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551 Route 6A
East Sandwich, Cape Cod, MA 02537-1494

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The Riverview School Newsletter-Summer Edition



August 2010



A Class of Their Own

25 seniors and 33 GROW students in the class of 2010 marched into the large white tent on the Riverview campus on Sunday, June 20th behind a bagpiper and drummer. It was their Graduation Day. The pride on their faces was absorbed by the hundreds of family members, friends and Riverview faculty present to acknowledge the young adults' tremendous accomplishments.

The students were from 15 states, Puerto Rico, Canada and two have families stationed in India and Belize. The long distances that the friends and families had traveled were mirrored in the very long road these young adults have traversed during their years at Riverview. Each had experienced an education individually tailored to provide the best possible preparation for their future endeavors. Every graduating student was challenged to hold their head high, not give into disappointments and to persevere.

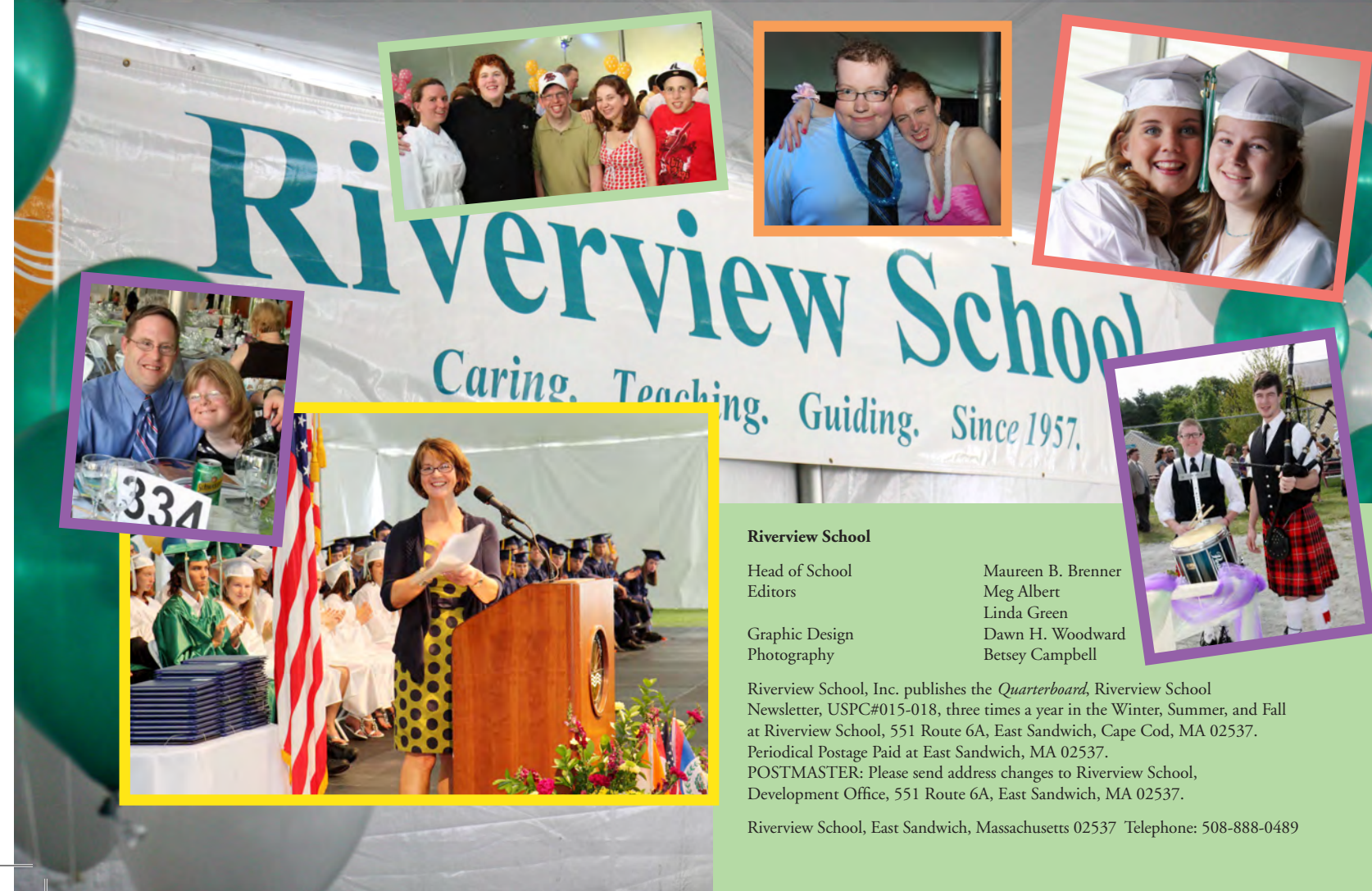
Addressing the graduates, Maureen Brenner, Head of School, urged them not to give up when they faced a bad day. She encouraged them to "do an imaginary reboot with their thoughts. As with a computer when it freezes, we can reboot – wait a minute, block out the negative thoughts and think about the things that are going well." With nods of agreement, the students listened to her sage advice and their parents silently acknowledged a message that could apply to all.

