The Lexington School
Pinpoints
SPRING 2009
A Newsletter for Families, Alumni, & Friends of The Lexington School

From Your Backyard to Ours:

The Lexington School Intramural Program

From the sidewalks of New York to the sandlots and backyards of small-town America, there was a time when young children played outside, unsupervised. They created games, made their own rules for the old ones, and worked out the details with diplomacy or a fight. If things got too rough, they'd run home for a band aid, a drink of water, and a hug and be back in the fray soon after.

Times have changed, and children have play dates, organized soccer, baseball, basketball, and lacrosse teams, and music, dance, martial arts, and drama classes. Parents drive carpools and still have to give drinks of water, hugs, and the occasional band aid when things don't work out. The school wondered how to meld the best of both experiences.

Head of School Chuck Baldecchi and PE teacher/school photographer/lower school administrative assistant/basketball director/ Ms. Meredith Carrithers put their heads together at the end of 2007 to envision a 21st century version of backyard play. They both wanted to create a place where young children could take a risk, try a sport, and test their limits. The dream was for the school to offer a broad spectrum of opportunities with supervision, of course, yet plenty of room for participants to "work it out" and grow from their interactions with one another.





Strengths of the TLS program include small numbers, a high ratio of adults to kids, an intergenerational mix among grades, and a chance to test limits. For instance, children get some aspects of a sports camp: training in the fundamentals of a new sport; but then they get to work it out. The staff employs a light touch that allows children to learn that team selection is not always "fair," it's important to learn to control your temper, there are advantages to brushing off the effects of a spill in order to re-enter the skirmish and have some fun, and when things get physical, you don't need to fear getting hurt, rather you have the thrill of testing your limits. Coaches try to step back to let kids argue about lines and bumps, but they are always present to offer stability, encouragement, and comfort when necessary.

Sixth grader Axel Kiefer, who competes in fencing on the national level, actively volunteers in the fencing program, providing an excellent role model for the school's youngest students. Kaitlin Russo '06 also helps children learn the fundamentals of soccer as a way to give back to her alma mater.

Coaches report that after tackling the fundamentals of volleyball, the intramural group played five competitive, energetic games that demonstrated the teamwork and sportsmanship skills they work on every day. Teams made up of 1st graders through 4th graders played



Ms. Carrithers, a graduate of Transylvania and former coach of the Transy girls' softball team, rose to the challenge and set about preparing a proposal for Mr. Baldecchi. Ms. Coach Carrithers, as the children call her, has worked with TLS students for five years before, during, and after school. In other words, she knows her clientele well and feels great affection for them. It was vital for her to find the right people to be with them. Her plan included hiring alumni who were interested and college students around the area whose strength was working with children. It also included introducing as many sports as possible. Every month of the school year and most afternoons, the program has included fencing, wrestling, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, track, flag football, floor hockey, dance, volleyball, tumbling, lacrosse, and golf. Throw in a computer or a taekwondo class, and the variety is astounding. In addition, Meredith is constantly refining more possibilities as parents come forth to share their expertise.





together in these games, building one another's confidence. All agree, it was inspiring to watch.

After a week spent learning, experimenting, and practicing gymnastics moves, students demonstrated a wide array of new skills. Ms. Carrithers described an obstacle course of tunnels, balance beams, hoops to jump through, crash mats to do pike jumps and toe touches from, and mats for front and dive rolls that tested the abilities of all. She reported that the neophyte gymnasts loved their challenging course.

From KinderKlasse through 5th grade, parents have filled up every after school intramural offered by the school. This spring, Middle Schoolers joined the crowd. The Lexington School has extended its backyard to become a haven for children who want to be active, social, and have some fun. In addition to, "Mom, can I go over to the Stones' to play?" children may now entreat, *"Mom, can I stay for afterschool with Ms. Coach Carrithers, please?"*















Good Fences Make Good Learning

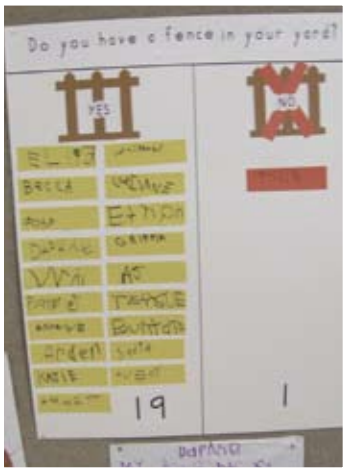


If you've ever discovered

a new author and then felt compelled to read everything that person ever wrote, or viewed a movie and subsequently found yourself watching absolutely everything by one director or actor, you'll understand the excitement of the project approach in KinderKlasse and Prekindergarten. Finding projects is just one of many approaches to learning practiced by the school's preschool teachers. It is defined in Lilian Katz and Sylvia Chard's *Engaging Children's Minds* as an "in depth study of a particular topic that one or more children undertake." Project work capitalizes on the child's world and is divided into three phases. First, teachers introduce a topic; secondly, they pursue field work built on questions, interests, and observations. Finally, children create and demonstrate graphs, models, posters, stories, plays, or artwork illustrating what they have learned in all sorts of ways for others to see and enjoy.

This year Prekindergartners explored a broad spectrum of fences. In a state filled with historic fences and a school surrounded by a wide variety of enclosures, the topic was ripe for exploration. The project began when the children were taking a walk to a nearby mailbox to mail letters home. They started noticing different fences, and their teacher started taking pictures. When they got back to the classroom, they examined the pictures and discussed what they knew about fences and what they would like to investigate. The children's interest was piqued, and phase one of the "Project Fence" approach was well under







way. Then the research and data gathering began. Of course the classroom was filled with resources to identify fences, learn about them, and practice a wide variety of fence-making techniques, but a field trip on the expansive school grounds yielded a plethora of information.

