

The Spirit

VOLUME XXVI WINTER 2025



IN THIS ISSUE

Outdoor Adventures | Campus Enhancements | Alumni Gatherings

The Pennfield School



JOY • UNDERSTANDING • RESPECT

Little Slocum Farm
110 Sandy Point Avenue
Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871
401.849.4646 • pennfield.org

PRESCHOOL (AGE 3) – EIGHTH GRADE

Mission

The mission of The Pennfield School is to create an inclusive community of dedicated learners, where students are given a foundation and appreciation for the joyful pursuit of understanding, while fostering respect for oneself and others as a way of life.

Core Values

We are committed to creating an environment in which everyone is treated with kindness and respect.

We are committed to being a joyful place, where students learn by example: the importance of honesty, integrity, generosity and humor.

We are committed to providing a challenging and balanced curriculum, enabling our students to succeed at a wide variety of secondary schools and beyond.

We are committed to fostering a strong partnership between faculty, students and parents.

We are committed to creating an inclusive culture that is diverse in make-up, is accepting of others, and helps develop a strong sense of social and community responsibility.

We are committed to embracing the uniqueness of every member of our community and providing the individual attention needed to help each student's talents unfold.

We are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment in which students are encouraged to take academic, artistic and athletic risks.

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JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH
APRIL
MAY
JUNE

Open House
Friday, January 31
8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

**Valentine's Day
Bake Sale**
Wednesday, February 12
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Talent Show
Friday, March 7
1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

**Upper School Leaves
for Costa Rica**
Saturday, March 15

Alumni Party
Wednesday, April 2
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Corporation Meeting
Thursday, April 24
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**Mark Bistline
Golf Tournament**
Monday, May 12
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Toast on the Terrace
Monday, May 12
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

**Grandparents &
Special Friends Day**
Friday, May 16
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

School Play
Friday, May 23
6 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Commencement
Thursday, June 12
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Message from the Head of School

Dear Pennfield Community,

I recently asked our Communications Coordinator why this publication is called *The Spirit*. I assumed she would know, given her deep connection with the school over the years. However, she admitted she wasn't sure. I'm confident that someone knows the answer, and would love to hear it. But for now, I'd like to offer my own thoughts.

In my mind, *The Spirit* embodies the essence of Pennfield. Our school is, at its heart, a place where spirit thrives—whether it's the laughter in the hallways, the collaboration in classrooms, or the lifelong bonds formed between students, faculty, and alumni. A recent visit by a former longtime teacher reminded me of this. She had been a student at The New School and attended a Pennfield Assembly. Although the school had changed in many ways, she remarked that *everything was different, but everything was the same*. The community, the laughter, the shared experiences—it all brought back cherished memories. This is the spirit of Pennfield.

As I reflect on the past year, it has passed in the blink of an eye, yet when I look closely, I am filled with pride and gratitude for all we have accomplished. This has been a year of tremendous growth and achievement, and I am excited to share some of the highlights with you.

Our enrollment reached new heights, surpassing our expectations and significantly outpacing the past several years. We welcomed an influx of new students, all eager to join our vibrant community. This growth allowed us to expand our offerings with several exciting new programs. From equestrian and swimming to ice skating and squash, we have enriched our curriculum and provided more opportunities for our students to explore their passions.

To cap off the 2023-2024 school year, a major gift from a Pennfield Family and subsequent gifts from several others, resulted in a successful campaign to build a new Lower School Playground. The Playground opened when we returned from Winter Break and will provide our students with an incredible new space to grow, play, and explore.

None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners. Your generosity, commitment, and passion for Pennfield make everything we do possible. As we continue to expand and evolve, we remain deeply grateful to each of you for your unwavering support.

As this year's edition of *The Spirit* celebrates the many milestones we've reached, we also celebrate *you*. Whether you are a parent, alumni, staff member, friend, or donor, Pennfield is stronger because of your involvement. Together, we continue to create a community that nurtures the intellectual, emotional, and social growth of each student. Simply put, without you, Pennfield would not exist.

Thank you for being a part of this extraordinary journey. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the coming year.

Work Hard, Be Kind, and Have Fun!



