The Lexington School

Pinpoints



The Warm Feeling of TLS Family

The Class of 2013 represents the best of The Lexington School family. As Head of School Chuck Baldecchi said at the May 31st Commencement on Scarlet Gate's front lawn, this year's graduating class of 57 students openly and honestly expresses gratitude. They show gratitude to their teachers and other adults in their world and gratitude to each other. They appreciate the life-enhancing, and sometimes life-changing, opportunity they have been given as important members of The Lexington School family.

Traditions are strong at The Lexington School; classes are small; student-teacher relationships are precious; bonds of friendship made here continue the rest of a lifetime. Students know they are part of a greater whole, and they are the stronger for that knowledge. They know their advisors care deeply for them, as they care deeply for their advisors. Students feel confident in the nurturing environment where the Philosophy Statement lives not just on paper, but in action, every day,

(continued inside)

THE LEXINGTON SCHOOL CLASS OF 2013

Row1 Ashton Woody, Ireland Morton, Mei Li O'Brien, Mackenzie Rogers, Hannah Williams, Charlotte Carey, Sydney Young, Elise Merchak, Gaby Hawkridge, Mia Pulliam, McEwen Baker, Hannah Price, Lucy Jefferson, Delia Kessinger.

Row 2 Katie Kostelic, Caroline Madden, Isabel Bandoroff, Ellie Alford, Lauren White, Sarah Caton, Sarah Jewell Noonan, Julia Harris, Elana Ehl, Kennedy Sabharwal, Alex Willcutt, Gillian Perry, Emilie Dhir, Catherine Van Tatenhove.

Row 3 Ethan Shen, Daniel Grigsby, Parker Curl, Ridge McCauley, Spencer Parsons, Will Shapiro, Eric Kline, Justin Kline, Robert Bratton, Alex Mitchell, Jonathan Edmiston.

Row 4 Jack Farrell, James Dupree, Hunter Hayes, Chase Vickery, Brent Vennes, Trent Lott, Aaron Ervin, Kyle Sampson, Tyler Levy, Lucas Lillelund.

Row 5 Sid Sharp, Christian Flemm, Taylor Johnson, Cole Terrill, Malone Macy, Andrew Beck, Walker Montgomery, Mark Walsh.

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A Newsletter for Families, Alumni, & Friends of The Lexington School • Summer 2013

INCLUDING 2012-13 VOLUNTEER & DONOR RECOGNITION



every season. The Lexington School is a constant – for its students, its faculty, its families. From the first graduation ceremony fifty years ago with 11 students, the TLS family has grown, and many of those childhood friendships from the Class of 1963 have continued as well.

Inspired by Robert Fulghum's, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten,* Board of Trustees President **Margaret Graves '79** *(pictured above)* gave her own TLS version, including "Put things away so you can find them. No one enjoys the stress of searching for those history notes before the big final! I, too, studied ancient Egyptian history with Miss Cowling."

Student Council President Kennedy Sabharwal, first of the student leaders to address the group from the podium, spoke of having lunch the week before graduation with Warren Buffett. She relayed that he said, "When reviewing the lives of successful people, school and grades are not a major predictor; it is the age at which you become inspired. That is what will determine how successful you will be in the future." Kennedy echoed the words of gratitude her classmates and she have often expressed: "We have been exposed to opportunities that many people will never be blessed to experience."

In speaking of his preschool memories, Jack Farrell, too, reached for Robert Fulghum, saying, "We learned all of that and more; those few early years at The Lexington School served as the foundation which we built upon for the next eight years."

Summarizing first through third grades, Julia Harris took her inspiration from the words of Dr. Seuss saying, "The more that you read, the more things you will know," and sharing, "One of the greatest gifts The Lexington School offers its students is the love of learning."

Highlighting fourth and fifth grades, Sydney Young described the supreme effort it took in fourth grade to write her first essay and the feeling of great unease she had when she turned it in, only to learn it became "the example essay for the entire grade for four years."

Reviewing sixth and seventh grades, Aaron Ervin quoted Winston Churchill: "History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it." Aaron gave specific examples of middle school learning inside the classroom and "outside our beloved TLS walls," as he closed by saying, "I agree with Mr. Churchill. History will be very kind to the Class of 2013 because we will go through life creating new trails, inventing new strategies, and leaving our mark."

For The Learning Center, Malone Macy chose American author and philosopher Elbert Hubbard as his touchstone: "A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed hopeless failure may turn to glorious success." Malone provided background on his TLC years, and closed by saying, "With any [of us] struggling in a class, The Learning Center teachers gave us more persistence, made us give a little more effort, and we turned our struggles and failures into glorious success."

Taking the podium again to share memories of the eighth grade year, Kennedy Sabharwal emphasized, "Our TLS family will never be forgotten, but remembered for all of our eventful moments that we have had with each other."

Continuing the 16-year tradition of inviting a former student to share words of wisdom with the graduating class, Mr. Baldecchi introduced **Keturah Gray '94** *(pictured, facing page),* New York-based ABC News producer. He spoke of her recent Peabody and Gracie Awards, given for her network-wide Superstorm Sandy/Breezy Point Fire report, documenting the experience of terrified residents who chose to remain at home despite mandatory evacuation orders.

Keturah spoke of family and friendship as she reminisced from the podium about her TLS years. A new student in fifth grade, she met **Beth Medina '94** *(pictured together, facing page)* at a swimming party several days before



school began, and relayed, "Twenty-four years later, she is my best friend, my third sister – she's sitting right over there. It's impossible to imagine what life would have been like if she hadn't walked over and said, 'Hello.'" Keturah continued, "Never underestimate the importance of that TLS value of being kind." She noted, too, that as she toured the school before Commencement, she opened her yearbook to her ninth grade quotation, "Don't let weeds



grow around your dreams." Looking directly at the graduates, she said, "I was reminded of my dreams in 1994. I can truly say that what I dreamt of achieving when I was your age … I did. And it was thanks to the leg up in life that I got from my education here."

Happy to reconnect with her former student and continuing in the same vein, Miss Cowling remarked, "How exciting to see that Keturah is still a wonderful history student! Her independent spirit, sense of fair play, and insightful perceptions are opening up new areas of history and enriching us all. T. E. Lawrence spoke eloquently of dreamers. He said there were those whose dreams came only at night and in the glare of the real world the dreams were never pursued. Then there were those he called the 'Dreamers of the Day,' and those were the ones, like Keturah, who had the perseverance and resilience to achieve their dreams despite all obstacles. I am enormously proud of Keturah for all of her accomplishments and for the courage and grace behind those dreams."

> "History will be very kind to the Class of 2013 because we will go through life creating new trails, inventing new strategies, and leaving our mark."
>
> *Aaron Ervin*





Facing page Aaron Ervin quotes Winston Churchill from the podium.

Right Alex Mitchell, James Dupree, and Jack Farrell look dapper on the big day.

Far right Julia Harris paraphrases Dr. Seuss in her address: "...knowledge is the key to overall success."

Journal of a Journalist

ABC News Producer Keturah Gray '94 reflects on covering Hurricane Sandy from GROUND ZERO and surviving by lessons learned at THE LEXINGTON SCHOOL



IT CAME TO ME that all the eighth graders really need to know is, like the Brits say, to "Keep Calm and Carry On." My night in Breezy Point encapsulates all we really need to know.

My co-producer, Jim DuBreuil, and I were sent to Breezy Point in the Rockaways, Queens, because we knew it might be Ground Zero of Hurricane Sandy. We were sent to embed ourselves with families who refused to leave, who wanted to protect their homes and everything they had. Surrounded on one side by the Atlantic Ocean and the other side by Jamaica Bay, we knew the hurricane would hit this area in a big way. We expected wind, rain, and flood … but we didn't expect a fire.

Around 6:30 PM, after Jim and I filed early video for *Nightline*, we lost power at the home where we were staying. We then began the storm waiting game. We took our computers and camera gear to the second floor, to keep them safe in case of flood. At 8:30, we saw a fire in the distance. We could see it was heading our way, but there was nothing we could do. It was high tide and the water behind the house – our escape route – was up to the top of the SUVs in the parking lot. In front of us was the fire. I told Jim we needed to bring all of our equipment back down to the main floor in case we needed to leave in a hurry. For an hour, we monitored the situation; the fire getting bigger and closer, the water getting lower.

After an hour, Jim and I were able to go out to the family's back porch to try to figure out a plan. They didn't want to leave, but we knew if we stayed, it would be death. I looked at the parking lot behind the house and saw dozens of cars and water up to the doorknobs. And then, I saw a man in the distance, walking toward us, motioning to us to get out. Later, I learned his name is Joe Adinolfi. He is an off-duty firefighter who stayed in Breezy Point that night to protect his own home. Joe was yelling at us to come toward him – a friendly voice, a friendly gesture. Being kind, being courageous … being a hero.

