



THE

BRIGHT

STAR MAGAZINE

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2023 ISSUE

From the Head of School



Dear Bright School Community:

Thank you for a great year at Bright School!

As I reflect on another year at Bright School, I am filled with gratitude for the gift of this special community. In my role, I have the unique opportunity to engage with alumni, current and past parents, faculty and staff, and current students. The privilege of watching our young people grow and learn is the highlight of what I do here at Bright, and I am grateful to be part of their lives and of this school community.

I hope you feel the same joy that I do when reading through our magazine and recalling the memories that we shared. Through both long-standing traditions as well as new ones, we build a sense of community and connection that is important for all of us, especially our students.

We are grateful for the role you have played in establishing our Bright School community as we share our commitment to building a foundation upon which students become wise and compassionate citizens of the world. To our alumni and past parents, thank you for helping Bright School create a strong legacy. To our current families, thank you for your partnership and for sharing your children with us.

With gratitude,
Kristin Watts



Mrs. Watts and receptionist Elizabeth Jackson hosted students for two of the top annual Pajama Party Auction prizes. Third grader Devon Anand was Mrs. Watts for the day. He declared a free dress day and asked students to sign cards given by each grade to police officers who provide security at school. Fifth grader Mary Elizabeth Hicks was Mrs. Jackson for the day and got to ring the bell at the start and close of school.



THE BRIGHT STAR MAGAZINE

For alumni, parents and friends of The Bright School

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ON THE COVER

Students love to slide down the new slide in the library, which was renovated in summer 2022 as part of the third and final phase of the Building a Bright Future Capital Campaign. PHOTO BY MED DEMENT.

The Bright School does not discriminate on the basis of gender, age, race, color, creed, religion, disability, ethnicity, national origin or sexual orientation in the administration of its educational policies, admissions practices, financial aid decisions or other school programs and activities.

Bright Star Editor
Elizabeth A. Davis '86

Bright Star Designer
Laura Barroso

Spirited Volleyball

The annual fifth grade volleyball game is a spectacle each fall. Fifth graders enjoy the preparation and hype as much as the game itself. Students are on teams with two or three faculty members, and the teams choose their name and costumes. This year’s teams were Looney Tunes, Green Beans, Smily Face (sic), The Minions, Cherries on Top and Hula Hula. The volleyball game itself has evolved over the last 40 years from a competition pitting the students against faculty to a fun time that emphasizes teamwork and creativity. The teams are introduced with big fanfare of music and bursting through their hand-painted paper banners as the rest of the school cheers.

1. The Looney Tunes team included Wyatt Sommer ’23, Stacie Helton, Margaret Kalra ’23, Thankful Davis, Mamie Treadwell ’23, Mary Elizabeth Hicks ’23, Emma Hunt ’23, Bo Valentine ’23 and Cooper Webb ’23.

Spelling Champs

Fifth grader Ade Akinlaja correctly spelled a series of tricky words to win the Bright School Spelling Bee. Ade spelled the word “masa,” a dough used to make corn tortillas, to win the bee. Second place was fifth grader Nayana Vardhana, and third place was fourth grader Leighton Miller. The bee went 12 rounds with Ade spelling the last word by himself, which meant he correctly spelled 13 words, including lurid, batten, pomade, and emigrate. There were 32 fourth and fifth graders who bravely competed.

2. Mrs. Watts with Ade Akinlaja ’23 (first place), Nayana Vardhana ’23 (second place) and Leighton Miller ’24 (third place).

Turn for Troops

Fifth graders in shop class made wooden pens and wrote notes to soldiers for Veterans’ Day. This is part of a program called “Turn for Troops,” which provides kits to make the pens. Students at Bright make these pens on lathes that shop teacher Richard Parks introduced a few years ago. Students throughout the school learned about veterans and active military troops and their service to our country. Older students wrote letters and younger students drew pictures to send to the non-profit “A Million Thanks,” which provides support to veteran and active military men and women.

3. Fifth grader Keaton Furrow ’23 works on the lathe in shop class. Students fashion the wood into various shapes and varnish colors to fit the pen kits.

Bright World

Food, flags, singing, dancing, and more! Bright World Night is a celebration of cultures and countries represented by our Bright School families. This event is held every other year and planned by the Parents’ Association. Students attended a morning assembly to learn from their classmates, who wore traditional outfits and talked about their favorite holidays and foods. On Bright World Night, families learned about and tasted food from different countries. Families volunteer to have a table during the event. This year, we had demonstrations of calligraphy, henna, karate, bagpipes and dancing. The Bright School Choir sang two songs, and the advanced Spanish class sang a song. Students got a Bright World passport, had their passport photo taken and visited each booth to get a stamp. The fifth graders had a table about South Sudan, and they raised money to help build a well there.

4. Mrs. Watts on the Guerry International Plaza (flag court) with Yousef Alani ’26, Luke Gonzalez ’24, Hazel ’28 and Lily ’24 Crowder, Aolani Erskine ’24, Xavier ’28 and Stella ’24 Reyes, Mary Elizabeth Hicks ’23, Luke Wright-Sipe ’27, Nayana Vardhana ’23, Emma Anderson ’26, Margaret Kalra ’23, James Anderson ’24, Joanna Anderson ’28, Wyatt Sommer ’23, Charlotte Sommer ’28, Henry Shepperd ’24, and Zoan ’23 and Naima von Schultz ’28.



Creative Writers

Young writers and poets were recognized in the Young Southern Student Writers contest organized by SoLit and the UTC English department. This year, there were more than 2,400 entries by K-12 students in Hamilton County. UTC faculty read each entry. All Bright School third, fourth and fifth graders submit entries. There were 16 Bright student winners, and two students won in both prose and poetry. Fifth grade winners: Aggie Howard (prose), Blas Ortega MacLean (prose), Mamie Treadwell (poetry and prose), Zoan von Schultz (poetry) and Harlan Soss (poetry). Fourth grade winners: Stella Reyes (poetry), Olivia Mahaffey (poetry), Truman Jonson (poetry), Lily Crowder (prose), Henry Shepperd (prose) and Rett Wolfford (prose). Third grade winners: Arya Clinebell (prose), Lucy Cunningham (prose and poetry), Sydney Henderson (poetry), Mary Frances Smith (poetry) and Andrew Craig (prose).

5. The fifth grade winners: Zoan von Schultz ’23, Blas Ortega MacLean ’23, Harlan Soss ’23, Mamie Treadwell ’23 and Aggie Howard ’23.

Special Guests

Hundreds of special guests visited Bright School this spring! The annual Grandparents’ and Special Friends’ Day brought many smiles, exclamations of “good job!” and “oh, I see!” and lots of laughter throughout the halls and classrooms as excited students showed their classrooms to their guests. The younger students hosted earlier in the morning, and the older students afterward. There were two performances of international songs students learned as part of Bright World.

