The Lexington School
Pinpoints
SUMMER 2004

Graduation *Times Two* at The Lexington School!

"Milestones such as graduations need to be celebrated excessively," Head of School Molly Strassner noted as she addressed graduates of the classes of 2004. Excess was the guiding force of the graduation experience for The Lexington School this year. Not only did the school community enjoy two ceremonies in a theater adorned with coral geraniums and white impatiens, but many also benefited from the wisdom of two addresses by the Head of School, two welcomes from the chair of the Board and the future Board chair, two alumni speeches, and six presentations by class officers.



2004 Eighth Grade Class of 2004: *Row 1:* Welles Bradley, Katie Gardner, Caroline Boes, Alex Pearson, Elizabeth Fryman, Nancy McKinstry, Erin Stokes, Mallory Pfiester, Catie Boone. *Row 2:* Aubrey Vaughan, Annie Grossman, Mary Van Meter, Brendan Lin, Reeve McGaughey, Clint Parker, Chase Urschel, Tim Gilbert, Allison Hollins, Kate Mac Neil, Audrey Akers. *Row 3:* Brack Turner, Perry Logan, David Lock, Nick Maloney, Neil Makhija, John Stewart, Elliott Farmer, Adam Sanders. *Row 4:* Adam Trontz, David Parell, Christopher Kline, Harrison Langley, Dennis Van Den Broeck, Chris Lyons, Teddy Yan, David Bazner, David Fogg, Christopher Hisle. *Not in picture:* Russ Purdy and Hampton Frazier.

GRADUATION #1:

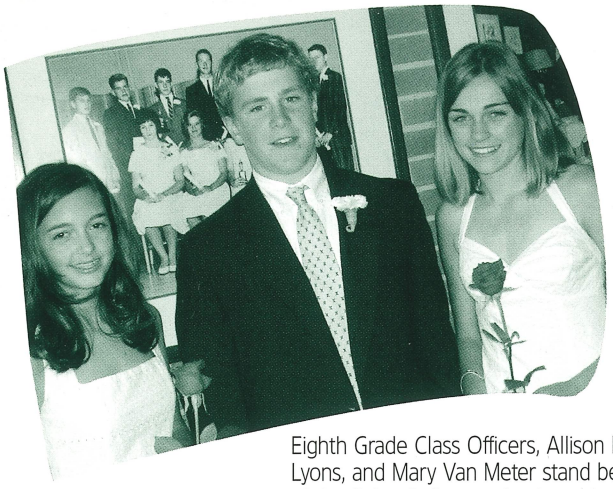
Friday, June 5, 2004 was an historic day for The Lexington School. The school's first eighth grade graduates filed onto the stage at ten in the morning to receive their diplomas. Alumni, families, friends, and former teachers joined the Board and faculty as Mrs. Strassner encouraged the graduates to think of their lives as a journey and to pack a metaphorical backpack as they left the School. She reminded them: "Too much baggage slows you down; too little might leave you unprepared. ... TLS has given you the tools to continue your learning - pack them." She also urged them to pack honesty, integrity, empathy, good judgment, and a sense of humor. "Love and respect for others are as essential as water, so pack plenty," she said. The rest was up to them. "But remember," she warned, "you can take anything, but you cannot take everything."

Class officers eloquently thanked parents, faculty, and friends for endowing them with a rich, full school experience. Mary Van Meter began by quoting Derek Bok who said, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance." She thanked families for their love and support as she observed, "By sending us to The Lexington School [you] have ...allowed us to receive an exceptional and distinguished education." She ended her speech by saying to families, "[T]hough it often goes unsaid, we are truly grateful for all that you have given us."

Chris Lyons paid special tribute to Coach Terry Justice for leading the boys' Lacrosse team to back-to-back state championships by establishing an environment for "teamwork, discipline, and mental strength"



The Freshman Class of 2004 Row 1: Ann Cowden, Colleen Gross, Katherine Bandoroff, Victoria de Leon, Betsy Wilson. Row 2: Lindsay West, Evan Lounsbury, Anton Escobar, Harrison King, Andrew Parlanti, Katharine Freeman.