I looked up at the power lines. Even though we'd lost power, I was still afraid of being electrocuted. I looked back at the huge flames; I looked at Joe; and I looked at the water – and I took a deep breath, said a prayer, and I stepped in. I had a thought about my surreal life: *Really? This time yesterday I was filming Miss South Carolina showing me how to put on fake eyelashes? And now, I'm fighting for my life?*

Cold, cold water, as far as the eye could see, above my bellybutton. Wind whipping all around. The water quickly seeped through my clothes and reached my core. Honestly, if I hadn't seen Joe, I wasn't sure I could do this. It was so cold, but we had to move forward, Jim and I. I held my phone above my head – by now, it had stopped raining – I needed to keep the phone up, though, so it wouldn't get wet. It was our only way of communicating – via text – with the outside world. Jim and I slowly moved toward Joe's house – our camera equipment in a large plastic garbage can. We told Joe to go and convince the family to leave their home. Within five minutes … he did … and just moments after they left, their home was in flames – one of the 110 Breezy Point houses that burned to the ground that night. Miraculously, nobody in Breezy Point died.

When Jim and I got to Joe's house, we realized the fire and embers were changing course and we needed to look for safety again. Once more, we stepped out in the water … and we began a journey that's a lot like life. Jim and I stepped out against the current, and I looked for a beacon to get me through – a goal – much like you'll have as you go through high school, college, and wherever the world takes you from there. First, it was a tree; then a house; then a stop sign … for a half-mile, against the current. In fierce winds, with a huge fire as our backdrop, Jim and I moved forward, water above my bellybutton, searching for a safe place. We occasionally motivated each other, but also quietly moved forward – lost in our own thoughts. One foot in front of the other; slowly making our way to our destination. Finally, we reached a church, appropriately – a church – St. Thomas More in Breezy Point – where we waited with dozens of Breezy Point residents until 4:00 AM when we were loaded onto emergency trucks, again, in freezing cold water up to our waist, to take us into Brooklyn. Jim and I found a cab in Brooklyn and talked our way into being one of the first non-emergency vehicles back into Manhattan, because the bridges were closed to regular vehicles. SOMETIMES you need to talk your way into things, if it's for the greater good. We had an important story to tell and we headed straight to ABC News headquarters to tell it.

Again, as I think about that night, I think the values I held onto – survival, keeping calm, being friendly – go back to TLS. Be kind. Be courageous. *Have a goal. Be calm, and work toward it.* If you've got that … failure will never be an option.

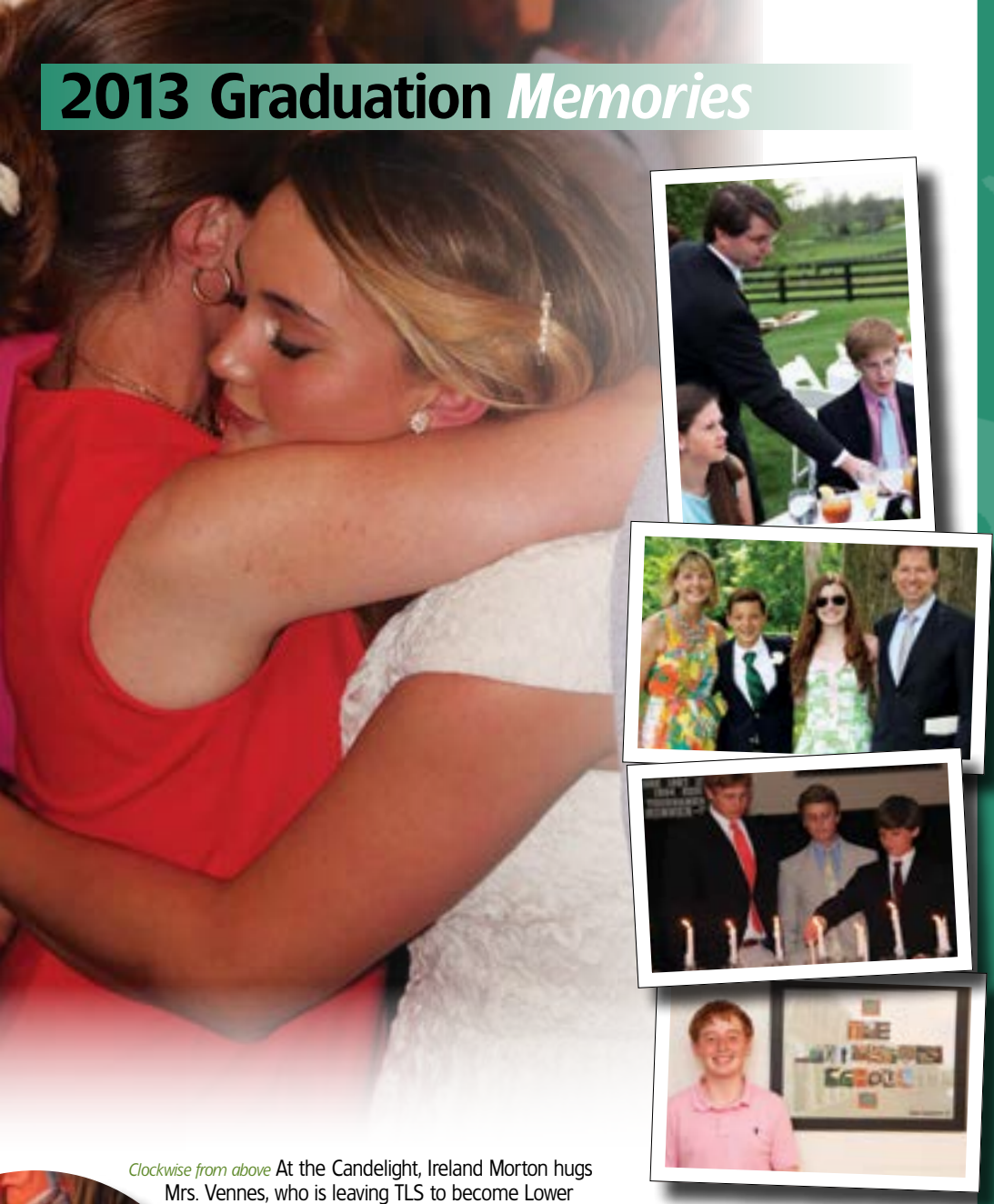

People left messages here


the house where we waited…


St. Thomas More Church


Devastated Breezy Point

2013 Graduation *Memories*





Clockwise from above At the Candelight, Ireland Morton hugs Mrs. Vennes, who is leaving TLS to become Lower School Head at the Winchester-Thurston School in Pittsburgh; **Jeff Jefferson '85** acts as server for Catherine Van Tatenhove and Brent Vennes at the eighth grade dinner; The Parsons family – **Renie '81**, **Spencer '13**, **Emory '10**, and Greg – celebrates at Scarlet Gate; Fifth grader Henry Beck lights his candle with his brother Andrew Beck and cousin Tyler Levy; and Kyle Sampson explains his eighth grade art show entry, a photo collection of on-campus architectural details representing each letter of "The Lexington School." *Below* The Class of 2013 gathers to bury their Time Capsule.



Marks of Distinction

Permanent Headmaster's List

Isabel Bandoroff
Jack Farrell
Christian Flemm
Julia Harris
Gaby Hawkridge
Hunter Hayes
Lucy Jefferson
Taylor Johnson
Eric Kline
Sarah Jewell Noonan
Spencer Parsons
Kennedy Sabharwal
Will Shapiro
Catherine Van Tatenhove
Brent Vennes
Chase Vickery
Hannah Williams
Sydney Young

Class Agents

Aaron Earvin
Jack Farrell
Christian Flemm
Kennedy Sabharwal
Sydney Young

2013 TLS Second Generation

Charlotte Carey
James Dupree
Jack Farrell
Lucy Jefferson
Caroline Madden
Spencer Parsons
Will Shapiro
Cole Terrill
Brent Vennes
Mark Walsh

Head *Lines*

NOTES FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Gathered around the campfire: Eighth graders get the chance to reflect on their entire TLS experience.

THE DAY OF AWESOME was coming to a close. Imagine the scene. Fifty eighth graders gathered around a campfire. Even though it was mid-May, all were dressed warmly in long johns and winter coats. It gets cold at night on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. The day started with a beautiful hike along the Grand Canyon and lunch on the precipice. It was one of those views you wished you had wings and could fly. The afternoon had been filled with a competitive game of Ultimate Frisbee – eighth grade girls and faculty vs. eighth grade boys. The evening was packed with a trash bag and duct tape fashion show. (Ralph Lauren and Coco Chanel, eat your hearts out.) A dance party spinning tunes from one of the rented Toyota Siennas followed. As if that wasn't enough, a talent show under headlights had everyone rolling in laughter. The last part of the evening was a campfire reflection designed by the middle school faculty to help campers remember the day and look ahead to the next. This night was special though. It was the last night before heading back to catch a flight home. The night became a symbolic reflection not on the Day of Awesome or even the Southwest Trip, but a reflection on the students' entire TLS experience.



Preschool teachers were remembered for their encouragement. Second grade teachers were appreciated for working with a struggling reader. Favorite lines from the fourth and fifth grade plays were recited. Middle school teachers were credited with great understanding, and eighth grade advisors' shoulders were cried on. I stood in the background, overwhelmed. The Lexington School "Experience" was condensed into an hour of thought, laughter, and tears. I am biased, but I also believe this with my whole heart: There is no better experience – no better place to grow up and learn than The Lexington School. The experience is what sets us apart, and, as Ms. Abercrombie said so eloquently to me recently, it "gives these eighth graders the wings to fly." So true.