6. First grader Eli DeRamus ’27 hosts grandmother Wylma Caslin, great aunt Susan Freeman and grandfather Otis Elliott.

Row, Row, Row

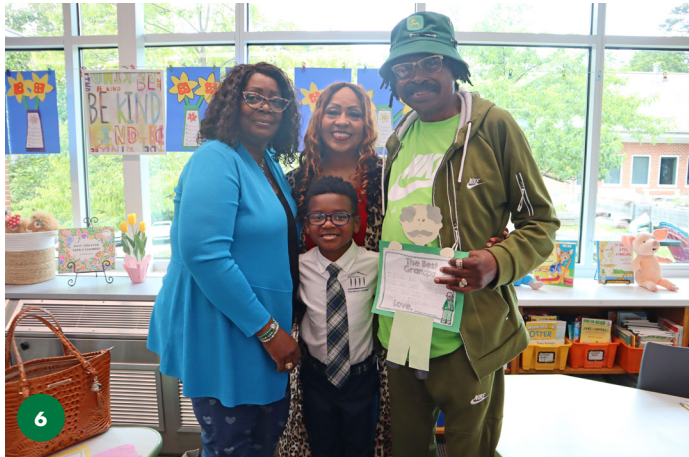
A group of fifth graders built a wooden rowboat they named “Ladybug” and tested it on a short trip along the Tennessee River. Woodworking, or shop class, has been a part of the Bright curriculum for more than 100 years, and students in grades PK-5 alternate in shop or art during the year. The students, under the direction of shop teacher Richard Parks, spent 15 weeks from September to April, measuring, cutting and sawing, sanding, hammering nails, gluing, and painting as part of an after-school class. Next year, a larger group of fifth graders will build a wooden boat during their math and shop classes. In several years, Bright will have a whole fleet of boats built by students. “Of all the years I’ve been here, this is the most proud I’ve seen our students after completing a project they created,” said Parks, who has taught at Bright since 2014. After the boat was complete, the students, Mr. Parks, art teacher Thankful Davis, and PK teacher Emily Hon took Ladybug along the river for a few miles, traveling around Williams Island.

7. Fifth graders Emma Murchison ’23, Mamie Treadwell ’23, Hayes Naggar ’23, Mary Elizabeth Hicks ’23 and Whit Higney ’23 built the rowboat they named “Ladybug.”

Pi Face

Students memorized digits of pi and recited them to see who knows the most digits to celebrate Pi Day (March 14 or 3.14). Winners from each grade got to choose their favorite teacher to pie in the face during a live broadcast of WTBS, which is a livestream of announcements hosted by fifth graders. A live and very excited audience watched this special edition of WTBS.

8. Second grader Roger Caputo ’26 was the overall school winner with 194 digits of pi. He chose to pie Coach Bobby, and it looks like he may have practiced a little bit.



RECOGNITION DAY



DAR History: Calvin Caputo '23 presented by Linda Moss Mines, regent of the Chief John Ross chapter. Fifth graders wrote essays responding to this prompt: "During your time at Bright School, you have studied different time periods and events in our country's history. Which historical event do you feel had the biggest impact on the United States? Why?" Calvin wrote about the Louisiana Purchase.



Benjamin W. Kilbride Memorial Scholarship: Clark Anderson '24 presented by Mary Kilbride. The Kilbride family and the board of trustees created this scholarship in 2001 in memory of Ben. The scholarship is awarded to a rising fifth grader who is a leader, takes and shows an interest in other students throughout the school, exhibits a contagious enthusiasm for life, and is a student in good standing.



DAR Citizenship: Gunnar Boggs '23 presented by Mrs. Mines. Fifth graders wrote essays about the characteristics and traits of good citizens and provided examples of when they are good citizens. Gunnar concluded his essay with this: "My favorite part of being a good citizen is making people laugh and smile."



Z. Lupton Patten Scholarship: Stella Reyes '24 presented by Lupton Winingham '77. Mr. Patten served on the Board of Trustees from 1943 to 1958 and was a great friend and advisor to the school founder, Miss Bright. This scholarship honors the top academic student in the fourth grade. This student has demonstrated overall excellence in all classes, earning the highest cumulative grade point average in reading, writing and math.



Helen C. Murray Geography Award: Whit Higney '23 presented by Erin Worthington '95. Mrs. Murray taught at Bright School from 1979 to 1998. The award, given by her family, is based on a deep understanding of geography and an appreciation of other world cultures. Fifth graders were administered a national level geography test with the highest score chosen for this award.



Douglas Beall Moore Jr. Sportsmanship Scholarship: Grant Perry '24 presented by Mr. Winingham. Douglas, who graduated from Bright School in 1981, enjoyed sports and P.E. This scholarship is awarded to a fourth grade boy who exemplifies fair play and sportsmanship. Grant participated in cross country, soccer, basketball, and track and has received the Bright Fit award.



Center Community Service Award: Mary Elizabeth Hicks '23 presented by Austin Center '85. The Center Community Service Award is in honor of Sherman, Trent, Celeste, and Austin Center, who graduated from Bright School. It is awarded to a fifth grader who demonstrates a commitment to volunteerism, and realizes community service not only enhances our community, but also enriches our lives. Mary Elizabeth participated in several activities as a Girl Scout: collecting can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House, making toys and bandanas for dogs at the McKamey Animal Shelter, promoting and preparing for the Daddy-Daughter Dance that raised money for the McClellan Family Shelter, and making and delivering meals. She also took part in the Tennessee River Cleanup and helped the Tennessee Aquarium debut the Seabin mechanism that collects trash and debris in the river.



Sra. Cindy Avendano honored the fifth graders in the advanced Spanish class: **Zoan von Schultz '23, Mary Elizabeth Hicks '23, Gunnar Boggs '23 and Mamie Treadwell '23**. Gunnar and Mamie gave Spanish orations during the ceremony.

GRADUATION Congratulations to the Class of 2023!



The 42 members of the Class of 2023 graduated under bright sunny skies on the GMAC field. Mayor Tim Kelly '79 spoke and encouraged students to get involved, have courage, believe in their potential and "get weird." Fifth graders played handbells, sang and played recorders to the traditional Bright School graduation song *Country Gardens*. The students also sang *Over There Is My Future*.

Mary Elizabeth Hicks, Emma Murchison and Hayes Naggar were selected by their classmates to present the class gift to Head of School Kristin Watts. The students chose to provide more outdoor play equipment for the fifth grade recess area. Current and former board members presented diplomas to students and joined alumni and faculty and staff parents to give diplomas to their own children.



Mayor Kelly told students that when he was graduating from Bright School that he would have never imagined he would become mayor and said he doubted many of his teachers would have imagined it either. He said early education is most vital, and Bright School provides an excellent foundation.

PHOTO BY MED DEMENT.



Fifth graders, directed by Karen Smith, play handbells during graduation. PHOTO BY MED DEMENT.

Faculty & Staff Updates

FACULTY AWARDS AND ANNIVERSARIES

During Open House, faculty and staff were honored for their service to the school.

Emily Hon ‘86, in addition to being recognized for 25 years as a teacher, was presented with the Jack McDonald ’45 Service Award, which is an honor for alumni who have contributed significantly to the welfare of Bright School and exemplify the highest standards of the school through selfless devotion to the interests of the school. Ms. Emily is currently the longest-tenured teacher at the school. She started at Bright as Kathi Wagner’s assistant and then became lead teacher in 2000-01. She proudly states that she has attended 32 Bright School Picnics as both a student and teacher. Ms. Emily’s class is both fun and organized. You will find learning and play easily combined, and often the children are learning songs, acting out stories like the Three Billy Goats Gruff or exploring the Bright School trails.

Sue Lyman, who joined the faculty in 2010, was named this year’s winner of the Michael G. Murphy Award. In honor of our headmaster from 1994-2004, this award is given to a faculty member who, by vote of the faculty, is committed to service over self-interest, collegiality, partnership, and teambuilding, and willing to assume responsibility and accountability for the well-being of Bright School.



Emily Hon (25 years), Rachel Berger (5 years), Rachel Blanton (5 years), Stacie Helton (15 years), Jill Johnson (5 years), Sue Lyman (Michael G. Murphy winner), and Paul Davis (15 years).

WELCOME NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Jennifer Dillon - Director of Finance

Kristy Greene - Nurse/School Secretary

Alexis Haney - Library Assistant

Martha Hanzelik - P.E.

