The Lexington School

Pinpoints

Congratulations to The Lexington School Class of 2017!



Row 1 Evie Cecil, Caroline Castellanos, Ashley McLaughlin, Adelle Durant, Morgan Matthews, Caitlin Hinds, Hampton Rouse, Lexi Roth, Mathilde Longbottom, McCall Rader.

Row 2 Corinne Leach, Emmy Sippy, Hannah Qazi, Morgen Rader, Alexan Sparks, Ella Young, Sanaa Kahloon, Grace Umansky, Nathalie de Sousa.

Row 3 Kol Dailey, Spencer Lutz, Joshua Richards, Smith Brewer, Kate Milward, Bella Baldecchi, Tia Jackson, Emma Samuel, Ricky Reynolds, Collin Woodrum, Harrison Ward.

Row 4 Colby Taylor, Zach Susini, Jackson Cornett, Woods Freeman, Max Barnett, Reid Noonan, Evan Brock, Ryne Williams, James Eigel, Thomas Wood, Jhai Wright, Noah de Castro, Will Croce, Seth Rubin, Easton Morton.

Row 5 Justin Freeman, Trey Watts, Michael Madden, Carlos Ramirez, Cameron Stark, Connor Gradek, Tanner Given, Matthew Donnelly, Ford Webb, Chase Harris, Clark Kwun, Corey Givens, Robert Farish, Ramon Thomas, Nathan Vittitoe.

A Newsletter for Families, Alumni, & Friends of The Lexington School • Summer 2017

INSIDE 2016-17 VOLUNTEER & DONOR RECOGNITION

It Begins With Small Steps...







Above Bella Baldecchi leads the procession out; her dad, Mr. B, leads the procession in; **Chris Young '90** addresses the audience.

THE CLASS OF 2017 has taken a million steps through the hallways of The Lexington School. On June 2, under the shaded canopy of trees, some of which were robust when a young James Lane Allen walked the grounds of the 1795 Scarlet Gate house, Head of School Chuck Baldecchi reminisced about first steps. Smiling, he told the eighth graders, "In truth, you looked like miniature Neil Armstrongs landing on the moon. As the door opened to those oversized Suburbans, you carefully climbed out with your backpacks secured and jumped down with a thud, ready to take one small step…. For many of you, those were your first small steps at TLS. For others, you took your first steps in Kindergarten, first, or sixth grade. You all have left your mark on TLS and, like the first footprint on the moon, it will stay with us."

Chris Young '90, president of the Board of Trustees, stepped, then, to the podium, to give a positive State of the School address and to congratulate the soon-to-be graduates. In 2001, when last he spoke at a TLS commencement, **Lee Kiefer '08**, who shared the dais with him on this day, had just completed first grade with her teacher, Mrs. Calkins, who was now sitting across the lawn with the faculty.

> "You all have left your mark on TLS and, like the first footprint on the moon, it will stay with us."
>
> *Chuck Baldecchi*

Student Council leaders Easton Morton, Hannah Qazi, Nathan Vittitoe, Jackson Cornett, Sanaa Kahloon, Emma Samuel, and Reid Noonan addressed the audience from the stage. As president, Easton began their metaphor: "When you first open a puzzle, you see so many pieces with no clue as to where they go, but through trial and error, you discover each piece's place." Hannah pointed out the first puzzle piece: "The simple skills we learned in Preschool serve as the edges of our puzzle." Nathan concentrated on the next step: "First through third grade helped us build our personalities and find what we have to offer to the puzzle." Jackson took the mantle for fourth and fifth grades: "We began to mold and form with other

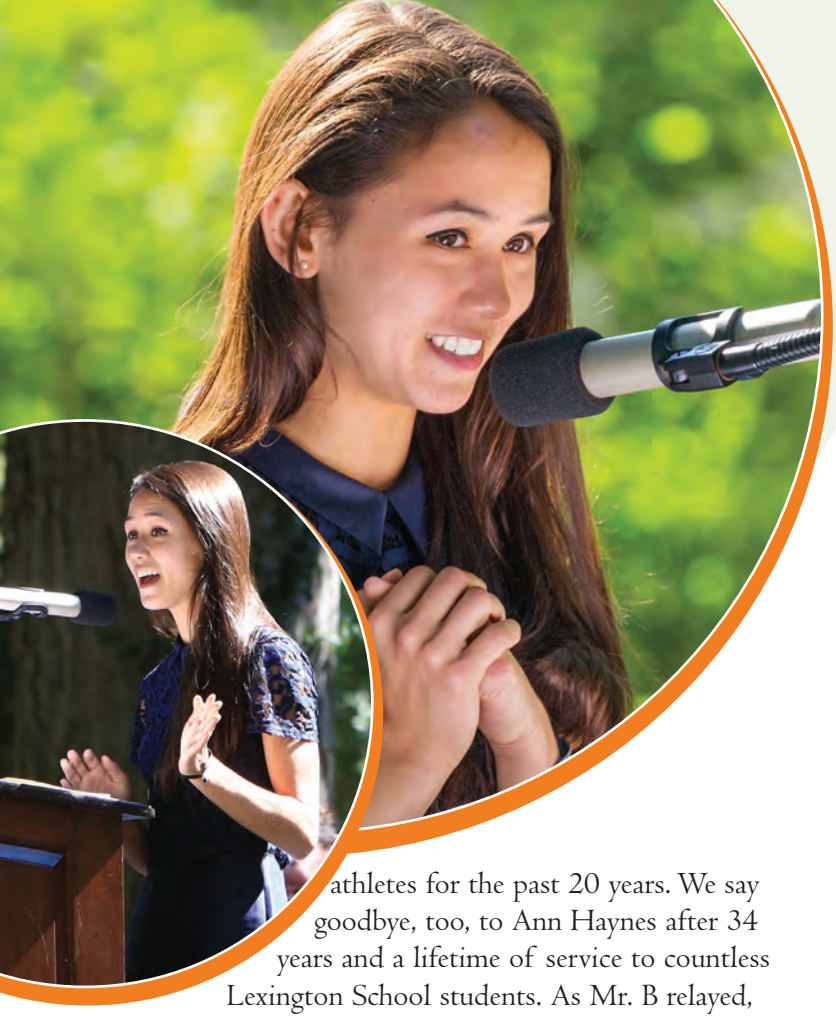


At the microphone are Easton Morton, Emma Samuel with thoughtful reassurance from Reid Noonan, and Sanaa Kahloon.

