

5th Annual Auction on April 16th

Each year our auction gets better! The auction will be held at Kennebunk High School Cafeteria starting at 5:00pm for the silent auction and dinner, and 7:00 for the live auction. You can have a wonderful buffet dinner, hear good music, and enjoy the silent auction and live auction in the same evening.

The live auction offers an African photography safari, a Florida vacation, a bomber jacket from Victoria's Secret, a collection of HO gauge model trains, a shaker style desk and chair, antique Japanese slippers, art work, a cozy wing back chair, gold rings, and 75 more items. The live auction starts at 7:00pm with our vibrant auctioneer Kathy Kingston.

Silent auction opens at 5:00 and closes at 6:30. There are beautiful theme baskets featuring items such as children's books, garden supplies, coffees, and off to college baskets, plus gift certificates for restaurants and very special services.

New School students will offer yard cleaning, babysitting, photo portraits, dog washing, house cleaning, or cooking you a great meal. This is our biggest fund-raising event of the year and we look forward to a great turnout.

New School Players Present "Sleeper"

After the tragic events of Columbine High School, playwright William Mastrosimone wrote a memorial play. The play, "Bang Bang You're Dead" was presented by The New School Players last spring. This year Mastrosimone has written a new play, "Sleepers" that addresses teen suicide. The University of Southern Maine School of Law invited The New School Players to present this play at their summer conference in July as a special event to stimulate conversation amongst conference participants. This is a real honor and twelve students will take up the challenge.

Seniors Accepted to Colleges

In keeping with our status quo, six college-bound seniors have been accepted at the colleges of their first choice.

Samantha Tupper will attend American International College in Springfield, MA. She received their Presidential Scholarship of \$10,000 a year for four years.

Eric Jacobson has been accepted at the University of Maine at Orono where he is interested in their sustainable agriculture program and at College of the Atlantic. He has a great choice!

Lindsey Cook has been accepted at University of Southern Maine where she will be a Russell Scholar. Lindsey has been on our Model United Nations team for two years and will continue at the college level at USM.

Tara Domijan will be attending the Rockport College of Photography. Tara's photography has been accepted in several shows including Julia's Gallery at the Farnsworth Museum.



Students display some of the 80 auction items up for bid!

Lauren McGuire has been accepted at Green Mountain College in Vermont where she will study nutrition and join New School Alumni Will Eaton and Michelle Somers.

Unity College will welcome **John Rentschler** and award him a Deans Academic Scholarship of \$3,000 a year for 4 years. John is interested in wilderness therapy.

Samantha Corey will be pursuing a career in fashion design and will learn through being an apprentice.



Students display Mayan weavings for auction.

Students Raise \$1,000 for "Safe Passage"

After spending January Term in Guatemala (see story on page 3) it seemed vital that we support the children in Camino Seguro, the Guatemalan project supported by Falmouth based non-profit "Safe Passage". Students Sam Breed, Lauren McGuire, Liz Martin, Ryan Wilson, Elena Kaye-Scheiss, Adam Sanders and Gina Simmons cooked up a delicious Guatemalan Dinner and auctioned off 8 Mayan quilts and other weavings they brought back to raise funds. The students gave \$1,000 to Safe Passage and \$800 to our Travel Study Fund for scholarships. This wonderful fund-raiser reflects our ethic of "Giving Back".

Friday Apprenticeships

In keeping with our commitment to learning in the community, every Friday students are engaged in Apprenticeships and Independent Studies with community mentors. In this way, students connect with their passions and try out career options. Here are some examples of the 34 studies under way:

Alicia Kane is an intern at Mildred Day School with Art teacher Audrey Grumbling. Sam Tupper works in a first grade classroom at Kennebunkport Consolidated School. Torah-ya Belenger is an intern at Reiche School in Portland where many of the immigrant children are integrated into their life in Maine.

Caleb Viano knows he wants to own his own outdoor adventure business so he is learning to tie fishing flies. Sam Breed loves antique cars so he is working with a group of car restorers. Dawn Hans will intern in a law office to further her interest in being a lawyer.

Clayton Eberle pursues his love of cooking as an apprentice to a caterer. Cassie Sears will learn how public charity works as an intern at United Way. Ryan Wilson is an intern with reporter George Chappell at the Journal Tribune. Abner Clarkson will apprentice to Tom St. Amand to explore his interest in acupuncture. Ben Frost and Max Allain, aspiring cartoonists work with Nantz Comyns to learn their craft.

