



### Upcoming Events

February 2, 7:30

Middle School Theatre Production, H119

February 8, 9:30

Fourth and Fifth Grade Play, South Hall

### Why We Support Pisgah Arts

By Joe Gaynor, Board of Trustee Member



It was such a joy and blessing for me to be able to stand on our brand new stage in South Hall and speak to the audience of parents, grandparents, faculty, students and Pisgah supporters at the recent fabulous Evening of the Arts! What an answer to prayer and what a testimony to the generous giving and hard work of our Pisgah family. My wife Courtney and I support the arts as a vital part of our students' education. As the parents of four children, three of whom have graduated from Mount Pisgah Christian School, we have seen first-hand the benefits of participating in the arts: bringing glory to God through developing the gifts and talents with which one has been blessed, bringing joy to others through the exercise of those gifts and talents, learning to work as a team, developing poise, confidence and commitment, and nurturing the ability to think and respond under pressure to unexpected challenges ...in the spotlight ...with an audience watching!

When we first came to Pisgah ten years ago, our son Michael, who graduated in 2005, played the violin. At that time, there were no opportunities for string instruments at Mount Pisgah – in stark contrast to the beautiful strings performance at Evening of the Arts. So, Michael explored other options, including voice and drama. As small as the theatre department was, they were able to successfully compete in the Georgia State One-Act Competition. Michael ended up enjoying theatre so much that he mi-



nored in stage acting when he was at college, and used his Pisgah-developed improvisation skills to host a popular university radio show for two years. During Michael's time with the upper school chorus, there were four participants, and he was the lone male, which actually, I think he rather liked.

Currently, our youngest daughter, Paris, is in the Upper School chorus. What a delight and encouragement to see how far they've come and how much they've grown under Erik Buxton's leadership and guidance.

*continued on page 4*

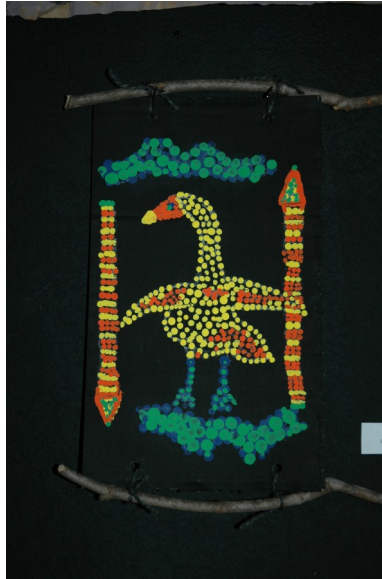
# Visual Arts are prospering at Pisgah!

## Middle School Accomplishments

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade concentration in Visual Arts is Ancient Cultures. Not only do students create and design work using various media, but they also learn about the history and culture behind their compositions. Here are a few examples of what Mount Pisgah 6<sup>th</sup> grade artists have been doing.



Conner Spence



Olivia Datta



Sarah Jane Lynch



Garrett Peden



## Lower School

Featured this month in the LS Principal's Gallery are 3<sup>rd</sup> grade prints. Be sure to take time to view these masterpieces when you are in the A building. All LS classes are enjoying working on Christmas related projects this month. What a fun way to use some of the Elements of Design: Line, Shape, Color and Form.

## Upper School

The Design Fundamentals Gingerbread Village project just finished its fifth year! An alternative media sculpture project, it is one of the US Visual Arts' biggest undertakings of the year. Students have five



days to complete a contribution to their team's village using only milk cartons, graham crackers, candy and icing. This year's theme was Nautical. Two teams each had to create a school, a church, a city hall, a fire station, a police station, a lighthouse and a clipper ship. In a huge "thank you" to the second graders for collecting the milk cartons needed for the project, the US students invited them to



help in creating their works. This project will be on display in the foyer of H building through Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Please stop by and see the creativity this wonderful group of students have put forth!

## Camera Drive



A group of Pisgah Juniors and Seniors will travel to Italy as part of an exciting January minimester. They'll earn History, Bible, and Art credit as they experience all the wonders of Italian culture. To assist them in their studies, donations are needed of 40 working 35 mm cameras (point and shoot are fine). Many families have purchased digital cameras over the past few years, but still have an old 35mm camera in the house - here's your chance to make sure it's put to good use!

Batteries for the camera are also needed, as well as 50 rolls of black and white film (400iso 36 exposure - we've spotted this online from \$2 to \$3 per roll) Please bring donations to school offices no later than December 15th and thank you!

## Review of "The Butler Did It"

by Mr. Eric Lang

Crashes of lightning behind my head sent me flying into my neighbors' laps on an embarrassing number of occasions during Pisgah Theatre's production of *The Butler Did It!* The special effects weren't the only electrifying (sorry, I couldn't resist) aspect of the production. The theatre community should be very proud of their entertaining and often suspense-filled production, a wonderful inaugural performance for the newly renovated South Hall and for Pisgah's new theater director, Anna Burrell!

