

belonging THE DERRYFIELD SCHOOL

FALL 2016



A TRADITION OF GIVING THANKS

For over 20 years on Thanksgiving, Derryfield students have been Providing Manchester families in need a reason to give thanks. The entire school participates in providing complete Thanksgiving meals—and then some—to over 60 local families who otherwise might not have one.

Many alumni will remember the Thanksgiving basket project fondly, but some will notice that the process that the process has changed. Each advisory used to be assigned a specific item—such as canned veggies or stuffing—and would provide that item for all baskets. This got the job done, but students didn't have ownership of a specific family's basket or an appreciation of the scope of the project. The newer process involves Key Club assigning the names of families in need of assistance collected from both Breakthrough Manchester and Child Health Services to each advisory group. The group assembles an entire basket for a specific family, starting with a list of required staples. After that, they are given free reign to include anything else they think the family might enjoy. An additional information sheet also includes the family's ethnicity, and the names and ages of any children. Students often decorate the basket (typically a sturdy laundry basket), make cards or personal notes, add toys or books if there are children, and include some special treats.

When all the baskets are assembled and gathered outside the Lockwood Lyceum, they are quite a sight, overflowing with all of the Thanksgiving offerings. Key Club takes inventory, adds missing items, and organizes additional perishable items and fresh baked goods. The turkeys have been provided for many years through the generosity of the Lindner family and their associates at Lindner

Family Dental. Their three children, Heidi '02, Melanie '03, and Doug '07, all graduated from Derryfield. On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, teams of students, parents, and faculty assemble on campus, delivery routes are mapped, and cars set off to deliver the meals personally to the families. Everyone agrees that delivery can be the most gratifying part of the project, because the families are so welcoming and grateful.

Susan Grodman, Derryfield's Assistant Head for External Affairs and past coordinator of the program, sums up the experience, saying "Thanksgiving baskets are one of my favorite projects of the year. They involve every student and faculty member, give us a chance to do something good for the community, and provide our students with a learning opportunity at the same time."



Anna Quinn '20 and Julia Tilton '20 deliver Thanksgiving goods to CHS.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS: FRITZ AND DEB MORGAN

Derryfield has always been grateful for the involvement of our parent community, and starting with this issue of *Belonging*, we want to give a few of these sometimes-unsung heroes a little well-earned recognition. Fritz and Deb Morgan are first on the list, and “FIRST” for many of our students.

Their involvement at Derryfield covers both ends of the athletic-academic spectrum. On one end, Fritz works at DEKA Research & Development Corporation, side-by-side with founder Dean Kamen. Fritz and Deb brought this STEM passion to Derryfield two years ago, introducing middle school students to Kamen’s FIRST Lego League and, this year, to the FIRST Tech Challenge.

Acting as coaches, consultants, and team parents, Fritz describes his involvement as “caring about the future, and helping to grow the next innovators and leaders of tomorrow.”



On the other end of the spectrum, Deb has been a hockey mom for years. With the re-introduction of a varsity hockey program at Derryfield (a co-op with Hollis Brookline High School) three years ago, she saw the need to get Derryfield’s younger players working as a team before they hit the “big time.” She found a middle school league, rounded up all the Derryfield players she could find, and the team had its first season last year. This year, players from Hollis Brookline are on the roster as well, to further build that team spirit. It’s a lot to manage, but Deb’s essential philosophy is why not? She says, “I look at everything the School is doing, and then at what more could be done, and say why can’t we make it happen?”

And make it happen they do. Thank you, Fritz and Deb!



LEFT: The 2016 Middle School Hockey Team. ABOVE: Deb Morgan helps Spencer Burdette '21 with the FLL team’s model.

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI IN TECHNOLOGY

On Monday, October 24, Derryfield hosted its third annual Alumni Spotlight morning. Each year, the Alumni Council invites Derryfield graduates in a particular field back to campus for a networking breakfast open to the entire Derryfield community, followed by campus tours, classes with favorite teachers, and a panel-style all-school assembly organized by the Student Council.

