Two years ago, I was talking with parents of a new 6th grade student and they asked, “What would you say is Beaver’s niche, its greatest strength, the one differentiator that sets it apart from other schools in the area?”

They were anticipating I would say it’s our arts programs or our science curriculum. An answer like that never occurred to me. Instead I immediately responded, “We know more about teaching than any other school. We have better teachers than any other school. That does not set us apart, that sets us above.”

They agreed that is pretty important. And it’s kind of astonishing other schools and colleges don’t aspire to that distinction -- don’t see that THAT must be their most important niche.

Which, of course, brings me to Jane Baker.

I met Jane shortly after I arrived in the summer of ’92 at a party at the Beachams. Actually I met Jane, Camilla Titcomb, and Ann Grayson.

First of all, I was stunned that three recently retired and legendary teachers still cared about and were closely connected to Beaver. We owe a lot to these women for their work over so many years to keep Beaver the vibrant place it is.

I immediately liked Jane. She was direct, smart, funny -- and it was clear she really loved her Middle School students. You knew she knew each and every one of them deeply and did all she could to challenge them to make sure they would all succeed. You could tell she was one of those teachers who filled her classroom with the same energy and passion on her last day of teaching as her first -- maybe even more. And I admired her for loving her retirement life as much as her teaching life.
Reunion weekend kicked off with a luncheon in Bradley Hall. Head of School Peter Hutton spoke about Beaver today and shared remarks in memory of Jane Baker, a beloved former faculty member who taught at the school for more than three decades. Ms. Baker passed away earlier this year.
Alumni met with three members of Beaver’s faculty: Global History Department Chair Kader Adjout; English Department Chair Lisa Brown; and Mathematics Department Chair Robert MacDonald. Moderated by Assistant Head of School Nancy Caruso, the faculty discussed the impact of Design Thinking on teaching and on students. Design Thinking involves hands-on design challenges that focus on promoting a bias toward action, brainstorming, reflecting, collaborating, fostering active problem solving, and developing empathy.

Wendy Lawless returned to Beaver to celebrate her 35th reunion and to share her new memoir, Chanel Bonfire, with alumni and students. She read an excerpt from the first chapter of her book, which tells the story of her unconventional childhood, including her time at Beaver. She also announced she is working on a sequel to her memoir.

“Kids emerging from Beaver now will be as well educated as we were, but armed with an even wider, wiser view of the world than was possible then.”

- Christie Allan-Piper '58

See more reunion photos and order prints at www.bcdschool.smugmug.com.
REUNION PARTIES
ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Honored for her achievements in figure skating, inductee Polly Blodgett Watson ’38 was introduced by Lauren Lapuck ’13, a synchronized skater. Polly shared her fondest memories and a video of her skating as Mickey Mouse.

Tri-captain Sarah Martin ’91, introduced by current basketball captain Kaila Duarte ’13, was honored for her accomplishments in lacrosse, basketball and field hockey — all of which she continued in college. Most recently she successfully coached at Dartmouth.

Accomplished professional soccer player C. Kareem Smith ‘03 was introduced by soccer player Danny Getz ’13. Kareem has played in four countries and in World Cup matches.

Lastly, the undefeated EIL and NEPSAC 1999 men’s soccer championship team was honored and introduced by three year soccer starter Zack Lacava ’14.

Read more about the inductees and ceremony at www.bcdschool.org/ahof.
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We have some exciting news for next year’s reunion! Beaver is moving to a “cluster reunion” model, which means you’ll attend reunion with your class as well as the surrounding years.

So who is coming in 2014?


More details to come at www.bcdschool.org/reunion.

JOIN THE BEAVER ALUMNI NETWORK

The Beaver Alumni App launched at Reunion 2013 and it connects the Beaver alumni community worldwide. Find classmates in your area, stay up-to-date on Beaver happenings and more.

To download the app, search "Beaver Alumni" in the app store.