

CANTERBURY TALES



Canterbury
SCHOOL

SPRING 2021

CANTERBURY **RISES**
TO THE CHALLENGE
OF COVID-19





Canterbury Tales
Spring 2021

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CANTERBURY WELCOMED OUR FIRST CLASS OF 3-YEAR-OLD CUBS IN THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR, AN EXCITING NEW ADDITION THAT DEEPENS AND STRENGTHENS OUR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM.

Challenging the mind. Nourishing the spirit.

On the cover: 2nd grader Ezra LoCash swirls the meditation bottle he created during lower school "Life Skills" class. Canterbury's counselors prioritized students' mental health during the 2020-21 school year with tools and strategies to help them cope with stress and anxiety. Learn more on page 7.

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Canterbury School is a co-educational, independent, Episcopal school that seeks diversity in its student body and staff. It does not discriminate unlawfully on the basis of race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or disability in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, hiring practices, financial assistance programs, and athletic and other school-administered policies.

DEAR CANTERBURY COMMUNITY,

I can think of no better word to describe our faculty and staff members' efforts over the past year than heroic.

As many of you have experienced professionally and personally during this pandemic, there was no playbook, leadership training, or webinar last summer to guide us as we made our plans to return to school in person last fall.

We experienced a great deal of trepidation as we planned. Public schools opted not to return to in-person classes, and many experts across the nation suggested schools trying to open would inevitably have to pull the plug within a few weeks of opening. Still, we pushed forward.

As we reconfigured practically everything about how we do school, administrators changed their vacation schedules — or cancelled them altogether — and teachers generously came back earlier from the summer than they had planned. Once here in August, faculty faced a workplace that was dramatically different from what they left in March of 2020. The pandemic was hugely impactful, influencing how students would be dropped off at school, how they would enter the buildings, and how teachers would greet them (with thermometers). All of that would just be in the first moments of a school day.

But once school began, we learned a ton and immediately began adjusting on the fly. We agonized late into the night over the first potential quarantines, fine-tuning our health protocols and our communication plans as we began to put them into action.

Meanwhile, our parents took the leap of faith with us, and although we felt their loss on campus deeply, we appreciated their partnership with our teachers and their willingness to grow and learn with us.

While the pandemic isn't over, and while it would be hubris to start claiming any "victory," I am proud and amazed at what we have accomplished together. There have been numerous points

throughout the school year when our Greensboro community's overall health picture was grim and our ability to remain in school looked doubtful, but we persevered and have been successful — together.

This issue of *Canterbury Tales* describes our school's efforts since March 2020, made all the more heroic by the small size of our faculty and administrative staff.

I'm sure you'll agree that this is a year we will never forget. I hope what we'll remember is that we kept trying for the students, whose laughter and learning are more important than ever. It has been worth all of the midnight conversations, the lost vacation time, the sleepless nights, and the pressure to make the right call to have them back together with our caring educators and each other.

Thanks to our administrators' and teachers' dedication, our parents' partnership, and the kids' resilient spirits, this is a year we can be proud of and build upon as Canterbury heads into 2021-22 and beyond.

As I write this, I have just accepted a new job that means I will not be in person to see Canterbury enjoy a return to more normal programming, activities, and traditions that will continue to enrich our students' lives in mind, body, and spirit. But I will always be a Cougar in spirit, as the people of this school community have blessed my family's lives and my own in immeasurable ways. We are eternally grateful.

Phil Spears, Head of School



CANTERBURY RISES TO THE CHALLENGE OF COVID-19

It has been a whirlwind of a year for Canterbury School, as the COVID-19 pandemic upended the final months of 2019-20 and forced major reconfigurations of how we could safely operate in-person school in 2020-21.

Often compared to “building the plane as we fly,” the required transitions have taken ingenuity, resilience, and the understanding that while trying something new comes with risks, we can always dust ourselves off and try again. As a result, our administration, faculty, students, and families have risen to a challenge Canterbury has never before faced.

But while much has changed, one thing has not: Canterbury’s unwavering commitment to our mission of developing the whole child by challenging the mind and nourishing the spirit in a diverse

community guided by Judeo-Christian values.

With an eye on the virus’ growing impact, Canterbury began taking precautions in early March 2020. Middle school science students made handwashing signs to post around campus, lower school teachers began reinforcing good hygiene with their students, and the administration adopted social distancing measures for major events such as Fathers’ Chapel and an all-school pep rally, which was held outside on the soccer field for the first time.

Then, on March 14, Governor Roy Cooper announced the state’s lockdown, and the virus’ impact on Canterbury became sudden and clear. Faculty and staff packed up students’ belongings for what they hoped would be only a three-week campus closure, but which ended up spanning the rest of the school year.



8th grader Maggie Hu, the girls’ team’s top player, serves during a tennis match in the fall.



6th grader Rutley McLean was Canterbury’s top finisher in cross country in the fall.

ATHLETICS PROMOTE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Canterbury initially put a hold on interscholastic athletics during the pandemic due to logistical and health concerns.

However, in consultation with our medical advisors, students competed late in the fall of 2020 in conference play, fielding a coed 5th and 6th grade cross country team and a 7th and 8th grade girls’ tennis team.

In the spring, our conference offered two mini-seasons with four sports. Students played 5th and 6th grade boys’ tennis, 7th and 8th grade boys’ and girls’ soccer, and coed golf across all middle school grades.

While athletics are always beneficial for students, said Athletic Director Jill Jones, it was especially true during a pandemic.

She pointed to the positive social, emotional, and mental effects that sports provide for students through healthy body image and self-esteem, stress reduction, leadership skills, teamwork, strategic thinking, problem solving, and sportsmanship.

“The benefits of being able to compete in most of our sports at Canterbury are far greater than just physical health for our student athletes,” Jill said.



3rd grader Alexa Dumonski is all smiles during distance learning with her teacher, Marisol Lopez.

LOCKDOWN

Teachers pivoted quickly to distance learning, using technology platforms they had only just learned themselves to deliver recorded and live lessons on math, social studies, science, and more. Many faculty members also took to social media, broadcasting story times and lessons in science, PE, improv comedy, Spanish, and the arts over Facebook.