Children were astounded by the wide variety of fences on their school's property: four-board, stone, hedge, wire, and chain link fences revealed themselves to these young explorers. And soon students found themselves delving into phase three. On the way "home" from the school "woods" near the lower school playground, pre-kindergarten teachers said "…students noticed some large stones scattered and piled next to a tree. They decided it would be fun to try to build a stone wall like the one they just saw by the school's entrance." The children divided into small groups and began construction of their own stone fences.

Undaunted by their initial limited success, students engaged in problem solving that revealed, "I know! We have to put the big ones on the bottom or else it will tip over." Other comments included, "Hey guys, let's make ours long like this," followed by an ecstatic and somewhat surprised, "Look! It's holding up!" As these small stone cairns were left behind for others to discover, one preschool stone mason remarked with pride, "I'll bet the big kids will be surprised that we made this."

In 1999 Preschool Head Donna Hutton used her TLS professional development allotment to take a class with Lilian Katz and Sylvia Chard on the project approach. Last summer she invited former TLS faculty member and current Head of Lower School at the Duke School Sandy Gillespie and teacher Sharon Bushnell to present a workshop on the project approach that Ms. Bushnell has used for over 20 years at the Duke School in Durham, North Carolina. Together, Ms. Bushnell and Ms. Gillespie demonstrated how this teaching/learning choice provides the underpinning of their school. Mathematics, literacy, research techniques, the arts, and science are all incorporated in their methodology.

In stage two, stones, marshmallows, pretzels, and Popsicle sticks provided classroom materials for fence building while children learned about the magical powers of using a level. One of the students asked, "Why does the bubble in the level not burst?" It was time to consult an expert. Middle school science teacher Trey Adams soon showed up in his lab coat, goggles, and a test tube filled with colored water to explain the mysterious machinations of a level.

Working to solve problems with a group, learning to keep work square and level, mastering the proper manipulation of a trowel, and appreciating the importance of a strong, effective base – good lessons for all aspects of life. Robert Frost was famous for saying that good fences build good neighbors, but at The Lexington School, good fences build good learning experiences.

Head *Lines*

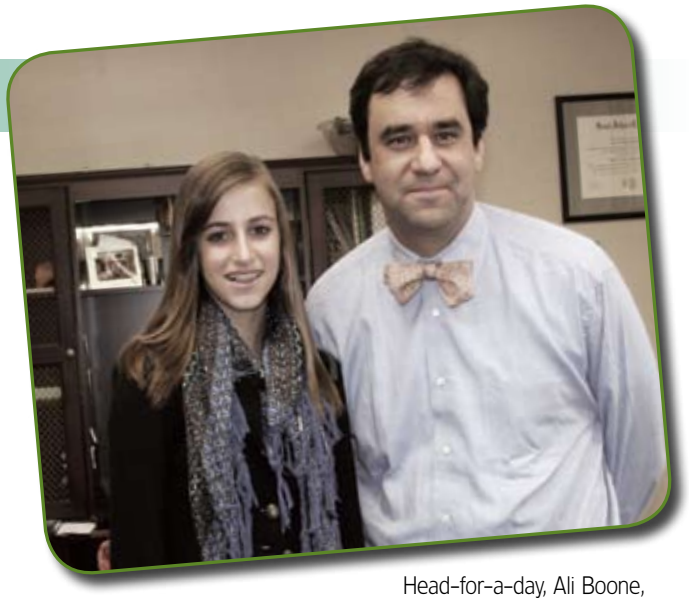
NOTES FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Who's backyard was it for you? For me, it was the Stones'. Some of my fondest memories took place on their grassy, open field that was the regular gathering place for all of my buddies after school. As if it were yesterday, I remember running up my front driveway after getting off the school bus and bursting through the front door yelling, "Mom, I'm home." Without breaking stride, I would throw my book bag onto the parlor bench and run directly out the back door, straight to the Stones' magical backyard. Unlike the other backyards, it was a rectangle and, most importantly, –flat - perfect for football, soccer, lacrosse, tag, or whatever game we invented. We were there until the last bit of the sun's rays began to fade. Life was great. There wasn't an adult to be found. In fact, I think I only saw Mrs. Stone twice in my life.

In the Stones' backyard I learned about myself — my possibilities, and my limitations. I learned when to argue a call and when to let it go. I learned how to lead and when to follow.

One of the casualties of the new millennium that I bemoan is the loss of the backyard. I understand why it has disappeared. The world is different today. The world is not as safe as it was a generation or two ago. That's why I wanted TLS to become our children's backyard.

When I asked Meredith Carrithers, who has been working toward her master's degree in Sports Administration, to design a program that would make this dream a reality, she came up with a brilliant answer. Does it resemble the Stones' backyard? Not completely. There is adult supervision and actually instruction of basic basketball, lacrosse, flag football, soccer, street hockey, volleyball, and softball skills. But the program is aimed at our preschool and lower school students and resembles more of an intramural program. It is designed to be a sports program for children - a place for them to go after school to play and have fun - not a place to become the next Peyton Manning, LeBron James, Gary Gaits, or Wayne Gretzky. I don't expect it to replace what the Stones' yard was to me and my friends. Nothing organized by adults can replicate that experience. But as someone who believes The Lexington School is more than a school (I think of it as a community), my hope is that it will bring our children together and teach those important life lessons I learned in the friendly confines of the Stones' yard.



Head-for-a-day, Ali Boone, shares her office with Mr. Baldecchi.

One other note: In anticipation of the 50th Anniversary this October, we are going to alter our *Pinpoints* calendar a little. Instead of producing our usual late summer and early fall issues, we are going to produce a commemorative 50th Anniversary issue that will be delivered next December. This issue will include photos from the 50th weekend, comprehensive alumni news, and numerous stories about The Lexington School's past, present, and future. We will return to our regular *Pinpoints* schedule of three issues a year in 2010. We look forward to a wonderful homecoming next Fall and urge everyone to return home to TLS this upcoming October 16-18 weekend.