Eighth Grade Class Officers, Allison Hollins, Chris Lyons, and Mary Van Meter stand before a photo of the School's first graduating class. below: Elise Grove ('95) addresses the graduates.

to prevail. Chris also honored Mrs. Jawanna Herd, his eighth grade science teacher, who retired this year from The Lexington School after twenty years of service. He said, "One could easily realize that Mrs. Herd is a very talented teacher." Chris ended by asking all teachers "to treat next year's students like you treated us, so that they, too, may become successful in life."

Allison Hollins concluded the class officers' presentation by thanking her classmates for their friendship and asking all to remember, "[F]riendships are not diminished by distance or time. ...We are all lucky to have so many friends that are so hard to say good-bye to."



The celebration continued with the alumni address by Elise Groves, class of 1995. Elise told the graduates that although she could now drive, vote, pay taxes and accumulate her own credit card debt, she was still, at her core, the person who graduated from the school nine years ago. "And probably most importantly, my priorities haven't changed much," Elise continued. "All-in-all, my friends and my family have proved to be the most precious things in my life. And friends that you know, that really know you, are worth more than anything. They know you fundamentally. They know where you are from and what you are about. They know you in deep conversations and in comfortable silences. They know who you were in second grade, and, therefore, will always in some way know you."

Regarding change, Elise said, "There is no way to avoid [it]." She told the members of the class of 2004 that they would continue to have firsts, "but it is the constants that make us who we are; the things that don't change. Your intelligence, your drive, your passion. These things get us through the craziness of the daily world around us." Elise urged all not to "lose who you are. Be a good friend, a good student, a good daughter or son. Thrive on the constants. [Because] by knowing who you are and what you can depend on, you can face anything."

GRADUATION #2:

Graduation times two equaled traditions begun and ended. At the ceremony on June 6, 2004, the Freshman Class officers observed that the first Lexington School graduating class consisted of eleven members, seven boys and four girls. This year's class, the last Freshman Class to graduate the school, also had eleven members: seven girls and four boys.

Co-President Colleen Gross thanked families, saying, "Through times of joy and sorrow, you would support us and tell us that everything would be all right. You helped us talk through our problems, be they school-related or just social. Even though it was hard for you to see us do so, sometimes you would let us go in our own direction and make our own mistakes, in hopes that we would learn from these errors in the future."

Co-president Betsy Wilson thanked friends for growing together. She reminded her classmates of the scary time they shared climbing *via ferrata* at Torrent Falls in the Red River Gorge. Each member achieved a degree of success on that climb, and the group supported one another to the end. This spirit of unity forged throughout the year made the graduation parting especially poignant.

Katherine Bandoroff began her address by saying, "Teachers, we are who we are today because we knew you." Using this unifying line from the musical *Wicked,* Katherine challenged her classmates with these words: "It has been said that to whom much is given, much is expected. We have been given an amazing gift of an incredible education. We must now go forward and do our best to repay this gift by working hard to achieve our goals, to make something worthy of our lives, and by doing so, to honor our parents, our teachers, our school, and one another."

In her address alumna Heather Clay, class of 1986, recalled the story of Dumbo the elephant who could not stay aloft without his magic feather, a gift from his friend the mouse. When Dumbo lost his feather, and it appeared that disaster was imminent, it was Mouse who encouraged Dumbo to rise above fear and draw on his inner

resources. Heather told students, "When we are afraid, we can freeze, or go silent; we don't say what we mean or do the good thing we intended to do or act fully like ourselves, like the people we were meant to be and to become." She said, "... fear is the opposite of language, of right action, of success, if you take success to mean becoming most completely ourselves, regardless of what anyone else thinks."

"What is your magic feather?" Heather challenged the graduates. Magic feathers come in a variety of forms, she acknowledged, according to an individual's natural gifts and talents or one's passion or destiny. Fears, too, come in all forms, creeping, insidiously, into our search for joy and fulfillment.