Sarah Hays - Kindergarten

Deanna Luna - Director of Communications and Marketing

Laura Streets - Junior Pre-Kindergarten

Brittany Williams - Director of Student Services



DILLON



GREENE



HANEY



HANZELIK



HAYS



LUNA



STREETS



WILLIAMS

TRANSITIONS



DAVIS

Elizabeth Davis

“Take my picture, Ms. Davis!” is one of the main ways children get her attention. Ms. Davis, who graduated from Bright in 1986 and returned to be director of marketing and communications in 2015, will transition to a part-time role as director of alumni relations. Her daughter, Meg Finger, graduated in 2021, and Ms. Davis looks forward to continuing connections with Bright alumni of all ages.



EVANS

Jana Evans

Mrs. Evans will move from the classroom to the Kilbride Enrichment Center, supporting students in PK-first grade. She previously taught first grade and kindergarten and was the interim librarian when she arrived at Bright in 2016.

Faculty & Staff Updates

RETIREMENTS



Sabrina McAllister

Ms. McAllister (or Ms. Sabrina, as children call her) first came to Bright School in 1985 as an extended care counselor. She worked as extended care director, summer camp director and office assistant before becoming the financial services manager and then business manager. Over the last 38 years, she has built connections with many faculty and

staff – past and present – students, alumni, vendors and friends. She says one of her favorite things about working at Bright is “seeing the large number of ‘my kids,’ who are now parents wanting their children to have the best educational foundation possible.” Ms. McAllister also enjoys children and helping the nurse occasionally. “The kids always want to be here even when they don’t feel well,” she says. Ms. McAllister has many fond memories of Bright including the summer camps she worked and when the campers were “doing messy activities, field trips, and the end of summer celebration sleepover (2nd-5th grades) with a ghost tour at dark.” For many faculty and staff, the centennial celebration was a “most

memorable” time, and for her, it was as well. “It was many events tied up into one long event over nine months. Lots of fun and memories!” she says. Mrs. Watts presented her with a special diploma at the end of this year’s graduation.



Sue Lyman

This year’s Michael G. Murphy honoree, Mrs. Lyman has been working at Bright since 2010, when

she started as Kathi Wagner’s PK assistant. The following year, she transitioned to an instructional support and enrichment instructor in the Kilbride Enrichment Center. Mrs. Lyman worked with PK-first graders, and you would often see her huddled with a child in the hallway, helping he or she practice spelling or reading. She had a cart of her teaching supplies that she wheeled down the hallway as she thought of the best ways to reach children at the individual level. She says Bright School has been her extended family through difficult times, and she looks forward to attending her first Grandparents’ and Special Friends’ day as a guest of her granddaughter, who will be in JPK in August.

FAREWELLS



BLANTON



SARVELA



LINEHART



WHITE



BAKER



HUTCHERSON



BRADFORD

Rachel Blanton

Mrs. Blanton has served as director of student services since 2018. She plans to spend more time with her daughter and family.

Rachel Sarvela

Nurse Rachel served the school during the pandemic and left this year to spend more time with her daughter and family.

Ashley Linehart

Coach Linehart has been a P.E. instructor since 2019 and coached the Bright School soccer team. She plans to spend more time with her two daughters and family.

Margaret White

Mrs. White taught second grade since 2020. Former teacher MacKenzie O’Neal taught her class

in the fall while Mrs. White was on maternity leave. Mrs. White will return to Bright this fall as a KEC instructor while Karen Smith fills in for music teacher Julia Mayo, during Mrs. Mayo’s maternity leave.

Sarah Baker

Ms. Sarah, as the PK students call her, was Jasmine White’s assistant this past year. She plans to spend more time with her family.

Amy Hutcherson

Mrs. Hutcherson has worked at Bright in several positions including kindergarten and PK assistant and mostly recently as advancement assistant. She left to pursue other opportunities.

Hannah Bradford

Miss Hannah was a JPK assistant since 2019 and left to pursue other opportunities.

BIRTHS

Rachel Blanton (*student services*), a girl, Charlotte Ashley Linehart (*P.E.*), a girl, Alice Kristin Lyman (*speech-language*), a boy, Luke Julia Mayo (*music*), a boy, Elliott Andrew Margaret White (*second grade*), a girl, Sally

WEDDINGS

Maggie McGuire-Haug (*third grade*) Wynne Ware (*first grade*) Mary Katherine White (*PK assistant and database coordinator*)

ENGAGEMENTS

Emily Taylor (*kindergarten*)

Love and Bright School By Elizabeth A. Davis '86

Valentines' Day is always a fun and memorable time at Bright School. Alumni, think back to your first grade class and who your classmates were. Did you get a special Valentine from one of them? Did you think you would marry one of them someday?

If you were in the Class of 1999, you may have predicted a happily ever after for two of your classmates. It was no surprise to many when Johnny Hutcheson and Heather Hendrix married after being friends since first grade.

Now, the Hutchesons, who both graduated in 1999, are parents of Savannah, who is in JPK this year and the fourth generation of the Hutcheson family to attend Bright. They said it is "surreal" to be back at Bright as parents. Johnny's father, John IV '74, and grandfather, John III '41, graduated from Bright.

"We met in Mrs. Cutrer's first grade class," Johnny recalled. "We were friends and played on the Hill together," Heather said. They remembered sending "Peggy the Penguin" to Antarctica and Johnny being interviewed on the local TV news, learning about the solar system and their play, "Christmas Around the World," in which Johnny played Santa Claus. They credit the Cutters for meeting each other and have remained in touch. (Bob Cutrer was a P.E. teacher at Bright for many years, and Carol Cutrer taught P.E. and first grade. Their daughter, Casey, graduated in 1985.)

As for Valentine's Day at Bright School, both remembered receiving Valentines because everyone sends and receives cards, but Johnny said he was "always nervous he would not get a Valentine. I always looked forward to seeing if she gave me one."

After Bright School graduation, they went to separate schools, Heather to GPS and Johnny to McCallie, but they remained close and started "dating" in seventh grade as much as that was possible. "I



Johnny '99 and Heather '99 Hutcheson with their daughter, Savannah '30

tried to do anything she was doing to see each other as much as we could," he said.

After high school, they both went to Berry College. Heather then went to pharmacy school at Mercer and did her rotations back in Tennessee. The proposal was Labor Day weekend in 2011 at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, and they got married at Lake Lanier in 2012. Heather finished school in 2013, and they moved back to Chattanooga.

When Savannah was born and became old enough for school, there was no question where she would go. "We get to relive the Bright School experience, the picnic, the plays Savannah will be in," Heather said. "A lot is still the same." Of course, it's friendships with classmates and teachers that also remain many years later. "There are some friends you keep forever," Heather said. That would include each other. 🏫

Bright School Lunches: Alumni are welcome to join us for the traditional Bright School Lunch (ground steak, mashed potatoes, green beans and roll) on Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Lunch is free, but please let us know you are coming by emailing Elizabeth Davis at edavis@brightschool.com.

September 27

October 25

No December or November lunch

January 17

February 21

March 20

April 24

No May lunch



ALUMNI EVENTS FOR 2023-2024

Mark your calendars and plan to visit Bright School on these special days.

- **Sixth Grade Yearbook Party** (Class of 2023)
Sunday, August 27, 4-5 p.m.
- **Founder's Week:** Alumni are welcome to come for Bright School Lunch on September 27 and take tours of the school on September 27, 28 or 29.
- **Former Faculty and Staff Coffee**
Wednesday, October 25, 10-11 a.m.
- **Community Tree Lighting**
November 28, 5:30 p.m.
- **High School Senior Party** (Class of 2017)
Monday, May 13, 5-6 p.m.



