



CROSSROADS CONNECTION

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A PHILOSOPHY OF SPORTS

Watching Ray Butler stride the sidelines of the soccer game glued to his team, I appreciate this phenomenon, a coach mentor who practices his philosophy of sports with grace, fervor, and a deep understanding of his kids. He nods his head at the eager swarm around him, "Get ready, Dan. You're in for Jared," and says to me, "Glad you could make it. Parents' support means a lot."

The team loses this one, 2 to 0, and there is the usual letdown, the grumbling, as he goes over the game with them. Later he says, "I never fault them if they make a mistake from lack of skill; only for lazy thinking or not putting forth the effort."

The sports program at Crossroads is Ray Butler's creation. Other teachers coach individual sports like swimming, tennis, and basketball, but it is Ray who has developed and practices a philosophy that is distinct among high school coaches.

"What we're after in a sports program is that every player on every team strives individually to be the best competitor and person he or she can be," says Ray. "We want students to take pride in what they're doing, to allow what is within to drive the competitive urge rather than imposing a will to win from outside. For example, everybody plays in every game and we don't make cuts. This fall, because so many middle schoolers came out for soccer, we entered two teams in the League whereas many schools I know would have settled for one culled from the most skilled players AND played mainly those same players every game. Their focus is on winning. Well, they may end up with more wins but there are more important aspects of the game, especially for middle schoolers.

"The junior varsity teams concentrate on basic skills and understanding tactical strategies they will use on the varsity level. Crossroads varsity teams are successful because the players have been utilizing the same game plan for as much as six years. The competitive aspect of the game is emphasized more in the upper school.



Athletic Director Ray Butler with members of the varsity soccer team.
Photo by Jerry McClure

"There are so many things you can teach through sports, and the first is that while it's hard NOT to win all the time, that should never be the number one priority in the program. We're preparing for life here and to gain benefits that are useful down the road--when you're forty or eighty.

"Sports deals with the emotions, with social interaction, with mental development and, of course, the physical body. You think about the team and finding a place on it, it's like finding a place in society. A team is a small society. You have the responsibility to work hard for the others and this carries over into all other aspects of life. Emotionally and developmentally, what could be more immediate than having to figure out where, in a split second, to pass the ball to the right person to line it up for a goal? Successes and failures are immediate. With an English test you have to wait for the results. In the games the answers are right there.

"Regarding the physical body, for years we have known that exercise was beneficial but it is just now that studies are supporting that--showing lowered stress, decreasing heart problems, and even added height. Studies are beginning to show that exercise enhances skeletal growth, that it can add as much as three to four inches in height.

continued on Page 5



Middle school students meet with Kristin to form council.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MOBILIZES

On October 19, an event of sorts erupted in Middle School Principal Kristin Soifer's office when a goodly-sized group of seventh and eighth graders gathered to eat lunch and organize a student council.

"Did you see the Buzz Book cover?" burst from several mouths before salad and spaghetti entered.

"Who dared? They have to pay for it."

"On their knees. They should serve us lunch."

The students' beef was legitimate. The Buzz Book graphic reads, "Hello, you have reached Crossroads High School," an insensitivity that galled these middle schoolers enough to become the first hot topic of the day. How, indeed, would they make their presence felt?

It seems a good beginning to a year which Kristin says will be devoted to helping middle schoolers build a sense of their identity and unity within the Crossroads community. To physically help that idea along, the reallocation of classrooms has placed most of their classes as well as Kristin's office in the south end of the building. Interim Director Richard Fulton has also promised to find a special space outside the building for a patio of their own and there is pressure for a middle school lounge.

"Of course we want to promote positive interaction with the upper school," says Kristin, "Classes such as minorities in America, recorder, and needlework are open to seventh through twelfth and there are activities like the raft trip that are for the whole school. But Crossroads began as a middle school and we want it to be a rich experience for that age group and challenging academically."

Literature teacher Marjie Butler has her finger on one of the keys to academic success. "The books we are reading are perfect for this age. *The Count of Monte Cristo* has all the blood and gore and slime

they love and it brings up thousands of questions they're interested in. We can use these books to explore beyond the subject matter." Her four mixed seventh and eighth grade classes have already finished *Romeo and Juliet* which they read aloud in parts and will go on to *The Scarlet Pimpernel* after dissecting Dumas.