Paul Amadio
HEAD OF SCHOOL



Snapshots 2023-24



Family Fun Run



Opening Day



Chewonki



Grandparents & Special Friends Day



Fall Festivity



All School Feast



100th Day of School



Care for Rare



Spirit Week



Arts Week



DEIB Kickball Night



Spring Play



Commencement Dance



The Magic of Pennfield, Carry It With You

Excerpts from commencement speaker, Isla Simpson Pageau, '90, P'27

It's an honor to be here. As you've just heard, I'm an alum. It's been fun coming back to Pennfield, this time as a parent.

In many ways, I'm struck by how much has changed, but a lot of traditions endure - assembly speeches, class with the Head of School, and The Pennfield School song. One thing that still stops me in my tracks is the intangible magic that makes this place special. That thing we all feel and recognize, but struggle to describe, even the adults who have been here a long time. That magic that happens between classes, in the morning when everyone tumbles into assembly - it's part of everything that makes Pennfield so special.

A few months ago, I joined the 8th grade for dinner and I was blown away by this class. They are smart, funny, curious, and welcoming.

That evening two interesting things happened. First, when I asked the class if they were nervous about high school. Nearly every hand went up. Imagine that—a room of teenagers, sharing honestly and vulnerably, without bravado.

That evening, I told them:

❖ **They are all unequivocally ready for high school.**

The school has done a phenomenal job preparing them. Faculty has taught them to think critically, analyze deeply, and pause to reflect.

❖ **They've learned to go beyond academics.** They know how to engage respectfully with opinions they may not agree with and how to advocate for themselves when they need help.

❖ **They are armed with everything they need to succeed.**

The second thing that occurred was that I realized where that magic, that thing that differentiates Pennfield from everywhere else, comes from— It's you, 8th grade.

You are the intangible magic that stitches the school together. Pennfield does a wonderful job setting the framework and establishing the boundaries, but the school is brought to life by the students.

You've taught us all: what's fun, what's funny, what's cool, how to treat your friends and teachers, how to interact with the little kids. You've led by modeling inclusivity, respect, hard work, and

you've infused it with a healthy dose of humor. Hello Friday Tie.

You might not even realize the impact you've had on this school in the past year, so I come armed with data. With the help of Mrs. Kirkpatrick, I asked the 5th grade to describe you.

What words describe the 8th grade? Fun, responsible, respectful, kind, patient, funny, amazing.

What do you admire?

- ❖ Their maturity— a good trait to have in class, when making a joke, or when admitting when you're wrong.
- ❖ How respectful and kind they are to the teachers and to the little kids.
- ❖ Their can-do mentality and excitement.
- ❖ Their willingness to help others or to answer a student's question.
- ❖ How smart and confident they are.

What advice do you have?

- ❖ If at first you don't succeed, try try again.
- ❖ Be patient and take your time to complete hard tasks.
- ❖ You've got this!
- ❖ Follow your dreams—you're going to reach them.
- ❖ Be confident—you're doing great!
- ❖ Don't ever give up. Keep going and pursue what you want to do.

I'd like to add my advice:

- ❖ High school is the time to figure out your passions. Whatever it may be, go for it.
- ❖ Decisions in this world are made by people who show up. Use your time in high school to figure out what matters to you, and then show up. ➤



Your parents and teachers have invested in you because we believe in you. Pennfield has taught you how to be successful, but you will not be defined by success alone. You'll also be defined by *how* you achieve it. Do not forget the lessons of joy, understanding, respect.

I'll leave you with this quote by Brianna Wiest:

"One day, the mountain in front of you will be so far behind you that it will barely be visible in the distance. But the person you become learning to get over it, that will stay with you forever. And that is the point of the mountain."

Thank you to the Class of 2024 for leading with grace, curiosity, respect, humor, and of course, trying to keep us all cool along the way.

Congratulations!

Five Pieces of Advice from the Board Chair

As you prepare to leave Pennfield, I want to share five pieces of advice to guide you on your journey.

Be kind and compassionate. *"Kindness is the only service that will stand the storm of life and not wash out."* – ABRAHAM LINCOLN Your kindness will make a lasting impact in a world that sometimes feels divided.

