



Our first Alumni Weekend was a great success beginning with our First Alumni and Friends Cocktail Party on Thursday, November 10!

Special thanks to current parents, Kendra and Jay Robinson, for hosting our first ever Alumni and Friends Cocktail Party on Thursday, November 10! We welcomed a number of past parents, teachers and friends for this inaugural event. Incoming Head of School, Carly Andrews, also attended making for a very special evening. We look forward to seeing more of you at next year's event!



(L-R) Former Faculty Rich Katz; New Head of School Carly Andrews; Current Parent Letitia Mann; Past Parent Lee Nagan; Board President and Current Parent Ralph Walsh; Host, Current Parent, and Board Member Jay Robinson; Host and Current Parent Kendra Robinson; Drama Teacher and Past Parent Lizanne Wilson, Margaret Hensley '08, Past Parents Allen Steinberg and Susan Wishnick; and Past Parents John and Grace Miya. Not pictured: Past Parent Amy Davis.

November 11, Alumni Day Highlights!

Graduates came back,



Left, alumni, right, current 8th graders

reconnected with each other, current students, and the school as a whole. They had a packed afternoon of mingling, sharing experiences, and, of course, a little time to play.

In the library, alumni shared their experiences of life after Baker and gave advice to future graduates as they prepare for their own transition to high school. It was wonderful to

see so many thoughtful questions being asked and equally thoughtful answers being given.

After a great discussion, they all went out to play in the new Ga-Ga Pit, a gift the class of 2016 bestowed upon Baker as they graduated. It was great to see teenagers who aren't afraid to play games and have fun.

A special thanks to all of our young alumni for participating in this wonderful event:

- **From the class of 2014:** Gia-Maria Calbaza and Violet Moyer
- **From the class of 2015:** Helen Baker, Frances Haight, Sophie Krajewski, and Simone Nagan
- **From the class of 2016:** Nicholas Adams-Agresti, Piper Bailey, Ben Bruns, Erin Buchanan, Cate Chan, Andrew Cless, Harper Don, Lisa Grimsted, Owen Hanson, Peter Kurschner, Davis Kurschner, Ben Levine, Nadia Malik, Allison Roche, Caroline Roche, Aidan Ross, Madeleine Ross, Toby Straus, Ryan Tharayil, Lane Zachary Vanderslice, Emily Weiner, and Ellie Wilson



Ga-Ga Pit fun!



Friends reconnecting.

Saturday, November 12 - Fall Open House

Our Open House on Saturday, November 12, was a tremendous success. Prospective families are treated to tours by current parents and students. If you are ever interested in volunteering we would love to have you attend one of our many admissions events throughout the year and share with why Baker is the only school prospective families should consider for their children.

Missed the festivities? Don't worry! We will have other opportunities to come together as we grow this new alumni program. Want to get involved? Email the [Alumni Office](#), or call 847.425.5800 today!



Baker Spirit Shop Now Open!

Are you proud of your Baker heritage? Then show off your Baker pride with brand new Baker gear! Baker's official online spirit store is now open for business, and all proceeds will directly benefit Baker!

[Click here](#) to shop!

We are doing a limited sale run for items this go-around so don't miss out on your chance to score the latest Baker swag.

Please visit [our website](#) for more information about the Spirit Store.

Thank you for supporting Baker!

Mark Your Calendars!

Save the date for our upcoming Baker Benefit! This year's event will take place on Friday, March 3, 2017 at [Space in Evanston](#). Stay tuned for more information! All in the Baker family are welcome and encouraged to attend! Want to get involved or learn more? Email [Lindsay Russ](#).



Community members enjoying last year's Benefit

A Message from Dan Schwartz

In the days following this election, we saw a need to address our community with reflections on the election, it's direct aftermath, and what comes next for Baker and the country as a whole. This message was sent out last week, but you can read the entire message [here](#).