CITIZEN OF THE WORLD

Claire Holtzclaw '16

High school senior **Claire Holtzclaw** realized her hometown of Dalton, Georgia, is a hotspot for human trafficking, got mad and decided to do something about it. She has interned with The Knoble, a nonprofit helping fight this huge worldwide problem, speaking in public and learning about the efforts to stop it. Claire contacted the police and sheriff's departments and developed a relationship with the lead agent on the local FBI task force. She then connected him with the CEO of The Knoble over phone calls and meetings so that they could share information. According to her nomination: "She possesses a dedication to her classwork that is unparalleled by any of her peers, yet she remains humble in her success. Most impressive is her ability to combine empathy with action; when she sees a problem, she acts on it."

For this and other activities, Claire is this year's Citizen of the World Award winner. This award recognizes alumni who are fulfilling the school's mission: "The Bright School builds a foundation upon which students become wise and compassionate citizens of the world. Its century of progress fosters the intellectual, artistic, physical, and moral growth of young boys and girls." To be eligible for the award, alumni must be current students in high school (grades 9-12), college, or graduate school. The winning alumni demonstrate leadership in service to others in the broader community.

Nominations for the award were submitted by schools, parents and other individuals. This year, there were six nominees. Our fifth grade class selects the winner. All names, schools and gender are removed from the nominations, and fifth graders evaluate each nomination based on the students' activities.

Claire, who graduated from Baylor in May and was the valedictorian, visited the fifth grade class to accept her award. Bright also made a donation to the nonprofit of her choice, the Knoble, which traces trafficking through financial fraud. She talked to the students about her community service activities and how she got involved. She encouraged students to try new things. 🏫



This year's other nominees were:



Michael Brown '09
(Tulane Law School,
Texas Christian University
and McCallie)

In law school, Michael donated more than 180 hours of pro bono work with the United States Coast Guard to help their legal team. The Coast Guard recently recognized him for his volunteer efforts. At Tulane, he wrote for the *Sports Lawyers Journal* and was president of the Christian Legal Society. Michael earned his pilot's license and started TCU's Aviation Club (The Flying Frogs). He also was a member of the TCU spirit and cheerleading team.

awards in ninth and tenth grades. She also served as an ambassador for the admissions department. "Caroline is a prominent and vibrant presence in the GPS community. She is charismatic and has a great spirit, which draws others to her, and her humility makes her approachable," according to her nomination.



Alexander Moyer '16
(Baylor)

While working to get his real estate license and flipping homes, Alexander was involved in several activities, such as choir, and was captain of the fencing team. The nomination states: "Alexander is known for having fantastic focus on his personal goals, and this reputation extends to within the Baylor fencing program. He is seen as a community-builder of his class, contributing positively to a spirit of 'we can do this!'"



Caroline Clark '16
(GPS)

Caroline served as president of the student council and was a member of the varsity tennis team. She was inducted into the Spanish Honor Society and was treasurer. Caroline was a leader in Christian Forum and received school



Sophie Peirano '14
(Carnegie Mellon
University and Baylor)

Throughout her time at Baylor, Sophie volunteered at the YMCA to help with their debate programs, including Youth in Government and Model United Nations (UN), where she served as a chair for multiple middle and high school conferences. She tutored elementary-aged students in reading, writing, and math for four years. In college, she has packaged meals for Rise Against Hunger and raised money by selling grilled cheese sandwiches and waffles to support the Homeless Children's Education Fund. As vice president of the university's Model UN, she helped secure funding to pay for club participants to attend a conference in Chicago. This fall, she will be an intern in Washington, D.C., learning more about the practical applications of her degree in International Relations and Politics. In May, Sophie went on the Hillel JUC Perspectives trip, which is a fully subsidized trip to Israel and the Palestinian territories offered to



Alia Sherrow '16
(Baylor)

Four times a week in the winter and spring, Alia devoted an hour after school to tutor a younger student from one of Chattanooga's core neighborhoods. She served on the community service group's student-led board for three years, has dedicated time as a co-leader for the annual holiday party, and oversaw grant-writing efforts of 14 students. She reviewed proposals, organized interviews, secured a panel of faculty, and led each 15-20 minute interviews. "While she is one of the most involved students in Baylor School's class of 2023, she is never too busy to do something kind and goes out of her way to make others' days better. In every area of her involvement at Baylor and beyond, Alia is a leader — often in title but always in character," according to her nomination.

What’s Next? Where They’re Headed



Members of the Class of 2016 returned to Bright School in May to celebrate their graduation from high school. They were welcomed by Head of School Kristin Watts, former Head O.J. Morgan, retired fifth grade math teacher Beth Warren, and Assistant Head of School Renee’ Kropff. Alumni toured the school and marveled at the renovations to the library, gym, and classrooms in the quad and 1987 wing. Yes, several of them tried out the new slide in the library.

When listing their college choices for the fall, students talked about their interests and activities in high school and goals for the future. Some remain undecided about their college degrees, as is very common, but we feel certain they will be successful in whatever directions they choose. Several students in this class moved out of town, out of state and even out of the country after graduating from Bright in 2016.

Back row: Acheson Graham, John Jackson, Joss Rafiee, Bowen Allan, Chase Raynor, Alia Sherrow, Gabby Czarnecki, Callie Czarnecki, Baker Young, Aayat Ali, Drew Hamilton, Kollin Claridy, Stewart Hartman, Mr. Morgan and William Nicely. Front row: Mrs. Warren, Alexander Moyesr, Grace Henderson, Sophia Moses, Sophia Baleeiro, Jamie Butt, Kendall Rizer, Caroline Rowe, Claire Holtzclaw, Allie McVay, Caroline Clark, Lisa Yates, Meghan Boehm, Brooke Whitener, Eva Waxenburg, Frances Johnson, Cate Fisher, Reese Skiles and Mrs. Watts. Alumni were asked to list their favorite things about Bright School. These special memories included P.E., the color run, car smash, Bonanza, Camp Lookout, plays, graduation, art and shop, state project in fourth grade, scooter races and high jump, painting the windows at Christmas, camping out on campus, gaga ball, Chef Dave throwing rolls at them and many, many more!

Aayat Ali University of Georgia, *plans to study finance*
Bowen Allan East Tennessee State University
Sophia Baleeiro Johns Hopkins University
Meghan Boehm Wake Forest University,
plans to study biochemistry and molecular biology
Vivian Brockman Auburn University
Arthur Burns University of Georgia
Jamie Butt East Stroudsburg University,
plans to study environmental science, signed to play lacrosse
Rowan Carlson University of Texas
Kollin Claridy Palm Beach Atlantic University,
plans to study business, signed to play basketball
Caroline Clark Texas Christian University
Callie Czarnecki University of Tampa
Gabby Czarnecki Reichman University
Light Davis Chattanooga State, *plans to study art*
Allie Drew Queens University
Cate Fisher Auburn University, *plans to study international business*
Acheson Graham University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Drew Hamilton University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Stewart Hartman University of Mississippi
Connor Hayes University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Grace Henderson Samford University
Sabrina Hilles Moya university in Shanghai, China
Claire Holtzclaw University of Virginia, *plans to study business and public policy*
Jack Hunt University of Colorado at Boulder

John Jackson Belmont University, *plans to study audio engineering*
Frances Johnston University of Alabama, *plans to study communications*
Simon Kastenberger Technical University of Munich
Ashton Lankford Trevecca Nazarene University,
plans to study kinesiology, signed to play soccer
Ashtyn Massengale Auburn University
Ally McVay University of Georgia
Sophia Moses Lee University
Alexander Moyer University of Tennessee at Chattanooga,
plans to study real estate and construction
Greetja Nestler ... University of Tennessee, Knoxville, *plans to study veterinary medicine*
William Nicely ... University of Tennessee, Knoxville, *plans to study sports management*
Joss Rafiee Virginia Tech University, *plans to study sports media and analytics*
Nasi Rahman University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,
plans to study biology (pre-med track)
Chase Raynor Ringling College of Art and Design,
plans to pursue a BFA in visual effects/game art
Kendall Rizer Kennesaw State University
Caroline Rowe Auburn University
Alia Sherrow Macalester College, *plans to study economics and Chinese*
Reese Skiles University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, *possibly studying nursing*
Morgan Swaby Talladega College, *athletic and academic scholarship*
Eva Waxenberg Arizona State University, *plans to study business*
Brooke Whitener Wofford College, *plans to study business*
Lisa Yates Roanoke College, *plans to study English*
Baker Young Wake Forest University

SENIOR GARLANDS

Aayat Ali During her senior year at Lambert (Ga.) High School, she played the role of Jordan in *The Great Gatsby*, taught a movement class and choreographed a mini number, and produced her school’s show *Elf Jr.* She was assistant director last year for a collaborative show with Riverwatch Middle School. She was inducted into the Spanish Honor Society, performed solo for her religious community, and introduced a technique in a sport she joined called Throwball, which then became widely used in teams across the nation.

