

Two New Scholars—and a Brand New High School

The 2015-16 school year began with much excitement and fanfare. Guilford ABC welcomed two new scholars over Labor Day weekend; and the much anticipated new high school opened its doors to returning and new students. Several of our returning scholars had already returned early to tour the new high school.



Freshman Abigail Estrada

Freshman **Abigail Estrada** comes to Guilford from Bridgeport, where she graduated from Park City Prep Charter School, with 90 students in her 8th grade class. Park City's principal had encouraged Abby and other high-achieving classmates to apply to the ABC program, and she is excited to have become a part of Guilford ABC. She says the house feels like a small family, and that the other girls have



Freshman Sumaiya Lee

been supportive and welcoming, helping her adjust to an entirely new environment. Abby likes GHS, has always enjoyed English class and reading and says that her favorite subject so far is Algebra I.

Freshman **Sumaiyah Lee** is from Bronx, NY, and attended the Democra-

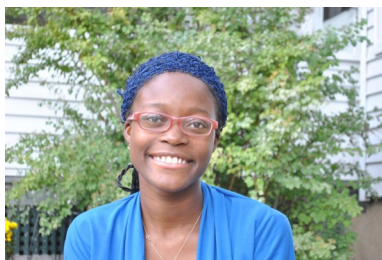
cy Prep Endurance Middle School in Harlem, with 100 students in her 8th grade class. Sumaiyah credits her Mom with knowing about the ABC program which she sees as a great opportunity.



Sophomore Jada Allison

The adjustment from living at home to moving to Guilford has been challenging, but Sumaiyah feels it was a good choice. She enjoys the community and living with her housemates. She is taking both Geometry and Algebra II, so it's not surprising that she counts math as her favorite subject.

Returning Sophomore **Jada Allison** reports that the summer flew by! She appreciated having time with her old



Sophomore Dorcas Saka

friends and being with her family. A highlight was a trip to Puerto Rico, where she enjoyed the beach and challenging ocean kayaking. Coming back to GHS as a sophomore is easier, "because you know other students and some of the teachers, and know what is expected of you." Jada finds the new GHS "so much better and brighter that you want to be there,

eager to learn." She especially looks forward to her Civics class. Jada is a member of Care Club and working on the lighting crew for the Theater



Junior Rebekah Calderon

Department.

Sophomore **Dorcas Saka** also enjoyed a summer that went by quickly. She attended tennis camp to improve her game, having played on the GHS tennis team last year, and she hopes to play on the team again in the spring. Returning to GHS this year, she finds it easier as a sophomore because, "you already know so many people." Dorcas finds the new high



Junior Katrina Green

school environment more welcoming, and she, too, notes that "it's open and bright and makes you want to go to school."

She is especially enjoying the discussion format that her Civics teacher uses. Dorcas is a member of the Math Team, which competes with other schools, as well as GHS Interact and the lighting crew for the Theater

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Department.

Junior **Rebekah Calderon** enjoyed the summer, especially the opportunity to reconnect with her friends at home in Bridgeport. She spent a lot of time reading, and her favorite book was, *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini. Rebekah is happy to be a Junior and, so far, it's not as stressful as she anticipated, having "learned to focus on the areas and subject matter that need the most attention."

Rebekah enjoys her Basic Musicianship class and loves being part of a three-member female band, "The Verdicts." She likes the environment of the new high school and finds it easier to get around. Looking ahead, Rebekah is excited about the college process and is starting to identify where she may want to study, possibly in the Boston area. Because there are no Seniors in the house this Year, she feels it is important for her to be supportive of the underclassmen in the ABC House – "to be the best we can be for the younger girls."

Junior **Katrina Green** is excited about the start of her junior year and can't believe she is already a junior! Her favorite part about her summer was volunteering at the Mercy Learning Center in Bridgeport, where she enjoyed working with mothers and their children. Currently, she "absolutely loves" volunteering at Yale-New Haven Hospital, managing the Art Cart once a week in the Pediatric Primary Care Unit.

Katrina enjoys the new GHS, observing that it looks like a college, and she is especially thrilled with the 3D art room. In addition to coursework, she belongs to the Care Club and Theater tech team, doing scenic painting. College is a "scary but an exciting" topic, and Katrina is ready to find out what colleges have to offer. Closer to home, she is enjoying getting to know Abby and Sumaiyah and spending "family time" with all her housemates.