Heather had bad news and good news for the graduates: "First, the bad news. As you probably know already, the fears change, but they never go away....That fear of crashing that Dumbo had feels exactly the same inside for all of us no matter what age you are. Now for the good news: I do think, as you get older, that it gets just a little easier to look back and realize that, since everybody crashes all the time, you might as well give yourself a break and, while you're at it, proceed with as much self-confidence as you can cultivate. Because when you have as much youth and talent and support as this group of graduates has, there is no good reason not to be self-confident."



Heather Clay, Class of 1986, addresses graduates.

Following the presentation of diplomas and words of blessing from Mrs. Bonzo, Freshman Class advisor, the Faculty Singers performed "An Irish Blessing." Dr. Cooper then struck the chords of "Trumpet Voluntary," and with a standing ovation from Board, faculty, families, and friends, the last ninth grade class recessed from the theater where they'd once sung for Boo Sings, mimed for sixth grade drama classes, and taught the Middle School with their Freshman talks. A fine tradition, retired with reverent, heartfelt, extravagant excess.

For the full text of speeches by Heather Clay and Elise Groves, go to WWW.thelexingtonschool.org.

And They're Off!

The Freshman Class of 2004 will find itself in a variety of schools around the city and the nation.

Katherine Bandoroff—*Henry Clay High School*
Ann Cowden—*Episcopal High School*
Anton Escobar—*SCAPA at Lafayette High School*
Katharine Freeman—*SCAPA at Lafayette High School*
Victoria de Leon—*Lexington Catholic High School*
Colleen Gross—*Lexington Catholic High School*
Harrison King—*Lexington Catholic High School*
Betsy Wilson—*Lexington Catholic High School*
Evan Lounsbury—*Dunbar High School*
Andrew Parlalnti—*Dunbar High School*
Lindsay West—*Miss Porter's School*

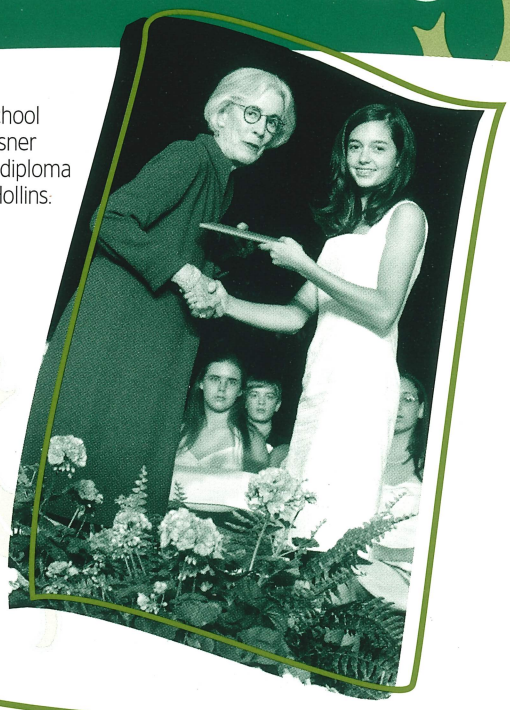
The Eighth Grade Class of 2004 will also spread its wings.

