

THE POSTSCRIPT

The Park School of Baltimore | PO Box 8200 Brooklandville, MD 21022 |

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Paradis takes over as 10th Head of School

by *Everett Rosenfeld '09*

As students and teachers alike arrived for a new school year, Park welcomed an important member of its community. Dan Paradis begins this semester as Park's tenth Head of School, following the departure of David Jackson (1995-2007), and last year's Interim Head Michael Eanes.

Paradis has been on campus since July, but the beginning of school presents new challenges. "I like to have a relationship with people around me, and to me that means that there are a lot of people who I want to get to know," said Paradis. "It's definitely challenging at a school this big." Paradis, who describes himself as "a teacher, by training and by temperament," has tried to incorporate getting to know everyone into his new administrative position. According to Paradis, his efforts to meet the community have been received warmly: "I really appreciate how open and enthusiastic all of the students have been," he said.

Teachers have also contributed to Paradis's warm welcome. "This



photo by M.J. Kiehne '09

In his new post as Head of School, Dan Paradis shares the school with his son, Luke (middle), who just entered the second grade. Luke's friend, Ben, is also in second grade.

is really an incredible faculty," said Paradis, "and it is my job as we approach [Park's] Centennial to make sure that they receive the best salaries and benefits possible." The Centennial, which Park will celebrate in 2012, is a major

focus for the new Headmaster. He has been working on planning for the Centennial financial campaign, which he hopes will provide funds for financial aid, increased salaries and benefits, and professional development.

Paradis has also focused on several other recent school objectives, including sustainability, and engaging the entire community in discussions about equity and inclusion. He has insisted that Park maintain its commitment to financial aid. "We should be as inclusive as we possibly can be," he said. "We shouldn't shoot for anything less than that."

Although he has been hard at work, Paradis is quick to express how much he loves his position. "I have the best job on campus," he remarked. "I get to be a part of everything." He said that he enjoyed being able to stop into an Upper School assembly, and then visit a Middle School classroom later in the day. Or perhaps he would visit the second grade where his son Luke is now enrolled. "He absolutely loves it," said Paradis of his son, "I knew he was in really great hands with the teachers, but the second grade parents have all been so kind and welcoming."

In addition to focusing on Park's current issues, Paradis has also begun looking toward the future. "We have to be receptive and ready for what the future

holds," he said. "I'm trying to think about what [Park will] look like in one, 10, 50 years from now." He pointed to recent trends such as sustainability and globalism as examples of the inevitable changes that will affect the community. "We have to be flexible and intentional in how we reflect and react to the changes around us," said Paradis. "Park thrives because it has an expansive understanding of what great teaching and great learning look like."

It is not just Luke who loves Park. Paradis, reflecting on his first few weeks at Park, said, "Nothing at Park has disappointed me so far; this is an incredible school, and I realize just how lucky I am."

Many members of the Park community are pleased with Paradis. "It's great that we have a headmaster with a child in the Lower School," said Upper School Principal Mike McGill. "It's also great that he has extended himself to the senior class (Paradis recently offered to host dinners for the class of '09), and is following through with that campaign promise. Although," he added, "it's too bad that he isn't serving Chinese food."

Brown & White Day arrives early this year

by *Eskender McCoy '10*

Brown and White Day and Homecoming will take place September 20, pushing the junior class to plan its annual fundraising event earlier than any class in recent memory. In addition, to increase attendance for Sunday in the Park, the Parents' Association has shifted the family event to Saturday, coinciding with Homecoming.

In the past, these three events occurred over two days during the third week of October. Given the many activities that take place every weekend here, there were difficulties this year creating a working schedule, resulting in the schedule bump. "It makes sense for Homecoming to be early, but it stinks for juniors because it gives them less time to plan for Brown and White Day," said Junior Georgi McCauley, one of the many students who have expressed discontent with the schedule adjustment.

A large portion of the Upper School student body has blamed the student council for the change, but "the student

government has no control over the schedule," said President Mike Leffer '10.

In fact, arranging the schedule is a group effort by multiple people throughout the school. To create the year-long Upper School event schedule, an assembly committee, comprising Upper School music teacher Adele Dinerstein, Principal Mike McGill, Dean of Students Traci Wright, and others, works in collaboration with Athletic Directors Ridge Diven and Robin Lowe, who control athletic scheduling, and the Parents' Association, which plans large-scale family events. Other school-wide events also need to fit into the complicated and crowded schedule.