“Canterbury has always been engaged in a lot of hands-on learning, and my fear was that

it was going to be a lot more paper, pencil-pushing, busy work at home. And I didn’t see that happening,” said Tiffany Higgins, mother of 5th and 7th grade distance learners last spring. “I really enjoyed seeing that Canterbury’s teachers were innovative and still engaged in a lot of hands-on learning.”

Chaplain Hunter Silides continued to nurture our community’s spirits over social media, as well, broadcasting distance chapels several times

a week from her home to help students and parents adjust to the major changes they were experiencing. Teachers’ empathy and care for their students were ever-present, as well, even through the computer screen.

Distance learning was difficult, but maintaining the regular classroom routine, even online, provided a sense of normalcy and calm for children, parents, and teachers alike, said Kindergarten Teacher Karan Moore.

She and assistant Joanna



Laila Johnson '20 poses with her yard sign.



Kindergarten teacher Karan Moore says goodbye to a student at Canterbury's year-end car parade.

Kirkland worked hard to make learning over a screen fun, with show and tell, work outside, and silly theme days. Karan also held frequent one-on-one Zoom meetings to provide an additional connection to school for children who were struggling.

"I will forever remember my sweet online group and will always be disappointed that we never got to gather again as a class before 1st grade began," she said.

While all students and teachers mourned the spring milestones they missed, it was the Class of 2020 who felt the losses the deepest.

Within the limits of social distancing and lockdown, Canterbury focused on giving special memories to each 8th grader. Head of School Phil Spears and the Canterbury Cougar boarded the minibus to visit the 35 graduating students in their yards and present them with

personalized yard signs and their alumni gifts.

The school year concluded with a farewell car parade through campus so that teachers and students could say goodbye in person and give thanks for everyone's tremendous work since March. The entire faculty and staff gathered to pay tribute to our graduates with a special parade for the 8th graders, who were finally able to hold graduation in the outdoor chapel in July. (Read more about graduation on page 14.)

BACK TO SCHOOL

Canterbury leaders' attention then turned to re-opening school safely for 2020-21. Parents in the medical field joined a task force that worked throughout the summer to craft health and safety protocols based on the known science of the virus and guidelines from the CDC and state health authorities.

Meanwhile, lower and middle school faculty members and leaders envisioned how to teach and learn safely at a distance in the classroom and, if necessary, from home. Their technology-forward approach was designed to make distance learning a seamless transition if students had to be home for quarantine or, worst case, campus closed for another lockdown.

Finally, Canterbury's campus reopened in August to students and faculty for in-person learning. Students stayed in small, socially distanced cohorts and wore masks at all times, except when they could distance themselves safely for brief mask breaks. Lunches, PE, chapel services, and academic classes moved outside as much as possible. Hand sanitizer was ubiquitous.

Thanks to the diligence of teachers, students, parents, and Canterbury's first school nurse,



Alexander Sampson with the food and baby supplies his family donated to Abundant Life Ministries in the spring of 2020.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY'S NEEDS

While Canterbury had to keep a distance from our longstanding service-learning partners during the pandemic, we were fortunate to develop a relationship with Abundant Life Ministries, just minutes away from campus.

Abundant Life, a mission of the Diocese of North Carolina, serves families in need in Greensboro with meals, groceries, and baby supplies.

Canterbury families began partnering with the ministry in April 2020 by contributing boxes and bags to support the ministry's meal delivery program. Head of School Phil Spears filled up the minibus twice as he picked up the supplies from dozens of students' homes.

A month later, our families provided hot food, pantry items, and baby supplies for the ministry, with some students also providing cheerful, encouraging art to package with the meals.

More recently, Canterbury students and families showed their generosity at the holidays, as lower school families donated "a mountain of baby supplies" and middle school students made 30 decorated Thanksgiving dinner boxes, tucking in their favorite family recipes.

The number of families served by Abundant Life has continued to grow since the spring, and the ministry now assists more than 225 people.

"You're allowing us to help make sure that they are filled in their bellies, and your artwork fills their souls," said Rev. Audra Abt, who leads the ministry. "Jesus is connecting us in whole new ways that we couldn't have even imagined before COVID-19... I hope that we can stay connected like this for many years to come."



Plexiglass partitions don't keep students from making new friends in kindergarten.

these health precautions have been a success, with no incidences of in-school COVID-19 transmission. From August through press time in April, just two student cohorts were quarantined for two weeks each due to potential in-school exposure.

As the public schools also struggled with the monumental task of getting students and teachers back on campus, Canterbury welcomed dozens of new families looking for a safe, in-person learning environment for their children. These new students offered new perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences, and they were quickly included in the community.

"Our daughter was welcomed by the children in her classroom



Autumn Jackson in the 1st grade movie, "The Rainbow Forest."



Members of the cast of "Into the Woods, Jr." in their virtual presentation.

THE SHOWS MUST GO ON

Elaine Hoover's class had written just one scene of their traditional 1st grade movie when the school quickly shifted to distance learning.

After a few weeks getting settled in their new routine, Elaine took up the project again. She and her students wrote the other nine scenes together over Zoom based on the children's journal stories throughout the year. They filmed "The Rainbow Forest" over Zoom, as well.

Olu Olasunkanmi, whose 1st grader was in the class, had his doubts at first that they would be able to create a movie over Zoom. But when he saw the finished product, "It was absolutely amazing," he recalled. "I realized, 'There's nothing Ms. Hoover can't do.'"

Likewise, the Canterbury Players had just finished casting "Into the Woods, Jr." when the pandemic struck. The middle school cast worked diligently from home and submitted their parts to be assembled into the musical's first number, which premiered for the community on YouTube.

Out of concerns over social distancing, student productions have been presented virtually even once we were back on campus, with holiday programs recorded in advance to share with the community.

In the spring, the 3rd grade classes put on "Snow White" virtually, while middle school dramatists planned a cabaret of songs and monologues that will be livestreamed this spring.

new and different level of planning and thinking, she added.

"Being on campus has been a rewarding and stressful experience at the same time," Kathy said. "Hearing the students say their personal goal is to finish the year on campus truly warmed my heart while giving us all a daily goal to work towards."

What was familiar in this pandemic school year, what bound Kathy's 5th grade classroom and many others, was the feeling that we were in this together; the esprit de corps of all doing our part to keep our community safe. Each child was still known and loved by their teachers for the unique learner



Katy Todd's 1st grade class takes their lesson outside.

