



Watershed School Gets Green Light for Accreditation

Will Galloway, Director

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges has now officially recognized Watershed School as a Candidate for Accreditation. According to the report filed by the visiting committee made up of educational leaders from around New England, “the students of Watershed are its best marketing asset. One student when asked why she was at Watershed replied, simply, ‘I like learning.’ The committee felt that this is a shared sentiment among the student body.” Other students added, “the most important thing Watershed has done is to make me a happier person who enjoys learning.”

The mission of Watershed School is to establish a high school learning community that cultivates excellence, creativity, respect, and compassion. According to the candidacy report, “The Mission at Watershed is a living document, readily evident in all aspects of the community.” The process of accreditation provides Watershed with the opportunity to reflect on what is working well and what needs to change to strengthen the program. According to the Chair of Watershed’s Board of Directors, Mary Smyth, “The timing is right and Watershed is poised to move to the next phase of its development so that it can serve a wider community of learners in midcoast Maine.”

In addition, the report emphasized “the faculty at Watershed who represent the school’s greatest and most valuable asset.” With 19 faculty members and 26 students, Watershed provides a unique student-to-faculty ratio with classes ranging in size from 4 to as many as 12 students. According to Watershed’s Director, Will Galloway, “this makes for a unique learning environment supportive of individual growth and responsive to the views of others - elements essential for success in the 21st century.” One recent graduate of Watershed reflected on her experience stating, “It was the first time that I witnessed a school where nobody was feeling left out and where everybody had courage to find his or her place in the community.”

The next phase of the Accreditation process focuses on Self-Study to identify how well the school is doing in fulfilling its mission according to the school’s constituent members. Surveys are being mailed out this week to parents, graduates, current students, faculty and community members. We appreciate your participation in this very important step towards full accreditation. Special thanks to Ralph Moore, Jude Masseur and Mary Smyth for keeping us focused and building momentum!

From the Classroom, “I Believe” *Liza Walsh, Faculty*

Watershed writing students just completed short essays for “This I Believe,” a project sponsored by National Public Radio. The project was originally created by Edward S. Morrow in the 1950’s. In his invitation to the program he told Americans that, “never has the need for personal philosophies of this kind been so urgent. Your belief, simply and sincerely spoken, is sure to stimulate and help those who hear it. We are confident it will enrich them.” I believe the essays that these students submitted answer this call and truly enrich us all. Here is a sampling of their beliefs in a nutshell.



Students in the sun

“I believe everything is easier with optimism.”

“I believe in the power to bestow greatness.”

“I believe in fending for myself.”

“I believe in the mid-life crisis.”

“I believe a wasted day is one in which you have not laughed.”

“I believe in the power of why.”

“I believe in perseverance.”

“I believe people who come from dysfunctional families can grow up to lead successful lives.”

“I believe in just doing it.”

“I believe in the power of personality.”

“I believe without the bad there is no good.”



Quebec's Winter Carnival, Phil Gerard, Faculty

A 400 year old city with a half-million residents, Quebec is culturally unique, multilingual, and replete with the refined aesthetic pleasures of art, music, and good food - the attributes of many European urban centers. Particularly wonderful is that Quebec is just 5 hours away by car. With the lowest crime rate of any Canadian city, wonderful museums, historic sites, restaurants, shops, and friendly locals it's an almost perfect opportunity for rural/suburban American high school students to experience a bustling city and a foreign culture.

First held in 1894, Carnaval de Québec has grown to become the largest winter celebration in the world. And for one February weekend during each of the past six years Watershed students, teachers, and parents have taken part. Every year is different but every year we've been charmed by the French-Canadian culture, the handsome old city and by the Carnival events.

The festival features outdoor performances of music and dance, and bizarre winter sports like high speed tobogganing, snow rafting, and ice-flow canoe racing. Then there's human foos-ball, and a contest featuring galloping horses towing skiers through an obstacle course. Scores of whimsical, expressive snow sculptures are found throughout the city. The most extraordinary are the fantastic bus-sized statues lining the main festival grounds. Teams of sculptors from more than 20 different countries compete to create the best work.

The 21 Watershed students and 10 teachers/parents/drivers all stayed at a youth hostel, the Auberge Internationale, within the walls of the old city. The old city is relatively small so that even though we soon split into small groups, Watershed people met each other, over and over again, throughout the day. Our small groups could be seen wandering the snowy streets, shopping, practicing their French at pastry shops, tobogganing and snow rafting at the festival, or glimpsed through frosty café windows enjoying the great food. Two of our students were spotted on stage teaching Quebecois the steps to Cotton Eye Joe. How did people enjoy this year's Quebec trip? Perhaps the best summary was Fiona Boyd's remark, when we prepared to return to Maine, "Couldn't we just stay for another week?" Québec, nous vous aimons.



International Snow Sculpture Competition



Students enjoying the festival

Reminders

March 13th at 9:00 – 11:00 am Astronomy Observation Project Presentation

March 27th Parent Teacher Conferences - No Classes

April 4th 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the Rockport Opera House - Paul Sullivan Benefit Concert. Contact the office for information and tickets.

April 20-24 School Vacation

May 30th 4:00 – 6:30 End of Semester Presentations & Commencement



Watershed's Sophie and Josie Davis

Watershed School Benefit Concert April 4th, Janet McMahon, Parent

Watershed School will present an evening concert with Grammy Award-winning pianist Paul Sullivan and Watershed's Sophie & Josie Davis on violins at the Rockport Opera House Saturday, April 4th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

About the musicians

Paul Sullivan is a pianist and composer who blends classical, jazz, and other styles, creating a lively and upbeat sound. As a soloist, with his trio, and as a member of the Paul Winter Consort, he has played concert tours in most of the United States and Europe, as well as Croatia, Israel, Costa Rica, Japan, and Russia. He has played with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Pops and in many of New York's finest jazz clubs. He received a BA in Music from Yale University and lives in Sedgwick.

Josie and Sophie Davis are talented classically trained violinists who have given recitals and performed in ensembles in the Midcoast for nearly a decade. Josie is a junior and Sophie a freshman at Watershed. They live in Waldoboro.

In the concert, Paul, Josie, and Sophie will perform a blend of classical, jazz, and original works, including music Paul has written for the occasion. Need tickets? Call the school office at 594.1873.

Watershed Grad Scores Top Choice, Laura McGrath, Admin Director

Calli Moore is Watershed's only senior this year, and she couldn't be happier. Commencement 2009 at Watershed wasn't supposed to happen. This was an unusual year, with a young student body and no students scheduled to graduate. But with commitment, hard work, and unflappable maturity, Calli Moore decided to change that. She is graduating from Watershed a year ahead of schedule and she is being offered a generous scholarship to her top choice school, Mount Holyoke – early decision, of course!

In addition to her full course load at Watershed, she has already completed several college classes at the University of Maine Rockland and feels she is well prepared for the academic rigor headed her way. According to Calli, Watershed earns some credit for her success. "Watershed offers many unique opportunities to its students. I've been able to participate in college courses, travel, graduate early and take some *very* interesting classes with exceptional teachers. At Watershed, I have been able to accomplish more than I ever could have imagined during my high school years."

Although Calli is not one to kick back and rest on her laurels (having just spent her February Break enrolled in an intensive Spanish immersion program in Costa Rica) she claims to be looking forward to a well-deserved break after spring finals and graduation. Once at college, she is already planning to major in science with a premed focus. When most students are crossing their fingers and hoping their choice school chooses them, I am sure Mount Holyoke feels fortunate to have *been* chosen by Calli Moore.



Calli Moore