This year, Professional Day falls on Friday October 17, making that weekend undesirable for Sunday in the Park, Brown and White Day, and the Homecoming dance. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, September 30 and October 9, respectively, make it impossible to schedule big athletic events around them. Brown and White Day and Homecoming had to be moved

forward if they were to happen at all.

Another reason that these events are early this year is because the school is "using this day as the first official, but informal, welcome for Dan Paradis and

his family," said Ellen Small, Parent Program Coordinator and "Park Connects" Administrator. Saturday in the Park will provide an ideal opportunity for the new Head of School to meet Park parents.



photo by M.J. Kiehne '09

Juniors S. Cornblath, C. Cubera, and K. Summerfield had little time to prepare to plan Brown and White Day.

NEWS

The Postscript | September 12, 2008

Admissions grow despite economy

by Nate Kaufman '10

Park Admissions set the bar high and exceeded expectations despite economic turmoil and increased competition from public, parochial, and other private schools. This year, Park's enrollment for the 2008-2009 school year totals 885 students compared to 875 last year, a net gain of 10 students.

Last year was particularly strong for admissions to the primary level grades at Park. Director of Admission and Financial Assistance Marcia Holden compliments Director of Primary Level Admission Megan Ford on doing "an incredible job!" Admissions to the Upper School were down from last year. Park received 82 applications for the 2008-2009 school year compared with 114 the year before. Of those students applying, 47

were accepted, a 57% acceptance rate. A total of 23 chose to enroll—20 ninth graders, one tenth grader, and two eleventh graders—a 49% enrollment rate.

"One of the things that has helped a lot is we have been much more proactive about getting the word out," said Menette DuBose San-Lee, Director of Upper School Admissions. "We knew that our kids did fabulously when they were here and in college," and disseminating that message into the community has helped enhance Park's image.

Of the total applicants to Park, 9% heard about Park from others affiliated with Park, and those word-of-mouth applicants became 77% of newly enrolled students. Current Head of School Dan Paradis was also able to support this year's admissions process by attending new student receptions.

When asked about whether

the economy made an impact on the admissions process, Holden explained that the economy did not appear to affect the number of families interested in the school, but did seem to adversely impact the number of families who followed through with an application. Students and their parents requested more second visits than they had in past years, most-likely looking for greater assurances that the school was right for them given the significant financial investment. San-Lee explained that families, more than before, looked at magnet and religious schools before looking at more expensive private schools. Also, more students and their parents seem to be waiting until the upper grade levels to enroll in private school. Holden reported that current families who had not needed financial assistance previously asked for financial as-

sistance, and those who had been receiving aid requested more.

When it comes to financial aid, Park is less formulaic than most. Families need to fill out financial aid applications, but Park listens to each family's situation and tries to meet its needs as fully as possible. With the economic problems that the country is facing, Park's approach has helped many families overcome the substantial financial commitment demanded by a private school like Park. Financial assistance representatives have been identified for each grade level. These are individuals whose families are receiving aid and have volunteered to talk with other families to help them understand and maneuver through the process. San Lee said, "We are a school that is very committed to our families."

Park uses a need blind approach to admissions. This means

that Park separates the admissions process from the financial process. The reason for this is so that students are accepted based on their merits as a student, and, Holden adds, "who will contribute to and benefit from being members of the community," and not whether they are able to pay the school's tuition without assistance.

This year's higher enrollment led to an additional benefit. Because the School enrolled more students than expected, the Board of Trustees was able to increase financial aid dollars to help meet the needs of current families experiencing a change in financial circumstances.

The percentage of students re-enrolling at Park is extraordinary, at 96%. Why? Holden answers with a smile, "We're a fabulous school!"

Editorial:

An informed political choice

At the end of summer vacation, my family and I went out to dinner. With the recent announcement of Sarah Palin, John McCain's pick for vice president, it was hard to go anywhere or watch anything without mention of the election. The restaurant was no exception.

It became apparent that the people at the table behind us were outspoken about their political views. The couple started on a 10-minute rant to convince the other woman they were dining with that she should vote for McCain. They commended McCain on his VP pick, and then went on to trash Obama and his family.

Not only did they accuse Michelle Obama of militancy and hate, but they also continued to state blatantly incorrect facts. They asserted that Obama attended Princeton when, in fact, he attended Occidental College and transferred to Columbia University.

