



FROM THE
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Listen to Your Mother



Mel MacKay

A cardinal principle in education is that we be allowed to learn from our mistakes.

Years ago I took a summer school class that met daily,

with every class beginning with a three-question quiz over the previous night's reading. Theoretically, there were four possible grades on those quizzes: a 1, 2, 3, or 4. In practice, however, there were only two grades: an A, a high F, a medium F, and a low F.

The controversy over the recent arrest of Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., in his Cambridge, Massachusetts, home felt to me like one of those quizzes, and as many commentators have noted—the President included—the incident has been a learning experience. If there was a happy ending at the White House, it may have proved that it's possible to flunk three quizzes and still do well on the test.

When Professor Gates spoke in July 2008 to the Advanced Placement annual conference, he was one of the most entertaining and interesting speakers I'd ever heard. His subject was the research behind a compelling television series he hosted, *African American Lives*. But apparently on the evening of July 16, the professor was neither amused nor amusing. The Cambridge police officer reacted, the news media reacted, and President Obama reacted, using the charged word "stupidly," to

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INSPIRING SPEECHES AND OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES HIGHLIGHT COMMENCEMENT

June 2009 brought beautiful weather and a long weekend of memorable occasions for the Class of 2009 and their families, teachers, and friends.

Those in attendance at Baccalaureate on June 5 followed the wave of purple moving down Broadway, as the seniors—led by Head of School **Mel MacKay**, Academic Dean **David Armistead**, and Dean of Students **Colleen Grover**—made their way together to All Souls Congregational Church. Many will not forget the way guest speaker, Head Football Coach **Dan O'Connell**, literally rolled up his sleeves to deliver his heartfelt message to the students and to recite the John Bapst fight song, "Go Crusaders." Also memorable were musical selections by some of the many talented seniors from the Class of 2009, including **Kelsey Fahey**, **Chris Fogler**, **Ryan Lad**, **Mike Lalime**, **Matt Ryan**, **Ethan Sale**, and **Alex Wright**. Early graduate and Oberlin Conservatory of Music sophomore **Nate Lesser '09** returned with his violin, accompanied by **Tom Jones** on piano.

Following Baccalaureate, the John Bapst Auditorium quickly filled to capacity with seniors and their families, as faculty and staff looked on from the balcony above. Mr. Armistead announced each senior's name as he or she took the stage, and—in what is now a two-year tradition at John Bapst—noted an interesting anecdote and the future plans of each student. In the end, all shared at least one thing in common: they were just two days from becoming John Bapst alumni.

On Sunday, June 7, the weather again cooperated with fair and sunny skies, and again the Auditorium filled with family and friends, this time for the graduation ceremony of the Class of 2009. Led by Class Marshall **Anna Carmack '10**, seniors filed in to the music of the Honors



Band and took their seats upon the stage, followed by the faculty and staff in commencement regalia.

Singer-songwriter **David Mallett**, the graduation speaker, delivered a remarkable alternative to the traditional graduation speech, a refreshing combination of singing, guitar-playing, and speaking, all directed towards the graduates. Mr. Mallett sang three of his songs, including his signature song, "The Garden Song" ("Inch by inch, row by row ..."), and a new piece setting a passage of Henry David Thoreau's *The Maine Woods* to guitar accompaniment. Between songs Mallett painted a picture of this time in history, encouraging students to see opportunities that have never existed before while also putting in perspective this exciting time in their lives.

In his invocation, senior **Ryan Lad** asked everyone to reflect on their good fortune and to remember those less fortunate. Valedictorian **Molly Lammert** used a chemistry metaphor to describe her classmates' uniqueness. Salutatorian

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Notable Quotes from the Class of 2009

Just as no one element can be removed without ruining the perfection of the periodic table, not a single one of us can be removed without ruining the essence of our class. Furthermore, we'll stand the test of time. So, as we leave the walls of John Bapst, let's take our better shaped but essential selves up to the next level, remembering that all of life so far has been real life. As we go on, I hope we all continue to shape ourselves into better, stronger people, especially now that the power to do so is in our hands.