Pursue your passions. *"Life is a journey that's not measured in miles or years but in experiences."* – JIMMY BUFFETT Follow your passions with dedication. And remember, don't be afraid to fail.

Embrace change with courage. *"Toss away the stuff you don't need in the end, but keep what's important and know who's your friend."* – TOM MARSHALL Growth often comes from stepping outside your comfort zone.

Stay curious. *"The mind that opens to a new idea never returns to its original size."* – ALBERT EINSTEIN Keep asking questions and seeking knowledge.

Remember your roots. *"Beginnings can be scary and endings usually sad, but it's everything in between that makes it all worth living."* – BOB MARLEY Carry the values and lessons you've learned at Pennfield with you, wherever you go.

Congratulations, Class of 2024. We are so proud of you and excited to see what's next! – ROB OUELLETTE P'26

Honoring Leaders

2024 AWARD WINNERS

The Lynne Eagles Coaches' Award

Presented to a male and female athlete who exemplify the spirit and goals of the Pennfield Athletic Program. **Porter Schapiro and Lucy Walker**

Eric W. Lawrence Art Prize

Awarded to eighth graders who have enriched the artistic life at the school. **Eli Cote and Xavier Wilson**

Christopher Silvia Theatre Prize

For outstanding contributions on stage or behind the scenes to the Pennfield Theatre Program. **Anya Medbery and Anna Volk**

The Redwood Library and Atheneum Prize in History

In recognition of outstanding academic achievement and a dedicated interest in history. **Peter Drosinos**

The Dr. Benjamin Harrison Walker, Jr., Science Prize

In recognition of students who seek a deeper understanding of the natural world through the study of the sciences and who are eager to share that passion with others.

Grady Scheutzow and Lucy Walker

The Dr. Ronald G. Zeffiro Community Service Award

Awarded to an eighth grader who has demonstrated exemplary volunteer service to a local agency in keeping with the mission of the school. **Anneliese Halvorsen**



The Williams College Book Prize

For extracurricular activity and potential for leadership. **Peter Drosinos**

The Isabelle H. Penny Prize in English

Recognizing outstanding and conscientious study and usage of the English language. **Ione LaBonte and Max McCollough**

The John R. Pedrick Award

Awarded to one or more students who embody the spirit and tenets of John R. Pedrick, by making a difference through showing kindness, respect, understanding, tolerance, and compassion to others. **Anneliese, Camden, and Lorelei Halvorsen**

Excelencia en Acción

For excellence in all aspects of the language and a strong interest in increased understanding of the world's Spanish-speaking culture. **Pia Streuli**

Jewelle Allen Math Prize

For demonstrating outstanding mathematical scholarship. **Tucker Johnson**

The Pennfield School Association Spirit Award

For representing the family spirit of The Pennfield School at its best through kindness to all, participation in school activities, and support of the school's ideals. **Alex Goldman**

The Faculty Cup

For significant contributions to the life of The Pennfield School. **Alex Goldman**

BUSHCRAFT CLUB

Has Taken Pennfield by Storm



Pennfield's Bushcraft Club has quickly become one of the school's most exciting and popular after-school activities. Launched in Winter 2024, this outdoor adventure club inspires students in grades 2 through 8 to embrace the challenges of nature while learning essential survival skills.



Led by the ever-energetic Mr. Schreiber and Ms. Hardy, Bushcraft Club immerses participants in hands-on activities like fire building with flint and steel, primitive shelter construction, and foraging. Depending on the season, students might also engage in weaving, archery, or ecology hunts in off-trail areas near Pennfield's many vernal pools.

But it's more than just learning skills—the club offers a rare opportunity for students to unplug, connect with nature, and discover the joys of outdoor adventure. Whether crafting shelters, exploring trails, or simply getting their hands dirty, participants build resilience, teamwork, and memories that will last a lifetime.

Bushcraft Club has become a Pennfield favorite, combining adventure and learning in a way that's both unforgettable and transformative. It's no wonder this enrichment activity continues to thrive year-round.

We Will Rock You:



Pennfield's Modern Band Program

The Pennfield School is proud to introduce an exciting new chapter in its music curriculum: Modern Band. This innovative program engages students in grades 5 through 8 with contemporary music-making, replacing the traditional band model with a fresh approach that resonates with today's learners.