They were even wrong about the Republicans, stating that Palin's parents paid for her education, when she actually received scholarship. They also accused Obama of not writing any of his own speeches, just delivering them, when, in fact, the majority of speakers from both parties have the speeches written for them. These may seem insignificant and irrelevant, but it is unsettling to know that people will base their opinions on false statements.

I turned to my family and said, "All they have to do is pick up a newspaper and get the facts straight."

"Welcome to America," my brother said.

As Americans, we are responsible for educating ourselves and remaining involved in our government. This country was founded as a democratic republic, and many choices concerning the government and individual freedoms lie in our hands. While we have been handed the right to vote, checking off a name is not all. It is our obligation, as citizens, to stay informed about the election and to not be easily swayed by rumors and unproven facts.

This election is a historic one, and you shouldn't have to refer to a history book when people ask you about it 30 years from now. Instead of listening to what your parents have to say, or to what your teachers say, pick up a newspaper, turn on the TV, or go online to find out for yourself. This way, you can judge and take a position.

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The Park School of Baltimore
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Editors-in-chief

Becka Althaus, Everett Rosenfeld,
Scotty Shuldiner, Eva Zenilman

News

Mariama Eversley
Nate Kaufman

Reviews

Michael Gold
Eskender McCoy

Photography

M.J. Kiehne,

Faculty Adviser

Susan G. Weintraub

Features

Sara Lever
Rachel Shapiro

Commentary

Ken Greller
Daniel Tsemach

Sports

Sam Cornblath
Alex Katz, Assistant

Photography Adviser

Terry Lansburgh '66

Contributors

Jack Patterson

Policies

We welcome letters to the editor. Please send letters to postscript@parkschool.net. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for language and length.

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COMMENTARY

Refreshed annex has a certain appeal

by Rachel Shapiro '10

When I came into school last week, I was shocked to find that the Annex looked quite different from how I'd left it in June. The dull gray floor tiles had been replaced with new white, yellow, and blue blocks of linoleum, and the plain white walls had been repainted a nice yellow-orange color. To some, these changes might not seem like much, but the new tiles and freshly-painted walls have brightened the Annex tremendously; for the first time, the room looks appealing.

My locker is in the Annex, and for the most part, I've been fine with that; it's not too far from my classes and being right next to the Cafeteria is convenient for grabbing a bagel before class in the morning or beating the long lunch line at X-block.

For the last two years, the Annex always seemed dirty, its plain gray floor tiles and white walls giving it a dull overall appearance, with leftover food, dirty plates, and empty drink bottles left all over the tables, chairs, and floor, making it look

especially messy after lunch.

This year, some students said they barely noticed the changes made in the Annex. Others asked why the school bothered spending time making those changes. They argued that replacing the floor and redoing the walls doesn't mean that the Annex will be any cleaner. Those students are correct; new tiles and fresh paint can't make people pick up after themselves.

In a few weeks, once we've all settled back into our school year routines, what will there be to stop the Annex from becoming just as much of a mess as it's been in years past? Nothing really, but perhaps the changes will provide some motivation for students to keep the Annex clean. There should be no need for Upper School advisories to participate in the dreaded Annex duty.

Upper School students are more than capable of cleaning up their own messes and they should take the time to do so. Perhaps the Annex's long-awaited "facelift" will be the extra push students need to keep the Annex looking as nice as it did on the first day of school.



photo by MJ Kiehne '09

Students eating lunch in the cafeteria Annex during the first week of school found a new floor and fresh paint on the walls.

Poor judging plagues Olympic gymnastics



photo by E. Rosenfeld '09

by Sara Lever '09

If you were waiting until the peak hours of the night for American gymnasts Shawn Johnson and Nastia Liukin to make their appearances in Beijing, you were not alone. If the results inspired, confused, and disappointed you, you were also not alone.

The gymnastics events of the Beijing Olympics began August 9, just 24 hours after the awe-inspiring opening ceremonies.

Gymnastics is one of the most anticipated sports of the Olympic Games, and was especially important to the Chinese who were seeking revenge on the Americans for their claim to the gold at the 2007 World Championships in Germany. Anticipation was high with the new scoring systems and the reports of the underage gymnasts, but no one could have predicted the events which took place from August 9 up until the last week of the Olympic Games.