Bowen Allan He was a senior on the Baylor cross country team.

Sophia Baleeiro She was presented the John Roy Baylor Award, which is given to Baylor seniors who have contributed richly to the school both as a citizen and scholar. She also won the history award.

Meghan Boehm She was inducted into Cum Laude, an academic honor society at GPS, played tennis, participated in Chattanooga Youth Symphony, was a senior representative on the Honor Council, volunteered at the hospital, and was the Bright School Citizen of the World Award winner in 2022.

Arthur Burns He was on the McCallie squash team, a Chattanooga Lookouts batboy, Wyldlife leader, and Day Student Advisor.

Jamie Butt An all-state member of the Baylor lacrosse team, she scored her 300th point in April, setting a program record, and she was first team all-state in lacrosse. She participated in Baylor’s traditional annual Walkabout trip to India in December. The group visited the girls home in Gangtok, Sikkim and did a Himalayan trek to the Tholung monastery in the Dzonghu region near the Tibetan border. She toured Clemson University and University of North Carolina Greensboro this past spring with the Baylor Band and orchestra.

Rowan Carlson Attending high school in Austin, Texas, Rowan was historian of the National Honor Society, committee chair of the Science National Honor Society, co-founder of his school’s chapter of Quizbowl, HOSA, wrestling senior year, Jiu Jitsu blue belt, EMT certified, ran an evening Bingo event at a senior assisted living facility every Wednesday for the past year, graduated Summa Cum Laude, and received senior award for excellence in AP Government.

Kollin Claridy He won the McCallie Coaches Athletic Award and participated in basketball and track. He

placed 7th in the state long jump and was on the all-region basketball teams for 2022 and 2023 and Tennessee All-Stars in 2023. He was a member of McCallie’s Keo Kio, Black Student Union (Community Service Chair), Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and co-founder of Best Friends for Hire

Caroline Clark She won the Mary Hannah Tucker Faculty Award, which is presented to a GPS senior who has given her best as a student, as a friend and as a leader—a girl who lifts the spirits of those around her and consistently stands for right and fair play. Nominations are made by seniors and faculty and, from the nominees, the recipient is selected by the Head of School and Head of Upper School. She was president of the Student Council and a member of the varsity tennis team, National Spanish Honor Society, National Honor Society and Beta Club.

Gabby Czarnecki She successfully finished her time with Baylor girls’ tennis team with a state runner-up girls’ double team title, and Baylor girls’ tennis team was named regional and state runner-up for the season.

Allie Drew She was co-president of Bolles Buddies (Bolles School, Jacksonville, Fla.), which helps bring awareness to and support for children and adults with special needs and was a member of the homecoming court.

Cate Fisher She received the Dance Award at Baylor, was editor of the yearbook, and was a member of Red Circle, Verve, Civic Scholars, Sustainability Club, Baylor Summer Camp counselor, Students Today Alumni Tomorrow club, and Baylor Younglife.

Grace Henderson She participated in community service at Baylor.

Claire Holtzclaw She was the Baylor valedictorian, recipient of the science achievement award, Bright School Citizen of the World in 2023, varsity soccer captain, All-Region soccer player, Harris Stanford Honors, Abshire Leadership Fellow, intern at The Knoble, early inductee to Cum Laude, and member of Red Circle, Round Table, Baylor Church, and Community Time History Time.

Frances Johnston She was on the Baylor track team and inducted into National Honor Society.

Ashton Lankford He was captain of the Notre Dame soccer team, named best defender, and participated in four years of community service.

Ally McVay She was presented the Award for Excellence in Computer Science & Engineering at GPS, was inducted into National Honor Society and participated in soccer, squash, Girl Scouts, and YoungLife.

Alexander Moyer He participated in wrestling, fencing, and choir at Baylor.

William Nicely He participated in McCallie football, lacrosse, YoungLife, Fellowship of Christian athletes; was a day student advisor; worked at Taco Mamacita and HGH construction, was inducted into National Honor Society, and was named to the honor roll, headmasters list, and faculty recognition list.

Joss Rafiee He was a McCallie football and basketball statistician, member of the Board for First Christian Church, worked as an umpire, and was awarded the silver medal in the National Spanish Exam.

Nasi Rahman He was recipient of the Presidential Gold Service Award, was a NC Triangle Underprivileged Kids math and English tutor, participated in NC State University Malaria Treatment Research, was president of UNICEF at Green Hope High School (Cary, N.C.), president of National Technical Honor Society at Green Hope High School, and Zakat Foundation Project Management Intern.

Chase Raynor He participated in band and theater at McCallie.

Caroline Rowe She received the Award for Excellence in Choral Arts at GPS.

Alia Sherrow She participated in volleyball and community service at Baylor, was inducted into National Honor Society and was a member of Round Table. This summer, she traveled with Baylor’s Community Service program leaders to Kingston, Jamaica, and worked in an early childhood center and the squatter community of Ferry.

Reese Skiles She participated in swimming at Baylor, Walkabout, Student Athlete Athletic Council, and yearbook.

Baker Young She participated in track at Baylor and was on the state runner-up 4x400 relay team.



Making Reading Fun for 110 Years

By Elizabeth A. Davis

After all the students were gathered in the library, they knew what to do. They kicked off their shoes, too excited to stop and untie them. They ran up the steps and formed a line. When librarian Emily Henn joined them at the top, she ushered each one down the slide as soon as the student before whooshed through the green chute and landed on the mats at the bottom.

This was nothing new for the students. All year long, they have celebrated various milestones and accomplishments by getting to go down the new slide in the library. On this day, 10 students celebrated checking out the most books during the school year.

Jeremiah McGraw '26,
Hudson Fuller '26, Mac Lyons '26,
Dylan Hudlow '26 and Zoe Pearson '26
read in the renovated library. PHOTO
BY MED DEMENT

TOP 10 BOOKS CHECKED OUT OF THE BRIGHT SCHOOL LIBRARY FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR:

1. **Dog Man: Grime and Punishment**
2. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules**
3. **Dog Man: Brawl of the Wild**
4. **Elephant and Piggie: I Really Like Slop!**
5. **Diary of a Wimpy Kid**
6. **Barbie: You Can Be 5 Minute Stories**
7. **Pete the Cat: Too Cool for School**
8. **Pokemon Adventures #2**
9. **Elephant and Piggie: I Am Invited to a Party!**
10. **Wings of Fire: The Dragonet Prophecy**

The new slide was added during the renovation of the library as part of the third and final phase of the Building a Bright Future Capital Campaign. New shelves, tables, chairs, carpet and book-themed artwork were added, and overall the library became lighter and brighter. Classrooms in the 1987 wing – science, technology, fourth and fifth grades – also were updated during this phase.

The slide was one of the first new items students anticipated when the renderings of the renovations were unveiled in 2019. Alumni who graduated after that time and visited school this year, also were eager to try out the new slide.