pieces to try to find where we wanted this puzzle to take us." Sanaa noted, "Middle School is the last part of our TLS puzzle together, so we try to make the time we have left with each other count." Representing The Learning Center, Emma especially touched the crowd as she spoke with deep emotion and conviction and said, "Now I understand that my life is like a puzzle, with some pieces coming into place now and other ones coming together later in life." Reid, taking an overview of his TLS journey since first grade and focusing on his classmates and teachers, explained, "'It takes a village,' they say, and these people were mine; these people completed our TLS puzzle." Easton concluded, "We have built the beginning wooden puzzles, moved on to the more complex landscape puzzles, and finally conquered the seemingly impossible 3D puzzles. TLS has given us that foundation."

Mr. Baldecchi recognized faculty and staff members leaving The Lexington School. After one year in The Learning Center, **Emily Simmons '06** takes her talents to New York City. Dave Kratzer, with two years' excellence as part of the dining hall staff, will follow his dream of becoming a baker. Caroline Federspiel, technology instructor and assistant to the Lower School Head, retires after 13 years. Linda Bies, with devotion to fifth grade math, third grade homeroom, and the Resource Room, retires after 16 years. The Lexington School wishes Darrin Wald the best after teaching, coaching, and instructing our





"Despite your best efforts, there will certainly be moments when you are afraid … embrace these moments of fear and do not let them cripple you."

Lee Kiefer

athletes for the past 20 years. We say goodbye, too, to Ann Haynes after 34 years and a lifetime of service to countless Lexington School students. As Mr. B relayed, "She started at TLS as a music teacher, but we remember her as our dedicated, exacting, and funny fourth grade math teacher. TLS is the school it is today because of the dedication and service of professionals like Ms. Haynes. Thank you!"

Emphasizing the strong sense of community, Mr. Baldecchi thanked Joni Calkins, third grade teacher, and Shelly Rogers, Prekindergarten, for 20 years of teaching at TLS. He also recognized board members whose terms expired this year: **Lucy Barrow Calhoun '75**, Dr. Shazia Iqbal, and Angie Thomas, treasurer of the board. Their leadership and commitment to TLS has made this school exceptionally strong.



Patrick Madden '79 presents Carlos Ramirez the Bluegrass Boys Ranch Scholarship cup.

Mr. Baldecchi announced three of the graduating class who received full scholarships for Middle School. **Patrick Madden '79** presented Carlos Ramirez a cup to recognize his winning the Bluegrass Boys Ranch Scholarship. On behalf of the Bandoroff family, unable to attend Commencement, Mr. Baldecchi presented Adelle Durant a cup in recognition of her winning the Bandoroff Family Scholarship. And on behalf of The Lexington School community, Mr. Baldecchi presented Evie Cecil a cup recognizing her winning the Pin Oak Girls Scholarship.



Una MacCarthy, Assistant Head and Head of Middle School, presented academic awards, including 23 students on the Permanent Headmaster List. Those scholars 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.

As the school's 23rd alumni commencement speaker, **Lee Kiefer '08** has taken her own steps out of the ordinary, into the rarified universe of dual Olympic competition in the world of fencing. With the London and Rio Games, as well as multiple World Championships and Pan Am Games, under her belt, Lee moved effortlessly from the fencing medal podium to the commencement podium. She spoke to the Class of 2017 about fear: "I ask you to resist the natural instinct to be scared of trying new things. Strange and uncomfortable experiences add to our reservoir of skills and enhance our knowledge of the world around us." She continued, saying, "Despite your best effort, there will surely be moments when you are afraid." And from her own experience, she elaborated, "It is right for you to care with all of your bones, so embrace these moments of fear and do not let them cripple you. Invest yourself in your daily and long-term goals to become your best possible self."

The time had come, at last, for the presentation of diplomas that marked each graduate's "best possible self." A groundswell of deep emotion – of pride, of gratitude, of elation – was practically palpable throughout the lawn. It was only appropriate that Dr. Cooper's triumphant piano notes were filled with extra fervor for the recessional, "And Did Those Feet in Ancient Time."

Small steps at The Lexington School lead to the wide world and, like Neil Armstrong's, way beyond.



Clockwise from top Laura Bonzo-Sims is surrounded by de Castros: **Leo '10**, **Luke '15**, **Clara '12**, graduate Noah, and second grader Max; **Harry Cohen '65** stands proudly with grandson Seth Rubin, TLS's first third-generation graduate; Smith Brewer and **Rob Brewer '85**; Ramon Thomas and family friend, Sean Branham; the Freeman Family – **Katharine '04**, sixth grader George, **Reid '74**, graduate Justin, Una MacCarthy, and Hart; and a hug before departing, between Trey Watts, Mr. B, and Chase Harris.





Clockwise from top Everything's coming up roses for Ashley McLaughlin, McCall Rader, Alexan Sparks, and Morgen Rader; Tia Jackson gets and gives a high-five; Justin Freeman gets a word of wisdom, and love, from Mom; and photographers Farish, MacCarthy, Pride, and Freeman capture graduation elation.

