

Dear Waterside Community,

It is with great pleasure that we send you Waterside School's 2010 Spring Newsletter. Our "little school", begun in 2001 with two classrooms and a dream, is well on its way to seeing the dream fulfilled: four (soon to be five) graduating classes going on to middle school to thrive as students, athletes, artists and citizens, and all with the unshakable intention of graduating from college; accreditation from the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools; plans fully underway to build a

WE GATHER TO SHARE OUR MEAL AND TO EXPRESS OUR
APPRECIATION FOR OUR GOOD FORTUNE.

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE COMPANY OF ONE ANOTHER

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE LOVE OF OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THIS MEAL WE SHARE TOGETHER.

AND, ABOVE ALL ELSE, WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY
OF WATERSIDE SCHOOL

WE WILL HONOR THE DREAM OF THIS SCHOOL WITH ALWAYS OUR
FULLEST AND FINEST EFFORTS.

THE WATERSIDE LUNCH BLESSING, RECITED DAILY

spectacular permanent home for Waterside to open in September of 2011; and making it all possible, an ever-increasing number of people of generosity and vision who have believed in Waterside's children and seen fit to invest in their future. We are grateful beyond expression, and pleased to share with you these glimpses of life at school and some of the remarkable individuals who make up our community.

Sincerely,

Jody Visage, Head of School



Head of School Jody Visage greets alums Kailah Brinson and Debbie Juarez, Class of 2008, at the Alumni Reunion Dinner.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING BACK

With the mission of "Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today," Waterside strives to instill in its students a sense of their place in the larger world. Service is an integral part of life at Waterside and students are encouraged daily to look for opportunities to help others. This year's program, led by faculty members Johnny Montanez and Caitlyn Harrington, has set an ambitious course.

In the first semester, the service efforts were dedicated to the China Care Foundation, an organization founded by Matt Dalio (Brunswick School '02, Harvard '06). The China Care Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides medical, social and educational programs for orphans with disabilities in China with the ultimate goal of seeing those children lead happy and healthy lives. Last October, Matt Dalio gave a presentation to Waterside students about the China Care Foundation. The most powerful portion of his presentation was a video that delivered a call for help which immediately touched the hearts of Waterside's students.

In support, the students worked hard, did extra chores, donated allowances and found ways to earn the money necessary to better the lives of children on the other side of the world. A large poster was hung in the gymnasium to track the total amount of money that the students contributed each week. Buckets were placed in several high traffic areas of the school into which lines of children waited to proudly drop their hard-earned money. At the end of the five-week drive for the China Care Foundation the children had collected over \$600 in funds. An assembly was held to celebrate their accomplishments and to note the lessons learned and shared.

Matt Dalio, in response, was most impressed. "When they saw that there were other kids, just like them, half way around the world, with no homes and no parents, they were literally on their feet asking how they could help. You could see that they had their eyes opened. They understood. The response, from the weeks of fundraising that they did afterwards, stands as a testament to how much they care and how capable they are. I'm proud of them all. And, honestly, of Waterside as a school for helping to raise such good citizens."

The focus of the second semester's service efforts was quickly determined after the horrific earthquake in Haiti. With a number of Waterside families having ties to Haiti, the connection was real and powerful. The community quickly mobilized to raise funds to assist in the relief efforts and set an ambitious goal of \$1,000. Students worked tirelessly to earn money and parents and faculty also were encouraged to contribute as they could afford. The Waterside Parent Council was particularly active, urging all parents to take part and helping prepare a special breakfast that was held at school. Everyone in attendance contributed and the result was as impressive as the spirit of the morning. The total result of the fundraising was an astonishing \$2,415. With matching funds from local corporations, Board members and other individuals, the total amount that will be sent to Haiti through *Hope for Haiti* will approach \$8,000 – a testament to the character of the families of Waterside and the lessons so clearly in place.