The Lexington School
# Pinpoints



## We Will Know and Love Your Child

On August 23, 2011, Head of School Chuck Baldecchi opened the academic year's inaugural faculty meeting by quoting the Reverend F. Washington "Tony" Jarvis, renowned headmaster for 30 years of Boston's Roxbury Latin School, the oldest school in continuous existence in North America. Founded in 1645, during the reign of King Charles I, Roxbury Latin and its younger compatriot, The Lexington School, both stand on the solid tradition of a rigorous academic program set in a small classroom. The intentionally small classroom has been a hallmark of The Lexington School since it was founded in 1959, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

It is never more evident than during the time-honored traditions surrounding graduation that TLS faculty and staff take to heart the promises of both Tony Jarvis and Chuck Baldecchi: "We will know and love your child."

Commencement exercises here are preceded by an impressive and unforgettable calendar of events for all generations to enjoy and

*(continued inside)*

THE LEXINGTON SCHOOL CLASS OF 2012

*Row 1* Catherine Donnelly, Eliza Jane Schaeffer, Emma Calhoun, Carmen Maria von Unrug, Merrick Irwin, Emma Stone, Eliza Pride, Jade Wright, Clay Brewer.

*Row 2* Joshua Dhir, Nick Kostelic, Dara Talbott, Zainab Kahloon, Skylar Winkley, Meagan Hale, Tyler Patton, Allison Quammen, Tessa Fry, Ian Harrison, Jack Phillips.

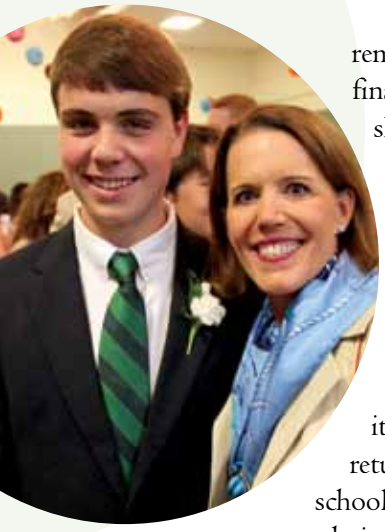
*Row 3* Mel Zakharia, Sophia Tannir, Madeline Blake, Mallory Fishman, Emily Cashman, Ellie Bernard, Nicole Bacha, Ashton Cole, Charles Tari-Head.

*Row 4* Huntley Hacker, Eli Mitchell, Stephanie Ramsey, Anna Farris, Caroline Totty, Rosie Halpin, Natalie Hagan, Madalyne Rice, Clara de Castro, Mark O'Brien, Will Farish.

*Row 5* Stevan Kriss, Josh Ehl, Christian Courtney, Trent Marshall, Jaylen Jones, Strohmann Breeding, Sloan Warner, Kyle Draper, William Ramsey, Trevor Arvin, Jacob Young.

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remember. For eighth graders, with final exams completed, learning shifts to the classroom of the great outdoors as they experience first-hand the extraordinary opportunity to travel the Southwest. From Zion National Park to the Grand Canyon, camping for six nights straight, cooking over the fire, hiking, rappelling, taking it all in, students and adults alike return with stories to tell. Middle school science teacher Jason Hurst, completing his first year at The Lexington School, had much to say about the trip. "When we were leaving Zion, I saw a sign for a museum. While teaching at other schools, on field trips we would go to every museum there was. In that moment, standing within the beauty and majesty of Zion National Park, I realized that instead of just looking at things, we were *experiencing* things; we were *doing* things. That makes all the difference." Readers of Fall 2011 Pinpoints remember Mr. Hurst's new teacher biography, detailing his extensive, worldwide travels. He continued, "You know I've traveled a bit, and this is one of the best trips I have ever taken. That area is a once-in-a-lifetime place to experience. The only way to describe it is that it was like being in a thousand-year-old Italian Cathedral." Horizons are opened unbelievably for Lexington School students.

Upon their return home, the class is honored at the Candlelight Ceremony. As Board of Trustees President **Rob Brewer '85** said during graduation, "It's where our rising fifth graders join the Middle School, and it's a chance for us to say goodbye to our graduates as they prepare for high school." Rob continued to describe that very emotional rite of passage, "Once all the names have been called and all the applause has been given, the entire faculty lines up, and each eighth grader gets to walk down that path and either hug or shake the hand of every teacher that has been a part of their Lexington School experience in their entire career…. All of a sudden, these graduates who came here, literally as toddlers, can, for a brief moment, reflect on the entire journey through these halls."

The Alumni Council luncheon and time capsule burial are also valued traditions, and former Alumni Council secretary **Lucy Barrow Calhoun '75** and **Esther Fallon Breeding '77**, mothers of graduates Emma and Strohmann, welcomed the class as newest alumni. Mrs. Calhoun shared how extraordinary TLS friendships are and promised that 10, 20, and even 30 years after they've left the school, they will *still* be talking about their teachers who mean so very much to them today. After graduation, hearing Lincoln Brown's heartfelt words, Mrs. Calhoun remarked, "It was fascinating that what resonated with me in 1975 resonated with Lincoln in 1995. ***This*** is what makes TLS stand apart and makes it special."

Class agents Strohmann Breeding, Clara de Castro, Rosie Halpin, and Sloan Warner announced there was immediate cause for celebration: Theirs is the first class to have 100% participation in the Annual Fund — as each eighth grader had already made a gift as a thank-you to the teachers.

Advisor Night is the favorite tradition of Anna Merritt, PE teacher and eighth grade advisor, who explains that the evening before graduation is a reflection of each graduate's TLS experience and a walk down Memory Lane. As the advisor speaks about the student, there is an accompanying slideshow with pictures of that child from birth to the present. In preparation, advisors reconnect with the student's former teachers and accumulate stories, humorous



*Above* Sloan Warner and his proud mother, Jane, celebrate at the post-commencement reception. *Right* Lincoln Brown addresses TLS's graduating eighth graders and families.

memories, and add special touches about each child. As Ms. Merritt says, "We focus on their personalities, their work habits, their academics, and their friendships. The students are interviewed throughout eighth grade by their advisors about their interests, hobbies, and extracurricular activities. We ask them about favorite times, special teachers, and how they want TLS to remember them. If they have a passion about their future and know what they want to pursue as a career, we mention that as well. Each advisor spends countless hours writing the speech because we want to give each child the best description of his life as a TLS student. The students look forward to this tradition and there are tears of joy and sadness as we conclude the evening, reminiscing and enjoying each other the night before graduation. I believe it is this moment where each child realizes how fortunate she is to have had the opportunity to attend such an amazing school with teachers who love them and want only the best for them and their future. This is by far one of the greatest gifts I can give my students." *We will know and love your child.*



*Clockwise from the top* On Advisor Night, Anna Merritt reads one of her affectionately written tributes; Fifth grader Caroline Hager and Merrick Irwin take part in the Candlelight Ceremony; and Mark O'Brien gives his candle to fifth grader Jackson Cunningham. *Right* Mallory Fishman and her dad, Greg, enjoy graduation day before moving to Austin, Texas.

On graduation morning, after the procession into the gym and onto the stage, Student Council leaders, Strohmann Breeding, Clay Brewer, Clara de Castro, Rosie Halpin, Dara Talbott, and Sloan Warner, each spoke at the podium, highlighting specific memories of their class's times throughout the years here.

Mr. Baldecchi thanked Joyce Baker for her 31 years of service now that she has prepared her final lunch for her second generation of hungry Lexington Schoolers. As head of the cafeteria, Joyce continued the family tradition begun by her mother, Florine Moore. Mr. Baldecchi went on to announce that Joyce now looks forward to a retirement trip to Hawaii, which will also be a wedding trip, and, most appropriately, Joyce was given a standing ovation. Her hundreds of admirers offered their warmest thanks for all she has given The Lexington School family throughout the decades. The applause was especially thunderous as the audience offered her best wishes for a new and blissful chapter in life.

Mr. Baldecchi thanked retiring board members, Sonja Feist-Price, Dudley Webb, and Rob Brewer, particularly noting that Rob has given a decade of service on the board.

Assistant Head of School and Middle School Head Una MacCarthy then announced the Permanent Headmaster List, for those who earned high honors during their sixth, seventh, and eighth grade years, while maintaining an overall GPA of 9.5 with no grade below a B- in a core class or a commendable in a specials class. A record-breaking 22 members of the Class of 2012 earned the right to have their names included on the engraved plaques that hang immediately inside the front door: Nicole Bacha, Ellie Bernard, Clay Brewer, Emily Cashman, Clara de Castro, Joshua Dhir, Catherine Donnelly, Kyle Draper, Natalie Hagan, Rosie Halpin, Jaylen Jones, Zainab Kahloon, Stevan Kriss, Jack Phillips, Eliza Pride, Eliza Jane Schaeffer, Sophia Tannir, Charles Tari-Head, Caroline Totty, Sloan Warner, Jacob Young, and Mel Zakharia.



