

BCD's new library and performance room breaks ground

STOCKBRIDGE, MA—Kim Taylor planted a shovel in the ground last Friday, June 10, for the new Kim and James Taylor Music and Performance Room at Berkshire Country Day School (BCD), an independent school for students in preschool through grade 9 hailing from the Berkshires and Columbia County. Lynn Campana and Paul Hirt, parents of the late Kevin Hirt, Class of 2006, simultaneously broke ground for the Kevin Hirt Library and Learning Commons. The new facilities will create a dramatic upgrade to the 70-year-old institution while preserving the beauty of the School's historic campus.

Columbia County resident and campaign co-chair Hilary Dunne Ferrone addressed the crowd of over 250 students, parents, and faculty. "Today marks the beginning of a new chapter -- part of a continuum of good work done by people throughout our school's 70 years because they believed in what this school does and the kind of citizens it produces," said Ms. Ferrone, a current parent.

The groundbreaking is the result of "Fulfilling the Promise: The Campaign for BCD," which raised \$2.89 million of its \$3 million goal to support both the new construction and BCD's Endowment. These gifts were made by more than 300 donors. Designed by Flansburgh Architects, the project will transform Furey Hall, which was originally a cow barn, into a state-of-the-art center for learning and innovation.

The Kim and James Taylor Music and Performance Room will be a music classroom and performance space where stu-



Photo contributed

At the June 10 groundbreaking for the new music room and library at Berkshire Country Day School are (l to r) Paul Lindenmaier, Phil Deely, Hilary Ferrone, Kim Taylor, Lynn Campana and Paul Hirt.

dents and members of the Berkshire community at-large can hold events for up to 100 guests. The Taylors, whose twin boys graduated from BCD this year, are enthusiastic supporters of the school and served as the Campaign's Honorary Co-Chairs. James Taylor, who was on tour, said in a statement, "We've seen some amazing schools. Schools with vast endowments, monumental facilities, top notch faculties, but nowhere will we hope to find the equal of BCD in heart, soul, and spirit."

The library is named for the late Kevin Hirt '06, whose favorite class was library. Kevin suffered from neuroblastoma, an aggressive pediatric cancer. When he knew he would not survive, ten-year-old Kevin asked his parents to donate his college fund money to BCD to support the expansion of the school's library. Fifteen years later, BCD is poised to "Fulfill the Promise" to Kevin and his family with an open-space multi-level facility that will enhance BCD's comprehensive and challenging curriculum.

Kevin's mother Lynn Campana said, "I think Kevin would be really happy to know this is happening."

Allegrone Construction of Pittsfield won the competitive bidding process, and they expect the renovations to be complete and the new facility to open this winter. The project will be constructed without the school taking on debt.

Under the leadership of Columbia County resident and Board President Paige Smith Orloff, "Fulfilling the Promise:

The Campaign for BCD" is the result of a strategic planning process that engaged faculty, students, and current and past community members.

The Endowment component of the Campaign will grow the Fund for Faculty Salaries, positioning BCD to attract, retain, and support the extraordinary faculty. A fund named for celebrated teachers, the Eugénie and Jim Fawcett Fund for Faculty Salaries, honors these professionals who have taught at BCD for a combined 83 years. On June 3, BCD announced that the school received a \$25,000 challenge from an anonymous alumnus in support of this fund.

The Campaign Committee includes Hilary Dunne Ferrone and Chris Ferrone, (co-chairs), Hilary Somers Deely and Phil Deely '61 (co-chairs), Robert Akroyd, B. Stephen Boyd, Jennifer Capala, Jeremy Creelan, Bev and David Hosokawa, Donna Kittredge, Paul Lindenmaier (head of school), Danny Lipson, Colin Mathews, E. Quincy McLaughlin, Paige Smith Orloff, Marianna Poutasse, and Scott Schiff '74.

The Honorary Committee includes Kim and James Taylor, Earl Albert, Sion Boney, Peter Bутtenheim, Lynn Campana, Donna Elmendorf, Emily H. Fisher, Nancy Fitzpatrick, Paul Hirt, Nancy Kalodner, Jim Maxymillian, Robin McGraw, Claire Naylor Pollart, Jane Ryan, Annie Laidlaw '78 Selke, and Alli Sheehan.

For more details, please contact Campaign Associate Jessica Provenz at 413-637-0755 x144 or jprovenz@berkshirecountryday.org. To learn more about BCD, please visit berkshirecountryday.org.