"Some changes this year in the curriculum are challenging," says Kristin. "Seventh graders are taking physical science and the eighth graders life science. Half of the middle schoolers are taking a foreign language and we are working on integrating some classes in time blocks. The middle school faculty made a list of crossover and overlapping subject matter and is consciously working to put together units at the same time. That is a trend in middle schools across the country and will be exciting."

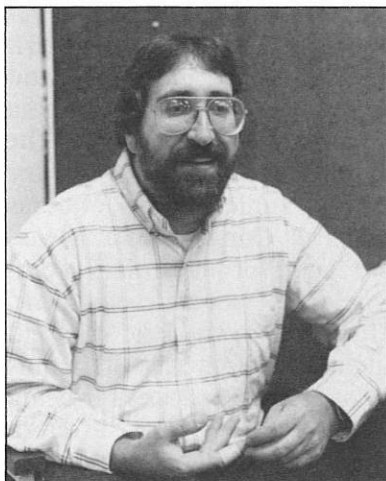
With middle school enrollment at capacity and the diverse spectrum of students who entered seventh this year, the possibilities for introducing ideas and planning activities are broad. Already, when 43 girls and boys out of the sixty in middle school signed up for soccer, Ray Butler fielded two teams. And in minorities in America, an elective course where middle schoolers study patterns of discrimination with upper schoolers, teacher Richard Fulton is proud of their contributions in class. "They add enthusiasm and energy and a remarkable degree of understanding to our discussions," he says.

And so, to all of you out there, it is clear that this year's vigorous crop of middle schoolers is seeking its collective voice and finding the right channels to deliver it. "You have reached the community of Crossroads."

FACULTY PROFILES

Photos by Pat Kohn

JOHN GROSSMAN, Earth Sciences and



Math teacher, has mapped sixty square miles in Utah in his lifetime and collected tons of rocks. When he moved back to his native St. Louis after six years as chief geologist with the Milchem Corporation in Nevada, several of those tons were left in storage in the west

until this summer when they finally rejoined him. After work that has taken him as far away as Guatemala and to many parts of the United States it seems that his career change from geologist to teacher has settled him here for the time being.

His choice of teaching was not idle. His company mined Barite, a mineral that is widely used and of which Missouri at one time was the leading producer. However, the bottom fell out of Barite in 1985 when companies found that they could buy it much more cheaply from other countries like China and, so, trimmed their survey staffs. In the trimming, although offered a different job, John decided to undertake a serious job search and turned to teaching which he had earlier enjoyed in graduate school at the University of Missouri at Rolla. He enrolled in the Washington University Education Certification program and met Arthur Lieber soon after he finished.

Reflecting on how important teaching can be, John talks about his undergraduate days at Purdue University when he switched majors after the enthusiasm and ideas of his geology professor lured him from his initial career choice, engineering. From that experience and others in graduate school he concludes, "My job is to be a good teacher because the kids are the most important. I'll always make time for them. The good cross-section of kids at Crossroads and their boundless energy make that a pleasure."

John teaches calculus, precalculus, two geometry classes and earth science and coaches the chess team. Also seen at the soccer games and tennis matches and every school function, we hope he soon will find time to unpack his collections.

BETH FRIEDMAN With a slightly devilish look, Biology teacher Beth Friedman drops her tenth grade students at the Zoo for the afternoon. "This will be fun," she says. "My husband and I spent Saturday here gathering the names." Each student has received a personalized index card with three Latin names to be identified and described before the bus picks them up at 2 P.M. "They can find them," she says. "I haven't been that mean. But they will have to search a bit."

"During the year we move from classification to cells to the complete organism with most of our focus on the human body. This is a good way to deal with names which in the classroom can get pretty boring."

One of the things Beth likes about teaching at Crossroads is the chance to set the curriculum and the pace of the class. She uses an approved textbook but goes beyond it as the year advances, putting more and more emphasis on those things the students are going to experience in life. "I like to dissect something that relates to the human body more than a crayfish; it makes sense when we're mammals," she says.

Trained in Biology and Bio Medical Communications, Crossroads was Beth's first teaching assignment after graduating from the Washington University Post AB Education program. "I put my hair up in a bun



and wore a suit to meet Arthur at the interview. Well, that only happened once! Really, I was surprised that I enjoy teaching so much," she says. "Because it is relaxed here and we go at a pace and with information that is suitable."