"They're Off to Great Places..."
HIGH SCHOOL MATRICULATIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2017

Bella Baldecchi ..... Asheville School
Max Barnett ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Smith Brewer ..... Henry Clay High School
Evan Brock ..... Sayre School
Caroline Castellanos ..... Sayre School
Evie Cecil ..... Lafayette High School Pre-Engineering Program
Jackson Cornett ..... Sayre School
Will Croce ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Kol Dailey ..... Sayre School
Noah de Castro ..... Lafayette High School Pre-Engineering Program
Nathalie de Sousa ..... Sayre School
Matthew Donnelly ..... Lexington Christian Academy
Adelle Durant ..... Paul Laurence Dunbar High School MSTC Program
James Eigel ..... Sayre School
Robert Farish ..... Sayre School
Justin Freeman ..... Sayre School
Woods Freeman ..... Sayre School
Tanner Given ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Corey Givens ..... Sayre School
Connor Gradek ..... Sphinx Academy
Chase Harris ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Caitlin Hinds ..... Frederick Douglass High, Health Sciences Academy
Tia Jackson ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Sanaa Kahloon ..... Paul Laurence Dunbar High School MSTC Program
Clark Kwun ..... Sayre School
Corinne Leach ..... Henry Clay High School
Mathilde Longbottom ..... Sayre School
Spencer Lutz ..... Sayre School
Michael Madden ..... Sayre School
Morgan Matthews ..... West Jessamine High School
Ashley McLaughlin ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Kate Milward ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Easton Morton ..... Sayre School
Reid Noonan ..... Lexington Catholic Math & Science Exemplar Program
Hannah Qazi ..... Henry Clay High School
McCall Rader ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Morgen Rader ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Carlos Ramirez ..... Sayre School
Ricky Reynolds ..... Sayre School
Joshua Richards ..... Sayre School
Lexi Roth ..... Sayre School
Hampton Rouse ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Seth Rubin ..... Sayre School
Emma Samuel ..... Sayre School
Emmy Sippy ..... Henry Clay High School Liberal Arts Academy
Alexan Sparks ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Cameron Stark ..... Fountain Valley School of Colorado
Zach Susini ..... Paul Laurence Dunbar High School MSTC Program
Colby Taylor ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Ramon Thomas ..... McCallie High School
Grace Umansky ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Nathan Vittitoe ..... Lafayette High School SCAPA Pre-Engineering Program
Harrison Ward ..... Sayre School
Trey Watts ..... Sayre School
Ford Webb ..... Sayre School
Ryne Williams ..... Baylor School
Thomas Wood ..... The Gow School
Collin Woodrum ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Jhai Wright ..... Frederick Douglass High, Health Sciences Academy
Ella Young ..... Henry Clay High School

Head *Lines*

NOTES FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



AS MUCH AS I thought I had prepared myself for the day and the moment, it still caught me by surprise. There she was, walking toward me in her white graduation dress, ready to receive her diploma. For a split second, I thought she was a student like the many before her I have handed diplomas to. But no, this graduate was different. With the distant memory of the two-year-old whose hand I let go of as she bounded into KinderKlasse 12 years ago, I handed my own daughter her green-encased diploma from The Lexington School. Her classmates followed one by one – I remembered each one on his or her first day at TLS. Now their last had arrived – students ready to take on the world and leave their mark.

The emotion of that day for parents, at least for me, stems from the fact that childhood is over in a blink of an eye. All year, I wrote my Head's Letters about what it was like to have an eighth grader, a graduate. Where did the time GO? They had become young adults. I was proud of our student leaders as each one spoke eloquently about his or her time at TLS from Preschool through graduation. All in attendance also left inspired – inspired by **Lee Kiefer '08**, who added her name to the long list of TLS's proud alumni who have given our young graduates their charge to go out into the world and make a difference or, in Lee's case, represent our country proudly, as she did in last summer's Olympic Games.





It was also a time to say thank you in this ***Pinpoints***. We thank and recognize the countless volunteers who have given so generously to make The Lexington School function smoothly and successfully – those parents, grandparents, alumni, trustees, faculty, and friends who have given of their time, talent, and treasure, thereby allowing The Lexington School to achieve its strategic goals and initiatives. One such past parent, friend, and volunteer has been Mr. Jim Kenan, who stepped down after prudently managing the school's endowment for over 35 years, taking it from a few hundred thousand dollars to over $36-million. In May, the Trustees hosted a party to give a proper thank you to Mr. Kenan, joined by his family and friends.

The Lexington School is changing lives every day because of all of those who teach, volunteer, donate, and, most importantly, love this school.

With gratitude for a job I love,



Charles D. Baldecchi
Head of School







Clockwise from left At the Alumni Induction Luncheon are Clark Kwun, Easton Morton, Sanaa Kahloon, Bella Baldecchi, Adelle Durant, and Nathan Vittitoe.; The Etiquette Dinner was a time to gather with TLS faculty.; McCall Rader and her dad visit with Corinne Leach at the Art Show; Reid Noonan and Smith Brewer depart the bus from the Etiquette Dinner to the Middle School Dance.



Eighth Grade *Memories*





Clockwise from above Tia Jackson, Reid Noonan, and Michael Madden at Green-Gray Day; Happy Valentine's Day; Michael Madden and Luke Pennington at Candlelight; Advisor Night.





Marks of Distinction



Above With Mrs. Gumm-Gray at the Foreign Language Fair are Thomas Wood, Matthew Donnelly, Jhai Wright, Seth Rubin, Smith Brewer, Corinne Leach, Ashley McLaughlin, Grace Umansky, and Nathalie de Sousa, (Hannah Qazi not shown), all from her first grade class.
Below (clockwise) Morgen Rader and Olivia Gaines at Candlelight; Grandfather **Harry Cohen '65** with young Seth Rubin; 3 TLS Gens; Coming to the MS Dance; Mrs. Gumm-Gray with her first graders, the Class of 2017.







The Lexington School
First Grade 2009-2010
Mrs. Gumm-Gray





Permanent Headmaster List

Evan Brock
Evie Cecil
Jackson Cornett
Noah de Castro
Adelle Durant
Justin Freeman
Woods Freeman
Tanner Given
Caitlin Hinds
Sanaa Kahloon
Corinne Leach
Mathilde Longbottom
Spencer Lutz
Ashley McLaughlin
Reid Noonan
Ricky Reynolds
Joshua Richards
Lexi Roth
Alexan Sparks
Zach Susini
Ford Webb
Jhai Wright
Ella Young

Legacy Students

Smith Brewer
Justin Freeman
Woods Freeman
Corinne Leach
Michael Madden
Kate Milward
Seth Rubin
Harrison Ward
Thomas Wood

*Seth Rubin is TLS's first third-generation graduate. His mother is **Barbara Cohen Rubin '89** and his grandfather is **Harry Cohen '65**.*

ANN HAYNES

"It was my birthday, and, as a surprise, my parents rented a limousine. I assure you, riding in a limo for a fourth grader in 1993 was the chicest experience. Our troupe partook in the ultimate Lexington tour, blasting Paula Abdul (perhaps even yelling out the window that the starlet would crash our afternoon soiree), devouring some 31 Flavors, and, of course, visiting our favorite teacher. *To our colossal disappointment*, Ms. Haynes wasn't home. I recall so clearly wanting to share this raw excitement with her immediately, not waiting 'til Monday morning. A ten-year-old's birthday party, ice cream, the limo, my best friends – and who else did I want to include? My teacher. This speaks volumes to the character of such a talented, caring woman and the impact she had on her students, as well as the love we had for her. Ms. Haynes was an unparalleled educator, a woman who cultivated my love of reading and who impacted my life tremendously." **Rush Scott '98** speaks for many, if not Paula Abdul, in The Lexington School's community about Ann Haynes, now retired, but always favorite teacher, colleague, mentor, and friend.

