May 2019

Sgros honored at Trustee Legacy Luncheon

A very special event was held in the ballroom of the Piedmont Driving Club on April 9 as outgoing Head of School Dr. Anthony Sgro said farewell to friends and supporters in the Atlanta area.

The School’s Trustee Legacy Luncheon honored Dr. Sgro and his wife, Faulkner Sgro, for their eight years of service at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School. Nearly 150 friends, trustees, alumni, and supporters gathered for the event.

Dr. Sgro will leave Rabun Gap this summer to take the Head of School position at his alma mater, Asheville School. Under Dr. Sgro’s leadership, Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School has more than doubled its enrollment, serving 600 students from 15 states and more than 50 countries, and maintained its commitment to financial access, with 75 percent of students receiving financial aid. His tenure saw the opening of the Niles Bolton Middle School Complex in 2013, the establishment of...

The Reverend Dr. George Wirth, a trustee at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School and former pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, addressed Dr. and Mrs. Sgro with Psalm 121:8 — “The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore,” — and reminded them that they are in the “sweet spot” of their lives.

“We will send you off after Commencement with tears in our eyes and joy in our hearts and gratitude deep down in our souls for a job very, very well done,” Wirth said. “You and your family will be greatly missed at Rabun Gap. We are grateful beyond measure for the myriad of ways that you have touched all of our hearts.”

For Dr. Sgro, the moment was less about the impact he’s made on Rabun Gap, and more about how the School has changed him.

“On a very personal level, I have been changed for the better by Rabun Gap,” Sgro said. “I have always spent my life in privilege, in schools created to serve the very small and narrow margin of the world. Rabun Gap isn’t that place,” he said. “I feel like God has worked through Rabun Gap to affect and change my heart, to make me see something broader — to see education in a very different way, to see education as it can be and for what good it can do in the world today. We can all get along, we can all engage with one another, we can all celebrate… Rabun Gap is a place where the world can be.”

Margaret Carton, chair of the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School Board of Trustees, presented an official board resolution honoring Dr. Sgro for his legacy. The resolution established the Faulkner and Anthony Sgro Study Abroad Fund. This fund honors Dr. and Mrs. Sgro’s commitment to international educational access for all students. It will financially assist domestic students to study abroad at Rabun Gap’s campus in Spoleto, Italy and beyond.

Give to the Faulkner and Anthony Sgro Study Abroad Fund

Rabun Gap expands global reach with campus in Italy
We’re excited to announce that Rabun Gap has partnered with two other independent schools to offer a residential education in Spoleto, Italy! Rabun Gap teamed up with Ashley Hall School and The Culver Academies under Spoleto Study Abroad to invest in the Spoleto campus, and other independent schools will be able to utilize the space throughout the year.

The new campus will provide a broad range of experiential education opportunities for students, faculty, and the entire Rabun Gap community. Included on the Spoleto campus is the Palazzo Leti, which has housing for 24 and includes classroom space. Read more here.

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**MADFest celebrates student talents**

The best of our student talent came to the Rearden Theater stage on Friday, April 12. MADFest is a Rabun Gap tradition that celebrates the arts and encourages all students to create and perform. The MADFest Showcase held on Friday night featured students from the Upper and Middle School.

More than 70 students auditioned for a spot in the show on Thursday, April 11 in front of community judges. Many of those who auditioned were taking the stage for the first time ever. In addition to the performing art categories, students also submitted visual art and films. Visual art winners were honored in a special reception on Thursday afternoon.

To read more about MADFest and to view the list of award winners, click here.

Click here to see pictures.

Watch the video of the event here.
Middle School students give back on service day

Our Middle School students hit the ground running after Easter Break with a campus-wide community service day! Service projects included campus beautification, trail maintenance, food pantry organization at the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, socialization with pets at Paws 4 Life, and clean up around Indian Lake.

Read more here.

Students shine at Academic Symposium

Rabun Gap's 2019 Academic Symposium was a celebration of student research and academic successes across disciplines. This annual event showcases the best work coming out of Rabun
Gap’s Upper School classrooms and laboratories.

Click here to read more and to see more pictures.

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3, 2, 1....BLASTOFF!

Pre-K students in Ms. Dori Child's class recently enjoyed learning about rockets! Classes are enjoying engaged learning across all three divisions this spring. Keep up with photos from across campus here.
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.

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Line 22 - The Key in Your Georgia Taxes

Some folks tell me "I don't owe any taxes" or "I always get money back from the government" and mistakenly think that this prevents them from participating in the GOAL tax credit. These comments, while well-intentioned, often miss the mark. You see, if your tax withholding throughout the year equals your tax liability, then you won't owe any money when you file your taxes. Similarly, if you withheld too much, you will get a refund. So, the focus really should be the total tax liability, the amount that Georgia is going to keep, and this is found on Line 22 of your state tax return. As long as Georgia is keeping some of your money, you should be eligible to participate in the GOAL tax credit, which allows you to lower your tax liability and direct those funds to helping students at RGNS on scholarship.

Please take a look at Line 22 of your recent GA tax filings to see if GOAL could work for you, and then sign up for a 2019 tax credit 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. Clinics are offered in basketball, volleyball, art, cirque, and Ninja Warriors, and ages range from 5-18. **These clinics are open to everyone. Children do not need to be students at Rabun Gap to attend.**

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.

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**Upcoming Events**

Click here to view the full calendar

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

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**From the Archives...**
Spring is in the air and that means beautiful days for spring sports! Check out this photo of the 1986 boys tennis team with Coach Arbitter!

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!

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