

Camelot Academy



Year Thirty-One...
“What’s Love Got To Do With It?”



Alumni Newsletter
2014

Dear Alumni and Former Camelot Teachers,

In the 2013-2014 school year, Camelot decided to celebrate the LOVE that makes our community thrive. Our school is special because of the close-knit sense of community and the relationships that are built between students, teachers and parents. We decided to spend time consciously reflecting on the importance of these relationships, so the theme of the 2013-2014 school year was “What’s Love Got to Do With It?” The answer, of course, is “Everything.” We truly love all current, past, and future members of our community.

The love obviously does not end when students graduate and leave Camelot, which is why in the last two years, we have made more of an effort to involve graduates and alumni teachers in the life of our school. Our vision is that all of you will continue to help our community by sharing your experiences and serving as resources to each other. Like all relationships at Camelot, much of this will happen organically. You will call your younger and older friends to find out how things are going. You’ll invite students to visit your college or your work place. You will give advice and words of encouragement, and current families will update you on happenings at the school. You’ll stop by Camelot when you are in town. Interactions will happen because we love and care about each other.

We also want to do what we can as a school to encourage these interactions. Last year, we started publishing this newsletter to keep you updated, and we initiated two annual alumni events at which you can connect with friends and teachers. We will continue to host the Pizza Party early in January, and a Durham Bulls Game in early June. We’ll also continue to invite you to speak at our school and to mentor current students. We would LOVE to see you at Camelot sometime this school year!

Making connections, or “Building Bridges” is the theme for the current school year. We hope you will maintain a bridge with Camelot and remain a part of our LOVE-filled community into the future!

Fondly,



Thelma Glynn
Founding Director

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The Year in Review: What's New at Camelot?



SPECIAL WEDNESDAYS –

In an effort to provide students with an opportunity to explore more topics, a “Special Wednesday” schedule was created. Students engaged with subjects such as Health, Personal Finance, Yearbook, College Essay-Writing, Sociology, Mandarin, Anime, etc.



GRADUATION –

The theme of graduation was “The Brady Bunch.” The Class of 2014 contained a “bunch” of unique students from all over the world who came together to make a happy family.



COMMUNITY SERVICE-

National Honor Society, headed by President Olivia Arges, decided to encourage the whole Camelot Community to participate in community service by counting the hours that all students performed. A thermometer in the Big Hall measured our progress. By January, we reached the goal NHS had set so we moved the bar even higher, and eventually did 552 hours total! NHS treated all to a special breakdance performance and an ice cream party as a reward.



LOVE LUNCH -

In September, Ms. Amy asked her Middle Grades students how they thought Camelot could be more loving. Two students decided to approach an Upper Schooler to help them organize lunch groups that would enable younger and older students a chance to get to know each other better. Together they planned activities to encourage interaction. “Love Lunch” was born!



Class of 2014

(left to right, beginning with back row)

Feixiong Zhen

University of California, Davis

Ke Lu (Luke)

University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign

Brian Powell

UNC Chapel Hill

Nathaniel Fischer

Brandeis University,
Waltham, MA

Rachel Roush (Carson)

UNC Chapel Hill

Kathleen Mattox (Lyn)

UNC Chapel Hill

Jingyi He (Grace)

NC State University
Raleigh, NC

Devan Chichester

American University
Washington, DC



Sangphil Ahn (Spencer)

University of California, San Diego

Carolyn Mac Nair

UNC Wilmington

Arjuna Palomar (AJ)

Randolph College, Lynchburg, VA

Olivia Arges

Elon University, Greensboro, NC

Staff News

New Faculty:



In 2013, we welcomed two new Spanish teachers: **Charlotte Frysinger** (left) is from Pennsylvania and lived in Ecuador for five years, where she met her husband. **Stephanie Willard** (right) also heads our burgeoning ESL program. She has travelled extensively, has many volunteer experiences working with bilingual education and marginalized women and youth all over the world, enjoys watercolor and mixed-media painting, long distance running, and yoga.



