



Canterbury School

A report on the state of the school from

Head of School, Burns Jones and Assistant Head of School, Penny Summers

DEAR CANTERBURY COMMUNITY:

The beginning of Canterbury's 18th year has prompted us to think a great deal about the state of Canterbury School, its recent accomplishments, and its plans for the future. These thoughts deserve sharing because they demonstrate, we believe, the continued growth of our school and the ever-improving quality of the education we provide. Therefore, we hope that what follows will offer a glimpse into all of the wonderful things happening at our school right now and apprise you of our plans for Canterbury's future.

FALL 2010

STRATEGIC PLAN

Last year marked the first year of implementation of Canterbury's three-year strategic plan, which highlighted five areas of concentration: (1) middle school development, (2) enrollment and tuition management, (3) marketing and communications, (4) diversity and inclusivity, and (5) financial management. Our work in these areas produced a variety of results, including the implementation of *Developmental Designs* curriculum in the middle school, an update of the school's master campus plan, the creation of the *Canterbury Scholars* program, increased student diversity, the refurbishment of the school's print and electronic communication, and the implementation of new strategies for managing the school's financial future. Some of these achievements are outlined in more detail below, but collectively they indicate the areas of growth and the type of strategic work that occurred at our school last year.

This year's areas of emphasis are: (1) the continued enhancement of our middle school, (2) the development of our athletics program, (3) the fortification of the school's spiritual program, (4) a continued focus on enrollment and tuition management, and (5) diversity and inclusivity. As the school year progresses, our efforts to realize these priorities will begin to produce objective and measurable outcomes that will chart our direction for years to come.

ADVANCEMENT AND FUNDRAISING

Canterbury experienced a highly successful fundraising year in 2009-2010. Support of our Annual Fund proved strong, and with a few months remaining in the fiscal year, we increased our goal from \$345,000 to \$365,000. Ultimately, we raised over \$370,000, which represents the school's largest Annual Fund total ever. As is the case every year, Canterbury parents lead the way, with 94 percent of our parents contributing. When you compare this level of support against the national average of 43 percent for independent day schools, there is no doubt that our parents deserve a great deal of praise for their continued support of our school.

Similarly, Canterbury's Auction exceeded all expectations and raised well over \$250,000, another record for our school. The auction's success allowed us to infuse \$80,000 into our operating budget, to contribute to the endowment, to build a new lower school playground, and to construct an outdoor middle school basketball court.

In addition to these accomplishments, Canterbury received \$1.95 million in new commitments last year. These commitments included \$1.1 million to create an endowment for Phillips Chapel, \$500,000 to enhance our endowment for financial assistance, \$300,000 for facilities maintenance, and \$50,000 to create a fund for faculty professional development.

ENDOWMENT

Due to recent contributions and prudent management, Canterbury's endowment now stands at \$4.5 million. While our endowment, like most, suffered during the economic downturn, we were fortunate to have outperformed both the S&P 500 and various other benchmarks over the last few years. We are proud of where our endowment stands, especially for a relatively young school, but we do fall below national averages for independent schools. Thus, our intention is to continue to grow the endowment, especially in the areas of faculty support and financial assistance, over the course of the next few years in order to achieve national benchmarks and to afford us the opportunity to make meaningful changes at the school.

APPLICATIONS AND ENROLLMENT

Families in Guilford County continue to express a great deal of interest in our school. We began this year with over 40 students in kindergarten, applications increased 22 percent over the previous year, and our enrollment this year is better than last year. Having said that, independent school enrollment, both nationally and locally, continues to be fairly static as a result of the economy. However, we have been encouraged by the degree to which families continue to express interest in Canterbury School.

MATH CURRICULUM REVIEW AND ENHANCEMENTS

Last year, Canterbury completed a yearlong review of our math curriculum. This review was orchestrated by our math department, and it included the insight and recommendations of a consultant, Mr. Randy Harter, the former President of the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Mr. Harter spent time on our campus meeting with administrators and staff, reviewing our curriculum and observing instruction. Mr. Harter's recommendations have resulted in a variety of programmatic enhancements, including increased time for math instruction from 45 to 60 minutes each day; annual professional development for all math teachers; a new math curriculum, *Connected Math*, in our middle school; and an inter-scholastic math team for middle school students. We trust that these changes will further enhance our strong math program.

CAMPUS PLANNING

Over the course of last spring and early summer, representatives from TFF Architects, here in Greensboro, met with a variety of school members to discuss school needs and future plans for campus development. Based upon the feedback they received, TFF updated the school's master campus plan to account for assorted needs on our campus, including the addition of middle school classroom space, the development of more accommodating athletic space and fields, the addition of a new library/administrative building, and, when available, the purchase of property adjacent to campus. At this point, no decisions have been made about embarking upon any new construction projects, but it is healthy for us to begin planning for future campus growth and programmatic needs.

