The new Richard and John Woodruff Dining Hall officially opened for the first full day of meals on Tuesday, March 19.

It was an exciting day for our students and faculty as they returned to campus from Spring Break to enjoy the new expansive dining area, modern servery, and outdoor plaza seating at the new dining hall.
hall. The 15,000 square foot facility offers an array of wonderful opportunities for the growing Rabun Gap community. In addition to a dining room that can seat more than 400, the space includes a grand foyer, large windows offering views of campus and an abundance of natural light, a well-equipped and energy-efficient kitchen, a formal meeting room, a covered porch, and an expansive patio for meals and events.

“The Richard and John Woodruff Dining Hall is a dream come true for our campus,” said Head of School Dr. Anthony Sgro. “It is such a blessing for our students, faculty, and their families to come together for meals in the new space.”

The architectural design of the building is in keeping with Rabun Gap tradition, offering columns and brick that are found throughout campus. Its design was inspired by early dining halls on campus as well as the original school gymnasium, now home to the Evelyne Sheats Lower School.

Incorporating local materials for the new dining hall was also an important aspect of the construction. Tables for the dining area were sourced from Flat Creek Company in Rabun Gap. Additionally, the School worked with Atlanta-based Collins Project Management and Cooper Carry Architects. Carroll Daniels Construction of Gainesville, GA was the contractor on the project.

Construction began on the building in June after a successful $7 million fundraising campaign, which exceeded its goal thanks to Rabun Gap’s philanthropic family, foundations, and the many parents, friends, and alumni who supported the project.

“The new dining hall is truly the heart of campus and reflects the hearts of so many who support Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School. This much-needed facility was fully funded by private gifts. We were able to raise the funds in six months and build the building in eight months. There is no debt associated with this campaign. We would not enjoy this beautiful building today if it weren’t for the support of those who gave to the project,” Sgro said.

The new dining facility replaces the Addie Corn Ritchie Dining Hall, which opened in 1954. The old dining space is being renovated and restored into a student center that will house a grill, student gathering space, recreation area, and Rabun Gap’s Campus Store.
Spring Break travel study trips expand horizons

Our students spent the first week of Spring Break in March on immersive travel study trips in Florida and across the globe in Italy!

The Upper School group traveled to Spoleto, Italy where they studied art, history, and the Italian culture. They lodged in a 13th century villa and enjoyed day trips to Assisi, Orvieto, and Rome. Read more about the Spoleto trip here.

Middle School students and faculty spent the week in the Florida Keys on a trip led by Mr. Johnathan BySura. Their activity calendar was packed full of incredible adventures — swimming with dolphins, hand-feeding tarpon, visiting a turtle hospital, wakeboarding, and visiting historical sites. Read more about the Florida Keys trip here.
Spring has arrived on campus

Our campus has been transformed into a beautiful Spring scene! Trees are blooming and our spring sports season is in full swing. Check out our athletic calendar for a full schedule of spring sports action.

Heritage Homecoming is May 31-June 1

Join us for an extra-special Heritage Homecoming weekend in 2019. This spring we are celebrating the opening of the Richard and John Woodruff Dining Hall and our alumni attending Heritage Homecoming will enjoy lunch in the new facility!

We will also honor outgoing Head of School Dr. Anthony Sgro and his wife, Faulkner, for all they have done for Rabun Gap and the alumni community.

Register here.

Georgia GOAL hits a record high and keeps climbing!

For 2019, Rabun Gap already has GOAL scholarships totaling $308,000, a 144% increase over last year and our highest amount ever. Thank you to the additional Georgia taxpayers who have signed up, and keep signing up, to send part of their taxes to support our students.

The state's increased program budget has also helped tremendously. The open season for GOAL would normally already be closed, but because the program has not hit Georgia's limit, Georgia taxpayers can still submit an application at: goalscholarship.org
The Studio at Rabun Gap announces summer clinic offerings

It's hard to believe that summer is just around the corner! The Studio and The Academy Athletics will host a variety of Summer Clinics on campus in June and July. The following offerings are available:

**June 3-7**
- Basketball - Ages 5-13 - 9 AM to Noon ($125)
- ARTime "Out of Africa" - Ages 6-18 - 1-4 PM ($180)

**June 10-14**
- Intermediate Volleyball - Ages 11-14 - 9 AM to Noon ($125)
- Beginner Volleyball - Ages 7 and up - 1-4 PM ($125)
- ARTime "Hawaiian Vacation" - Ages 6-18 - 1-4 PM ($180)

**July 8-12**
- Ninja Warriors - Ages 10-16 - 9 AM to Noon ($150)
- Cirque Fun - Ages 5-9 - 9 AM to Noon ($150)
- Cirque Advanced - Ages 10-18 - 1-4 PM ($180)
- ARTime "Arctic Expression" - Ages 6-18 - 1-4 PM ($180)

**July 15-19**
- Ninja Warriors - Ages 5-9 - 9 AM to Noon ($150)
- Cirque Clinic - Ages 10-17 - 9 AM to Noon ($150)
- ARTime "Under the Sea" - Ages 6-18 - 1-4 PM ($180)

Click here to download the clinic flyer.

Click here to learn more about the clinics and to register.

For questions, please email thestudio@rabungap.org.

**Upcoming Events**

Click here to view the full calendar

Prom - 4/6/2019

MADFest Showcase - 4/12/2019

Academic Symposium - 4/26/2019

Dance Recital and Concert - 5/4/2019

Commencement - 5/19/2019

Lower School Showcase - 5/21/2019

Last Day of Classes & Middle School Moving Up - 5/23/2019

Heritage Homecoming - 6/1/2019
In anticipation of Prom happening April 6, check out this Junior/Senior Prom photo from 1955!

For any questions regarding our archives, please contact David Grist '67 at dgrist@rabungap.org

Donate to the Fund for Excellence
Annual giving to the **Fund for Excellence** supports every area of the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School experience. While tuition provides an important foundation, gifts to the **Fund for Excellence** enable the school to provide a depth and breadth of education that would not be possible with tuition alone.

Make your one-time or recurring gift at [www.rabungap.org/giving](http://www.rabungap.org/giving)!