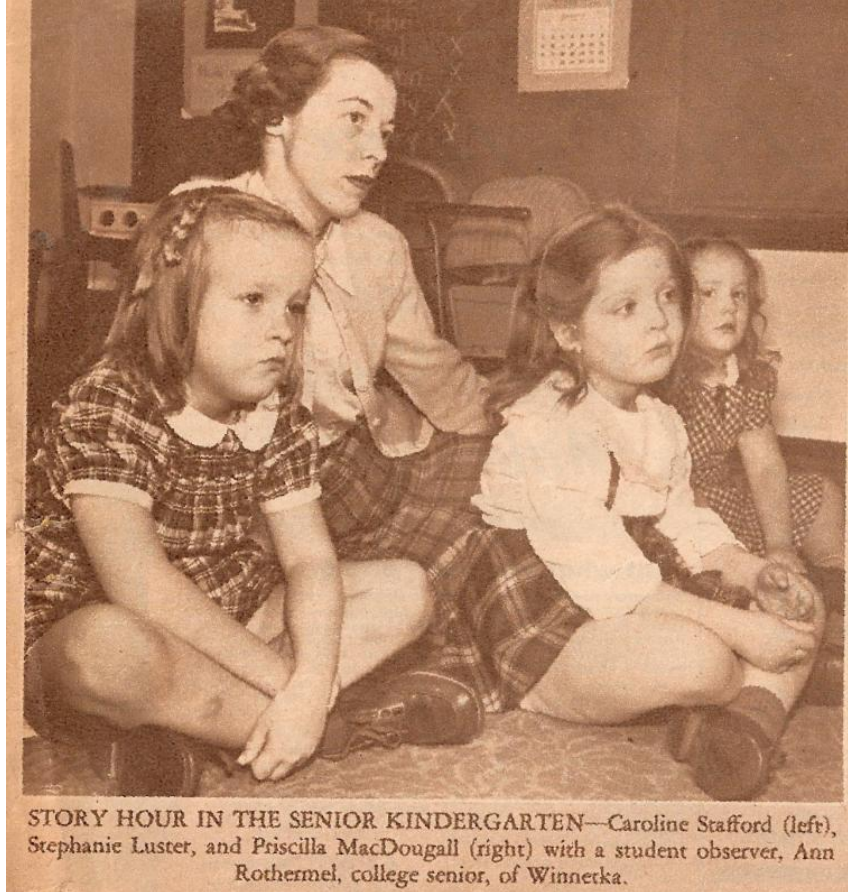


Teaching Tomorrow's Teachers—The technique of administering an intelligence test is explained to six student teachers at the National College of Education in Evanston. Guidance Center instructor Mrs. Doreen Haack (right) tests little Stephanie Luster. Students are (l. to r.) Ann Levin, Frances Drew, Wynn Larson, Betty Ann Tippert, Janet Moore and Nancy McHenry. (1950-1951 photo by Al Hirsch)

Class Notes

Stevie Bravmann '56 reports: I graduated from 8th grade at the Baker School in 1956 when it was National College of Education (demonstration school). My name then was Stephanie Gail Luster (it is now Stephanie Luster Bravmann). I wanted to share pictures of doing "studies" with College students when I was in Senior Kindergarten and a bit later. I

retired as a Professor of Education at Seattle University several years ago, but I wanted to keep going so taught at Antioch University as a 'Visiting Professor' and did some policy research. I finally have retired from teaching but am still acting as an administrative consultant and coach for heads of private schools and an advocate for gifted students."



STORY HOUR IN THE SENIOR KINDERGARTEN—Caroline Stafford (left), Stephanie Luster, and Priscilla MacDougall (right) with a student observer, Ann Rothermel, college senior, of Winnetka.

Thanks to Stevie Luster Bravmann '56 for these glimpses into our past!

Brett Jocelyn Epstein '93

is a Senior Lecturer in Literature at the University of East Anglia in England. She is the author of three books, the editor or co-editor of three, and the translator of many more, and she has published hundreds of articles, personal essays, book reviews, and translations from Swedish to English. Brett lives with her wife and their two-year-old daughter, and she is also a newly trained breastfeeding counselor.

