



Remembering Ms. Elizabeth Meiklejohn

Elizabeth Meiklejohn taught at GA for twelve years. For each of those years, she showed a dedication to her students and her subject that was unparalleled. In the classroom, she taught with incredible passion and joy. Outside the classroom, she was a dedicated runner and coach. The GAP staff wanted to remember a great teacher, coach, and friend. Here are a few memories from students and a poem from Mr. Jeff Schwartz. We will always remember Meikle as a person who truly made a difference in our community. We love you Meikle!



Elizabeth Meiklejohn running, coaching and living her life to the fullest.
Source: Rachel Powers

When I think of Meikle, I think of not only one of the greatest math teachers ever, but also someone with all the essentials of a math team coach: time to help, a great sense of humor, and the answers to the problems.

I'll remember her as the person who, for three years, helped us with trig problems, greeted us bright and early at every Tuesday morning meeting, often with a "you're late" for me, and who sat in the front of the math team van, talking to us during the rides to every meet.

My favorite memory of her is when we were at a math meet my sophomore year. I was in a wheelchair, and Meikle decided to help me find an elevator, so, while having a great conversation about variation, we also spent ten minutes getting completely lost in Wilton High School. (Trying to find the math team, we naturally ended up right next to the football players' locker room--twice. Their faces were pretty priceless.)

At our last math meet, where we did really well, I think Meikle would have been proud. I first really realized that I'm not going to hear her again telling us to do our practice problems from the front of the van. I'm glad I got spend so much time with her, and I know the whole math team is happy to have gotten to both learn from Meikle and hear her tell us, very excitedly, whenever we did well.

We're all going to miss her, but she was a great teacher to have known for three years. She was the best.

- Serrena Iyer, Class of 2008

Meikle came to all our home hockey games last year with the rest of the math team when honestly we had no fans. Seeing them up there gave us an incentive to play well...and most of the time we did.

I never had Meikle as a teacher, but I know for most people on the team, Meikle was not only a teacher, but was and will always be a friend and role model. The time she took out of her busy schedule to come watch a few of her students play ice hockey is only one display of how dedicated she was to getting to know and supporting her students on a personal level. Meikle, you will always be in our hearts!

- Katharine Pujol, Class of 2008

Ms. Meiklejohn, or Meikle, as she was known to us, always went above and beyond the call of duty as an advisor. She tirelessly went out of her way to check up on us and see how we were doing.

Her compassion for other people was made even clearer to me after she took her leave of absence this past fall. No matter how often I asked her how she was doing, she always responded with vigor, asking how everyone else was. She continued to reach out and care enormously for us even when she had so much on her shoulders.

In the last email I received from

her she said, "Don't stress about where you'll end up going to college, everything will end up all right, I'm sure of it. I'm glad to hear your leg is healing well. I'm finding the value of rest."

Meikle exhibited this unwavering compassion throughout our entire relationship. On what must have been her darkest days, her empathy and kindness warmed and brightened the days of everyone she knew. Meikle's ability to reach out and care so much for others shows what a truly unbelievable woman she was. Her legacy will remain for those of us who knew her throughout our lives.

- Caitlin Brisson, Class of 2008

The Chances

for Elizabeth

What are the chances of tripping off a sidewalk into the path of a speeding truck or leaning against a no parking sign

about to be struck by lightning? What are the chances of being in the car that slows down just in time to miss

the pedestrian dashing across Greenwich Avenue in the rain? Every move's a gamble. Some are more

controllable: finishing the NYC marathon, pursuing the field of mathematicians, even when everyone else was a man.

Did you have a genetic propensity to run & do numbers? To find happiness in the classroom by subtracting

from the total number of students, the ones (everyone?) who made the leap & "got it"? I didn't think my chance

of comprehending statistics would be greater than yours to reach 60. No comparison. I had counted on lunch

with you forever. What were the odds of a headache turning that quickly into brain cancer? How do you calculate

the velocity of routine versus the weight of cells dividing & multiplying out of control? When next I catch

the girls wearing numbers as they break out of the woods & into the open meadow of Waveny Park, I will see you

herding the pack. And tomorrow at 7am when I get to the photocopy machine a step ahead of you, chances are I'll hear

you ask some unsolvable question & then bug me to hurry up.

Jeff Schwartz
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Honor Board Policies Revisited

Kyle Marzonia
President of Honor Board

After a day chock full of debates and drama, I decided to re-read Brunswick senior Greg Berger's recent article, "Brunswick and GA: Inequality Afflicts Disciplinary Policies," with an open mind. I'll throw the boys a bone: I can somewhat understand where they're coming from, for it wasn't long ago that GA students felt that they were the ones getting the brunt of the discipline while Brunswick students seemed so "immune" to it.

This widespread assumption is not fact but it definitely generates a lot of controversy that has only increased now that a large number of Brunswick boys feel that the tides have turned, and for the worst.

But the real question is, will there ever be a fair system? Will everyone ever be happy? The answer is no because no matter what, the argument will always be over how to discipline ourselves, our peers, our friends. In reality, no student wants to be disciplined at all.

That being said, another question arises: if both systems are "bad" then which one is better? And the chances of that question being answered, or at least answered unanimously, are slim to none because despite our correlation, at the end of the day GA and Brunswick

are different institutions, governed by different disciplinary bodies, with different disciplinary policies, that are met with different responses.

However, the point of this article is not to harp on what most likely will never change, but to better explain what already has.

