



The New Student Center

Since its founding in 1957, Riverview School has been committed to providing its ***“first class students with first-class facilities.”*** From modern academic buildings to new dormitories, our community has always been supportive of this collective goal. Continuing the tradition, we are proud to announce plans to construct a Student Center that will serve as the hub of academic, social, and arts programming on our campus.

Features of the Student Center will include:

- State-of-the-art 325-seat auditorium; nearly double the size of the existing auditorium
- Glass hangar door at the back of the stage that opens to an outdoor amphitheater
- Student Commons featuring a café and a large gathering area for social activities
- Spacious front lobby/gallery where the artwork of students and local artists will be displayed
- Studio classrooms for art, music, dance and drama
- Sound studio for musical production and recording
- New library including a technology resource center and reading areas
- Comfortable greeting area with a fireplace outside of the offices of Admissions and Head of School
- Large central conference room
- Administrative offices and a staff resource area

The entire Riverview School community is excited about the possibilities that the new Student Center will offer to current students, future students, and our alumni as well. The Student Center will be a “green” building with a



L.E.E.D. Certificate designation. We are currently in the midst of a \$9 million capital campaign to support this project and are greatly encouraged by the \$6.8 million already committed. Pledges can be made over a three to five-year period and construction will begin when the entire \$9 million has been pledged. We expect to break ground next fall, and if Riverview School’s history of support is any indication, we are confident in our community’s ability to meet this goal.

For more information about this project, please call (508) 888-0489, Peter Dubay ext. 200 or Charlie McNamara ext. 271.

Visit us at <http://www.riverviewschool.org/SupportRiverview/NewStudentCenter>.



Brenner View

He was determined to have impact as Head of School. And even though he served in the role for only a day, Jesse made quite an impression on staff and students during his tenure as the Helmsman of Riverview.

His serious intentions first surfaced at a planning meeting in early October. The meeting was convened to work out the logistics of his headship. Jesse, a senior class officer, arrived at the meeting having done his homework. Drawing on his five years of experience at the School and weighing input he had received from his peers, he laid out his priorities for the day.

So much about the development of self esteem and confidence relates to how young people are treated by the adults with whom they interact. Dr. Robert Brooks, a renowned psychologist and speaker, highlighted this point a couple of weeks ago in a presentation to parents during Fall Family Weekend. Speaking on the topic of resilience, Dr. Brooks shared findings of studies in which adults were asked about lasting memories from their school days. The most frequent response did not involve a special award or high GPA, but a time when a teacher asked a student to help out.



Too often, students and adults with learning differences only experience the receiving end of the help equation. They are not encouraged or expected to contribute to society in authentic, meaningful ways. They are not asked for their input. Yet, they have so much to offer. When helping opportunities involve special talents or skills – what Dr. Brooks refers to as “islands of competence” – the impact can be as significant for the helper as it is for those being helped.

We are living in challenging economic times. Many individuals and families will need assistance during the holiday season and beyond. We will all be called on, as never before, to do our part. Let's be sure that the call for action and input includes everyone.



The first idea he proposed was a school-wide fundraiser for a population in need. Next, he asked about the possibility of instituting a “dress-up” day as a way of helping his peers feel good about themselves. Jesse also asked if we could plan an informal social gathering at the end of the day so high school students could get to know each other better. The only request he made for himself was to ensure that his “official” duties not interfere with his reading class.

Fellow students responded enthusiastically to Jesse's leadership. He found new ways to help them feel connected to each other and to their responsibilities as students and citizens. He led by example. And while a substantial amount of strutting was observed on the dressed up campus that day, important lessons were learned as well. The suit jackets and dresses are now back on their hangers, but fond memories remain of when Jesse ran the School.