Under the leadership of our new music teacher, Lorelee Swanson, Modern Band invites students to explore popular music genres like rock, pop, Latin, hip-hop, and country. Lorelee, a former active-duty Navy musician, holds degrees in Music Performance and Arts Administration and brings years of teaching experience to the Pennfield community. As a parent to a current fifth grader, Lorelee is deeply invested in Pennfield's success. Her vision is to make Pennfield a school known for celebrating the arts and inspiring creativity in all students.

Modern Band in Action

Modern Band takes a contemporary, student-centered approach to music education. All fifth-grade students participate in this program as part of their foundational music experience, exploring instruments like guitar, ukulele, bass, keyboard, piano, and drums. They learn to play, perform, and create music collaboratively, composing original pieces, improvising solos, and working as a team to bring their musical visions to life.

This hands-on program isn't just about technical skills. Modern Band emphasizes personal growth through music, helping students build confidence, develop focus, and work together. By choosing songs they love and relating artistic ideas to their personal lives, students gain a deeper appreciation for the art of music-making.

Lorelee describes Modern Band as "a joyful way for students to explore music and express themselves. It's about more than just playing an instrument—it's about creating something meaningful together."

More Options for Our Middle School Musicians

Modern Band is not limited to fifth grade. Students in grades 6 through 8 can also choose to participate in this dynamic program, offering a new dimension to their music education. Building on the foundation established in fifth grade, older students continue to explore contemporary music while refining their skills and deepening their creative expression.

For those with a passion for singing, Pennfield's Select Chorus remains a popular option. This ensemble meets weekly and performs at school events and in the community, including show-stopping appearances like singing at a Providence Bruins game.

Music has always been an integral part of Pennfield's culture, and this program ensures it will continue to thrive for years to come.

CAMPUS ENHANCEMENTS:



This year has brought two exciting enhancements to The Pennfield School campus, each reflecting our commitment to fostering community, wellness, and student growth. The addition of The Rosenzweig Family Soccer Field and the newly opened Pennfield Community Playground exemplify our dedication to providing exceptional spaces for our students to thrive.

The Rosenzweig Family Soccer Field: A New Stage for Panther Pride

This fall, Pennfield proudly unveiled The Rosenzweig Family Soccer Field in the school's front paddock, a beautiful addition that has already become a cherished space for our athletes and fans. Thanks to the generosity of the Rosenzweig family—Josh, Rachel, Nathan, and Gavin—this new field offers stunning views, an impeccably maintained pitch, and a vibrant atmosphere for our soccer program.

The Pennfield community came together in early October to cheer on the Panthers during a spirited match against Block Island. With students, faculty, and families filling the sidelines, the event highlighted the field's role as a unifying space for school pride and athletic excellence. Our teams have showcased impressive skill and sportsmanship throughout the season, bolstered by outstanding coaching, dedicated student leaders, and the unwavering support of Panther fans.

The Rosenzweig Family Soccer Field is more than just a place to play; it's a symbol of Pennfield's dedication to teamwork, perseverance, and community spirit.



A Year of Growth and Play

The Pennfield Community Playground: Building for the Future

Meanwhile, on Friday, January 10, Pennfield students eagerly stepped onto The Pennfield Community Playground for the first time, marking the culmination of a journey that began with a groundbreaking ceremony on November 22. This vibrant, reimagined play space is a testament to Pennfield's commitment to nurturing the whole child—mind, body, and spirit.



The new playground is designed to promote physical activity, foster social interaction, and serve as an extension of Pennfield's educational mission. Highlights include:

- ❖ **Dynamic Climbing Structures:** Encouraging physical activity and healthy habits.
- ❖ **Collaborative Play Elements:** A larger sandbox and group play structures to inspire teamwork and connection.
- ❖ **Interactive Features:** Stimulating creative and educational play opportunities.
- ❖ **Enhanced Safety and Accessibility:** Ensuring all students can enjoy the playground without limitations.

We bid farewell to the previous playground during the All-School Thanksgiving Feast, followed by demolition and site preparation. While students are already enjoying this exciting new space, we look forward to an official ribbon-cutting ceremony soon.