Audrey Akers—*Lexington Catholic High School*
David Bazner—*Lexington Catholic High School*
Caroline Boes—*Groton School*
Catie Boone—*Sayre School*
Welles Bradley—*Henry Clay High School*
Elliott Farmer—*Henry Clay High School*
David Fogg—*Sayre School*
Hampton Frazier—*Sayre School*
Elizabeth Fryman—*The Academy at Henry Clay High School*
Katie Gardner—*Sayre School*
Tim Gilbert—*Lexington Catholic High School*
Annie Grossman—*SCAPA at Lafayette High School*
Christopher Hisle—*East Jessamine County High School*
Allison Hollins—*Sayre School*
Christopher Kline—*Sayre School*
Harrison Langley—*Baylor School*
Brendan Lin—*Dunbar High School*
David Lock—*Dunbar High School Math & Science Magnet*
Perry Logan—*Henry Clay High School*
Chris Lyons—*The McCallie School*
Kate MacNeil—*Sayre School*
Neil Makhija—*Dunbar High School*
Nick Maloney—*Dunbar High School Math & Science Magnet*
Reeve McGaughey—*Sayre School*
Nancy McKinstry—*Phillips Exeter Academy*
David Parell—*Dunbar High School Math & Science Magnet*
Clint Parker—*The McCallie School*
Alex Pearson—*Henry Clay High School*
Mallory Pfiester—*Sayre School*
Russ Purdy—*The McCallie School*
Adam Sanders—*Lafayette High School*
John Stewart—*Sayre School*
Erin Stokes—*Dunbar High School Math & Science Magnet*
Adam Trontz—*Lexington Catholic High School*
Brack Turner—*The Academy at Henry Clay High School*
Chase Urschel—*Dunbar High School Math & Science Magnet*
Dennis Van Den Broeck—*The McCallie School*
Mary Van Meter—*The Lawrenceville School*
Aubrey Vaughan—*Dunbar High School Math & Science Magnet*
Teddy Yan—*Denton High School*

Graduation Photo Memories



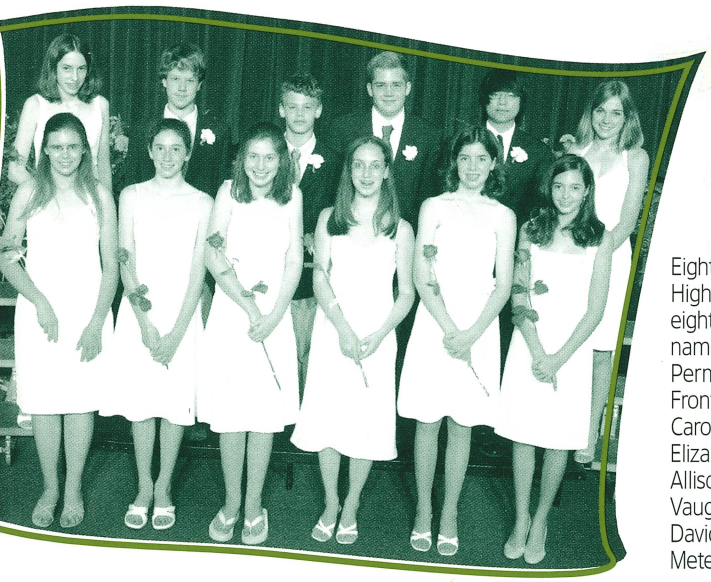
The names of students who have consistently achieved High Honors during their Middle School years are engraved on the Permanent Head's List located in the Middle School hall of The Lexington School. Freshmen who achieved this academic feat for their seventh, eighth, and ninth grade years are pictured above. *Front row:* Ann Cowden, Colleen Gross, Katherine Bandoroff, Victoria de Leon. *Back row:* Lindsay West, Evan Lounsbury, Harrison King, Katharine Freeman.



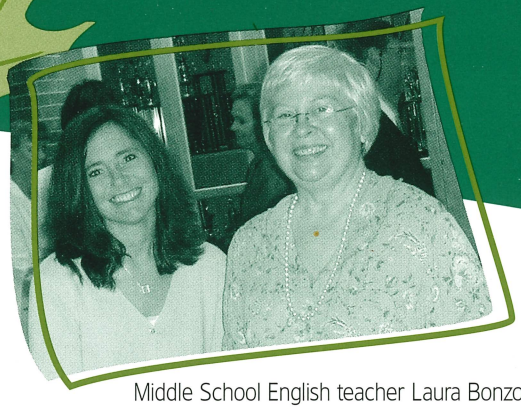
Head of School Molly Strassner presents a diploma to Allison Hollins.



Eighth grade friends share hugs and smiles before the ceremony. From left: Mary Van Meter, Nancy McKinstry, Annie Grossman, Catie Boone, Mallory Pfiester, Kate MacNeil, Allison Hollins.