LIFE SKILLS LOOK INWARD

Canterbury's school counselors pivoted in 2020-21 to help students learn new coping skills for stress management and anxiety to better care for themselves during the pandemic.

Older students benefited from the middle school's first health and life skills curriculum developed by Robin Smelzer, the division's counselor, and Jill Jones, PE teacher and athletic director.

Robin and Jill taught a weekly health/life skills class that included mental health topics such as mindfulness, mental wellness, anxiety, and depression alongside other practical topics like hygiene and baking. Chocolate chip cookies always provide excellent stress relief!

When learning about anxiety this year, the students enjoyed making calm jars and learning about mindfulness techniques to help reduce anxiety. Students also learned about the personal benefits of kindness and positive psychology.

In the lower school, Canterbury's 2nd and 3rd graders focused on worry, learning skills like mindful breathing, grounding exercises, and "talking back to worries." They also made meditation bottles with oil, water, and glitter.

In the 4th grade, Lower School Counselor Anna Taylor focused on coping skills such as gratitude, journaling, positive self-talk, and connecting with others. 4th graders made calming neck wraps with rice, socks, and aromatherapy oils.

Anna said these lessons will continue to be valuable to students, and she plans to integrate them into the lower school life skills curriculum even after the pandemic.

"It has been helpful for kids to really build up their personal toolbox for when times get hard," she said. "They're learning to identify the things they can't control, and when they do have control over them, what they can do."

from the very start — and we were welcomed by the other parents and staff," one new parent recalled. "It made for a smooth transition into a new school where we didn't have any friends yet."

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

School looked different for new and returning students alike in 2020-21, with blue tents studding the campus for outdoor classes, clear plexiglass dividers around each desk, hand sanitizer stations in hallways, and changes to traffic flow to keep student cohorts separate. Pool noodles became a favorite tool for tag during lower school recess, and only one grade attended chapel



4th grader Jessie Stinson teams up with a classmate learning from home.

at a time, with other students watching a live video stream from their classrooms.

Veteran educator Kathy Durham said that teaching during

the pandemic has felt like her first year of teaching, all over again. Helping students feel connected and successful while in the classroom and online has taken a



Lower School Counselor Anna Taylor helps 2nd grader Maryam Rehman make a meditation bottle.



A photo of Canterbury at the beginning of distance learning in March 2020 was selected for Time's Top 100 Photos of 2020.

CANTERBURY PHOTO SELECTED FOR TIME'S TOP 100

A haunting photo of Canterbury faculty packing up student belongings after the nation's sudden lockdown in March 2020 was selected for Time's Magazine's "Top 100 Photos of 2020".

"As we close a year unlike any other, we are humbled that Canterbury has become part of the historic record," said Head of School Phil Spears.

With students leaving most of their belongings on campus for the weekend when the lockdown began, faculty and staff undertook the task of cleaning out lockers and desks; organizing students' personal items, technology, and learning materials; and passing all of it on to students' families during a day-long, drive-through pick up the following week.

News & Record photographer Khadejah Nikouyeh captured the moment that Time selected.

"I thought it was important to show the reality of the situation, but also the precautions and care that Canterbury took to keep the staff and students safe," Khadejah said. "It's definitely a historical image for Greensboro, and I know that photo will come to mind when we think of how the pandemic unfolded here."



5th grade acolytes carry the cross and torches in the outdoor chapel.



Canterbury's outdoor spaces have been well utilized. 7th grader Ellie Heinzelmann prepares to climb the high ropes course.

and person they were. We began to look for smiling eyes when we couldn't gauge other expressions behind a mask. And adults learned resilience from the children, who adapted so readily to the changed campus and way of doing things.

"Returning to school safely has been a blessing that we do not take for granted," said Heather Oakley, parent of a kindergartener and a 2nd grader. "Our children are eager to go to school each day and come home happy and full of exciting tidbits to share. What our teachers have been able to implement in these unprecedented times is nothing short of miraculous."

We also gained a renewed appreciation for Canterbury's beautiful 35-acre campus. Students enjoyed contemplative time in nature, with most chapel services taking place outdoors in the fall

and spring. Many lower school classes were held in the outdoor chapel space, as well, and new middle school scheduling allowed for extended outdoor leadership classes, including paddling canoes on the pond.

While safety guidelines prohibited parents from volunteering on campus in traditional roles, the leaders of the Canterbury Parents' Association innovated with new and different ways to support faculty and students. For instance, rather than serving lunch in Berry Hall, the hot lunch committee worked with vendors to individually package lunches by student and classroom. Parent volunteers then delivered the lunches to the buildings' external doors. Creative parent volunteers also nurtured family connections with a virtual Breakfast

for Dinner and class basket raffles over Zoom.

Likewise, we discovered that technology could help Canterbury connect our community virtually to other school events and traditions, even when we couldn't physically be together. Students and faculty recorded programs for Veterans Day, the Lower School Christmas Program, the PreK Nativity Play, and the Festival of Lessons and Carols for parents and community members to enjoy.

Additionally, we continued to build community with new activities such as Halloween parades that allowed early childhood, lower school, and middle school students, kept apart so much by COVID-19, to dress up and celebrate the holiday together at a distance. Parents tuned in to a livestream to watch the parades as they happened.



2nd graders keep their distance with pool noodles in PE.

With a focus on what we can do, rather than what we can't, Canterbury's students and faculty have weathered the pandemic safely while focusing on what the Canterbury School prayer reminds us matters most in a fulfilling life: learning, loving, and serving others.

While we don't know what the next school year brings, we are sure to take these constants with us. 🌻

FAREWELL BUT NOT GOODBYE...

Founding teachers depart in 2020



Penny, Mary Ann, and 2nd grade teammate Tracy McIlwain celebrate the end of 2019-20.

Penny Summers gives distance hugs at her farewell car parade.

Mary Ann Sacco with her memory book, featuring contributions by current families, colleagues, and alumni.

Beloved 2nd and 3rd grade teachers Mary Ann Sacco and Penny Summers left Canterbury for new adventures at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

Mary Ann and Penny were both “part of the start” at Canterbury; and their giving hearts were an integral part of the school’s culture. Their warm smiles are missed each day, but their fingerprints will forever remain throughout Canterbury’s community and campus.