Community Courses Bring the Generations Together

When Dessa Hardin and Marylyn Wentworth, both grandmothers, write memoirs with Elena Kaye-Schiess, Hallie Fuller and Ryanne Bothel, a lot more than writing happens as they get to know each other. John Santerre's Photoshop Class is much more than the name indicates. People from the community and students choose a non-profit organization, capture the heart of that group with photos, learn to use photoshop and then give the group a portfolio of pictures for their use.

When middle school students join high school students in Nantz Coymns cartooning class, it is a chance to cross age barriers around something loved by all the students.

Language classes are all taught by community teachers who bring a new perspective to the school. With Japanese, French, Spanish, Gaelic and American Sign going on from 3:30 to 5:00 every day, it gives many community people the chance to learn a language. It is both the richness of community people bringing their expertise to the school as teachers, and the community people who join in the courses that makes this experience so well connected to the world beyond school.



Community students learn Adobe Photoshop with John Santerre

Senior Projects Come Alive

Eric Jacobson will end his senior year with a plan for a permanent greenhouse for the school, based on permaculture principles. John Rentschler will have a lot of practice teaching guitar under his belt. Tara Domijan will have a public display of photography. Sam Corey works with designer Lynne Stewart as she designs and sews a line of clothing for her fashion show. Lauren McGuire will have a completed nutrition plan for two community people. All these projects are guided by community mentors and will be presented at their Senior Exhibitions and at LEAP night on June 14.

Community Dialogue on The End of Oil

On the second and fourth Thursday of every month, local people gather at The New School to discuss the book *The Last Hours of Ancient Sunlight* by Thom Hartmann. Hartmann writes about the challenge of oil being gone, or far too expensive in the near future and how we can plan for that time in an intelligent way so as to avert the disaster that could come. Since everything we buy, all our food, our jobs, our homes, our heat are in some way dependent on oil, this is a compelling conversation. Everyone is welcome to join the conversation at any time.

Giving Back

Every student at The New School participates in 5 Giving Back days to develop the habit of public service and to repay the generosity of the community. Students help out at the Mustang Rescue Farm, Wells Reserve, the Food Pantry in Alfred, at the Rachel Carson Reserve, the downtown YMCA, the Sweetser Farm and any other organization that needs us. We also participate in the United Way Day of Caring.



Boarding the "Chicken Bus" on the way to Guatemala City.

Guatemala Adventure by Elena Kaye-Scheiss

My experience at Camino Seguro really opened my eyes to the world around me. At home it is easy for someone to describe what poverty is like, but I could never really comprehend it until I saw it first hand. Once you see the poverty these children live through, you can never turn your head away. I know I want to make a difference in their lives.

I came to Guatemala to learn about another culture, but I learned so much more. I learned what extreme poverty is, and I experienced happiness with the children in spite of that. With eight other students and my two teachers I visited three Mayan villages, including a procession for saint's day. We went to Lake Atitlan and saw one of the most beautiful places on earth. We went to the markets and bought quilts to sell at home to raise money. We rode to Guatemala City every day on a "chicken bus." They are our old American school buses all decorated and so d you just wouldn't believe it.

We spent a week at a language school to learn Spanish. I learned more there than I could have in a typical classroom because I had my own teacher and we spoke Spanish every day. We stayed in the home of a Guatemalan family too and spoke Spanish with them.

Safe Passage is a non-profit organization based in Falmouth, Maine. It was started by one woman, Hanley Denning, and it is a miracle. Safe Passage supports the Guatemalan Project called Camino Seguro which helps the children of the families that pick the Guatemala City Dump go to school. We helped the children do their homework, we read to them and cooked in the kitchen. It was a life changing experience. To find out more you can go to safepassage.org on the Internet. seniors have been accepted at the colleges of their first choice.

Seeds of Peace Leadership Team

Seeds of Peace is renowned for gathering young people from conflicting countries to meet in peace at their camp in Otisfield, Maine. This year they are sponsoring a Youth Leadership Conference. New School students were chosen to participate as one of 27 schools in Maine. It is exciting for us, as we practice democracy every day and learning to be effective leaders is an essential part of our education.

Freshman Torah-yah Belanger, Sophomores Elena Kaye-Scheiss and Marie Bradford, and Junior Clayton Eberle will represent The New School. Clayton says, "I want to learn more about cultural awareness so I am more informed, more accepting and able to help other kids."