This issue of *Pinpoints* highlights our new graduates but also tells of the important work of our alumni. Lexington is undergoing a wonderful change. Downtown is vibrant, and our alumni are leading the change. We have architects designing; we have developers with vision revitalizing; we have others rocking it out; and we have one brewing an often-reached-for, thirst-quenching beer. Our alumni are making a difference locally as well as in the world.

Keturah Gray '94 gave an amazing graduation address to our eighth graders, inspiring our young female and male graduates to use their TLS education to make a difference and to fulfill their dreams. In this issue, she shares a gripping account of her night, reporting amid flood and fire as Hurricane Sandy slammed into the Breezy Point neighborhood of Queens, New York. I am always so proud and amazed by the great things our alumni accomplish with wings to fly high and achieve Grand Canyon accomplishments.

With gratitude for a job I love,



Charles D. Baldecchi
Head of School

Dear Mr. Baldecchi:

The Art of the Business Letter



Among honored eighth grade traditions that set the year apart for Lexington School students is the springtime opportunity to write Mr. Baldecchi a business letter. Mr. B., a former English teacher, treasures classroom time and one-to-one interaction with each student. When he came to TLS nine years ago, he brought a portfolio filled with thoughtful, creative ideas for student-faculty engagement.

Knowing the importance of good communication skills, the English prof in Mr. B. emphasizes writing in particular and writing business letters specifically. Realizing Middle Schoolers have valuable and definite opinions, Mr. Baldecchi asks what they would like to see changed or added to The Lexington School experience and what traditions or characteristics should never change. Students appreciate being invited to present their thoughts. Chase Vickery points out, "I enjoyed that we spoke our opinions and I explained how I like our small class size. I suggested we make an AB block to lengthen class time instead of the current system." Alex Willcutt adds, "Expressing our feelings about the school to our headmaster was really cool. I said in fifth grade we had single gender math and science classes which were easier in class discussion."

Mr. Baldecchi meets with Laura Bonzo's English class in the theater to introduce assignment parameters. He explains proper format and instructs on the salutation, opening paragraph, body, closing paragraph, and signature. Initial homework is the outline, followed quickly by the introduction and first issues, then second issues and conclusion. It's a tight schedule with tight guidelines. He charges students to give evidence advancing their opinions and encourages them to tell a specific story supporting their claim. They must provide research – from a PhD, a medical doctor, or newspaper article, for instance – for their suggestions to enhance the TLS experience.

Dr. Bonzo advises students "to use their voice. They validate their opinion with researched evidence. When Chuck Baldecchi says he'll consider it, he means it." Catherine Van Tatenhove echoes that, saying, "Mr. Baldecchi cares about what you think; he cares and you care." Cole Terrill thinks much the same way, offering, "It was a relief to feel you could change something. It makes a difference if you just have to sit and watch what's going on, but it's nice when kids can tell adults what changes they want."

As Dr. Bonzo explains, "The standard for this age group is to be inwardly focused, self-involved. When they write these letters, they think of future generations." Lucy Jefferson agrees, saying, "It shows we care about younger grades. We have a chance to change things which shows leadership. I felt we had more of a voice in the school. I liked that Mr. Baldecchi and I had a conference." Emphasizing the continuity of the generations, she mentions, "My dad had Miss Cowling. It's cool to have some of the same teachers. My aunt had Miss Cowling and Mr. Scarr."

Speaking for The Learning Center, Malone Macy affirms, "Being involved with the rest of the school, even





Mr. Baldecchi works to hone business letters with *(left to right)* Kennedy Sabharwal, Ridge McCauley, Ireland Morton, and Christian Flemm *(facing page)*.

if it's writing a paper, is fun. It's nice to be on the same page with everybody. Something I want improved is the interaction with The Learning Center. The plant has started to grow, and it's still growing. We have to trim it and take care of it, like a garden. I like being involved with The Learning Center and TLS combined."

Mr. Baldecchi says, "We've made a lot of changes based on these letters. They may not be the single impetus, but they give background. We've changed some of the way we do class trips, made alterations in the Buddy System, dining hall, advisor lunches, all across the board. Our students truly love this place, and they give interesting perspective. They offer strong solutions; they don't just register complaints."

Dr. Bonzo lauds Mr. Baldecchi for his deep commitment to each student and to this exercise as a whole, saying, "He sets aside a day and conferences with each eighth grader – 57 in the Class of 2013. He is so busy, but I am thankful he does it. At this time of the year, kids both love us and are ready to go. They want TLS to be the best it can be for the next generation. He writes an affirming note to each student." Sarah Caton agrees, saying, "It's a good way to get the students' point of view to Mr. Baldecchi. Sometimes people are scared to talk to adults about things. When he gave us this opportunity, he gave us positive feedback about the letter which gave me confidence for future conversations."

Far from a hollow request for student input, Mr. Baldecchi shares at the Board of Trustees' year-end meeting the best letter written by a girl, the best by a boy, and the best by a Learning Center student. Mr. Baldecchi explains, "The top paper is the top paper, the strongest case, not necessarily what I want to get accomplished."

Daniel Grigsby wrote the top Learning Center letter: "We got to express our ideas about our school and we could tell Mr. Baldecchi what we enjoy for future students. At The Learning Center, small class sizes reduce our feel for larger group activities. I hope Mr. Baldecchi will continue to let students write him."

Selected as author of the top letter written by a boy, Christian Flemm reflects, "When I was writing this, I had my doubts. Mr. Baldecchi is a very busy man. I was surprised I got such a long, detailed reply. If there's one thing I like, it's having the ability to change something, even if it's miniscule. I enjoyed the Book Club with Mrs. Hancock for sixth through eighth grades, where anybody who loves books could join. I was sad to see the band program leave. I would like to expand the idea of fine arts, photography, film class, all three electives. I put a lot of thought into my letter."

Ireland Morton, writer of the top letter from a girl, emphasizes, "Future students' experiences could be enhanced if TLS became more aware of students who are quieter by nature and perhaps considered introverted. I felt it was important to bring attention to future Acorns and Oaks, who may have quiet voices, but in reality, have some of the loudest minds." Describing what should never change, Ireland emphasizes, "Without a doubt, our school does an incredible job developing relationships and special bonds between students and faculty and staff. It's something nearly indescribable and impossible to understand, unless you've experienced it yourself. It's a priceless gift and it's what makes our school a community, and our school a family. It's something I am confident is everlasting."

Reflecting on the project, Dr. Bonzo says, "Students know Mr. Baldecchi has given them his time and he has listened to them." In the "structured, nurturing environment" of The Lexington School's Mission Statement, eighth graders attest that learning the art of the business letter provides excellent ground for communication on many levels.

Pin Prints



At the 34th annual Little Kentucky Derby, KinderKlasse "jockeys" Emeline Offutt, Auveen Shah, Ainsley Metze, and Abby Schuman are accompanied by seventh grade "trainers" Haven Aurland and Isabella Turley, as they approach the finish line in victory. (Melanie Mauer Photography)



Learning firsthand about Newton's three laws of motion in physics class, fifth graders Ariyana Rhodes, Hiba Malik, A. K. Shashy, and Rayne Kazee design their grand finale Rube Goldberg contraption that drops sparkles on a cupcake.



Fourth grader Justin Freeman flings away during a game of Ultimate Frisbee.



During the reception at Christ Church Cathedral's Gallery Hop, sixth grade artist Connor Perry is accompanied by her parents, Carla and Randy, and her sister, eighth grader Gillian. The fifth and sixth grade collaborative exhibit featured an array of two- and three-dimensional artwork.



Following research on inventors and inventions, The Learning Center's Invention Convention showcases students' own inventions. Second graders Wick Preston and Megan Spillyards explain their dog leash with built-in treats, aptly named a Treash.



La cuisine Française avec la grammaire Française: Matthew Trawick, la classe de 7ième, s'amuse à faire ses cours de Français pendant qu'il mange un repas Français, les deux choses se sont préparés par Madame Jill Susini. Un déjeuner typique ce jour là est le poulet aux herbes de Provence, pommes de terres à la crème, du fromage avec du pain, et les madeleines aux amandes. Bon appétit!



Eighth grader Isabel Bandoroff aims to score against Sayre.



By learning how heat flows and what materials insulate best, Graham Wald, Cole Preston, and Ryan Sullivan confirm the water temperature inside a thermos they designed and built from recycled materials for the fifth grade heat keeper competition.



Getting early public speaking experience at the microphone, kindergartner Max Hickman announces the song that Mrs. Hetman and Mrs. Sloan's classes wrote with Mrs. Anderson for the Preschool Spring Sing.



Second graders Hayden Adams, Reed Applegate, Witt Wood, Clay Monohan, Amelia Monohan, and Maggie Pulliam get the whole story at the sixth grade Storytelling Festival.



During the second annual Green Out, seventh grader Ben Schaeffer splits the Sayre defense and takes it to the goal, helping TLS win the game.