Alumna Cynthia Banks Joins Guilford ABC Board

Cynthia Banks, a respected human resource professional and a Guilford ABC graduate, has joined the Guilford ABC Board of Directors. A Philadelphia native, Banks credits the program with giving her "a broader vision of what was possible for my life."



GABC Board Member Cindy Banks

After graduating from Guilford High School, Banks attended the University of Pennsylvania, where she received a B.A. in International Relations. She has worked in Human Resources for companies in Buffalo, N.Y., Montvale, N.J. and New York, where she served as a Senior Resources Manager for Microsoft from 2003 – 2009, before joining CFO Cost Solutions, a start-up that provides HR and financial services to companies and non-profits. Banks has one son, also a University of Pennsylvania graduate. She was a major force in helping to track down other Guilford ABC graduates before the 2014 40th anniversary celebration, which she and many of her ABC friends attended.

Guilford ABC Thanks Our Host Families

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Guilford ABC Program
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We Need All the Help We Can Get!

What do lemonade stands and cookie sales have in common with golf tournaments, legacy gifts and alumnae?

In the case of Guilford ABC, each of these has contributed funds this year in support of our program. Read on!

- On a warm summer weekend, two young entrepreneurs, **Sebastian and Rubi Espejo**, set up a lemonade and cookie stand in their Indian Cove neighborhood, donating their proceeds from their one-day sale to Guilford ABC.



*Entrepreneurs and ABC Supporters
Sebastian and Rubi Espejo
(Photo: Espejo Family)*

- In June, the **M.J. Petretto Foundation** held its sixth annual Golf Classic benefitting several local organizations including, for the first time, Guilford ABC. In turn, our board encouraged our golfing friends to par-

ticipate, and served as volunteers during the event at Clinton Country Club. We are already lining up four-somes for next June; let us know if you want to join the fun.



*M.J. Petretto and Linda Remington
present benefit check to ABC Board
members Barbara Pine, Eileen O'Brien
and John Mele*

- The family of **David and Barbara "Corky" Fisher** made a significant donation in honor of Corky Fisher (1928 – 2009), one of the founders of our program and a beloved member of this community. Corky was passionate about children and learning, and served in longtime leadership roles on the Board of Education and the Guilford Library as well as Guilford ABC. Our board is most grateful to Corky's husband and children for this generous legacy gift.



*Guilford ABC co-founder Barbara
"Corky" Fisher
(Photo: Fisher Family)*

- Guilford ABC's alumnae**, many of whom returned last fall to celebrate this program's 40th anniversary, have provided funding in support of enrichment activities for our current scholars, a gift that our students are particularly thrilled to receive.



*GABC Alumnae Join Scholars for 40th
Anniversary Celebration in 2014
(Photo: Judith Barbosa)*

Hole in the Wall and Guilford ABC Continue a Strong Partnership



*HITW and ABC Scholars conduct bake
sale at Guilford Citizens Day Parade*

Hole in the Wall, Guilford's oldest and only not-for-profit consignment and re-sale shop, operates solely for the benefit of Guilford's ABC program.

For its many regular and loyal customers, Hole in the Wall is recognized for offering amazing values and legendary service in a warm and welcoming environment. The shop accepts both donations and consignment merchandise including quality in-season clothing, housewares, jewelry, shoes, books and seasonal goods. The shop's professional

staff is supported by a cadre of loyal volunteers, many of whom have worked at Hole in the Wall for more than a decade. ABC Scholars help out in the store on weekends during the school year.

Hole in the Wall is located at 35 Boston Street, across from the Guilford Savings Bank. It is open seven days a week: Monday-Friday 10-5; Saturday 10-4; and Sunday 12-4. Donations are accepted daily; for a consignment appointment, call the shop at 203-453-2088.

www.guilfordabc.org/hole-in-the-wall/



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Guilford A Better Chance

Guilford's ABC program, now in its 41st year, is dedicated to helping to close the opportunity gap for talented students of color. Guilford ABC prepares its scholars to succeed academically and to take a leadership role in all their future endeavors.

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