

# NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2008

# UPATTINAS

SCHOOL & RESOURCE CENTER

## PROM TAKES STUDENTS THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Uniquely dressed prom goers wound their way on May 24 through a rabbit-hole-type tunnel with silvery curtains at either end, which led to the main area of the gym. There, elegant tables of delicacies held soda bottles with "Drink Me" tags on them. The theme was "Alice in Wonderland" and the decor was beautifully evocative of Alice's adventures in that land of marvels. The dance floor and DJ were set apart by a multicolored curtain of metallic streamers. There were large toadstools scattered about where people could sit on some and use others as tables. Outside, a croquet game was set up with pink flamingos and mallets with paper flowers. The magic was created by event coordinator **Darling Bonjo** and the Social Committee.



*Doug Tammany, Rachael Hobbes, Alec Moss, Ian Astor, Alex Knapp, and James Marshall pose for the camera while waiting to go into the dance.*



*Cori Trice, Tyler Morris, Dylan Trott, Sam Patwell, James Marshall, Josh Bonjo, and Ellie Coffin outside the gym.*



*Sharif models his "suit of lights" made of gold metallic squares as he stands outside with Pat Higgins, left, and Tom Faix, right.*

# BULLETIN BOARD

**Good for you, Tom Faix!**

Tom was accepted at Kutztown and Clarion University but he chose California University of Pennsylvania in California, Pa., where he will major in environmental studies.

**Good luck,**

**Audrey Clinton!** She plans to attend Delaware County Community College for a year or two before transferring to West Chester University. She will continue to work with her mother making jewelry.

**Congratulations**

to **TJ Wallace** for being accepted at the Automotive Training Center where he'll start in the fall. He also received a scholarship from Imagine America.

**Nathan Volpi**

graduated this spring from Franklin and Marshall in Lancaster County with a bachelor's of arts degree in Government. He is about to take the LSAT, the test for graduate students who wish to study law. Volpi is interested in International Political Law.

**Jihad "Jiji" Hajjouji**

was accepted to a leadership training program based in South Africa called the African Leadership Academy. She will study two years in Johannesburg.

**Alyaa Abboud**, a former Iraqi interpreter for Bucks County Congressman Patrick Murphy, has been accepted at Arcadia University in Glenside, Pa. She will begin studies there in the fall for her master's degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution. She also received scholarship money to help with expenses.

**Jason Knapp** is doing a master's program in math at the University of Virginia where he has a teaching assistantship.

**Bravo, Sam Patwell!** He was accepted at West Chester University where he'll start in the fall. He was also accepted at the University of Hawaii, and he's going to Japan in June.

**Well done, Emma Alpern!**

She won the Bill Sanders Memorial Prize at Bard College in the Hudson River Valley. This is a cash award for Critical Writing and English Literature.



## CONTACTING UPATTINAS



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## ANNA KNAPP IS STEPPING DOWN AS UPATTINAS BOARD CHAIR

Current Chair of the Upattinas Board of Directors Anna Knapp will be stepping down after many years of strong leadership to the community. She will be missed. Her years of service are much appreciated.

A glance around the campus will show Anna's many accomplishments during her time in office: The new music shed, the lampworking studio, and the new kitchen, to name just a few.

Anna came to Upattinas as a homeschooling parent from Delaware, where she lived prior to moving to Downingtown. Son **Alex** attends the high school, while his siblings **Jennifer** and **Jason** are alumni.

## UPATTINAS MAY HOST NCACS CONFERENCE NEXT SPRING

Next spring Upattinas School may be the site for the annual conference of the National Coalition of Alternative Community Schools on the second weekend in May. The title and theme will be announced later; however, ideas for activities are already being suggested. Updates will follow in future newsletters.



## MOVING UP CEREMONY HONORS STUDENTS



Alice Moquin, Lilly Barrett, and Emily Trott with teachers Leila Buss and Justin Colella as they move to the middle school. Genya Matsuura (left) looks on.

Three lower school girls were honored on Wednesday, May 21, during the All-School Meeting in the Big Room.

Alice Moquin, Lilly Barrett, and Emily Trott each received a sash and a bouquet of flowers as their teacher Leila Buss spoke to each girl. Leila spoke about their special qualities, saying what each has contributed to the group and why each girl was ready to move up to the middle school.