Penny’s love and dedication to the creation and success of

Canterbury is reflected in the numerous positions she held at the school since her hiring as one of the first faculty members, including classroom teacher, art teacher, lower school director, assistant head of school, and interim head of school. After 41 years in education, she looked forward to focusing her time on her grandchildren in her retirement.

Mary Ann taught 2nd grade at Canterbury for 27 years, lifting up students with her boundless humor, laughter, and adventurous spirit and helping shape the lower school into what it is today. She

has moved to Boulder, CO, where she is enjoying “nature’s playground” and sharing her gifts with 1st graders at Mackintosh Academy.

Penny and Mary Ann requested little fuss be made about their departures, which was honored – for the most part. However, at the end of the 2019-20 school year, the CPA organized two big surprises to say farewell to these special teachers: memory books created by current and alumni families and a drive-by car parade for colleagues and students to wish them well. 🌻

THE NEW P. DAVID BROWN HALL IS NEARING COMPLETION AND WILL BE READY FOR THE LIBRARY AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION TO MOVE IN THIS SPRING! WE HOPE TO CELEBRATE THE NEW BUILDING WITH OUR COMMUNITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. LOOK FOR PHOTOS OF THE COMPLETED SPACES IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF *CANTERBURY TALES*.



Next Head of School selected



Canterbury has selected J. Harrison Stuart to succeed Head of School Phil Spears, who will depart this summer following five years of dedicated leadership.

“Harrison has a national reputation as one of the most gifted up-and-coming leaders in Episcopal schools, and we are fortunate that he has

chosen Canterbury as his next school home,” said Board of Trustees President Hank Lovvorn. “We are delighted that Harrison and his family are joining us and look forward to a bright future with him as our next Head of School.”

Harrison is currently founding Head of School at Episcopal School of Nashville, where he has helped create a school community with a focus on equity, inclusion, spirituality, and a commitment to each student.

“I am delighted beyond measure to accept this opportunity to become Canterbury School’s next Head of School,” he said. “Canterbury has cultivated a strong mission of service to developing the whole child within an inclusive and spirited school culture. As I engaged with Canterbury’s happy students, I experienced an authentic sense that the

school is living this mission each and every day.”

A native of Lexington, Ky., Harrison is a graduate of Woodberry Forest School, Hampden-Sydney College, and Belmont University, where he earned his M.Ed. in nonprofit leadership. He began his career in education with roles as a 6th grade teacher and Director of Development at Episcopal School of Knoxville, as well as Director of Admissions and Enrollment at Woodberry Forest.

Over the past six years, Harrison has shaped Episcopal School from the ground up, growing the student body from 16 students in 2016 to 130 or more in 2021-22, and from three faculty members to more than 25 next year. His experience at Episcopal School has given him a first-hand understanding of what equity and inclusion mean in an educational setting and a wealth of knowledge about how to help all students succeed from their first day on campus.

The announcement is the culmination of a national search that began earlier this year when Phil accepted a new position as the Associate Head for Student Life at Episcopal High School in Alexandria, Va.

Harrison and his wife, Katherine, president of an independent school consulting firm, have four children: Teddy - 6th, Jack - 4th, Lillian - 1st, and Kate - 1st. We look forward to welcoming them to the Canterbury community this summer! 🌻



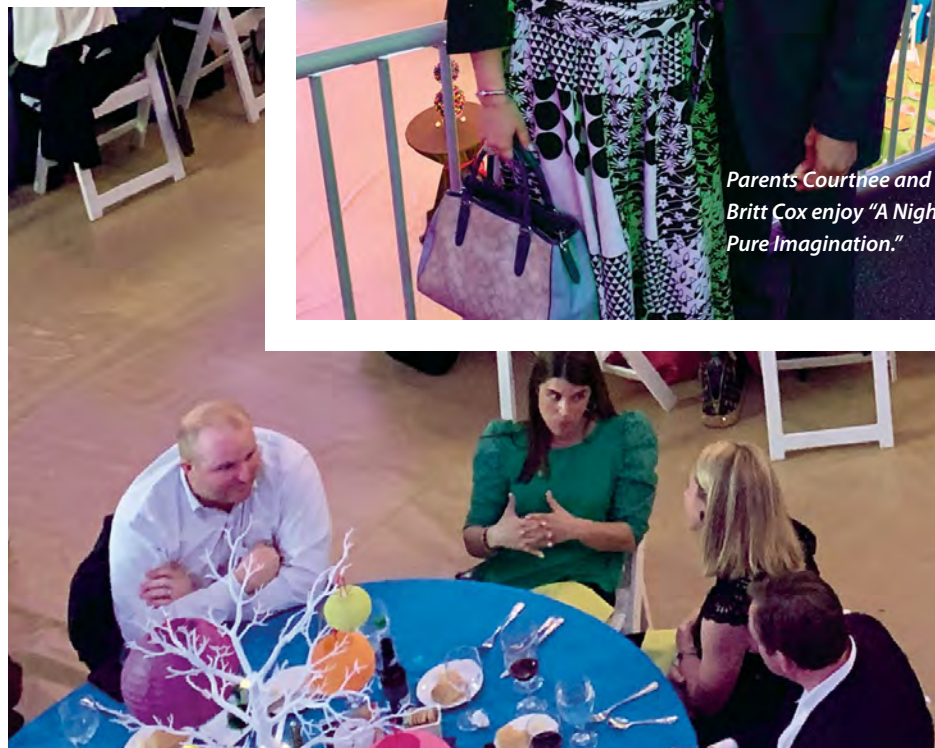
Whimsical was the word of the evening for the auction decorations and elaborate Candy Bar.



Parents Kitty Sydnor, Jacalyn White, and Jenny Ragsdale enjoy the auction.



Parents Courtnée and Britt Cox enjoy "A Night of Pure Imagination."



AUCTION IS "A Night of Pure Imagination"



Canterbury's biennial auction was a great success in February 2020, raising spirits and funds to support the school.

Themed "A Night of Pure Imagination," the Willy Wonka-themed event raised more than \$200,000, netting nearly \$115,000 for Canterbury's operations and another \$55,000 to create a grassy, level play space on the campus green for daily recess and special community events such as the family picnic and field day for years to come.