While the slide may be the most visible update to the library, it's more like the cherry on top of a really big sundae, which is the campaign and the three phases of renovations that have updated and improved the learning environment in the oldest areas of the school. The first phase renovated the first, second, and third grade classrooms in the quadrangle area that were



Barry Large, Leighton Large '22, Layla Large '24, Landry Claire Large '28 and Marylee Large prepare to cut the ribbon held by Head of School Kristin Watts and retired Head O.J. Morgan. The library was dedicated in honor of Mr. Morgan.

mostly the same since the building opened in 1963. The 1970s-era gym also was renovated, and then the library, music, art, shop, Spanish and 1987 wing.

The library, which was dedicated in August 2022 to former Head of School O.J. Morgan, was originally the school's gym. When Bright School moved from Fort Wood near UTC to the current location, this area was the school's first gym, which is why the ceiling is so high and there are arches along the sides of the walls to the ceiling. Alumni from 1963-1974 remember the space as the gym. The library was actually located in the back of the cafeteria with a partition separating it

from the eating area, but school leaders realized Bright School needed a larger space for books, and the gym was turned into a library and a new gym constructed. School founder Mary Gardner Bright said she wanted her school to be a "happy place where children gladly come," and you can definitely say that about the library. Reading is the heart of learning – children learning to read in the early grades and then reading to learn in the upper grades. "Library class is an opportunity for Bright School students to explore a wide variety of authors, subjects, and genres in one place. In addition to checking out books each rotation, readers are encouraged to foster their love of reading in our cozy reading areas or through themed activities," says Ms. Henn, who completed her first year as library media specialist. "Library class also allows students to learn about the world of books by building upon and reinforcing classroom reading skills."



The space that is now the library was first the gym when the campus was built in 1963, and it was renovated in 1973 to house the library. The library's second and most recent renovation was in summer 2022 as part of the Building a Bright Future Capital Campaign.

of the cafeteria with a partition separating it

from the eating area, but school leaders realized Bright School needed a larger space for books, and the gym was turned into a library and a new gym constructed. School founder Mary Gardner Bright said she wanted her school to be a "happy place where children gladly come," and you can definitely say that about the library. Reading is the heart of learning – children learning to read in the early grades and then reading to learn in the upper grades. "Library class is an opportunity for Bright School students to explore a wide variety of authors, subjects, and genres in one place. In addition to checking out books each rotation, readers are encouraged to foster their love of reading in our cozy reading areas or through themed activities," says Ms. Henn, who completed her first year as library media specialist. "Library class also allows students to learn about the world of books by building upon and reinforcing classroom reading skills."



Second graders Jeremiah McGraw '26, Zoe Pearson '26 and Dylan Hudlow '26 read in a cushioned area in the library loft. PHOTO BY MED DEMENT

JPK and PK students learn about using their library manners and how to take care of books. Kindergarten and first grade learn about the neighborhoods of the library and how to find books on the library shelves. Second and third graders learn about the Online Library System and how to find books using library call numbers. Fourth and fifth graders learn about the Dewey Decimal System and how the genre or structure of a book determines its call number in the library.



Students and teachers dressed as their favorite book characters and paraded on the track to kick off the annual Book Fair, a book sale that benefits the library. Fifth graders pictured include: Gunnar Boggs as Captain Underpants, Hayes Naggar as Harry Potter, Olivia Brewer as Anne from Anne of Green Gables, and Aggie Howard as Comfort Snowberger from Each Little Bird That Sings.

Reading Celebrations



Third graders James Exum '25 and Lena Siyam '25 work to solve the mystery of who stole the painting during the third grade mystery celebration, which marks the conclusion of a reading unit about mystery stories.

glasses and even conduct an experiment to find out whodunit!

"The goal is building lifelong readers by giving students a voice as readers and writers and letting them have autonomy in choosing a just-right book," says Assistant Head of School Kendra Reasor, who oversees curriculum and instruction. "Classroom libraries complement the collection in the main library and support reading units."

In the early grades, students learn to recognize letters and the sounds they make alone, with other letters and as part of words. Students read with their parents, and then older students are asked to read a book of their choice for a certain amount of time each night. "In second grade, they start to read book series," Mrs. Reasor says, "and they take off as readers!" 📖



Librarian Emily Henn recognized the students who checked out the most books this year. Front row: Kittrel Corbitt '26, Emmy Adair '27, Emmy Kirby '26, Jeremiah McGraw '26. Standing: Ellie Brown '26, Hunter Gadd '27, Emma Anderson '26, Harper Furrow '26, Royce Felts '25 and Logan Winter '25.



Authors often visit Bright School, and that is a fun way students can learn about how ideas for books come about and how to write books. Students met Gobi the dog and author Dion Leonard, who found her in the Gobi Desert six years ago and wrote about the adventure in the book, Finding Gobi. Students and their families collected nearly 300 items to donate to McKamey Animal Shelter in honor of Mr. Leonard and Gobi. Mrs. Boyanton's second grade class poses with the guests.

TOTAL BOOK COLLECTION: 14,447 BOOKS

BRIGHT SCHOOL LIBRARIANS:

Martha Becton
1968-1978

Suzanne Nimon
1978-1985

Sarah Doyle
1985-2015

Jana Evans
2015

Elizabeth Oakes
2016-2022

Emily Henn
2022-present



Fourth grader Layla Large '24 reads with her younger sister, Landry Claire '28, kindergarten, in a house-shaped reading nook. PHOTO BY MED DEMENT

Building a Bright Future Capital Campaign

Our \$4 million-plus campaign ended officially with the unveiling of the plaque recognizing the lead gifts. We celebrated the dedication of two more classrooms, the music room in the quadrangle area and technology classroom in the 1987 wing. Renovations to the science, technology and fourth and fifth grade classrooms were completed.



Campaign Completion
Donors of the lead gifts to the campaign are honored on the plaque installed on May 11, 2023, on the concourse.



Music Room Dedication
Three generations of the Card family have been educated at Bright. Attending the dedication of the music room in March were Blaire Wynne '28, Starr Card, Nate Card '93, Max Berube '13, Sissy Berube '88, Josie Card '22, Kate Berube '16, Lew Card '90, Charlie Card '26 and Laura Card. The gift includes Lewie '65 and Becky Card.



Technology Lab Dedication
The lab was dedicated in February in honor of Emma '18, Quinn '21 and Helen '23 Davenport by their parents, Ashley and Ward Davenport, and grandparents, Susan and Joe Davenport.

1987 Wing Renovations
All classrooms in the 1987 wing have new windows, carpet, furniture, lighting and HVAC.



TECHNOLOGY BEFORE AND AFTER



FOURTH GRADE BEFORE AND AFTER



FIFTH GRADE BEFORE AND AFTER

BRIGHT FUND

100%

Faculty and Staff
Bright Fund Participation

95%

Parent
Bright Fund Participation

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Ms. Sissy Berube '88
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Ms. Martha Martin '59
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volunteer leaders!

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Dorothy and Nick with their sons, Joseph '27 and Sam '24.

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Sholar and William Howard



We are grateful to the Howard family for many years of
service to Bright School. Pictured at the 2023 graduation:
Aggie and John Wyatt Howard '23, Sholar, William, and
Harriet Howard '20. Willie Howard '19 was traveling.



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Thank you to Betsey Kates for serving as chair of the Board of Trustees for two years. Pictured at the 2023 graduation: Eleanor Kates '23, Betsey, Tom Kates and Helen Kates '21

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This annual report lists gifts and pledges received through May 31, 2023. Every effort has been made to ensure that this report is accurate and complete. If your name was inadvertently omitted or appears incorrectly, please accept our apologies and notify the advancement office.