These two projects —
The Rosenzweig Family Soccer Field and
The Pennfield Community Playground —
represent the school's commitment to
investing in spaces where students can
grow, connect, and excel. Whether through
athletic achievements on the soccer field
or imaginative play on the playground,
Pennfield is building a future where every
child can shine.

A Solar Spectacle



On Monday, April 8, The Pennfield School community gathered on the soccer field to witness the solar eclipse, which reached 90% totality here in Southern New England. Faculty, students, and families joined together after regular dismissal to share in this experience.

The school provided certified eclipse glasses for all attendees, ensuring safe viewing, along with two 11-inch reflector telescopes equipped with solar filters for an up-close look at the celestial phenomenon. The weather

cooperated beautifully, offering clear skies with only the faintest traces of high-altitude cirrus clouds, allowing for optimal viewing conditions.

From the first signs of the partial eclipse at 2:15 p.m. to its peak at 3:29 p.m., and until the event concluded at 4:48 p.m., students and families marveled at the unique sight. It was a special opportunity to come together as a community and share in the wonder of science and nature.

After the event, Pennfield collected gently used eclipse glasses to donate to an organization that will send them to underserved communities around the world, enabling students in other areas to experience future eclipses safely.



Message from the PSA President

Throughout my four years as PSA President, my goal was always to foster unity, inclusivity, and collaboration within our school community. During the 2023-2024 school year, I truly believe we achieved that.

In August 2023, we launched a new initiative, Popsicles and Popcorn with Primary and PSA, on the school playground, giving Primary families an opportunity to connect. October brought our Fall Family Fun Night and the much-anticipated Annual Trunk or Treat, featuring over 25 decorated cars in the oval. One of our most cherished traditions, the All-School Feast, returned in November, welcoming our entire school as well as over 20 young alumni to the table. February saw the gym packed to capacity for Winter Family Fun Bingo Night, where more than 170 people joined in the fun. We wrapped up the year with our Spring Family Fun Night, an ice cream social following the Spring Play.

Our fundraising efforts were also highly successful, led by the ever-popular Hot Lunch Program. These initiatives allowed the PSA to make significant contributions to the school, including funding technology upgrades and supporting the composting program. Additionally, each fall, the PSA provides gift cards to teachers to help set up their classrooms and funds grants throughout the year for activities such as arts week performances, professional development, and even pumpkins for special projects.

In May, we capped off the year with a spectacular Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week, featuring a series of events and surprises to celebrate our incredible faculty and staff.

Reflecting on the past four years, I am filled with gratitude for the moments of joy shared with your children, the challenges we've overcome, and the growth we've experienced together as a community. I've cherished celebrating victories, both big and small, and working alongside all of you to create the best environment for our children.

Although the 2023-2024 school year marked the end of my tenure as PSA President, I am confident the organization is in excellent hands under the leadership of Renee Boeglin-Dominguez. Thank you for the privilege of serving this wonderful community.

Anna Kane, P'29, P'32
PSA PRESIDENT 2020-2024



Celebrating Pennfield's Success

On Thursday, April 25, we hosted our Annual Corporation Meeting, an evening filled with reflection, celebration, and exciting announcements. Held in the school's library, this annual gathering serves as a "State of the School" event, providing an opportunity to honor achievements, recognize service, and share plans for the future.

This year's highlights included the launch of the *Center for Student Success (CSS)*, an groundbreaking initiative designed to meet the diverse learning needs of students in grades K-8. CSS reflects Pennfield's commitment to fostering individual growth. The program will support students with mild to moderate learning disabilities, executive processing challenges, and foundational gaps while also providing opportunities for accelerated learners seeking advanced challenges. Pennfield's very own 2nd-grade teacher, Veronica Hardy, was named Director of the new Center after being awarded the Diman Teaching Excellence Prize earlier in the evening.

The evening also celebrated faculty milestones, honoring Dana Staats for 15 years of service and Rich McMorrow for 20 years. Special thanks were extended to outgoing Board members Marie Charles, Chris Moe, Cara Massey, and Elle Hawks for their invaluable contributions to the school's mission. Additionally, Chris Moe, Ted Karousos, and Ray Keller were

officially voted in as Trustee Emeriti in recognition of their exceptional service and dedication to Pennfield.