Canterbury appreciates the generosity of the auction donors and sponsors, the many volunteers who put in countless hours, and all of the bidders, participants, and guests. We are particularly thankful to Allison Medley and Jen Jorgenson, our dedicated auction co-chairs, for putting on such a fun and memorable event. 🍬

CANTERBURY GRADUATES

CLASS of 2020

Photographer Wayne Reich pieced together multiple images of socially distanced groups of students to create this composite group photo for the Class of 2020.



For the first time, Canterbury's graduation service was held in the outdoor chapel.

Canterbury ended a tumultuous spring on a high note, graduating 35 members of the Class of 2020 on July 14.

The ceremony, which was delayed due to state regulations and school concerns about safe social distancing during the pandemic, was held for the first time in Canterbury's outdoor chapel.

With safety precautions in place, the ceremony was a welcome chance to celebrate in community for students, parents, and siblings who hadn't been together since March.

As their class gift, the graduating 8th graders gave the school art for the new P. David Brown Hall.

They selected Kim Markham, middle school math teacher, to give the commencement address.

She invited the graduates to join

her in one last algebra lesson. "Let's remember that algebra helps us break down a problem and then find its solution using logical reasoning, or in other words, your brain! In fact, brainstorming is the first one of three essential tools you need to solve any problem in math and in life. The second is your experience, and the third is your community," she said.

"In problem solving, we need to allow for brainstorming," Kim began. "During brainstorming, we need to listen and consider every single idea that comes to our mind or from others. We need to overcome the temptation to dismiss any idea. But you all already know this. To me, this graduating class epitomizes acceptance of the ideas of people different than yourselves. You listen to each other. You have learned

CLASS OF 2020
ATTENDING
13 DIFFERENT
HIGH SCHOOLS

Caldwell Academy
Lauryn Cooper

Chatham Hall
Maddie McCoy

Christ School
Morlue Eesiah

Dudley High School Early College
Hayden Millner
Noelle Millner

Greensboro Day School
Lillian Coladonato
James Haviland
Will Jacobs
DJ Pritchett
Mandy Wang

Grimsley High School
Harrison Bartle
Liam Digh
Seth Digh
Raevyn Frazier
Owen Oxner

Groton School
Sheena Bakare

New Garden Friends School
Terrance Horne
Jack Schoultz

Northwest Guilford High School
Laila Johnson

Page High School
Keller Aucoin
Grace Buchanan
Mary Rose Coladonato
Sullivan Edmunds
Cal Ferrero
Thomas Hunt
Will Jorgenson
Molly Lovvorn
Caitlyn Medley
Allison Richardson
Nolan Spears
McCarthy Spencer
Olwen Woods

Southern Guilford High School
Kayley Boyd

Virginia Episcopal School
Brooks Powell

Weaver Academy
Isabel Skains



Middle school math teacher Kim Markham delivered the commencement address.

to respect the diverse life experiences each of you has. That’s a lesson a lot of adults still need to learn.

“The second essential tool for problem solving is examining your past experiences,” Kim continued. She encouraged students to think about the activities they enjoyed at Canterbury in middle school and lower school. “When you are faced with a problem to solve, look back at all your life experiences, including those that you had at Canterbury, to help guide you.”

Finally, she said, “the third essential tool for problem solving is to reach out to your support group, keeping in mind that one of your greatest supporters is God... As you go forward in your lives, your community of support will only expand and grow to include more teachers, more friends, and even more family members. When you have

problems to solve in years to come, you will have even more people to turn to for help.

“You leave this place, graduates, with everything you need to solve any problem that life throws at you. You have it inside you: your years on this planet, your years at Canterbury, the time you’ve spent with your family (even more so lately!), your friends and loved ones, and your reflection with and about God,” Kim concluded. “Please remember, and yes, it will be on the quiz, that your past is a collection of not just one moment in time or one period of negativity. Look today at your positive past and smile.”

CAITLYN MEDLEY *honored with* STERLING P. MILLER AWARD



to the graduating student who “best exemplifies the exuberance, joy, and love for Canterbury School that was so evident in Mr. Miller.”

This year’s winner, Caitlyn Medley, truly stands out among so many remarkable students, said Athletic Director Jill Jones. She described

Created in 1999-2000 to honor Canterbury’s founding head of school, the Sterling P. Miller Award is given by the faculty

Caitlyn as “non-judgmental, hard-working, positive, and kind in an unkind world. She showed love for her fellow classmates, teachers, administrators, and the many younger students who looked to her as a role model.”

“Caitlyn looks for and finds joy in the world around her,” Jill continued. “Her actions exemplify Canterbury’s motto, ‘To Learn. To Love. To Serve: To Live.’ Caitlyn loves the Canterbury community. This love was evidenced by the way she made sure everyone was experiencing the same school experience she was. If not, she was quietly ready to brighten their day by offering a kind word, leaving a cheerful sticky note, offering a gentle

hug, or flashing her signature smile.”

One of the things that people remember about Sterling Miller is that he knew the name of each and every student on campus, Jill said, and she thought Caitlyn probably did, too.

She concluded, “Caitlyn’s true service is her ability to share the joy, love, kind-heartedness, and caring nature she lives with each and every day with others in a way that changes them, either for an instant or for a very long time.”

Caitlyn is now enrolled in Page High School’s International Baccalaureate program.

SHEENA BAKARE *receives* A. BURNS JONES AWARD



by Burns, who was Canterbury’s Head of School from 2007-2015. The award is given by the faculty to “that graduating 8th grader who best displays the trustworthiness, respect, personal responsibility, fairness, and leadership that Burns exemplified every day.”

Sheena Bakare demonstrated the self-confidence, integrity, determination, and concern for others that we expect from strong

The A. Burns Jones Award for Leadership and Character was created by the Board of Trustees in 2015 to recognize the contributions to Canterbury

leaders, said Head of School Phil Spears.

“Sheena’s character is exemplary,” he said. She chaired the school’s service committee, led a towel drive for people experiencing homelessness in Greensboro, and organized hurricane relief for eastern North Carolinians. “Time and time again, she demonstrated her caring and concern for others. Her self-confidence and can-do attitude have always inspired others to follow her. Whether skillfully leading her Canterbury family through a team-building activity, staging an impromptu scene in the school musical, or leading a group project, Sheena excelled when given the opportunity to lead.”

“Leaders are not afraid to voice their ideas, inspiring others to think differently, and Sheena was

no different,” Phil added. “In the classroom, she was at the forefront of discussions, confidently presenting her ideas and opinions. Oftentimes, her insights encouraged others to think more deeply and critically, helping to elevate the level of learning of those around her.”