Eighth graders who have received High Honors for seventh and eighth grade will have their names inscribed on the Permanent Head's List, also. Front row: Katie Gardner, Caroline Boes, Alex Pearson, Elizabeth Fryman, Erin Stokes, Allison Hollins. Back Row: Aubrey Vaughan, David Lock, Clint Parker, David Parell, Teddy Yan, Mary Van Meter, Russ Purdy (absent).



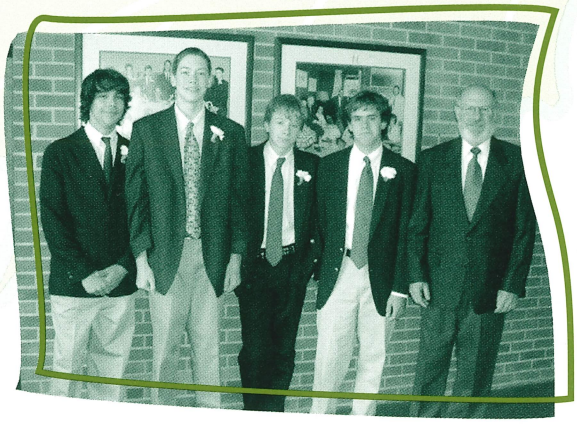
Middle School English teacher Laura Bonzo-Sims and Lower School Head Marijo Foster anticipate the arrival of the Class of 2004.



Class officers Colleen Gross, Katherine Bandoroff, and Betsy Wilson prepare for graduation.



Case Clay ('89) proudly provides moral support for his sister Heather Clay ('86) who delivered one of the graduation addresses.



Frank Hardesty gathers the ninth grade men before some historic photos. From left: Anton Escobar, Evan Lounsbury, Andrew Parlanti, Harrison King.



Three of the eighth grade advisors, Jawanna Herd, Kimberly Sherrard, and Sara Hinds, await The Lexington School's first 8th grade graduation.



Head of School Molly Strassner presents Betsy Wilson with her diploma.



Samantha Kemmish, Mark Scarr, Anne Bjork, Diana Clark, and Amanda Hale prepare to line up for the faculty procession into the theater.

Lacrosse, Soccer, Tennis and Track: Spring Sports were Spectacular

It seems that whenever The Lexington School participates in a Spring sporting event, success follows. Again this year, TLS teams earned accolades, and individuals triumphed.

For the third year in a row, The Lexington School Boys' Lacrosse Team won the Middle School State Championship. Under the inspiring leadership of Coach Terry Justice, the boys ended the season with a 9-1 record. Seventh grader Daniel Waldman distinguished himself by being named this year's Middle School State Lacrosse Tournament's most valuable player.

Middle School girls began the year with a daunting record: they had been undefeated since 2000. Amazingly, the team ended the season 8-0, making their four-year record forty-two wins and three ties. What's next for these wonder women? Head Coach Darrin Wald says, "The future of next year's team continues to be bright with seven starters returning, five of whom were sixth graders this past year."



Coach Jamen Mohan helped guide the Middle School Girls' Tennis Team to an undefeated season. In addition, our five-member boys' team performed solidly against high school competition. Although both teams were small, they were hard-working and competitive.

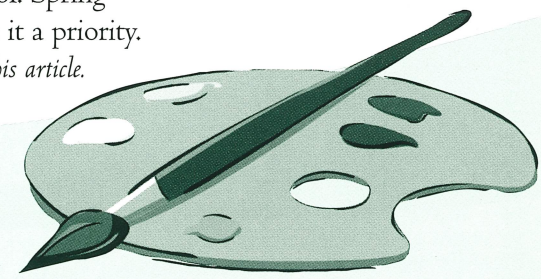
Records were set and tied by our Middle School Track Team under the able leadership of Coach Ben McIntosh. At the state meet, Nancy McKinstry set a school record of 33 seconds in the 200. Mary Van Meter, as she ran in her first track meets ever, set records in the 800 (2:33:64), and 1600 (5:57). In addition, Harrison King ran a 5:11 mile, which was a personal best and tied a school record. Many of our track stars train throughout the year, and practice certainly has paid off.

Learning life-long physical fitness skills is highly valued at The Lexington School. Spring sports successes indicate that hard-working coaches and team members have made it a priority.

