



Parents Plus Monthly



A joint publication of The Stony Brook School and *SBS PARENTS*

March 2010

Leadership Development through Athletics

Leadership is a big word here at SBS. In March of each year, we begin a weeks-long application process to identify and select student leaders to serve the community in a variety of capacities, ranging from workjob captain to prefect. There are applications, retreats, interviews, and the long wait to see what an envelope in your mailbox might offer.

As I have moved into the role of director of athletics, I have more clearly recognized that the captains of our sports teams hold significant leadership positions, though they are selected by their coaches, sometimes with the consideration of a vote from their peers. This is a more intimate process compared to the broader leadership program process. And yet there is nothing small about the roles they will be chosen to play.

The role of the captain is something that our department will be giving close attention to over the next few months. This winter, we formed a special committee on captaincy—a group of coaches that are working on discussing what it means to be a captain, what characteristics a captain should possess, what the selection process should look like, and what the expectations of a captain should generally and specifically be. This group is not looking to form a hard and fast set of rules—we figured out quickly that a captain for the sailing program will frequently be a much different person and hold different responsibilities than the captain of the track team—but we are looking to broaden our understanding of leadership in sports and the character development of these young men and women.

This spring, I will begin a pilot program with the team captains where we will meet on a regular basis and work our way through an *Athletic Captain's Handbook* that I have developed. This book mirrors much of the language in the *Leadership Curriculum Handbook*, and I hope to reinforce those ideas while also expanding the model to include the unique challenges faced in athletic practice and competition. On the cover of the handbook are three words: Challenge. Grow. Serve. These are three of the active verbs in our School's mission statement, and I would like to make them the basis of what our athletic department is trying to accomplish, beginning with our captains and inclusive of all our student-athletes. If they can challenge and be challenged, grow and help others to grow, serve and encourage service, then I think we will have accomplished with them what I would expect of every coach or program at this School, in this time, and in this place. And if recent history holds true, we can go ahead and win a few games and championships along the way!

-Director of Athletics Kevin M. Kunst '89

Parent Perspective

Kevin and Jeanmarie Braat P'14

The Stony Brook School has been a blessing for our entire family and it is a pleasure to share some of our experiences with you. The faculty, staff, and administration are a unique group of people dedicated to both their responsibilities as educators and as servants of Christ.

I had the unique fortune of accompanying my daughter's class to Costa Rica last year and witnessing something very special. The trip was to Companario, a biological preserve in the Costa Rican rain forest. It is a magical place, frozen in time, and a splendid example of God's creation.

The magic I experienced was not only in the place but also in the interactions that SBS faculty had with 33 seventh-grade students, admittedly a very difficult age. The children were unnaturally stripped of most conveniences of modern civilization: no phones, internet, television, electricity, or hot water. We slept in open air cabins with all of the usual guests one would expect in a tropical rainforest; I was greeted by a scorpion in my bed one night and after some commotion, we both survived the encounter unscathed. Each morning, at the crack of dawn, we were awakened by howler monkeys marking their territory, followed by some peaceful bird watching and breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean—all before breakfast!

Our daily routine was challenging, hiking up hills deep into the Costa Rican rain forest for scientific observations, followed by lunch and quiet writing time. Despite the full schedule, we met daily for a chapel service which was so

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uncontrived and relevant for the place and moment. The sun sets early near the equator and our evenings were busy rushing to get as much done before the pitch-black of night. In the dark, we gathered for dinner and some nighttime activities including hikes to the bat cave or into the rainforest to witness some of the area's nocturnal dwellers. Our final night at Campanario was marked by a bonfire on a natural jetty with waves splashing us from three sides while sharing personal thanks to God and each other for our experiences. There were no regrets, only words of gratitude for the experience.

The trip wasn't without challenges, but they were normal, everyday, human challenges from which the children learned and grew. The week at Campanario is only a fraction of the SBS experience, just as each student's time at The Stony Brook School will be a small part of their formative years. Each of those individual experiences, when combined, are examples of the incredible effort the School makes to provide a truly unique educational experience with lessons that will hopefully last a lifetime. Thank you and Godspeed SBS!

College Counseling: *Read any good books lately?*

College admissions are a hot topic in the news right now, with weekly articles on everything from highly competitive admissions and financial aid to the current economic climate. Though it is always prudent to pay attention to current trends, it is also important to read material broader in context. Several books are available that are interesting and helpful. From a new book by Edward Fiske with 41 To-Do Lists (*Countdown to College*) to an old favorite, *Colleges That Change Lives* by Loren Pope, there is something for everyone. I suggest that parents read at least one – based on the area of interest. Some of my favorites are listed below - happy reading!