FUND FOR CHRISTIAN ETHICAL LIVING

As many of you know, Canterbury hosted Po Bronson, author of *NurtureShock*, for a series of discussions with the school's faculty and parents. Mr. Bronson's visit was made possible by the Fund for Christian Ethical Living, which also attracted other notable authors like Wendy Mogel and Greg Mortenson to the school in the past.

This year we will host Rosalind Wiseman, author of *Queen Bees and Wannabes*, on February 10 and 11. Much like in years past, Ms. Wiseman will offer a variety of presentations to parents, students, and staff during her visit. Although her most recent book discusses the phenomenon of girl bullying, her message will address the need for respect and empathy among all children.

ARTS OFFERINGS

Spearheaded by the construction of Stafford Arts Center, we have been able to expand the arts at Canterbury in a number of significant ways. Canterbury now offers band, which had previously been taught in the morning before school, and chorus, which was new last year, as regular arts courses offered during the academic day. We are also entering our second year of after-school arts classes for Canterbury students. The slate of offerings is broad and has included instruction in violin, guitar, yoga, dance, drawing, and painting. Finally, in continuation of our desire for Canterbury to play a larger role in the Greensboro community, the school hosted two performances through the Eastern Music Festival this summer. The school has also hosted a number of exhibits from local, professional artists.

VENTURE OUT PROGRAMMING

Much like the expansion of our arts programming, the school has committed itself to the development of outdoor and leadership initiatives through our *Venture Out* program. For the first time last year, Canterbury faculty offered afterschool classes to virtually every grade in the school. These offerings included overnight camping and courses in mountain biking, archery, skiing, and Geocaching. This year, in response to inquiries from several organizations, we will begin opening our ropes course to outside groups for leadership development and team building exercises.

CANTERBURY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Last spring, we announced the creation of a new scholarship program, called *Canterbury Scholars*. This program, funded by private donations, is designed to bring high achieving, high need, minority students into Canterbury's middle school. *Canterbury Scholars* is modeled after a highly successful program at Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia and will hopefully attract three scholarship recipients to the school beginning in the fall of 2012. This program represents a further development in Canterbury's long-standing commitment to making our incredible education accessible to children of all racial and socio-economic backgrounds because we believe that a diverse community benefits all students.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

We begin the year with four new senior administrators, each with a particular vision for his or her area of responsibility. The Reverend Nathan Finnin serves as Canterbury's Chaplain, Justin Zappia has left the 5th grade in order to teach PE and serve as Canterbury's Athletic Director, David Skeen has taken on the role as Middle School Director, and Jill Jones is our new Director of Advancement. This group promises to bring an incredibly diverse array of talents, skills, and energy to our school, and Canterbury is sure to benefit from their work in the coming years.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

Our 7th and 8th grade students are eligible to enroll in a variety of new electives. For the first time this year, we are offering a semester-long class in personal finance. This class was initiated by a private gift, and is a result of a collaboration with the MBA program at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

In addition, our students also have the opportunity to enroll in a variety of online courses offered through the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools. Students can select from a slate of offerings, including Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Forensics, Civics, and Art Appreciation, among many others.



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5400 Old Lake Jeanette Road
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By almost every objective marker, Canterbury had a wonderful year last year. The school accomplished a great deal, and our plans for the future will, no doubt, guarantee that we grow and develop in some exciting ways. Having said that, there is a lot of work that remains ahead of us. Like so many other things, the state of education has changed significantly in the last ten years, and such change seems to be settling in as the new normal for schools. Thus, we find ourselves asking repeatedly, "What does it mean to be an Episcopal school in the twenty-first century?" The answers to this question are myriad, and they demonstrate, perhaps, that there is no single pathway to success. We know, however, that Canterbury, like all great institutions must continue to advance in order to remain great. It is our belief the achievements outlined in this letter demonstrate the continued strength and development of Canterbury School.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2010-2011

Founders' Day	October 20, 2010
Festival of Lessons and Carols	December 16, 2010 (7:00 pm)
Mothers Chapel	February 4, 2011 (8:10 am)
Rosalind Wiseman	February 10, 2011
Grandparents Day	April 21, 2011
Fathers Chapel	March 4, 2011
Spring Fling	May 6, 2011
Volunteer Recognition Chapel	May 20, 2011 (8:10 am)
Canterbury 5K Race	April 9, 2011
Graduation	June 3, 2011 (10:00)

Very truly yours,

Burns Jones, Head of School

Penny Summers,
Assistant Head of School