



End of Year Communique

From the Head of School

and the

Hyla Board of Trustees

JULY 19, 2018

Dear Hyla Community,

The school year may be over, but there is a lot going on at Hyla! The campus is abuzz with activity and I am excited to tell you all about it. It is with pride and enthusiasm that I write to you—alumni families, supporters, and friends—to share news about our beloved school. If you've ever seen our students reciting lines of Shakespeare on the stage in Room E, packing into buses for Exploration Week adventures, and studying character traits in Human Relations class, you know that magic happens here. As our students move through the phases of their lives, I know sparks of Hyla are evident in their thinking, in their choices, in their activism, and in their service to others.

From parents, I hear story after story of how significantly Hyla influenced the growth, identity, and independence of their children. As one alumni dad with two daughters in college told me, "as a parent there are very few times when you're really certain of a decision you made. The decision to send our kids to Hyla was one of those decisions."

The certainty of that decision is what matters. It's everything. That certainty is possible because of the people who make up the Hyla community - teachers, parents, staff, board, volunteers, and students. It's possible because of this place we call home – all 13 acres of our beautiful and historic campus. It's possible because of the purpose that unites us all: at the heart of Hyla there is a sacred belief that we adults are all here because we believe in what this school does for children – not just our own, but all of them. That belief is at the core of everything we accomplish together.

My work as Head of School, and the work of the board, is all about investing in these very same defining pillars – people, place, and purpose. Our work is about building upon all that has been accomplished before us – by teachers, former Heads, parent volunteers and former trustees. And it is our job and our tremendous privilege to remain true to the heart of Hyla even as we evolve and improve what we do, even as we incorporate best practices and innovation in education, and even as we adjust to the ever-shifting world around us. This has been the work of every Head of School and every board since the school opened. It is our honor to continue that work and share it with you in this communique.

As you read through this piece, I ask you keep all Hyla students – past, present, and future—in your minds and especially in your hearts. What every single child at Hyla has in common is that all the adults in our community are working together because of our students - for them and in support of them. As you read about what has happened this year at Hyla and what we have planned for the future, I hope many Hyla memories surface. I hope they make you smile knowing that the school you love is going strong.

Warmly,

Suzanne M. Messenger

Suzanne Messenger

Head of School



HYLA
Middle School
Grades 6•7•8

Year in Review

- Hyla turned 25 and we welcomed the school's 4th Head of School, Suzanne Messinger.
- We continued many beloved traditions, programs and events, like the Hyland Games, the Barn Party, Grandparent/Friend Day, Outdoor Day, Exploration Week, Electives, and Gaga Ball tournaments.
- We shared the wonderful news that Hyla received a \$1M gift that established a financial aid endowment called the Marjorie Moore Fund (please visit our website for more information about this gift and our Tuition Assistance practices).
- This year's auction set a new record and raised over \$150,000 which included the highest paddle call on record at \$97,000.
- We evolved Hyla's parent ed program and launched the Hyla Parent University.
- We significantly updated our emergency preparedness protocols, supplies, and training.
- Several teachers shifted positions internally and we hired a new teacher for 7th and 8th English, Emelio DiSabato. Kimberley Trick will teach Global Education.
- The board concluded a variety of strategic projects:
 - * Increased teachers' salaries,
 - * Increased funding for professional development,
 - * Successfully transitioned the new Head of School,
 - * Engaged a consultant for an enrollment study, and
 - * Finalized plans for a campus improvement project (more information enclosed).



Photos top to bottom: Friends at *Hooray for Hyla*; selfies at *Hooray for Hyla*; Exploration Week at Yosemite; 6th graders building mazes; Departing Board President, Brenda Hall with Head of School Suzanne Messinger; fun on Outdoor Day.

Building Project

This project began in the 2016-2017 school year when Paul Carroll was Interim Head. The entire board is so thankful to Paul for initiating this project and advocating for much needed change by addressing Hyla's pressing facilities challenges: classroom size, limited storage, and standard depreciation in buildings that at Hyla range in age from 25 -100+ years old. Working with Paul, the board decided to go beyond merely fixing things to looking ahead strategically to what Hyla will need in 10 years so that our decisions today support Hyla's future health.

When Suzanne arrived in July of 2017, the board shared with her their commitment to better serving the Hyla program with improved learning spaces. This year Suzanne and the board worked together to complete a facilities assessment study with an architect and also make plans to renovate existing spaces and also design and create new spaces. We ended the year with schematics for a multi-phased building project and on June 21st voted to approve high-level plans for the campus improvement project.

Approach

The board is committed to a campus improvement project that accomplishes our goals by:

- Minimizing disruptions to student learning to the greatest degree possible;
- Building a greener and sustainable infrastructure to reduce our environmental impact;
- Preserving the historic legacy and farm feel of our school;
- Open and regular communication to keep the Hyla community informed as the project progresses.

Scope

Phase I will create a welcoming entrance to the school at the front of the red building and move admin offices to this central location. This phase will also create three new classrooms in the current library and computer lab building. During this phase the library will move into the historic heart of the original farmhouse building, the downstairs of the red building.