Ignoring the fact that He Kexing looks like an emaciated 10-year-old, and Jian Yuyuang appears to have baby teeth, the Olympic gymnastics competitions were plenty exciting, controversial, and as always, completely arbitrary when it came to the judging.

If you watched just one of the many gymnastics events during the Olympic week, you were able

to spot gymnastics' biggest flaw: the scoring system. While scoring has always been subjective, it has become more arbitrary and confusing in the past several years.

The new system which incorporates both execution and difficulty into the score is hard enough for gym rats to understand, and it is practically impossible for the average American to even begin to comprehend. One of the first phrases associated with gymnastics is the perfect 10.0, a score which does not apply today. While the execution score is marked out of 10, each skill and combination of skills is assigned a point value, and the execution score added to the cumulative difficulty score is the number which is taken into consideration for podium standings.

It is hard to fix this flaw since there is no way to evaluate close performances, since it is to some

extent based on personal opinion and preference. While swimmer Michael Phelps's closest race could be broken down into millisecond frames, there is no technology or greater gymnastics force that can determine which routines are truly the top.

Gymnastics judges are considered omnipotent, but surely not omni-benevolent, and to some extent, not even omniscient. To maintain an unbiased score, six judges from countries which are not competing in the particular event preside. Looking at the lineup, there is always at least one, if not two, Americans, Russians, Chinese, or Romanians; therefore judges from these countries could never participate.

The judges come from countries such as South Africa and Croatia, which have never sent a competitor representing their country. This seems to mean

that they rarely see gymnastics of the quality of Shawn Johnson's solid beam routine or the caliber of He Kexing's high flying bar performance. While there were huge judging blunders, and one in particular which denied USA's Alicia Sacramone a bronze medal, it is hard to look to conspiracy and bribes, but rather to inexperienced judging.

While it might have been the underaged gymnasts that created controversy, or team results that were most disappointing, there are lingering issues which need to be addressed that are greater than the Chinese gymnasts' false Government documents. While the Federation of International Gymnastics (FIG) does need to take a look at age requirements, perhaps they should prioritize perfecting the scoring system so athletes will be awarded the medals they deserve.

SPORTS PREVIEW

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Boys' Soccer

by Sam Cornblath '10

This year, Boys' Varsity Soccer is trying a few new things. First-year Assistant Coach Joe Levitan '04 created a revamped formation that "puts the right players in new positions," said Captain Carlos Cruz '09. Levitan joins Head Coach Lucky Mallonee '62 and Assistant Coach Roger Seidenman '85.

"Andrew [Duberg '10] has been moved back to stopper and is doing a great job," said Levitan. Nathaniel Colbert-Sangree '09 controls defense as sweeper, along with Jonathan Hettleman '10 as goalie, and Captain Noam Yaffe '09 and Baptiste Valdenaire '09 control the midfield. "Noam and Baptiste are able to distribute the ball nicely," said Levitan.

Cruz, Christopher Benn '09, and Arthur Sonnenfeld '10 lead



photo by J. Patterson '10

Head Coach Lucky Mallonee oversees conditioning drills during practice.

the Bruins in offense. "Both Carlos and Chris know how to create very solid opportunities," said Levitan, "and Arthur has a very strong physical presence."

Also up front is lead scorer Nick Ryugo '10. "Nick has a lot of very valuable experience and knows how to put the ball in the goal," said Cruz.

The team has played five games so far. The first ended in a 4-1 loss to Gilman. The Bruins fought hard against St. Paul's School in their second

game, losing 1-0.

With the new formation finally put into action by the third game against Glenelg, players were better suited to their positions and the resulting play was intense and physical. "We had great movement and communication," said Levitan. Ryugo scored the winning goal with an assist from Cruz.

The Bruins won against AACS 3-0, and lost 2-1 to Friends in overtime September 9.

Girls' Field Hockey

by Alex Katz '10

This year's Girls' Varsity Field Hockey team boasts a strong senior class, a solid group of juniors, and three sophomores. Head Coach Kara Hickok '95 returns for her second year, leading the team with Assistant Coach Essie Mallonee '03 and Senior Captains Rachel Elliott, Rebecca Kelmenson, Dawn Lee, and Lindsay Shiff.

In preseason, the coaches stressed playing more as a team to win games, as opposed to many individuals on the field together. The team-oriented system has been very productive—the girls are bonding well and won

their first scrimmage against Institute of Notre Dame 3-2.