Six graduates this year, Strohmann Breeding, Clay Brewer, Emma Calhoun, Huntley Hacker, Eliza Jane Schaeffer, and Dara Talbott, are second-generation TLS students.

Earlier in the morning, before commencement exercises began, a number of teachers spotted **Lincoln Brown '95** in the hallway and came over to give him a warm and reconnecting hug. As he strode to the podium, those same women and men shared a collective wellspring of pride in seeing "their" student come back as the day's featured speaker. The moment was the embodiment of Chuck Baldecchi's months-ago words, "We will know and love your child."

Lincoln spoke with grace, humility, and candor about his formative years at The Lexington School, sharing with the Class of 2012 that "the word 'gratitude' kept coming to mind" as he scripted his speech. Lincoln went on to say, with knowing emphasis, "The walls of this school extend far beyond what you can even comprehend." He told the students how unbelievably lucky each one of them is, "You have won the lottery of life." He gave sage advice, too, in navigating the myriad challenges of post-TLS life. This former student — one who is known and loved — now addressing the graduates, had earlier said, "I'm pretty sure that Mrs. Foster can attest, if there was a Hall of Fame for being a regular to the Middle School Head's office, I'd have to make the Top 10. Be ever so grateful, and don't take this for granted."

It was time, then, for the presentation of diplomas, culmination of the day's activities. As Ms. MacCarthy announced the name of each member of the Class of 2012, Mr. Baldecchi gave a firm handshake to 50 of the 51 graduates. When Clay Brewer's name was read, her father, Rob, stepped forward once again. In keeping with firm family tradition of Brewer board presidents, just as he had done two years ago for Clay's older sister, **Carter Brewer '10**, Rob presented Clay her diploma. Some in the audience remembered commencement day, 1985, when Headmaster **Norton G. Pritchett (H'81)** stepped aside to let then-President of the Board **Robert M. Brewer (H'72)** do the honors for Rob.

As the group recessed into the cafeteria for lemon squares and photo ops, the permeating feeling throughout the crowd could aptly be described by the words of Tony Jarvis and Chuck Baldecchi. "We will know and love your child."

*To read Chuck Baldecchi's introduction of **Lincoln Brown '95** and Lincoln's Commencement Address online, please visit: thelexingtonschool.org/commencement.*

## *"They're Off to Great Places..."*
## HIGH SCHOOL MATRICULATIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2012

Trevor Arvin ..... Dunbar High School
Nicole Bacha ..... Sayre School
Ellie Bernard ..... Sayre School
Madeline Blake ..... Dunbar High School
Strohmann Breeding ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Clay Brewer ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Emma Calhoun .... Lexington Catholic Exemplar Fine Arts-Visual Arts
Emily Cashman ..... Liberal Arts Academy at Henry Clay High School
Ashton Cole ..... Lexington Catholic Exemplar Fine Arts-Visual Arts
Christian Courtney ..... Sayre School
Clara de Castro ..... Sayre School
Joshua Dhir ..... SCAPA-Drama and Engineering
Catherine Donnelly . Lexington Catholic Exemplar Fine Arts-Theater
Kyle Draper ..... MSTC Program at Dunbar High School
Josh Ehl ..... Liberal Arts Academy at Henry Clay High School
Will Farish ..... Sayre School
Anna Farris ..... Lexington Catholic Exemplar Fine Arts-Piano
Mallory Fishman ..... Lake Travis High School in Austin, Texas
Tessa Fry ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Huntley Hacker ..... Henry Clay High School
Natalie Hagan ..... Woodford County High School
Meagan Hale ..... Liberal Arts Academy at Henry Clay High School
Rosie Halpin ..... MSTC Program at Dunbar High School
Ian Harrison ..... Liberal Arts Academy at Henry Clay High School
Merrick Irwin ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Jaylen Jones ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Zainab Kahloon ..... MSTC Program at Dunbar High School
Nick Kostelic ..... Liberal Arts Academy at Henry Clay High School
Stevan Kriss ..... Lexington Catholic Exemplar Scholars Program
Trent Marshall ..... Lexington Catholic Exemplar Scholars Program
Eli Mitchell ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Mark O'Brien ..... Liberal Arts Academy at Henry Clay High School
Tyler Patton ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Jack Phillips ..... Liberal Arts Academy at Henry Clay High School
Eliza Pride ..... Lexington Catholic Exemplar Scholars Program
Allison Quammen ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Stephanie Ramsey ..... Sayre School
William Ramsey ..... Sayre School
Madalyne Rice ..... Sayre School
Eliza Jane Schaeffer ... Liberal Arts Academy at Henry Clay High School
Emma Stone ..... Woodford County High School
Dara Talbott ..... Henry Clay High School
Sophia Tannir ..... MSTC Program at Dunbar High School
Charles Tari-Head ..... St. Paul's School
Caroline Totty ..... Liberal Arts Academy at Henry Clay High School
Carmen Maria von Unrug Lexington Catholic Exemplar Fine Arts-Visual Arts
Sloan Warner ..... Liberal Arts Academy at Henry Clay High School
Skylar Winkley ..... Lexington Catholic Exemplar Fine Arts-Drama
Jade Wright ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Jacob Young ..... Liberal Arts Academy at Henry Clay High School
Mel Zakharia ..... MSTC Program at Dunbar High School

# The Heart of Art

*"Every child is an Artist.*
*The problem is how to remain an Artist*
*once we grow up."* — Picasso

Pablo Picasso would feel at home here. He would love the Preschool Art Show. He would feel confident that a good many of these young artists *will remain* artists once they grow up. He would definitely applaud each of the young artists as well as the TLS adults who help nurture that innate creativity.

Now in its third year, the Preschool Art Show is a not-to-be-missed event for all ages. When asked what makes this evening such a special time, Director of Preschool Donna Hutton replies, "It can be summed up by the look in the children's eyes as they proudly show their parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and special friends that their art is worthy of being displayed in a gallery. It was an extraordinary night with special photographs being taken of the artists by professional photographer and preschool parent Melanie Mauer, students in dressy clothes, champagne flutes of Sprite, special hors d'oeuvres, entertainment by our own Applied Music Lesson students, and a sea of admiring guests."

Mr. Baldecchi spoke for many as he described the evening: "It honors every child's creative spirit and elevates it."



*Special thanks to Melanie Mauer Photography for beautiful images of our artists.*











# Head *Lines*

## NOTES FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



## *Gratitude, Luck, and Accountability*

**Lincoln Brown '95** stressed these three points in his commencement address given to the Class of 2012 this past June. When Lincoln and I talked before graduation day, he made clear that his main goal was to write a conversation instead of a speech offering something that eighth graders could relate to. After that phone call, I knew our graduates would be in good hands.

Our students are lucky. They have been given a wonderful education by adults who care a great deal about their success. Parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents, teachers, coaches, and administrators work together to raise them. Not everyone is given the good fortune of a Lexington School education, which leads to my next point.



Gratitude is essential. Students need to thank the people who have raised and loved each one of them. There is a humility that is present in gratitude. Those who are thankful naturally understand that their accomplishments are not their own. I would also argue it takes humility to know that one is lucky. So if one is lucky enough to have a TLS education, expressing gratitude for that experience is not enough. Lexington School alumni have a responsibility to do something with all that they have been given. They have a responsibility to make a difference in the world.

Accountability is important. I firmly believe that a Lexington School diploma stands for hard work, honor, and diligence. It can also stand for success and excellence, but only as a by-product. A Lexington School diploma doesn't guarantee one is smart, honest, or successful, but by taking all the steps to earn that diploma, a graduate learns to understand hard work, excellence, the importance of keeping one's word, and how to gather the courage to do what is right for the right reasons.

It is also important to remember that The Lexington School does not expect any graduate to figure out all of life's lessons magically upon receipt of a piece of paper. Our **Philosophy Statement** makes this very clear:

> *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.*

As Lincoln Brown readily admitted in his conversation with his fellow alumni, he was not always a perfect student or ideal alum. What he did acknowledge, though, was his gratitude to have been lucky enough to receive a Lexington School education and his feelings of accountability to this community to use that education to reach his full potential.

With gratitude for a job I love,



Charles D. Baldecchi
Head of School

# "Ask Me How YOU Can Get Involved!"




Quisha Ray's enthusiasm for the Parents Association is clearly evident, and it is highly contagious.

Wanting to make a difference at the school where her son, **Shaun Anderson '14**, is a rising seventh grader, Quisha has been on the executive committee for three years and served as president for 2011-2012. She knows well the ins and outs of this group that has provided vital support since the school's inception.

Her focus, from the beginning, has been inclusiveness, as she has encouraged all parents to become involved and to bring their varied talents to the table. Early on, she was impressed with the active pool of parents. As they inspired her, she, in turn, inspired them. An out-of-the-box thinker, Quisha has an innate ability to build teamwork. Back in August at the school-wide Family Picnic on the Scarlet Gate lawn, Quisha and her team – her fellow Parents Association members – sported bright green T-shirts, as walking, talking advertisements to get on board with the PA. With the message, "Ask me how YOU can get involved!" on the back of each shirt, talk began, parents new to the school learned quickly, and longtime parents became reinvigorated. Bi-monthly meetings in the theater were well-attended.