Phase II will continue to create new space to provide for our greatest needs. During this phase, the classrooms in the yellow building will be renovated and enlarged. A new STEM/MakerSpace will be created to house the many engineering and design projects that already happen across disciplines. This phase will also create a new multi-purpose space large enough for and intentionally designed for a wide variety of school needs: all-school events, community gatherings, drama productions, parent volunteer meetings, and some indoor PE activities.



Timing

The work has begun! Although as recently as June 15th our permits seemed to be untouched by COBI, shortly thereafter we were pleasantly surprised to learn that our permits for both the blue and red buildings are complete. Provided that permitting stays on track, our goal is to have the entire project completed by the 2020-2021 school year.

Team

We are so thankful to the talented Buildings and Grounds committee for your tireless work this year: Steve Prentice, Dave Cinamon, and Amanda Sturgeon. We are thrilled to be working with Russ Hamlet of Studio Hamlet on this project. He is not only a skilled architect, but also an alumni parent, former Hyla board member, and long-time member of the Hyla community who knows us, understands our history and values, and is deeply committed to our mission. We are also excited to share that on June 15th we engaged Carley Construction, another Hyla alumni family with a long connection and commitment to Hyla.

Funding

Hyla will complete all of Phase I using funds that our Board Finance committee wisely set aside so that we could attend to our aging facilities. To support Phase II, the school will rely on capital reserves, financing, and fundraising. For Phase II, we will invite the Hyla community to join us in financially supporting Hyla's exciting growth.

A Message from the Board

Dear Parents,

On June 21st, the Hyla Board of Trustees voted to approve a high-level plan for a campus improvement project. We are thrilled to share the details and timing of this exciting project with you.

Like many of you, the board is deeply loyal to the historic legacy of the Bucklin family homestead and is thankful our students get to learn, play, and be part of the old farm we call school. The campus improvement plan embraces that history while also aligning our spaces to what 21st century learning environments require: flexible space for collaboration, engineering and building, small and large group activities, and new and portable devices and technologies.

As a board we are united in our belief that the best way to provide for our students and our program—now and into the future—is to ensure that our campus is intentionally designed to support, strengthen, and inspire the learning that happens here every day: minds-on, hands-on, and active. This building project is about deepening what Hyla does best and delivering on our mission to "create an educational environment in which middle school children are intrigued with learning." This campus project is the result of careful, diligent, and devoted planning in service to the truly student-centered learning that defines Hyla.

The following page explains the history of the project, the scope of work, and how the project will be funded. It also introduces the team involved and shares the board's commitment to the very Hyla way this project will be accomplished.


The Hyla Board of Trustees believes strongly in transparency and communication. To those ends, we will continue to keep you updated as the project moves forward. For the visual learners out there, rest assured that schematic designs are coming!

On behalf of the Hyla Board of Trustees, thank you.

Sincerely,

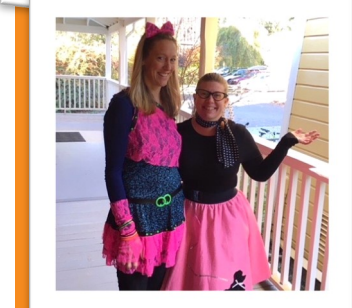


Karen Rice



Suzanne Messinger

Photos top to bottom: trip to NatureBridge; Grandparent & Friend Day; Cindy and Jennifer on Halloween; Alumni students visit at Hyland Games; setting out for Exploration Week.



With Gratitude

We are able to send this communique and share these stories of growth and possibility thanks to all of you:

Parents

For 25 years, parents have chosen Hyla for its mission, philosophy and program. Without your commitment and tuition, Hyla wouldn't be here. We are grateful for 25 years of partnership with parents and for your choice to entrust us with the honor of your children's education.

Donors

For 25 years, Hyla has been blessed with generosity in the form of contributions to our Annual Fund, the auction, One Call for All, and of course the capital campaign that raised money to build the two blue buildings on campus. All of your past gifts provide the strong foundation for the strategic work happening now and into the future. Thank you for investing in our program and for fueling our growth.

Volunteers

For 25 years, Hyla parents have showed up with hammers, spreadsheets, sewing machines and every tool imaginable to literally build this school and support our programs. The talents, passions, expertise and artistry shared with Hyla is astounding. For every stitch, every floral arrangement, every nail in the Room E stage, and every warm meal during teacher conferences, we are profoundly and humbly grateful.

Leaders

For 25 years, Hyla has been guided, governed, led, stretched, and improved by the leaders who bring their vision and dedication to make Hyla the best it can be. That list includes Heads of School, the Hyla Board of Trustees, and everyone who has served on Board committees. Thank you for your steadfast leadership that has brought Hyla to this place of strength and vision.

Thanks to all of you and all you have done for Hyla, we are in a position to launch the new campus project. We are extremely proud that Hyla is able to fund Phase I, thanks to careful stewardship, savvy fiscal policy, and dedication. We will invite the entire Hyla community to join us in funding Phase II of the exciting building project.