Ms. Haynes began her TLS career in 1983 as the upper school vocal music teacher. She moved then to middle school language arts, social studies, and math. For two decades, she was the math division for the Fabulous Four Fourth Grade Team, with Mark Scarr, Leanne Zimmerman, and John Platt, reflecting, "That was a highlight. We finished each others' sentences."

Mark welcomes her into retirement, saying, "It was my great pleasure to have worked with Ann for over 30 years. Jokingly, she was sometimes called my work wife. Besides being an excellent math teacher, and language arts teacher before that, Ann is one of the cleverest and funniest people I've ever met."





Leanne, too, admits, "There are so many memories! Probably my favorite is a general character trait. Ann can find the (sometimes irreverent) humor in almost anything, whether it's a schedule change, a child's misspoken word, a twist on an acronym, or her or a teammate's quirks. I'll miss 'living' next door to Ann after 20+ years. Though she might sometimes seem prickly on the outside, she's a big mush-ball inside – especially when it comes to students who need her wise words."

Another math whiz, former teacher Betty Cox, emphasizes, "Ann Haynes is a teacher superb. She can teach mathematics, fourth grade, anything. She's a charming, dedicated person with a personality distinctly her own."

Sandy Ireland, former longtime librarian, is quick to note, "The most memorable thing about Ann is her exceptional sense of humor. She is always enjoyable com-



pany and was an outstanding colleague. I admired her versatility as she moved from music to language arts to math, all of which she taught most competently." From the book stacks too, former librarian Janelle Simon comments, "Admired and acclaimed, Ann Haynes is straight-out math, cool, calm, and professional. She's also covertly brilliant, witty, wise(-acre), and jestfully jocular!"

Walt Robertson '94 says, as he sees the 1989 photo *(previous page, middle)*, "I don't remember it, nor do I remember the fashion statement I was making with those shorts. I do remember Ms. Haynes, my wonderful fourth grade teacher, compassionate and entertaining in class, who helped lay the foundation of my TLS education and beyond. I wish her all the best in retirement."

In the 1990 picture *(previous page, top)*, Ms. Haynes, **Dowell Hoskins '95** and **Kelly McCafferty '95** find fossils near Boonesborough. Today Dowell says, "Ms. Haynes was the best! Not only did she teach us Kentucky history, but with her humor and patience, she taught us kindness and humility are just as important as the curriculum."

Taking the world view in the 1996 photo *(previous page, bottom)*, are Ms. Haynes, **Mimi Cordray '01**, and **Laura Bell '01**, who says, "I remember Ms. Haynes being so hands-on and bringing all our social studies lessons to life. She was very interactive with us and found a way to make every lesson engaging and entertaining. Rarely were we simply reading from a textbook sitting in our desks."

LINDA BIES

After 16 years of devotion to The Lexington School, Linda Bies has retired. Fifth grade math, third grade homeroom, and, most recently, the resource room have been her bailiwicks. She has given academic support to innumerable students and has helped them reach their full potential.

Paul Parell '07, says, "One of the things I remember most about her class was our Writers Guild project. It was the first long piece of fiction I'd ever written, and I remember how excited I was to tell a story of my own. Mrs. Bies nurtured my creativity and helped me structure my ideas into a narrative that my nine-year-old self was truly proud of. That book is still on my family's coffee table at home, but I'm not sure anyone has given it a second thought in years. However, I had lunch at TLS not too long ago, and Mrs. Bies was able to recount my story of a boy locked in a chocolate shop as though I'd just written it. That speaks to the remarkable way she made her students part of her life and to the thoughtfulness with which she helped each of us grow."





Above In April, Mrs. Bies works with Kindergartners Emerson Miedler, Andrew Pulito, and Henry Warner.

Right Mrs. Bies visits McConnell Springs with third graders and their parents in 2006.

Jane Childers, Director of the Learning Center, gives background, saying, "Linda joined me in the resource room in 2008, and it was clear from the beginning that her expertise would enhance the experience for our students. She brought with her a dedication to helping all students learn, an incredible work ethic, and a charming sense of humor! Over the years, she not only helped countless students learn, she also assisted teachers in meeting the needs of all learners in their classrooms. Additionally, she became a valued colleague and a very dear friend. We will miss her, but, fortunately for all of us, she will still keep her TLS ties by helping with resource room testing next year."

And Jill Neuzel, mother of **Joey '14** and **Jake '16**, concurs, "Mrs. Bies is an amazing woman who has touched many children's lives. The boys went to the resource room for many years and loved it because Mrs. Bies was so 'nice.' We love her because she helped Joey and Jake with their self-confidence and helped make them as successful as they are. We will always have a very special place in our heart for Mrs. Bies!"

MANY THANKS! TEACHER RETIREMENTS

SARA HINDS MERIDETH

She's done it all, and now she's moving on. Sara Hinds Merideth, middle school French and social studies teacher, Director of TLS Voyages, and Speech Team coach from 2002 to 2011, has, after 15 years, retired from The Lexington School. Known both for bringing the world to her students and for taking her students into the world, Madame Merideth has widened the horizons of all who have sat in her classroom.