On May 13 these four students and teacher Tim Hereid will join other Maine student leaders to talk about Civil Rights, Cultural and Ethnic Diversity, Education, Religious Diversity, Socioeconomics Media, and Incentives to stay in Maine. These topics were shaped by fourteen "seeds," or students, from Portland who represented 12 nationalities from Portland's diverse student population. We are proud and excited to be part of this group of young leaders.

In The Everglades by Marie Bradford

Two weeks shouldn't have been enough time to learn everything that we did, but it was. I think that all eleven of us walked away with much more than we were expecting. Our thirty-two hour car-ride proved to be a lot less fun than anyone anticipated, and by the time we arrived, we were all ready to kiss the ground.

For the first few days we stayed in Collier-Seminole State Park. While there, we spent a few of days on the beach at Marco Island, and got acclimated to our surroundings. We visited the Miccosukee village, and had an incredible experience. After Collier-Seminole, we headed for Everglades National Park. Within the park, our tent site was in Long Pine Key. We got our first look at the Pinelands of Florida, and our first smoothie at "Robert is here." While at Long Pine, we explored various hammocks, and boardwalks within the park.

Every night we were required to write in our journals and compile a species list together. Our next stop was Flamingo on the other end of ENP. We experienced some severe winds, which was rough because we were camped on an open plain. Even though the weather was compromising, it was still my favorite campsite. We were directly on the water, and we could see royal palms with the sunset, dolphins jumping off-shore, and an incredible view of the stars at night. Our last few nights were spent in Jonathan Dickenson State Park, where we hiked some trails, and went to a beach with some intense waves. We were all happy to get home, but it was a positively great experience.



Students study the Mangroves in the Florida Everglades

Putting on A Porch

Metal roofs make a great slide for snow and that is a dangerous situation when the end of the slide is over the front door! Seeing the possibility for disaster, parent Matt Clarkson got busy building us a front porch and entry canopy. Matt enlisted the aid of several local businesses and found them happy to help. Wood Structures of Biddeford, ME, with the help of Frank Paul, donated all the carrying beams for the structure. Rich Lambert of LaValley Lumber worked with us to arrange an extremely generous discount on the lumber and roofing needed to complete our new porch. With all the materials on hand, Matt, Alan and Ellen Breed, Sam Breed, Andy Bradford, Noah Wentworth, Mark Simonsic and Josh Nadeau gave their time to see the project to near completion. The trim will go on in the spring and our building will be both safe and considerably more beautiful.

Parents, Grandparents, Friends, and Local Businesses Matter a LOT

Local people are very generous to The New School. People seem to know this is a good place and how important it is to a small, diverse group of students who have found their niche. **So many individuals, organizations, and local businesses** not named here have found it in their hearts to offer small gestures that help us be a mainstay in this and surrounding communities. They bake cookies for events, give building materials or a can of paint, plow our yard, donate things to the auction, give advice and heartfelt support.

Parents and friends on the School Planning Team give in so many ways: serving tirelessly on committees, organizing fund-raisers or helping out in the office and just coming when we call. Thank you one and all!

Sanoma County Community Fund Gives Grant from Hafner Family

Alumni grandparents Mary and Dick Hafner have been generous donors to The New School for a number of years. Their \$1,000 gift through the Sanomoa County Community Fund has been used to continue the renovation of our ever-improving school building. It is now sunny and bright, warm and energy efficient. Their grandson Jake Farrell is a frequent visitor to the school on college vacations, so our ties are strong.

Investing in The Future

Our contributions and grants, like those of all non-profits, have dropped a lot as Foundation funds are stretched thin and organizations in need multiply. Despite the generosity of those named above, we have not met our budget for 2004-05. We think the education and welfare of young people is one of the best investments there is. Your gift is tax deductible and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Make your checks payable to The New School and send to 38 York St. Kennebunk, ME 04043, or contact us to donate by credit card at 985-3745.

Thanks To Our Generous Donors from the Fall Fundraising Campaign

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Alumni Give Gifts

Mary Jane and Dick Jarrett and Patty O'Day-Senior and Mark Senior provided an alumni family scholarship to entering student Gina Simmons. **Elizabeth Brockway** donated her gorgeous first quilt to our annual auction. **Ellen Jones** donated a week of community service and babysitting for our Yoga teacher Scott SanTarpio's young son while he teaches Yoga. **David Jones** gives every Monday evening to our financial committee. **Ty Eaton** serves on our Leadership Team and organizes all our technology. **Bob and Rita McCall** donate great things to our auction. **Brelyn Maceolik** makes our auction technology work. The generosity of our alumni is often a phone call, a word of encouragement and thanks, or a visit filled with good cheer.