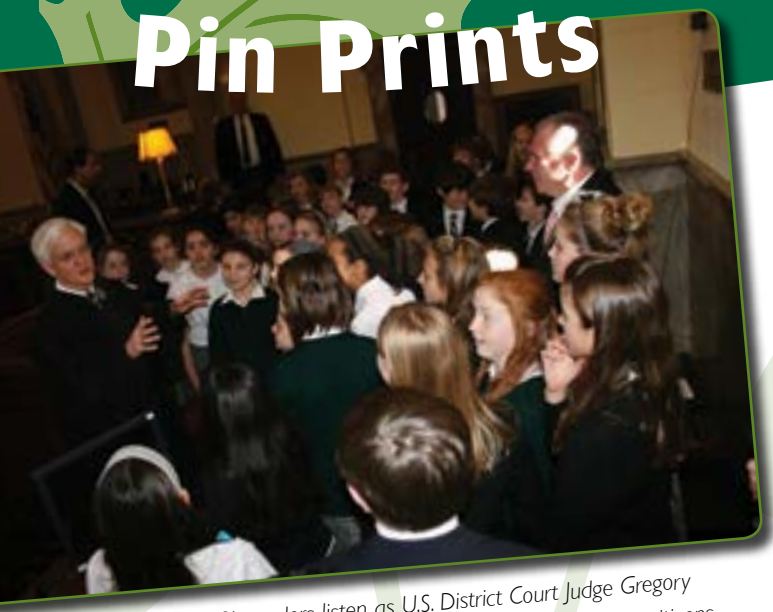


Luke de Castro captivates the Sixth Grade Storytelling Festival with his tale of a family vacation gone wrong. Dr. Laura Bowling's students devote three weeks to writing and three weeks to rehearsing their stories, focusing on speaking clearly, adding gestures and facial expressions, using character voices, and making eye contact with their audience.



Colts Middle School Varsity Tennis Team
Front Kendall Sturgill, Caroline Hager, Maha Iqbal, Matt Halpin, and George Shashy.
Back Julia Harris, Sarah Jewell Noonan, Kennedy Sabharwal, Malone Macy, Colton Warner, and Spencer Kriss.

Pin Prints



In U.S. District Court, fifth graders listen as U.S. District Court Judge Gregory Van Tatenhove explains the naturalization ceremony of new American citizens. Approximately 80 men and women from around the world, including Greece, Africa, Croatia, Mexico, China, and India, gained U.S. citizenship.



Blast from the Past, *the fifth grade musical written and directed by Dr. David Cooper, celebrates inventors at the 1904 and 1935 World's Fairs. The play includes Grace Lyman (Alice Holzer, Thomas Edison's lab assistant), Zach Honaker (Thomas Edison), Hawkins Schnabel (Nikola Tesla), Henry Beck (George Westinghouse), Davant Latham (Andrew Carnegie), and Cole Preston (John D. Rockefeller).*



The Rust family – Anne, Aaron, prekindergartner Selah, and first grader Elena – at the Preschool Art Show. (Melanie Mauer Photography)



Third grader Emily Harper paints her tile, which is part of a framed collection of original art sold at CELEBRATION 2013.



Tag Gudeman and his mom, Stacey, share a hug at the annual KinderKlasse Mothers Day Tea, made especially festive with crisp, white tablecloths, silver teapots, and real china. A highlight of the morning was the grand performance of "I-L-o-v-e-Y-o-u-M-o-m-m-y" spelled out and sung by the KinderKlasse students.



For National Library Week, TLS celebrates with "Dress as your favorite book character." Third graders Olivia Anne White, Katie Holoubek, Anna Kate Keating, and Griffin Simms bear a striking resemblance to the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf.

Sixth grader Gaelen Robinson breaks the Athens-Chilesburg LAX defense, takes aim, and fires a shot into the goal.



Southwest Adventure 2013!

"May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds."

– Edward Abbey











Pin *Notes*



Reconnecting with Dr. Bonzo at Keeneland is **Russell Lloyd '00** and her mother, **DeeDee Alexander Lloyd '72**. This spring, Russell, her mom, her father, Duncan, and aunt, **Brownell Alexander-Clark '70**, came back to TLS for Russell to share stories of her extensive travels at middle school assembly. Eighth grader Sydney Young introduced Russell to the audience and Ms. MacCarthy said afterwards, "Russell captivated the kids." The group missed Russell's brother, **Alex '04**, to make it a full family gathering.

Russell says, "My time at TLS instilled in me a great sense of exploration, an inclination I've been heavily exercising of late. After completing university at Vanderbilt, I threw my things in a car and moved to NYC, where I lived for four years. I worked hard, learned a lot, and loved my job, but quit to travel. After 16 months exploring Europe, India, and Southeast Asia, I'm finally settled again – this time on the west coast. Let the California exploring begin!"

Jen Boone Purviance '01 reports that she "lives, works, and plays in Casper, WY," with husband, John, and son, Boone. "We love it that summer has finally reached our little city, allowing us to enjoy everything that Casper has to offer. We love hiking and have really enjoyed paddle boarding on our nearby lake. Boone is growing so fast, and I'm sure it won't be long before we have to keep up with him around town. He is cruising everywhere and getting into everything, but it is so much fun to see him explore new things.



"We were in Lexington in early May when Boone was baptized at Walnut Hill Church, where John and I were married and where I was baptized. My sister [**Caroline Boone '04**] is excited to be Boone's godmother. It was a very special first Mother's Day weekend for me, and I was fortunate enough to go back and visit TLS. It was so much fun to see all of the changes. I loved seeing all of the playing fields and what a great lounge area the Middle School has! It was even more exciting to see that so much is exactly the same."

Friends of **Elaine Keightley '02** remember her middle school avid interest in dance. She has pursued that interest, and this spring she returned to TLS to teach modern dance to first through fourth grades. Savoring the day as much as her students enjoyed it, Elaine enthusiastically maintains, "It was amazing to come back and teach in the Little Gym – as nothing has changed there. It was like a time warp! The kids were so nice. Several of my former teachers came to watch and even participated in some of the exercises. Walking down the halls brought back many memories, and, I have to say, the additions to the school look wonderful! Mrs. Anderson was always one of my favorite teachers, so it was extra special for me to collaborate with her on this project. I am grateful to give a little back to the community that raised me."



Elaine continues, "Since TLS, I spent my eighth grade year in Boston, dancing with the Boston Ballet. I then moved to Phoenix to attend Phoenix Country Day School and danced with Ballet Arizona. For college, I attended the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University, graduating with degrees in broadcast journalism and French. During that time, I studied under company teachers for Center Dance Ensemble, a resident modern dance company. For two years after college I worked in public relations and was then offered a position with Center Dance, which I happily took. They offer four shows that change each year except the winter show – Snow Queen – which runs for three weeks. At the same time, I also dance with Kaleidoscape, founded by one of my teachers."



Before the start of the 139th Kentucky Derby, **Chip McGaughey '02**, left, and his brother **Reeve '04** flank their dad, Shug, in the walk over from the backside to the paddock at Churchill Downs. "Being able to experience the Kentucky Derby with my brother and father, when the horse he trains won, was incredible, to say the least," Chip recounts. "Orb battled the top three-year-olds in the country and prevailed over 18 other horses on a rainy Saturday afternoon to win the most coveted of all racing titles. My father has always wanted to win the Kentucky Derby more than any other race, and this year he finally got his wish. Winning the Kentucky Derby has always been an important goal for Orb's owners, the Phippses and the Janneys, as well, so I am happy they accomplished this prized win also. The entire experience was surreal and, looking back on it, I still cannot believe it actually happened."

Chip graduated from the University of Kentucky and works for America's Best Racing *(FollowHorseRacing.com)*, a marketing initiative from The Jockey Club to generate fan interest and involvement in the sport of thoroughbred racing. He travels throughout the country, as he says, "to experience some of the greatest events that thoroughbred racing has to offer. So far, it has been an incredible experience, and I am excited about what the second half of the year has in store for America's Best Racing as well."

Sarah Mikell '03 earned the Graduate Student Excellence Award in Public History at Wright State University, Dayton, OH. She is completing her master's degree with an internship in the numismatics and collections division of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. She has previously served an internship at the National Museum of the U.S. Navy, where she plans to volunteer in her free time. This move to DC is a permanent one for Sarah, who could not be happier to begin her career in an area so rich with history. She looks forward to reuniting with her TLS classmates for their ten-year anniversary. Sarah is pictured with her advisor, Ms. Dawne Dewey, and Dr. William Ayres, dean of graduate studies at Wright State University.





Griffin Mason '10, a member of the National Honor Society in Lafayette's pre-engineering program, was accepted into this summer's Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program. During Spring Break, he traveled to China with a group of Lexington area high school students and teachers of Asian history. To prepare for the trip, the students, who especially enjoyed visiting Beijing and Shanghai, worked with the University of Kentucky Confucius Institute once a semester for 2½ years to learn about China's culture and language.

A cross country runner, Griffin won the General Award for his "hard work, dedication and leadership" on the team. He is also a founding member of Lafayette's archery team, where he scored third highest in Fayette County high school boys. This spring, he helped coach the TLS archery team as he prepared to compete in May with his own team in Louisville's tenth annual national championships of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). With more than 9,400 students competing, Griffin, Lafayette's top male shooter, placed 208th. Recalling his experiences on both Lafayette's cross country and archery teams, he notes that archery includes a wide variety of students, pointing out that archery is "more diverse – there's not a specific type of person since it's not based on athletic prowess. It's more concentration and practice."