Encouraging others to think outside the box and outside the country, Madame Merideth provided a wide variety of hands-on experiences for her xenophiles. Her Foundations of Sovereignty United Nations allowed seventh graders a thorough understanding of the mock UN General Assembly as they represented nations created in minute detail completely from their own imaginations. The World Language Fair, a polyglot's paradise, provided eighth graders, hosts to preschoolers through seventh graders, complete immersion in foreign cultures.

Madame Merideth's ardent admirer, **Elliott Ferrier '08**, remembers, "I loved French class, and having her as a mentor was amazing. Playing games like Survivor was a highlight, when **Jamie Love '08** and I won first and second place and got to eat snacks during the following exam. Mrs. Hinds has always been understanding and warm, even long after I graduated from TLS. Though I may have forgotten some of the verb tenses, I will never forget the joy of French class and how it shaped my future. I know her last name is different now, but I want to say thank you for everything, Mrs. Hinds!"



On a spring morning in 2014, Sara Merideth finds out what **Hanae Yoshida '16** and **Paul Kamer '16** want to eat for lunch in order for them to leave class that day.

Mrs. Federspiel with three favorite TLSers, her grandsons, the Schlarmans: first grader Ben; Matt, Kindergarten; and Joe, fifth grade.



CAROLINE FEDERSPIEL

Caroline Federspiel, technology instructor since 2004, more recently Lower School Head assistant – Cfed to some of her colleagues and friends – has retired.

It all began at the bridge table. Cissy Hamilton, former lower school art teacher, knew there was an opening for a computer teacher, and the woman holding the cards opposite her had taught that subject at Fayette County. It was a perfect fit.

Retired Lower School Head Marijo Foster says, "Caroline Federspiel would tell you the reason she has so many friends is because she was born and raised in Lexington. It seems EVERYBODY knows and appreciates her. I don't think it has anything to do with where she grew up. It's because she always puts the comfort of others ahead of her own. One such instance occurred at the time of my retirement. When I shared with her my decision to retire, she quickly told me she, too, was planning to retire at that very time. Wait…. It took her about 30 seconds to decide the new Lower School Head would need an experienced assistant during the transition. That was putting the needs of our school ahead of her own plans. That's Caroline."

Daniel Sussman, who took the Lower School Head reins, agrees: "Caroline is the consummate professional. She taught computer skills while handling all the lower school administrative assistant duties. She's dependable, courteous, and well respected by students, parents, and teachers. Students loved greeting her as they walked by and knew they could count on her when they needed a smile or hug."

Southwest Adventure



THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

JOY AND DISCOVERY ON THE PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUND

"The Lexington School's preschool playground is a place of joy and discovery, two key components of a successful preschool program," says Preschool Director Donna Hutton. "You can see it in the eyes and expressions of the children."

Ms. Hutton points out, "Parents who visit our playground love it here; they want to stay and stay. They tell me this is exactly what they've been looking for, just what they want for their children." In the fresh air, there is lots of movement and opportunity for plenty of physical activity – running, climbing, swinging, hanging upside down, kicking a ball – but time, too, for quieter pursuits, time for reading, thinking, noticing, discovering, time for just *being*. The mixture of students' ages – Acorns with five-year-olds, KinderKlassers with Prekindergartners and Kindergartners – promotes learning and teaching, with children being students and instructors both.

On the playground, there is freedom for children to be who they are. They choose what they want to do. Each child's unique gifts and strengths are celebrated. As Ms. Hutton notes, "They feel good about themselves. They're engaged, completely absorbed, in their various activities. You can see the sparkle in their eyes."

Pinpoints photographer Melanie Mauer, mother of fourth grader Audrey, captures students in a gentle, unobtrusive way, in moments of joy and discovery, in a celebration of childhood. Thank you, Melanie.



Photos by *Melanie Mauer* (Audrey's mom)







Clockwise, from top Carys Moore; Malia Backers; Sylvia Monohan, Carys Moore; Marin Macaulay; Blake Kelly; Brielle Shively; Harrison Riordan, David Azeem.















Clockwise, from top Andrew Banks; Emmy DeRossett; Jude Cornett, Izzy Tovar; Andrew Sussman; Aleeza Xiang; Reed Lassman; Van Friesen; Top Row – Emmy DeRossett, Sylvia Monohan, Carys Moore. Bottom Row – Reagan Ingordo, Aleeza Xiang, Marin Macaulay; David Azeem, Harper Rice.













The Art of Being A Child



MOMA, move over! TLS's Preschool Art Show is a perennial favorite, a family highlight on the spring-time calendar.

This festive evening, which transforms the entire Fine Arts Wing, celebrates our youngest artists and showcases their unbounded creativity. Now in its eighth year, it is the original inspiration of Donna Hutton, Director of Preschool, who says, "My dream for the art show was that each child would feel like an artist – not only that night but forever. Based on the enthusiasm of the children and look of pride in their eyes as their work goes up, I would say my dream has come true."

Lori Barnett, new preschool and lower school art teacher, took the mantle for the April 13 gala affair and added to it. Combining technology and art, it was her idea to include QR codes for each kindergarten and Montessori III artist, featuring their explanations of specific artwork. The QR codes went home with the artwork as a lifelong memory of the creation of that piece of art. Ensuring all senses were tapped, edible art quickly disappeared as unique cookies made from 3D-printed cookie cutters designed by Preschoolers made their own delicious artist's statement. To add elegance to the ambiance, local artist and milliner Blythe Savage had helped the kindergarten and Montessori III girls make fascinators to wear during the show, while the boys of those classes hand-painted their bowties using artistic pointers from 15-year-old Memphis entrepreneur Moziah Bridges of Mo's Bows.

Moments after leaving the show, lower school art teacher Sarah Heller, bubbling with enthusiasm, exclaimed, "I think it's my favorite event at TLS, seeing future artists having this experience at such a young age."

And radiant with pride in her students' artistic successes, Mrs. Barnett added, "I could not have done it without Donna Hutton. Her excellent organization, promptness, knowledge, and kindness helped things go so smoothly. I'm so glad she loves art and began this event to focus on our students."

No need to travel any farther than 1050 Lane Allen Road for the best of preschool art.

