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*This newsletter is intended to keep alumni, past parents, grandparents, and friends connected to our Baker family!*

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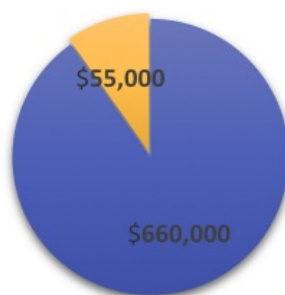
## From the Inside Out

BAKER'S CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

**Congratulations Baker - only \$55,000 to go!**

**Welcome Center and Theater**

**Goal: \$715,000**



■ Funds Raised   ■ Remaining to be Raised

Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of our families, alumni and friends, Baker has raised an additional \$55,000 in Centennial Campaign gifts since our last update. Congratulations to our amazing community!

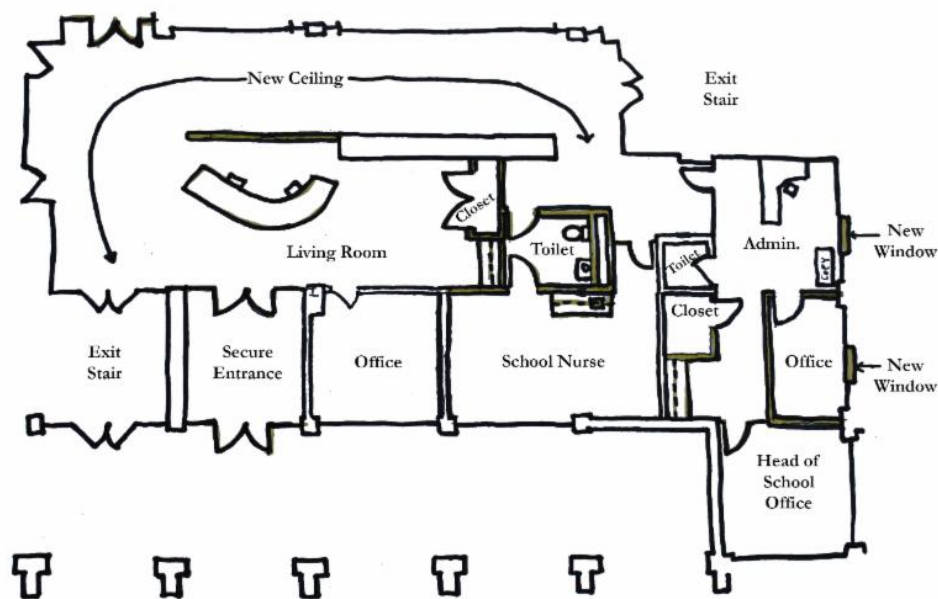
As we approach the deadline for constructing our new Welcome Center this spring, we have looked at ways to revise our plans to maximize the generous donations we have already received and still meet our project goals this summer. With a revised budget and smoother design, we are confident our plan will meet

all of our needs and ensure we can deliver a new, bright and welcoming entrance to our school in time for the 2017-18 school year!

### Updated Scope:

Our revised design will provide the following key improvements and amenities:

- Establish a fully secure school entrance, ensuring we are meeting the highest standards in safety practices for our students
- Open the main office to create a brighter, friendlier, more accessible entrance to our school
- Install a secure, unisex, and ADA accessible bathroom on the first floor.
- Create an open gathering space that will encourage a sense of community
- Establish an Admissions Office at the front of the school with a professional and welcoming waiting area



### Updated Project Goal: \$715,000

We have already raised \$660,000 which is an amazing feat! To meet our construction deadline, we must raise an additional \$55,000 by June 1.

**We are so close! Can you help?** Any size gift will make this project happen, and the impact on our student's safety - and on the school's financial health through improved enrollment - will benefit our families for years to come.

[Click here to make a gift today!](#)

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## History Comes to Life at the 8th Grade Wax Museum!

