
Introducing the Putney Alumni and Friends Newsletter



Dear Putney Alumni and Friends,

In a time of social distancing and increased isolation, many of us are finding more need for community than ever before. With this in mind, we are initiating an email newsletter to alumni and friends as a supplement to the [Putney Post](#) that is printed twice annually. Our hope is to share more timely updates of activities on the hill and from our wider network around the world. As always, we welcome your feedback and invite you [to contribute](#) your own updates and news to share.



This Fall on the Hill

It has been over a month since we welcomed everyone back to the hill. Our students have adjusted to the pandemic-related rules, and it has been great to see them discovering what they can do, rather than fixating on what they can't do. We have been blessed with lovely weather, which has allowed for numerous outdoor activities such as rowing, playing soccer, learning the stars, and looking after the animals to safely continue and bring students a sense of normalcy.

As we look ahead to the colder weather and prepare for how we will need to tweak our day-to-day activities, we remain a strong, healthy community thanks to the support of our families who have been adjusting with us during these unprecedented times.

Want to see more happenings on the Hill? Follow [Putney on Instagram](#). Or read about how students are adjusting as they prepare for their fall production of [The Laramie Project](#).

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Since our founding in 1935, social justice has been a core value of The Putney School's progressive education. However, we recognize that our school and students exist in an ever-changing world and that our understanding of, and support for, diversity, equity, and inclusion will grow and evolve over time. We recognize that we must do more as an institution and in each newsletter,



we will provide timely updates on this critical work.

In the summer of 2019, we welcomed our [director of equity and inclusion, Lisa Muñoz](#) who is guiding the work of students, faculty, and staff. Some recent actions and activities have included:

- Evaluating our campus programming and curriculum such as the 11th grade American Studies course
- A student orientation workshop on “Building Common Language and Understandings”
- Faculty workshops on microaggressions and anti-racist training
- BIPOC affinity meetings/gatherings for students, faculty, and staff

[Learn More About DEI at Putney](#)



Saving Democracy (and the Planet)

See how alumna Caitlin Baggott Davis '95 is helping address pressing local, state, and national issues affecting Oregon in her role as the executive director of North Star Civic Foundation.

[Learn More About Caitlin's Work](#)

Updates from the Board

The Putney Board of Trustees traditionally meets quarterly and on campus, with guests welcome. During the pandemic, meetings have been held a bit more frequently and take full advantage of video-conferencing.

Here are a few highlights from the last meeting, held in mid-September 2020:

Reopening

There is considerable enthusiasm for Putney having been able to open under especially careful circumstances. The loyal financial support of our alumni, parents, and friends has proven exceptionally important under current circumstances.

Finance

The board approved a balanced operating budget for FY21 and elected to participate in the federal Paycheck Protection Program, receiving a loan of \$1.6 million to assist with pandemic-related expenses and maintaining salaries and benefits of our faculty and staff.

Committee on Trustees and Governance

Under the guidance of the committee on trustees and governance, the board concluded more than a year's worth of work to update the bylaws, de-obfuscate arcane language, clarify responsibilities and accountability, and make sure that the board and staff are fully aware of the framework in which decisions are made. Board committees are developing charters to guide their efforts.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The diversity, equity, and inclusion committee introduced some group agreements and provided an outline of group work, including a review of equality vs. equity, the trustee DEI reading group, the DEI section of Putney's website, the committee's mission, and outreach. The committee is focused on engaging more BIPOC faculty and students and making sure they have access to the resources they need to be successful at Putney.

[Read the Board Chair Letter](#)

Upcoming Events

November Admissions Open House

Saturday, November 7 | 1 - 2:30 p.m.

Join members of our community to learn more about how we live and learn at Putney. There will be time for Q&A and informational breakout sessions focused on learning support and counseling, college planning, and student life. Please help us spread the word.

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