Beth is an anatomy lesson herself this fall as her first pregnancy advances and many questions follow. "How big is it now?" "Can I feel it move?"

"I told the kids right away that the baby is coming in December and someone will fill in for me while I'm gone. My husband will come to help with the dissections," she says. "They need to know what I'm planning as much as I can plan. I am new to

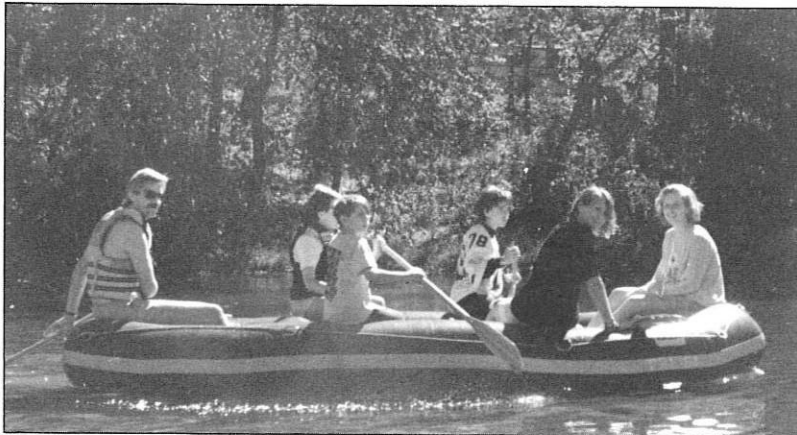
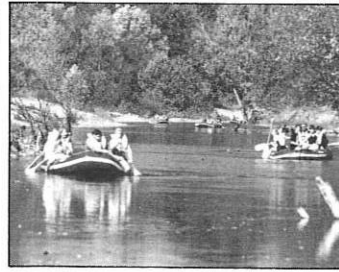
continued on page 4

THE FEARLESS AND THE BRAVE

Photos by Jerry McClure
Story by Karen McClure



Ninth graders Sophie Kohn and Maggi Hornby



From the left, parent Otto Faulbaum, Jim Faulbaum (7th), Ben Goeke (7th), Mark Millner (7th), Stacey Tretter (8th), and Stephanie Kuykendal (8th)



From the left clockwise, teacher Gary Skolnick, Stacy Messenger (12th), Lupi Womack (11th), Colin McClure (10th), Matt Ledesma (11th), Bobby Rogers (10th), Natalie Lagomarcino, (10th) and fearless leader Ray Butler

There is a strange and ancient custom at Crossroads. Although its origins are obscure, it is mysteriously passed from class to class and observed during the annual fall float trip on the Black River. This year's trip, led by the brave and fearless Ray and Marjie Butler, allowed the custom to unfold once again.

We met at school early that Saturday morning, the 40 degree weather scaring away all but the most "un-wimp," to drive together to the river and our awaiting rubber rafts. There we boarded, the more knowledgeable picking strategic spots. It seemed a good idea to stay close to a fearless leader. The sun was warm, the air brisk and the leaves were trying to be colorful. Moving along the water, we stopped to eat, skip rocks, heave boulders at innocent logs, and terrorize the local crawfish. Some of the young stripped to swim suits and swam, emerging with the most phenomenal gooseflesh yet seen by man.

The signal for the ritual to begin occurred later in the day. Suddenly, a glob of white goo flew out of one raft and landed just short of another. Almost immediately the air was filled with more globs and giggles. The bisquick war had begun. Ammunition was mixed and fired at will. Rafts driven by mad paddlers and boarders were repelled with handfuls of the pasty stuff. The battle was "quick" and furious, most of the ammo falling short of target. Few were fatally bisquicked. Observers feared that, as in past years, escalation to other more powerful weapons was inevitable. Participants, however, showed great restraint and never moved toward more vicious armaments (other than used apple cores and wadded bread). All in all, this custom proved to be a totally biodegradable and, from afar, quite entertaining.

It is anticipated that National Geographic will record this inexplicable ritual some time in the future but until that happens, it will remain in the hearts and minds of juniors, planted there by seniors, and passed on to sophomores, one generation to another, until Bisquick is outlawed or the river clogs.