Sheena’s topic choices on projects and essays demonstrated both her passion for social justice and an awareness of global issues beyond her years. “Sheena questions the status quo and considers what could be done to make things better,” Phil concluded. “She is clearly a future agent for social change.”

Sheena now attends Groton School, where she was selected for the Headmaster’s Inclusion Scholar Award.

ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT: JULIE LUCAS MACHEN '03

CURRENT CANTERBURY STUDENTS will take with them memories of weekly services in Canterbury's outdoor chapel.

Alumna Julie Lucas Machen '03 remembers building it.

She and her parents, Charles and Carol Lucas, spent a week one summer teaming up with other Canterbury families to build the rustic space. She recalls trucks delivering huge logs that volunteers carried in teams to the construction site, where they became the benches where students sat this year for chapel services.

"I'm so happy to hear you're using it," she said.

Canterbury was always a family affair for the Lucas clan, who at one point had four daughters on campus. Julie married her husband, Luke, in Phillips Chapel in 2018.

After graduating Canterbury, she attended Page High School, followed by Vanderbilt for undergrad and UNC-Chapel Hill for medical school. She completed her residency in internal medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, where she trained in the clinician educator track.

She now lives in Austin, Texas, with Luke; their 1-year-old daughter, Jane; and their basset hound rescue, Heidi. She wears a number of hats as a physician as she cares for hospitalized patients, provides outpatient primary care, and teaches residents at Dell Seton Medical Center.

Jane was born right before the pandemic started, and Julie returned from her maternity leave to a dramatically different medical environment from the one she left.



Julie Lucas Machen '03 with husband Luke and daughter Jane.

The biggest immediate challenge was caring for patients without knowing whether she and other health-care providers were safe, she said. As the pandemic has progressed, the hardest part has been keeping up morale.

"Our teams are working longer hours, shifts are harder, and more people are dying, so keeping up our energy for this extended period of time has been a real challenge this winter," she said.

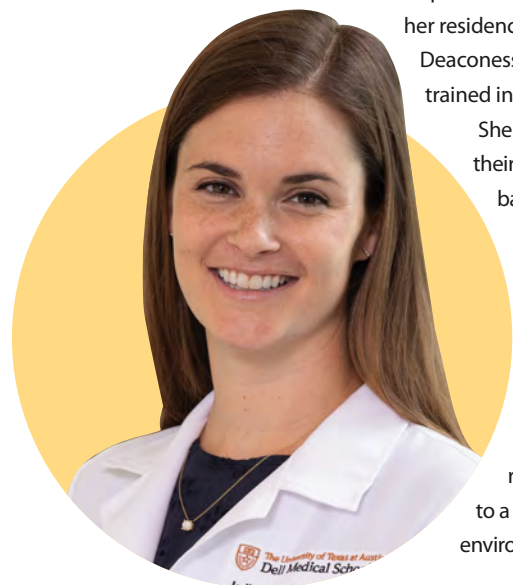
She and the other medical faculty are trying to make sure the residents in their care can take breaks to study and rest.

"I think we're all having to work together as a team to keep going," she said. "Everyone is supporting each other and giving them some time when they can."

Julie learned teamwork in her time at Canterbury; many of her favorite memories are from sports teams, including winning the conference soccer championship when she was in 8th grade.

Canterbury fostered her love of learning, as well, particularly math and science, and Cougar alumni were helpful mentors as she navigated the medical school process. Julie welcomes young alumni who are interested in medicine to reach out to her, as well.

"I think Canterbury has a really special network," she said. 🌻



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2016 AS THEY HEAD OUT INTO THE WORLD!

Jacob Aldridge, *Wingate University*
William Ambro, *Wake Tech*
Mattison Cheek, *Wake Forest University*
Sterling Clark, *University of South Carolina*
Joseph Coladonato, *U.S. Naval Academy*
Nan Cornelius, *Meredith College*
Alex Decker, *Appalachian State University*
Anne Dehnert, *UNC-Chapel Hill*

Jack DuBose, *UNC-Chapel Hill*
Henry Duggins, *U.S. Military Academy at West Point*
Whit Edwards, *UNC-Chapel Hill*
William Fitzgerald, *University of Colorado at Boulder*
Allie Gorman, *NC State University*
Satchel Graves
Davis Gregory, *UNC-Chapel Hill*
William Gresham
Demetria Hall, *Elon University*
Noel Harris, *Howard University*

Archie Herring
Kaelyn Hinshaw, *UNC-Greensboro*
Ben Holt, *UNC-Greensboro*
Sophie Kelly, *NC State University*
Max Kreimer, *Salt Lake Community College*
Alyssa Lee, *UNC School of the Arts*
Ben Lee, *University of Arizona*
Avery Love, *UNC-Chapel Hill*
Jack Mayes
Katherine Ortiz
Clara Pope, *UNC-Chapel Hill*

Belle Powell, *UNC School of the Arts*
Will Presson, *Emory University*
Lucy Rose, *UNC-Chapel Hill*
Kristine Shaw, *Wofford College*
Jaziah Terrelonge
Connor Vines, *UNC-Chapel Hill*
Aubrey Wall, *Auburn University*
Cate Whitlatch, *Wofford College*
Jacobi Williams

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ALUMNI NEWS

Kyle Arnold '06, owner of Rushmore Motor Company, LLC, helps people in Greensboro and surrounding areas find and sell cars.



Mara Whichard Rhodes '04, husband Tucker, and son Griffin welcomed Cora Dae Rhodes to the family on Dec. 1, 2020.

Claibourne Poindexter '05, specialist for Christie's Jewels, manned an online auction for Christie's: *Susan and Karl: Important Chanel Fashion Jewelry from the Collection of Mrs. John H. Gutfreund*. The auction, held January 14-19, 2021, comprised one of the "greatest single-owner collection of Karl Lagerfeld era Chanel jewelry that has ever been presented at auction." Claibourne adds: "What makes this collection truly unique is that the majority of the jewels in Mrs. Gutfreund's collection were created as prototypes and, in some cases, are one-of-a-kind examples completely fabricated by hand to be worn on the runway in Paris. (They) provide a window into the world of haute couture in the 1980s and 1990s, representing a time where fashion could be over the top in the greatest way possible."

