

The Putney School Alumni and Friends Newsletter



Photo: The Northern Lights above campus this week. Photo by Marie Derouault.

Dear Putney Alumni and Friends,

A week from tomorrow, Putney will celebrate March of the Turkeys, an intermittent but resurgent tradition where the school comes together to eat turkey (and tofurkey), dress up a bit, enjoy music and dancing, and give thanks for Putney and for each other. During Covid, when we couldn't join together for a celebratory meal, we instead sat outdoors together for a program called Graces and Gratitudes.

Whichever shape this gathering takes, it is an intentional pause in our busy days, immediately prior to Thanksgiving break, during which we look around and realize how much this school feeds us, and in how many ways. We tie a string around our wrist, thinking about someone to whom we want to say "Thank you," and we only remove the string once we have done so.

We hope you are similarly inspired to give thanks, to pause, and to appreciate.

With best wishes from all of us at The Putney School,
Alison

Alison Frye
Alumni Relations Manager

Alumni in the News



Renée Blacken '00 Rows the Atlantic for Trauma Recovery Programs

This January, Renée Blacken '00 will set out alone in a six-meter wooden ocean rowing boat to row 3,200 miles across the Atlantic Ocean, from Lanzarote in the Canary Islands to Antigua in the Caribbean. She is the first American and first solo female to row in The Atlantic Dash, one of the world's toughest endurance events.

Only two American women have solo-rowed the Atlantic to date, and at 43, Renée will be the oldest. As "Team fOARtysomething," she is rowing to raise awareness of and funding for trauma recovery programs that integrate mind and body healing through the Bethlehem, NH-based nonprofit Outdoor Adventuring for Good. Through sharing her journey across the ocean, Renée seeks to normalize the conversation around trauma recovery, empower people to ask for help, and ensure that people have access to resources to regain agency on their healing journeys to reach their full potential to thrive.

To learn more and to support this expedition and cause, visit the [Renée Rows the Atlantic](#) website. You can follow this journey on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or at [Outdoor Adventuring for Good](#). A live GPS tracker will be available beginning in January through the [YB Races app](#), event: Atlantic Dash 2026.

Renée learned to row in wooden boats at Putney and she remembers well her Long Spring row on the Connecticut River from Putney to the sea. She went on to row at the collegiate level for Bates College in Lewiston, ME, and Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. This will be her first ocean row! Godspeed, Renée!

Celebrate Putney on Giving Tuesday



Giving Tuesday December 2

Look for a chance to take advantage of a giving challenge on Giving Tuesday, December 2. In recent years, Giving Tuesday (or *Giving Moos-day*, as we sometimes call it at Putney) has been an exciting day for Putney's Annual Fund, with successful giving challenges and impressive alumni and family participation. We hope you'll remember Putney when you consider how best to leverage your philanthropic dollars this holiday season.

Students Rally Support for Local Foodshelf

Current seniors Abby and Avah are founding members of the Putney Outreach group

Eight current students comprise Putney Outreach, a student leadership group that regularly informs the campus community about issues at the town, county, state, national, and international level. Last week, in response to a pause in SNAP benefits, Putney Outreach students helped to organize a campus food drive and fundraiser to benefit the [Putney Foodshelf](#), which supports nearly 200 local families weekly, and which is run by Hannah Pick '00. The Putney Outreach group exists to "collaborate with local organizations to create ... connections through volunteering, events, protests, [and] bringing in guest speakers." They "build awareness and connection to the local community and find ways to create spaces for the school to interact with the local community." Hats off to them.



Apply Now for Putney Summer Arts



At Putney's Summer Arts program, students dive deeply into creative pursuits in more than 20 artistic disciplines: sculpture, photography, fashion, theater, animation ... and much, much more. Each summer, a tight-knit community forms, and attendees leave transformed, having found joy in art-making, and with a

portfolio that represents their skill and growth. Spread the word and help inspire future artists. Visit summer.putneyschool.org for more information.

Putney Events!

