



Vincent Smith School Alumni Newsletter

June 2011

Volume 1, Issue 6

From the Head of School ~ Arlene Wishnew



Dear Alumni of Vincent Smith School,

This time each year when school is winding down and graduation is approaching, I begin to think of all the graduations I've officiated at and wonder what everyone is up to. Now and again a familiar face from the past walks into my office and we catch up on life's news. It always gives me such great joy to hear about everyone's journey and how Vincent Smith School has had an impact on each person's life.

Some of you have children that are the same age as when you attended Vincent Smith, some of you are just completing your first year of post-secondary education. Whatever stage you are in life, please don't forget about Vincent Smith School. We are eager to hear from you. Wishing all of you the best!

Arlene Wishnew, Head of School

Local News Celebrity Attends VSS Fashion Show Brunch to Benefit Scholarship Fund

Fox 5 News Reporter, Andrea Day, joined VSS and its guests as it hosted the eighth annual Scholarship Fashion Show Brunch on Sunday, April 10, at the Brookville Country Club in Old Brookville, NY. The Brunch benefited Vincent Smith School's Scholarship Fund.

This year's brunch honored John and Patricia Loester of Seaford, Board Trustee and past parents '09. The Distinguished Service Honor was awarded to Don and Mary Russo of Syosset, current parents '15. Our Co-Chairs for this wonderful event were Mr. & Mrs. Gary Soufarapis and Mrs. Pat Loester. Lord & Taylor of Huntington presented the latest in spring fashions as modeled by Vincent Smith School students and teachers. Ann Taylor of Manhasset, The Annex Shoppe of Wheatley Plaza and Max & Gino's of Woodbury provided additional fashions. Sponsors included Ayhan's Mediterranean Market of Port Washington, Americana Manhasset, Estee Lauder of Manhasset and R.G.I., Inc. of Greenvale.

"The Vincent Smith School Scholarship Fund Fashion Show Brunch is a fun-filled event that is enthusiastically supported by the Long Island community. Proceeds from the Scholarship Fund make it possible for financially needy students to benefit from an independent school education here at Vincent Smith School. Our school is Long Island's premier school for the reluctant learner and students with special education needs," said Arlene Wishnew, Head of School. The School's mission is dedicated to providing a small, nurturing and supportive setting for the reluctant learner and learning disabled students. Vincent Smith School is committed to the belief that "It is okay to learn differently."

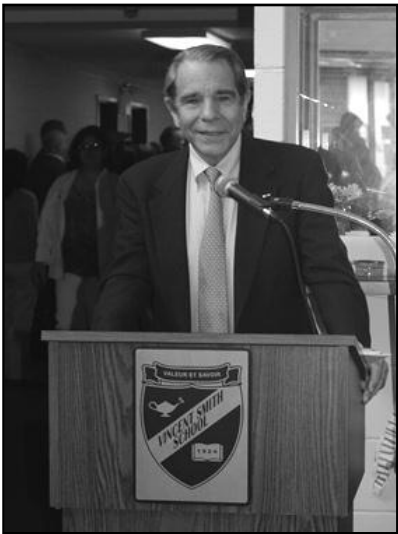


Attendees at this year's Scholarship Fashion Show Brunch include, left to right: Ellen Forrest, Chairperson Board of Trustees; Andrea Day, Fox 5 News Reporter and Arlene Wishnew, Head of School.

VSS Past Happenings

Welcome to the sixth edition of the VSS Alumni Newsletter – a chance for all of you to find out what’s going on at the Vincent Smith School as well as what’s happening with past VSS alumni. To stay in touch with what’s going on at VSS, we encourage you to log on to the School’s website at www.vincentsmithschool.org. You will learn about many of the exciting events that have occurred or will be taking place at the School. We took a High School trip to Boston, walked the Freedom Trail and visited Boston Market. The students took in performances by the Blue Man Group and the Harlem Globetrotters. Holding with VSS tradition, we held our Walk-a-thon in October and staged a Cabaret Event which included students and faculty. Take a look at what else is happening at VSS!

