



CHICAGO ILLINOIS' ELENA '10, MUSIC DIRECTOR JAMES WALLACE, AND MONTCLAIR NEW JERSEY'S JAFARI '12 DISCUSS THE FINER POINTS OF THEIR ACADEMIC COURSE, MUSIC OF WORLD CULTURES, IN THE MUSIC CLASSROOM OF THE MICHAEL S. CURRIER CENTER.

## A Message from the Director

History never looks like history when you're living through it.

—John W. Gardner



Emily Jones

*Director of  
The Putney School*

In the early years of Putney, Mrs. Hinton welcomed a wide variety of people to campus, as Gottfried Paasche points out in his article “Intertwinings” on page 8. She was convinced that Putney must not be an “ivory tower” but that students must meet the world and be a part of it. Our current generation of students is enormously idealistic, but although the world is not in the dire straits it was when Putney was founded, the problems can still seem insurmountable. We work to help students interact with people who are forging ahead with solutions and maintaining the conviction that “each generation must be better than the last,” in the words of Mrs. Hinton. In this issue you’ll see a distinct problem-solving bent both in the alumni scientists profiled, and in the way our science curriculum is designed. We also bring people to campus who are thinking about solutions to a variety of challenges and can engage students in those processes.

This October Putney’s own Sven Huseby came back to show his film *A Sea Change* to the board of trustees, faculty, and students. This extraordinary documentary on the oceans is a clear call to action. In the movie Sven says that he took energy from Putney’s activist students, and the film, in turn, gave that energy back to them. If you have not seen it, I highly recommend it.

A regional educational conference on nuclear disarmament will be held at the school on April 17. This is a lead-in to the May five-year review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty by the UN, and will be co-hosted by the Windham World Affairs Council. Former Putney faculty Mark Schlefer (spouse of Marion Schlefer '41), one of those who originally drafted the treaty, is helping us assemble an impressive group of speakers. The goal of the conference is to educate and interest young people in disarmament efforts. Students and teachers from colleges and high schools from around the region will be on

campus that day. Our student leaders are working with a team from the World Affairs Council to design the program.

In June, in honor of Putney's 75th Anniversary, we will be assembling on campus progressive secondary school educators from across the country for a symposium on Progress in Progressive Education. Although it is in the summer holiday, we will also have students participate. This symposium will focus on how a "traditionally progressive" school should move into the future, define progress, and measure success. It will consider how the environmental crisis, globalization, and communication technology may impact our work as educators. We are working in conjunction with the Antioch New England education program, which was originally the Putney Graduate School of Education, founded by Carmelita Hinton in 1949.

We are delighted to have Howard Gardner (spouse of Ellen Winner '65 who has a short article on page 12), Alfie Kohn, and Tom Wessells (Putney faculty 1982-1992) joining the symposium as keynote speakers. For the most part, however, it will be run as a progressive "meeting of the minds," in which all participants will be expected to contribute their ideas and work. Registration for the symposium is not yet open, but we know that we have educators coming from both coasts and possibly from overseas. Of course all alumni are welcome to join us, and we hope that all of you who work in secondary education will be here. More details can be found at [www.putneyschool.org/symposium](http://www.putneyschool.org/symposium).

My best to all,

—Emily

**"PERHAPS MOST NOTICEABLE ABOUT THE RESIDENTIAL LIFE ASPECT OF THE PUTNEY SCHOOL IS THE ATMOSPHERE OF JOY, FRIENDSHIP, COMMUNITY SPIRIT..."**

—2009 NEASC ACCREDITATION REPORT



# Putney Post

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