

# The Dance in Review

Bridgette Taylor  
Staff Writer

The entirety of Greenwich Academy's student body clad in green and gold, and walls of the school decorated as well, could only have one implication: Homecoming. After a long week of classes, made tedious by anticipation of the upcoming weekend, the students of Greenwich Academy and Brunswick were rewarded with a bonfire, several intense sports games, and finally, the homecoming dance.

Said new student Tessa Demmerle, X, of her expectations, "Everyone told me it was really fun, and I'm looking forward to going to my first real high school dance."

Sharing her excitement was Sana Neumann, X, she burst, "The dances are always really fun, so I was excited to be going to another one again. It's fun to have a night out with the school."

The day of Homecoming, after an annihilating defeat of Hopkins by Brunswick and a thrilling victory by Greenwich Academy over Lawrenceville, GA Forum proceeded to beautify the old gym, where the dance that night would be held.

A few hours later, between 8 o'clock and 8:30, the complete Brunswick and Greenwich Academy student body arrived, and the festivities commenced. According to Ali Taylor, IX, and Skyler, IX, Serenbetz, favorite songs included "Smack That" by Akon, "Money-maker," by Ludacris, and "We Fly High," by Jim Jones. Looking around and observing everyone dancing, it was inevitable that all were entertained and enjoying themselves.

However, one could say otherwise for the teacher chaperones. When questioned of her thoughts concerning the dance, chemistry teacher Mrs. Carolyn Hyman shook her head and commented, "I had to break up a lot of hydrogen bonding." Another teacher, preferring to remain unnamed, heaved, "Never again," after chaperoning for the first time.

Despite the teacher's admitted misery, the unanimous opinion of the students was that the dance was more fun than ever. When asked about her homecoming experience, Serenbetz stated, "I had a lot of fun because I got to spend time with all of my friends and meet some new people."

Undoubtedly the entire Homecoming weekend was tremendous, and we look forward to the revels of next year.



Photo: Caroline Johnson  
Senior Girls getting ready for Homecoming

# Ask GAP is Back!

The ASK GAP Experts

If you want your question answered by Gabby Gator, look for the Ask GAP boxes in the Student Center!

How can I look ultra-dank this fall?  
-Fashionably Flustered

1. Skinny Jeans: If you can pull them off, this trendy LA-import is a must if you want to be stylin'.
2. Leggings: Under minis or with boots, this classic GA staple is now hitting runways everywhere
3. Mini: Celebrities are crazy for these fun, flirty dresses.

I have too much homework! What should I do?  
-Failing Freshman

First and foremost, hit up your nearest Starbucks. Caffeine, a stimulant found naturally in coffee beans, will keep you focused and alert even when you're exhausted. Second, use your frees. There's no better time to finish your work than when you're at school. If you find yourself working hard all of the time and still aren't getting the grades you'd like, talk to your teachers. You can make sure your in the right class for you or discuss using your time better.

I really want to impress a hot senior boy. How do I get his attention?  
-Head-over-Heals Heather

Hmm...sounds like you may a bit out of your league. If this boy doesn't know who you are, then you probably are wasting your time. Maybe you should set your sights on someone who actually knows who you are.

What is meant by the term "shake your money maker"?  
-Wanna Shake It Up

"Shake your money maker like somebody's about to pay ya, don't worry about them haters, keep your nose up in the air! You the center of attention that is distracting the squad cause everybody in the campus like-oh my god she can."  
-Ludacris

Is it considered animal abuse to kill all the little goldfish and make them into crackers?  
-Fish Friends

From our perspective you are really overanalyzing the hole situation. These are gold fish you are talking about. In an case I would check in with animal advocacy on that one. I'm not sure if cheddar cheese constitutes an animal though.

If you have any burning question that you just have to have answered please leave a message in the Ask GAP box.

# Required Reading

Hallie Finan  
Staff Writer

Summer is the time when days do not revolve around the seven-day block schedule, but instead a seven day week where students are free to spend their time doing whatever they desire... Well, almost anything.

