



2nd Grade students enjoy reading in the newly-renovated library.

## Harford Day Library is Dedicated to Andrew P. Klein '67

The Harford Day library has always served as more than a place in which to house books. Parent Association meetings, board meetings, lower school presentations, and alumni gatherings have all been held here—it's the centerpiece of Harford Day School. As the heart of the School, it needed a fresh new look. Thanks to the generosity of several donors, the library renovation project was completed in January.

As the heart of the School, it only seemed fitting to dedicate this beautiful space in memory of Andrew P. Klein '67, a man whose unwavering support of HDS has gone unmatched. Andy Klein's commitment to Harford Day stretched across decades. He was a proud alumnus who



Andy Klein as a Kindergarten student at Harford Day School.

began his HDS career in Kindergarten in 1959. Andy was later joined at the School by his brothers Michael '69 and Howard. In the 90s there were 8 Klein children attending HDS. It was during this time Andy became Board President, solidifying his long-standing commitment to Harford Day.

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### I N M E M O R Y

## Nancy Rakaczky

1939 - 2022



The entire Harford Day community was saddened to hear of Nancy Rakaczky's passing. Mrs. Rakaczky taught Kindergarten at Harford Day School for 32 years.

"Good morning, Cutey Patooties!" Mrs. Rakaczky started each day cheerfully greeting her students. Anyone who knew her marveled at her constant positivity and genuine love for children.

Molly Levis, Early Childhood Division Head, remembers her as a joyful and charismatic person. "There was always music, laughter, and lots of hugs. The students adored her."

Leith Hermann, former Head of School, noted that she was one of the most exceptional teachers he has ever known. "I took great comfort in knowing her Kindergarten program was far and away the best around."



# Gallery Tiles

Have you painted yours?



With a gift to the Blue & Green Fund of **\$560 OR MORE\***, donors have the opportunity to select and paint a tile for permanent installation in the gallery; your name will be engraved on a gold plate displayed beneath the tile. These beautiful tiles designed by Art teacher Tracy Lyon will remain part of Harford Day and will forever be a symbol of your commitment to the School.



Nate and Emily G. painted their family's tile.

Contact Donna Decker in the Office of Advancement for more information or to schedule a painting time.

*\*Space is limited.*



The seating area in the Media Center provides a comfortable place for visitors to wait for their appointments.

(Library Renovation continued from page 1)

A dedication ceremony honoring Andy was held in April.

Donna Decker, Director of Advancement, worked with American Design Associates to create an environment that would inspire all who used the space. "As the first thing visitors see when walking into Harford Day, we knew the importance of making our library look inviting and current," said Mrs. Decker. "It needed to reflect the same high-quality standard that a Harford Day education is known for."

The renovation was no small task; the entire library had to be cleared out before the work could begin. Faculty and staff pitched in to transfer thousands of shelved books to rolling carts that lined the lower school hall-



Mrs. Plescia reads to an attentive Kindergarten class.

ways during construction. Existing tables and chairs were relocated to classrooms or donated to local organizations.

After a fresh coat of paint and upgraded carpet, the library-turned-media-center started to take shape. The books were loaded back onto new shelving, and a modern, custom-made desk was set up for Mrs. Plescia who heads the Media Center.

A seating area was created for guests visiting the School, making it more a comfortable spot than the wooden benches in the front office where guests previously waited for their appointments. Colorful, modular seating lines the front of the room—now, a new favorite reading nook for students—and tables, chairs, and storage completes the makeover. Mrs. Plescia added her own accents to complement the updated look. "It's still a work in progress, but I smile every time I walk through the doors," said Mrs. Plescia.

**"...we knew the importance of making our library look inviting and current."**

—Donna Decker, Director of Advancement



# Jean Andon Faculty Passion Project Recipient

## Hawaii by Dan McGonigal

The Jean Andon Faculty Passion Project allowed me to take my family on the trip of a lifetime. In Hawaii we visited the islands of Maui and Kauai. We explored the islands for nearly two weeks and had a lot of highlight moments.

One of Hawaii's unique attributes is the connection people have to the environment. They take a lot of effort to protect the land and seas and also expect visitors to respect their efforts. Renewable resources, like wind and solar power, are used as well. They keep trash and recycling where it belongs and seldom was it seen out of place. Signs at every beach warn people of the impact their sunblock may have on the water habitats. Their commitment and appreciation of their special island is easy to appreciate and admire.

At Harford Day School, we talk a lot about conservation and the environment, and often use recycled materials for Innovation Lab projects. I'm looking forward to sharing what I witnessed in Hawaii with my students.

It is no wonder that Hawaii is such a desirable place to visit—the unique beauty and culture is stunning. I am so appreciative of our generous donor for making this trip a reality for my family.