Quisha has made sure that good communication was another strong suit of this year's Parents Association. She and her newly formed publicity committee worked hard to keep current the prominent bulletin board outside the lunchroom. Since August, it has been a one-stop information center, updating all passersby on the vitality and activity of the PA. All events are posted there, along with pictures of the officers, volunteer forms to fill out, and fliers promoting the box tops-into-revenue project.

Quisha has also worked closely with Jaime Lassman, director of technology integration and curriculum, to keep the Parents Association page current on the TLS website. Because of their continued collaboration, folks have commented that the site is an even more inviting information gateway for parents.

Giving credit where much credit is due, Quisha is quick to add, "I had a super team, and I am convinced there is no way these accomplishments throughout this past year could have occurred without help and support from the executive committee." As past president, Beth Phillips gave her leadership, support, and knowledge. Vice-president Karen Thomas worked in numerous ways, securing committee chairs and co-chairs, fielding questions from parents on a regular basis, and instituting standardized monthly executive committee duties to be shared from year to year. Treasurer Jane Van Tatenhove's input was integral for the website as she worked with Mr. Lassman to make the site more user-friendly. Jane was deeply involved, too, with Service Learning for the students. Secretary Alicia Kazee, a well-organized planner, kept timely minutes and was active in any issue regarding the executive committee. Denise Williams, publicity chair, provided great leadership for the Bulletin Board.

For Quisha's last meeting, she felt it essential that members of the Parents Association know they had been part of something larger than themselves. Through her theme, "Who I Am Makes a Difference," she shared with each of them how important their support had been throughout the year. As Quisha hands the gavel to Karen Thomas, she feels confident that the Parents Association – and who it is -- will continue to make a difference at The Lexington School.

# Curriculum + Technology
# It certainly DOES compute.



## CATCHING UP WITH THE TLS "MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN," JAIME LASSMAN

The core of any school is its "course of study," its curriculum, taken from the Latin word ***currere*** – to run. In 1959, The Lexington School was founded on a solid, academic course of study and has remained ever vigilant in keeping to that mandate. Much of our strength today is derived from that unshakable, still-sound core. Jaime Lassman, Director of Technology Integration and Curriculum, sees to it that the time-honored curriculum has all the enhancements of the 21st century.

A man ahead of his time, back in the 20th century, in 1999, Jaime built his first classroom website for his sixth graders. He was then a student teacher at an urban public school across the street from where he grew up in Wilmington, Delaware. Since he was well ahead of the wave of technology at the school, his site had only a few visitors. Hard to believe, but back then, many parents did not have Internet connection at home. Passionate about teaching and technology, Jaime was undeterred from the initially slow response. If anything, the fact that he was ahead of the pace spurred him on even more, as he continued to find ways to introduce technology to improve his students' learning experience.







*ABOVE* Kindergartners Lillian Beiting and Ella Cline crunch the numbers with a tablet app from Everyday Mathematics; eighth graders Clay Brewer and Carmen Maria von Unrug use 123D Sculpt in art class to explore value and scale; and kindergartner Yusuf Kahloon gets some reading comprehension help from *Sesame Street's* Grover.

Now, in the 21st century, Jaime delights in his invaluable role, working all day – and sometimes well into the night – with his two passions to find and share the best instructional technology with teachers and students at The Lexington School.

In 2011, Head of School Chuck Baldecchi purchased four iPads for teachers to use and test in the classroom. They were distributed and shared so that each teacher had an opportunity to use one with the class. It was quickly evident that, far from a tabula rasa, four new tablets were terrific, but there was a huge need for more. Generously, the Parents Association answered the call and came forth with funds for a trial of three more iPads. TLS's number of iPads was growing to the point that they were popularly used with students in virtually all the classrooms.

Because part of Jaime's role is to help teachers find the best technology for the classroom, he put iPads at the top of the list when he met with teachers. While the Parents Association was able to provide funding for the three iPads, a stipulation was that Jaime would let the PA know

in a month how they were used to promote student learning. Jaime was happy to report they had enhanced learning in every part of the curriculum of The Lexington School. Students in Preschool, Lower School, and Middle School love using the iPads. It comes naturally to them.

As usage has grown, Jaime says about half the time teachers come to him with specific needs and he and they decide ways iPads are the best tool to use. The other half of the time, Jaime is the one with the initial, great idea for the iPad, and he seeks out a teacher interested in collaborating.

The kindergarten teachers came to Jaime wanting students to use the computer to listen to books. They had purchased a comprehensive library of books on audio tape, so students could play the cassette while reading the book. As the tapes and players were well loved and well used, many fell into disrepair. The teachers needed a 21st century solution. Rather than duplicate a digital version of the same analog library, the kindergarten now uses new technology, allowing children to read interactive books on the iPad. The books have audio, sound effects, moving parts, and the words are highlighted as they are read. Different from the analog audio, students manually turn the pages, so eyes and fingers can linger on words, illustrations, and objects that catch their attention.

In another instance, Jaime had the idea first. He presented the third grade team some of the Everyday Mathematics apps available for iPads. He and the teachers designated a schedule for students to use those math apps and investigate other educationally powerful iPad apps. Not only have they explored the math apps, but third graders now use Garageband to create their own music; they use iPads to sculpt virtual clay; and they enjoy a logic game deliciously called Chocolate Fix.

Mrs. Sallye Staley, middle school art teacher, wanted a quick way for students to explore light sources and multiple values. The 3-D sculpting app was the perfect solution as it allowed students to manipulate a 3-D object represented on the screen. They could use their fingers to twist, rotate, and move the object to achieve different light sources and values of light and dark on a geometric object, like a cube or a sphere. The students printed their objects from the iPads and sorted them into groups based on light sources and value within the image. The students then paired up and were asked to draw two of the iPad images within the same scene. In the art room at






*INSET* A treasured clock given to Mr. Lassman in 2005 by the Class of 2011, during his first year at The Lexington School. *ABOVE* Lilly Adams and fellow second grader Liam Fallon work together using the iPad app eBookMagic to create books about their penguins.

their tables, the students could each have a different light source on their object. The iPad was not the medium for the art, but it facilitated the difficult part of understanding the concept being taught.

For sixth grade myths, Mrs. Becky Johnson knew she wanted to incorporate technology into the study of Greek Gods and Heroes. Further, she knew she wanted to have students act out and record their own myths, so she asked Jaime for the best tool for the job. Inspired by the Palace of Olympus, he found a puppet show iPad app that allowed students to create and manipulate characters and backgrounds on the iPad screen and record accompanying audio. Some of the Greek scholars went to the whiteboard app to draw their own, and others went to the Internet to find images. They drafted scripts and used their fingers and voices to perform the Greek myth-based plays. The ancients met the modern.

Using 21st century, cutting-edge technology integrated into the curriculum, Jaime Lassman, the teachers, and the students of The Lexington School celebrate the timeless value of learning.

# Pin Prints



Three generations of readers include fourth grader Hampton Jefferson with his grandmother, Linda White, and his father, Jeff Jefferson '85.



Flanked by the butterfly benches with their teachers, Mrs. Platt and Mrs. Stout, are Acorns Jagger Prickett, Max de Castro, Caden Shively, Tazewell Schnabel, Grace Woody, big sister Ashton Woody, Emeline Offutt, Auveen Shah, Tag Gudeman, Jack Shapiro, and Camden Stout.




Webb family members, sixth grader Ellie; Alex '11; kindergartner Greer; Ford, third grade; and Will '11, gather for the Webb Field dedication.



Kindergartner Audrey Maurer is all eyes as she sits on the butterfly bench in the Mary Beers Curiosity Garden.



Holding the world in their hands, Charlotte Young celebrates her birthday with her dad, Chris Young '90, in the Montessori room.



The TLS varsity champs hold high their Lexington Youth Lacrosse Association trophy.



Sixth graders Kate Christensen, Ellie Webb, Sahar Mohammadzadeh, Miles Winkley, Nicholas Calhoun, Cleve Merritt, Victor Allison, and Olin Gentry rap about TLS on a visit to Frankfort's Stewart Home School.



In the prekindergarten store, Donovan Stone discusses a purchase while Katherine Monohan is behind the red cash register.



Fifth grader Louie Kessinger catches a swinging moment at the Green Out games.



Using a double earpiece stethoscope, third grader Reid Noonan learns about lung sounds from Nurse Kristin.



Portraying the door to the Wizard of Oz's Emerald City, fourth grader Kincaid Keating glows emerald green during the Spring Choral Concert.



Sixth graders MacCarthy Baker and Sam Perez celebrate the Fourth of July run benefitting Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis research.

Third graders tour the Freeman Corporation in Winchester with Reid Freeman '74 and George Freeman '75.





Third graders Morgen and McCall Rader share McCall's book with their dad during Writers Guild.

# Pin Prints



Ashley Westerfield is a Munchkin on the Yellow Brick Road as the fourth grade sings and acts the entire Munchkin sequence from the Wizard of Oz in the Spring Choral Concert.