Several hours are needed for reading the required summer books. Typically, a book is assigned for one's history class and English class in addition to an "all-school book." Despite the fact many may enjoy the required reading, there is and will always be the undying question and complaint: "Why can't they choose good books?"

Regardless of whether or not the book is well written, interesting, or exciting, it seems to be the student's duty to dislike the required summer reading. It did, after all, rob them of those precious hours of summer relaxation.

There are a few categories that students may fall into: those who loved the required reading; those who liked it or didn't mind it; those who hated it but completed it because it was required; and the others.

The others do not know if they liked the book or not. Not because they liked the book but thought the ending was awful, but because they simply do not know—they haven't read the book and are therefore not entitled to an opinion.

The students who decide that they're not going to allow "required reading" to take up any of their precious summer moments usually feel the repercussions of their decision within the first week of school when their teacher announces a dreaded in-class essay revolving around...what else? Summer

reading.

GAP collected a sampling of responses from teachers and students from Groups IX-XII concerning the idea of required reading:

Alex Burnett, Group XI: "I, quite frankly, feel like a loser this year. I think I am nearly the only girl in our grade that completed all three assigned books. Did I have to read all three? No. Did I? Yes. Therefore, I wasted my time."

Brittany Coxe, Group X: "Required reading doesn't have to be half as painful as it actually is. If what interested everyone was considered in choosing the books, there would be a much higher percentage of people who actually complete the assignment."

Ms. Kristin Mellhenney, U.S. History Teacher: "I like required reading and I think if it's a good book, you can get kids to read a book that they didn't have a chance to read before."

Dana Hindman, Group XI: "Required reading is a great segue into the new year, and it keeps our minds thinking over the summer. Also, the topics of the books tend to be relative to the material we study during the year, so it's good preparation for our new courses."

Mrs. Molly King, Head of School: "I've definitely witnessed my kids over the years complete countless required reading assignments, and I think it's a great idea to encourage reading. With the busy schedules that you girls all have, balance is key, and I think we have to make sure that a few books are required."

# The Dodge Poetry Festival

Laura Robson, Staff Writer and Audrey McGowan, Editor-in-chief

On September 28, a group of Greenwich Academy writers piled into a van driven by Mr. Jeff Schwartz and set off for The Dodge Poetry Festival in New Jersey. The Geraldine Dodge Poetry Festival is an annual event which attracts Poet Laureates from around the world. This year, the festival featured Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Jorie Graham, American Poet Laureate Billy Collins, and countless other highly-esteemed poets.

The GA group arrived early, but the place was already packed full of people milling around drinking coffee or selecting books from the masses on sale.

The population at the Dodge Poetry Festival consisted of everyone from your average Ralph Lauren-clad Greenwich Academy girl to your typical trenchcoat-donning anarchists. More impressive than the diverse conglomeration of

students were the résumés of the poets in attendance, such as the enchanting British Poet Laureate Andrew Motion.

The articulate, intelligent, and charming Mr. Motion spoke sincerely to the audience, consisting nearly entirely of teenagers, and inspired all who listened to him. To many, Motion was the highlight of the day.

Another remarkable poet was the 19 year old Ekiwah Adler-Beléndez, who mesmerized his audiences with not only his eloquence but also with his life story. Born with cerebral palsy, Adler-Beléndez was published for the first time at age 12. His poetry, written in Spanish, proved to be captivating in English as well.

The Greenwich Academy students who attended the festival in New Jersey enjoyed the gorgeous historic village and the opportunity to meet such renowned, exciting poets. They look forward to bringing their new exposure to poetry to Daedalus this year.



Picture: Audrey McGowan  
Left to Right: Alexandra Bishop, Laura Robson, Andrew Motion, Lucy VanAtta

# How to Survive a Month in a Foreign Country

Audrey McGowan  
Editor-in-Chief

I know that open-mindedness is the most obvious of all good qualities, but it's also the most important. While in France this summer, I didn't just encounter a new culture and language but a whole new set of beliefs as well.

