



*Bill talks to students individually after his talk.*

## Senator Bill Marovitz '58 Talks to Grades 4 & 5 as Part of Leadership Unit

We were so thrilled to have Baker alumnus and former Illinois State Senator Bill Marovitz '58 come back and talk to our students in grades 4 & 5 as part of their leadership unit. He shared his views with them on a myriad of

topics ranging from what life was like at Baker when he was a student, to the current political climate, to the Chicago Cubs. It was a very lively presentation and discussion, with most of the time spent taking questions directly from the students.

One of the areas the students focused on in this unit was bullying. So they were especially to hear how Senator Marovitz wrote the [Hate Crimes Bill for Illinois](#) and worked tirelessly in the Illinois House and Senate to see the bill become law. He shared his thoughts on what it takes to be a good leader. He emphasized that they should take every opportunity they can to have their voices heard and to practice speaking in public. In his opinion, public speaking is a critical skill when trying to affect change.

We thank Senator Marovitz for taking the time to come and speak to our students. There's no substitute for real life experience and he has that in spades! We welcome and encourage all Baker alumni to come back and play a role in educating the future leaders of the world.

Interested in speaking to our students? [Email us!](#)

## Grades 4 & 5 Will Hold an "Everything Sale" to Benefit Important Causes



Though speakers like Bill Marovitz '58, and presenters from our Leadership Summit in November, grades 4 and 5 have been exploring the theme of "Leadership, Citizenship, and Service." Building on what they've learned from these leaders,

students have developed service projects focused on the issues of hunger, homelessness, animal rights, women's rights, and bullying.

As their final project, grades 4 and 5 host an "Everything Sale" to raise funds for these important causes. Proceeds from the event on December 16 will benefit:

- [Ava's Change 4 Youth](#) (founded by current Baker student Ava Santos-Volpe)
- [Feed My Starving Children](#)
- [Inspiration Cafe](#)
- [United Nations World Food Programme](#)
- [Connections for the Homeless](#)
- [PAWS Chicago](#)
- [Anticruelty Society of Chicago](#)

We are so proud of our students who care so deeply about serving their community and the world in which they live!

---



*Students present their pieces of the peace sign as part of the first event associated with the Peace Project.*

## **Early Childhood and Primary Divisions Embark on a Peace Project**

The Early Childhood and Primary students are also exploring the ideas of peace as part of a multi-grade-level Peace Project.

Merle Sharmann, Baker's new Division Coordinator for Early Childhood (PreK & JK) and Primary (Kindergarten - Grade 2), spearheaded this initiative and brought infectious enthusiasm for the project and concept. Each grade level is benefiting from working with students outside of their own classes, giving the some the opportunity to be

leaders and others to be leaders-in-training.



*A view of the community watching these young presenters share their pieces of peace.*

Each grade (PreK-2) made pieces of a communal peace sign that was constructed on a wall during the culminating group activity on December 6. Each student's piece represented what they imagined when asked to describe the concept of peace. At the end of the event, Jamee Guerra, our music teacher, led them in song; all of their voices being heard collectively. This is the beginning of a larger project for these students exploring the ideas of peace and togetherness.



*The finished peace sign.*

---

## **Middle School GSA Youth for Peace & Justice Rally a Great Success**

In addition to the Peace Project, the Middle



School GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance) students (with guidance from their dedicated faculty advisors) held the Youth for Peace & Justice Rally in Evanston's Fountain Square on Monday, December 12. Students decided that in this time in history, they wanted their voices to be heard as beacons of light, love, tolerance, and hope.



*Sam Crawford-Cloonan '14, Caroline Roche '16, and Ben Ballmer '14*

Alumni both attended and advised the Middle School GSA in planning and executing this event. Rena Newman '12, a burgeoning activist, gave the students tips on how to organize a successful social justice event. Sam Crawford-Cloonan '14, Caroline Roche '12, and Ben Ballmer '14 attended the event as part of the ETC Choir who performed beautiful ensemble pieces.



*ETC Choir (including three Baker alumni) performing at the rally.*

The rally was attended by more than 75 people including students ranging in age from Early Childhood to Middle School and everywhere in between. Parents, faculty, staff, and other local residents came out to support our students and their message of peace. It appears that serving the world is a part of our mission that our students are taking to heart and we couldn't be more proud of them and their efforts!