UNE Scholarships for International Studies

Nine New School students who studied Spanish in Guatemala this past January would not have been able to do so without the generous help of the University of New England Travel-Study Fund. The students were awarded \$2,500 in scholarship assistance. This fund is earmarked for students who are going to study abroad in a country with a foreign language. The New School very much appreciates the honor bestowed on their students with such a donation. Jacques Downs and Tim Kinne have been our liaisons to this fund and we thank them for their care.

Social Movements Class Offers Historical Challenge

Courses at The New School reflect varied learning styles and approaches, plus connections to the world beyond school. The Social Movements class is an example of how courses work at this school.

The Social Movements class concentrates on the history of citizen (and non-citizen) initiated change in the United States. Students began by looking at the African American struggle for freedom and equality beginning with slave revolts, continuing through the civil rights movement and contemporary efforts to secure reparations for the injustice of slavery. Students met with Wells Staley-Mays, a local historian who took them on an eye-opening tour of Portland's former anti-slavery activity, the city's historically strong black community and its many Under-ground Railroad "stations". The tour raised provocative questions about northern racism, the early women's rights movement and prohibition. Later, students had a challenging discussion about all they had learned during the tour.

The class will design a document based upon the notes they took during the tour. Staley-Mays is returning to the class soon to speak about reparations for slavery, a controversial issue that is receiving increased attention due to recent efforts by advocacy organizations and may soon wend its way through our nation's court system.

The class will meet with anti-racism activists, view the Spike Lee film "Bamboozled," examine contemporary racism by listening to the experiences of African Americans living in Maine. This segment will close with a look at current and historical trends in African American music beginning with origins in Africa and ending with rap and hip-hop.

Next, the class will focus on the feminist movement. The class hopes to have time to study anti-war movements, student movements and the labor movement. This is a unique and compelling way to learn American history.

School Businesses Underway

Two school businesses are coming to life under the guidance of Kelly O'Shea, local businesswoman. Kelly leads students in a business class as they develop business plans and learn the ins and outs of management. They have run a number of businesses through a testing phase including bead jewelry, portraits, and yard work. They have decided on two businesses: A Teen Cabaret that is as yet unnamed and the winter greenhouse.

The Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation has provided us with a \$10,000 grant to form these businesses which are intended to provide a regular income and good learning. The grant pays for the services of experts like Kelly O'Shea, and for infrastructure to get the businesses up and running. For example, a portion of the grant will be added to

the Davis Family Foundation grant to complete our kitchen so that the Cabaret can serve snacks and the Greenhouse can process food for sale. Both businesses are expected to be fully operational by September 2005.

Summer Institute for High School Students

The Gaia Education Center, in collaboration with The New School, is launching two field courses for high school students in Maine. One is centered around Maine coastal environments and another in Trinidad and Tobago. Each course includes two weeks in the field and one week of course work at The New School. Students can earn 2 high school credits (one science and one humanities or math credit) during this 3-week intensive.

The Trinidad and Tobago Culture and Ecology course introduces students to tropical rainforest and coral reef ecology as well as the rich musical and historical culture of the southern most islands in the West Indies. The Maine North Woods course will focus on the diversity of ecosystems and environmental issues in Maine. Students can select an individual study focus that may include writers, artists and/or native peoples of Maine.

For more information contact Bryan Kelliher or Elke Perks at The New School or visit the Gaia Education Center online at gaiaedcenter.org



John Rentschler, Ryan Wilson and teacher Bryan Kelleher practice in their music class in preparation for Open Mic.

Open Mic Music Nights

The big room was packed, the bands were setting up and the night looked like a success before it even began. The first Open Mic played in December and was entirely organized by the student Writer's Workshop. Students learned to organize, advertise, manage musicians and a program, and how to make the audience happy. They welcomed three local teen bands that drew cheers and dancing, plus New School members Nancy Beers and John Rentschler playing folk tunes on guitar and violin with Nancy singing in her haunting way. John played some jazzy music with his friend Fritz. The Open Mic will be part of the Teen Cabaret. The next Open Mic is on April 1.