Graduation Day at Riverview is an extra special experience because it celebrates a journey that the students and parents

have taken together. "In addition to the language, learning and intellectual challenges the students experience, many also cope with major health concerns," Ms. Brenner noted, "We are so proud of what they have accomplished."

The day is also a beginning for the students who intend to continue to find growth in post secondary education, jobs and independent living situations. Their achievements at Riverview will translate into healthy and productive life experiences. We know that they have a strong foundation and the impetus to forge a future for themselves. We congratulate the graduates of 2010 and wish them luck in their journeys ahead.

They are in a class of their own!



Riverview School

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Family Ties – a Gala to Remember

The evening was warm, the tent was abuzz, and the food was delicious. Families and friends gathered in celebration of the 12th annual Village of Dreams Gala on Riverview's Davis Field.

Over 400 guests attended the event, which is one of the highlights of the year. The Family Ties themed Gala included both a silent and live auction, as well as a special Fund-A-Dream appeal which alone raised over \$200,000. In all, \$465,000 was raised in support of Riverview students and programs.

Ed Muller, Chair of the Board of Trustees, presented Fred and Nancy Poses the Dream Maker Award for their outstanding contributions to the School. The evening was emceed by Riverview Trustee, Frank Bell.

Once again, parents of students both past and present volunteered their time. PA officers Mary Ann Klabal (Chair), Kathleen Yazbak, Catherine Christopherson and Angela Clow joined Robin Spilman, Diane McKenzie and Jennifer Jones, as well as many others, in making this Gala a success. They were our Dream Team!

Six chefs from outstanding Cape Cod restaurants, under the lead of Jamie Tourtellot (Sysco Boston LLC), crafted superb hors d'oeuvres, dinner and dessert. Cape Cod Package Store donated the wine and beer, while students from Johnson and Wales provided exceptional wait service. New to the Gala this year were the successful wine cork pull and a Wellfleet oyster raw bar.

The Gala closed with an inspirational video of our students, and a heart felt message from Maureen Brenner, Head of School. It was truly a Gala to remember, inspired by the Family Ties that brought it to life.

Development Notes

The 2009/2010 school year was another successful year for Riverview School. We began the year with a Parents Association (PA) survey of parents about events of interest at the School. The feedback from the PA focused on three specific areas - admissions, the annual benefit, and networking. As a result, we developed a parent to parent interactive approach to fundraising for the annual benefit Gala; invited families to host regional admission events (with a successful one in May in Canada); and established a Riverview Facebook page. Promotion of the Annual Fund led to a new high of 54% in parent participation, surpassing our goal and raising over \$300,000. Collectively we hope to build upon these successes for 2010/2011.

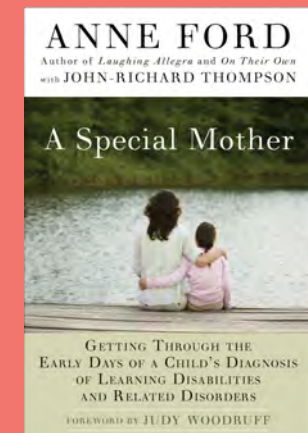
Thank you to the Board of Trustees, parents, alumni, alumni parents, staff, families and friends of Riverview School for your continued support, and congratulations to everyone for all that you have accomplished!

– Charlie McNamara
Director of Development

Save the Date

**James Center Dedication
& Ribbon Cutting
Saturday, October 23, 2010**

Anne Ford, Riverview Trustee Emerita
Offers reassurance and information in her new book:



Author of *Laughing Allegra* and *On Their Own*
www.ld.org/aspecialmother

Bricks and Seats Campaign

As we look forward to the 2010/2011 school year we hope to expand and grow upon our community's successes and achievements. With the opening of James Center in September, and the dedication of the building in October, it promises to be a great year. There is still time to make your mark and support James Center and the arts. Commemorate your Riverview experience by putting your name on a seat in the new auditorium (\$250-\$500) or a brick in the courtyard (\$100).

Riverview School



Bricks & Seats Campaign

For more information please contact:
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Riverview Summer Program July 9 – August 13, 2010

- 130 students attending
- Ages 12-22
- Started in 1993 with 21 kids
- Activities for this summer include:
 - Beach, cookouts, movies
 - Rock climbing, amusement park
 - Mini golf, kayak lessons, bingo
 - Reptile show, sailing, etc.
- Academic classes include:
 - Language Arts, Math
 - History, Science, Art

Accomplishments

Trying is half the battle; perseverance helps fuel our energies; positive reinforcement helps us all reach our goals; and the accomplishments are the reward.

This past June we acknowledged the accomplishments of our graduating students. We celebrated the love, devotion and patience of parents and the dedication of the Riverview staff. As Ms. Brenner noted at graduation "the road is long and not without turns and stop signs, but the educational and life rewards are exceptional."

The students surprise us every year with the courage they display in their efforts to reach their goals. No accomplishment is too modest to recognize and celebrate as a stepping stone to individual achievement. Through this recognition and encouragement Riverview students build the confidence to reach higher.

We are all challenged to set our own goals and expand our boundaries, as individuals and as a community. Whether it is building a new student center, offering financial aid, or implementing state-of-the-art curriculum – each accomplishment brings us to a better place as a School.

As we look forward to the next year, we embrace the fact that each challenge offers us all the opportunity to learn something new.