## Welcome Devin Wootton



Harford Day School has selected an outstanding and experienced educator, Devin Wootton, to succeed Lynne Myavec as the Head of the Middle School. Mr. Wootton will also serve as the Assistant Head of School, a role that will be crucial as the School continues its 10-year AIMS accreditation process and the implementation of our strategic plan.

Devin Wootton comes to Harford Day after serving as the Assistant Head of Pine Cobble School in Williamstown, Massachusetts. In this role, he supervised faculty, developed leadership positions, and oversaw the school's curriculum and programming. During his five year tenure at Pine Cobble, he also taught Middle School English classes and managed student discipline.

Devin steps into very big shoes. Lynne Myavec has been a steady and inspirational presence during her time at HDS. She loves, understands, and appreciates adolescents, and she exemplifies the values we hold dear at HDS: empathy, perseverance, integrity, community, and growth. We will all miss her sense of humor, compassion, and care for her students and colleagues.

# Once a Dragon, Always a Dragon



Andrew Morgan '13 (left) works during the day as a data analyst and Billy Chizmar '13 (right) is a writer/director.

Mrs. Farrell often attends games of HDS alums, whether it be lacrosse, field hockey, or basketball. Recently, while watching Noah Chizmar '17 playing lacrosse for the University of Virginia, she spotted another alum in the crowd.

Noah's brother Billy '13 was happy to see his former Athletic Director. When Billy heard that Harford Day was looking for a boys' lacrosse coach, he jumped at the chance to come back to HDS. The deal was sealed when he found out that Andrew Morgan '13 (his lifelong friend from Harford Day) would also be coaching.

"We're thrilled to have these alumni back on campus! They've been a big help to Coach Lucey and the players really look up to them," said Mrs. Farrell.

## Capstone Project for 8th Grade

New to Middle School this year is the 8th Grade Capstone Project led by Mr. Attanasio. Just as a capstone is the final stone laid in construction, the 8th Grade capstone project is the final culmination of students' time at Harford Day School. The capstone experience asks students to select, plan, execute, and present a project of their own choice, using skills that they have mastered during their time at HDS. Expanding on the longstanding tradition of the HDS 8th Grade speech, the

on the wider community (whether that be an element of the school community, the local community, or the national/global communities). Second, the project should result in personal learning growth for each student. Students should complete their capstone projects having developed new skills and deepened existing knowledge or competence while positively influencing others.

This year's projects run the gamut from investigating the

Book Club members to read *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. In addition to reading, Yuvi organized games and activities related to the book for the students. "We love Book Club with Yuvi!" exclaimed a 3rd Grader.

"I think I like Book Club as much as [the 3rd Graders] do!" said Yuvi. "*Mr. Popper's Penguins* was my favorite book when I was their age. It's been fun sharing it with them and seeing them laugh at the funny parts."

...the 8th Grade capstone project is the final culmination of students' time at Harford Day School.

capstone allows students to guide their own learning and make a difference.

The goals of the Capstone project are twofold. First, the project should have some impact

stock market, to making all-natural soap. One, in particular, has been a big hit with our younger students. Yuvi A. started a Book Club for 3rd Graders. On Tuesdays after school, Yuvi gathered with the

Yuvi's Capstone project embodies the spirit of the assignment. It has had an impact on his club members and has given him the opportunity to become a successful leader and mentor. The club was initially supposed to last for three weeks, but due to requests from the students, Yuvi happily agreed to continue to meet with the club every week.

### YUVI'S BOOK CLUB CAPSTONE PROJECT





## ALUM SPOTLIGHT: MILYA BURIAN '09



Milya Burian '09, owner of Z Vault, welcomed us in her shop.

Walking into Z Vault on Main Street in Bel Air feels like you've been transported to a trendy L.A. hot spot. There's a good reason for that—Milya Burian '09 opened her shop after moving back to Bel Air from Los Angeles.

"I missed the cold-pressed juices, smoothies, and yogurt parfaits I used to get in L.A. so I decided to bring them to Bel Air," said Milya.

Milya's passion for healthy food and drink options is evident

as she excitedly talks about Z Vault's menu items. In fact, her enthusiasm for the shop's success is prompting her to expand. She plans on opening an upstairs lounge for high tea, and envisions it as a "sit-down, hang-out-kind-of-place" for a Saturday afternoon brunch, or maybe even a place to hold small events.

Long before Z Vault, Milya's entrepreneurial spirit was ignited in California after she adopted her first dog. Her love for animals prompted her to buy the very store where she purchased her

pup eight years ago.

Out west, Milya worked at her pet spa and boutique until her hometown came calling. *To Wag For* opened its second location on Main Street in Bel Air, allowing Milya to continue to serve her furry friends in MD. (She travels to California regularly to check on her Santa Monica shop.)

As a new mom, juggling a baby and three businesses isn't easy, but being back home with family to count on makes it work. Cheers to Milya for following her bliss.