Thanks to Frank Hardesty, Tom Parlanti, and Jamen Mohan, who provided information for this article.



Clockwise from the left: Mary Van Meter prepares to break the ribbon for another win; Lee Cowden makes a powerful return; David Fogg moves the ball down the field; and Bea Cameron traps the ball during the girls' undefeated season.



Painting Added to Gallery

Freshman art students study twentieth century paintings, stretch canvases themselves, and paint in the style of one of their favorite artists of the era. Their art teacher, Anne Bjork, displays these masterpieces in the hall as part of the graduation celebration. Each year The Lexington School purchases a painting created by a member of the Freshman Class. The faculty makes the difficult decision as to which painting will be retained for the permanent collection. This year a painting by Anton Escobar, who painted in the style of British abstract portraitist Francis Bacon, was selected. We are excited to have this unusual and excellent painting hanging in our halls. Anton will continue his studies in art at SCAPA, the School for the Creative and Performing Arts, at Lafayette High School.

Always Teaching, Always Learning

LIFELONG LEARNER JAWANNA HERD RETIRES FROM TEACHING



She was Queen Amygdala, Rosalind Franklin, Emma Darwin, or Dr. Zazu Lippman: World-famous Molologist, freshly emerged from her time machine. *That Mrs. Herd!* She was everywhere and everyone.

Sometimes she was in the field—a field of Blue-eyed Marys—at Raven Run. Other times she was in the chemistry classroom as "destructo woman."

Freshman class leader Katherine Banderoff recalled her first day of chemistry. Mrs. Herd started the year with a dramatic explosion. "You know, I killed my kids," Mrs. Herd mysteriously intoned. Then she confessed to being a goatherd in earlier years when she lived off the land in Scott County, and it was true that the occasional "kid" did become sausage for the family larder.

Amazingly, Jawanna came to The Lexington School to fill an opening in the English department. During her first year she taught fifth, sixth, and ninth graders reading and writing. Since she has always been a Renaissance woman, writing, observing, and analyzing, she took to the language arts classroom with ease. She shared her expertise as a storyteller and a poet with her students and challenged them with grammar, spelling, and vocabulary.

When a science position opened up, "interim" head Stuart Smith quickly transplanted her to her natural habitat, the science classroom. There she remained until June 9, 2004 when she retired.

Mrs. Herd modeled for all of us a life-long love of learning, openness to new research and teaching methods, and the importance of balancing the proper proportions of active instruction and personal discovery in the classroom. She has always been a team builder with her colleagues by chairing her department through stellar accreditation reviews.

Jawanna acknowledges that TLS had a tremendous impact on her daughters, Sarah ('91) and Erin ('93). She feels that the School taught them how to study and helped them love to learn. Both women still journal faithfully as they did in their middle school years.

For the past twenty years Jawanna has come to school eagerly, expecting days filled with challenges, fun, vital learning, and exhausting expectations. She says that she remained at The Lexington School because she appreciated the freedom and support to teach in unusual and meaningful ways. She will continue to share her magic as a science teacher with us next year as she leads our fourth graders on several adventures into the woodlands and hills of central Kentucky. But in her retirement she will also take time to finish several books she has in progress, tend her garden, take walks with her husband Don, and spend more time with her family and friends. Although she will continue to find ways to teach, whether in Sunday school or at the community center, she admits that she will deeply miss the warm collegiality of The Lexington School faculty.

Mrs. Herd, as you continue to add to your life-list that is already so filled with rich data, the school thanks you for showing each of us ways to open our eyes to the wonders of the world around us. Through time machines and explosions, friendship and fun, you've deeply enriched our community.



The Lexington School

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The Lexington School admits students of any race, religion, color, sex, national or ethnic origin.

From *The Archives*



Class of 1963: The First graduating class of The Lexington School. *First row:* Mary Henderson Davis, Jane Eiseman, Marian Bean, Sara Clay. *Second row:* Done Robinson, Philip Howard, William Young, Jr., Darby Turner, Mike Bell, David Fishback, Richie Miller.