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## The Hyde Weekly #3: Gravity, Shanghi, and Welcome

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# The Hyde Weekly

*This is an informal e-communication from the Hyde School campus, intended to share highlights, signs of growth, issues that are being addressed, and moments of joy. Its purpose is to bring the Hyde School parents and the larger community into the school culture.*

## Gravity Check

*By Faculty Andrew Herwig*

Some of Hyde's most courageous physics students spent class Wednesday scaling the rock wall on the new ropes course in search of answers.

Their task was twofold. First, confirm that gravity does, in fact, exist on our campus. Check. Second, measure the rate of acceleration due to gravity as experienced by a soccer ball dropped from the top of the 10 meter tall tower.

Our procedure was fairly straightforward. We needed to drop an object and observe its descent, taking note of how long it took the object to travel over pre-measured intervals. All we needed were students brave enough to climb the tower!

Many accepted the challenge, including **Miranda Cully '20**, **Able Kaplan '20**, **Harry Liu '20**, **Zakiyah Pulliam-Holmes '20**, **Penny Wan '20**, **Ryan Hughes '20**, **Stratton Karangelen '19**, and **Jaden Stout '20**. While each student climbed their way to the top of the wall, the others were getting ready to collect the data. From their perch atop an A-frame ladder, lead filmers **Ashlyn Buell '19** and Harry Liu carefully framed their shot to include the full height of the tower as well as a stopwatch for reliable time data within every frame of video. With the slow-motion camera, they were able to perfectly observe the change in position of their dropped soccer ball over time.



Back in the classroom on Friday, each student worked with their lab partners to pull time and height data from the slow motion video. They plotted their data, ran calculations, and ultimately confirmed the accepted value of acceleration due to gravity,  $9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$ . Success!

These students are extremely eager to devise more experiments to perform on the new ropes course. Future possibilities include The Student Pendulum, Pulley-Assisted Student Hoisting, Tension Traverse, and Center of Mass Balance Board.

While some say we are looking for excuses to move class outside to play, these students are gaining invaluable hands-on lab experience that would not be possible without the wonderful new campus ropes course.

## Ben Matthews '19: Summer Adventures in Shanghai

*By Faculty Ben Liff*



*Ben Matthews '19 presents an overview of his summer experience in China*

Ben Matthews, a senior from Boulder, CO, spoke to the Community Meeting this past Monday about his remarkable summer break experience.

Ben, who studies Mandarin with faculty member Mrs. Fan Luo, spent six weeks in Shanghai, China over the summer practicing his Mandarin!

Ben participated in a program run by Education First, or EF, where he lived and studied with high school students from France, England, and many other countries.

Ben and his fellow Mandarin students also got out of the classroom in Shanghai to practice their language skills haggling in local markets. Ben demonstrated for the community some important-to-know phrases for negotiating prices in Mandarin like “How much does that cost?” and “That’s way too expensive!”

One thing that Ben mentioned several times in his presentation was what a great city Shanghai is. With a population of around 25 million, Shanghai is one of the largest, wealthiest, and most productive cities in the world. It is China’s commercial leader and a world city in the league of Chicago, London, or Seoul.

EF and Ben’s program leaders took students to see some sights, but they could also make plans on their own. Taking full advantage of the opportunity, as well as responsibility for creating the best trip for himself that he could, Ben got in touch with some folks through his Hyde network and was able to play in an exhibition game against the Chinese Youth National Lacrosse team.

As several students and faculty noted in the Community Meeting when Ben presented, it takes a lot of courage to push yourself that far outside your comfort zone. Most people’s comments seemed to indicate the idea of traveling to another country for a month-and-a-half isn’t something most people would seriously consider.

It seems like both faculty and students alike were impressed by Ben’s trip to China and hope he continues to explore his passion for a unique topic.

## **History Students Visit Maine's First Ship**

*By Faculty Claire Grant*





*Faculty member Claire Grant, center, with US History students at the Maine's First Ship*

US History students visited Maine's First Ship this week. The exhibit is up at the ill-fated English colonial settlement of 1607 called Popham Colony in Phippsburg, near Bath. This was the first colony settled in New England. It was here that the settlers built the first wooden sailing vessel in the New World that they named the Virginia of Sagadahoc.

Maine's First Ship, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is dedicated to building a replica of the Virginia while maintaining a welcoming environment for students, visitors, and volunteer staff. Hyde students were excited to be able to view this replica of the Virginia as it is being built.

## **Staff Spotlight: Susan Brennan**



Hyde is happy to welcome Susan Brennan, Executive Assistant to the Head of School to the Hyde community. While Susan was raised in Foxboro, Massachusetts, she was called to go out west after graduating from college.

"I distinctly remember learning about the Golden Gate Bridge in the fourth grade, and then after hearing the Beach Boys sing at about 16, for some reason, that was the moment I knew I was heading west," she says. "A year after I graduated from a state university with a social work degree, I boarded my first flight for San Francisco with a one-way ticket and a best friend at my side as we bid our hometown a fond farewell."

After three decades in Northern California and two years in Oregon, she felt it was time to come home, excited to return to her roots. She had spent 17 years in administration at an independent day school just outside San Francisco and hoped she could create a similar chapter in Maine near her twin sister's home.

A decade ago, she had heard of Hyde through a family friend whose son evolved into a "healthy, positive young man," she says. When passing by the Hyde gate en route to nearby beaches with family through the years, she always looked at the Mansion in wonder.

Susan's dream of working at an independent east coast school came true on June 1st when she began supporting President, Head of School Laura Gauld as her new executive assistant.

"I am truly grateful to be part of such an inspiring, transformative setting which focuses on excellence, character, and authenticity while changing countless journeys," Susan says.

And we are happy she has joined the #HydeFamily!

## Welcome Lindsay P. Mischel

*A note from the Alumni & Development Office*



We're excited to introduce Lindsay P. Mischel as our new Director of Advancement!

Lindsay is thrilled to have the opportunity to return to her home state of Maine and join the Hyde team as the Director of Advancement.

After graduating from the College of William and Mary, Lindsay spent the first seven years of her career in financial sales at John Hancock in Boston before deciding to bring her relationship management experience to the non-profit sector, helping organizations raise money to fulfill their missions.

She began her development career with the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago as a Major Gift Officer working on their 125 million dollar comprehensive capital campaign. When her husband's job pulled them to Wisconsin, she joined the local hospital system, ThedaCare, leading the foundation's Annual Giving efforts. Later, she moved into the Regional Development Director role where she was responsible for leading all fundraising activities for the rural regions including working with the 65 Board Members that made up the four Member Foundation Boards.

When her husband was offered a position with Bayer that would allow them to live anywhere, they jumped at the opportunity to relocate to Maine. Lindsay grew up in Yarmouth and now lives in Cumberland with her husband, Stephen, and their black lab, Chester. Lindsay also has family ties to the MidCoast region and enjoys spending weekends in South Bristol exploring islands along the coast.

## Not to Miss

- Gallery: [Girls JV Soccer](#)
- Gallery: [Boys JV Soccer](#)
- Gallery: [Football](#)
- Gallery: [Pineland Farm Corn Maize](#)
- [Parenting Center on hyde.edu](#)
- Portland Press Herald article by Joey G: [Maine Voices: The right school culture, not academic proficiency, best prepares students for life](#)
- Malcolm's Blog: [BK - 10 Points for Seniors](#)
- Parenting: The Biggest Job: [Ed and Linda Murphy: We were drowning...](#)
- Hyde School Blog: [Don't Box Me In! A Teenage Guide to Labels](#)
- [Lennox Lodge Facebook Page](#)

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