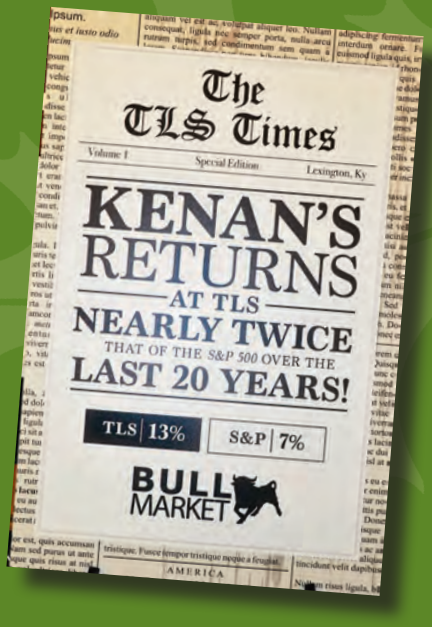


From the top Reagan Ingordo; Reed Karthikeyan, Olivia McFadden, Ellie Dunlap, Cori Carter, and Jocy Turner; Mac Harvey and his dad; Artists with Mr. Baldecchi, *(Back row)* Caleb Arms, Carson Steiner, Matt Schlarman, Henry Warner, Benjamin Warner, Edward Quinn, and *(Front row)* Quinn Lawson, Owen Pickett, Calvin Harvey, Harrison Riordan, and Blake Kelly.



Kenan Can-Do:

Giving Thanks to a Grand TLS Friend



It was a springtime evening abundant with Lexington School gratitude. Scarlet Gate was filled on May 19, both inside and out, with former, current, and new trustees who gathered to honor four of their own. The warm and celebratory camaraderie gave the distinct feeling of both tremendous pride and great humility in the continuum, of carrying on, from one generation to the next, the shared vision of Lexington School excellence.

Retiring trustees **Lucy Barrow Calhoun '75**, Dr. Shazia Iqbal, and Angie Thomas enjoyed heartfelt thanks and appreciative applause for their board service.

James G. Kenan III, trustee emeritus and volunteer manager of the school's endowment since 1981, was a special guest, honored for his decades of devoted service to The Lexington School.

Setting the investment stage, Shelley Slabaugh, imaginative fifth grade teacher, created an array of clever Bull Market posters, providing immediate conversation points throughout the house. It was a family reunion of sorts, as Jim and wife, Betty, welcomed three of their four children home for the festivity; **Emmy Kenan Thomson '86**, **Anne Kenan '88**, and **Elizabeth "Boo" Kenan Morton '92**. **Graham Kenan '97** was with the group in absentia.

As the gathering moved into the garden, Chuck Baldecchi gave enthusiastic accolades and unveiled a bronze plaque bearing the likeness of Jim Kenan: "In recognition of a lifetime commitment for his stewardship, counsel, and growth of the endowment, The Lexington School community recognizes James G. Kenan III. Mr. Kenan's vision to start the school's endowment with excess funds from a capital project in 1981 secured and shaped the future of The Lexington School."

In recollection of the years and the journey, Jim said, "If I remember right, we moved to Lexington in 1977 – whew! Emmy was starting first grade. I think this was when Ms. A's kids were finishing TLS, and she turned the finances over to the parents, i.e. she was no longer going to pay the operating loss. This is when we started building the endowment. I made the stock picks, and about this time I read about Warren Buffett. I jumped on his philosophy … and the rest is history. No one on the Board ever second-guessed me, and the timing was good. TLS is 'Special,' and I am honored to be connected with it."

Below *Plaque of James G. Kenan III;* ***Anne Kenan '88****,* ***Boo Kenan Morton '92****, Jim and Betty Kenan,* ***Emmy Kenan Thomson '86****; Labe Jackson, Bill Young; Clapping for Dad; Angie Thomas; The Scarlet Gate Garden*













Pin Notes (featuring '99 babies!)



Allison Eastland '89 says, "One of my longtime dreams came true when I became the owner of Happy and Healthy Ways in Chevy Chase. As much as my entrepreneurial spirit was fostered at TLS, I never imagined when I was working at the TLS store, creating French sales pitches for Madame Charron, or writing about the new cafeteria steam table that I'd combine my love of food and cooking into one fabulous lifestyle business."

HHW is a beautiful space that provides diverse opportunities for entertaining. The successful children's program continues with camps, birthday parties, and cooking classes, thanks, in part, to help from two current TLSers, **Anna Clay '19** (daughter of Allison's classmate, **Case Clay '89**), and **Lilly Adams '19**. Adult options are expanding, from dinner parties to team building events, private business meetings with catered lunches or dinners, wedding or baby showers, and bachelor/bachelorette parties.

Allison's clients can reserve the space while she cooks for them, allowing them to relax and enjoy each other with a glass of wine, or they can participate as sous chefs to their hearts' content. With seven cooking stations, the sky's the limit, and all skill ranges are welcome.



In Jackson, MS, on July 14, 2017, **Mary Bruce Gray Alford '99** and husband, Timothy, welcomed Stella Elisabeth Alford, who joins brother Gray, 4 years old, and Virginia, 15 months. Mary Bruce says with a smile, "Stella's proving to be a dream baby. Some of this may have to do with the fact that I'm much more relaxed these days. I guess that's what happens by the time the third one arrives."

Mary Bruce is Vice-President of Investor Relations at HOPE, a family of organizations dedicated to strengthening communities, building assets, and improving lives in the Delta and other economically distressed parts of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. She cultivates donor and investor relationships and manages all grants and reporting to funders. In October, she'll celebrate two years at HOPE, though she plans to take some time off from work to enjoy her family.

Timothy has transitioned this summer from Head of Lower School to Head of Middle School at St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Pre-K through 12th grade, in Jackson.

On March 20, 2017, the first day of spring, Emma and **Coley McKinstry '99** welcomed Coleman Johnston Mittelstadt McKinstry, nicknamed Mitt, into the world. [*A most happy day! – Ed.*]

After living in New York City for over five years, in the summer of 2015, Coley and Emma moved back to Lexington, where they have enjoyed the comparably slower pace of life. They both feel very fortunate to be able to work from home, while balancing Mitt's schedule.