- Molly Lammert, Valedictorian

We are soon to be graduates of John Bapst Memorial High School, and with the purple and white pulsing through our veins, we will step out into the unknown, never losing sight of the well lit path we have just followed, but never shying away from the shadows. For it is from these shadows that we will emerge as the extraordinary people we aspire to be and are destined to become.

- Ashley Gale, Salutatorian

Students Attend Girls, Boys State

Every year, schools in many states across the country send delegates to Boys and Girls State, a mock government simulation. The program, sponsored by the American Legion, is open to high school juniors who have shown leadership, character, and an interest in politics. The 2009 John Bapst delegates to Dirigo Girls State were **Erin Gilbert, Danielle LeClair, and Daron Perales**, and the Boys State delegates were **Patrick Hall, Omar Khan, and John Pearson**.

For five days in June, delegates took part in elections, town meetings, political party conventions, committee meetings, and legislative sessions to give them an idea of the structure and function of state government. Delegates were elected to positions in the House of Representatives, Senate, Executive Branch, and Supreme Court. They also took part in discussions with guest speakers from state government, including Governor John Baldacci.

John Bapst candidates to Boys and Girls State submitted essays for consideration and were selected by the faculty. They were sponsored this year by the American Legion James W. Williams Post #12, the Bangor Breakfast Kiwanis, the John Bapst Student Senate, and members of the faculty and staff.

Social Sciences teacher **Jason O'Reilly**, who coordinates the Dirigo Boys and Girls State programs at John Bapst, explained, "The Boys and Girls State programs offer our students the opportunity to broaden their understanding of the functions of government and the duties and privileges of citizenship with other like-minded juniors from across the state. The week-long mock government experience further enhances the school's mission to foster a sense of respect for learning, for themselves, and for others."

Boys State Delegate and Student Senate President John Pearson '10 contributed to this article.

Commencement

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Ashley Gale encouraged all to realize their full potential and to become extraordinary people. After all seniors were called forward to receive diplomas, senior **Dayle Provencher** read the benediction, expressing on behalf of his class appreciation for the memories and opportunities throughout their years at Bapst.

That evening, the seniors gathered once more at John Bapst to take a bus to the University of Maine for Project Graduation, an event sponsored and funded by the parents of the Class of 2009.

Mackayla Keith Honored

As reported recently in *The Weekly*, John Bapst junior **Mackayla Keith '12** has been elected as the 2009 State President of the Maine Society, Children of the American Revolution. She was installed as state president during the national convention of the Children of the American Revolution this past spring in Washington, D.C. She will also represent Maine at the New England regional meeting.

Bruce Pratt Play Featured



Bruce Pratt

Electrolysis by **Bruce Pratt** is one of two short plays to be presented by the Bucksport Bay Chamber Summer Theater Festival at the Bucksport Grange Hall, 54

Main Street, Bucksport, on August 29 and September 5 at 4 p.m. Pratt is the John Bapst Track and Field Head Coach and a longtime writer, musician, and teacher.

The second play is *The Brownwater Legend* by Michael Kimball. Tickets are available by calling 469-6818 or by emailing director@bucksportbaychamber.com.



Track and Field Teams Conclude Stellar Season

By Bruce Pratt, Head Coach, Outdoor Track and Field

John Bapst track enjoyed another fine season in which the girls' and boys' teams captured the PVC Small School Championships and the girls won their seventh Class C State Championship in the last eight years.

A longtime force to be reckoned with in the state, the girls' team figured to be contenders for the league and state titles. Their season was nonetheless impressive, and, as they graduated only three seniors—co-captains **Molly Lammert** and **Tara Nitardy** along with **Charlotte Firestone**—from a squad of thirty-eight, the future looks bright as well. A strong contingent of distance runners, complemented by excellent performances in field events and relays, led the way.