America, to many of the French, is a land of the wasteful and aggressive. The family I stayed with in Tours had never traveled to the U.S. before, but was convinced that all Americans ate too much and wanted to take over the world.

Before this summer, I'd been to Paris, but I'd never actually gotten to know any French citizens. Living with a family forced me to speak French for most of the day, which was incredibly exhausting and challenging but also immensely rewarding: after just a few weeks, I felt my fluency improve dramatically.

There are other challenges that come with being an American in France. You may encounter people who simply do not want you there. Fortunately, in my experience these people represented a small minority. The French are protective of their language, as well, so when you do try to speak it, they will correct you. But if you can overcome your pride, in the long run, this just helps improve your speaking because you know when your pronunciation or grammar is incorrect.

Of course, France offers a few things that can only be found in France.

The food—particularly the crêpes and ice cream—is unbelievable. Paris, also, can only be found in France. Even in the middle of July, when the temperature is in the upper 90s, Paris is a beautiful city.

If you ever find yourself in France, go to Sacre Couer and Notre Dame; even though they will be crawling with tourists, they're remarkable places. Appreciate the age and history of a city as old as Paris. Everything in the United States is positively new compared to what you will find in France. If you can climb up the stairs, go to Mont St. Michel about two hours outside of Paris, where you can look out for miles and miles because this monastery is by far the highest point in the area.

Remember: be open-minded. You won't accomplish anything without taking a few personal risks. Try to speak the language. Expect to find people who will be thrilled to meet an American and expect to find a few people who would have preferred it if you had just stayed home. Get to know the people. Some of them will want to know about America, and all of them will be happy to tell you about France.

From what I found, the French were fiercely proud of their language and their culture, and they love to talk about it. So, if you ever find yourself in France, go to a few of the famous sites, but don't overwhelm yourself with all of them. Try to speak the language, if you can. And of course, enjoy the food.



Photo: Internet

# Reflections on the Summer

Serrena Iyer  
Staff Writer

Summer can be a pretty busy time. Everyone's going to camp, sleeping 'til noon if possible, traveling, sleeping 'til noon in a foreign country/state, maybe thinking of upcoming college applications, not sleeping because of upcoming college applications, etc.

I don't know about you, but when I wasn't doing this, my first thought was to make myself comfortable on the couch, grab a bowl of popcorn... and watch BBC News with my dad.

So because few people were in the mood to focus on the details of international news, and because they probably don't want to be in that mood right now, I'll reflect on some of the non-BBC worthy news highlights of the summer.

If you are inclined to find out what information you missed, Google 'London Plane Bomb,' 'Pluto' (the non-planet), and 'Middle East violence' (although searching for that might just exhaust your computer to the point of crashing). Here are some if-not-best-then-hopefully-somewhat-interesting-highlights.

First, summer is a pretty busy time for movies. There were films running from *The Break-Up* to *Pirates of the Caribbean II* (apparently a couple bil-

lion people saw that one). And then there was that one movie, the one that cardinals condemned, that crowds complained about, that critics at Cannes well, criticized...and the one that became the most profitable movie of the summer.

Clearly there was either something about Tom Hanks' mullet in *The Da Vinci Code*, or people just don't care about the opinions of sixty year old men anymore (looking at a poster for the movie, I'm going with the latter- sorry Ebert).

Then there was music. As you probably know, Justin Timberlake



brought *SexyBack* (by crushing a disco ball on his album cover...?), it was Beyoncé's *B'Day*, Christina Aguilera went *Back to Basics*, and someone whose last album was titled *Folklore* came out with a hit single called *Promiscuous*. None of them outsold the *High School Musical*

# Ni Hao: Two Weeks In China

Christie Klauberg  
Senior Editor

The Chinese exchange program to Leshan, China this summer was a great success. Eleven Greenwich Academy and Brunswick students (Charlotte Kiechel, XI, Susy Schieffelin, XI, Lucy Arnell, XII, Christie Klauberg, XII, Matt Gormley, XII, Dixon Mallory,

XI, Ryan Potocki, XI, Lee Jackson, XI, Bryan Coleman, XI, Terence Einhorn, and Preston Han, X) had an amazing time.

