiely was wooed for his "intense fire to win," Thomas Dunne for his height and "legendary skills," Preston Schottlaender for his energy and enthusiasm, Ethan Horne to act as "sparkplug," and Ceejay Joseph because he's one of the "best ball handlers to come through Eagle Hill." The two sought Mackenzie Brandon for her tenacious defense, J.J. Huggins for his speed and agility, Madison Rochlin for her clutch shots and sportsmanship, Jack Rider for his team spirit and defense skills, Tyler Singewald as a power forward, and Nick Bartlett because "he's an incredible player who gets the rebounds."

Some of the students were not easily swayed; they made deals. Chuck Peacock said he'd join Death's team as long as he didn't see him around for another eighty years or so. Jon Moor was not willing to sell his soul, but he'd play in exchange for a healthy arm. Wade Jones cheated Death and beat him at chess. Katarina Wilson, desired for her exceptional speed, led Death on a chase past Southport's landmarks.

The movie concluded, a cliffhanger, before the game was played. It was entertaining, creative and fun. More than that, it highlighted the skills of individual students, reinforcing and cultivating confidence, while giving them a chance to exercise their acting abilities.

## The Big Game

In the month leading up to the fateful clash, the varsity and junior varsity Red and White teams, coached by Rachael Stabers, Bob Perry, Matt Morse and Lisa Galasso, played three times. The results left the student/faculty game as the deciding tie-breaker.

The gym bustled with excitement as spectators held aloft banners and rose and sat in a wave. Steve Sylvestro was at the microphone, his commentary accompanied by the squeal of sneakers as players, some with hair sprayed white or cheeks smeared red with war paint, raced up and down the court. The cheerleaders, coached by Sara McConnell, executed their drills and cheers with spirited



precision.

By half-time, the Red team was ahead by ten points. Led by Jon Moor, the White team made a strong push to get back into the game, but the aggressive play of duo Nick Bartlett and Tyler Singewald blocked a White comeback. With less than thirty seconds to go, advisor Jeff Ruggiero iced the game for the Reds with a three-point shot.

In a final surprise, Philip Platek, age seven, sunk a free throw to win a five-dollar gift certificate at the student store. It was a triumphant moment for Philip when the members of the varsity and JV teams rushed the court to honor him.



## Student News

Alex Katz and his dog Max are trained in pet therapy. With the goal of bringing joy and distraction to those who are ill and suffering, Alex and Max have visited residents and patients at Elder House, Blythedale Rehabilitation Center and Stamford Hospital. They have also participated in a program at Westport Library called "Reading to Rover" which uses Max to encourage relaxation in children struggling to read. Alex says, "Doing pet therapy is a truly enjoyable experience because it makes me feel good about myself when Max and I make other people feel good."

# Around School

- While interpretations of Mona Lisa's enigmatic smile were the inspiration for the winter art contest, the spark for the spring's art challenge was The Scream by Edvard Munch. Student entries took a variety of forms, from collage, colored pencil, and crayon to acrylics. Artists in residence John Rodriguez, Brendan Schoff, Julien Faucheux, and Ryan Garvey were the winners.

- Maintenance Director, Mario Fiallo, took Joan Marron's science classes on a tour of the school's circuit breakers as part of a unit on electricity and electrical safety.

- For eight weeks, professional music educator Randy Brody introduced students to a variety of percussion instruments from around the world. The culmination of the course was an all-school assembly in which different groups played djembes, maracas, jingle sticks and drum skins. Teacher Meghan Aversano observed, "The entire school exploded in a harmonious composition of musical talents as everyone played their instruments."

- When Trevor Dymont brought Branches of Hope, an organization that works with autistic children and their families, to the attention of the junior student council, its members were eager to help by making bracelets to be sold as a fundraiser.

- Janine Forry's afternoon classes – Potters' Paradise – has been busy beautifying the school. J.B. DiPreta, Lexi Deutsch, Maddy Lanni, Callum Stirton, Eliza Arnold, Sophie Dalinka, Emma Desgranges, Amelia Griffin, Mac Kirk, Dana Kolderup, Tom Ryan, Gaby Signore and Madison Rochlin filled flower boxes and planted impatiens around trees on the school property. In addition, they potted small jars of impatiens to give to each teacher.



- Taking a lead from the Discovery Channel program Man vs. Wild, teacher Brandon DeMunnick offered Student vs. Wild as an afternoon activity. Alex Krupnikoff-Salkin, Matthew Lane, Jordan Bonn, Brendan Percec, Blake Raleigh, Ryan Dudek, Mac Kirk, John Rodriguez, Andreas Wagner, Chris Milazzo, Stephanie Weinstein, Tristan Carey, Orestes Nicopoulos, Brendan Schoff, Zach Stern, Tristyn Huggins, Maya Treisman, Callum Stirton, and Bennett Ware received instruction in survival skills ranging from knot-tying and shelter construction to

fresh water acquisition, universal distress signals and compass creation.



- Monkeys and frogs cavort amongst tangling vines and oversized leaves. Deep green ferns brush the base of towering trees. Dry grasses wave against the blue of a savanna sky. Each bulletin board is alive with the animals and vegetation of a different African biome studied by Maddie Brasser, Nick Fletcher, Cam Sweedler, Daniel Wisdom, Garrett Cutler, Eryn Krawitz, Freddy Drewes, Evan Lipset, Casey Robinson, Sarah Gallagher, John Tortora, Phil Platek, and Dean Papadakos and teacher Therese Raymond-Cline. The students' contracts involved research and projects related to the locations, climates, animals, food chains and adaptive behaviors characteristic of each biome. The unit culminated with a trip to the Beardsley Zoo.

- Many thanks to Fran Signore and her wonderful committee for the bountiful international buffet provided by the parents at the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.



## SAVE THE DATE • Thursday, September 24, 2009

The Golf Club at Oxford Greens, Oxford, CT

Eagle Hill returns to Oxford for our fourth annual Soaring Eagles Golf Classic. The day will feature a spectacular day of golf on this premiere course, as well as a buffet luncheon, cocktail reception, gift bag, and a chance to win an 2009 Audi Q5 – among many other prizes.

We are currently seeking:



- Tee sponsors
  - Auction & Raffle donations
  - Sponsorships
  - Volunteers
- ...and, of course, golfers!

If you would like to get involved or can provide a donation of any kind, please contact David Crandall at school at (203) 254-2044 or go to our website, [www.eaglehillssouthport.org](http://www.eaglehillssouthport.org), for more information. All proceeds will go toward the school's financial aid program.

### 2009 Soaring Eagles Golf Classic Committee

*Karl Babikian, Janet Brogan, Tim Brown, Dave Crandall, Jim Donaher, Barbara Evans, Dick Ferguson, Larry Foley, Bill Ford, Hope Hetherington, Ross Kudwitt, Michael LaPorta, Phil Platek, Malcolm Robinson, Bob Smith, Jennifer Sterling, Leonard Tavormina, Scott & Maureen Watson, Matt Weiss, Pat Willet.*