Judge Sol Wachtler Speaks at VSS 2011 Commencement Ceremony



Judge Sol Wachtler was guest speaker at the VSS 2011 senior commencement ceremony. A longtime resident of Manhasset, Judge Wachtler began his career as a councilman in North Hempstead, NY. He was elected to the NY State Supreme Court in 1968 and the NY Court of Appeals in 1972 where he was Chief Judge. He spoke to VSS graduates about the many “tests” they will encounter all along life’s journey and encouraged them to persevere

and weather the storm. His talk was candid as well as motivating and he talked of his genuine admiration for VSS and the graduating class of 2011.

NY Jets Legend Greg Buttle is Guest of Honor at VSS Sports Awards Dinner



Former NY Jets legend, Greg Buttle, was recently the guest of honor at the Vincent Smith School Sports Dinner. Greg was selected by the Jets in the 1976 NFL draft and would go on to play 9 seasons. He was a key member in the famed “New York Sack Exchange”. His keynote speech was to the point, filled with great memories and extremely motivating for everyone in attendance. The dinner was held at the Swan Club in Glenwood Landing. This

annual event recognizes the athletic achievements of VSS students in basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball, and raises money for the School’s sports program.

Barnes & Noble in Manhasset Holds Fundraising Event to Benefit VSS

In December, Vincent Smith School was the grateful recipient of a Barnes & Noble Book Fair Fundraiser. In addition to receiving a percentage of in-store and online sales, VSS students also had an opportunity to showcase their musical and artistic talents. Our students’ art works were displayed during the week and two of our gifted musicians performed throughout the day. VSS extends special thanks to Barnes & Noble and Community Relations Manager, Teresa Reid, for recognizing the extraordinary efforts of the School and its positive impact on the community. Below, left to right: VSS students Tory Geismar (guitar) and Sam Tesch (keyboard) entertain Barnes & Noble shoppers. They are accompanied by Duncan Lindsay on guitar.



Individual Donations Enhance VSS Programs

Mr. Don Russo, current parent ’15, who serves on the VSS Development Committee, has been a champion to improve programs at VSS. He has reached out to various business contacts and has secured gifts to enhance the School’s Music, Science and Library Programs. The Music Program added 3 Apple MacBooks and 2 Casio CTK-2100 keyboards, courtesy of Mr. Jerry Schiff of Harbor Electric while the Science Program purchased a Mimio interactive whiteboard to create a collaborative classroom environment, courtesy of Mr. Burt Brazill of Brazill Brothers & Associates. The Library upgrade, still in the design stages, will include desktop and laptop computers, LCD Projector, interactive Whiteboard Slate, document camera, wireless printer, wireless presenter slide advancer and wireless configuration.

Alumni Class Notes

Did You Know that...