Cara Caulkins '98 reports: "Currently, I own and operate a boutique Public Relations company in Austin, TX. I've lived in Austin for about 3 years now (lucky for me my sister, and former Baker student as well, lives here too!) and just started my own business in the last year. I work with a variety of local consumer lifestyle brands and businesses on communications strategy, media relations and events as well as some business and on a national scale. In my free time I enjoy practicing yoga (I became a certified teacher in 2012) and spending time outdoors and with friends. I also love to travel and try and plan one international trip a year (from 2012-2013 I spent the better part of two years traveling on and off and living abroad). Exploring other cultures is what helps inspire me back in my daily life."



Cara Caulkins '98

Hanna Selekmán '08 reports:

I graduated from Baker in 2008 and from Evanston Township High School in 2012, following which I continued pursuing my education at DePaul University in Chicago. During my college years I found a passion for psychology, but also for social justice. I graduated in June of 2016 from the Honors Program with a degree in

Psychology, with a concentration in Human Development, and minors in Women and Gender Studies, Sociology, and Studio Art. Throughout my undergraduate years, I served on the Executive Board of the Honors Student Government, and I joined the Emotion Cognition Laboratory through the Psychology Department as a Research Assistant conducting research on aging and decision making across the lifespan, with the goal of gaining research experience. I am currently at DePaul University as a Research Project Assistant for the same lab working on a grant doing research partnered by UIC and University of Illinois in Champagne Urbana. Though I attended Baker quite a while ago, I have not forgotten what a wonderful experience it was for me! I will continue to cherish these memories for years to come.

An update about **Aidan Finegan '15** from his mother, **Yvette Finegan**: "I wanted to let you know Aidan was sorry to miss Alumni Weekend. He is in Burlington, VT with his high school hockey team. Aidan, a current sophomore, transitioned well to Loyola Academy (LA) from Baker. I knew he would as Baker gave him a strong foundation! He is playing for the LA's Gold Hockey team and also played on the freshman/sophomore golf team this past Fall. I'm so proud of him as these two sports are very competitive to make at Loyola. He has run into some fellow Baker graduates on his journey at Loyola. He played **Chris Werner '15** in a golf match this Fall, and we saw **Helen Baker '15** at teacher conferences a few weeks ago. He has even had a couple of past Baker Associate Latin teachers for his Latin classes at Loyola. I hope next year the timing works out for Aidan to participate in the Baker Alumni Weekend. Hope you enjoyed reconnecting with alumni this weekend."

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.



The late Betty Weeks in action c. 1988

In Memory:

The Baker Community recently learned of the passing of John Stenson, husband of longtime teacher, Jane Stenson.

Jane taught Baker's Nursery and Kindergarten for over twenty years, beginning in 1987, and was instrumental in carrying on the storytelling legacy of Betty Weeks, a much-loved Baker kindergarten teacher/storyteller. Jane's husband, John was at Jane's side for every storytelling workshop and

performance at Baker and National-Louis University

As a tribute to the Stensons, Baker has received a number of gifts to the Betty Weeks Storytelling Fund.

If you would like to contribute to this fund we encourage you to click here to make a gift or contact [Gena Johnson](#) for more information. Thank you to our community for such a lovely gesture!

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!

Shopping Night to Benefit Baker!

Join us for a holiday shopping party benefiting Baker on Thursday, December 8, from 5-8PM at [Lad & Lassie](#) in Wilmette!



We will have wine, snacks, great items for sale and, best of all, 20% of sales will be donated back to Baker!

Thank you for your support!

Please consider using [AmazonSmile](#) when you make any purchases throughout the year. It is a great way to give back to Baker. Click [here](#) to see all the "easy ways" to give back to Baker.

We are so grateful to our alumni, past parents, grandparents, and special friends whose contributions to our school and community make it possible for us to provide our students with a high caliber education. Consider making Baker part of your annual philanthropic contributions.

[Click here](#) to give a gift to support Baker today or any day!

