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## Alumni and Friends Newsletter Fall 2021

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Dear Putney Alumni and Friends,

We're excited to introduce you to our next head of school, Danny O'Brien, who will take over in July when Emily Jones steps down after 15 years at Putney.

As we head into the holiday season, it's a reminder to reflect on how much we value our community here on the Hill. We hope Putney will always be a part of each and every one of you, even when you're miles and memories away from campus.

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## Meet the Next Head of School Danny O'Brien

Danny O'Brien has valued Putney's ideals since the beginning of his career in education. Now, 20 years later, he'll be leading us into the next chapter as Putney's tenth head of school. O'Brien currently serves as the head of school at High Mountain Institute in Leadville, CO, where he has developed innovative educational programs and

diversity initiatives. He'll take the reins in July when Emily Jones steps down after her 15-year-tenure. We're excited to welcome Danny, along with his wife Ellie and their kids Vivie and Henry, to the Putney community.



[Learn More](#)

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## Putney Welcomes “Officer Clemmons” to the Neighborhood



Dr. François Clemmons — a singer, actor, playwright, and university lecturer who is perhaps best known for his role as friendly neighborhood policeman Officer Clemmons on Mister Rogers — joined us on campus to share his life experiences as an artist, Black man, gay man, and beloved childhood figure. His conversation brought renewed

context to desegregation efforts in the '60s, addressed ongoing racial issues today, and helped frame diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the Putney community. And of course, he also led a Sing.

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## Artist Talk with Brian Cohen



Green Mountain Orchard, watercolor, 6"x12", 2015  
Brian D. Cohen

As we head into the darker months of the year, Brian Cohen will brighten the day with a virtual gathering at Putney. Brian is an accomplished artist, Putney parent, and former faculty, dean, and development team member at the school. He'll join our alumni from his beautiful artist's home in Maine for an update on his current work, a discussion about a retrospective book that is in the works, and a gallery tour of his studio. The event is on December 14, 2021, at 7 PM. If you would like more information, email [alumni@putneyschool.org](mailto:alumni@putneyschool.org)

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## Finding a Way

After an accident left Alicia Brelsford Dana '87 paralyzed from the waist down, she turned to hand cycling. Here she shares the inspirational tale of her life's journey, making her way from The Putney School to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games — along the way helping to shape an entire industry and advocating for disability awareness and rights.



**Read Her Story**

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## Register Now for Summer Arts Workshops



Summers at Putney are a place where creative spirits thrive! Every year we welcome a diverse community of artists to our campus, and applications have just opened. Whether you know a student who would benefit from an immersive arts summer camp, or you're interested in returning to campus to pursue a professional development opportunity in your craft, now is the time to sign up for our summer workshops.

**Register Today**

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## We Welcome Your Support

What do hundreds of Putney people have in common? They've each made a gift to the Annual Fund this fiscal year. They are alumni, parents, past parents, trustees, faculty and staff, and other friends. [We invite you to join them!](#)

Your gift to the Annual Fund helps ensure the school remains structurally sound — in other words, your gift supports all aspects of the Putney program. What does this include? Some things you may (and may not) have thought of: assemblies, bird watching, composting, diplomas, equines, financial aid, geometry, haunted house, juggling, kite-flying, Long Fall trips, marshmallows, night walks, opportunities, Page's field, quizzes, roller skating, star gazing, tai chi, udon, vacuuming, wheels, x-c skiing, youngsters, Zoom.



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