Welcoming New Board Members

Our Board of Directors are talented, supportive people who assure we meet our mission and that we are financially healthy. Their dedication makes such a difference. Three new members have joined the board:

Dr. Lyman Page was a pediatrician in southern Maine for 19 years, so is well known to many area families. He headed up the pediatrics program at U.Conn and Yale. In August of 2003 he retired back to Kennebunkport with his wife Gil. He is involved in civic work on the Kennebunkport Growth Planning Committee, and as a docent at Laudholm Farms.

Patricia (Trish) Weyand is the college placement officer at Scarborough High School. Trish also works with the Kids First Center in Portland. Trish and her husband Bart have lived in Kennebunk for 30 years, plus they lived 7 of years living in Ireland and England, Trish's birthplace.

Lt. Col. Thomas Foley is currently in Buenos Aires, Argentina and unavailable for an interview. His story will be in the next newsletter.

Jason Wentworth, Steve Canders, Lori Nelson, Barry Horn, Tony Date and **Bruce King**, are the veteran members of the board.

Nancy Beers to Leave The New School

Nancy Beers has been the heart and soul of The New School for all five years of our existence. She has been the smile, the gracious voice, the welcoming spirit, the magic organizer, beloved teacher and mentor, and the perceptive critic and innovator of this school. It is her attention to Wabanaki Studies that keeps us constantly reminded of the heritage of the first people here in Maine and how much our lives are intertwined.

However, a part of Nancy is wasted figuring out payrolls and filing state papers. She is a gifted musician and artist. Nancy said, "I love this school and everyone in it, but what I want now is to be my artist and musician self. It is a gift from this school that I have the confidence to do that." We will miss her and welcome her here as a vital part of this community. We will also glory in her art and her music.

New Students Enliven the School

Our newest students are rich with different talents, qualities, and each bring their own unique addition to our school community.

Clayton Eberle, from South Portland, plans to be a great chef and is already a respected leader at the school. **Max Allain**, from Sanford, is an aspiring cartoonist. **Dawn Hans** wants to be a lawyer and her sharp mind show she's on the right track. **Ben Frost**, from Kennebunk is also an aspiring cartoonist and artist. **Caleb Viano** loves everything about the outdoors and wants to have his own wilderness adventure business.

Alumni News

Our alumni are doing interesting things in the world!

Krista Gagne (04) is studying at Thomas College and is an intern at the state house with Green Party representative John Eider.

Molly Edelstein (04) and **Jeremy Tudisco** (02) are both involved in theater productions at Wheaton College.

Courtney Griffin (04) works in a Food Pantry in Cambridge while attending Wheelock College. This work fascinates her as clients range from retired Harvard professors to Iraq war veterans.

Will Eaton (04) is keeping with New School tradition as he works with the composting project at Green Mountain College.

Jake Farrell (04) continues his studies at Sierra Nevada Univ. and has the luxury of fabulous skiing right next door.

Denise Jarrett (03) and **Corey** got married in February! She works on an organic farm which suits her love of the earth perfectly.

Evan O'Day-Senior (03) has been living and working in Portland, and this summer will be working on an organic farm and studying sustainable architecture.

Chris Rioux (03) will attend the International Academy of Design & Technology in Tampa in the fall. He will study 3-D animation. In his spare time at YCCC he designs brochures for United Way.

Caleb Boulter (03) is studying meteorology at Lyndon State College. Check his northcountryweather.com site!

Brelyn Maciolek (02) and **Rebecca White** (03) are both studying Engineering; Brelyn at University of N.H. and Rebecca at USM.

Sarah Frost (02) is our dream secretary at The New School while attending York County Community College.

Jeremy Tudisco (02) returned from a semester in Japan, where he explored traditional and modern Japanese culture.

Elizabeth Brockway (02) is a nanny to quadruplets. She takes classes at USM and Yoga at The New School so see her weekly.

Greer Tison (02) is majoring in biology at Hawaii Pacific Univ. where she received an academic scholarship. She is working at Makai Animal Hospital in preparation to be a veterinarian.

Lynne Somers (01) will be walking 26 miles in Boston to raise funds for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. She is the V.P. of the Sociology Students Association at USM where she is a Junior.

Patrick Brennan (01) has returned from China and works with an environmental group in Boston.

Jeromy Gagne (01) has joined his father in his carpentry business