- Overall admissions process: *The College Admissions Mystique*, Bill Mayher
- Most competitive colleges admissions: *The Gatekeepers*, Jacques Steinberg; *A is for Admission*, Michelle Hernandez
- Colleges that emphasize character: *Colleges That Change Lives*, Loren Pope; *Looking Beyond the Ivy League*, Loren Pope; *Colleges That Encourage Character Development*, The John Templeton Foundation
- Books that attempt to diffuse the frenzy: *College Unranked*, Lloyd Thacker; *The Hidden Ivies*, Howard Greene

As you read, please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

-Director of College Counseling Kathy Griffin ext. 541, kathy.griffin@stonybrookschoo.org

Looking Ahead to 2010-2011

The Academic Office has set Friday, April 16, as the beginning date for 2010-2011 course registration. Underclassmen will make tentative course selections in a special advisor group session with the guidance of their advisors. A copy of the guidelines given to each advisor will be mailed to parents in March. Parents will then have an opportunity to discuss course selection with students prior to the April 16 registration session. After each student selects courses, the Academic Office will review the schedules. Selections will be reviewed in order to ensure that students have chosen appropriate grade level courses, that graduation requirements are being fulfilled, and that a student is selecting courses commensurate with his or her ability. Student selection of honors or advanced placement courses is reviewed in regards to current teacher recommendations, marks in current courses, and standardized test scores. If it is in the best interest of a student to select a different course, our office will contact the student. Our overriding priority is that each student will be given an appropriate course load that will challenge his or her gifts and talents to the fullest, while at the same time not place the student in an overwhelming situation.

Additionally, each junior will meet with Kathy Griffin, director of college counseling, to review his or her schedule as it pertains to a student's college search selections. A final listing of selected courses will be mailed to parents in the summer.



Chess Team to compete in Nationals!

On February 6, the undefeated SBS Chess Team fell to Cold Spring Harbor in a tie-breaker for first place in the County Championships. **Sam Yeom '12** was fourth place overall, winning 4 of 5 90-minute matches. Varsity players **Tim Miller '12**, **Hayato Nakanishi '13**, **Jason Sutjiawan '10**, and **Gabe Winston '14**, each won 3 of 5 matches. The junior varsity team won in dominating fashion in the County's Junior Varsity tournament. **Justin Shi '14** and **Enoch Wang '13** were top scorers with 4.5 points each.

In April, **David Chung '11**, **Jay Kim '11**, **Rahul Mane '13**, **Tim Miller**, **Hayato Nakanishi**, **Justin Shi**, **Jason Sutjiawan**, **Enoch Wang**, **Gabe Winston**, **Yan Xiong '12**, and **Sam Yeom** will compete in the National Scholastic Chess Tournament in Columbus, Ohio. Good luck to Coach Winston and the team!

Transportation Reminder

Transportation requests are due in your local school district's transportation office no later than March 31 for the 2010-2011 academic year. Please be aware there will be **no transportation** offered to those families who fail to fill-out and submit a request form by the **March 31 deadline**.



Many bus companies will be changing the 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. pickup times to 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. as of **March 8**.

Upcoming Admissions Events

Open House, March 20, Receive a guided campus tour and interact with faculty and administrators.

Class Visit Day, March 29 and April 12, Attend classes with a student; parents receive a guided campus tour, visit classes, have lunch and interact with faculty and administrators.

Look at The Brook, April 6, An opportunity to meet with current parents and receive a guided campus tour.

Please register with the Admissions Office at (631)751-1800 ext. 1 or admissions@stonybrookschool.org if you are planning to attend an event.

Dress Donations Requested

If you have a prom dress, bridesmaid gown, or other fancy dress gathering dust in your closet – we could put them to use! We would like to offer a full rack of gowns to our prom-going girls this year. (Dresses can often be a financial hardship for families.) Please bring donations to Director of Residential Life Tonja Detwiler's office in Johnston Hall. The collection will be available to the students in April. Thank you!



Ocean Bowl Team Competes at Stony Brook University

On March 6, at 9:00 a.m. in the Student Activities Center of SUNY-Stony Brook, **Eleanore An '11, Ben Cotten '11, Lauren Gilbert '10, Si Yi Li '11, and Tadiwanashe Madenga '11** will represent SBS at the New York State Regionals of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl. Under the leadership of Marine Science Instructor Captain George Linzee, the team furthered their studies during the spring break Bahamas Expedition. The team has worked diligently and would be grateful for your support at this event. If you plan on attending, please contact Capt. George Linzee for the criteria for observers.