At the state meet, the tone was set by a victory in the 4X800 relay, where the girls cruised to victory. The school has won every state meet in which it has captured that event, going on to win the 2009 championship by twelve and a half points in a close contest with Orono. **Maggie Bryan '11** anchored a team of Firestone, **Jennie Wainer '11**, and **Kim Spencer '10** and later anchored the winning 4X400 with **Brianne Robertson '11**, **Maggie Lynn '11**, and **Carolyn Benner '12**. Both teams qualified for the New England

meet. In between, Bryan won the 800- and 1600-meter races, and Spencer, sophomore **Laura Donovan**, and freshmen **Mary Carmack** and **Amanda Lalime** added to the impressive distance points total.

Junior **Danielle Leclair** scored in the shot put and discus; freshman **Paige Coté** and juniors **Stesha Rudnicki** and **Jennifer Daley** placed in the high jump; and sophomore **Robyn Handley** had an outstanding fourth in the race walk. **Maria Ullo '12** placed in the triple jump despite a nagging injury, and **Katelyn Gerow '10** gave an inspired performance in the 100-meter hurdles on a sore knee. The 4X100 team of **Kristyn Gerow '10**, Lynn, Daley, and Rudnicki finished an impressive third, and other athletes had fine seasons and finishes, including **Sarah Wardell '10**, **Amy Haskell '10**, **Nikol Harris '10**, **Morgan Rublee '10**, **Kristen Weed '12**, **Lauren Williamson '12**, **Taylor True '12**, and **Ashley Charpentier '12**.

The Boys' PVC win was impressive as fifteen of the squad's members were freshmen, making this the school's youngest team in many years. Led by school, conference, and state record holder **Chris Fogler** and fellow senior **Sean Gilbert**, the group coalesced into a strong team in time to surprise the rest

of the conference at the championship meet. Freshmen **Gabe Stewart**, **Stuart Lenz**, and **Chad Hensley** and sophomore **Chris Desmond** scored important points and continued to contribute at the state meet. Stewart had an impressive campaign in the 1600- and 3200-meter events, narrowly missing qualifying for the New England Championships, while Gilbert, Hensley, and Lenz joined Fogler at the New Englands in Burlington, Vermont, by virtue of a thrilling victory in the 4X400 relay at the state meet. Fogler also ran the 300-meter hurdles and—though seeded eighth—finished second, just hundredths of a second out of first. He graduated as one of the finest runners in John Bapst history and will continue his academic, athletic, and musical careers at Williams College. Seniors **Nick Wainer**, **Dan Ward**, and **Zach Glover** also made important contributions to the team.

The athletes representing John Bapst at the New England Championships constituted the school's largest ever contingent, and the number of parents and friends who made the trip was inspiring to athletes and to coaches **Joe Capehart**, **Jeff Libby**, **Diane Vinal**, **John Halloran**, **Adam Goode**, **Ben Pratt '97**, and **Erica Dougherty**.

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which the law enforcement community reacted.

In the aftermath of all that reacting there was a refreshingly calm interview on National Public Radio with the executive director of the National Black Police Association, Ronald E. Hampton. A former Washington, DC police officer, Mr. Hampton was asked about the incident. "Do you as a police officer ... have to show the flag for the police force and show that you're in charge?" "No, I don't think so," Mr. Hampton replied. He

paused and continued, "My mother says, 'The way you start a thing off determines how you end it.'"

I would trade that remark for all of the other editorializing I've heard in the wake of the incident. Now there, I thought, is a lesson a person could take to heart, and I asked myself, How often do I dig myself a hole simply because I don't start a thing off the way I'd like it to end? How often do we want to get somewhere positive—in a conversation, an incident, a relationship—but make the mistake of

starting off negatively?