Coley, in his 12th year at ACA Compliance Group, serves as a Managing Director, assisting asset managers in calculating accurate investment performance and complying with the Global Investment Performance Standards. Emma has been working in public relations since she graduated from Sewanee, where she and Coley met. She now partners with a former colleague in New York to represent a wide range of clients.

While working to become a CFA charterholder, Coley often thought about how the study habits he employed were first developed while memorizing Civil War battle statistics, learning how to spell "Mesopotamia," and discovering other fascinating pieces of history during Miss Cowling's sixth and eighth grade classes.



It was an unforgettably happy 2017 St. Patrick's Day for **Callie Brooks Picardo '99** and her husband, Rosario, when Lily Katherine Picardo was born. Callie and Rosario love parenthood and enjoy being a family of three in Dayton, OH. On a recent trip back to Lexington, Lily made a TLS friend, Russell Pinkham, son of **Alden Purdy Pinkham '99**, below. In July, Callie and Rosario celebrated their seven-year anniversary.



Callie is Vice-President for Development, building relationships with donors and fundraising, for United Theological Seminary. She also has a side business, Deep Roots Financial Coaching, where she helps individuals, families, and small churches develop budgets and overall financial plans, enabling them to become debt free, live within their means, and save for the future. Rosario, executive pastor of new church development for Ginghamsburg Church, is hard at work on a new church plant in a movie theater, launching in September.



Having a baby, ending her previous job, moving across the US (with newborn, Russell, plus an 80-pound dog, Banner), beginning law school … **Alden Purdy Pinkham '99**, with her husband Dan, balances it all. Russell Timothy Pinkham was born April 19, 2017.

Alden and Dan have lived in the California Bay Area the past three years while he completed his Stanford Medical Physics residency. She consulted for non-profits, combatting human trafficking, and begins Yale Law School this fall.

Alden says, "I laughed when I saw Mrs. Young several years ago. I told her how beneficial Speech Team was, since I did so much public speaking for my organization and worked through my nerves long ago at speech competitions. To my surprise, she said when I joined Speech Team she thought I was a hopeless case, but she persevered, and now uses me as an example when she tells other teachers never to give up on their students! I hadn't realized I was quite so dreadful to start with, but I sure am glad she whipped me into shape."

In Richmond, VA, with her husband Chris and one-year-old twins, Carolyn and Grace, **Laura Bell Murphy '01** says, "My hands – and heart – are very full, and I wouldn't want it any other way!" They love being in Richmond, Chris's hometown, close to friends and family; three of their best friends live on their street. In addition to caring for their girls, Laura works from home for Appen, information technology and services, and is a stylist for Stella & Dot, a line of fun jewelry, accessories, and handbags. Chris works with BB&T as a Small Business Specialist.



Thinking back to her TLS days, Laura remembers playing Battleship in Ann Haynes's classroom, and says Ms. Haynes "is one of many influential teachers who helped inspire me to become an elementary teacher myself. I have my Master in Elementary Education Degree and have taught fifth and second grades. I love being immersed in the classroom, and, while I'm currently taking a break raising our girls, I know I'll go back once they're off to school themselves. Fostering relationships with my students, similar to what Ms. Haynes did for so many of her students, is one of my favorite aspects of teaching."

Soccer players **Morgan Patton '14** and **Ruby Kate Gray '14**, on the Lexington FC White-G18 team, began the summer with a victory in Elizabethtown when their team took home the Kentucky State Open Cup.



WEDDING BELLS!



Ann Cowden '04 and Pearce Mayer were married on Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 27, 2017, in Nicholasville at Ann's grandparents' Waveland Farm. It was a beautiful setting, made even more special by the fact that Ann's parents (**Sarah Robinson Cowden '78** and Jay Cowden) were married in the same spot over 30 years before. Ann says, "It was also wonderful to have **Katherine Bandoroff '04** – one of my oldest and dearest TLS friends – and my cousin, **Emily Dale Willmott '04**, as bridesmaids."

Ann continues, saying, "Pearce and I are enjoying every minute of married life and live here in Lexington, close to both of our families." She is a pharmacist at Baptist Health Lexington, and he is in sales at Big Ass Solutions.



Laura Bell Bundy '96 and Thom Hinkle brought the Bluegrass to Santa Anita Racetrack where they are the first to have an infield wedding AND reception. Laura reports, "We had so many amazing Kentucky details. Dad and I arrived in a horse carriage after the trumpet fanfare, 'Call to the Post.' Every place setting featured horse shoes. Olivia's Beer Cheese, owned by bridesmaid **Olivia Hurter Swan '96**, was a huge hit. My stepfather built barn-door facades from reclaimed Kentucky wood. We were married in front of that, and now they hang in our house. I was most excited and proud of that element, because it was so authentically Kentucky. There were three cakes: the main cake, which tasted like Derby Pie; the UK Wildcat Basketball cake; and the Yankees cake … Thom hardly ever takes off his Yankees cap. Instead of a unity candle, we did 'unity soil,' using dirt from Keeneland Racetrack and dirt from Thom's New Jersey home, and planting a tree together during the ceremony."

Highlighting TLS, Laura says, "In the midst of getting an amazing education, Olivia and I were paired together for the third grade puppet show. We instantly became best friends. She went on nearly every family vacation and spring break with us after that. She visited me in New York when I lived there as a kid, and we've remained close through college years, our 20s, across state lines, motherhood, and both were bridesmaids in each other's weddings. If I didn't get anything else from TLS, I got Olivia Hurter, and, man, what a gift!"

Dr. Mary Van Meter Baker '04 and Dr. Courtney Baker – now Dr. and Dr. Baker – were married on June 3, 2017. They live in Rochester, MN, both in residency at Mayo Clinic, she in OB/GYN and he in orthopedics. She gives an up-to-date medical report: "This week I've been trying to learn how to do all these surgical knots and sewing as a left-handed person. It is decidedly more difficult, but reminds me of all Mr. Platt's quotes on his wall about the superiority of lefties. Nancy **[McKinstry '04]**, Elizabeth **[Fryman '04]**, and I always loved that … (left-handed) fingers crossed it holds true!"