Prekindergartners hone fine motor skills making bead bracelets.



Fifth grader Lucy Knowles shares her Writers Guild story with first grader Audrey Stack on a Buddy visit.



To kick off the third grade shoe-collecting project for Ecuadorean students, Nathalie de Sousa, Ashley McLaughlin, Lexi Roth, and Smith Brewer display items brought from that country by Dr. Tia Carson, daughter of Montessori teacher, Marti Thompson.



The JV lacrosse team strikes an impressive pose in front of the goal with Coach Conley.



Fourth grader Ariyana Rhodes handles the ball during the 2012 Green Out.



Near TLS camp on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Front Row: Anna Farris; Middle Row: Madeline Blake, Carmen Maria Von Unrug, Madalyne Rice, Christian Courtney; Top Row: Charles Tari-Head, Stevan Kriss, Caroline Totty, Sloan Warner, Jaylen Jones, Natalie Hagan.



Josh Ehl, Christian Courtney, Sloan Warner, Mark O'Brien, Nick Kostelic, Clara de Castro, Emily Cashman, Clay Brewer, Strohmann Breeding, Merrick Irwin, Tessa Fry, and Caroline Totty take a break from an exhilarating day of canyoneering (including rappelling, climbing, hiking, and posting) in Lamb's Knoll.

# Southwest Adventure 2012!



Dara Talbott, Clara de Castro, Meagan Hale, Clay Brewer, Caroline Totty, Emily Cashman, and Ellie Bernard — along with their walking sticks — wait for the shuttle bus to hike Zion National Park's Virgin Narrows.



Mel Zakharia and Trent Marshall prepare to show off Spidermanesque rock climbing skills.



Anna Farris canyoneers at Water Canyon.



Josh Ehl, Christian Courtney, and Mark O'Brien enjoy some down time between rappels.



Mark O'Brien, Christian Courtney, Sloan Warner, Nick Kostelic, Josh Ehl, and Strohmann Breeding get their gear straight for canyoneering at Lamb's Knoll. Sloan holds a "piranha," the main unit that climbers feed the rope through as they rappel.

# Pin *Notes*

**Laurel Johnston Cassidy '88** and husband **Peter Cassidy '89** report that life is busy in their household with their three children, one-and-a-half-year-old Stokes, three-and-a-half-year-old Emery, and Eva Pace, six and a half. They live downtown on South Mill Street, where they enjoy the convenience of being city-dwellers. Peter is a civil litigator and partner at Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, a Florida law firm that recently expanded to Kentucky. Before entering private practice in 2003, Peter worked for three years in Frankfort for the Kentucky General Assembly as a legislative analyst with the House, Senate, and Interim Joint Committees on Judiciary.



Laurel is the advertising director of *STORY*, a recently-launched publication whose mission is to "celebrate the culture of Kentucky," as it features under-the-radar stories of Kentucky. To round out a good Lexington School presence, **Whitney Martin Collins '88** and **Burgess Carey '80** are contributors to the quarterly magazine.

Current Alumni Council president **Brooke Folley Counts '96** has recently hit the top of the eBook best-seller lists under the *nom de plume*, Kathleen Brooks. Writing romantic suspense stories set in the fictional town of Keeneston, Kentucky, she brings mystery, romance, and humor together in an unforgettable community. Her first three books, *Bluegrass State of Mind*, *Risky Shot*, and *Dead Heat*, comprise the Bluegrass series. Brooke has also begun the Bluegrass Brothers series: *Bluegrass Undercover* and *Rising Storm*, with many of the same characters from her trilogy. Brooke's first review for *Bluegrass State of Mind* came from Jenny O'Neill, her fifth grade English teacher.



Brooke began her writing career in the fall of 2010 and sold over 125,000 copies in the first five months of 2012. Included in the Top 100 lists on Amazon, Apple, and Barnes & Noble, she is considered one of the top independent authors in the country. She anticipates the release of *Rising Storm* in late summer.

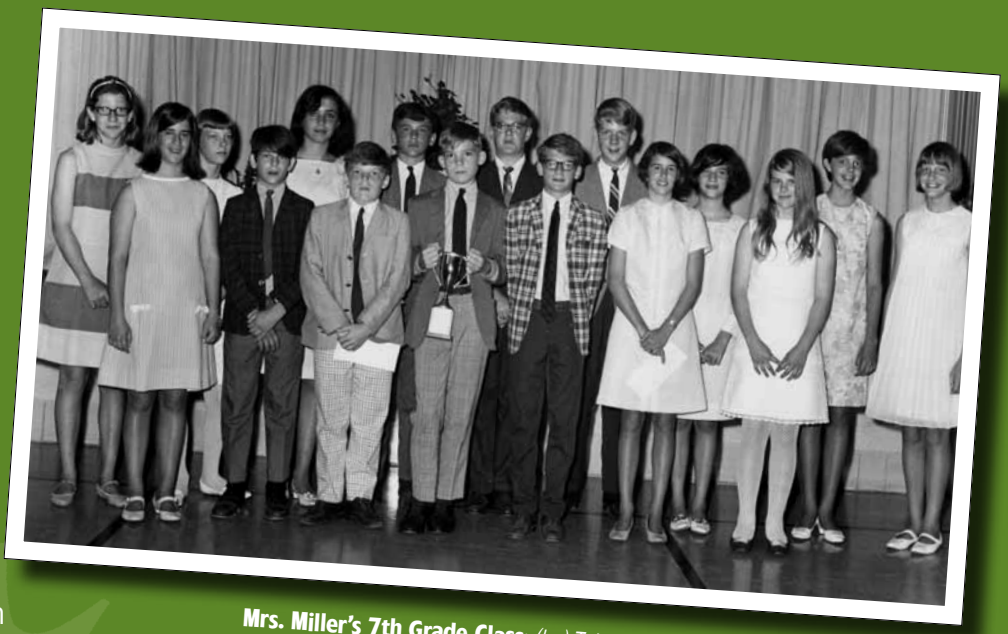
Brooke lives with her husband, Chris, and daughter, **Lauren '23,** in Nicholasville, Kentucky, where she is also the executive director for Friends & Vets Helping Pets, a non-profit organization for families in need to cover the cost of veterinary care for their pets.

**Coley McKinstry '99** and Emma Mittelstadt were married on the front lawn at home on June 9, 2012, with Coley's sisters, **Lucy McKinstry '02** and **Nancy McKinstry '04**, as bridesmaids. After graduating cum laude in 2006 from Sewanee: The University of the South with a BA in economics, Coley worked for Beacon Verification Services in Chattanooga. In 2009, he moved to New York City to secure a presence for Beacon's parent company, ACA Compliance Group, for which he still works. A CFA charter holder, Coley enjoys putting his TLS math skills to good use. Emma is an account executive at Goodman Media International in New York.



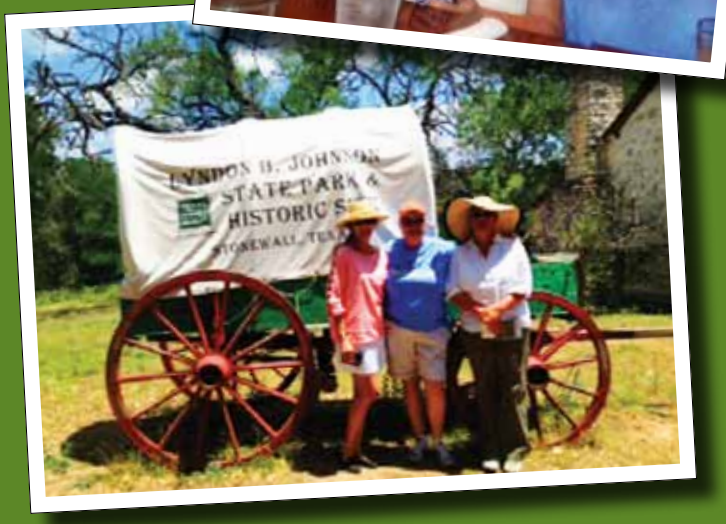
# Newsflash! From the Class of 1969!

A natural connector, **Pattie White Johnson '69** gathers news from her class, saying, "When recruiting classmates for The Lexington School's 50th reunion, I could not find **Leah Weiss McGovern '69**, but through her brother, **Peter '67**, I found her in Austin, Texas. Although Leah could not attend the 50th, **Eleanor O'Rear Peavy '69** and I were able to connect with her on Facebook. For the past few months, Leah has undergone surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation for breast cancer. In June Eleanor and I flew to Austin to see Leah for the first time in 43 years! *(pictures, right)* We met her husband, Kevin, and daughter, Jennifer, and, Leah is doing so well, we couldn't keep up with her! She is a fighter and a survivor!" Pattie and Eleanor, Patrice and Lenore to their classmates who remember Mr. Floyd's penchant for nicknames, took a passel of photos, both archival and more recent, to share with Leah. Pattie reports too, "When I attended my 40th high school reunion at Madeira in the Washington, DC, area in April, I had lunch and spent an afternoon with another one of our classmates, **Jane Urbanski Robbins '69**, who is doing quite well! I had photos of Jane and moi, but because my iPhone was destroyed at a very wet horseshow, I lost those pics!"