*We loved catching up with this alumnae, and Milya was just as thrilled to reconnect with HDS. Her eyes twinkled as she remembered former teachers, and she enjoyed hearing about the School and reminiscing.*

## ALUM SPOTLIGHT: FORREST GAGNON '15



Forrest Gagnon '15 on a site visit.

When Forrest was a student at Harford Day, he was known for building things, like a cabin (complete with electricity) in his backyard, or restoring a Jeep before he could even drive.

Those who know him describe him as a "doer," and weren't sur-

prised to learn that Forrest is now in the business of building. He has started a construction division of Ivy Hill Land Services, his family's business.

"I've always been interested in the family business. I started my first job there plowing snow when I

was 12 years old," said Forrest.

Forrest's first foray into business development at Ivy Hill was when he was in high school. For his Business Class, Forrest and a friend conceived of a mulch delivery service that would seamlessly integrate into Ivy Hill's service offerings.

By using Ivy Hill's trucks during off hours, the mulch delivery service not only became a reality, but proved to be quite successful. Forrest and his John Carroll partner spent a year delivering mulch on evenings and Saturdays.

Bigger and better opportunities were on the horizon. After Forrest finished flight school in Florida, he came home with another idea

for Ivy Hill. In no time, the construction division was established and allowed the family business to expand into new areas.

Recently, Forrest has worked with a developer to dig foundations and provide site work for a new neighborhood. He also constructed a road with a stream crossing and curbs for the community.

One of his biggest projects to date is the addition of two miles of trail and construction of a new parking lot at the Grove Center in Dublin.

As busy as Forrest is, he still maintains friendships with his old HDS classmates. In fact, Hunter Peverley '14 is a new addition to Forrest's crew!

# Strategic Plan

Led by the Board of Trustees and a group comprising members of the administration, faculty, staff, and alumna, the School engaged in the formulation of a three-year strategic plan. Intrinsic to the plan are familiar aspects of the HDS legacy, coupled with forward-looking initiatives intended to sustain and advance the School's work in service to its students and families.

Five pillars were identified to frame the strategic planning process:

- Faculty Excellence
- Academics and Innovation
- Equity and Inclusion
- Facilities and Grounds
- Financial Health and Sustainability

Each of the five resulting committees were given the same tasks: provide an overview of the scope and importance of its pillar, complete a strategic assessment of the school through the lens of that pillar, and develop objectives to guide the Board of Trustees and administration when the plan is implemented.

"It is an ambitious plan, but we are an ambitious school community and these are times that call for earnest, compelling endeavors," noted Mrs. Kearney, Head of School.



## Summer smARTS is for Fun and Learning

Harford Day's summer programs are offered for ten weeks beginning on June 13th.

- D's Magic with Mr. Dave Thomen
- Chef Egg

The programs serve children from age three through entering 5th Grade, as well as limited options for Middle and High Schoolers. In addition to traditional, theme-based summer day programs, this year we have expanded our options by partnering with sought-after learning experiences from Baltimore (and beyond), including:

- Black Rocket
- Little Medical School
- The Science Guys of Baltimore
- Perfectly Me Superheros

For the first time, these vendors will bring their courses to Harford County, and we couldn't be more excited.

"We're encouraged by the community's response as many of these new programs have already sold out," remarked Janelle Schmidt, Director of Auxiliary Programs.



Registration is open, but spots are filling up quickly.

Scan for more information



## Young Alumni Holiday Gathering Drew Record Attendance





## A R O U N D H D S



4th & 5th Grade celebrated Holi.



Finley K. and Ryder W. performed in the hilarious Middle School Play, "When Bad Things Happen to Good Actors."



Mrs. Kearney helped Tiago E. in 4th Grade Study Hall.



Addison G. zigged and zagged past Mr. McGonigal and Ms. Burdusi in the 8th Grade vs. Faculty basketball game.



Savannah A. and her grandmother, Diane Harloe, painted their Blue and Green Fund tile.



Eloise L. impressed Mrs. Karastamatis with her knowledge of outer space.



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Make every day count.

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## Celebrating National Reading Month

In celebration of National Reading Month, the Lower School faculty dressed up as their favorite book characters.



*Pictured: (standing l-r) Rosie Revere Engineer (Mrs. Meerholz), Fern from Charlotte's Web (Mrs. Bradshaw), If you give a Mouse a Cookie (Mrs. Wilkes), Flat Stanley (Mrs. Bedsaul), Fancy Nancy (Mrs. Downey), Nate the Great (Ms. Creighton), Mary Poppins (Mrs. Westervelt), Elephant & Piggie (Mrs. Annen and Mrs. Sullivan); (seated l-r) Harriet the Spy (Mrs. Peck), Arthur (Ms. Dippel), Waldo (Mrs. Rupprecht), Horton Hears a Who (Mrs. Kearney), If you Give a Mouse a Cookie (Mrs. Kamyszek), The Giving Tree (Mrs. Plescia)*