The New Dismembered Tennesseans played at concert in the Centennial Theater on the stage named for founding member Fletcher Bright '43.



Music Day and New Dismembered Tennesseans



Fifth graders Emma Murchison, Aggie Howard, Emma Hunt, Norris Jackson and Whit Higney stand on the stage with the band.

This year's Music Day featured much toe-tapping and clapping and many ties to Bright School.

The New Dismembered Tennesseans performed for students thanks to the Aldridge/Patten Fund for Visiting Artists, started by Henry Aldridge and the late Fontaine Patten Moore, both from the class of 1955.

During the school day, each grade took turns listening to the band and learning about bluegrass. The band members introduced themselves and their instruments. Tom Morely plays the fiddle, Laura Walker on the bass, Bobby Burns on guitar and Don Cassell on mandolin. These instruments were brought to North America by immigrants from England, Scotland and Ireland. The banjo, played by Ed Cullis '48 and Eleanor Bright, was invented in Africa and brought to North America. Dr. Cullis plays with

picks on three fingers while Ms. Bright plays with a clawhammer technique with her hand.

Mr. Morely explained how Bill Monroe is credited with inventing bluegrass or what he called "high lonesome sound." The name bluegrass stuck as Monroe's band was called the Blue Grass Boys because they were from Kentucky.

The band has many connections to Bright, including the band founders Fletcher Bright '43, Ansley Moses '42, and Ed Cullis '48, who played at Music Day. Another current member and clawhammer banjo player, Eleanor Bright, is the great-great niece of school founder Mary G. Bright.

After school, the band played a concert for current families, alumni and guests. 🎵



Dr. Ed Cullis '48 is the remaining founding member of the Dismembered Tennesseans. He is seated here playing the banjo.



GRADUATE GARLANDS

1965

Dr. Bill Wheeler enjoyed telling his grandchildren stories about his childhood in the 1960s so much he decided to write two books, *Little Boy Stories*, books 1 and 2, and they are available on Amazon. While the first book includes stories about his life growing up off Highway 58 near Chickamauga Lake and mentions school friends, the second book is about his elementary school days at Bright. “I have great memories of Bright School, which led me to Baylor and then Vanderbilt and then medical school. Each one was a building block with Bright School as the foundation,” he said.



Sara Catherine Bradshaw and **Helen Guerry** played on the state runner-up tennis team for Baylor.

Brennan Buzinkai finished third this past spring for the Baylor fencing team.

Valerie Davis toured Clemson University and University of North Carolina Greensboro this past spring with the Baylor Band and orchestra.

Valerie Davis, **Addie Margio**, and **Claire McOmie** joined nine other rising Baylor seniors in July on the Joe Key Award trip. This trip is seven days filled with sea-kayaking, hiking, and camping on the islands of Acadia National Park.

Helen Guerry won the Jumonville Award, which is given to the best all-around male and female juniors at Baylor as determined by a vote of upper school students.

Jenna Naik served on the GPS Student Council.

Mattie Nall finished fourth with back-to-back 75s for the Baylor girls’ golf team, which finished second place in the TSSAA tournament in the fall.

Acadia Phillips was selected to attend Girls State 2023, where she was nominated for Girls Nation and elected a Supreme Court Justice, and to attend Governor’s School for the Humanities.

Lily Rhyne was awarded a position at the Northwestern High School Institute in the Film and Video Division with a focus on screenwriting. She is a communications major at Chattanooga High School Center for Creative Arts.

Jude Rifai won the Ware Calculus Award, the Award for Excellence and the Dr. T.E.P. Woods Award for Academic Excellence at McCallie.

Madison Kay Tudor participated in Baylor’s annual Global Scholars Symposium in February, along with 11 other students. This program is designed for students to view their education from an international perspective and are required to create a Global Scholars project and Senior Portfolio.

2018 (10th grade)

Khadeeja Agha served on the GPS Student Council.

Luci Hemphill attended the Harvard Model Congress Conference in San Francisco in January and received an honorable mention for her involvement with the Senate Health, Education, and the Labor and Pensions Committee.

Layan Siyam was inducted into the Spanish Honor Society at GPS and received honorable mention on the National Spanish Exam, level 3.

Isabella Moore auditioned for and attended a six-week Ballet Summer Intensive at Milwaukee Ballet and was inducted into the National Honor Society at Baylor.

Maggie Tansor joined Baylor’s Concert Choir on their tour to Clemson University and the University of North Carolina-Charlotte, where they worked alongside composer Sherry Blevins and performed at a Baylor “Raider Town” alumni event. The Concert Choir also earned four superior ratings at the East Tennessee Vocal Association J.B.

Lyle Adjudicated Choral Festival.

Sara Wright was selected to attend the Governor’s School of the Arts as a rising junior at GPS.

2019 (9th grade)

Ben Boehm qualified for the state decathlon competition for the Baylor track team.

Hadley Golden served on the GPS Student Council.

Sara Jackson and **Arwyn LaRock** won awards at the Hunter Museum Teen Art Contest.

Theo Ryan toured Clemson University and University of North Carolina Greensboro this past spring with the Baylor Band and orchestra and attended the Harvard Model Congress Conference in San Francisco in January.

2005



James Morgan married Abbey Duncan on June 24, 2023, on St. Simon’s Island, where they first met during an archaeological dig. They live on Signal Mountain.

(high school senior garlands listed on page 10-11)

1991

Emmie Treadwell was named the Head of the Middle School at Baylor.

2003



Moira McCravey married John Wienand on October 22, 2022. They live in Nashville.

2008

Bryce Cronan and the band “The Afternooners” performed at Riverbend 2023.

2011

Emily Peoples was accepted into the Class of 2027 at the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

2017 (11th grade)

Noor Ali received honorable mention on the National Spanish Exam, level 4, at GPS.



GRADUATE GARLANDS

2020 (8th grade)

Finn Beasley and **Avery Levin** competed with the Baylor middle school engineering team in the first MATE ROV competition and won the top prize.

Gabriel Cyrus won the handbells award at McCallie.

Caleb Hitchcock and **Ian Mahone** were on the McCallie honor roll list.

Matilda Joels received the Alexander Guerry Award at Baylor, which is given to middle school students by a vote of seventh and eighth graders considered to be “best all around,” and the theater award.

Christopher Kim won the public speaking award and drama award for best actor and was named to the faculty recognition list and head of school list at McCallie.

Mia Kinney received the eighth grade scholar-athlete award at Baylor.

Zohayr Memon won the American Legion Citizenship Award and the art II award and was named to the faculty recognition list and head of school list at McCallie.

Lucinda Ranalli won the Latin award at Baylor.

Adela Sewell won the studio art award at Baylor.

Grant Simmons was named to the head of school list at McCallie.

Vishnu Vardhana was the McCallie spelling bee champion, won the instrumentalist award and was on the honor roll list.

Ashley Yim was a Young Southern Student Writers winner for Baylor.

In One Basket at Rivermont Presbyterian Church



Former Teacher Gay Sakich, Sye Simmons ’19, Mary Elizabeth Hicks ’23 and Wiley Thompson ’23.

Alice in Wonderland at Baylor



Katherine Pipes ’20 was Alice, Matilda Joels ’20 was the Mad Hatter, Samantha George ’21 was a guard, Phoenix Beasley ’22 was a guard, Addie Boehm ’21 was a Jabberwock and in the ensemble, Kat Bruce ’22 was a doormouse, Cate Hemphill ’22 was door 1, and Molly Boyd ’21 was in the tech/house crew.

2021 (7th grade)

Stone Caputo competed for Baylor’s Middle School MathCounts team, which placed first, and he placed fifth in the individual competition.

Meg Finger won the seventh grade creative writing and English language arts awards at Chattanooga High School Center for Creative Arts and was a Young Southern Student Writers winner.