**Mrs. Miller's 7th Grade Class**: *(l-r)* Tobey Stilz, Amy Levy, Jane Urbanski, Doug Hensley, Leah Weiss, Sandy Macfarlane, Biff Baker, Chris Green, Chip Pritchett, Jimmy Bell, Colonel Davis, Kathy Thompson, Gloria Baker, Eleanor O'Rear, Pattie White, and Harriet Stopher.







**Mrs. DeBerry's 5th Grade Class**
1st row: Sandy Macfarlane, Polly Hilliard, Charlie Bronson
2nd row: Doug Arnold, Kathy Thompson, Leslie Trapp
3rd row: Headley Bell, Chris Green, Harriet Stopher
4th row: Tobey Stilz, Pattie White, Leah Weiss
5th row: Chip Pritchett, Lawrence Simpson, Biff Baker, Colonel Davis



**Chris Crumrine '01** reports that following completion of his undergraduate and graduate education at the University of Kentucky, he spent nine months as a policy analyst with a higher education think tank in Boulder, Colorado. In March 2011, he returned to Kentucky to serve as a speechwriter and assistant to UK President, Dr. Lee Todd. He has continued in that capacity during the first year of President Eli Capilouto's tenure. Outside of work, Chris volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, the Lexington Charity Club, and serves as treasurer for Rotaract of Lexington. He is also a member of the steering committee for Commerce Lexington's Leadership Lexington program.

Chris is quick to say, "The outstanding education I received at The Lexington School continues to provide incredible benefits in my career and personal life." Remembering specific assignments from Mrs. Bonzo-Sims, he continues, she "had a profound impact on my education, generally, and writing ability, specifically. The same could be said for many of my TLS teachers - all inspiring me and pushing me to excel. I'm continually grateful for my three years."

**Maureen West '02** lives in Manhattan and is a development editor with McGraw-Hill. She completed two years with Teach for America at La Cima Charter School in Brooklyn, where she taught kindergarten and first grade *(photo, below)*. She says it was a huge challenge, and she now appreciates the profession of teaching at an entirely new level. She will begin her studies this fall at Columbia University as she pursues her M Ed degree in school counseling. Maureen enthusiastically attributes much of her success to her years at TLS.





Now in Orlando, Florida, **Brooke Baker '03** writes that she has taken a laser engineering position with L3 Advanced System Laser Technology, founded in 1987 by engineers with a history in lasers and defense electronics. After graduating from Clemson University with a BS in physics and a minor in chemistry, she moved to Arizona and worked as an optical engineer for DILAS, building diode lasers. Having established a strong reputation at DILAS, on her last day of work, the CEO of the parent company offered her a position as a laser engineer in Germany, where she enjoyed working this fall, returning for Christmas.

Her long-term plans include a return to Germany for several years, as she benefitted tremendously from her travels abroad, reflecting, "Not only did it teach me about the world beyond America, but even more, it taught me about me. Being so far out of my comfort zone was hard enough; I didn't have the energy to try to keep a facade about who I was. After the many influences one has during college -- sororities, clubs, and significant others -- I believe not 'losing' oneself is critical. Going to Germany helped me remember who I am and who I want to be. I would tell TLS students to take every opportunity they can, and even if it's scary, say 'yes' to adventure."

Brooke continues her TLS thoughts, sharing that Mrs. Bonzo and Mr. Hardesty are her most influential teachers to date. "Mrs. Bonzo's instructions from ninth grade English, hands down, taught me more than any other high school or college level English class ever taught me. When I had Mr. Hardesty, he taught ninth grade geology, and that was probably the most fun class I have ever taken. I absolutely loved learning the chemistry and physics of the various minerals he had. He also taught us about geocashing, an underground network of people who hide various objects and post the coordinates online. It's basically a live scavenger hunt."

In closing, Brooke says, "I would love to tell all my TLS family I miss and love every one of you. Each classmate and staff helped make me the person I am today and I am honored that you were a part of my adventure."

Brooke also reports that her brother, **Thomas Baker '08**, *(pictured above with Brooke in Santorini)* ran track and cross country at Lexington Catholic, was third in the state in the 400-meter relay, and sixth in the 800-meter dash. This fall he will study engineering at Auburn University.

# Former Teacher News



Back for Joyce Baker's retirement, John catches up with Laura Bonzo at the graduation reception.

John Buckey, Spanish teacher from 1996 - 2000, served as assistant principal, then principal, of Littleton High School in Littleton, Massachusetts, after he moved from Kentucky. In 2008, he was appointed principal of the 173-year-old Nantucket High School. Mr. Buckey has now received the Bertram H. Holland award as Massachusetts High School Principal of the Year for 2013, selected unanimously by the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association.

His arrival at Nantucket High School coincided with one of the most difficult periods in the school's history. From 2007 through 2009, there was a contagion of adolescent suicides, three by students and several others by alumni.

Mr. Buckey defines his two paramount objectives as providing a safe and positive school environment in which each student feels that he or she "belongs," and continuing the academic and community progress that has been made since his arrival. Mr. Buckey has promoted maximum participation in local charitable and public benefit organizations, has taken an active role in suicide prevention that resulted in a 2010 citation from the Massachusetts Suicide Prevention Coalition, and has led a wholesale revision of the high school curriculum to provide more diverse and appropriate offerings.

Faculty member Peter Panchy states, "John also strengthens our school with his efforts toward fostering a sense of voice and ownership among all segments of the school community. He endeavors to have faculty, parents, the greater community, and students feel included, listened to, and possessed of a meaningful sense of belonging to our joint undertaking."

The Lexington School salutes John Buckey not just for his most recent accolade, but for his continuing devotion to educating learners of all ages.



Former faculty and staff members continue their cherished friendships as they enjoy luncheon gatherings at Addie's at the Woodford Inn in Versailles on the first Wednesday of each month. According to Jawanna Herd, who has organized these casual coming-together times, some months the group is only two or three, on other occasions seven or eight friends come. Always, there are TLS stories and memories to share. Enjoying each other's company in early June *(left to right)*: Barbara Brogan, Sara Meekins, Gretchen Young, Jawanna Herd, and Isabel Kasperbauer.

## SAYING GOODBYE TO NICK MALONEY

***Pinpoints*** offers deep sympathy to the family of **Nick Maloney '04**, who died on May 27, 2012. A valued member of the first eighth grade to graduate from The Lexington School, Nick was a standout early on in the formative years of the chess club. Inaugural chess coach Greg Gunn warmly recalls, "He was an exceptional chess player and maintained his interest longer than some of the early kiddos I coached when we first started the club. Nick steadily improved and was able to best me a majority of the games I'd play with him. He was bright, enthusiastic, and very affable. I'll miss him greatly." Samantha Kemmish, his fifth grade advisor, remembers, "Nick was quiet and sweet and kind. I'm so sorry to hear this about him." Nick is survived by his parents, Michael Maloney and Dana Stipp Maloney, and by his brother, **Patrick Maloney '06**.



*ABOVE* The 2001 TLS Chess Club *Front* Erin Helton '07, Tim Gilbert '04, Chase Urschel '04, Chris Arnold '08. *Back* Alec Gilbert '05, Coach Greg Gunn, Teddy Yan '04, Adam Trontz '04, Christopher Hisle '04, Nick Maloney '04.

*RIGHT* A recent photo from Nick's Facebook page, provided by friends.

# Right in Our Own Back Yard



It is the good fortune for today's Lexington School students that retired teacher Jawanna Herd can't stay away from the school she loves. From 1984 to 2004, she was a fixture in the science room, white lab coat and goggles on, dressed in the persona of one of a multitude of engaging personalities that she brought to the table on any given day. For 20 years, her students knew they could be transported in the bat of an eye or at the hint of a dialect to a grand excursion of learning and never even leave the room.

She's still doing just that and more for a new crop of Lexington School students. Right after Jawanna retired, she came back to school, gathered a gaggle of fourth graders, and, for the first several years, took them to Raven Run, then headed off next door. Of those early visits to Scarlet Gate, she says, "Mr. and Mrs. Lansill were delightful. She would always have lemonade and cookies ready for us. They both were thrilled to have children use and enjoy the property."

Now that the school owns Scarlet Gate, it is a natural step to walk across the new bridge and enjoy the continuation of our campus. It is also a natural step for TLS students to enjoy the continuation of Jawanna Herd's encyclopedic knowledge of Kentucky flora and fauna, and of so much more. Spring and fall are perfect times for explorations to James Lane Allen's boyhood home, and Mrs. Herd's field trips are highlights of the calendar.

