
[External E-Mail] The Hyde Weekly #15: Building on our Character

1 message

Laura Gauld <lgauld@hyde.edu>
To: jcollinson@hyde.edu

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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.

Building on our Character



School meeting under the Chandelier

This week, we welcomed back the student body including a great group of new students. In our school meeting, we emphasized our winter theme of "synergy" to help the new students understand the importance we place on sharing our stories with each other.

While we all want to achieve important goals in our lives, our culture's preoccupation with achievement at all costs has created a system where projecting an image, dishonesty, and cheating can be justified as means to an end. We asked students and faculty to list all the ways in which we are evaluated in our achievement culture.

Achievement Culture judges us by:

- **Grades, colleges, test scores**
- **Sports**
- **Money**
- **Job title**
- **Social standing**
- **Appearance**
- **House**
- **Car**
- **Neighborhood**
- **Vacations**
- **How one's children are doing**
- **Stuff that one has**

Then we asked everyone to identify the ways in which we want to be evaluated in a character culture.

Character Culture stresses:

- **Courage**

- **Integrity**
- **Work ethic**
- **Creativity**
- **Respect**
- **Compassion and drive**
- **Humility**
- **Commitment to improve**
- **Leadership**
- **Curiosity**
- **Empathy**
- **Manners**

Students then spoke about their character traits and the people who have been models for them:

Jeremiah Barr '19 - Jeremiah spoke about integrity. Before Hyde, he often avoided his conscience and did not follow the path of integrity modeled by his parents. Last year, he had a defining moment and has begun to embrace more transparency and integrity in his life.

Bridget Barone '19 - Bridget watched her father find success in his profession, but he also gives back to others instead of placing value on material possessions. She shared the challenges she encounters when it comes to embracing humility and letting others know who she is.

Andrew Stark '19 - Andrew has been inspired by his mother's work ethic and how she faced health challenges. She inspired him to never quit by never quitting on herself. He now counts a strong work ethic as one of his strengths.

Ibn Khalid '19 - Ibn also talked about his mother's work ethic and her courage as a single mother in moving her five sons to America and then working hard to learn English and receive an education. As he said, *"I learned that nothing just comes to you without working for it."*

Krya Holdampf '19 - As a child, Krya learned how to be a caregiver, and this became both a strength and a challenge. She knows that she has a deep concern for others, but she is also working to let others help her.

These seniors set the tone for the meeting, and many other students and faculty shared character traits that they learned from their families. We also listened to three recent alums share the lessons they learned from their Hyde experience,

- Evan Davis '17 - Cornell University sophomore
- Ivy Mortensen '18 - University of Texas, Austin freshman
- Nina Janjigian '18 - Lafayette College freshman

These graduates model the Hyde premise that character is the foundation of meaningful achievement.

It was a great meeting, and we are off to an energizing start!



Laura D. Gauld

Laura D. Gauld
President & Head of School

Sibling FLC

By Faculty Pam Bertschy



21 siblings descended on the Family Renewal Center (FRC) to join their sisters and brothers on a personal journey, something familiar to parents who have attended FLCs. There were siblings ranging in age from 32 to 12, and all came with a willing heart and desire to get to know each other better.

Activities ranged from storytelling to seminars, games in the gym, drawing a family timeline, presenting to the rest of the group, and a final letter reading.

The Hyde students were grateful to have the chance to deepen their relationships with their siblings and establish a foundation for future endeavors. The sharing was heartfelt, the laughter was genuine, and all were happy they had spent the time together.

"Swimming Lessons" with Annie Schneeberger '20

By Communications Director Jenny Collinson



Annie Schneeberger '20 presents at a community meeting

The first Friday back at school, **Annie Schneeberger '20** gave an incredible presentation, called “Swimming Lessons,” at the morning community meeting. In it, she recounted her foray into sports, finding swimming, getting uprooted freshman year of high school by a move to Singapore, and learning to rely on her self and her own resilience to become part of a new, tightly-knit swim team in a foreign country.

In both her personal life and on the new swim team, Annie had the odds stacked against her. Instead of allowing herself to let her situation defeat her, she instead focused on improving her athletic prowess. Through this dedication, she started surpassing personal best after personal best, winning both gold at meets and the favor of her new team.

Thank you Annie for sharing your story with us and for sharing the lessons you learned along the way.

Mecha Wolves: Challenge Unveiled

By Faculty Donna Dubinsky



Members of Hyde's Robotics Team start working on their robot

The Hyde School Robotics team, Mecha Wolves, is off and running! On January 5th, eleven members of the team traveled to Portland for the First Robotics big reveal. This is when all 3,647 global robotics teams find out what the competition requirements are.

The theme this year is "Destination Deep Space," and the goal is for robots to leave a habitat on a distant planet and completely fill their rockets with cargo. They then have to return and dock in the habitat within a certain amount of time to gain maximum match points for the team.