Griffin was selected, too, to participate in Youth Salute, conducted annually through the National Council on Youth Leadership in cooperation with the Central Kentucky Council on Youth Leadership. High school juniors are nominated by teachers, counselors, principals, and community leaders. Nominees must have at least a 3.0 grade point average and be selected by peers or an adult for at least two leadership roles in school, religious, or community-sponsored organizations during the previous two years.

Class of 2009: Forever Friends





TLS friendships go on and on. At their Henry Clay graduation, **Haddon Alford**, **Cameron Boone**, and **Jack Totty** celebrate a TLS friendship that has continued since their days together in first grade *(top and middle, right)*. Their teacher, Donna Hutton, recalls them clearly: "Charismatic, driven, and fun are words that come to mind when I remember these three good friends. I remember each of them warmly and am not surprised to see the bonds that were formed in first grade have remained."



Also hanging tight *(bottom)* are Henry Clay varsity LAX players **Jacob Rackmil '09**, **Jake Linton '09**, **Sloan Warner '12**, **Braxton DeCamp '09**, **Haddon Alford '09**, and **Austin Gardner '10**. In May they shared the trophy for the Kentucky Lacrosse Association High School Boys State Championship. Their team went undefeated in 18 games this season, and Braxton was named co-MVP of the state championship game.

ALUMNI COUNCIL CONTINUES STRONG LEADERSHIP

In reviewing her term as president since 2010, **Brooke Folley Counts '96** says she's proudest of reconnecting former students with the school and of "growing alumni fundraising." Brooke's phonathons were successful and enjoyable evenings that helped increase alumni donations. Spring Valley Golf Scrambles; UK Football tailgates; Scarlet Gate Holiday Homecomings; and Spirit Night, featuring Chef Ryan's taco bar before the Sayre basketball game, gave TLSers of all ages opportunity to enjoy each other.

With great appreciation from Alumni Council members, Brooke passes the gavel to **Jeff Truitt '85**, who looks forward to "expanding alumni relations with recent graduates to keep their momentum strong." A mentoring/internship program will assist young alums with career paths, emphasizing, "TLS isn't just a family atmosphere while you're in school, but continues afterward." He knows firsthand – during high school summers, he and **Lindsey Ingram '85** worked at TLS for Bob Thompson. Also a former TLS basketball coach, Jeff says it is especially rewarding to serve the Council with some of his players, **Will Chapman '96**, **Andrew Grimes '95**, **Tanner Gudeman '94**, **Kav Milward '95**, and **Jamie Nicholson '94**.



Incoming Alumni Council president Jeff Truitt with Suzanne, **Davis '16** and **Katherine '19** at a cousin's wedding in Flat Rock, NC.



Outgoing Alumni Council president Brooke Counts with Chris, and **Lauren '23** on vacation at Isle of Palms, SC.

Former Teacher News

Samantha Kemmish



From the classroom to the beach wedding —

At sunset on April 6, beside the ocean at Alys Beach, FL, Samantha Kemmish, former TLS math, science, and fifth grade teacher, and assistant head of Lower School, was married to Gregory Campbell. **Ainsley Kemmish '12** and **Haley-Kate Kemmish '16** served as bridesmaids and gave their mother away. Ms. Kemmish, now Mrs. Campbell, begins her seventh year as Head of Lower School at Lausanne Collegiate School in Memphis, TN.

Ms. Kemmish's former colleagues, Mrs. Pam Maley, Dr. Laura Bonzo-Sims, and Mrs. Lynn Pickles, celebrated with her at the reception, overlooking the Gulf of Mexico.

Pam Maley



Life is but a Dream —

For a year, a beloved former TLS math teacher fulfilled a decade-long boating dream, and nobody tells it better than she does:

In January 2001, Bill and I found online a 1964 Chris Craft Roamer, a 38-foot cruiser, in a Chicago boatyard. Paying no attention to the time of year, we went to see her. Suffice it to say that Chicago in January is a less-than-optimal time to be crawling around on a boat! But we fell in love with her beautiful teak and mahogany interior, rechristened her Seabiscuit, *and brought her home to Kentucky.*

For the next ten years, in small increments, we refinished, restored, and rehabilitated her, all the while researching the trip of our dreams, "America's Great Loop," a year-long journey that circumnavigates the eastern half of the United States. It would take us west on the Ohio River, down the Tennessee River to Mobile, and across the Gulf to Tarpon Springs. We would follow Florida's west coast into the Keys, lingering a while, then journey up the east coast to New York Harbor, up the Hudson River, through the Erie Canal to Lake Ontario, around the Thousand Islands, and through the Trent-Severn Canal into Canada and the Georgian Bay. From there, we would cruise the North Channel, the Straits of Mackinac, make our way down the length of Lake Michigan to Chicago, then back home via the Illinois, Mississippi, and Ohio rivers.



In August 2011, we wound down our horse farm business and retired, with visions of The Loop dancing in our heads. On October 7, 2011, Seabiscuit *left her moorings on the Ohio River and with great excitement and more than a little trepidation, we began our journey. For Bill and me, what followed was a year of pure joy. Our little boat took us more than 6,000 miles — every mile of it a great adventure, every day a treasure.*

For a wealth of words and pictures of Mrs. Maley's incredible nautical adventure, visit the blog she diligently kept at ***seabiscuitsloop.blogspot.com.***

No Translation Needed

In Any Language, TLS Excels

A Chinese independent school delegation from Shanghai visited The Lexington School on April 29th. From China's National Training Center for Secondary School Principals, Ministry of Education, the group of 21 was comprised primarily of private school principals and college professors. The group's focus was to see models of academic excellence in the United States. As Chuck Baldecchi said, it was a grand opportunity for TLS "to show what we do. China is a place of interest for us, with our Mandarin teaching. Perhaps this visit might open doors for an exchange program." He continued, pointing out, "They found interesting the contrast with how we teach freedom and independence. Our classrooms are creative, innovative, and hands-on. Our guests noticed it across the board."

Following a warm welcome by Mr. Baldecchi, Beth Pride, director of admission, and division heads Donna Hutton, Marijo Foster, Una MacCarthy, and Jane Childers, the visitors were divided into three groups. Mrs. Pride gave tours and led admission discussion for each group. In the theater, division heads conducted PowerPoint curriculum presentations for the three sections while preschool, lower and middle school, and The Learning Center teachers opened their classrooms for visits, led by Mr. Baldecchi.





Prekindergartners Selah Rust and Caleb Ervin share the magnificence of butterflies. *Below* Touring Scarlet Gate. *Inset* Anna Friesen shows off her newly-hatched dinosaur.

As Mrs. Pride explained, "Our school is used to putting on a show. We're great at demonstrating what we do here. For example, Martha Anderson's children were singing, dancing, and playing instruments every time we walked in. Tom Novitsky's roller coasters were rolling and the students were explaining them, showing every aspect of their inventions. There was constant, student-centered discussion in Becky Johnson's room, with kids sitting in beanbag chairs on the floor, while she sat cross-legged, also on the floor. The Chinese interpreters asked the kids questions, and they answered eloquently."

Action in the "roller coaster room" was especially intriguing to the guests, as Mr. Novitsky laughingly offered, "They all were bright-eyed and had big grins; they all gave the most enthusiastic two-thumbs-up I have ever gotten."

Mrs. Johnson's sixth grade English students enjoyed their visitors as much as the guests enjoyed observing the strictly American, very-far-from-Asian-classroom ambiance. From one of the popular, comfortable, and conversation-encouraging beanbags, Kendall Sturgill emphasized, "They were very interested in our environment and our setting, how we don't really sit in chairs in Mrs. Johnson's class. This all started with just two beanbags, and then kids brought in more." Tori McLaughlin was quick to add, "They took a lot of pictures of us while we were sitting



The visitors inspect Writers Guild drawings by fourth graders Matthew Donnelly and Woods Freeman. Impressive! *Below* Students hold up signs that say "Welcome" in Mandarin.

on our beanbags." Daisy Farish pointed out, "They were amazed by how small our classes are. They're only 11 of us here. Their public schools have 60 over there." Alice Rodgerson said, "They were really interested in the book, *The House of the Scorpion*, that we are reading." Mrs. Johnson interjected, "We told them about the debates and the points we will be making about cloning human beings." Michael Duzyk mentioned, "They were interested to see how we work together as a group and how we were going to help each other on different points of the debate." Alex Rudder followed up with, "They got very interested in cloning." Sean Givens closed the discussion by noting, "They asked good questions about the book."

Lunchtime in the tent at Scarlet Gate was a festive occasion of togetherness, with Eric Zhang's Mandarin Chinese Applied Lessons students giving presentations. TLS has offered Mandarin for five years, with beginner/intermediate classes for four-year-olds and above with some or no experience and advanced classes for those more familiar with the language.

White tablecloths on round tables with thermoses of green tea and place cards with each visitor's name hand-inscribed in both Chinese and English provided an elegant backdrop for the sumptuous buffet. Chef Ryan and his kitchen staff prepared a Bluegrass menu featuring Kentucky Bibb lettuce salad; Weisenberger grits with local cheddar; Brookview Farm beef tenderloin with roasted mushrooms, local garlic, and house-pickled onions; roasted baby red and golden beets; roasted asparagus with bourbon mustard vinaigrette; and pound cake with sweet cream and strawberries.