The program, Natural World Connections, ties seamlessly into TLS curriculum, and Montessori students, Prekindergartners, and fourth graders all benefit tremendously from learning about their natural surroundings through outdoor experiences with Mrs. Herd. Tailored carefully and specifically to the young ones, Montessori field trips to Scarlet Gate are educational, enlightening, and invigorating for each generation. Mrs. Herd and Montessori teachers, Kris Neese and Marti Thompson, know the magic of adding excitement to learning, and young explorers return from their adventures with wide eyes and tales of treasures from their walk in the woods. It's not surprising to hear that, for some, digging worms was the favorite next-door activity. After a lively excursion, Mrs. Neese nods with a knowing smile when Jawanna says, "Taking a three-year-old outdoors is like taking water outdoors; it goes in every direction!"

Mrs. Herd is famous for using a wide variety of ideas and activities that bring learning to life: "Taking a three-year-old outdoors is like taking water outdoors; it goes in every direction!"

Prekindergarten teachers Sherry Cline and Kelly Mitchell tell Mrs. Herd what their students are studying in class. As a result, the four-year-olds are fascinated to see in real life the birds, trees, and insects they have learned about from their books and activity centers. When the budding naturalists see poison ivy, exuberant chants can be heard a distance away, "Leaves of three, let it be," "Hairy vine, you're not mine," and "Berries of white, give me a fright." At the end of the day, Mrs. Herd says enthusiastically, "They love it all. Every bit of it." As a TLS devotee said not long ago, "She teaches them all sorts of crazy facts."

She is quick, too, to express heartfelt appreciation to the fourth grade team of Ms. Haynes, Mr. Platt, Mr.

Scarr, and Ms. Zimmerman for their continued support, active participation, and ability to rearrange class schedules to include these field trips during busy school years. Enhancing the fourth grade science curriculum of ecology, the environment, and biomes, Mrs. Herd is famous for using a wide variety of ideas and activities that bring learning to life. She and her students enjoy beginning Scarlet Gate visits with t'ai chi ch'uan to focus their minds on the nobility of the natural beauty about them. They feel at one with their surroundings while calmness permeates their very being.

At Scarlet Gate there is often joyful singing in multiple languages as well as signing in no audible language, but understood throughout as a global language. Because Mrs. Herd has taught signing since her college years, decades of TLS students now have learned the alphabet and basic phrases used by the hearing impaired. Her longtime experience has shown that children are naturally and immediately intrigued by this new way of communicating, and signing takes its important place in the quiet sanctuary of the woods.

Native American storytelling and the rhythm of the Rabbit Dance of gratitude to animals for their gifts of food and clothing add to the wonder of the moment. A favorite activity for some is the collecting and pressing of flowers and leaves of all kinds, making them into Nature Trailers to hang in the window. An oasis in the middle of suburbia, Scarlet Gate is also ideal for scavenger hunts, with nature's abundance providing fodder for endless games.

Standing under a tall maple tree offers opportunity for detailed discussion about tapping for maple syrup. Kentucky history lessons are interwoven as well. Mrs. Herd's students often imagine they are children living in Kentucky during pioneer times. What can they think of to entertain themselves? Where will they sleep at night? How do they keep warm in the colder months? What happens if they hurt themselves?









Fourth graders are especially keen to learn outdoor survival skills, which plants contain water that is potable, and how to discern edible plants from the 99% that are unsafe to ingest. As Mrs. Herd says, "Fourth grade is the perfect age. Children are beginning to use logic and reason in their thought processes and are mature enough to understand a little bit more. I can explain complex things and they get it, yet they still have that eagerness to learn."

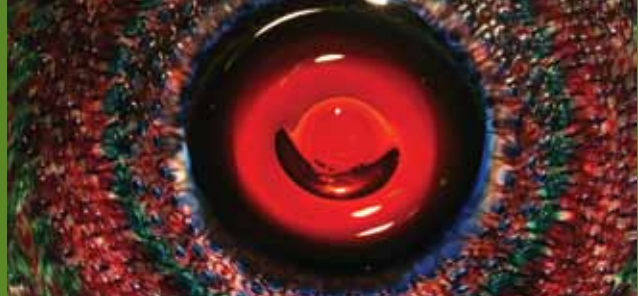
A vocal proponent of the environment of course, Mrs. Herd has asked that the area between Lane Allen Road and the creek not be mowed during the weeks before the fall and spring field trips so it might flourish into its most natural state. Our grounds keepers have graciously agreed to alter their regular schedule to accommodate her wishes. It is her hope that part of the creek bank be restored to native plants of spicebush, elderberry, river or switch canes (a native bamboo), lobelia, cardinal flowers, jewelweed, and others.

It's a special treat to see the pair of red-tailed hawks that have lived on the property for several years, and TLS explorers often find evidence of scattered feathers of prey. When bringing math from the classroom to the outdoor venue, some students enjoy measuring a hawk's wingspan on a classmate and draping plastic wings on their outstretched arms to show how much larger the hawk is than it looks from a distance. For others, the creek offers captivating bounty: from snails and snail eggs; to chert, the flint-like material used to make arrows; to amphipods, tiny freshwater crustaceans -- real treasures in this rich area, this "little belt of wildness," as Mrs. Herd calls the creek at Scarlet Gate.

Some say that "an expert is someone from out-of-town," but at The Lexington School, we are fortunate to say that Mrs. Herd, our expert, is right in our own back yard.

A Field Trip to the Studio of Stephen Powell

# *Ars Gratia Artis*





KNOWING THAT a classroom can be anywhere and that learning thrives everywhere, fifth grade teachers took their show on the road. To enhance the longtime, annual tradition of the TLS Fifth Grade Musical, music teacher Dr. Cooper arranged for the group of about 50, including some parents, to attend ***Diavolo***, the dance extravaganza which almost defies description. In a special performance for students, Danville's Norton Center production was as inspirational as it was billed, "Art meets science, matter and space coexist, reality ends where imagination begins." Masterful choreography and bold athletics, combined with large, everyday items, take dance to the extreme.

Just as extreme, across the campus of Centre College, is the state-of-the-art glass studio of Stephen Rolfe Powell, father of **Zach '13**. Art teacher Cissy Hamilton, a longtime admirer of the world-renowned glass artist, contacted Mr. Powell, who graciously invited the class to see firsthand how he creates his exquisite, larger-than-life pieces of art. Some students stood on the second-floor gallery and some were nearby – about a foot away – as Centre's professor of art glass, Mr. Powell, finished a huge glass bowl. The visitors were able to see the entire process, while Mr. Powell and his three assistants provided their own choreography, each knowing precisely what move to make as they heated and then cooled the glass in an exacting method. Having taught at Centre College since 1983, Kentucky's Teacher of the Year in 1999 and 2000, Mr. Powell carefully and enthusiastically explained every step to the fifth graders. Afterward, in a question-and-answer period, Cissy Hamilton recalls that a completed glass bowl was on display with special lighting "so you could see the unbelievable colors. It is all such a process. The kids had never seen anything like this before. It was completely mesmerizing. Stephen Powell is world famous, but he is completely down-to-earth. We all really were transfixed." It was a special treat, after the ***Diavolo*** performance, to have lunch in Centre's magnificent art building.



In describing the unforgettable day of learning about both new dance staging at ***Diavolo*** and the precise art of glass-blowing from Mr. Powell, Mrs. Hamilton says, "This was one more opportunity to show kids other art forms, other ways in which they can express themselves." On the drive back from Danville, it was evident that the TLS fifth graders relished their day of learning outside the classroom.







*Photos by fifth grade science teacher Tom Novitsky.*

# A Spectacular Evening
# *Under The Oaks*

Amy and Darren Duzyk, 2012 CELEBRATION Chairs, report grand success from Scarlet Gate. As Amy says, "Mother Nature provided us with a beautiful night and James Lane Allen and the Lansills provided the school with a beautiful piece of property. People are excited about the new location for CELEBRATION."

From the start, Amy knew she wanted to celebrate Scarlet Gate, James Lane Allen, and the rich history of The Lexington School. It was her vision that the festive gathering be on the lawn of Scarlet Gate, home in 1854 to famed Kentucky author James Lane Allen and home today of fortunate TLS students who come often for field trips, outdoor inspiration, and overnight campouts. The theme of An Evening under the Oaks unfolded naturally.

Amy and her committee members greeted guests at the tent, transformed into a garden-like setting, with living oak trees donated by Henkel Denmark, flowers in buckets, and stumps and cross sections of Scarlet Gate trees adding to the natural décor. The bright and welcoming ambiance was enhanced by **Jordan English '02** and his fellow musicians, who set the tone for the evening, as the community came together to support their school, which they did with typical TLS gusto.

Outside the tent, rustic lanterns suspended from tree limbs added their own glow as darkness fell. On into the night, though, the party continued, as bidding climbed higher and higher, all to benefit the students and teachers. When the last gavel had fallen, the final lantern was extinguished, and the proverbial dust had settled, this Evening Under the Oaks had raised more than $240,000 for faculty and students at The Lexington School.












**MORE ONLINE** Click here to trace the common roots of trees and knowledge with **Blake Miller '91**

TLS SPEECH TEAM

# A Word Is Worth a Thousand Pictures

Oratory, the skill of public speaking, has been a substantial part of man's communication since the days of the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. Imhotep, Aristotle, Plato, and Cicero, among countless others, studied and perfected the art of being a polished speaker. As Aristotle wrote in "On Rhetoric," Ethos, Pathos, and Logos, the three persuasive appeals, are essential qualities of a speech in order to gain acceptance from one's audience.