Warmest regards,

Charles D. Baldecchi
Head of School

Philosophy Statement

Because we are a nurturing environment,
children feel confident.
When children are confident,
they will take risks.
Because risk taking is inherent in learning,
the possibility of failure exists.
When a nurturing community exists,
challenges lead to growth.
Our success is defined when our students have the life skills to make wise choices and overcome obstacles.

A FLASH FROM THE PAST

Once a month former Lexington School faculty and staff meet for lunch to check in with one another and maintain their ties to the school. In November, right after the election, a small group met at Cleveland's in Versailles, and this is their latest news.

Mrs. Betty Cox, former mathematics teacher and veteran beach comber, has been watching sunsets over various oceans for 25 years hoping for a glimpse of the legendary, elusive Green Flash. Finally, on September 13, 2008, off her beloved Siesta Key, Florida, the sun disappeared from the horizon. An instantaneous flash of lime green appeared and, just as suddenly, disappeared. Scientist Mrs. Jawanna Herd concurred that this rare phenomenon was possible yet probably a once-in-a-lifetime event for a select few – one of which was the grateful Mrs. Cox.

Mrs. June Hess was the bookkeeper in the front office for over 20 years. A number of years after she retired, she started what she thought was going to be a brief, part-time job. Now she's surprised to admit that she has worked in admissions and records at Bluegrass Community Technical College for five years. She enjoys visiting her four grandchildren who live from Searcy, Arkansas, to Boston, Massachusetts.

Mrs. Roberta Owen works at the Lexington Convention Center registering attendees for special events. In addition, she is a standardized patient for the UK colleges of medicine, pharmacy, and nursing. This job entails taking on an assigned persona and working from a script to help students learn and practice interviewing and caring for patients. The process is filmed, and Mrs. O scores each student's patient interactions. She has met several former students in the medical field. Recently Sarah Conley '00, a Georgetown College graduate and UK pharmacy student, had to administer a shingle shot. Fortunately, and not surprisingly, Roberta learned that Sarah had excellent technique.

When Roberta, a former PE teacher, was participating in a Donovan School program on low impact aerobic fitness, she was astounded by the prowess of a physically fit woman she observed across the room. Former French teacher Madame Nicole Charron was turning heads with her smooth, confident, athletic moves.

Mrs. Owen attributed her two interesting jobs to former lower school teacher Mrs. Libby Geddes. Although Mrs. Geddes devours talking books on a daily basis and leads a full social life, she preferred to share information



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT *Jawanna Herd, Betty Cox, June Hess, Roberta Owen, Libby Geddes.*

on her children and grandchildren. Todd '79 has three boys and is a project manager for Humana in Louisville. Anne Geddes Gay lives in Lexington and works with children who have special needs. Julie '80 works for the Kentucky Association of Realtors as a director of professional standards, and Doug '77 is an electrician living in Holiday, Florida. Libby has been able to teach some of her seven grandchildren how to cook, and recently she gifted her 12-year-old granddaughter with a Singer sewing machine. Lessons will surely follow.

Mrs. Jawanna Herd is reaping the rewards of developing her right brain. She entered one of her altered books in an art contest and won $200 and Best in Show. Her pottery, a paper and clay assembly embedded with rocks and fossil, also won first prize in a recent art show. In her spare time she is an adjunct professor at Georgetown College teaching teachers how to teach science. Who better could do this job? She still takes Lexington School 4th graders on botany field trips of the school grounds, and she travels regularly to Cincinnati to care for her parents.

That November day, Frank Hardesty was traveling, and Mrs. Gretchen Young was out-of-pocket, too. Mrs. Sue Orme needed a day at home, and Mrs. Debbie Wilson was probably analyzing election results. Yet once a month, these teachers and more still gather to keep The Lexington School in their lives.

Pin Prints



Angeliki Stogioglou, Kennedy Sabharwal, and Georgia Zavos, in their authentic dresses, celebrate after their presentation for families and friends.



Lucas Lillelund pays tribute to his Nordic roots on Kentucky Heritage Day.



Eric Kline, Kyle Sampson, and Christian Flemm prepare to take their 4th grade Traveling Tree Show down the hall to Preschool.



Emilie Dhir, Ellie Alford, Hannah Williams, and Mia Pulliam eagerly await their 4th grade performance.



Mark Walsh joins in the grand 4th grade Kentucky Heritage Day celebration.



Classmates from the 1980s came together at Holiday Homecoming: Joe Aldy '87 and his fiancée Sarah Beam, Anne Jefferson '87, Jeanne Baker-McDaniel '87, Maggie Cassidy '87, Alex Wolsk '87 and wife, Nancy Dow, Kathleen Eastland Sisler '87, Jeff Jefferson '85, and Beth Sullivan Moorman '86. In the back: Rodgers Palmer's wife, Selene, Rodgers '85, Tim West '87.



Andrew Betts (8th grade) welcomes his grandmother, Jackie Betts, for Grandparents Day.



The Lexington School 3rd grade chess team won the Kentucky State Grade Level Championship. Team members include Spencer Kriss, Ian Schaeffer, Myles Winkley, Marshall Nielsen, and Ben Schaeffer. The top fifty 3rd grade chess players in the state competed.



Clark Dupree (6th grade) eyes the basket to score for TLS.



Eighth grader Cameron Boone concentrates on his shot for the home team.

Pin Prints



The class or 2002 had a mini reunion at Holiday Homecoming: Magda Stewart, Leah Martin, Carl Gray, Dane Jensen, Lucy McKinstry, Logan Burgess, B. Fisher, John Brooks, and Doug Romaine.



Second grader Nate Steiner and his dog take advantage of the snowy weather to train for the Iditarod.