We also welcomed three new members to the Board of Trustees, including Deborah Bartlett, a beloved former Pennfield teacher and parent, John Ciummo, serving as a strategic advisor, and Keith Manville. Their collective expertise and passion will help guide Pennfield's continued growth.

The Annual Corporation Meeting remains a cornerstone of Pennfield's community spirit—a time to reflect, connect, and look ahead. With the launch of CSS and continued dedication from its faculty, staff, and families, Pennfield is poised for another year of excellence and innovation.





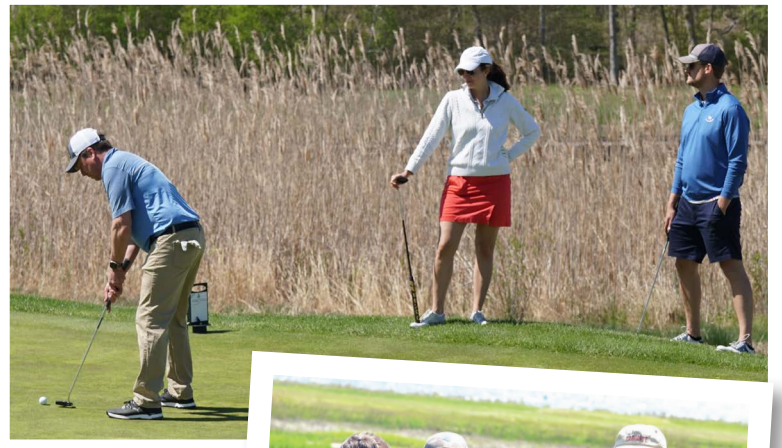
Fore Pennfield: Supporting Students and Teachers

The 17th Annual Mark Bistline Golf Tournament and Toast on the Terrace was held on Monday, May 13, and it was nothing short of spectacular! The event raised over \$85,000 to support Pennfield's mission, thanks to the incredible generosity of our sponsors, golfers, and attendees.

This much-anticipated tradition brings together members of the Pennfield community and beyond, honoring the legacy of Mark Bistline while making a profound impact on our students and faculty. The funds raised directly support the programs and experiences that make Pennfield extraordinary, ensuring the continued growth and success of our school.

We are so grateful to everyone who participated, whether by hitting the links, sponsoring the event, or cheering from the sidelines. Together, you have made a lasting difference for our school and its students.

Mark your calendars for the 18th Annual Mark Bistline Golf Tournament on Monday, May 12, 2025. We can't wait to see you back on the course for another unforgettable day!





Pennfield Graduates Making Waves

by Erin Musich

Whether it's working on their sustainable jewelry brand, learning the ins and outs of international space law, or modeling the latest fashions, sisters and Pennfield graduates **Lily '13** and **Grace '18 Van Petten** have been busy since their graduations. These young women have taken what they learned during their time at Pennfield and applied it to their lives ever since. What they've accomplished thus far is impressive.

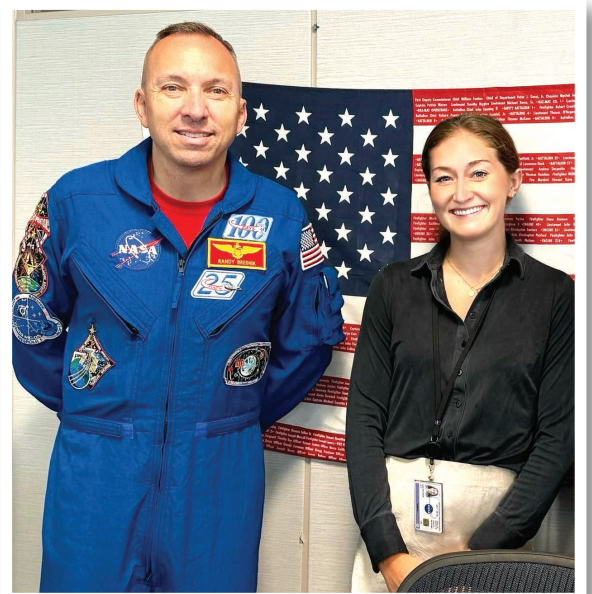
After Pennfield, both girls attended Portsmouth High School. Grace was captain of the women's cross country team and the Model United Nations team. Lily committed to PHS's technical education art pathway program and served as the student council secretary.