For decades, public speakers at The Lexington School have known all about persuading their audiences. The speech team is open to sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students, as they compete in various categories of public speaking. Grouped into three divisions each year, acting, interpretive, and limited preparation, the students know speech team is an enormous commitment of time and talent. The team of 13 has learned an essential truth of success: The more time they spend working on their presentations, the better they become. Speech coach Dr. Laura Blake Bowling offers weekly practices, both in the morning and afternoon, and many Saturdays are reserved, dawn to dusk, for tournaments. As she notes, this year's eight sixth graders will be veterans next year. By their eighth grade year, "they will know well the large commitment, the type of pieces they want to work on, and the amount of preparation required."

TLS speech team members are fortunate to have Dr. Bowling's deep public speaking background on which to draw. A longtime fan of acting and interpretive events, she still remembers the Shel Silverstein piece she chose for her seventh grade speech team audition. Looking forward to acting in plays when she was finally in middle school, she was disappointed to find there were no performance opportunities for seventh graders. She learned in an off-hand way from a teacher, though, that there was a speech team — she widened her repertoire and found a new set of skills.





A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a double major in drama and psychology, Laura taught elementary drama for two years before earning her master's degree, again at UNC. In 2003, Laura came to TLS as the speech and drama teacher. Through matching professional development funds which support teachers who pursue advanced degrees, in 2008, she received her doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Kentucky. True to nature, she says with a genuine sparkle, "I'm not finished with learning. Not nearly finished."

Coach Bowling has some able assistance from former speech team standout **Packy Atkins '08**, a Henry Clay



***TOP*** Chase Vickery and Jack Cline persuade their audiences.

***RIGHT*** *Front* Anna Farris, Eliza Platt, Emma Calhoun.

*Middle* Isabeau Camp, Anna Susini, Ellie Webb, Sam Perez, Sahar Mohammadzadeh, Zainab Kahloon, Allington Bowling, Chase Vickery.

*Back* Jack Cline, Zach Powell, Dr. Laura Bowling.

senior this year, who has chosen to work with the speech team as his mentoring project. Assistant Coach Atkins returns to his alma mater every Wednesday to help with prep time, and he travels with the team to each tournament. A competitive member of Henry Clay's long-respected speech team, Packy's solid background in TLS public speaking has served him well. Interpretive and limited preparation categories are his forte as a coach, and he also serves as a judge at tournaments.

Smiling as she thinks of each of her speech team members, Coach Bowling reflects, "Being on the speech



Sam Perez *(left)* and Ellie Webb polish their speech team skills — including making good eye contact.

team offers kids a way to compete for the rest of their lives. Not everyone will be an actor or a company CEO, but every, single person will have to speak at a meeting, at work, in casual social gatherings, or while networking. Speech team gives you the confidence to present yourself and your ideas in a high-pressure situation." She goes on to say, "I like the fact, too, that speech team allows you to earn points toward team wins, and allows you to earn individual accolades in your event at the same time."

Coach also speaks to the strong feeling of camaraderie that accompanies the hard work of team membership. "We have a small team in comparison with some of the others. It's not all about winning. It's about doing your best so we as a team know we have given 100%. It's about being a good audience member and supporting your fellow teammates."

The 13 teammates of the 2011-12 speech team include sixth graders **Allington Bowling '14**, **Isabeau Camp '14**, **Jack Cline '14**, **Sahar Mohammadzadeh '14**, **Sam Perez '14**, **Eliza Platt '14**, **Anna Susini '14**, **and Ellie Webb '14**; seventh graders **Zach Powell '13** and **Chase Vickery '13**; and eighth graders **Zainab Kahloon '12**, **Anna Farris '12**, and **Emma Calhoun '12**.




The Lexington School Alumni Association's second annual Golf Scramble was held April 23 at Spring Valley Golf Club. As **Jeff Jefferson '85** said during lunch before teeing off, "It's a tradition now!" The hearty gathering of golfers, who took to the links on a brisk but sunshine-filled afternoon, included parents, alumni, and friends.

The winning foursome was organized by Matt Harrison, father of **Ian '12**, **Conor '15**, and **Maggie '19**, and Todd Whan, father of **Emma '07** and **Nick '11**. The foursome of **Tanner Gudeman '94**, father of **Tag '21**; **Chris Young '90**, father of **Charlotte '22**; Mike Friesen, father of **Laura B '20** and **Anna '22**; and **Will Chapman '96** came in a close second.

**Kav Milward '95** and **Will Milward '99** organized the foursome who won the grand prize giveaway, three days and two nights at The Breakers, where they can continue their golf game.







# THE JOSIE FILES




## "Happiness is a warm puppy."

*Charles Schulz knew what he was talking about.*

Even though Josie is no longer a puppy, she brings happiness to every hallway at The Lexington School. She has friends – lots of them – in every grade, and she keeps her best friend, Lower School Head Marijo Foster, right in line.

It was a bright day in January when Mrs. Foster got her new Border Terrier, and Josie has had perfect attendance at TLS this entire calendar year. Mrs. Foster has always encouraged students to stop by her office when things are going well, but it has been hard for some young folks to feel comfortable "just dropping in" on the Head of Lower School. With Josie's daily presence, now the line forms at the door. Each morning, before school even begins, students take Josie outside for a nice, long run. Legs stretch, heart rates increase, and everybody's day has a better start. During recess, children queue up to take her out for another spin; it's a toss-up whether humans or canine benefit more. Several fifth grade boys are especially close to Josie and make it their purpose to check in on her from time to time throughout their busy day.

Dogs, of course, are dear friends indoors as well, and Josie has logged countless hours listening to reading, providing a back to scratch, consoling after a crummy day in math class, offering a sense of balance, acting as a sounding board, and licking away tears. Truth be told, she's done all of that, and more, for the adults here at school as well as for the children who adore her. Mr. Baldecchi observed Josie during an especially tender moment with a child, and said warmly, "That dog is pretty amazing, isn't she?" Josie has a gentle and calming spirit.

Quick to point out that she does not take Josie into the classroom, Mrs. Foster notes that Josie's admirers come to call on her. She is aware that some children don't "know dogs" and don't quite feel comfortable in their presence. With the wag of her tail and the tilt of her head though, Josie has begun to change all that for a number of students.

An inveterate dog lover, Mrs. Foster smiles when she says, "If there were a teacher in the form of a Border Terrier, I would hire him or her immediately." Mrs. Foster continues, "The attributes I value in Border Terriers are that they are energetic yet gentle, forgiving, flexible, and, above all, loving - the same ones I look for in a teacher."







Explaining that Border Terriers hail from the border of England and Scotland and that they are common throughout Europe, Mrs. Foster thinks this breed is "the best kept secret in American dogdom."

Not a very good one to keep that secret though, Mrs. Foster relays that since the happy afternoon she and Josie met, our favorite TLS dog has never spent a day alone. Of course she travels via crate, her version of a car seat, when Mrs. Foster chauffeurs her to school every morning. She has a crate, as well as her favorite Winnie-the-Pooh water bowl, in the office she shares with the Head of Lower School. To show Josie is a card-carrying "School Dog" — though she certainly does not presume to replace the school mascot, the Colt — she has her very own staff badge, complete with smiling picture on the front. Several weekends, since she had no homework or tests to grade, Josie traveled with Mrs. Foster to Chicago to be with family, and this summer they enjoyed spending more family time in upstate New York.

During the school year, Josie sometimes serves as inspiration for Mrs. Foster's widely read ***Weekly Words***. Parents, colleagues, and even folks in the wider TLS family have come to look forward to these conversations, really, these thoughts shared on wide-ranging, far-reaching topics of education, child rearing, child loving, life's celebrations, and life's heartaches as well. Always a good communicator, every Wednesday Marijo Foster writes honestly and beautifully about what's on her mind, what she thinks needs to be said, and what needs to be heard. Some have likened reading her column to listening to their grandmother talk to them again. She pulls no punches, but you always know she loves you.

Her January 18 entry *GOIN' TO THE DAWGS AGAIN!* included regular school news and calendar updates for the new year, but it also included something very special: a precursor to a change that was to come about in the hallways and in the heart of The Lexington School — our introduction to Josie.

*I traveled to Indianapolis last Saturday to pick up a 14 month old Border Terrier whose show career had come to an end because her breeder/owner had passed away two months ago. His widow just needed to simplify her life a bit as she begins the journey I started 14 months ago. With a respectful nod to our school's founder, Josie is her name. She is fourteen pounds of sweetness just like my last Border, Katy, who passed away a few weeks before Tom died.*

*So, once again, I am with dog. It is who I am. I know you understand.*

*Goin' to the dawgs one more time,*

*Marijo*

*P.S. You just may get to meet her one day soon. Josie and I don't like to be apart for long.*

Marijo's words say a lot. For readers new to *Weekly Words*, it is clear and touching that the Head of Lower School shares her thoughts honestly and forthrightly about life outside our campus. As Mrs. Foster mentions in that January 18 entry, her beloved husband, Tom Foster, died on October 14, 2010. In her office, with Josie sleeping contentedly at her feet, Marijo says quietly, "She has been my lifesaver. I don't have family here. I have dearest friends, but that doesn't help on some long nights." With a twinkle, she adds, "I didn't even ask permission. I just did it. I just brought her."