What a selection of events we have on the horizon. Many of these events require tickets. Learn more below, and [contact us](#) with questions.

***As You Like It* at Jeffrey Campbell Theater December 11–13, 2025**

7:30 p.m. performance time

Jeffrey Campbell Theater will take its final bow this December with our production of William Shakespeare's *As You Like It*. Alumni and families are invited to attend any of the performances. The evening of the 13th will feature a special alumni dinner before the show and a farewell toast to follow. You can reserve seats and RSVP for the alumni dinner using [this link](#).

Sally Mann '69: *Art Work* Lecture at MFA Boston Friday, February 13, 2026, 7 p.m.

Purchase your own ticket to the lecture

Drinks & apps courtesy of the school at informal Putney gathering beforehand

Tickets: Buy your tickets soon, as they are likely to sell out
Gathering at MFA's New American Café, 5:30 p.m. [RSVP here](#).

From the MFA Boston website: Celebrated photographer Sally Mann joins us for an evening of reflection on a lifetime of art making and the deep emotional terrain of creative work. Drawing from her new book *Art Work*, as well as decades of acclaimed photography, Mann shares personal insights into the themes that have shaped her career—memory, place, family, mortality, and landscape. Known for her bold and poetic vision, Mann explores not only what it means to make art, but how art shapes the artist in return. She considers the artistic process in all its complexity: the doubts, the revelations, the discipline, and the moments of grace that sustain a creative life.

An Afternoon at the Boston Symphony Orchestra Tchaikovsky *Manfred* and Schumann Piano Concerto Friday, March 20, 2026

12:00 p.m. lunch / 1:30 p.m. performance

Purchase your own ticket to the 1:30 performance

Lunch courtesy of the school at Symphony Café, 12:00 p.m.

Tickets: Purchase your tickets on the [BSO website](#).
Lunch at Symphony Café: Putney will host a luncheon at 12:00 p.m. [RSVP by March 1](#) to reserve your place at lunch.

From the BSO website: Vaulted to worldwide prominence as the youngest-ever winner of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, Yunchan Lim returns to Symphony Hall for Robert Schumann's lyrical, introspective Piano Concerto. Inspired throughout his life by literary sources, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky wrote

his *Manfred* — actually a four-movement symphony — based on Lord Byron's Gothic verse play of the same name about a nihilistic nobleman wandering the Alps in search of meaning.

***Innocence* at the Metropolitan Opera
Featuring Soprano Lucy Shelton '61
Saturday, April 18, 2026**

1:00 p.m. performance / reception following at Rosa Mexicano

Purchase your own ticket to the performance: [email us for tickets](#).

Putney gathering afterward at Rosa Mexicano at Lincoln Center, courtesy of generous donors

Join Putney for an afternoon of music, food, and Putney connections. *Innocence* marks the house debut of Lucy Shelton '61. She will join us for the event following. Putney has a block of discounted tickets (\$140 per ticket). If you would like to join us, please contact us.

Note that tickets in the school's discounted block must be purchased through the school.

Putney Reunion 2026

Save the date for Reunion 2026! June 5–7, 2026, we'll gather together on the hill to sing, dance, laugh, connect with old friends, and make new ones.

What you can do now:

- * Reach out to one Putney friend and say, "I'm going to Reunion. I hope you'll go too!"
- * Start a text group with your Putney friends
- * Mark the date on your calendar
- * Look for a save-the-date postcard in the mail

We'll be in touch in the new year with more information. The schedule, a "who's coming" list, and registration information will all live on the reunion website:

putneyschool.org/reunion

Reunion 2026

June 5-7

Classes of

1956-57

1960-62

1976

1980-82

1986-87

1995-96

2021-22

**Registration Opens
April 1, 2026**

Putney's Online Store



Here's a chance for a unique gift for yourself or your favorite Putneyite. Stay warm in a Putney Carhartt coat and a wool hat! Represent Elm Lea Farm and The Putney School with hats, warm coats, tshirts, sweatshirts, and more. Wear your Putney gear with pride.

[Online store link](#)



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The Putney School

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