Since May, **Jill Pitino** (below) has been juggling a myriad of tasks working as the Administrative Assistant at Camelot. Originally from New York, she moved to North Carolina in 2008 with her husband, Michael, and children, Kevin and Haley. In her free time, you can find her hiking, biking or spending quality time with her two adorable pups.



Oliver Khamsky (left) joined Camelot's Math Faculty this year. He is a self-proclaimed "Mathlete" – he biked across the country to raise awareness and money for affordable housing and is an avid Ultimate Frisbee player. He can also solve a Rubik's Cube.



Joyce Pardon (below) helps with Lower School math and is teaching an Upper School class on computer coding. She worked many years in biomedical sciences research and in education research, has written curriculum and test items, and taught in many schools.



Jo-Anne Woodruff (right) is the Teacher Assistant for KinderMAPP and Jr. MAPP. She earned a M.Ed. in Elementary Education and a B.A. in Early Childhood Education from the University of Florida, and has eight years of teaching experience in TX, FL and NC. For 26 years she worked in the educational publishing industry (sales, marketing and editorial) with a focus on teacher education.



Tom Mitchell (above) grew up around Camelot thanks to his dad, Scott, the Admissions Director. He has returned full time this year to teach ESL, Mandarin, and Social Sciences, and to host several of our international students.

Alumni News

Songphil Ahn (Spencer) '14, is enjoying the weather in San Diego, CA, and is studying Bio-Technology. He has joined the nationally renowned Break Dance Club at the university, and is living in a triple room in a 15-person suite.

Josh Pettway Hinton '13, is entering his second year at UNC with the goal of being accepted into the school's Clinical Lab Science Program. He works at the Carolina Theater in Durham, and he recently designed a company logo for his school's magazine "Lambda," for which he does general design and editing. He will continue to study Spanish and aims for a career in the health/medical field.

Ryan Siebens '12, is majoring in Science/Biology in the Honors Program at Guilford College. He interned last summer at the Duke Lemur Center, where he studied sex-typed behavior in infant lemurs. He may be presenting his findings at the NC Creativity and Research Symposium.

Alec Porter '11, is in his senior year at NC State University and is student-teaching in a third-grade classroom at Partnership Elementary.

Michael Berro '10, has had a busy 2014! He graduated from Davidson in May and got married to Sarah Eliza Stevens on August 2nd. After a short honeymoon in Puerto Rico, they moved to Doha, Qatar to work as English teachers at the International School of Choueifat.

Nicole LaCroix, former teacher, is now a fourth grade teacher at Eagle Crest Charter Academy in Holland, MI. This summer she did a 15-day hike through Israel, learning and studying all about Abraham, Moses and Jesus.

Kees Frelinger '03, attended UNC-Chapel Hill after graduating from Camelot and then started working at Central Regional Hospital in Butner. Now he is working at UNC in the Department of Psychiatry as a Project Coordinator and Lab Manager for research on Prodromal Schizophrenia.

Former teacher **Dot Kohlbach** resigned from Special Olympics North Carolina after 21 years there and is now working as a nanny to a "wee baby boy."

Crysta Hillard '91, gave birth to a second baby boy named Kamden Cameron in February. Her other son, Kaden Cameron, is two years old. Crysta is working as a Physical Therapy Supervisor at Murdoch Developmental Center in Raleigh, and travels, reads, and volunteers in her free time.

Former teacher and administrator **Steve Poirot** recently accepted a position as Dean of Faculty and Special Advisor to Admissions at Marianapolis Preparatory School in Thompson, CT. The move to Connecticut not only brings him and his wife, Mary, new job opportunities, but also the chance to live closer to their grandchildren.

Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendar



New Year's Alumni Pizza Party

Friday, January 2 - 5:00pm
Camelot Campus

Evening of the Arts

Friday, May 8 - 6:45pm
Hayti Heritage Center

Graduation

Saturday, May 30 - 9:00am
Carolina Theater

Alumni Outing at Durham Bulls

Thursday, June 4 - 7:00pm

Update your info! Keep in touch!
www.camelotacademyalumni.org



Camelot Academy
809 Proctor St.
Durham, NC 27707



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