Summer Programs Open House

On Saturday, March 13, the Summer Programs Office will host an Open House in Memorial Hall from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Families interested in the residential Sound Learning or International Piano Festival offerings as well as the Sports, Marine, or Specialty programs, may contact the Summer Programs Office at (631)751-1800 ext. 595 for details.

Familia Weekend Begins March 19

On Friday, March 19, Familia Weekend begins with the entire School participating in Class Dinners, Class Challenges, and then gathering for delicious desserts. Saturday includes fun activities for all students followed by a look at the funnier side of our teachers in Carson Auditorium with the annual Faculty Follies.

Exam Care Packages

As a fundraiser, The Class of 2011 will prepare Exam Care Packages, filled with delicious treats and exam preparation materials. Look for details in the April issue.



Big Band Tribute

On Friday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Carson Auditorium, the Black Tie Affair Orchestra, directed by SBS Director of Jazz Studies Tom Manuel, will celebrate the School's fourth annual Evening of Jazz. This 17-piece orchestra will give tribute to Big Bands, performing the hits of the 30's and 40's from the bands of Tommy Dorsey, Harry James, Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Ray Anthony. Tickets will soon be available online at www.stonybrookschool.org.

Scholarship Essay Deadline—April 15

The 2010 SBS PARENTS Essay Scholarship Contest is nearing completion. One winner from each grade level (7 through 11) will receive a scholarship towards the 2010-2011 school tuition. Borders Gift Cards will be awarded as second and third place prizes for each grade. The Parent Essay Committee is looking forward to great participation in this worthwhile extra-curricular activity. For an additional copy of the essay requirements and quotes, please contact Assistant Director of Admissions Marilyn Gilone at (631)751-1800 ext. 516.

*-SBS PARENTS Essay Contest Coordinator **Jeanmarie Braat P'14***

Prayer Team

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. I John 5:14 (NIV)

Please join the SBS Prayer Team on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the room across from the conference room in Swanson Gymnasium as we lift our students, faculty, and staff in prayer. Come and be a blessing!

*-Prayer Team Coordinator **Debbie Abrahamsen P'10, '13, '15** (631)751-1800 ext. 542*

Bears Update

Psalms 19 says the “*the heavens declare the glory of God ... like a champion rejoicing to run his course.*” This winter, our champions have run their course, and their efforts clearly declare the glory of God in the beauty, strength, and character they have displayed.

Player of the Month: **Tyler Anderson '11 (Centereach, NY)** placed third at the Suffolk County Division II wrestling championships. Having suffered a tough injury during the season, Tyler displayed exceptional grit in returning to the mat to post the best finish of any Stony Brook wrestler. He's competitive as well—when I congratulated him on taking third, he frowned: he'd lost his semi-final match by just a point, and regretted not getting a chance in the final. I'm thinking he'll have a good shot next year!

Team of the Month: The **varsity boys' basketball team** won just the second county championship in Coach Mike Hickey's 22 years as Head Coach. They did it in exciting fashion, with a two-point victory over previously undefeated Southold in the County Championship game. **Tim Pandolfi '11 (Patchogue, NY)** scored 27 points, the highlight being a very deep three pointer for the lead and eventually the win. The team will play in the first round of the state playoffs at 5:00 p.m. on March 9 vs. Friends Academy at Bay Shore High School.

Coach of the Month: After 21 years at the helm, **Keith Singer** coached his final home game this past month. That game was a county semi-final playoff game that would propel the team three days later to their fifth consecutive county championship. This year's team is led by **Sadie Singer '10 (Stony Brook, NY)**, a six-year varsity player who scored the 1000th point of her career earlier this season. The team will also play in the first round of the playoffs on March 9, but at 7:30 p.m. against East Rockaway at St. Joseph's College in Patchogue.

So where are you going to be March 9? If you can, join us in our caravan up and down Sunrise Highway as our basketball teams try to advance in the state playoffs. Take in a game at Bay Shore, grab some fast-food on Route 27 heading east, and then pop into St. Joe's for the girls' contest. I can't think of a better way to spend a Tuesday evening! Go Bears!

-Director of Athletics **Kevin M. Kunst '89**

<p>Please Save the Date and Join Us for The Main Event Sponsored by SBS Parents Spring Gourmet Buffet with Silent Auction 6 pm Golf Shotgun Start 12:30 pm to benefit The Stony Brook School</p>	<p>Thursday, April 29, 2010 St. George's Golf and Country Club 134 Lower Sheep Pasture Road East Setauket, New York 11733 For any questions or registration, please call 631.751.1800 ext. 533 or e-mail frances.pistell@stonybrookschool.org</p>
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