Samantha George qualified at the individual level for the MathCounts competition for Baylor this past spring.

Ayla Holt wrote a poem that was published in the Resilience 2022 Poetry Collection printed by the American Library of Poetry. She attends Belvoir Christian Academy.

Jack Houghton and **Luke Mouw** received magna cum laude on the National Latin Exam at McCallie.

Nina Lail was among ten Baylor School Concert Choir members who earned a spot in the East Tennessee Vocal Association All-East Choir and represented Baylor at the ETVA honors event at Maryville College in November.

Sunjay Ravinder received silver maxima cum laude on the National Latin Exam at McCallie.

2022 (6th grade)

Alba Ortega MacLean, **Lila Montgomery**, **Pei-Ying Olsen** and **Lauren Reisman** were winners in the Young Southern Student Writers contest for Baylor.

Pei-Ying Olsen placed third in this years’ Baylor Middle School spelling bee.

Marshall Sommer competed with the Baylor middle school engineering team in the first MATE ROV competition and won the top prize.

In Memoriam

William Deadrick Moon Jr. ’37
Pansy Allison Marler ’45
Charlotte Patten Gauss ’47
Z. Cartter Patten III ’52
Lawson Whitaker ’62
Ansley Moses ’42
Marianne Prescott Thomas ’42
Judith Shipley Kincer ’54
Mollie McGauley ’61
Laura Englerth, teacher of 5th grade (1974-1985), enrichment (1985-1989), computer (1989-1997)

O.J. Morgan, who retired as head of school in 2021, was honored by the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools as recipient of the Sawney Webb Award, which honors administrators who have made outstanding contributions to the field of independent school education. TAIS held the event at the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center downtown in conjunction with its biennial conference in Chattanooga in November 2022. Mr. Morgan was joined by his wife, Dr. Anne Barron, and children, James ’05 and Sarah Spence ’08.



WHAT’S NEW? Recently married? Have a new baby? Graduated from college and got a job? We want to know. Send your news and updated contact information to Elizabeth Davis at edavis@brightschool.com.

ALUMNI GATHERINGS



Class of 1973 reunion Members of the Class of 1973 gathered this spring for their 50th reunion. From left to right: Joseph Atkins, Lyn Harris, Kay Sanford, John Dietzen and Alice Thatcher.



Alumni from 1973 toured the school and enjoyed looking at the projects in shop class.



Sixth Grade Yearbook Party The Class of 2022 returned to campus to receive their yearbooks at the annual Sixth Grade Yearbook Party. Seated, left to right: Josie Card, Lila Taslimi, Riya Sekhar, Marissa Haney, Harper Thomas, Ellie Moore, Maddie O'Dell, Katie Kopet, Thad Smith, Tyce Veltenaar, and Charlie Searce. Standing in a row: Briley Kesler, Cate Hemphill, Kat Bruce, Alba Ortega MacLean, Lila Montgomery, Peyton McGraw, Pei-Ying Olsen, Max Sawrie, Marshall Sommer, Deaglan Roach, Prisha Patel, Cooper Brooks and Neel Shantha. Going up the stairs: Olivia Lunn, Phoenix Beasley, Lauren Reisman, Silas Belva, Leighton Large, Campo Perdomo, Liam Jackson, Austin Henderson, William Arnold, Davis Dillard, Waylyn Pullen, Harrison Phillips, Evan Sanders, Patrick Perdomo and Liam Tabibiazar.



Library Award Suzan Robinette was presented the Mary Cherry Library Volunteer Award by Mrs. Cherry, who retired in 2016. Mrs. Robinette graduated from Bright in 1967 and is mother of Reaves '97 and Grace '00 and grandmother of a current student, Emmett Robinette '27.



High Jump LEFT: Baker Young '16, who won the high jump as a fifth grader, also visited with fourth and fifth graders during the week of the high jump and returned for the competition, a day after she competed in the Region track meet for Baylor. She is pictured with 2023 girls winner Tate Watson. MIDDLE: Kollin Claridy '16 visited with fourth and fifth graders as they prepared for the 2023 high jump competition. He is pictured with fifth graders. Kollin competed in the high jump at McCallie. RIGHT: Coach Bob Cutrer, who started the high jump in 1977, attended this year's event and caught up with Emma Murchison '23 and former student Katie Murchison '89.

Mrs. Watts met with middle schoolers and some older alumni at GPS, McCallie and Baylor.



GPS Seated: Anna Zmaj '22, Katie Kopet '22, Marissa Haney '22, Olivia Lunn '22 and Peyton McGraw '22. Standing: Sara Wright '18, Mrs. Watts, Grace Maciewski '18, Addie Cannon '21, Sydney Lawson '20, Caroline Clark '16, Alice Smith Harris '97 and GPS Head of School Megan Cover.



Baylor Seated, left to right: Austin Henderson '22, Tyce Veltenaar '22, Thad Smith '22, Marshall Sommer '22, Charlie Searce '22, Harrison Phillips '22, Patrick Perdomo '22, Lauren Reisman '22, Lila Montgomery '22, Max Sawrie '22, Pei-Ying Olsen '22 and Alba Ortega MacLean '22. Kneeling: Asha Chavda '20, Waylyn Pullen '22, Campo Perdomo '22, Riya Sekhar '22, Lila Taslimi '22, Ava Ladebauche '22, Caroline Moore '20, Briley Kesler '22 and Phoenix Beasley '22. Standing: Mrs. Watts, Cate Hemphill '22, Leighton Large '22, Avery Levin '20, Cohen Chavda '20, George Simpson '20, Christopher Gordon '21, Stone Caputo '21, Nina Lail '21, Charlotte Hoss '21, Caroline Trainor '21, Matilda Joels '20 and Samantha George '21.



McCallie-Middle Kneeling, left to right: Levi Davis '20, Davis Dillard '22, Hamzah Nayab '20, William Arnold '20, William Carlone '20 and Zohayr Memon '20. Standing: Noah Mouw '20, Jack Maciewski '20, Vishnu Vardhana '20, Caleb Hitchcock '20, Grant Simmons '20, Simon Monen '20, Christopher Kim '20, Ian Mahone '20, Deaglan Roach '22, Evan Sanders '22, Luke Mouw '21, Liam Tabibiazar '22, Brooks McKenna '21, Silas Belva '22, Keegan Hirayama '21, Means McCurdy '21, Cooper Brooks '22, Walker Batson '21, Jack Houghton '21, Preston Burns '21, Sunjay Ravinder '21, Anderson Golden '21, Thomas Anderson '21 and Mrs. Watts.



McCallie-Upper John Jackson '16, Arthur Burns '16, Willie Howard '19, Joss Rafree '16, William Nicely '16, Strobe Hill '18 and Mrs. Watts.

Former Faculty

The annual Former Faculty and Staff Coffee was in October 2022. Seated, left to right: Susanna Fricks, John Allen, Mary Cherry, Sarah Love, Martha Duff, and Vicki Hitchcock. Standing: Jan Connell, Ed Hammonds, Elizabeth Oakes, Kirk Walker, Gay Sakich, Cathy Hicks, Marla McDaniel, Lauren Pritchett, Janie Lemoine, Jan Vance, Frances McCallie and O.J. Morgan.





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If you or a family you know is interested in Bright School, please contact Director of Admissions Brooke Moore '92 at bmoore@brightschool.com to learn more.

Our admissions applications **deadlines** for 2024-25 are:

January 15, 2024:

Rising JPK, PK & K --
Siblings, Legacies, &
Employee children

February 1, 2024: All

other Rising JPK, PK & K
children

*All other applications
(rising grades 1-5) will
be accepted on a rolling
admissions basis.*



THE BRIGHT SCHOOL