Middle school teacher Nancy Collins said, "What makes it OK to send our eighth graders to the high school is that we're getting these three in the middle school."

Middle schoolers Annalina Ortiz, Jaron Clinton, Emilie Miller, and Eric McKeown were also honored as they move to the high school. Jesse Elks, not there for the ceremony, will also move up. Admissions Committee Member Kim Coffin read one of their essays,

### HELP CHILDREN GET EXTRA TUTORING

Jeanine Farrall is offering tutoring and academic counseling to all ages. She has worked with mostly middle and high school students, including those with learning differences, and Ms. Farrall will come to your home. She has successfully worked with an Upattinas student this spring.

If interested, email her at [jfarrall@juno.com](mailto:jfarrall@juno.com), or call 484.213.5332.

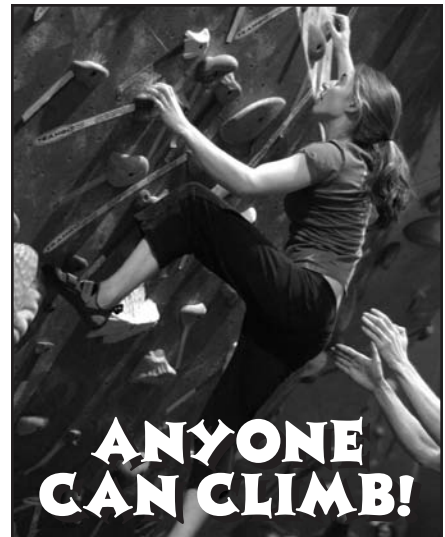
which all new students to the high school are asked to write. High schooler Cori Trice presented each with a mini diploma and tiny mortar board hat, and senior Sarah Roisman read funny predictions about their future.

Next, Genya Matsuura and Nate Lapinski were honored for their work in the Teacher Education Program this year. Genya ran a soccer program and helped teach Japanese while Nate taught three computer classes. Their program mentor Nancy Collins said, "They became well loved by their students." Loud and long applause followed.

### HELP CHILDREN GET HEALTH INSURANCE



Posted on the bulletin board in the office is information regarding health care for uninsured children in Pennsylvania. The program provided a chart showing how much it would cost your family to insure your children based on family size and income. If you or someone you know (not necessarily members of the Upattinas community) might be in need of insurance help, come see the chart in the office.



## ANYONE CAN CLIMB!

Homeschool Phys. Ed. • Groups  
Youth Instruction • Summer Camps  
Family Memberships

Climbing is an excellent way to get in shape and learn problem solving in a supportive, community atmosphere.



climbing centers

**INDOOR ROCK CLIMBING**

Located in Coatesville and Oaks

**1-877-822-ROPE**

**[www.philarockgym.com](http://www.philarockgym.com)**

## Kenneth Carroll Real Estate



**610-827-9214**  
**[www.kennycarroll.com](http://www.kennycarroll.com)**

Kenneth Carroll Real Estate specializes in renting, buying, and selling premier homes in the Philadelphia Metropolitan Area. We provide personal service, in-depth knowledge of Chester Springs, Glenmoore, the Main Line, Philadelphia, and the Delaware Valley. When we list a property, we personally sell it by advertising and showing the house to all who come to see it. **When you employ us as your official exclusive agency, we will donate a portion of our commission to Upattinas School upon settlement.**



**Christopher Carroll, ABR**  
**[www.kennycarroll.com](http://www.kennycarroll.com)**  
**610-827-9214**

## UPATTINAS BENEFITS FROM THE VALLEY FORGE MUSIC FAIR TRUST FUND.



Upattinas School would like to thank the Valley Forge Music Fair Trust Fund. Through its generous support our students were able to see the following performances all for free!

### *Dracula*

performed by the Brandywine Ballet

*Treasure Island* performed by People's Light & Theatre Co.

*Christmas Spectacular* at Radio City Music Hall

*Crispin* performed by People's Light & Theatre Co.

*Glass Menagerie* performed by People's Light & Theatre Co.

*Medea* performed by the Coatesville Cultural Society

*Getting Near to Baby* performed by People's Light & Theatre Co.