This year’s alumni are all working in the field of technology. Edward Bender '97 is the Global Products Manager at Fastly, which handles traffic and security for web enterprises, and where he gets “big companies to play nicely together.” Michele Lauer '96 is a Technical Project Manager at BioRAFT, where she guides developers through building new features and functionality. Gerard Murphy '98 is the Group Products Manager for Restaurants at TripAdvisor—a service that many of us, no doubt, have used! Keep an eye out for next year’s event to see who will be in the Spotlight then!



ABOVE: Panel members join moderator Bruce Berk and Alumni Council Engagement Committee Chair Kelly Steele Reis '97 (right). BELOW: Community members enjoy hearing from alumni panelists at breakfast.



SMALL BUT MIGHTY

Derryfield has historically offered more varsity sports than any other school in Division IV, and those teams have had great success. Since 2000, Derryfield teams have won over 55 state championships. However, when a change in NHIAA rules allowed individual sports within a school to move up divisions, many Derryfield teams took the opportunity for greater challenge against larger schools.

Varsity tennis has had the longest run, playing (and winning) in D-I and II over the past decade. Last spring the boys' varsity lacrosse team won the D-II state championship in only its second season since moving up a division. This fall the boys' varsity soccer team's inaugural season in D-III was a huge success, ending in the semi-finals with a 13-2 record. And in only its third season in D-II, the varsity field hockey team contested a hard-fought championship final, losing in double overtime with a season record of 15-2. This continued success at higher levels of competition shows the grit and talent our athletes bring to the field and court every day.



ABOVE: The varsity field hockey team poses with their runners-up plaque after the DII State Championship game. **BELOW:** Boys' varsity soccer celebrates a win in the DIII quarter finals.



ABOVE: Susanna Barger '17 finishes up some work for Advanced Studio Art. **RIGHT:** Nick Leclerc '17 and Richard Eng '17 try out wheel throwing.

OPEN STUDIO

Despite a creative arts graduation requirement, many Derryfield students aren't able to find as much time to exercise their creative muscles as they would like. Introduced by Creative Arts Chair Becky Barsi last year, Open Studio offers the time and space for creative art expression. After school twice weekly, students, faculty, and staff are invited to stop by the Klee Art Studio and create. Artists of all levels can refine an existing skill, build a visual arts portfolio, or learn a new technique and media like pottery wheel throwing; but Open Studio is also a great place to relax and doodle at the end of a busy day, or make a gift for a friend. The possibilities for creation are endless!





A PROGRESS REPORT

CELEBRATING TALENT & TRADITION

Derryfield's Junior Class Talent Show, held annually the night before Country Fair, has become more than just a showcase of student skill. For students, parents, and faculty it has become the way to kick off a weekend of fall traditions.

In keeping with Derryfield's emphasis on student leadership, it is an entirely student-run event, with a new group of eleventh graders taking the reins each year. A hallmark of the community, performers from sixth grade through twelfth are celebrated by an enthusiastic audience. However, experienced stage manager Abigail Hovey '18 has a different perspective on these Derryfield performances. "Watching someone who was nervously pacing back stage go out on the stage and perform wonderfully is a unique experience. You see the transformation of the performers throughout the whole show; the warm-ups, the performances, and the relief and joy on their faces when they walk off."

Traditional events like the Talent Show strengthen community ties. Save the date for more creative arts traditions, the upper school musical (*The Drowsy Chaperone*) on March 10-11 and upper school play (*You Can't Take it With You*) on May 19-20.



Maddie Kasten '17 and Ian Dillon '18 performing at the Talent Show.

goal 1: belonging

"Build a sense of belonging and identity within the Derryfield family."

FORD FOUNDATION GRANT SUPPORTS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

In June 2016, Derryfield received the exciting news that the School had been awarded a \$50,000 challenge grant by the Edward E. Ford Foundation to build a purposeful and sustained student leadership development program. The need for effective, compassionate leaders has always been critical, and from its beginnings, Derryfield has encouraged this in our students. Derryfield's 2014 strategic plan called us to be more purposeful, by cultivating "inspired, effective, and compassionate student leaders, committed to enriching their wider communities." The emerging Leadership Development Program, formed in 2015 in response to the goal, provides an intentional, coordinated, middle and upper school program that articulates and cultivates leadership skills—giving students the opportunity to develop, practice, and demonstrate their own personal leadership style.