BETH continued from page 3

this too. But I welcome their questions." The future father is a doctor in Internal Medicine at Barnes whom she met while finishing her Masters Degree at the University of Houston.

Beth is from Michigan and a family who loved camping. By age 18 she had visited all 48 states and

fully absorbed the love of travel into her life. With the impending addition to their family, she is wondering what changes will be wrought. "It won't matter," she says. "Years ago I decided not to be a doctor so I can have this experience and do a good job at it."

THERE'VE BEEN SOME CHANGES MADE. Thanks to:

Alumni parents Don and Elaine Morros who designed the new student lounge.

Robert Easterday who has been building and rebuilding.

Parents Rick and Gail Hellan who found furniture, carpeting and vinyl flooring for the school.

Students Steve Kuehn, Aaron Johnson, Earl Holmes, Catherine Gass, Elizabeth Gass, Shawn Gilligan, Jared Ragland, Chris Morton, Jeremy Fick, Matt Ledesma, Matt Bollinger who worked all summer and beyond, constructing and painting.



The old cafeteria materializes into the upper school student lounge.

Photo by Richard Fulton

Photos by Catherine Gass

Sports continued from page 1

"Beyond that, kids need to learn self discipline and coping skills for dealing with the pains and pleasures of real life. Our main objective is to give them a base knowledge of different life skills that they can use way beyond college."

Speaking of college, putting philosophy into practice initially raised the question, Can Crossroads produce college-level athletes? And the evidence is in. A resounding "Yes." From the class of '89 in soccer, Wizzie Bartley is playing for Beloit, Tawna Ledesma for Kalamazoo, Dylan Calsyn for Northwestern, Jon Hoare for St. Michael's. From the class of '88, Amy Himmeger is playing for Beloit, and from the class of '87, Molly Drebes for Ripon. In tennis, Todd Kaplan, '89, is on the Brown University varsity team.

It's a great feeling to have college coaches calling me," says Ray, "asking if I have any players graduating. It feels really good because I see how hard these kids work, and then to see them go on,

taking what they're learned here with them, gives us all a sense of well-being. With the right emphasis a sports program is vital to the health of the whole school."

by Pat Kohn



Coach Ray Butler (left) consoles junior varsity players Kassia Conway, Tracy Hoare, Stacey Tretter, and Guanin Jones. Photo by Jerry McClure

AROUND SCHOOL

Meet Our A.F.S. Students



BELLE LEE is a senior from Kuala Lumpur, Malasia who is living this year with the Michael Hoare and Nancy Collins family. She loves fine arts, particularly drawing and dancing.

Photo by Catherine Gass



SHARON KAHAN is a senior from Mexico City who is living with Dr. Ed and Jane Crouch. Sharon is interested in international relations and mass communications.

Photo by Catherine Gass

Annual Giving

The Campaign for Annual Giving, under the leadership of parent and board member Rick Hellan, is in progress. A letter has been sent to all parents requesting their help to make this year's effort a success.

Admissions

December 9 and January 20 are the entrance exam testing dates. An unprecedented number of requests for information and completed applications have already arrived. In addition to the seventh grade, there will be limited other openings, particularly for tenth grade.

CROSSROADS SCHOOL

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Congratulations

The National Merit Foundation has named senior Jared Ragland as a semi-finalist in this year's National Merit Scholarship program. Virginia Price and Jesse Cohn were commended. Tonia Hutchinson was commended in the National Merit Scholarship program for Negro Students. Junior Liessa Thomas received the silver Congressional Medal given to students for exemplary community service and personal development. Seniors Tiffany Brown and Eric Winfield received an award from the St. Louis Department of Human Services for being outstanding student leaders after a weekend spent with students from other states at a Leadership Conference.

PRO

The Parent Resource Organization (PRO) has reorganized under the cochair-personship of Pat Kohn (9th) and Barbara Koppe (8th). Beautification, the library, the phone tree, hospitality and social events for students and parents, are some of the topics being addressed. Members of the steering committee include Linda Riekes (7th), Eva Mutawassim (7th), Caroline Thomas (7th and 9th), Claudia Caralis (10th).



Crossroads School is a private independent school serving grades seven through twelve without regard to race, color, creed, or national origin. The Crossroads Connection is a publication of the school edited by Patricia Kohn.

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