Eliza Jane Schaeffer carefully adjusts her roller coaster before it takes off.

Kindergarten scientists Corinne Leach and Easton Morton have all the equipment they need to observe and problem solve.





Will Farish works on the science behind his 5th grade roller coaster.



The 4th graders thrill to the excitement of the public viewing of the 5th grade science projects.



Olin Gentry (3rd grade) is happy to have his grandmother share Grandparents Day with him.



On November 4, 2008, TLS students participated in a mock election. Third grader Emerson White is a proud voter.



Tyler Terrill pulls down a rebound for her team.

Pin *Notes*

NEWS OF ALUMNI *by Mandy Helton*

Hampton Adams '78 is a portfolio manager with Gamble Jones Investment Management. Hampton holds an MBA from the University of Virginia and lives in Newport Beach, California, with his wife, Mary, and their children Hannah, Henry, Peter, and Freddie.

Adam Collis '82, award-winning director and teacher at the University of Southern California's School of Cinematic Arts, will begin offering an acting workshop in Santa Monica, California, in March. "Making It Real for the Actor: The acting experience from the Director's perspective," will feature several high-profile guests who are directors and producers of film and television. Adam says he is very excited about this class "because it puts focus squarely on the relationship between the actor and the director, and I simply love working with actors." Adam has been teaching for eight years, and he has directed several shorts and documentaries, including the award-winning short film, *Mad Boy, I'll Blow Your Blues Away*. He directed the 20th Century Fox feature film, *Sunset Strip*, starring Simon Baker, Jared Leto, Nick Stahl, Adam Goldberg, Rory Cochran, and Anna Friel. He is currently producing his next feature, *The Long Blue Yonder,* with Bill Mechanic, former CEO of 20th Century Fox Filmed Entertainment. He is represented by the William Morris Agency.

Jeanne Baker McDaniel '87 and husband Glenn celebrated the birth of their third child, daughter Ella Grace, born September 24. Ella joins big brothers Peter and Baker. Jeanne received her graduate degree in nutrition from Georgia State University in 2001 and is also a certified specialist in pediatrics. Jeanne has her own private practice called The Nutrition Source.

Chad Walker '87 and his wife, Anna, had a son, Wyatt, on September 4, 2008. Chad and Anna, a teacher, were married in July 2007 and live in Brooklyn, New York. Chad is a graduate of the Pratt Institute and is a creative director at McGarry Bowen, a Manhattan advertising agency.



The "TLS merger" of **Laurel Johnston Cassidy '88** and **Peter Cassidy '89** has yielded two daughters, both doubly blessed with TLS alumni DNA. Emery Stokes was born on December 1, 2008, and Laurel says big sister Eva Pace, 3, is great with the baby. Laurel is the Director of Sales for the International Spa Association in Lexington. Peter is an attorney with Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney, PLLC.

Jonathan Salomon '90 has joined the Louisville law firm of Tachau Meek, PLC as an associate and will represent individuals and banks, insurers, and other business clients in a wide variety of litigation matters. Jon is a 1997 graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and a 2001 graduate of New York University School of Law. He previously practiced with the New York office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. Before law school, Jon served in President William J. Clinton's second administration as a member of the White House advance staff and also traveled on the presidential campaigns of Gen. Wesley K. Clark (Ret.), Senator John F. Kerry, and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton. On May 25, 2008, Jon married fellow alum **Keturah Gray '94**. It was one big TLS reunion as **Beth Medina '94, Sarah Tackett '94, Rebekah Gray '96, Mary Bruce Gray Alford '99, Carl Gray '02, Seth Salomon '94, Marshall Foster '90, Curtis Montague '90, Ben Hoffman '90, Barbara Cohen Rubin '89**, and **Erica Cohen '93** all participated in the ceremony.



Bethany Bernard Rogers '92 and her husband Preston welcomed daughter Berkley Kate on October 2, 2008, weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz. and measuring 19.5 inches. Berkley joins big sister Taylor Price, 3 years old. Bethany is a realtor with Prudential A.S. deMovellan Real Estate. Preston is Senior Vice President and Financial Planner with Wealth Management of Kentucky, Inc.

Hilary Baumann '94 is a graphic designer living and working in Lexington. She recently designed the logo for the 15th anniversary of the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green (A recommission — Hilary also designed their 10th anniversary logo).

PARRISH THE THOUGHT! Two TLS Parrishs hear wedding bells!



Wendy Parrish '84 and Randy Berzansky *(right)* were married July 19, 2008 at First Presbyterian Church in Lexington, KY. TLS alumni in attendance included **Laura Lee Parrish '64, Lucy Parrish '79, Norman Brown '82, Holly Parrish Brown '82, Heather Tierney '83, Whitney Wiggins Pannell '84, Katherine Forgy Peppiatt '84, Margaret Blaydes Vitrano '84, Emmy Kenan Thomson '86, David Parrish '88, Griggs Powell '87, Elizabeth (Boo) Kenan Morton '92, Laura Parrish '94, Zack Bray '94, Dowell Hoskins Squier '95, Graham Kenan '96, Chapin Hoskins '97, Hock Parrish '99,** and **Alex Parrish '03**. The Berzanskys are living in Seattle, Washington.



A few months later, the Parrish family had more to celebrate *(left)*, along with the class of 1994, as **Laura Parrish '94** married TLS classmate **Zack Bray '94**, on October 4th, 2008 at First Presbyterian Church in Lexington. It was another wonderful reunion for TLS alumni, including those pictured: **David Parrish '88, Mark Hoffman '94, Jamie Nicholson '94, Wilson Sebastian '94, Walt Robertson '94, Cecilia Moore Hill '94, Michael Bray '98, Melissa Sparrow '94, Janet Baker Byrd '94, Wendy Parrish Berzansky '84, Ellen Stilz Plummer '94, Katherine Alford '94, Holly Parrish Brown '82,** and **Elizabeth Kenan Morton '92.** The newlyweds are now living in Los Angeles, California.