Lily graduated from Fordham University where she double majored in cell & molecular neuroscience and political science. She is currently in her second year of law school at NYU. This past summer she worked in NASA's General Counsel's Office in their DC headquarters. There she learned about different legal mechanisms the agency uses to foster commercial partnerships, growth of small businesses, and international space liability.

After graduation, she hopes to work as a litigator at the intersection of healthcare and law.

"Pennfield taught me the responsibility of staying informed, respecting others, and not being afraid to act upon what you believe in."

Grace is studying communications with a minor in studio arts and a focus in photojournalism as a junior at Pace University. "Pennfield helped me find my creative strengths. Having such strong role models in the arts at Pennfield validated my interests and solidified that art was where I was headed."



Lily Van Petten at NASA's D.C. headquarters.

In autumn of 2024, Grace walked on the runways in both New York and Paris Fashion Weeks, modeling Proenza Schouler, Chloe, Miu Miu, and Valentino. "Throughout this new experience, I've been drawing repeatedly on the principles taught to me at Pennfield. These are: a respect for the creative process, the fulfillment that comes from passionate hard work, and the importance of learning from those you collaborate with." Watching the creatives behind the scenes in the fashion world has been especially inspiring for her.

In 2020, together they launched a sustainable jewelry brand She Sells Co (she-sells-co.com). Using their at-home shell collection and beads from their mother's old costume jewelry, they set out to build their business. Focusing on reusing recycled materials items ranging from a newly launched ornament line to bead belts, tie back necklaces, and bikini charms at local markets and online. A portion of their profits is donated to Clean Ocean Access.

Lily and Grace have taken the foundation of what they've learned at Pennfield and applied lessons from the classroom into their lives. The inclusive environment has helped both young women accept challenges and rise to the occasion to meet their dreams head on.



Grace Van Petten at Fashion Week.

We want to hear from you!



Send your news and photos to: alumninews@pennfield.org

Digital images should be 1MB or larger.

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Alumni Gatherings Celebrate Pennfield Connections

There's something truly special about reconnecting with members of the Pennfield community, and recent alumni gatherings remind us just how strong those ties remain, no matter the years or miles that separate us.

In January, we kicked off the year with an event at Fifth Element in Newport, where alumni, parents of alumni, and former faculty gathered to reminisce and reconnect. Then, in April, we enjoyed another fantastic evening, this time at Ragged Island Brewing Company. The event was graciously hosted by Polly Meadows (former faculty and past parent) and Dale Rheault (past parent and past Board Member). Ragged Island itself holds a special Pennfield connection, as it's owned by alumna Katie Gray '96 and her husband, Matt.

The April gathering brought together a vibrant crowd of around 70 guests. Alumni faculty, parents, and students mingled with current faculty, who were delighted to catch up with old friends.

It was also an opportunity for attendees to meet Paul Amadio, our then-new Head of School, who quickly felt the magic of the Pennfield community.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to Polly Meadows and Dale Rheault for their incredible support and hospitality. Their efforts—and the enthusiasm of everyone who attended—made this gathering a huge success. It was heartwarming to hear stories from different eras and to see how the spirit of our school remains constant, whether you attended The New School or Pennfield. We can't wait to plan the next opportunity to reconnect with our beloved Pennfield community.

Stay tuned for more alumni news and future event announcements. We can't wait to see you there!



Thank you for your support.

Your donations go towards enriching the lives of your children at Pennfield by funding co-curriculars, after school activities, professional development, and so much more!

**View the 2023-2024 Annual Report at
pennfield.org.**



2023-2024 FACULTY

Paul Amadio,
Head of School
Diana Ackerman
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Meredith Botelho
Mathew Bottone
Diane Campagna
Pat Carbotti
Emilie Cherau
Shannon D'Eramo
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SAVE THE DATE



May 12, 2025

Rhode Island Country Club