

One of the cornerstones of a St. Andrew's education is the sense of community between the students from all grade levels. This unique ability to connect all ages from both campuses is of particular note as we continue to highlight our school-wide theme, *Sharing our Humanity*. This project began with our 7th and 8th grade history teacher, Mrs. Jeanie Knight. An article in the spring Highlander featuring one of our alumni caught her attention. From the Class of 1991, Amy Gaylor Shulin was in the beginning stages of creating a non-profit organization, Children Inspiring Hope. The goal of the program - to connect children from the United States with those in Ghana by the tangible exchange of creative projects - seems simple yet so complex.

The first step for our students was to learn about Ghana - their customs, heritage, languages and much more. Our junior high students were surprised to find so many common bonds and were eager to connect with their counterparts on the other side of the globe. The project began to take shape. Our students created peace flags, books about Savannah and informative cards depicting their lives in the United States.

The 7th grade students then became the teachers, inviting our 3rd graders to a special presentation. The older students shared information about life in Africa, answered questions and demonstrated their hands-on approach to *Sharing our Humanity*. "Watching my students share this assignment and what they had learned

with the younger students was one of the high points of this entire project," said Jeanie Knight. "My goal was not necessarily for the students to learn about Ghana but rather for them to meet a culture of children from another country and grasp the concept of global awareness, tolerance and understanding."

In December, Amy returned to Ghana transporting all of the students' creations along with digital cameras, printers, maps and other donations to share with the young students in Africa. The Ghanaian students then wrote letters and were thrilled to attach photos of themselves for Amy to bring back to our students. Her blog (see page 2 for excerpts) from the trip really highlights how meaningful this educational experience has been for all of the students. According to Amy, nearly 2,000 children from the United States and Africa were connected on this recent trip. This link from opposite ends of the world provides an incredible opportunity for our students

to really sink their teeth into the idea of *Sharing our Humanity*.



Winter Sports Under Way

High School Hoops

The girls' basketball teams are again under the experienced leadership of Michael Bennet and Bernie Foran. Assisting these gentlemen is alum Stephanie Vine, Class of 2007. Upper School seniors on the Varsity team are Emily Kahn and Priscilla Peay. Athletic Director Dave Clay and SAS parent Jeff Gonzalez are coaching the boys basketball teams this winter. The Varsity team has four outstanding seniors providing leadership for the team - Jon Hope, Jared Howard, Jim Kingston and Wesley Knight. One special note to mention, Jared and Wesley are both the youngest of three brothers to play Varsity basketball at St. Andrew's - what an incredible legacy!

Savannah Parochial Athletic League (SPAL)

Basketball games for students in the Jr. High and Intermediate Division began in January. These teams are showing real talent and teamwork on the court.

Swimming in Success

Our 2008 Women's State Swimming Champs are at it again. The women are coached by SAS parents Cindy Whitaker and Tracy Wozniak. The Varsity team is undefeated in the last year and half.

Cheering, Stunts & Chants

If you need a good dose of school spirit, spend some time with our Cheerleaders. There are two winter squads leading pep rallies and encouraging fan involvement during the games - the Angel and Varsity squads. Their enthusiasm is quite contagious.

the peace flag process - from beginning to end

Excerpts from Amy Gaylor Shulin's (Class of '95) blog while in Ghana. To read more from Amy's blog, visit www.childreninspiringhope.com

November 26, 2008

The highlight of the day was clearly the connection with E.P. Primary and passing on the first projects. We started by getting in a large circle holding hands with each student sharing their name. There was a quiet whisper in the room as they were handed their index cards from the 7th and 8th graders at St. Andrew's School in Savannah. They intently read them many times, with curious smiles, and inquired where they needed translation. There was near silence as they focused on writing their cards, going back and forth over the one from their new friend in Savannah, and their response. Several of the teachers also joined us. We are a circle, within a circle... the students sang proudly. And we are, aren't we?! These students just reconnected with students in America. The wheel has turned again, and the power of connecting children from these diverse cultures as they learn to know each other even more is enriching their lives.

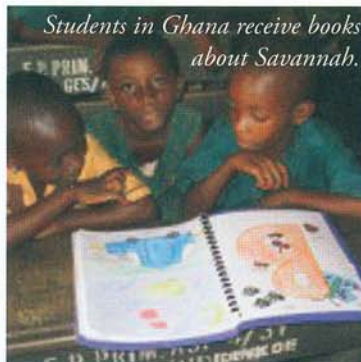
November 27, 2008 – Thanksgiving Day
We shared a couple of the Savannah Alphabet books made by St. Andrew's School students with the Primary 1 students at E.P. Primary. The glow of their eyes and spirit as they said the ABC's and received the colorful crayons was sweetness that will melt your heart when we share it with you when we return - Mrs. Knight and all the students!

December 11, 2008

We spent this day completing projects, picking up letters, and receiving the gifts of songs. With each goodbye, there was a chorus of songs and blessings for our friends in America. The ability these children have to burst instantly into joyful song is something to behold.



7th grade students show off their peace flags.



Students in Ghana receive books about Savannah.



Students in Ghana show off the peace flags created by our students.