"We have a very similar team to last year, but we brought up a few more sophomores and a few seniors," said Kelmenson. "We are significantly better."

Some of the best players on the team include Lee, holding the team together on defense, and Shiff, the goalkeeper. Other notable players are Julia Meyerhoff '10 and Devyn Heit '09.

"We don't have a new coach anymore so we all know how things are supposed to work," said Lee. "We're going to take it one game at a time, but we want to make it to the championship."



photo by J. Patterson '10

This year's strong Field Hockey team is serious about getting to the championships.



Girls' Cross Country

by Ken Greller '10

After five wins in the championship tournament last year, it looks like Girls' Cross Country is training for another successful season. Kent Walker will once again be at the helm of the team, which currently consists of Maggie Casey '10, Suzy Yaster '10, Ella Ford '11, and Ellie Kahn '12.

Unfortunately, the four-girl squadron is one short of the five runner minimum to qualify for meets, and time for recruiting a fifth is running out. The team is confident, however, that not only will they find its missing link, but will also build a tight, albeit small, group capable of dominating in the championship tournament. "It's going to be one helluva season," said Casey.

Girls' Varsity Soccer

by Sam Cornblath '10

This fall, Girls' Soccer fields only a Varsity team, returning seven players. While the Class of 2012 comprises the bulk of the team and brings strong talent, returning members are also valuable. "Becka Althausen '09] has amazing foot work and great field sense," said Adrienne Tarver '10, a two-year starter.

Tarver and Lucie Weinberg '10, who has also started two years, are key players. "Adrienne is very aggressive, works extremely hard, holds our defense together and is a strong leader," said Helen Goelet '10, "and Lucie is a great utility player and very fast." Other re-

turning Varsity players include Seniors Kayla Bruun and Anna Kleinsasser, and Sophomores Sophie DeFries and Aiden Piper.

Along with Head Coach Jeff Jennings, Rob Piper and Jeff Zerhusen round out the staff. "Jeff Jennings is a lot of fun and always pushes the team," said Goelet. "He always does the conditioning with us."

So far the Bruins have only competed in a play day and an out-of-conference game. The team lost all three games in the play day, but managed to win against C Conference Glenelg 6-1. "We were able to figure out positions, and the games gave us a lot of valuable experience."

Boys' Cross Country

by Michael Gold '10

"We're looking like the best team the school has ever seen," Coach Paul Hulleberg said when asked about his Boys' Cross Country team. Hulleberg, along with Upper School history teacher John Kessinger, are coaching what seems to be one of Park's best teams in the past decade. The top five runners from last season—Ethan Haswell '09, Jamie Demarco '11, Lucas Hulleberg '09, Kyle Long '10 and Ben Brewster '10—return this season with a vengeance. And with new members, Sam O'Keefe '12, Adam Kelmenson '11, and returning member Robert Sandler '09, the team shows even more potential than previous years.

The team finished fifth the last two seasons, which happens to be the best placement Park has achieved in the MIAA A Conference. Gilman and Loyola, two teams that Park lost to last year, graduated some of their best runners, so Park has high hopes of beating them. The two other teams Park lost to last season were Calvert Hall and Spalding, who in L. Hulleberg's opinion "are looking almost untouchable."

As of now, the team is predicting a third place finish, with an outside chance at second. And in the words of Kyle Long, "We're going to the 'ship."

Girls' Varsity Tennis

by Alex Katz '10

After winning the championships last year, Girls' Varsity Tennis enters the 2008 season not only hoping for another victory, but also working towards developing a strong team to make an impact in the tournament. First year Head Coach Teresa Barnes and Captains Tess Shiras '09 and Julia Levitsky '09 lead the team this season.

To achieve their goals, the team looks to returning players such as Jillian Gordon '09, Sofia Macht '10, and Juliet Eisenstein '11. But with no preseason, the team will have to iron out the

kinks and come together as the season progresses. Shiras doesn't see this as a problem. "We're a very close team with only a couple of new players," she said.

On September 10, the Bruins swept their first match against Baltimore Lutheran. Number one singles player, Juliet Eisenstein '11, stepped up and stayed focused. "She served really well the entire match," said Macht. "Our number one and three doubles team did a really great job as well." With strong returning players and promising new talent, the team looks forward to an exciting season.