Our team came back to campus and immediately started planning. We have exactly six weeks to complete our robot design before we have to bag and tag it for the competitions that start at the end of February. Many in the school have asked what the reveal told us, so we shared the competition requirements at Friday's school meeting.

We are all so excited to see what we can design and build. Please see the video below for a look at what was revealed.

First Robotics 2019 Reveal

Nina & Ivy, Back on Campus

By Faculty Matt Kinney



Nina Janjigian '18 and Ivy Mortensen '18

Having only been a teacher for about a year and a half, I knew little about the experience of meeting former students. When we returned from break, I was able to learn what this is like when Nina Janjigian (Lafayette College '22) and Ivy Mortensen (U. Texas- Austin '22) arrived back on campus during their winter break with their classic, happy-to-do-it attitudes.

For the next couple of weeks, these two young alumna will be wearing many hats. They will be working in Deans Area, helping administrators, and working with current students as they strive to establish and meet their goals.

“It feels like coming home,” says Ivy. “Coming back to work [at Hyde] has given me a much needed reset as I adapt to college, and it has given me the opportunity to connect with faculty and peers to whom I feel so close.”

“I found myself sitting at home looking for something productive to do,” says Nina. “This school has given me so much depth and opportunity that I felt compelled to give something back.”

As a community, we are all excited for the return of this dynamic duo. In my mind their return is not only a glimpse into the joys of teaching, but a testament to the power of the Hyde community.

Faculty Wilderness Retreat

By Wilderness Faculty Michelle Beebe



Michelle Beebe, Tripp Henderson, and Megan-Mack Nicholson

Happy New Year! It's good to be back in the great state of Maine! This week, Hyde Wilderness faculty went on a training trip to Lennox Lodge to plan and prepare for the winter program ahead.

We discussed and mapped out different routes with varying degrees of challenge, and we developed a program that will be purposeful and safe for our students.

Staff embarked on one of the more challenging routes, bushwacking to the Nubble where camp was set up in the saddle below the peak.

We enjoyed time around the campfire sharing stories and plenty of laughter. We are looking forward to what 2019 brings and wishing all of our families and friends a healthy, happy, prosperous year!

Photos from the Trip

Faculty Capture



Faculty David Brooks catches a shot of the Hyde Mansion on the evening of Tuesday's snow storm.

Staff Feature: Dominic Susi



We caught up with Skowhegan, Maine native Dominic Susi, who is in his second year as the Assistant Director of Admissions. Dominic has his BA from the University of New Hampshire and his M.S.Ed. from the University of Southern Maine. We asked him our favorite questions.

What interests you in your current position?

As a member of the admissions team, I get to meet new, fantastic people all the time. I enjoy learning about their stories and sharing the Hyde experience with them.

What is most rewarding about your job?

The most rewarding part of my job, for me, is watching the growth and development of the students. Being able to watch these kids transform into young adults, from the initial interview up through graduation, is a really impressive thing to witness and be a part of.

Have you worked at any other schools?

Before joining the Hyde community, I worked at three other schools. I started my career at the Rumsey Hall School, an independent junior boarding school in Washington Depot, Connecticut. At Rumsey Hall, I taught math, coached three varsity sports, and was the head of a dorm. The next school I worked for was in RSU 21, the Sea Road School, a public school in Kennebunk, Maine. At the Sea Road School, I completed my internship in Education Administration and worked as an Ed Tech. in their SCALES program. The third school I worked for was Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA), an online public charter school based out of Augusta, Maine. At MEVA, I taught History, Health, and Physical Education.

What makes working at Hyde unique?

There are many things that make working at Hyde unique, but I would say the main thing that sets Hyde apart from other schools is the community. As I mentioned in my last answer, I worked at three other schools before joining the Hyde community. The seminars that are run on campus address issues and force conversations that no other schools would even consider tackling. However, because we have these conversations, we are able to develop stronger bonds and relationships with those around us.

Alumni Development Update



**Thank you from the Alumni & Development Office for
your Annual Fund gifts!**

Not to Miss

- [Hyde Photos](#)
- [Video: Summer Leadership Challenge - My Experience - featuring Annie Schneeberger '20, produced by Gaby Hirsch '20](#)
- [InstaHyde](#)
- [Parenting Center on hyde.edu](#)
- [Joey G on Medium: To Build a Greater America, Transform American Parenting](#)
- [Malcolm's Blog: Biggest Job Goes to China](#)
- [Parenting: The Biggest Job: Inner Leadership: The Inside Scoop from 3 Alumni](#)
- [Hyde School Blog: Adventures in the Wilderness: Lennox Lodge](#)
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Hyde School 616 High Street Bath, Maine 04530 United States (207) 443-5584