Will Chapman '96 and his wife Georgeanna welcomed their first child, daughter Anne Reid Chapman, in January. Will is continuing the family tradition with his work at Clay Ingels in Lexington.

Brooke Folley Counts '96 and Chris Counts welcomed their daughter, Lauren Kathleen, on February 7th, 2009. Though Lauren was born 8 weeks early, both Brooke and Lauren came home within a week and Brooke reports that Lauren is "eating a ton" and doing quite well. Brooke is an attorney with McCallie and Mattingly in Versailles.



Mollie Palmore '97 married Christian Weinman on June 7, 2008 at the Governor's Club in Nashville. Both bride and groom are graduates of Vanderbilt University and they now reside in Springfield, Tennessee, where Mollie is a pediatric nurse practitioner.

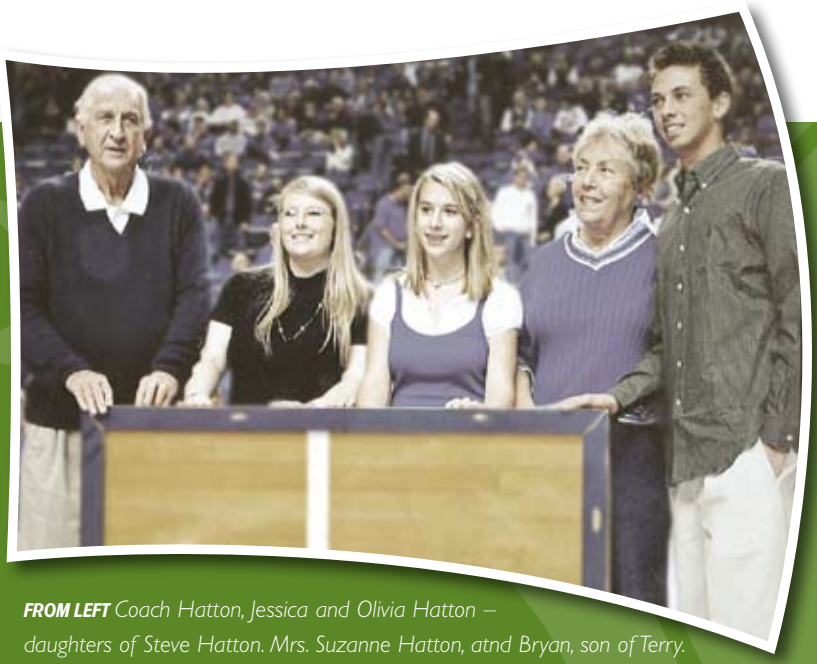
Marli Baumann '98 completed her undergraduate degree at Centre College and graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law in Spring 2008. She has been admitted to the Kentucky bar.

Anna Coleman Prewitt '98 was married to Daniel J. Simon on October 6th, 2007. Anna is currently living and working in Alexandria, Virginia. She works for Faith Direct and belongs to the Alexandria Rowing Club. Her mother reports that Anna and Daniel recently adopted a retired greyhound dog.

Ryan Baumann '99 is currently working for the Center for Visualization and Virtual Environments at the University of Kentucky and can be seen in the KET special "Digital Renaissance: Imaging the Iliad." In summer 2007, Ryan accompanied a team from Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies to Venice where they photographed and scanned world's oldest surviving manuscript of Homer's *Iliad*. Ryan then was charged to combine the images that they had obtained and make the pages "flat" digitally. Since the project's completion, Ryan has presented the work at several conferences. In summer 2008, Ryan spent three months in London, working at the British Museum, the British Library, and the Natural History Museum on various projects and also served as the "visiting research assistant" at King's College. His mother says, "I really think that the basis in thinking creatively as well as the fundamentals in English and mathematics that he got at TLS have played a large role in what he has already accomplished." Ryan achieved his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of Kentucky.



Ensign **Jeff Milward '99** is currently stationed at Bagram Air Force Base in Northern Afghanistan. His address is ENS Jeff Milward/ R2 Dept./25NCR(DET)/APO AE 09355.



FROM LEFT *Coach Hatton, Jessica and Olivia Hatton – daughters of Steve Hatton. Mrs. Suzanne Hatton, atnd Bryan, son of Terry.*



Eli Zimmerman '99 and mom Leanne received a visit from **John Playforth '99** when both boys returned to Lexington for their winter break from Vanderbilt Medical School in December. John's fiancée, Krupa Bhojani, is in the same class with Eli at Vanderbilt.

Lauren Palmore '00 is in graduate school at Belmont University for nursing.