After a thirteen-hour plane ride, the students were warmly welcomed by their Chinese host families, who brought flowers, smiled brightly and waited to see which American they would "get." "Ni hao's and hugs were exchanged. Pictures were taken.

But this was just the start of the amazing trip.

Each day, the American students went with their Chinese friend to school, called Leshan Number One High School. Each school day was very intense. The students studied from 8 o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock at night. They learned everything from Biology to Math to English.

The Americans sat in on some of the classes with their Chinese pals

before heading off to their own Chinese classes. After class and lunch, the Americans took a tai chi class. They learned and perfected their tai chi skills, learning from a master. Later in the month, the students held a performance for the Chinese school.

At around 5:30 every day, the Chinese parents came to pick up just the American kids. Their own kids had to stay at school to study. The Chinese parents spoke no English so the American students really had to work hard on perfecting their Chinese. While with

the parents, the kids went to get massages, walked around in the parks, went to a hot springs, went out to dinner and tea restaurants and engaged in a variety of different activities only found in China.

On the weekends, the families planned special activities for the American exchange students. The kids went to the panda preserve, where they saw over 10 pandas and even got to hold baby pandas on their laps. They also went to Emei mountain, a famous mountain in China that has a slew of Buddhist temples.

The students were immersed in such deep Chinese culture that many of them did not want to leave. The Americans had a wonderful time in China and many are planning to go back next summer, not only to travel in China but also to visit their host families in Leshan.

In February this year, the Chinese students will come to America and stay with the American students. They will attend Brown and White and a variety of other Brunswick and GA events. The relationship that we are building with the Chinese school in Leshan is fantastic.



Photo: Internet  
Left to right: Charlotte Kiechel, Susy Schieffelin, Christie Klauberg, Mrs. Liu

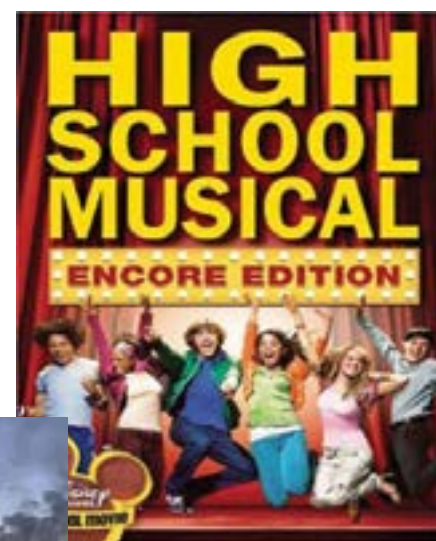
Germany. I think that covers it.

And the final piece of interest from summer: summer reading, the wonderful way that school manages to permeate the confines of our summer obliviousness. Everyone has experienced the joy of looking at a stack of multiple 200-400 pages books.

First we buy them at the book fair in spring. Then we glance at them in June, but come on, you just had finals and various forms of standardized testing: you deserve a break. Maybe you'll notice them in July, and you'll dip into one, but hey, at this point you're traveling, going to camp, sleeping ('til noon), and basically enhancing your cultural mentality like any book would anyway.

Then August comes, and it's probably a good idea to finish those last couple hundred pages. And when you're told to clean your room and get organized before school starts, well, you can't, you're busy reading. (Not that any of this describes my personal experience...of course).

Well, I hope you're having fond summer '06 memories now. But despite how educated you may be feeling at the moment, if you feel like you may have to have an intelligent conversation (at a school no less!), I would suggest checking out that BBC News. It comes at 7:00pm. I would know, my dad's making me watch right now (without the bowl of popcorn).



Photos: Internet