After years of student-faculty discussion, and in collaboration with a number of other independent schools in the area, GA decided to make some major changes to the handbook.

These changes, made by GA and other schools, were shared with Brunswick last summer, along with an invitation to coordinate the changes between the two schools. Among our many goals was to clarify our priorities, including wanting students to continue to accept responsibility for their actions, and distinguishing disciplinary responses based on behavior that was on campus or at a school-sponsored activity ver-

sus behavior that was off-campus at a private event.

These changes yielded a disciplinary ladder that escalates from Warning to Administrative Review to Suspension (out of school) to Expulsion. We continue to be consistent with Brunswick (based on changes we made three years ago) in that we are essentially a two strike system in which two separate offenses under the same category (either Disciplinary or Honor) would most likely result in expulsion and two separate offenses under different categories (one Disciplinary strike and one Honor strike) would place the student under Administrative Review for both categories.

The effect of Administrative Review is probationary, and that is clearly understood by all students. We hoped that these new policies would put a



Photo: The GA Student Handbook
Source: Charlotte Kiechel

greater amount of responsibility on the student's shoulders and would result in a more open and understanding relationship between the student body and the Honor Board. After the first few weeks of school--new policy in play--it became apparent that not only did students welcome this shift in responsibility, but that they also heeded it and developed a deeper respect for the higher expectations set before them; in no way, shape, or form have GA girls been cut a break.

Call me crazy, but I can't imagine that anyone who was on probation and who is now under Administrative Review has either lost sight of her probationary status or confused it for a gift from the administration. In fact, because the bar has been raised, a greater stress has been placed on individual decision making and thus any lapses in judgment will result in a more severe response. Our new policies hardly suggest that we are "free to go" and instead bind us to our own word and our own conscience, generating a stricter compliance to the Honor Code.

Have we erased the "memories of disciplinary misconduct"? No, I'd say that we have implemented a clear and appropriate system of discipline that will guarantee consistency and effectiveness in dealing with future violations of school rules, and make for heightened communication between all members of the GA community.

And the Winners Are... Spring Break in G-Town

Bridgette Taylor
Junior Editor

Viggo Mortensen- *Eastern Promises*

Actress in a Leading Role
Cate Blanchett- *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*
Julie Christie- *Away From Her*
Marion Cotillard- *La Vie en Rose*
Laura Linney- *The Savages*
Ellen Page- *Juno*

Actor in a Supporting Role
Casey Affleck- *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*
Javier Bardem- *No Country for Old Men*
Philip Seymour Hoffman- *Charlie Wilson's War*
Hal Holbrook- *Into the Wild*
Tom Wilkinson- *Michael Clayton*

Actress in a Supporting Role
Cate Blanchett- *I'm Not There*
Ruby Dee- *American Gangster*
Saoirse Ronan- *Atonement*
Amy Ryan- *Gone Baby Gone*
Tilda Swinton- *Michael Clayton*

Best Directing
The Diving Bell and the Butterfly
Juno
Michael Clayton
No Country for Old Men
There Will Be Blood

Best Picture
Atonement
Juno
Michael Clayton
No Country for Old Men
There Will Be Blood

The Winners were: Daniel Day-Lewis, Marion Cotillard, Javier Bardem, Tilda Swinton and the best director and picture went to *No Country for Old Men*.

Actor in a Leading Role
George Clooney- *Michael Clayton*
Daniel Day-Lewis- *Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*
Tommy Lee Jones- *In the Valley of Elah*

Kim Dempsey
Staff Writer

Let's face it: not all of us jet off to the equator with our sports teams, families, and the beach bods we've worked so hard to tone. Some of us are stuck at home during those weeks in March, and whether it be one or both weeks during which we are chained to our houses, it can often make what should be a bliss-

ful experience seem dull. That is why this list was compiled: to save those of you who are not sprawled on a beach frying your skin cells or working it with your spring teams from actually missing school.

1. Go to the Avenue. Okay, this suggestion does lack creativity. However, imagine how empty the streets will seem with all of the public school kids in session. You can kick back and enjoy the budding spring around you without being hustled and bustled by annoying others whilst going for ice cream or shopping for your Greenleaf dress.

2. Do some spring cleaning. Seriously. Spring cleaning can be a fun and enjoyable activity. Really get down--I'm talking back of the closet stuff that you shoved there in seventh grade. That horrible sweater you wore or the retainer you swore you "accidentally" threw out can lead you on trips down memory lane. Often you can find real treasures:

that sixth grade IM conversation you had with the cute guy you didn't really know, which you printed out to show and analyze with all of your little friends. This way you not only get the satisfaction of a clean room, you find out a little bit about yourself. Try and get those results on a beach!

3. Sample the local cuisine. Ever wanted to actually have an answer when your friend asks "So, where do you want to eat?"

Instead of following up with the general "I don't know...what are you in the mood for?" then having that awkward silence during which you both ponder your limited choices, you can come up with a delicious suggestion that will ensure a fun, calorie-filled night. Downtown Stamford and South Norwalk have some great restaurants. And don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and try something new! Seriously, there's a rumor that raw eel is actually quite good.

4. Learn to do laundry. It may not be the most entertaining experience of your life, but we all have to learn how to wash our own clothes at some point. Ask anyone you know who goes to college: coin operated washing machines are complicated enough even when you know how to use them. So break out the detergent and be prepared to part with your favorite shirt - chances are, you will dump bleach all over it. But it will be worth it for that sweet feeling of independence.



Photo: Greenwich Avenue
Source: Internet