Thanks to the vision of our social studies/language arts teacher, Megan Beaudoin, our 8th grade students were able

to embody American historical figures from the late 1700s and early 1800s. Students researched their figure, wrote historical informational monologues, created and sewed costumes, and had an opportunity to practiced public speaking. Not only was this a wonderful series of simultaneous performances, but it offered a unique educational and cross-cohort opportunity for our younger students who visited the "museum" and learned from their older peers. [Read on here.](#)



*Students proudly display some of the donated coats.*

## Student Coat Drive Supports Local School

Our community came together and donated 164 coats towards the students' coat drive! Ms. Gehrig's 3rd grade class and Ms. Beaudoin's 6th grade advisory led this effort asking the Baker Community to donate coats for Chicago Public Schools (CPS). They set a goal of collecting 100 coats which makes

their success that much sweeter, reaching 164% of that goal! [Click here to read the full article!](#)

## Baker Benefit - Not Just for Parents!



*L-R: Current Parent **Showling LeMasters**, Baker staff **Katie Nordine**, **Jenny Ahern '87**, and **Rachel Maltz '87***

The Baker Benefit took place on March 3 at SPACE in Evanston, IL. More than 210 guests attended in support of Baker and our Scholarship Fund. We were thrilled to welcome a number of past parents and alumni to the event! Evening highlights

included a live, 80s cover band, robust auction and a special program featuring Merle Scharmann, Division Coordinator, and Lizanne Wilson, Drama Teacher. In total, **more than \$115,000 was raised for Baker's Scholarship Fund**, which ensures that no student is turned away from Baker due to financial reasons. We hope to see you at future Baker Benefits!

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## Special Gathering at the home of JodiLee Mesirow and Dustin Vincent

On Thursday, April 20, JodiLee Mesirow and Dustin Vincent hosted a cocktail reception for Baker at their home. More than thirty past parents, former teachers, and friends attended.

Guests enjoyed spending the evening catching up, sharing stories and remembering good times they shared at Baker. They were then treated to a special report on Baker's plans for the school's next century, including updates on incoming Head of School Carly Andrews and plans for the facility renovations.

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## Farewell to Head of School, Dan Schwartz

The 2016-2017 school year marks the end of Dan Schwartz's tenure as Baker's Head of School. His seven year tenure brought Baker stability, growth, and academic excellence. His presence and the qualities which have made this stronger Baker possible will be missed.

The Baker community will celebrate Dan's wonderful contributions to Baker during a special farewell celebration on **Tuesday, May 30 from 5-7PM**. Pack a picnic and head to Baker's Field to enjoy a tribute with special performances by Baker teachers and students and lots of great company!

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## Summertime at Baker

It's hard to believe summer is almost here! If you have young people in your life (ages 3-years-old through 8th grade) and are local, look no further than [Baker Summer Discovery Camp](#)! We offer traditional-style day-camp with a progressive twist, where students

enrich their bodies and minds all summer long through developmentally appropriate games, activities, and adventures. We also offer week-long, immersive day-camps for those looking to delve deeper into an area of interest. [Click here](#) to see our full camp brochure.

Baker's Summer Discovery Program is also looking for counselors! Please contact [Nancy Perla](#) for more information about this wonderful summertime employment for high school, college, graduate students, or teachers.

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## Class Notes

Here is a snapshot of what some of your fellow alumni have been doing:

**Jenny Elesh Ahern '87** reports, "After graduating from Baker I went on to Evanston Township High School then attended New England College in Henniker, NH for my undergrad. In 1995, I received a minor in Philosophy and a major in English Literature. After graduating, I returned to Evanston where I still reside and am very active in the community. I had a brief stint at Loyola University to pursue my nursing degree but discovered it was not for me. So I went to DePaul University to receive a certificate in education while also earning a master's degree in Elementary Education. In 2004, I was married and had two children. Molly is now 10 and Brady is 9. Both of my children are hockey players and we spend a lot of time in ice rinks. I am also a volunteer coordinator of Evanston Youth Hockey. After several years teaching 2nd grade in Morton Grove, I moved to a school in Des Plaines where I teach 6th and 8th grade English and writing. I am in my 18th year of teaching and still enjoy it very much! I hope to continue to be apart of the Baker community for many more years! Hope everyone is well!

**Nora Epstein '02** is a Rare Books Librarian at DePaul, specializing in sixteenth-century devotional print. Nora anticipates finishing her doctoral research with the University of St. Andrews in Scotland in late 2020.