We are so glad she did.






# TLS Dogma



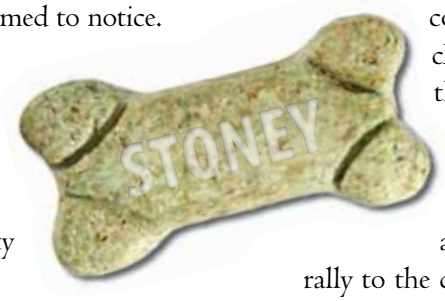
**JOSEPHINE ABERCROMBIE (H'00)**, The Lexington School's founder, and Marijo Foster, Head of Lower School, agree on many topics. They share a deep and decades-long love of their school. They share a nurturing love of the children who have been and are educated here at school. And they share a childhood and continuing love of dogs.

Under the trees and the tent at Scarlet Gate during CELEBRATION 2012, the two women visited with each other, continuing conversations they have enjoyed in the past. That evening was the first time they had seen each other since Josie had come into Mrs. Foster's life. It took only a moment for talk to turn from people to dogs, and they knew they had struck even more common ground. Mrs. Foster was happy to tell Ms. Abercrombie the respectful origin of Josie's name. Ms. Abercrombie was delighted to learn that Josie was, in fact, named after her. Ever gracious, Ms. Abercrombie invited Josie to visit Pin Oak to meet Stoney, the dear, devoted eight-year-old Weimaraner who hardly ever lets Ms. Abercrombie out of his sight.



When Josie and Mrs. Foster arrived at the farm office, the strikingly handsome, steel gray Stoney was as polite and welcoming as any TLS student would have been. Josie had her best Border Terrier manners on as well, and the dogs were friends immediately. Ms. Abercrombie explained that Stoney was a rescue dog who had had multiple operations but after a year under her care and concern is now in good health. Large even for the Weimaraner breed, Stoney was five times bigger than Josie, though neither dog seemed to notice.

Now fast friends, each dog enjoyed the other's company, as short legs kept up with long legs in the manicured back yard of Ms. Abercrombie's house. Mrs. Foster reminded Ms. Abercrombie that the entire TLS faculty had enjoyed the same yard more than a decade ago when she invited the group to Pin Oak for a back-to-school gathering.




Josie immediately noticed mares and foals over the fence, but Stoney, used to all that, took no note and went on chasing a squirrel. Ms. Abercrombie reminisced about her long association with Weimaraners, her father having given her the first one in 1949 "to raise." As she tells it, "He never got her back." Hooked for life, she went on to have Bunker, then Spuds, then Sterling, and now Stoney, confessing, "I'm a nut about dogs."

As the party moved into the library, Stoney immediately took his place on the sofa beside his master; nobody was going to come between them. Ms. Abercrombie shared her interest in poetry, and could as easily have been teaching an English class at The Lexington School. She explained that every Tuesday, she and her across-the-road neighbor write poetry. "He gives me a word and I give him a word, and we go from there. Last Tuesday, my word was 'contentment,' and I gave him 'clouds.'" Verses come naturally to the creative writing major from Rice University. Remembering the children's books that Ms. Abercrombie has authored — *Charlie the Horse* and *A Friend Indeed* — Mrs. Foster noted that Chuck Baldecchi has copies of both in his office. Over the years they have been enjoyed by students and parents alike.

The visit ended with warm smiles and the afternoon at Pin Oak will be remembered in dog years.

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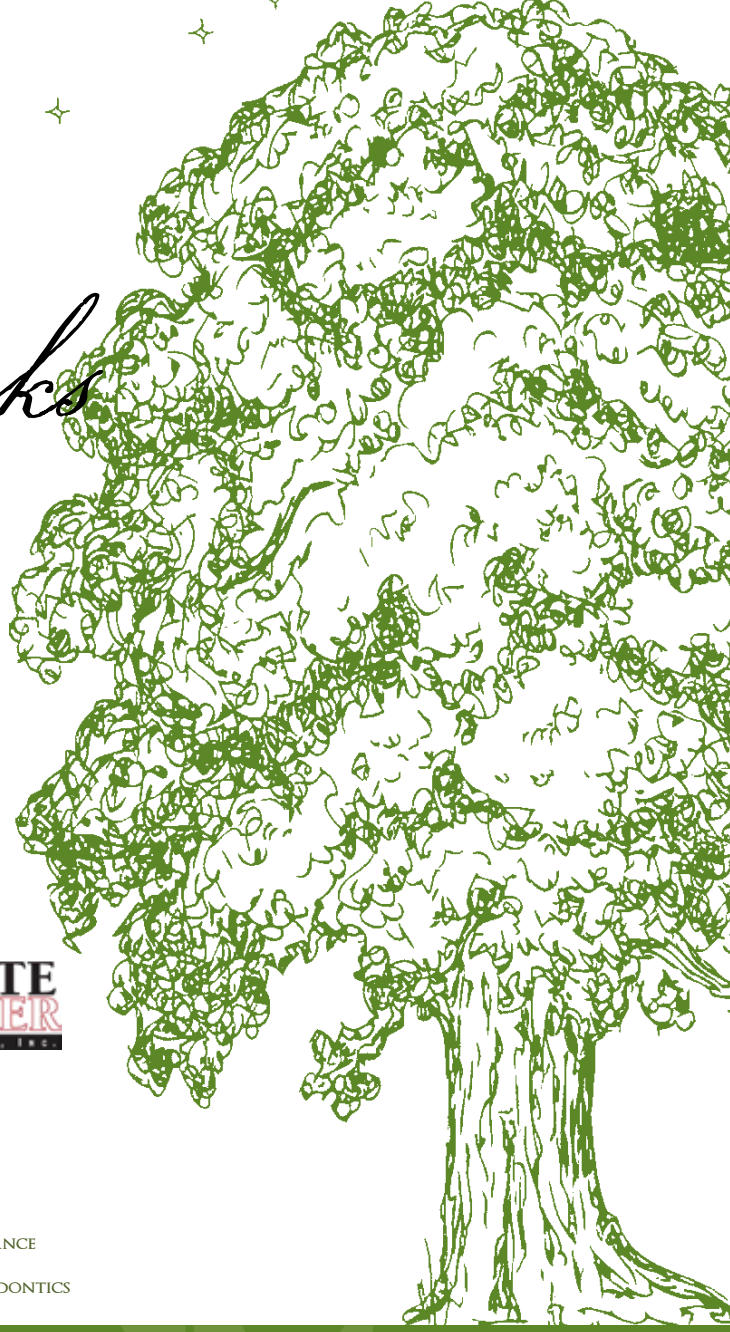
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# $700K!

## Thank You Lexington School Community!

Thanks to your generosity and commitment to our mission and philosophy, we shattered all Annual Fund records by raising more than $700,000 in the Annual Fund during the 2011-2012 school year!

In addition to a banner Annual Fund year, we are celebrating:

- *100% participation from Lexington School faculty and staff for the 19th consecutive year.*
- *100% participation from the Board of Trustees.*
- *90% participation from our current parents – our 5th consecutive year above 85%!*

***Pinpoints*** is a newsletter published by The Lexington School. Administrative Team: Charles Baldecchi, Jane Childers, Marijo Foster, Amanda Hale, Donna Hutton, Una MacCarthy, Beth Pride, Bob Thompson. Writer/Editor: Lucy J. McKinstry '66. Copy Editor: Ann Eames. Photography: Meredith Carrithers, David Coyle, Melanie Mauer, Tom Novitsky, Caitlin Pike, school files. Graphic Design: *www.mickjeffries.com*. Please address comments to *lmckinstry@thelexingtonschool.org*. Visit our website: *www.thelexingtonschool.org*

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# From *The Archives*




## TLS Goes to Washington

Sitting on the Capitol steps on October 13, 1994, the Class of 1995 enjoyed their ninth grade trip to Washington, DC. Other highlights included a tour of the Capitol Building, the National Archives, the Phillips Collection, the National Portrait Gallery, the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Museum, the White House, and an impromptu visit into the Oval Office.

*First Row* Drew Friesen, Nick Gardner, Abraham Scarr, Mia Clark, Lauren Black, Kav Milward, Lizzy Lowry *Second Row* Lincoln Brown, Holly Burns, Quanah Simon, Ann Mary Robertson, Caroline Smith, Dowell Hoskins, Elise Groves, Sally Hinkle, Ali McGee *Third Row* Charlie Dalton, Kevin Wilkes, Kate Mahan, Gwen Potter, Gretchen Wagner, Meade Young, Elizabeth Alford, Matt Hartley, Scott Simpson *Back Row* Tour Guide, Gretchen Young, Judy Apple, John Fox.