Senate President Visits Riverview



Riverview School welcomed *Massachusetts State Senate President, Therese Murray*, to campus on Friday, November 7th. Senator Murray met with Head of School, Maureen Brenner, to discuss energy conservation, “Green” initiatives, and state funding for education. Senate President Murray then served as “guest of honor” at a student-hosted luncheon, held in the Helmsman Center. Seven Riverview students from Massachusetts, three high school students and four GROW students, were in attendance. The students were well prepared with questions about state government and what it is like to be State Senate President. Senator Murray was so impressed that she invited them to the State House in Boston to see her office and enjoy the beautiful holiday decorations. The students are making plans for a December visit.

Many Hats

One of the distinguishing features of Riverview School is the way the dormitories are staffed. At many boarding schools, teachers also assume the role of residential staff. Riverview believes that students are best served when separate trained faculty work in classrooms and dormitories.

But imagine trying to help 12 busy teenagers get ready for school each day! (The rush hour period in most dormitories is 6:30-8:30 AM.) To ensure that all students begin their day on a good note, a select group of staff members from other departments help out in the dormitories each morning on a regularly scheduled basis. Before these employees begin their other jobs, they report to their assigned dormitories to lend a helping hand. While enjoying the opportunity to get to know students better, these individuals also report that the experience enhances their understanding of the important role Riverview plays in the lives of the students.

So “Hats Off” to the special group of staff who wear two hats. Thanks for all you do!



Christine Chapman (Maintenance)
 Founders Dormitory
Pat Reich (Health Care Center)
 Burgundy Dormitory
Dick Churchill (Maintenance)
 Plum Dormitory
Denise Dean (Business Office)
 Auburn Dormitory

Shon Schofield (Maintenance)
 Brooks 2/3 Dormitory
Dawn Black (Health Care Center)
 Brooks 1 Dormitory
Kathy Martin (Business Office)
 Heather Dormitory
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Scenes from Fall Family Weekend, Halloween Dance



Riverview School

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Photography	Riverview Staff

Riverview School, Inc. publishes the *Quarterboard*, Riverview School Newsletter, USPS #015-018, three times a year in the Spring, Summer, and Fall at Riverview School, 551 Route 6A, East Sandwich, Cape Cod, MA 02537. Periodical Postage Paid at East Sandwich, MA 02537. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Riverview School, Development Office, 551 Route 6A, East Sandwich, MA 02537.

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2009 Alumni Reunion

2009 Alumni Reunion

In June of 2007, over 350 alumni came back to campus to help celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Riverview School. The reunion was such a huge success that many alumni have asked "When can we do this again?" Well, we are excited to announce that this summer we will be hosting another Alumni Reunion on Friday, June 26th and Saturday, June 27th, 2009. Events, activities and lodging options are all still in the planning stages, but we will get you more detailed information very soon. If you have moved recently or changed your email address, please be certain to contact Austin Keane in the Development Office at akeane@riverviewschool.org or (508) 888-0489 ext. 302. Hope to see everyone back on campus this summer!



eight family members and two former staff participated! Also in attendance were friends from the High School Class of 2003, 2004, 2006 and GROW. The reunion was a perfect time to catch up on what everyone is doing on the Cape and beyond. Most are working, going to school or attending another post graduate program.

Joe and his family are planning a gathering in Rhode Island for September 2009.



Alumni News

Thanks to the efforts of Joe Roth and his family, the High School Class of 2005 enjoyed their 2nd annual social gathering on Cape Cod. Seventeen young adults,

Calendar

2008-09 Riverview Calendar Secondary School & GROW

NOVEMBER

- 7 End of 1st Grading Period
- 22 Travel Day
- 27 Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER

- 1 Travel Day
- 2 Classes Resume
- 6 GROW Saturday School
- 13 Secondary Saturday School
- 19 Classes in Session,
Ground travel after 2 pm,
Air travel throughout the day

JANUARY

- 4 Travel Day
- 5 Classes Resume
- 23 End of 2nd Grading Period

FEBRUARY

- 6,7 **Transition Weekend**
- 7 GROW & Sec. Saturday School

MARCH

- 13 Classes in Session,
Ground travel after 2 pm,
Air travel throughout the day
- 29 Travel Day
- 30 Classes Resume

Calendar



Scenes from Fall Family Weekend, Halloween Dance

