



Buckingham Browne & Nichols School

May 8, 2008

Dear BB&N Community:

I write to you with some unsettling news about a former Upper School faculty member, Andrew Goldman. Mr. Goldman taught history and coached fencing in the Upper School from 1998 to 2007. My purpose in writing this letter is threefold: one, to communicate the facts that we know; two, to tell you the steps we have taken since learning the news; and three, to offer you resources to contact us for any reason about the situation.

We learned late last week that Mr. Goldman pleaded guilty and was sentenced in Florida on October 22, 2007 to two counts of "transmission of material harmful to [a] minor by electronic equipment." We are informed that the material was adult pornography. The Florida authorities initially charged Mr. Goldman with an additional charge of soliciting sex with a minor, but that charge was ultimately dropped. The date of the offense was June 7, 2007 (the day after school ended). The individual to whom he transmitted this material over the Internet was actually an undercover detective in Florida presenting himself as a 15-year-old girl. Mr. Goldman was sentenced to serve 180 days in a Florida correction facility. He was released in April and has been placed on 48 months probation. He is now a registered sex offender and resides in Massachusetts.

Last July, Mr. Goldman contacted his department chair at BB&N to tender his resignation. At the time, Mr. Goldman was on a six-week Fulbright program in Ghana, Africa. He offered no explanation for his sudden departure. At that time, of course, we had no knowledge of the situation described above, which took place before his resignation.

To our disappointment, the Florida authorities never contacted the School. After Mr. Goldman abruptly resigned, we retrieved the hard drives of two school computers assigned to him. We have commissioned a forensic analysis of Mr. Goldman's computers which is ongoing. We are aware that, during routine repair of his computer in 2002, the School discovered that he had received pornography. He was confronted at that time and explained it as an isolated incident. Thereafter, we had no indication of any inappropriate behavior on his part until we learned of his conviction.

Since learning of his conviction, I have met with several individuals who worked closely with him at BB&N. None of them noted any concerns about his conduct in dealing with any students in or out of class. I called Mr. Goldman to ask him directly whether he had ever engaged in any inappropriate conduct with a BB&N student. He answered no. We have been in touch with the Department of Social Services and the District Attorney's Office regarding these matters.

I am sending this letter to all current BB&N families (B-12) and to graduates from the classes of 1999-2007. I have two primary concerns. Of paramount concern is the safety and well-being of our current Upper School students and graduates from the past nine years. Although we have no reasonable cause to believe that any abuse or neglect occurred at BB&N, I want to ensure that no inappropriate behavior was ever directed toward BB&N students. Second, students place an enormous amount of trust in teachers. Consequently, I expect that when Upper School students and young alumni/ae learn of this news, they may feel a range of emotions including disappointment, sadness, confusion, and anger. We are determined to respond appropriately to their concerns and the concerns of every parent.

The School is taking the following steps to support our students, alumni/ae, and families. We will hold assemblies on Friday morning, May 9, to share the news with Upper School students. Counselor Doug Neuman and Dean of Students Rory Morton will lead two group sessions (Friday, May 9 from 11am-1pm and Monday, May 12 from 11am-1pm; Rooms 183 & 185) for any students who want to talk about the situation. In addition, of course, Mr. Neuman (617-800-2187) and Mr. Morton (617-800-2165) are available to talk with students or alums at any time. We have also made available a hotline which can be called by any individual who is affected by the news and might need emotional support. The number is 1-800-828-6025, and is staffed by professional counselors 24 hours a day. If you have any questions or concerns about these matters, or any information you would like to report, please contact me directly at 617-800-2101.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca T. Upham".

Rebecca T. Upham, Head of School