In life and in school, it's easier to learn from mistakes when there are more grades available than an A and an F. At schools with high expectations for academics and character, not always meeting those expectations is a given. We need to start things off as positively and affirmatively as possible, allow learning and growth to take place, and enjoy not only the successes we've reaped but also the positive way we've reaped them.



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We are grateful to each of the donors who contributed to the John Bapst Memorial High School Annual Fund between July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2009. These gifts, the vast majority donated by individuals, are allocated throughout the school. We do our best to list each and every contributor. If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please contact Lynn Doughty at 947-0313, extension 104, or at ldoughty@johnbapst.org.

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Shaun Dowd D.M.D. '59
Thomas E. Flanagan '59
Jerry McGuire '59
Lawrence Mishou '59
James Parent '59
Joan Kelleher Pelkey '59
J. Timothy Samway '59
Robert Vreeland '59
Edward C. Kelleher '59
Sandra J. Kelleher '59
Don Soucy Scholarship for Community Service
Bangor Federal Credit Union
The Phoenix Scholarship
Sharon Cormier '79 & Arnold Fessenden
The Chamberlains
Sheila Cassily Koot '62
Leo J. Higgins Scholarship
James P. Aucoin
Bangor Area Local 536
Royce & Martha Estabrook Day '54
Norman & Beverly Dubay
Sally Gibson
Elizabeth A. Grant
Susan Hass
I.B.E.W. Local 1837
Gerry & Gwen LaPointe
Philip & Margaret McGinley
Daniel O'Connell '67
Anthony & Michelle Riitano
Michael & Sally Semenock
N. Elizabeth Solorzano
Sidney & Lillian Winchester
Restricted Gifts
Alumni
Karla Black
Richard '65 & Brenda Crowe '67
Douglas Dunbar '85
John Bapst Alumni Association
Joy Leach
Scott & Kelly Woodcock Leadbetter '87
Lennie Mullen
Daniel '73 & Jennifer Wellington
JoAnn Fernald Wicks '75
Athletics
William '47 & Inara Booker
Frank '52 & Janet Broad Clancey '54
David & Lana Savage
Chess Team
Anonymous
Fine Arts
Thomas E. Flanagan '59
Jesse S. Lynch '03
Friends of Football
Patrick & Tori Gaetani

Joseph '77 & Kerri Lynch
Thomas '77 & Michelle McCarthy
Michael '64 & Norma McInnis
Joseph Mooney '77
Nickerson & O'Day
Matt Stairs
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Greg Askins & Joanna Dotts Askins
Irving Oil Corporation
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Ray Giroux
Math Department
David Foster '94
Dan & Liese Wood
Scholarships
Anonymous
Norma Jean Brilliant
Alan & Sue Cust
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Goodwin & Family
John & Sheila Lee & Family
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Robert & Candis Penley
Cynthia Plourde
Alfreda Savoy
David & Deborah Small
Science Department
George & Ann Keenan Albert '56
Daniel & Dina Cassidy
David Foster '94
Track Program
Paul & Mildred Gaston
Donne Sinderson
Windows Restoration
Leon & Carolyn Binette
Yearbook
Debra Kopf Kaiser
Gifts in Kind
Judy Archibald
George & Mary Eyerer
Thomas E. Flanagan '59
Jostens - Dave Ronan
James Nelligan '56
Anthony & Joanmarie Pellegrini
Robert & Carol Rice
Daniel '73 & Jennifer Wellington
Eric Zelz '78
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Castine	Greenbush	Old Town	Winterport

...emerge as strong, extraordinary people.



CALENDAR OF
EVENTS

August 11

Fall Sports Meeting (6:30 p.m.)

August 13

Sports Physicals (8 a.m. - Noon)

August 17-20

Music Camp (Noon - 3 p.m.)

August 27

Teacher In-Service (No School)

New Student-Parent Orientation (6 p.m.)

August 28

Teacher In-Service (No School)

August 31

First Day - New Students

September 1

First Day - All Students

September 7

Labor Day (No School)

September 8

School Photo Day