After lunch, the delegates moved back to the theater for administration presentations. **Margaret Graves '79**, Board of Trustees president and herself a Mandarin speaker who studied, worked, and lived in China, explained TLS governance. Bob Thompson, director of administrative services, gave a financial overview, and Director of Development Amanda Hale spoke on her work regarding philanthropy. Athletic Director Tom Parlanti and Meredith Carrithers, assistant AD and director of intramurals, shared the background of the athletic and intramural programs. To see for themselves, the group enjoyed watching athletic practices outdoors on the playing fields.

Lars Björk, PhD, professor, Department of Educational Leadership Studies at The University of Kentucky, acted as liaison between The Lexington School and the delegates. Dr. Björk, husband of former TLS art teacher Anne Björk, enjoyed his time back at TLS again, remarking afterward, "The Lexington School should be congratulated for making the Chinese delegation's visit a success. The gracious hospitality and hard work of Chuck Baldecchi, the administrative staff, and teachers created a wonderful atmosphere for an open exchange of ideas and mutual learning. I think it laid an important foundation for future collaboration with Shanghai private schools, and with support from the University of Kentucky's Confucius Institute may lead to expanding Chinese language programs at TLS."

In reflection, Ms. Graves offered, "The visit gave TLS an opportunity to learn more about education in China and build potential alliances with private schools in China. Both U. S. and Chinese cultures value education and this unique, cross-cultural visit was a great learning opportunity for everyone involved, TLS students, teachers, and leaders, as well as our guests."

Reviewing the day, Mrs. Pride said it simply, "TLS students were the best educators of all!"



BLUEPRINTS FOR SUCCESS





Sydney Young, Jack Farrell, Lucas Lillelund, Catherine Van Tatenhove, Lucy Jefferson, and Elana Ehl refine their plans. *Left* Working with blueprints helps Sydney Young understand the intricacies of proportion, dimension, and scale.

Middle school math teacher Joe Griggs can't sit still. He paces the classroom, animatedly describing his newest in a continuing flow of fantastic ideas. His eighth grade geometry students are fortunate beneficiaries of his latest brainstorm.

Knowing that collaboration is often key to discovering solutions to seemingly overwhelming problems, Mr. Griggs provides a not-so-rough draft for in-class and out-of-class success. He explains, "I give them a blueprint of the school building and present them with the problem: If TLS exceeded maximum capacity, there would be scheduling issues in the fine arts wing with classes overlapping for the existing space."

Mr. Griggs has developed a three-part process to engage the creativity of his students' minds.

To begin, seven groups of two students identify the solution by interviewing teachers, staff members, and maintenance workers who know and understand the mechanics of the existing structure. The pairs of students also make appointments with school head Chuck Baldecchi, seeking his thoughts regarding the best solution: "Should we build extra classrooms? Divide existing rooms? Expand to a second level? How do we squeeze more students into the art room?" They gather facts about what is important in room layout, dimensions, aesthetics, and plumbing facilities. This initial phase provides solid opportunity for out-of-classroom discussion and collaboration, as each student becomes aware of the depth of the problem.

The next step, to develop the solution, requires the geometry scholars to polish their skills using ratios and scale (one inch equals one foot) to master the world of converting proportions.

Mr. Griggs draws on the expertise of Jaime Lassman, director of technology integration and curriculum. Because geography is not a constrictor in this digital exercise, Mr. Lassman reaches out to the global TLS community of alumni, former teachers and parents, and current parents, who are architects, contractors, and engineers. He matches one adult to one pair of students, providing a strong mentor-mentee relationship. As Mr. Lassman explains, "Technology provides the opportunity for TLS students to learn outside the walls of the classroom. The additional layer of expert mentors to guide the students' creativity is only possible through integrating technology into the unit. Students share online resources and communicate through email with mentors from all over the region who know far more about designing buildings than their teachers. As we continue to develop our curriculum, it is a model for how we can use technology to boost the authenticity of learning."

Creating accurate blueprints can be challenging for Middle Schoolers. Foreseeing those hurdles, Mr. Griggs notes, "The architects are there to ensure the students don't make the hall too skinny, that there are still windows where they need to be in each room, that handicapped facilities are accessible. The students and adults thoroughly enjoy their collaborative efforts. It is a great success all the way around."

For the final stage, presenting the solution, Mr. Lassman advises the students on making a webpage displaying their new blueprints. They must provide written or video rationale and write an individual reflection on the project's progress and how it can be improved. Included, too, is a wish list of what resources the students would like to have. Their work is on the web now, accessible to the public, providing TLS blueprints for success to architects, builders, and others across the globe.

Backyard
Goes Front & Center

Again and again and again, throughout the night, the bids rolled in as the TLS family generously and enthusiastically supported their school. Megan Winfield and Brady Barlow, CELEBRATION 2013 Chairs, chose *This Is Our Backyard* as this year's theme. Proclaiming the evening an unqualified success, Brady said, "We had a blast hosting CELEBRATION and did, indeed, have a wonderful time. Even with the rain outside, people really embraced the night and seemed to enjoy throwing on their rain boots and coming out for a more laid-back event. And we had some great help. So many people came out, rain or shine, to help get ready for a night celebrating all that makes our backyard so special, whether talking about our city, our people, or our school."

With tremendous direction from Amanda Hale, Mandy Helton, and Katie Hoelscher of the development office, the tent at Scarlet Gate was filled to capacity with almost 500 partygoers. Community support was incredible, with 23 sponsorships – including title sponsor Paul Miller Ford – plus almost 200 silent and live auction items donated from businesses and friends throughout The Lexington School community. As has become tradition, **Walt Robertson '94** joined his dad, also Walt, at the auctioneer's post, while brothers **Jordan English '02** and **Marshall English '05** provided dance music after the gavel had fallen for the last time. When the numbers had been tallied, more than $200,000 had been raised to help operate The Lexington School. Especially exciting, too, was the additional $130,000 raised specifically to celebrate middle school science for the renovation of Tomi Lounsbury's classroom. With additional gifts that have come in since that night, a total of $155,000 has been received for the project.

At the end of the evening, the quotation that Megan found from Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* seemed particularly apt: *If I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't look any further than my own backyard.*



















From top left Brady Barlow and Megan Winfield, Ms. Abercrombie and Mr. Baldecchi, Walt Robertson and Walt Robertson '94, Rachel and Bruce Belin '82, Marshall English '05 and Jordan English '02, Douglas Owens '85 and Jenny Owens, Emily Ryan '99 and Emily Stout. *Left* The latest in rainboot fashion.



We Teach Courage

And we learn it from those who have it.

LEXINGTON SCHOOL STUDENTS had the great privilege of meeting and listening to United States Sergeant Sammy Lee Davis, recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor. **Rob Brewer '85**, branch manager of the Lexington office of Raymond James Financial, who sponsored the "In the Company of Heroes" assembly, explained the United States of America's highest military honor, awarded for acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty. "Most of these medals are awarded posthumously. Furthermore, in order to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, there has to be a unanimous vote by both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate before it can be sent to the President for final approval. This is truly a living piece of history to have Sammy with us today."

A ten-minute video gave background on Sergeant (then Pfc.) Davis and detailed his heroic actions in Vietnam during service on November 18, 1967. As he recounted, there were 1,500 of the enemy "against 42 kids." Stated on his official citation, Sergeant Davis was honored for his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty."

Lexington Mayor Jim Gray introduced Sergeant Davis and his wife, Dixie, to the fourth through eighth graders and their teachers gathered in the theater. Mayor Gray also presented a key to the city, an honor given on only five occasions during the mayor's time in office. Sergeant Davis spoke humbly of his wartime actions, tenderly of his fellow man, and eloquently of his love of the United States. Many were interested to learn he is the "real life" Forrest Gump, as footage of President Lyndon Johnson's bestowing the Medal of Honor upon Davis was shown in the 1994 movie, with actor Tom Hanks's head substituted for Davis's.