*Cirque du Soleil* on the Avenue of the Arts in Philadelphia

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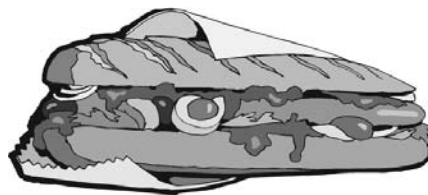
### *OOPS! WE REGRET THE ERROR...*

In the senior letter sent home recently, the date for meeting in the Big Room on graduation evening was in error. It should have stated to meet there on June 13, the date of this year's graduation, at 4 p.m. sharp.



## NEW LUNCH PROGRAM COMING THIS FALL

Soup's on! A new lunch program is coming to Upattinas this fall! Every month a menu will be published featuring healthy meals made with natural and wholesome ingredients. Each meal will consist of a daily menu item, green salad, fresh fruit and a beverage. A simple alternative to the daily menu item will also be available each day. Whenever the main dish includes meat, a vegetarian option will be offered as well.



So, what's for lunch? A survey was given at school recently to get input from the students and staff. The most popular food choice was pasta, followed closely by pizza and salad. Thanks to all those who completed a questionnaire. Here are a few examples of some upcoming menu items: Whole Wheat Pita Pizza with Cheese, Homemade Granola with Yogurt, and Baked Macaroni and Cheese. Since the weather is warm when school begins, there will be more cold choices (sandwiches, hoagies, etc.) at first. Look for more hot foods as the weather cools. And, while there's no such thing as a free lunch, the price for lunch at Upattinas should be about \$5.

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## UPATTINAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR NEW YEAR, 2008-'09

In no particular order, these people offered their future service to the school:

Ellen Pillsbury, Tim Trott, Darling Bonjo, Bob Sybesma, Nate Lapinski, Gerry Clinton, Justin Colella, Tristin McNamara, Donna Madison, Janice King, Cori Trice, Ellie Coffin, Dylan Trott, Arianna Buss, Alec Moss, Nate Coffin, and Emily Trott.

## TIME TO CELEBRATE, CLASS OF 2008: JUNE 13

It's time for our wonderful balloons-and-banners celebration to honor those students who have achieved the completion of their high school education. Students may bring as many family members and friends as they like because we'll be inside or outside between the gym and the trees, facing south. Either way, there's a lot of room.

We've had a Friday the Thirteenth graduation before and it turned out to be a very lucky day, especially for the seniors, and everyone had fun!

Graduating seniors meet in the Big Room at 4 p.m. sharp. The ceremony will begin promptly at 4:30 p.m. Friday afternoon traffic volume should be taken into consideration when planning a trip on the Schuylkill Expressway or on other major roads.

Bring a dish to feed approximately 15 to the kitchen helpers. Enjoy the evening! Remember it with a yearbook, on sale near the gym.



# UPATTINAS NEEDS YOUR HELP

## UPATTINAS RECYCLING PROGRAM NEEDS HELP



This year the Upattinas recycling program, "Going Greener," has advanced greatly. Recyclables are taken to the Pottstown Recycling Center where a wide variety of items are accepted including glass, plastics numbered one through seven, metal, aluminum, cardboard, paper, styrofoam, packing peanuts, and even waxed milk cartons. They take all kinds of yard sale items and also computers for a nominal fee.

We need a few volunteers from our community to help us sort the materials that have been collected from our recycle bins throughout the school and we also need help at the recycling center. This trip is made every other Tuesday morning, the only time during the week when the center is open.

If you can help, please call the office and let's go greener together!

— Donna Madison

## HELP US STAY INFORMED ABOUT YOU

It really helps us to be informed of changes to addresses and telephone numbers. Let us know when your information changes so you won't miss out on any newsletters or other letters, emails, or phone calls about what's happening at school. Call Donna at 610.458.5138 or email the office at [office@upattinas.org](mailto:office@upattinas.org).

## HELP US BY SAVING BOX TOPS

We receive ten cents for every box top turned in, so keep saving them and bringing them in to the office. Go to [campbellssoup.com](http://campbellssoup.com) and [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com) for more information.

### Campbell's.

Also, be sure you're signed up for rebates from Genuardi's, if you shop there. Go to [escrip.com](http://escrip.com) and put in our ID number: 6580303 to register. Join the 28 other folks already participating in this way to earn money.

Target has a program of rebates as well, so be sure you're on their list, too.

