

KATY RUBARTH'S BATTLE

It's the fight.

A working single mother of three, Director of Communications Katy Rubarth has battled through two rounds of cancer over the course of nine years, but now she faces a troubling prognosis after her second period of remission.



FOR HER FAMILY
Although she faces a deeply intimidating challenge, Rubarth has the support of her family and friends like Kathy Mallick.

Katy Rubarth is scared. She doesn't know what's going to happen or who is going to take care of her boys or even how long she has left.

She's scared of the future. She takes her boys to Connecticut to spend some time with them. Her three boys Andy, Charlie and Oliver sit making handprints in still wet concrete plaster, laughing, unaware of the battle taking place inside their mother. The boys don't know that only weeks before, their mom had been told that she didn't have long left to live. They don't know that she brought them to this spot so that they would have a place to remember her. They don't know that their mom is sick. Again.

Seven years before that sunny day in Connecticut, Director of Communications Katy Rubarth was diagnosed with breast cancer.

At the time, she was volunteering full-time for the Red Cross, assisting people displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

After going in for tests that she had been putting off, the doctors found a tumor.

After several surgeries and countless rounds of radiation, Rubarth was cleared by her doctors.

"Usually they say if you're out and healthy for five years you can put it behind you," Rubarth said. "I went seven years."

Seven years later, Rubarth had just

finished with Baccalaureate and Commencement when she felt something in her back.

"I remember thinking the next day I must have pulled something," Rubarth said. "We were running everywhere trying to make it a good experience for everyone. It wouldn't go away. It felt odd, like a muscle strain."

After a visit to both the school trainer and nurse, neither of whom could figure out what was causing the pain, Rubarth went to her doctor. When the first X-ray signified that something was wrong, Rubarth had to undergo further

AS IT SUNK IN, IT WAS THIS OUT OF BODY EXPERIENCE. YOU'RE HEARING ALL OF THIS BUT YOU CAN'T REALLY PROCESS IT.

KATY RUBARTH

By the numbers: BREAST CANCER

1 out of every eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in her life.

0.9 percent of patients diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States are men.

2.6 million female survivors of breast cancer live in the United States.

testing. The tests weren't good. "The next day the nurse called, I was sitting right here in my office, and she said, 'the doctor wants to see you. And she wants you to bring a friend to drive you,'" Rubarth said. "That's not good. I knew something was going on and bad news was probably coming." Recently divorced, Rubarth's schedule was overburdened between her career and being a single mother of three boys. She hadn't had much time to develop many close friendships. Not knowing where to turn for help, Rubarth turned to the community. "I had gone on the Frank Jordan trip to Wyoming the year before as one of only two moms," Rubarth said. "The other mom was Kathy Mallick. I called her and said, 'I need to ask you a favor, and it's probably going to be a big favor; it may be bad news, but I need someone to go to the doctor with me,' From that day on, Kathy has been at my side." Walking into the doctor's office, Rubarth didn't know what to expect. She had made it seven years in remission, so cancer wasn't something she expected. Rubarth's doctor sat her down, and burst into tears as she tried to explain that the cancer was back, spreading all throughout her body. "You have cancer, and it's bad," Rubarth's doctor said. "It's in your bones, it's in your organs, you have a

spot on your spine too. I would take this time and spend it with your children because this doesn't look good."

Rubarth took her boys to Connecticut several days later, filled with uncertainty and not knowing how she was going to tell her boys.

"Things just sort of pop up randomly, you wonder how it happens," Rubarth said. "At that point I was wondering why is this happening, and what am I going to do. I was feeling very lost."

During the trip, Rubarth's college roommate insisted that Rubarth meet with a deacon from the Catholic church who was in town for one night.

"I didn't want to go anywhere, I sure didn't want to talk about faith," Rubarth said. "But my roommate said, 'we're going to his house.'"

Rubarth had yet to cry due to her diagnosis, but this time was different.

"This stranger deep looked in my eyes, and I just melted," Rubarth said "I hadn't cried, I was being really strong, I had to buck up for my boys, but I just melted."

The deacon asked what she was most afraid of.

"I'm most afraid of leaving my boys without a mother."

To be continued.

• The second and final part of Director of Communications Katy Rubarth's story in the upcoming issue of *The ReMarker*, which will be distributed March 11.

STORY CRAWFORD MCCRARY PHOTO ALDEN JAMES

Curtains debuts tonight at the Eisemann Center

by Kobe Roseman

After months of preparation, the Upper School Hockaday musical, *Curtains*, is set to premiere tonight at 7:30 at the Eisemann Center in Richardson.

The initial stages of planning began as early as February of last year when the new director of the show, drama teacher Emily Gray, was hired.

According to Gray, this Broadway murder-mystery was chosen due to the many roles available to students.

"[The musical] has a lot of roles that are like lead roles," Gray said. "There's not just one male and one female lead role. There are several male roles and several female roles. So it gave some pretty good people some good opportunities."

Along with this, Gray also wanted to choose an upbeat musical that could serve as a release from students' academic lives.

"It's very funny, silly, lighthearted and upbeat," Gray said. "I think people audition for the musical, and it's an extracurricular thing at school, I don't think people are looking to do something really desperately depressing."

But when the musical was announced to the students, many were surprised and had expected something more well known.

"It was sort of a curveball," senior Link Lipsitz, who will play detective Frank Cioffi, said. "We were all expecting something really fun, and then they were like, *Curtains*, and we didn't know what to think. But it's going to be fun so we are excited."

With the current construction at Hockaday and a new musical director, the preparation has been running at a different pace than years past.

"[The practices] are extremely busy," Gray said. "We really don't have a lot of downtime. We have just enough time to do

everything we need to do. Every practice is no taking breaks and stuff. We really use every minute we have."

With the craziness that most practices have been, Gray tries to motivate everyone to stay positive despite the threat of falling behind.

"My thing is always stay positive," Gray said. "Even if you are behind or concerned about getting behind, there's no point in wallowing in negativity. It doesn't actually produce anything useful."

But ultimately, Gray hopes that the musical will become a large event for both schools' communities.

"I hope it will be something that people can come to in big groups, have a lot of fun together and have a really good, uplifting night out," Gray said. "I think people will be surprised as to just how many talented students — boys and girls — we have between our communities."



CURTAIN CALL With a varied cast of both Marksmen and Hockadaises, Gray hopes to put on a show that will both entertain and uplift her audience.