*Our beautiful young activists!*

---

## **Baker Demonstration School is Now Accepting Applications for the 2017-2018 School Year**

We are now accepting applications for the next school year. As Baker alumni, past Baker parents, or grandparents of Baker students you are keenly aware of the value of the Baker education. If you, or someone you love, lives in the area and is considering the educational options available for their young learners, look no further than Baker!

Come take a tour, visit our vibrant classrooms, and see why Baker is the only place you (or your friends and loved ones) should consider for their children. Click on [this link](#) to learn more about the application process and [here](#) for information about coming back and visiting the school.



## **Don't Forget Baker in Your Year-End Giving**

Are you grateful for your experience at Baker? As you consider your year-end giving, we hope you will make a gift to support today's generation of Baker students. We rely on the generosity of our alumni and friends to

help maintain a creative and flexible learning environment for today's students. Even more, your gift is a meaningful endorsement of the value of progressive education.

**Will you join us by making a gift today?** With your help, we can continue the

tradition of exceptional, individualized learning that has made our school unique for nearly 100 years.

[Click here](#) to read more about giving to Baker. Visit [this link](#) to make your gift online, or call the Advancement Office at 847.425.5800.

---

## The Baker Benefit Will Be Here Before We Know It!

We're getting excited about this year's benefit! This year's event will take place on Friday, March 3, 2017 at [SPACE in Evanston](#).

We hope you and your friends and family will attend this great event supporting Baker! The fundraising efforts this year will go towards scholarship support, a cause near and dear to most of you.

All in the Baker family (including people who might be considered part of our extended family) are welcome and encouraged to attend! Want to get involved or learn more? [Click here](#) or email [Lindsay Russ](#).

---



## Class Notes

Northwestern University has done a wonderful feature on Baker alumnus, **Ian Weinberger '01**, calling him "Hamilton's Music Man" in regard to his work on the hit Broadway Musical, Hamilton. [Click here](#) to read this feature.  
*Contratulations, Ian!*

**Kelsey Koon '02** took a second Masters Degree at Newcastle University in the UK in Roman frontier archaeology. She's currently a doctoral candidate in Classical Archaeology at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. She will be teaching Roman Civilization next term while continuing to work on her dissertation.  
*Well done, Kelsey!*

**James Masello '06** has been working as a Publicist and PR coordinator at [Wagstaff Worldwide](#) for the past year in Chicago's River North neighborhood. When he's not in the office, he coaches baseball at Francis Parker School. James lives with his girlfriend, Ellie, in the Lakeview East neighborhood on Chicago's north side. *We're thrilled you are staying involved with the progressive education community, James!*

**Eric Robb '06**, who is currently working as Baker's associate in Student Services, was featured in the Evanston Public Library Blog giving his "Best Reads of 2016!" [Click here](#) to read the post. *We benefit from your recommendations, Eric!*

**Taylor Nakagawa '08** reports: "This past spring I graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in journalism that focused on multimedia production. Over



the summer I lead the production team at a health news start-up in Columbia, Missouri called Treepple. We were trying to build a system that could tailor health news to the specific conditions such as height, weight, BMI, chronic pain, gender of patients at the University's hospital. It's been a struggle trying to build a workflow when a company has limited resources and is in its infancy but I think this experience has given me some great insight into how start-ups operate. In the fall I returned to Mizzou for my master's degree, still in journalism, but for the next three semesters I'll be focusing on the business management side of journalism. I've also been focusing my master's project around the new ethical challenges of virtual reality journalism. I've been fortunate enough to have the backing of the Associated Press' interactive team in NYC as my mentors on this project and have used their network of journalists experimenting in virtual reality to conduct interviews on the challenges of using this emerging technology in journalism." *Keep up the good work, Taylor!*

---

## Share Your Alumni News!

Baker alumni, do you have something you want to share with 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.

---

## 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!

---

**Thank you for your support!**

## Support Us When You Shop for Holiday Gifts

Shop Amazon's Gift Guides at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) to find great gifts for everyone on your list. You shop. Amazon gives.

**amazon**smile



Please consider using [AmazonSmile](https://smile.amazon.com) 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!

---

Follow us on social media!