Phoebe Roer Murray '05 and **Liddy Roer Stewart '06** launched Feed the Fight Chapel Hill to show community support and gratitude for health-care heroes. The two fundraisers raised money to purchase meals from local restaurants to give to health-care workers in the area. As of April 2020, their GoFundMe page had raised over \$15,000.



Mark Mitchell '06 is pursuing a longtime passion. Mark has always been interested in ornithology and soon will open a falconry studio in Greensboro. Mark hopes to open in the summer of

2021, starting with two falcons and one snow owl named Mandrake, Boromir, and Stephen. He is pictured here with one of his beloved falcons at the Greensboro Science Center.



Thomas Beard, '08, has been promoted to Senior Brokerage Associate in the Columbia, SC, office of Colliers. Thomas, a University of South Carolina graduate, is a member of Colliers'

industrial brokerage team. In February 2020, the team brokered the largest single acquisition of properties in South Carolina in over 10 years, according to Costar. Thomas has collaborated on lease and sale transactions valued at over \$350 million and totaling approximately 14.6 million square feet of space over the course of his career. He is a candidate for his Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation, a prestigious designation in commercial real estate that represents proven expertise in financial, market, and investment analysis.



Alumnae **Hutter Black '08** and **Suejette Black '09** opened fitness facility Spenga this year. Spenga, based in Chapel Hill, is a 60-minute spin, strength, yoga workout designed to improve endurance, strengthen muscles, and revitalize the body.

Hastings Moffitt '11 has been named a recipient of The Jane Calmes ALS Scholarship Fund. Hastings' father was diagnosed with ALS in 2011 when she was an 8th grader at Canterbury, and he battled for nearly three years before the illness took his life. Although the disease took a huge toll on the family physically, mentally, and financially, it allowed Hastings to discover her passion for medicine and inspired her to want to give back to those in similar situations. The Jane Calmes ALS Scholarship Fund has allowed Hastings to pursue one of her greatest aspirations and passions: nursing. Established in 2019, the fund was created to support post-high school education for students whose lives have been financially impacted by ALS. Hastings will graduate from UNC-Chapel Hill with her BSN in August 2021 so that she can give back to people in a field that she loves.

For the first time ever, Wake Forest University opened nominations to the public for one of its most prestigious awards. Fans can now submit worthy candidates for the Pete Moffitt Courage Award, established in 2012 in recognition of Wake Forest alumnus Pete Moffitt ('84) who displayed tremendous courage while battling ALS. Pete was father to **Hastings '11** and **Mary Layton '11**. The honor is given annually to a Wake Forest student-athlete, coach, or alumnus who has demonstrated Pete's great courage in his or her own endeavors.

Jane Pearce '11 graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2019 and is currently in her second year of medical school at Wake Forest University.

Matthew Audilet '12, started a career as a writer at "The Spun," a national news website out of NYC.

After Elon University's 2020 spring production of the musical "Violet" was canceled due to COVID-19, **Noelle Cornelius '12**, decided to create her own performance online. You can view the performance on YouTube; search for Violet and Elon University. Canterbury is grateful to Noelle for volunteering this spring to direct the "Canterbury Cabaret" middle school performance.



Stephanie Jones '15 is learning to be a pilot and recently flew her parents to Virginia for lunch.

Sally Hayes '12 graduated Summa Cum Laude from Wake Forest University in May 2020 with bachelor of arts degrees in politics & international affairs and Spanish. Sally works in consulting with Ernst & Young in Washington, DC, in their government and public sector practice.

Alumni Parent Art Winstead, father of **Mollie '12** and **Emma '14**, is a general partner with DMJ, which was recently named in the Forbes 2021 America's Best Tax and Accounting Firms List.

Jack Maginnes '13, has been hard at work on Savvy, a next-generation dating app. Maginnes has worked remotely on building and launching the app. Collaborating with a team of seven engineers, Maginnes primarily uses Swift, Go, and Node.js.

Cayley Pinson '13, was the 2020-21 recipient of the UNC-Wilmington Department of World Languages and Cultures Academic Scholarship.



Alec Smir '13, was voted the ACC Defensive player of the week. Smir, a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill, is a goalkeeper for the men's soccer team.

In response to the Black Lives Matter movement, **Caroline Fitzgerald '14** organized Art for Change, a non-profit art auction in spring 2020. Artists throughout the Southeast donated incredible art, and all proceeds were donated to civil rights organizations specifically chosen by the artists. Caroline's auction raised over \$4,000 to promote love, understanding, and equality.

Will Hayes '15 is a sophomore at Duke University double majoring in biology and Spanish with a minor in chemistry. He is also working in a cancer research lab at Duke.

Spencer Underwood '15, founding member of the band The Dune Sea, was featured in the Greensboro News and Record in an article by veteran music writer Grant Britt. He writes, "Their current release, 'Living Daydreams,' is a blender full of eclectic genres swirling around in an embrace that feels more like a temporary truce than a commitment, the participants free to break off and find other companions at any moment." "Living Daydreams" can be heard on Spotify and most major music platforms.

Mattison Cheek '16, who attends Wake Forest University, received the O.W. Wilson Merit Scholarship. Begun in 1986, the O.W. Wilson Scholarship is awarded to students who have clearly superior records and excellent potential.



Demetria Hall '16, attended the 67th Annual Jack and Jill Mid Atlantic Regional Teen Leadership Conference last summer, serving as her region's regional teen vice president. Jack and Jill's mission is to address issues affecting African-American children and families by investing in programs and services that create a strong foundation for children to thrive long-term. Demetria has poured a lot of love and passion into the organization over the years and has now graduated to be part of the Jack & Jill Legacy. Demetria started at Elon University in the fall, where she was accepted into the Isabelle Cannon Leadership Fellows Program. This program gives Demetria opportunities to get involved in the Elon community and further enhance her leadership skills.



Conner Vines '16 was honored as valedictorian of Northern High School, bringing Canterbury's total to 20 valedictorians/salutatorians in the past 16 years.

Cate Whitlatch '16 was the recipient of the 2020 Francis O. Price Scholarship. Cate attends Wofford College. The Price Scholarship has been providing financial assistance to college-bound Holy Trinity youth members for 23 years. Cate also raised more than \$1,000 for the Grateful Hearts Project, which creates customized boxes for kids admitted to the hospital so they can decorate their rooms.