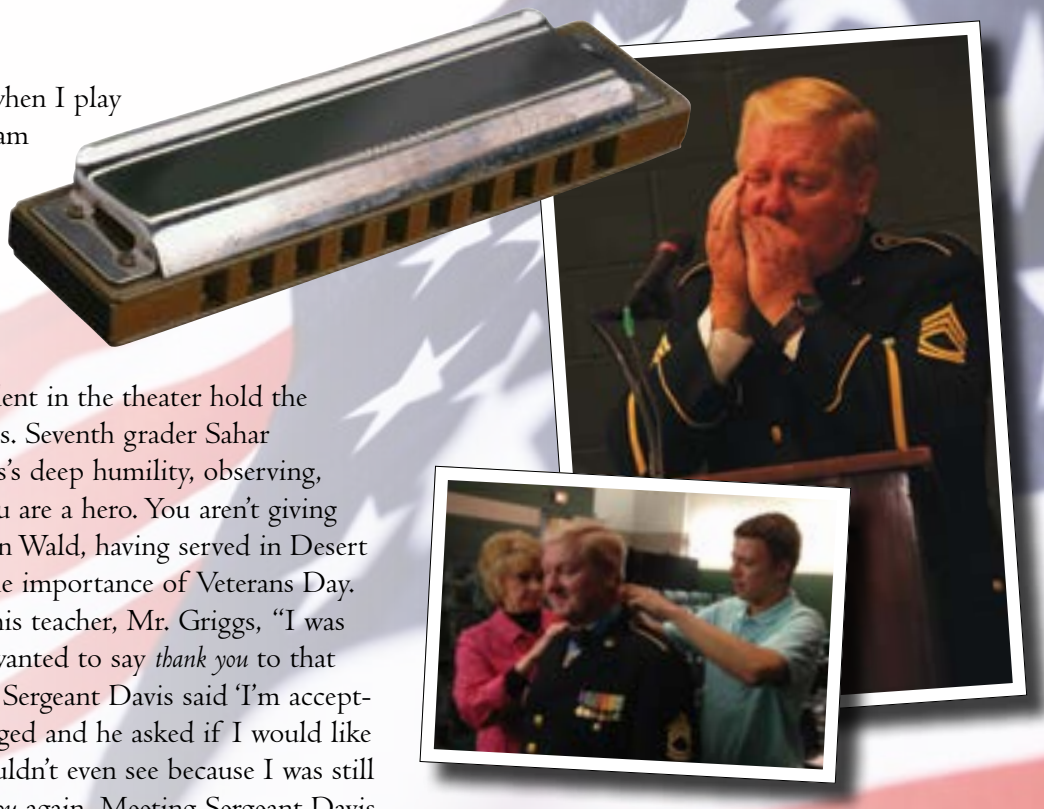
Mayor Jim Gray presents Sergeant Davis with a key to the city. *Top* Fifth grader Zach Honaker receives a harmonica from the sergeant.

Music teacher Dr. David Cooper, interested in Sergeant Davis's story of *his* sergeant, Sergeant Johnston Dunlop, relayed, "During Davis's tour of duty in Vietnam, his mother sent him a harmonica, which he spent thousands of hours playing. Since he was in artillery, the enemy always knew where they were, so Pfc. Davis sat on guard through the days and long nights, playing his harmonica. Sergeant Dunlop asked Davis to play 'Shenandoah,' and each time Dunlop walked by, he would say, 'Play it again, Sam.'"

As Sergeant Davis says now, "Today, when I play for my sergeant, I have to go to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. He's on panel 50 East." For his Lexington School audience, who sat riveted, and in Dunlop's loving memory, Sergeant Davis played a moving rendition of "Shenandoah."

Sergeant Davis graciously let every student in the theater hold the Medal of Honor as he answered questions. Seventh grader Sahar Mohammadzadeh was impressed by Davis's deep humility, observing, "You say you did what you had to do; you are a hero. You aren't giving yourself enough credit." PE teacher Darrin Wald, having served in Desert Storm, asked Sergeant Davis to explain the importance of Veterans Day. Eighth grader Walker Montgomery told his teacher, Mr. Griggs, "I was going to be late to math class, because I wanted to say *thank you* to that great American hero. I started crying and Sergeant Davis said 'I'm accepting hugs if you need them.' He and I hugged and he asked if I would like to put the Medal of Honor on him. I couldn't even see because I was still crying, but I got it on there. I said *thank you* again. Meeting Sergeant Davis definitely made the TLS experience more meaningful than anything you could ever get at any other school."

We Teach Courage … and we *respect* courage.



Sergeant Davis performs Shenandoah for TLS students. After the program, Walker Montgomery does the honors of pinning the Medal on the sergeant.

"They're Off to Great Places..."
HIGH SCHOOL MATRICULATIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2013

Ellie Alford ..... Sayre School
McEwen Baker ..... Lexington Catholic High School – Fine Arts Exemplar Program
Isabel Bandoroff ..... Henry Clay Academy
Andrew Beck ..... Sayre School
Robert Bratton ..... Sayre School
Charlotte Carey ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Sarah Caton ..... Tates Creek High School – IB Diploma Programme
Parker Curl ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Emilie Dhir ..... SCAPA – Lafayette
James Dupree ..... Sayre School
Jonathan Edmiston ..... The STEAM Academy – Fayette County Schools
Elana Ehl ..... Henry Clay Academy
Aaron Ervin ..... Baylor School
Jack Farrell ..... Phillips Exeter Academy
Christian Flemm ..... Lexington Catholic High School – Exemplar Program
Daniel Grigsby ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Julia Harris ..... Henry Clay Academy
Gaby Hawkridge ..... Chatham Hall
Hunter Hayes ..... West Jessamine High School
Lucy Jefferson ..... Henry Clay Academy
Taylor Johnson ..... Sayre School
Delia Kessinger ..... Henry Clay High School
Eric Kline ..... Dunbar High School
Justin Kline ..... Dunbar High School
Katie Kostelic ..... Sayre School
Tyler Levy ..... Sayre School
Lucas Lillelund ..... Dunbar High School
Trent Lott ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Malone Macy ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Caroline Madden ..... The Hill School
Ridge McCauley ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Elise Merchak ..... Dunbar High School
Alex Mitchell ..... Sayre School
Walker Montgomery ..... Sayre School
Ireland Morton ..... Sayre School
Sarah Jewell Noonan ..... Lexington Catholic High School – Exemplar Program
Mei Li O'Brien ..... Lexington Catholic High School – Exemplar Program
Spencer Parsons ..... Henry Clay Academy
Gillian Perry ..... Henry Clay High School
Hannah Price ..... Henry Clay Academy
Mia Pulliam ..... Sayre School
Mackenzie Rogers ..... Lexington Catholic High School – Equine Program
Kennedy Sabharwal ..... Sayre School
Kyle Sampson ..... Sayre School
Will Shapiro ..... Henry Clay Academy
Sid Sharp ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Ethan Shen ..... Dunbar High School – MSTC Program
Cole Terrill ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Catherine Van Tatenhove ..... Henry Clay Academy
Brent Vennes ..... Winchester Thurston School, Pittsburgh, PA
Chase Vickery ..... Dunbar High School – MSTC Program
Mark Walsh ..... Henry Clay Academy
Lauren White ..... Sayre School
Alex Willcutt ..... Baylor School
Hannah Williams ..... Baylor School
Ashton Woody ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Sydney Young ..... Henry Clay Academy

Foundations of Sovereignty

The Imagination Nation

Taking inspiration from around the world and from the world of imagination, seventh grade social studies students of Sara Hinds create their own fictional societies. Capping the end of the year in world studies, the final project involves 55 students working in groups of three or four.

As a guideline, teams use the five geography themes studied this year – location, place, regions, movement, and human-environment interaction. Rather than a pen-and-paper final exam, a mock United Nations General Assembly commands the theater, with Ms. Hinds the Secretary-General and each country in its distinguished position throughout the room. Seventh graders demonstrate real-life scenarios about country collaboration and disagreement, using their social studies background to achieve their country's goals of economic success, military success, or cultural acceptance.



Ms. Hinds promotes out-of-the-box and out-of-the-country thinking and wants her students to enjoy the project, exclaiming, "The sky is the limit. Want your country to be underground? Go for it. Want your people to speak only in monosyllabic grunts? Fine. There are just two rules. First, it must be logical; don't have tropical vegetation in a desert. Second, you must answer all the questions on the sheet [an at-first-alarmingly-detailed list of 14 questions with multiple questions tucked inside each of those 14]."

Incorporating all they learned throughout the year about what constitutes a nation and what makes that culture unique, teams create a website to specify, among other things, natural resources, food sources, specialties, a flag, a national anthem, and a military force of their fictional country. Augmenting each student's knowledge of culture and society, as well as the ability to work effectively and efficiently within a group, every team creates an informational website about its country.

Map making, of course, is an important component, with the cartographers noting key, scale, a compass rose, at least five physical features, the nation's capital, at least three other cities, and at least three natural resources. The highly detailed, colorful, creative, and well presented map shows borders with other countries and nearby waterways. Not as detailed, a second, smaller map shows the country's population density, and differentiates areas of higher and lower concentration.



From top left Ellie Phillips and Ellie Webb; Ian Schaeffer, Colton Warner, Morgan Patton, and Olin Gentry; Jackson Leach, MacCarthy Baker, Megan Goldthorpe, and Clark Wood; and TLS UN General Assembly delegates.

Ms. Hinds encourages special creativity in flag design, suggesting if a country's primary industry is pizza, perhaps the flag would showcase a triangle representing a pizza slice. The flag and both maps are included in the website. A second, larger flag hangs on each country's desk at the mock UN General Assembly.

Website completion and the accompanying handouts comprise the largest part of the project, spanning six class periods. Each group decides who will be in charge of which responsibility. The minutely detailed, 14-point questionnaire comes into play again, as every question has its own website page, in addition to pages for the maps and flag. Ms. Hinds offers extra credit for those who write a national anthem and record it on their website. As final preparation for convening the United Nations General Assembly, students create a one-page fact sheet for their country to be handed out to the other countries upon arrival.

In addition to UN headquarters in New York City, the United Nations has a firm presence at The Lexington School.