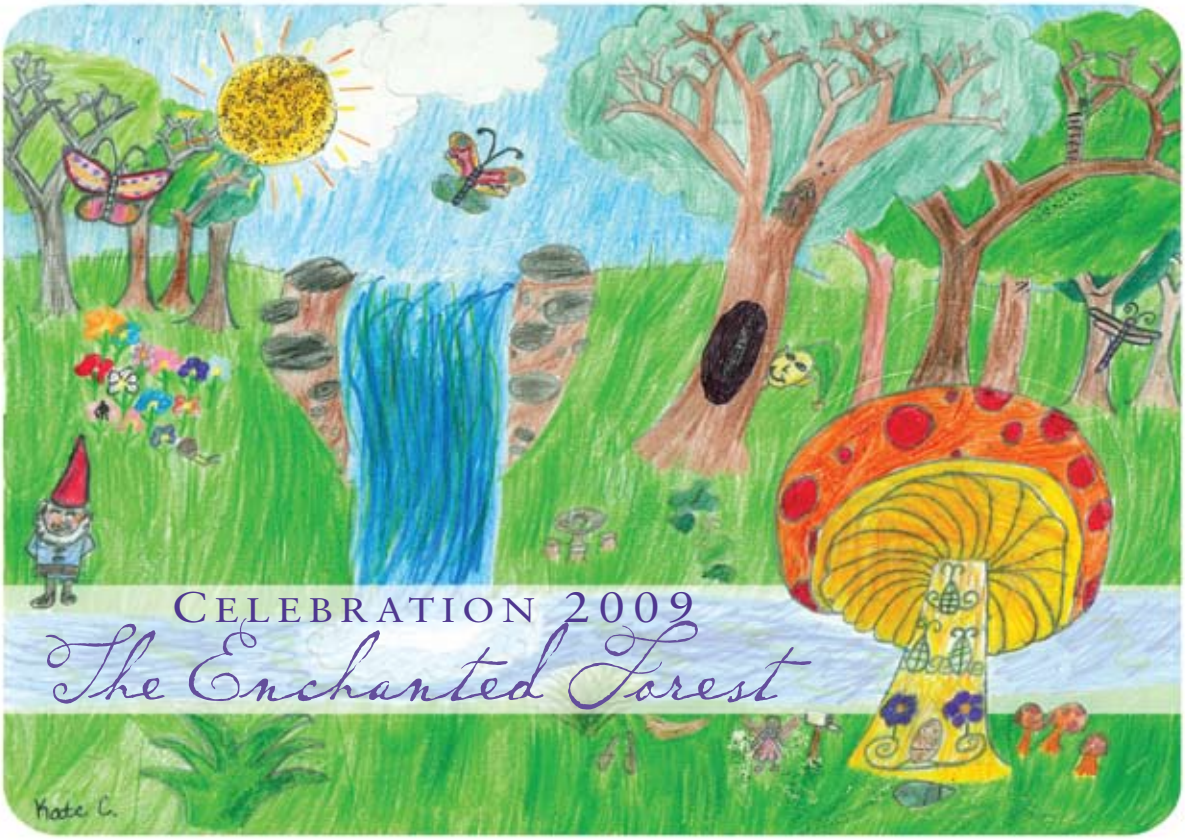
Caroline Boes '04 graduated *magna cum laude* from Groton School in May 2008, and spent the summer at TLS as a *Camp Curiosity* counselor before she left for Wellesley College.

TLS alumni are delivering big goals for Sayre's soccer team. **Bea Cameron '07** and junior **Anne MacNeil '06** halved all the teams goals in their 4-0 victory at Bryan Station in the girls' 26th District tournament. In the semi-finals, it was again two TLS-ers, MacNeil and **Devon Bradley '05,** who scored and assisted each other for the win over Scott County.

Sam Lyons '08 earned his Eagle Scout award during his winter break from McCallie School.

Before he coached basketball at The Lexington School, Mr. Vernon Hatton (H'81) was an All-American, UK Kentucky Wildcat. At the UK-Tennessee State game on December 22, 2008, the university honored Coach Hatton by presenting him with the section of the Memorial Coliseum court where he hit a 47-foot shot against Temple on December 7, 1957. This historic shot sent the game into double overtime. The final score was UK 85 – Temple 83. UK won in a triple overtime. Mr. Hatton's three sons are TLS alumni: Jeff '76, Terry '77, and Steve '81. *Congratulations, Coach!*

The Lexington School Invites You to



Friday, May 8, 2009 • 6:00 P.M.
The Lexington School

1050 Lane Allen Road, Lexington

Enchanting Attire RSVP by May 1

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Please list people in your party _____

_____

_____

_____

- ☐ **Table Sponsor: $1,750** (reserved seating for 10)
- ☐ **Patron Sponsor: $350** (reserved seating for 2)
- ☐ **Individual Ticket: $99** (no reserved seating)
- ☐ **Faculty & Staff: $25 per person**
- ☐ **Unable to attend.** Enclosed is my tax deductible gift.

Payment Information:

Total Number Attending: _____ Enclosed is my check for: $_____ or VISA/MC (circle one)

Name on credit card: _____

Credit card number: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiration Date: ____ /____

Signature of card holder: _____

Please remove this mail-in registration page and return to:
TLS CELEBRATION, 1050 Lane Allen Road, Lexington, KY 40504

BEHIND THE SCENES
A Hidden America: Children of the Mountains

by Keturah Gray '94

A few months ago, I drove back to Lexington to visit my parents, weighed down in the passenger seat by a big plate of homemade Christmas cookies. These cookies were frosted liberally with sugared Santa Claus hats and red Rudolph noses by two-year-old Sable, seven-year-old Hannah, and their older sisters 12-year-old, Courtney, and 11-year-old Mary. I'd just spent several days in eastern Kentucky with the girls' family: their mother, Angel, and their aunts, uncles, and grandparents – 11 in all – who lived under one roof. As on other trips down there, the girls' grandmother and family matriarch, Dinah, offered something before I left. Usually, it was just a cup of coffee to keep me awake while driving back down the curvy, mountain roads, but this time, knowing I was going to see my parents, Dinah and her granddaughters sent me home with a plate of goodies to share. Seeing that I sometimes brought Dinah bourbon balls on my trips down from Lexington, we were even. A sweet for a sweet.

Their small town of Inez, on the Kentucky-West Virginia border, is only about two and a half hours from Lexington down the Mountain Parkway. Other than a couple of TLS 9th grade biology field trips to Red River Gorge, I'm embarrassed to say that I hadn't previously spent much time in this part of the state. For two years, though, my job with ABC News allowed me the rare excuse to road-trip across the eastern part of our home state to film Angel's girls and three other families in their homes, schools, and jobs.