Oliver Kreimer '18 received an All-Conference award in varsity cross country for GDS.

Claire Medley '18 and **Natalya Jones '19** both received Page High School Big Dreamer Awards.

Sheena Bakare '20 was the recipient of Groton School's Headmaster's Inclusion Scholar Award.

In its first year of partnership between Christ School and the Howley Foundation, the program identified and designated **Morlue Eesiah '20** as its first recipient. The Howley Foundation dedicates scholarships to assist and help all students, regardless of economic means. Students are selected based on high academic achievement, a demonstrated capacity for leadership, and exceptional personal character.

Canterbury alumni parent **Laura Oxner (Owen '20)** is the director of A Simple Gesture's new program, RePurpose. Started in 2020, Laura shares her years in food recovery in Guilford County to lead the charge at ASG of redirecting wholesome perishable food leftovers to feed those in need in the community instead of letting these resources enter the landfills.



Sometimes lightning really does strike twice! **Isabel Skains '20** won another National Grand Championship, this time in walk/trot/canter for 13 & under.

Numerous Canterbury alumni made Head's List at Greensboro Day School in 2020, including **Jack Clodfelter '19**, **Elliott Kirkland '19**, **Lindy Lin '19**, **Paige McKee '19**, **Brandon Robinson '19**, **Elizabeth Adams '18**, **Muzamani Gausi '18**, **Oliver Kreimer '18**, and **Will Presson '18**. Several Canterbury alumni made Honor Roll at GDS in 2020, as well, including **Billy Burton '19**, **Jackson Love '19**, **Josh Hoffman '18**, **Archie Herring '17**, and **Avery Love '16**.



Joseph Coladonato '16, Naval Academy, and **Henry Duggins '16**, West Point, at the Army v. Navy game on Dec. 12, 2020.

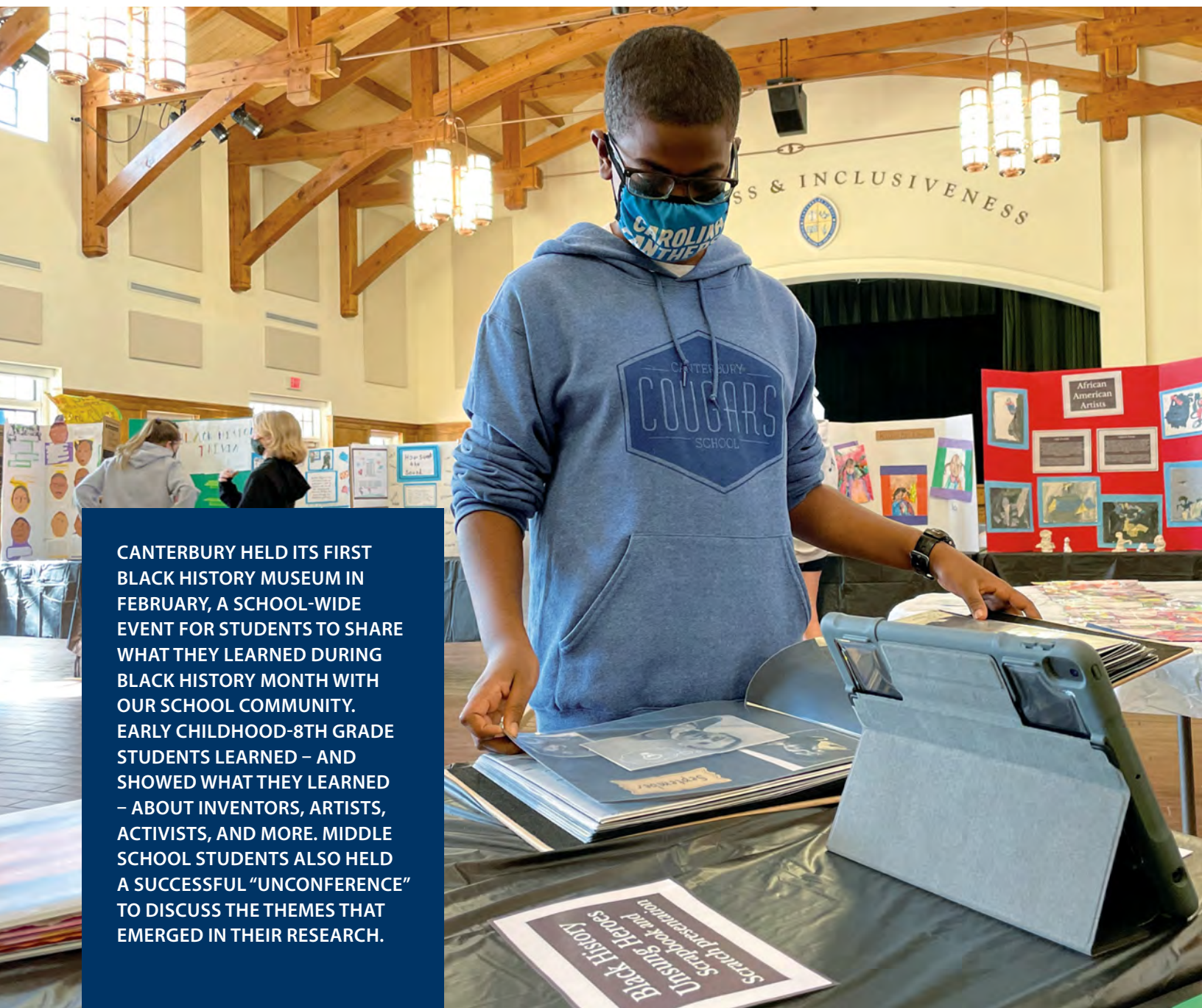


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CANTERBURY HELD ITS FIRST BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM IN FEBRUARY, A SCHOOL-WIDE EVENT FOR STUDENTS TO SHARE WHAT THEY LEARNED DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY. EARLY CHILDHOOD-8TH GRADE STUDENTS LEARNED – AND SHOWED WHAT THEY LEARNED – ABOUT INVENTORS, ARTISTS, ACTIVISTS, AND MORE. MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ALSO HELD A SUCCESSFUL “UNCONFERENCE” TO DISCUSS THE THEMES THAT EMERGED IN THEIR RESEARCH.