### Participating Brands

The Box Tops family is growing with 21 new products, each featuring a 10¢ Box Top coupon. Take a look at the latest additions, and download an updated Participating Products list from [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com) so you don't miss a single opportunity to clip!

#### BAKING

- Betty Crocker® Warm Delights®
- Cascadian Farm® Granola
- Disney's® My Friends Tigger & Pooh Corn Puffs
- Fiber One® Caramel Delights™
- Nature Valley® Organic Vanilla Nut Cereal
- Strawberry Chex®

#### FRESH BREAD, BAGELS AND MUFFINS

- Fiber One®\*
- Pillsbury®\*

#### MEALS/SIDES

- Hamburger Helper®

#### REFRIGERATED/DAIRY

- Pillsbury® Grands!®

#### SNACKS

- Batman™ Fruit Flavored Snacks
- Dark Chocolate Chex Mix®
- Hot 'n Spicy Chex Mix®
- Fiber One® Oats and Caramel Bars
- Fruit by the Foot® Crazy Feet
- Mini Fruit Roll-Ups®

\*Limited availability.

## HELP RECRUIT NEW HIGH SCHOOLERS

We have a large group of graduating seniors and a small group of eighth graders moving up, so we're looking for new high-schoolers. Most newcomers hear about our home school resources and day school program from existing Upattinas families. We ask that you make a special effort to talk about the school when you have the opportunity. Brochures are available in the office. We are happy to call or send materials to anyone you recommend as a potential student.

Our tuition is well below many other private schools in the area. We also provide flexibility for students with focused interests. We want to make a special effort to spread the word about our wonderful school.

Please contact Donna or Kim at 610.458.5138 or [office@upattinas.org](mailto:office@upattinas.org).

## HELP US CONSERVE PAPER THIS SPRING

To all families of undergraduates coming in for their spring conference we ask that you bring back your handbook. We'll update it with new information over the summer and return it to you when you come in for your fall conference. This will save a great deal of paper by not reprinting information that doesn't change.

Conferences are scheduled from Monday, June 9, through Thursday, June 12, from 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Call the office to schedule. All students are asked to attend with a parent.

## HELP US CLEAN UP FOR GRADUATION

Join us Saturday, June 7, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. and help us spiff-up the buildings and grounds in preparation for Graduation, June 13. We'll supply tools, but you can bring your own if you prefer. Gloves are a good idea.

# UPATTINAS SCHOOL CALENDAR 2008

June 2 – 6, 2008 (M)

High School  
Evaluations Due

June 6, 2008 (F)

Last Student Day

June 7, 2008 (Sat)

Work Party  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

June 9 – 12, 2008 (M-Th)

Family Conferences –  
All Students.

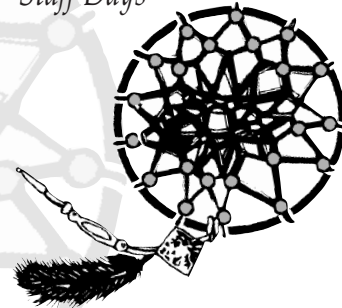
Parent & Student  
Attend Together.

June 13, 2008 (F)

Graduation Preparation  
Graduation 4:30 p.m.

June 16 – 19, 2008 (M-Th)

Staff Days



## UPATTINAS SCHOOL STORM PROCEDURE

When Downingtown School District #876 is closed: Upattinas School is closed, do not come to school. The Paoli van will not run. When Downingtown School District #876 is delayed: Upattinas School is delayed. The Paoli van is delayed. You are governed by your district school buses: If your area public school is closed it is advisable to stay home. For school closing information: Listen to KYW or WCOJ. Watch your local TV station. Log on to [www.WPVI.com](http://www.WPVI.com)

## School District Numbers

Phoenixville, 856 • Owen J. Roberts, 857 • West Chester, 851 • Great Valley, 855 • Coatesville, 852  
Downingtown, 876 • Weather patterns vary greatly. Inexperienced drivers: please do not drive in bad weather!

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Staff: Thursday – 4:15-6:30 p.m.

Service Leadership Team:  
Tuesday afternoon

Open SLT Meeting: Second  
Tuesday of each month – 3 p.m.

Board: Third Wednesday  
of each month – 7-9 p.m.

Finance Committee:

Thursday before the Wednesday  
Board Meeting – 7-9 p.m.