

Fair Play

What is a Hawken Education?

For the Class of 2007, a Hawken education is about more than memorizing facts to fulfill graduation requirements and score high on AP tests. It's about applying knowledge to reality; it's about developing meaningful relationships between students and faculty; it's about being part of a community that holds every member responsible for sustaining the principle of Fair Play. As I approach my last month of high school after 13 years at Hawken, I am confident that my Hawken education has provided me with a strong academic and moral foundation as I continue to college.

Beginning in the Lower School, Hawken's dynamic learning environment encouraged us to apply and challenge what we learned. A series of theme days in the Lower School marked the culmination of important units while providing an opportunity for experiential learning. Pioneer Day included orienteering, cooking, and sewing so we could learn the skills that had sustained America's frontiersmen. During the Mummy Wrap, we became Egyptian royalty, weapons makers, and scribes as we entombed Georgie and Hannah. Jessica and Mike were joined in Holy Matrimony at the Medieval Fair where 10-year-old street vendors lined the Brown Gym to simulate early European economic and social conditions.

Shorter recesses eventually became study halls as we moved into the Middle School. Our doorway trips to Williamsburg, Washington, D.C., and New York/New Jersey provided real life application of our sixth, seventh and eighth grade studies, respectively; we interviewed Williamsburg actors for Mr. Hart's American history class, we visited the Iwo Jima memorial in D.C. after reading *Flags of Our Fathers* with Mr. Scully, and we fed the homeless at a soup kitchen in the Bronx when Mr. Waskowitz challenged us to "make a difference." Chapel Talks were our first

This feature is by or about individuals in the Hawken community who capture in deed the spirit of Fair Play. As stated by Mr. Hawken, "the main purpose for which the School exists is the development of character." The School's motto of "Fair Play" emphasizes the importance of integrity, respect and accountability. Here we bring you some thoughts on the subject from senior student Madeleine Bruml. During her Upper School years, Madeleine formed Cleveland Brain Gain, a nonprofit organization that seeks to educate young people to the benefits of a career in Cleveland. As a junior she was elected into the Cum Laude Society, and as we went to press, we learned that she received the 2007 Charles B. Bolton Award. Reprinted from her closing editorial as editor-in-chief of the AffNo, Madeleine expresses what Fair Play and her years at Hawken have meant to her.



major independent research project, and we addressed the School with speeches about racial profiling, Title IX, and the uselessness of the penny.

We left Middle School with a firm Hawken Handshake and moved to Gates Mills where we received more freedom. Independent research projects became more prevalent with the Sophomore English Window's Project, Dr. Stacy's Leveller's paper, and senior elective assignments. We

stopped learning about the weather and started exploring genetics and chemical evolution. Fnet=MA became the cause of and answer to all of our problems.

A Hawken education, however, extends beyond fostering intellectual passion to developing a strong devotion to community. The School's size, engaging faculty, and committed students precipitate a proactive and caring environment. Whether we were rallying behind athletes, debaters, musicians, or actors, we enthusiastically encourage each other. We support each other not only by attending extra-curricular activities, but also by responding to community needs. This year we played basketball and shaved heads for Relay for Life, we competed in a ruthless penny war with the juniors for

Harvest for Hunger, and we continued a partnership with Citizens Academy through Bright Horizons.

Hawken's commitment to Fair Play distinguishes the School from its competitors. Throughout the year, Mr. Looney has reminded us that James Hawken established a progressive school to develop passionate scholars with strong character. At Hawken, therefore, character development begins immediately with Mrs. Wilson's "warm fuzzy's" and "cold prickly's" and continues with the honor system, free bands, and athletics. As Hawken cultivates empathy and integrity that fosters an environment of trust, we can leave our backpacks unattended and manage our own time during free bands. Fair Play is not an abstract truism hanging above every door; it is an expectation that provides the cornerstone of a Hawken education.

I am proud to be a Hawk because I attend a school where teachers are accessible and available to offer guidance; where our level of sportsmanship always makes US look like the losers; and where we unite to support a common cause. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to my Hawken education.

– Madeleine Bruml '07