Students do group exercises at the 2016 Leadership Retreat.

The Ford Foundation grant will allow the school to strengthen the base of the program, with funding for faculty and student training, workshops, and speakers, so that, by 2018-2019, the Leadership Development Program is fully integrated into every student's experience, as much as math, history, and English. From the day they enter Derryfield, students will be given the tools to understand their own leadership style, and offered many and varied opportunities to practice it in their own way.

A challenge grant, by its nature, is an expectation that the funds granted will be matched by other donors, frequently on a 1-1 basis, before the grant is awarded. This common philanthropic practice helps assure funders of a nonprofit's ability to raise additional dollars. The Advancement Office is now in the process of securing the required \$50,000 match, which will be added immediately to our endowment and used to support our leadership development efforts in the years to come. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help with this opportunity, please contact the Advancement Office.

goal 2: leading

"Cultivate inspired, effective, and compassionate student leaders committed to enriching their wider communities."

T ON DERRYFIELD'S STRATEGIC PLAN

goal 3: building

“Improve campus safety and convenience.”



Gillian Roberts '99 receives the Rising Star in Safety Award from Deborah Hersman, President and CEO of the National Safety Council.

BUILDING A SAFER COMMUNITY

As the world around us changes, so must Derryfield. School safety is no longer simply completing a monthly fire drill, but involves coordinating a myriad of preventative approaches to ensure the wellbeing of our students. “Striking a balance of maintaining a safe community while preserving the welcoming culture of Derryfield has presented challenges, but we are confident in our approach,” shares Head of Safety Gillian Roberts '99.

Beyond safety tools—such as video monitoring of entrances, buzzer systems, automated locks, and additional outdoor lighting—periodic drills are conducted, including traditional fire, full-scale evacuation, and shelter-in-place scenarios. Engine 5 and the Manchester Police Department have partnered with Derryfield to assist with drills and become familiar with the campus, which is essential preparation for an actual emergency.

Case studies have shown that threats are most often from members within a school community; for this reason, Derryfield has developed an Internal Threat Assessment Team, headed by School Counselor Mary Perkins. Adults who may be concerned about a student's behavior are asked to report this information to the team so it can look for patterns and tackle issues in an appropriate manner, either internally or externally. “This holistic community approach allows us to care for any struggling student, while simultaneously maintaining the wellbeing of the entire student body,” offered Gillian. Derryfield's efforts have attracted attention from the national safety community, earning Gillian a '40 Under 40 Rising Star in Safety' Award from the National Safety Council. She was in good company, as other recipients represented such corporate giants as ExxonMobil, Disney, and AECOM.

goal 4: elevating

“Expand program and marketing to attract more families and retain current families.”

If You Build It, They Will Come

This was mantra of the Admission Office in 2006 as we sought to bring busing back to the School. If it worked for baseball, it would work for us too, right? Students from the '80s and '90s remember riding to Derryfield in school vans, on the Bedford bus, or in faculty carpools, but school-organized transportation eventually disappeared. In the new millennium, we saw a rise in the number of dual income families from a wider range of towns who needed help with transportation logistics. Buses came back in 2006, and they've been a critical factor in continuing the healthy enrollment of the School. In fact, 110 students (28% of our student population) now ride the five bus routes covering 13 towns within 30 miles of Derryfield. The buses do one run in the morning and two in the afternoon, providing a ride home for athletes and artists after late practices and rehearsals. And the future looks bright. After all, the buses are marketing billboards on wheels. We have already expanded toward the seacoast and are considering our options in Massachusetts for 2017-18. We built it, and they keep coming ... ride on!

THE DERRYFIELD SCHOOL





belonging

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Annie

On Friday, November 4, the middle school cast and crew of *Annie* once again provided an amazing community service opportunity (and gave themselves more rehearsal!) by putting on a special matinee performance for area elementary school children. Students from Beech Street, Webster, Mill Falls Charter School, Mount St. Mary, and St. Catherine's were invited to join us on campus. We love bringing the magic of the arts to local students!

Jamie Carlberg '22 as Annie and "Lucy" Kelsey as Sandy.



Parents of Alumni: If your child no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please notify the Advancement Office of the correct mailing address at 603.669.4524 or email advancement@derryfield.org.