Matthew Abuelo ('91-'94) is an accomplished poet and freelance writer and has won numerous literary awards. His third book of poetry, to be released later this year, is a collection entitled *The News Factory*...**Douglas Best** ('00-'02) holds a BS in Psychology and works in sales. He is also an artist who manages and sells his artwork on his own personal website. His hobbies include stand-up comedy and boxes in the light-heavyweight category...**Harriet Friedberg-Caspar** ('71-'73) has been married for 30 years and has 2 daughters. She holds a degree in Music Therapy and works as both a music therapist and horticulture therapist...**Page Hobson-Magoun** ('46-'51) is married with 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Page is a licensed Clinical Counselor and is proud to be an alumnus of VSS...**Meaghan Huber** ('00-'07) graduated Cum Laude from Mitchell College with a Liberal Arts degree concentrating in Early Childhood and was recently inducted in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society...**Aaron & Vanessa (nee Leff) Lurie** ('94-'97) recently celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary and have 2 children, Merissa and Alexander Jacob...**Jonathan Marcus** ('72-'76) is currently in sales and is married with a son who is in the NYPD. He also has a grandchild...**Ian Miller** ('06-'10) is currently attending NY School of Visual Arts and is a gifted artist who aspires to work in the cartooning business...**Andrew Miscioscia** ('96-'00) is the owner of a gourmet Italian Ice business, *Andy's Italian Ices*, which is located here on Long Island and recently served guests at the VSS Fashion Show Brunch held in April...**Bruce Neumann** ('72-'75) has worked for ABC television in Philadelphia for the past 27 years as a Producer/Photographer/Editor...**JulieAnn Ramos** ('80-'84) runs a celebrity styling company and has a high-end tee shirt line. She is also an Executive Producer for an ABC family show that recently returned for its 3rd season...**Andrew Smith** ('02-'10) is currently attending Dowling College working toward a degree in Sports Management. He also attained the highest GPA of Freshmen in his program...**Jacqueline Smolen** ('96-'00) graduated from Lesley College and works for a law office in New England... **Kimberly Wade** ('87-'91) was recently married this past fall.

Alumnus **Aaron Lurie** ('94-'97) and his wife **Vanessa Leff-Lurie** ('96-'00) pictured with their children Alexander Jacob and Merissa during Merissa's recent graduation. Aaron works for *College Profiles International* (www.ineedacollege.com), an organization of consultants and

professionals that provides guidance to families planning to send a student to college. Aaron can be reached at alurie@cpic-collegeagents.com.



Alumnus **Stephen Grodin** ('86-'91) takes his love for cars seriously. Pictured left, standing with his 1965 Porsche 365SC, Stephen loves restoring classic automobiles. His efforts won him the Best in Class at the Concours d'Elegance held at the American Manhasset this past fall.



Justin Vecchione ('02-'08), a gifted artist, has been attending Adelphi University and will be graduating in the fall of 2012. Above is a rendering of his wall mural which is his senior thesis project.



Kimberly Wade ('87-'91) pictured on her wedding day, wed Bernardo Barcia this past November.

What have you been up to?

We would love to hear what you have been doing since you left VSS. If you would like to be included in our next Newsletter please log on to our website at www.vincentsmithschool.org and click on the Alumni link. Don't forget to go to the **Alumni Profile** and update us with your contact information and what you have been up to. You can also update us on Facebook via Debra Galinsky at VSS. We would welcome any photos you wish to share with your VSS classmates. We look forward to hearing from you! If you have any questions or comments please contact Debra Galinsky, VSS Director of Development at dgalinsky@vincentsmithschool.org.



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GET INVOLVED with VSS!

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cash Donation• Corporate Matching Gifts• Appreciated Securities• Memorial and Honoring Gifts• Bequests and Other Planned Gifts (life insurance, charitable gift annuities, etc.)• Donate Goods or Services (for use as raffle prizes - such as TVs, autos, hotel weekends, airline or theater tickets) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Volunteer to Serve on the Special Events, Development or Alumni Committee• Donate free advertising for VSS through your media contacts• Through your celebrity contacts help VSS with special fundraising events• Join the Alumni Association or become a Class Rep |
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ~ All School Walk-A-Thon, October 14, 2011
- ~ Sports Awards Dinner, May 3, 2012 at 7 pm, Swan Club, Roslyn, NY
- ~ Field Day, May 25, 2012 at Manorhaven State Park, Port Washington, NY
- ~ Senior Commencement, June 12, 2012 at 10:30 am

The Vincent Smith School is dedicated to providing a small, nurturing and supportive setting for the reluctant learner and students with learning disabilities. At Vincent Smith we are committed to the beliefs that:

- It is Okay to Learn Differently
- Reluctant learners and learning disabled students are provided the necessary educational, emotional and social support that will enable each student to reach their highest potential and become productive members of our global society