In *The Butler Did It!*, a mystery-comedy, a group of mystery writers meet at a remote island manor for a masquerade at the invitation of a wealthy socialite named Miss Maple. Disguised as their famous detective characters, the writers are having a grand time until an actual murder takes place in their midst! The students delivered lots of laughs with some very entertaining performances. Emily Baade's thick glasses and cockney accent as she played the house maid, Allison Tanzy's crazy eyes as she took on the role of Maple's secretary, and Jeff Skinner's mounting irritation as everyone continually forgot his detective character's name all kept the audience rolling. Kristen Feyt was delightfully bossy as Miss Maple, and Bo Stuart and Mitch Tanzy delivered suave performances as heartthrob detectives. Chris Lewis died in a highly satisfying manner, while Devan Bater raised suspicions as his unsettlingly nonchalant widow. In the latter acts of the show, Jonathan Smith had the entertainingly belated revelation that the murder was not in fact a planned element of the mystery party, and Shelby Hall let loose a variety of wisecracks as the coolly sarcastic Charity Haze. Though he did not appear onstage, Chris Spriggs helped guide the cast as the theatre season's first student director, an innovative new position created by Mrs. Burrell in order to give students greater ownership over their productions.



One of the most wonderful aspects of theatre is the community that it forms between members of a cast and crew as they pull together to create something special, and this is certainly a community that went above and beyond to put together the performance they delivered last month. In addition to rehearsing every day, sometimes both in the morning and in the evening, the cast and crew spent the last weeks of the show constructing an impressive set that took full advantage of the space provided by South Hall. Parents and other members of the Pisgah community all pitched in their efforts to create the interior of a mysterious manor complete with a fireplace, outdoor terrace, and (of course) hidden passages. It was a bold undertaking, but Mrs. Burrell's leadership and everyone's effort produced a show that was truly a joy to watch.

*Mr. Eric Lang earned his undergraduate AB degree in English from Harvard University. At Harvard, Eric was active in drama and produced an extensive study of the works of CS Lewis as a part of his undergraduate thesis. Eric teaches Freshman English, Freshman Honors English, and Senior Honors English*

## Pisgah Goes to the Symphony!



In November, the Pisgah Middle School Band and Orchestra students took a field trip to participate in the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's *Next Generation Concert*. The *Next Generation Concert* series is geared towards students in grades 3-8 and focuses on music from different parts of the world. The concert was a great opportunity for the students to see and hear a professional group perform!

This field trip was funded by PAPA (Pisgah Arts Parent Association) and would not have been possible without the support of this wonderful organization! Thank you for supporting the Arts at Pisgah!

## Why We Support Pisgah Arts

*Continued from page 1*

Our son Daniel, who graduated in 2007, came to Pisgah as a trumpet player, developed an interest in guitar, and was able to play in the chapel praise band, to participate in the Georgia Governor's Honors Program and the All-State Jazz Band, and was awarded the generous Spirit of Mike Award and Scholarship from Lynn and Happy Mayer. Largely because of the individual mentoring he received from the band director at the time, Daniel chose to major in music and graduated from Belmont University as a jazz guitarist. We have truly enjoyed watching the band continue to grow in size and talent under the directorship of Pisgah's talented bandleader, Brian Hatmaker.

Our daughter Alistair, who just graduated in 2011, also participated in the chorus during her time at Pisgah and developed a love of fine arts. In addition to the fun and fellowship of performing with her friends, Alistair's exposure to music and fine arts helped her to develop an interest in using these gifts as an aid to learning and memory, which she hopes to utilize in her classroom someday as a first grade teacher.

We are so grateful for each of those who have worked so hard to develop these programs and help Pisgah students discover gifts, talents, interests and passions that may have remained dormant without the time, efforts and love of our arts faculty and PAPA supporters. We are particularly proud that while the arts are continuing to grow at Pisgah there is still an intense focus on the individual gifts of each student.



We extend a sincere, heart-felt thanks to each of you who have helped to make the arts at Pisgah a reality for our students and the Pisgah community. We are absolutely amazed at how the Arts have developed and flourished during these first 25 years of Mount Pisgah Christian School and look forward to seeing how they will continue to develop and expand during the next 25 years!



# 2011/2012 Pisgah Arts

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**Please join us and support Pisgah Arts!**  
**To join PAPA, please visit the school website:**  
**[experiencepisgah.org/arts/papa](http://experiencepisgah.org/arts/papa) or click here.**

### Perfect Picture Moments of Pisgah Arts

Beautiful pictures from the Outdoor Concert and Evening of The Arts, as well as the Drum Line in action, can be found in [www.PisgahPhotos.com](http://www.PisgahPhotos.com). Here you can buy great action shots in multiple sizes, on various products all at great prices. See the quality that comes from a professional photographer using a 12"/500mm lens on a Nikon D90/12 Mega-Pixel camera. *PisgahPhotos.com requires the password: "patriots".*