**Jimmy Munson '02** went to the Wilmette Junior High for 8th grade and afterwards to New Trier. While at New Trier, Jimmy was on two state championship swimming teams, a captain his senior year, an all-state, academic all-American, and a seven time all-American. He graduated from New Trier and went to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA. Jimmy participated in a summer service trip to Ethiopia and graduated in 2011 with a major in psychology and a minor in classics. He works for a national industrial packaging supply company in Chicago and lives in Logan Square in Chicago.

**Libby Munson '04** went to New Trier High School. During her junior year, she was in a shell that won a national championship at a crew regatta in New Jersey. She graduated in 2008 and went on to Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA. During her junior year, Libby spent a semester studying abroad at the University of Cape Town in Cape Town, South Africa. She graduated from Bucknell in 2012 with a psychology degree. Today, she works for a national information technologies search firm that locates and places IT personnel with major corporations around the country. Libby lives in River North in Chicago.

**McLain Vincent '08** graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and recently passed the CPA exam. He is now working in the International Tax division of PWC in Pittsburgh, PA.

**Connor Siegal '09** is graduating in May with a bachelor in Accounting degree. He is interning at Price Waterhouse this summer and is going back for his masters in accounting science next year.

**Cole Vincent '10** is currently a junior at Miami University in Ohio studying communications and writing. He works as a campus tour guide and social media intern, and he recently completed a study abroad program in Rome.

**Evan Ter Molen '12** is a junior at Purdue University studying business with an agricultural twist and hoping to work in the commodities field this summer.

**Meghan Ter Molen '13** is a senior at ETHS and plays on the varsity girls soccer team. She'll be attending Miami University in Ohio next fall.

Congratulations to **Allison Grimsted '13** on the research and resulting article she, and a team of other young scientists at Northwestern University, recently had published on their work on a new detector for dark matter and neutrino interactions! [Click here](#) to read the article.

**Kelsey Siegal '13** is studying at Oakton Community College and will be moving on to a local college next year.

**Ben Ballmer '14** is playing the role of Jesus in the Evanston Township High School production of Jesus Christ Superstar.



*(L-R) Retired PE Teacher, **Tom Beck**, **Seth Steinberg '14**, **Ben Ballmer '14**, and Drama Teacher, **Lizanne Wilson**.*

Long-time Drama Teacher, **Lizanne Wilson**, sent in this great photo from last spring.

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## **In Memoriam**

Baker has recently learned the sad news that **Eric DenUyl '02** passed away in 2015. Eric was in remission from JM (Juvenile Myositis), though additional medical complications appear to have contributed to his death. Eric is missed not only by his family, friends – but also the JM community for whom the whole family volunteered since 2006.

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## Share Your Alumni News!

Baker alumni, do you have something you want to share with the your community? Have you moved? Changed careers? Achieved something you are proud of and want to share? Added a new member to your family? We, and other alumni, want to know!

Please send all alumni news to the [Alumni Office](#) to be included in the electronic and print versions of our new Baker Connection.

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## Do You Keep in Touch with Your Friends from Baker?

We are actively trying to build an alumni program for you, and **we need your help!** We are looking for email addresses to be able to invite alumni back to Baker or to alumni specific-events. We can't reach out if we don't know where to find you or your classmates!

Also, stay connected through our [Facebook alumni group](#). We have also recently launched the new face of Baker on Facebook, our dear founder, [Clara Belle Baker](#).

Email the [Alumni Office](#) to help us find your classmates!

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## Support the Baker 5K!



Baker students, families, faculty, staff, and friends come together each spring to celebrate physical fitness and community spirit at the Baker 5K, a cooperative run completed by all students in grades 1-8. This year's event will take place on Friday, May 26 at Wilmette's Gillson Park.

Reflecting Baker's commitment to daily physical education, the 5K was created in 2004 to provide a healthy challenge for students to become stronger mentally and physically. It is the culmination of "Sneaker Week," a week of specialized P.E. classes featuring guest instructors and introduction to new sports.

The 5K is not a competition but a key part of Baker's goal to instill a lifelong commitment to physical health and fitness within our community. Students run with, not against, each other as this event celebrates personal achievement in completing the 5K.

**You are invited to get involved and help us build healthy habits that will last a lifetime! To learn more about ways to support the event, please visit the [5K Website](#) today!**

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Follow us on social media!

