HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2006-2007 YEAR
AT CITY & COUNTRY SCHOOL

The Board, with critical support from the Administration, fulfilled the first step in a phased plan to raise faculty salaries - thereby making City & Country’s compensation competitive with other downtown NYC independent schools. These increases, effective July 1, are the first roll-out of a scheduled 3 year undertaking and demonstrate the School’s commitment to attracting and maintaining the best teaching staff possible. Several parents, committed to this goal, made substantial financial contributions toward faculty salaries.

A new book describing Caroline Pratt’s enormous contributions to educational thought and practice was released in the spring of 2007. Learning from Children: The Life and Legacy of Caroline Pratt, was written by Mary Hauser, Professor of Education at National Louis University and is available through Peter Lang Publishing.

The strong students in the class of 2007 chose a broad range of schools for high school. Among their choices are: LaGuardia, Trinity-Pawling, Dwight, Poly Prep, York, Rudolph Steiner, Friends Seminary, Stuyvesant, Bard Early College and Fieldston.

Currents, an in-house newsletter for parents, was brought back this year with two issues. The fall issue described the Jobs Program in the Middle/Upper school curriculum. The spring issue focused on how Group Plays are developed at City & Country.

Children contributed a record number of cakes to the C&C annual cake-decorating contest. Our signmakers, the Xs, produced 100 signs and awards. We needed every one of them since C&C children made 117 cakes - a record for our school and a testimony to the ongoing meaning (and fun!) of this longstanding tradition.

After 12 years at the School, Sarah St. Onge stepped down from her position as Director of the Middle and Upper School. A thorough search for her replacement resulted in the appointment of Scott Moran. Scott has taught the VIIIIs and IXs at C&C and was this year’s Math Specialist. He began his new administrative position July 1, 2007.

The Block Yard building materials were enhanced by the re-introduction of wooden barrels. Children from the Vs-VIIIs were observed experimenting with balance, velocity and music as they constructed see-saws, “barreling” alleys and music with this resurrected block shape in the Block Yard.

This year’s fund-an-item (a yearly auction activity where funds are raised for special C&C projects) raised more than $20,000. These funds will be used for visiting specialists to speak to individual Groups about specific subjects they’re studying such as Greenwich Village, the Lenape Indians, Medieval calligraphy, etc. By offering students the opportunity to learn from these scholars we once again reinforce depth of learning – the basic tenent of a City & Country education.

Last year’s fund-an-item provided support for teacher summer curriculum grants. Funded research topics included: a IVs/XIIs Curriculum Guide; Supplementary resources for Middle/Upper School literature and history; Block Yard Guide for Vs – VIIIs Teachers readings; City of Venice in Renaissance time; City of Baghdad in the Middle Ages. City & Country was included in an exhibit mounted by preservationist Virginia Budny, at La Maison Francaise, New York University. The exhibit focused on the artists who lived in the area closely surrounding Washington Square in the early to mid 1900’s. Because in its early years City & Country was located on MacDougal Alley, many of these artists knew Caroline Pratt well and sent their children to our School.
Principal Kate Turley completed her second three year term as Treasurer of the New York City Guild of Independent Schools and joined the Board of the Barnard School Foundation.

The new clay room, an addition to the existing Art Room officially opened in 2007 with the installation of our kiln. Students are enjoying this expanded space with an area dedicated to making and firing pottery. The combined Art/Clay room is part of the School’s significant expansion and renovation after purchasing back three 12th Street brownstones a few years ago. The art areas look out over City & Country’s Yards and have a first-class view of the Empire State Building.

C&C alum, Vladimir Pozner, ’47 returned to C&C for a visit and to film a portion of a 16 episode Russian documentary on life in the USA. Vladimir (author of several national best selling books, former co-host of “A Citizen’s Summit” which ushered glasnost into Soviet TV and former executive editor of Soviet Life magazine) remembers his years at City & Country with great fondness – most particularly the way that the School embraced him when his family moved to New York from Paris.

C&C teachers gave several workshops for staff members this year. Elise Clark, Lower School Educational Consultant, gave the traditional Block workshop for new teachers and Maggie Ens, Shop Teacher, gave our first Shop workshop for new and returning teachers. Art Teacher, Lucie Haessle led Lower and Middle/Upper School staff meetings while Rhythms Teacher, Kali Paguirigan (joined by Kate Morgan), gave a full staff workshop on the development of Rhythms.

First hand research – often through trips— is a core element at C&C. Among their many trips, C&C children visited Historic Richmond-town in Staten Island, the Jewish Museum, Piers 40 and 45, the 96th Street Mosque, Petland, the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket, RI, Chelsea Post Office and the Onassis Cultural Center.

We reprinted The City & Country Alphabet Book, a collection of block prints originally designed, cut in linoleum and printed by City & Country’s XIs on our Price & Lambert foot-treadle press (first printed in 1990 and available for purchase).

The VIIIs inaugurated a new job for the entire school—recycling! Learning that the three R’s can also mean reduce, reuse and recycle, the VIIIs enthusiasm for their recycling program quickly spread throughout the school where recycling centers were set up under desks, in hallways, and in numerous other locations in the School.

C&C welcomed over 140 outside visitors this year, among whom were: 62 graduate and undergraduate students; 9 graduate and undergraduate instructors; 8 international visitors; 19 teachers and directors of nursery schools.

The Lower School launched the Block Connection – a block workshop series for Head Start and Day Care Center teachers from four of the five NYC boroughs. Head Start teachers came to C&C for a two-part workshop led by Lower School Teachers, Karen Watson and Kathryn O’Connor, and Director of the Lower School, Jane Clarke. C&C re-visited a connection that was made when the School informed educational research for the foundations of the Head Start movement.

Two members of the class of 2003 were named as Commended Students by placing among the top 5% of more than 1,400,000 students who entered the National Merit Scholarship Program!