Lexington FOR Lexington!

by Mandy Helton

Looking at the renaissance of civic pride and culture in and around Lexington? Look no further than TLS alums, hard at work for the city they call home.



The signs on the Lexington Chamber of Commerce say it all: #4 Best Place for Business and Careers (*Forbes 2011*), #6 Best Mid-Size Place to Start a Small Business (*CNNMoney 2009*), #25 of America's Best Cities (*Business Week 2012*), Top Ten City of the Future (*FDi Intelligence 2011*). Our beloved Lexington is booming and rocketing up the lists of up-and-coming cities in the U.S. There is something palpable happening in Lexington and greater Kentucky: a renewed sense of state pride and civic duty. It's no surprise that TLS alumni are the visionary leaders behind many locally-owned businesses in this booming "local first" culture where homegrown entrepreneurs are changing the face of Lexington and blurring the boundaries of downtown, uptown, home, and community.

TLS connections abound, and you could almost go on a tour of alumni enterprises by foot. In fact, that's just what renowned architect **Van Meter Pettit '82** would like you to do. His vision for Lexington is a "fully engaged city where you can be a fully enfranchised citizen with a pair of legs." Following his studies both North and South at Princeton and the University of Texas at Austin, and his travel to many of the world's great cities, Van Meter says his "affection for other places allowed me to see Lexington's latent potential. Living in Austin and seeing that city thrive led me to believe that Lexington had to have a vibrant downtown." Since returning to Lexington, Van Meter has contributed to Lexington's downtown revitalization in a big way, marrying historic preservation efforts with cutting-edge sustainable practices. Following in the footsteps of his father, former mayor H. Foster Pettit, Van Meter has become a community leader through his involvement in the city's master planning visits to other cities. As president of the Town Branch Trail project, he has worked for more than ten years to capitalize upon the abandoned railway trails, limestone springs, and early distilleries that he views as "part of the city's structural DNA." Lexingtonians can already enjoy the two-mile stretch of phase one, and Van Meter's ultimate dream is that someday it will run all the way from Masterson Station to Jacobson Park, connecting Lexington downtown to the countryside.



Van Meter Pettit '82 with his son, Hale, and dad, former Lexington Mayor Foster Pettit.

Even before the Town Branch Trail is completed, Lexington's boundary lines are already changing and most of that is due to the creation of businesses off of downtown's beaten path, up Broadway, Jefferson, and Limestone. From The Lexington School to Henry Clay, Centre College, and the University of Kentucky, **Wilson Sebastian '94** has spent his life in Kentucky. It is with that sense of state pride that he realized "we need a place to hear Bluegrass music *in* the Bluegrass," leading him to create Willie's Locally Known, a two-part music venue and restaurant which offers mouth-watering barbecue with live music each evening. Wilson says music and performing have been a part of his "consciousness" since seventh grade, when he formed a band with TLS classmates **Jamie Nicholson '94**, **Mark Hoffman '94**, and **Dan Carman '94**. When the boys "got the band back together" to form "Brother Barrett and the Barrows" in their late twenties, Wilson became familiar with Lexington's limited number of music venues. He decided what Lexington needed was to seize "the shift away from corporate roadhouse" and offer a new space to attract more musicians to stop and play for a little while. "Lexington is in the perfect spot at the nexus of I-75 and I-64. Every band east of the Mississippi travels through here." What Wilson found was his current location on North Broadway, where "the building chose me," and offers a "wood-paneled listening room with great sound." In developing the concept, Wilson says, "I tapped into a sense of locality – a focus on Bluegrass American music, with the best barbecue we could do." Wilson also tapped into Lexington's unique philosophy of giving back, and proudly notes that in its first year, Willie's raised more than $70,000 for local charities by hosting events for Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital, Lexington Children's Museum, Wounded Warrior, and the Bluegrass Conservancy. As Willie's website explicitly makes clear: "We're more than just food. We're a community."



Willie's Locally Known, owned by **Wilson Sebastian '94**, regularly features acts from around town and across the country.



One of the most prominent young voices in this community is **Griffin VanMeter '96**, currently ranked #7 on the Lexington *Herald-Leader* list of Most Influential People in Lexington. As a partnership in Bullhorn Media and Kentucky for Kentucky, Griffin helps local businesses and nonprofits, as well as the city and state, establish new and exciting brand identities. As a marketing maven, Griffin has a bullhorn



Griffin VanMeter '96 with some of his **Kentucky for Kentucky** *(the logo is watermarked across this article)* products at Louisville's Forecastle Music Festival. *Right* The downtown HQ of Griff's rising-star marketing firm Bullhorn. *Above* the "NoLi" logo that Bullhorn developed to brand the North Limestone area of downtown.

indeed, and his message is a powerful and simple one: "I want Lexingtonians to love Lexington." Long before "local" became a marketing buzzword, Griffin's Stella's Kentucky Deli became a standout restaurant by showcasing local produce, meats, cheeses, and breads in its delicious menu. After graduation from UK, Griffin spent time in New York City, DC, Charleston, and Wyoming. He returned home with a passion to cultivate new amenities in Lexington to attract more people and businesses to the city: "I spend every working minute of the day on creative place-making, the creation of those third spaces, in addition to home and work, that allow for interactions, where people can meet and share ideas." In the past ten years, Griffin has created many of those spaces for Lexingtonians, including Stella's, Al's Bar, and "Grifftown" spaces for local artist collaboration. In addition, he continues working to improve Lexington's housing market and neighborhoods through his businesses, MillerMeter and CDC, which he co-owns with **Price Nicol '94**. Griffin's activism in revitalizing downtown spaces has earned him the nickname "Mayor of the North Side." Given his infectious enthusiasm for Lexington and his vision for Lexington's possibilities, we may just call him Mayor Griff someday soon.

Mayor Griff might find all the campaign help he needs with a simple walk up Jefferson to Sixth Street, where **Ben Self '92** is frequently found at Lexington's newest microbrewery, West Sixth Brewing Company, which he co-owns with TLS parent Brady Barlow, among others. Before his foray into brewing, Ben was well known by many as a co-founder of Blue State Digital, which changed the name of the political game in the digital age, integrating many cutting-edge voter engagement strategies for the younger generation. Though he spent years at MIT, and later in Wisconsin and Washington, DC, Ben says he always intended to move back to Lexington, which he appreciates for "its size, distinct mix of characteristics, and manageable scale." Ben's intention from the start with West Sixth Brewery was to create a "new social enterprise, differentiated by both beer quality and its impact on the immediate area around it. We wanted to benefit the local community." After searching hard for an appropriate spot, Ben and his co-owners elected to repurpose the old Rainbo Bread Factory, now known as The Breadbox, a shared-use space that is home to the Brewery and its tasting room as well as offices used by nonprofits and artists – including FoodChain, an indoor urban farm, founded by Ben's wife and fellow alum, **Becca Breazeale Self '93**. In another interesting connection, Becca's mother, Vivian Breazeale, taught French at TLS from 1983 through 1985. Though West Sixth only recently celebrated its first birthday, in that year it has become one of Lexington's beloved community gathering spaces, hosting a running club, free community yoga, a local design competition, and various benefits for local charities. You never know whom you will run into at West Sixth, as Lexingtonians assemble to watch UK games, sample Lexington's newest food trucks, and appreciate West Sixth's delicious brews, right down to their India Pale Ale in the Olivia's Beer Cheese they sell, named after its creator and fellow TLS alum, **Olivia Hurter Swan '96**.



West Sixth Brewing has revitalized part of Lexington's historic North End by overhauling the former Rainbo Bread Factory into a vibrant multi-use, community facility called The Bread Box. *Inset* Owners Joe Kuosman, TLS parent Brady Barlow, Robin Sither, and **Ben Self '92**.

Perhaps it is because of its place in the Lexington community that Lexington, and, in fact, the entire state rallied to support West Sixth when a certain corporate brewery up North questioned its Cricket Press logo. Lexingtonians and Kentuckians love locally – our local beauty, our local food, our local music, and our local brewery. And The Lexington School loves our TLS alumni who are bringing exciting changes to the city.

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From *The Archives*

At Zion National Park, **Class of '94** members rest a moment on the inaugural adventure that set the stage for subsequent TLS Southwest trips.

Frank Hardesty, former middle school science and geology teacher, recalls this trip to the Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, and Meteor Crater, among other places, saying, "We had a great time. We had some beautiful hikes and rafted the Salt River. It was the first time some students had seen shooting stars. The kids seemed to enjoy the trip, and their parents echoed that."

After congratulating **Keturah Gray '94** on her successful commencement speech, **Beth Medina Ewen '94** looked again at her Summer 2010 *Pinpoints* article, "Paying the Debt of Gratitude Forward," where she reminisced about taking this trip to the Southwest as a ninth grader and having geology click with her for the first time.

Former teachers Roberta Owen and Robin Jones, and Mr. Hardesty's wife, Joy McKenzie, accompanied him as chaperones.



LEFT TO RIGHT Mark Hoffman, Walt Robertson, Angus Burns, Jamie Nicholson, Cecilia Moore, Beth Medina, Tanner Gudeman, Ellen Stilz, Rab Walker, Liz Martin, Price Nicol, and Wilson Sebastian. ***FOREGROUND*** Mrs. Jones.