We met because Diane Sawyer decided to do a story that would try to capture the realities of a child born into poverty, before the challenging circumstances of life try to bring him or her down. For several years, Diane has focused on stories with similar themes: in 2006, there was a documentary about America's children growing up in foster care (we filmed a large part of this at a foster care facility in Louisville); in 2007, a story on children trying to break the cycle of urban poverty in Camden, N.J. After the Camden hour, she decided to look at what a child growing up in rural poverty has to face. The commonality in all these stories: Children are born with tremendous hope, and we have a responsibility to nurture their dreams.

A team of producers works on these projects with Diane. The producers do initial research into the issues to explore and identify the subjects we want to profile to a key three or four. We also do most of our own shooting using small, hand-held digital video cameras. At any given time, we're working on as many as four or five different stories across the country. For me, it's a dream-come-true kind of job.

Looking back on it, Miss Cowling may have prompted some of my own interest in storytelling. She made history come alive for us by turning the facts of Caesar's life, for one example, into stories that she seemed to act out, and that we memorized through "carpel-tunnel inducing note-taking, as Andrew Grimes said last year. The TLS Library also nurtured a love for current events. When I was growing up, I went there during school lunch breaks to get my weekly, pop culture "fix" of *People, Newsweek,* and *Rolling Stone* magazines.

The commonality in all these stories: Children are born with tremendous hope, and we have a responsibility to nurture their dreams.

With the ABC News piece, we set our focus on Appalachia. While there's no doubt that progress has been made in the past 40 years, primarily in infrastructure and education, Appalachia remains one of the poorest regions in the United States. Appalachia spans 13 states, so, for purposes of our sanity, we narrowed ourselves down to eastern Kentucky. According to the Appalachian Regional Commission, eastern Kentucky has 38 "distressed" counties in Appalachia, more than West Virginia (13), Mississippi (12), and Tennessee (8) combined. "Distressed" is defined as counties having unemployment and poverty rates at least 1.5 times the national average



Keturah films Shawn during his senior year in high school.

with an average income less than 2/3 of that of the national average for the three preceding years.

In the spring of 2007, we made some of our first trips to eastern Kentucky. Working with churches, volunteer philanthropic organizations, and with school Family Resource Centers, we sought to identify children with a "sparkle" in their eyes whose personal stories were representative of thousands of others. Over the course of two years, we drove over 14,000 miles while covering these families, almost drove off a cliff only once, and injured one deer (for the record, it ran into our truck, not the other way around). Diane Sawyer was in the passenger seat for both of those incidents, and all I could imagine were the headlines if I'd driven us off the curvy, Appalachian road.

We quickly learned how massive the prescription pill epidemic is. Research reveals that Eastern Kentucky has one of the highest prescription drug abuse rates in the country. Trying to meet a family across any economic spectrum who isn't affected by the problem is next to impossible. What you don't realize until you start talking to people is how it personally and relentlessly affects the children.

One of the first children we met was 10-year-old Erica, whose mother, Mona, has been battling alcohol and drug addiction Erica's entire life. The sweetheart of her small town of Cumberland, Erica told us that she wanted to get Mona out of the town, so she could give her mother a better life.

When Mona is high, Erica goes on walks through the boarded-up, old coal town to get away from her mother. She says that she knows sometimes that her mother is using because "she had that look in her eyes when she lied to me."

Examples of progress and a thriving middle class are apparent in other parts of Appalachia. In cities like Pikeville and Paintsville it feels like there are two Appalachias: the Appalachia where the children of teachers, lawyers, and medical professionals are succeeding at rates better than ever; and the Appalachia where children growing up in the hollows can't seem to catch up.

The kids from the hollows are also the ones more likely to have severe tooth decay, or "Mountain Dew Mouth," as the decay has been nicknamed by dentists. A dental hygienist likened it to "someone pouring battery acid on the tooth enamel." When you film child after child drinking soda like it's water, you understand why Kentucky is nearly always #1 in toothlessness. Bad habits start young, but could possibly be prevented by upping Kentucky's Medicaid reimbursement level for dentists to encourage more of them to move to the mountains. Currently, only 400 dentists serve an estimated 300,000 poor children in Kentucky.

Obviously, we didn't have time to tell the story of all of Appalachia. One hour of TV time is actually only 38 commercial-free minutes. But we've got people talking, and from that, we are hopeful there will be some reform. Our focus was on America's "forgotten" children. At TLS, we grow up with every imaginable opportunity. I think I'm a perfect example of that – I can honestly say that I'm doing now what I wanted to do when I was 13 years old. I don't know that I'd be here, producing for Diane Sawyer, if I hadn't had the strong, educational foundation that TLS offered.

Producing this story has been the most meaningful project of my life. I've met so many active people across our state working to improve conditions for everyone. I believe that it is our responsibility to offer something back to our state and to empower the young people in it. Be a Big Brother/Big Sister, donate to a dental van, or explore the environmental effects of mountain-top removal. Get involved. Since I've been in New York, I've grown to realize how much Kentucky means to me. It's an exceptional, unique state with great beauty and culture. We have plenty to be proud of, but plenty of work still to do.

Keturah is a graduate of Duke University and has been a field producer at ABC News since 2005. She is married to Jon Salomon '90. (See Pin Notes*) The* 20/20 *video is available for purchase through ABC for those who missed the original airing. A portion of the proceeds will go to Appalachian charities.*

The Lexington School

Our First Fifty Years

by Margaret Cowling '64

an excerpt



David Lowry (H'00) and Mary Lee NIchols (H'99)

CHAPTER 3 - MARY LEE NICHOLS

Upper School Head Mrs. Mary Lee Nichols (H'99) announced her retirement after 20 years of outstanding teaching and administrative activities. Those who sit on the bench in the current middle school hallway may notice a brass plaque with the inscription "The Hawk." Be warned: there was a good reason for Mrs. Nichols's nickname. She missed nothing. As one former student admitted, "They say teachers have eyes in the backs of their heads . . . not Mrs. Nichols. She didn't need them. She knew when we were misbehaving before it occurred to us to do it." Even Dr. Lowry (H'00) commented that he was a bit intimidated at first by this daunting lady's presence. "There was something about the woman that not only demanded respect, but suggested the ability to look into your eyes and know your sins. . . . As the new headmaster, I was relieved, because this is the perfect combination for someone who is in charge of managing 7th, 8th, and 9th graders. With her in the back hall, I knew all was well. If not 'well' exactly, then 'under control,' and if not 'under control' exactly, then 'about to be pulled back into shape within seconds.' She simply had a presence that altered the precinct around her."

Of course, under this powerhouse exterior, Mrs. Nichols cared deeply about young people, and her ability to communicate with them was nothing less than remarkable. Mrs. Jane Justis (H'82), mother of Chris Baumohl '79 and Susan Baumohl Lanthorn '82, put it best when she said, "I never saw her cause a child's self-image to suffer. I've seen her correct, remind, prod and even push, and I've seen her get angry a couple of times, but she never put a child down. In my children's eyes, she was trustworthy." Surely there could be no higher praise than that.

Ms. Cowling has worked for the past two years to capture The Lexington School's history in pictures and prose. Her book will be released as a part of the school's 50th Anniversary celebration. Be sure to save the dates October 16 & 17, 2009, to wish The Lexington School a happy birthday.

Save the Date!

October 16-17, 2009
The Lexington School
50th Anniversary



Have you marked your calendar yet?

October calendars fill up quickly. Be sure you are reserving these dates for our 50th Anniversary celebration. We have a weekend of activities planned, with fun for the entire family!

Friday October 16

Morning Founder's Day Celebration at The Lexington School

Afternoon An Afternoon at the Races, at Keeneland Race Track

Evening Alumni Reunions

Saturday October 17

Morning Open House & Family Day at The Lexington School
featuring a ***Colts 5K*** *and* ***Fun Run***

Evening Dinner & Dancing at The Kentucky Horse Park
featuring music by ***Free Spirit***

Pinpoints is a newsletter published by The Lexington School. Administrative Team: Charles Baldecchi, Marijo Foster, Amanda Hale, Donna Hutton, Una MacCarthy, Beth Pride, Bob Thompson. Writer/Editor: Ann Eames. Photography: Meredith Carrithers, Mick Jeffries, Tom Novitsky, Ann Eames, school files. Copy Editor & Contributor: Lucy J. McKinstry '66. Pin Notes & Staff Writer: Mandy Helton. Graphic Design: *www.mickjeffries.com*
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Required Reading! Two Great Books – One Great Price!

The Lexington School: *The First 50 Years*

Reserve your copy today — a limited-edition hardcover copy of The Lexington School's history, capturing the story of these "halls of learning" — lovingly written by Margaret Cowling '64 and edited by Ann Eames.



50 Years of Great Taste: *A TLS Cookbook*

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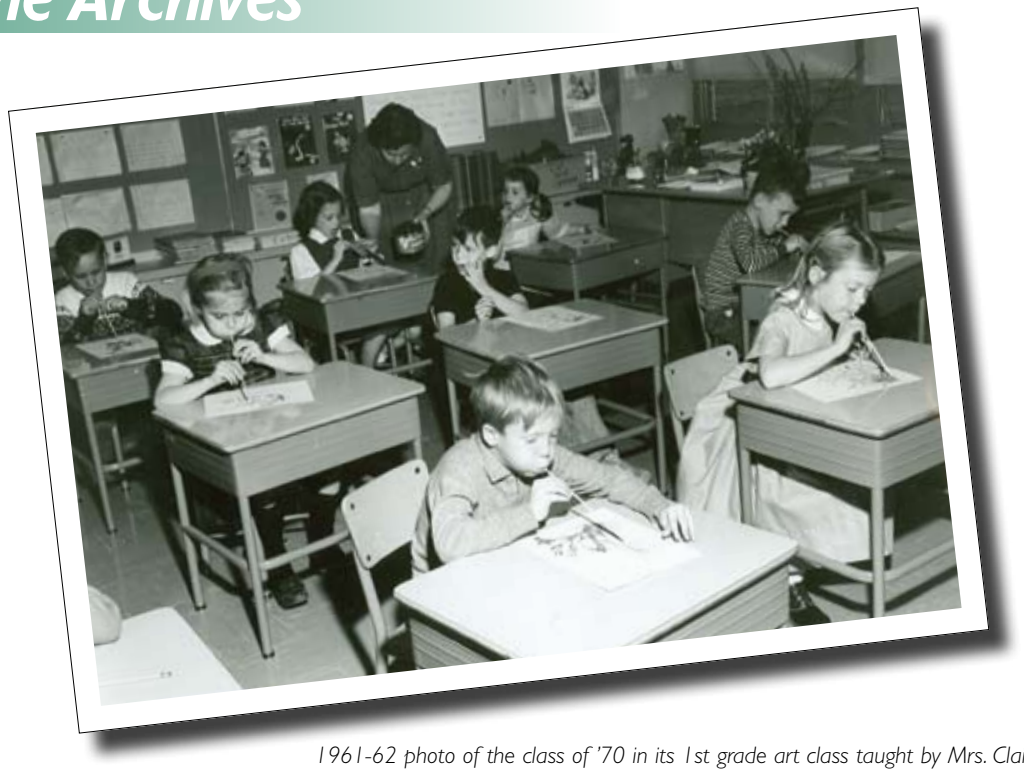
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The Lexington School admits students of any race, religion, color, sex, national or ethnic origin.

From *The Archives*



1961-62 photo of the class of '70 in its 1st grade art class taught by Mrs. Claire Macfarlane (H'79)
BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: *Ken Sears, Ann Bakhaus, Mrs. Macfarlane, Catesby Clay, Hunt Edwards, Jonathan Jones, Charlotte Mason, Patterson Boyce, Brownell Alexander.*