Thinking back to their wedding, Mary says, "We, of course, had a BLAST at the wedding and it was wonderful to have so many childhood friends there. And the dance floor was my favorite! I remember quite a few dances in the TLS cafeteria – most notably when my dad had some quartet he saw at a restaurant come sing 'Happy Birthday' to me in the middle of the eighth grade winter dance – mortifying!"



UPDATE US!

Let us know what you're up to so we can help our TLS family stay connected!

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2017

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SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

TLS

TLS TAILGATE



Celebration

Friday, May 12th, 2017

SOME ENCHANTED EVENING

Record-breaking totals are in … and they reflect unbounded love and devotion for The Lexington School.

Heather and John Broadbent, parents of Kindergartner Caroline, co-chaired the fabulous CELEBRATION 2017 at Scarlet Gate, under a tent practically the size of the entire side lawn. White, Greer, & Maggard Orthodontics was the title sponsor, and as Heather was quick to say, "This evening couldn't have happened without the huge support of many, many people in the TLS community."

The event actually began the week before when the Silent Auction Committee, chaired by Kristin Lawson, invited the community to preview and bid on the expansive silent auction at a "soft launch" on May 4. This preview kicked off a week full of festivities leading up to An Enchanted Night in the Forest. The Little Kentucky Derby breakfast and "official" silent auction launch, originally slated for Kentucky Oaks Day, were delayed by thunderstorms, which gave way to sunshine when those activities took place the following Monday. Silent auction items, displayed along the school's fine arts wing, received early and enthusiastic bidding. Before the first guest entered the tent on Friday night, the silent auction had already seen $36,000 in mobile bidding.

Josefine Young and her décor committee used Scarlet Gate's own natural treasures – tree branches, acorns, pine cones, greenery, wooden stumps – to highlight the elegant and magical ambiance. Mandy and Cooper Vaughan, owners of The Apiary, back by popular demand, catered the gourmet, seated dinner for over 550 guests.

Raise-the-Paddle for Scholarships began the live auction, garnering $75,000 to fund the Pin Oak Scholarship for a high-achieving girl, who would otherwise be unable to obtain a Lexington School education because of financial constraints.

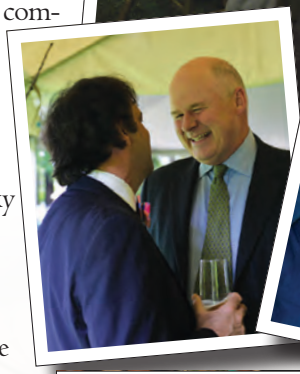
The 30th CELEBRATION – older now than some of the bidders – continues the tradition of devoted and tireless parent volunteers offering their time, talent, and treasure to benefit every Lexington School student. Proceeds supplement the Annual Fund's support of the operating budget.

Heartiest thanks to the entire Lexington School community.



















From the Top Rashaan and Danielle Backers; bow tie enthusiasts Chuck Baldecchi and Greg Monohan; The White, Greer, & Maggard table; Chuck Baldecchi and **Price Headley '82**; Anthany and Eunice Beatty; John Broadbent and his brother, Happy Broadbent; Leslie Appiah, Karen and John Kelly; Josefine and **Chris Young '90**; and, left, Heather Broadbent with the CELEBRATION puppy.

For a listing of CELEBRATION 2017 volunteers and sponsors, see page 48.

Pin Prints



Lighting Up History in the fifth grade musical are Natalie Absher, Isabel Police, Juliette Longbottom, and Lauren Stigers.



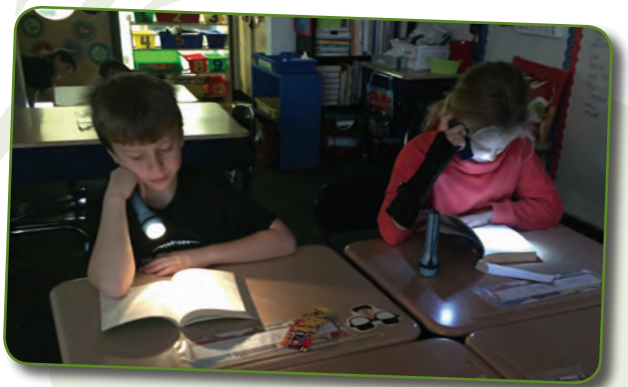
Seventh and eighth grade toxophilites practice their skills. Left to right: Tori Trimble, Galadriel Stamm, Cass Ralph, Parker Nurick, Cassius Clay, Harrison Ward, and Bella Baldecchi.



At Scarlet Gate, fourth graders are fortunate beneficiaries of Natural World Connections, the inspiration of former science teacher, now resident naturalist, Jawanna Herd, who shares her wisdom and wit as she sings and weaves mythology and Native American folklore into her captivating stories.



After competing admirably at KESDA's speech tournament in March, the sixth and seventh grade novice team celebrates at the closing banquet. First Row: Noah Lutz, Kate Golden, Anna Kate Miedler, Irene Kazee. Second Row: Dr. Bowling, Cass Ralph, Farwah Hussain. Anna Kate was a semi-finalist in all her categories: Prose, Solo Acting, and Improv Pairs.



Flashlight Friday in second grade: Paul Miller and Claire Wilkes enjoy silent reading time in Mrs. Deller's class.



Finalists of the annual geography bee include two students each from fourth through eighth grades. From left: Jack Bernard, Andrew Campbell, Nadiya Washington, Miya Yoshida, Buntaro Yoshida, Margaret Crothers, Aena Malik, Ben Taylor, Ford Webb, and winner Reid Noonan.



For the Rube Goldberg Coaster, a quintessential fifth grade problem-solving experience, teams of four to five apply Newton's laws of motion, building their own marble-activated contraption. James Owen Fenwick; John Circeo; Dominic Fannin, incoming sixth grader; and Chase Butler.



Seventh grader Kate-Bradley Harris goes shoulder to shoulder with a Bluegrass United defender and, with help from Katherine Truitt (sixth grade) far left, Ashley McLaughlin (eighth), and Mathilde Longbottom (eighth), she is able to keep possession of the ball.



Second grader Tate Johnson and illustrator Harry Bliss put their heads together at an unforgettable Writers Guild.



Fourth graders go down the Yellow Brick Road for Spring Sing. First Row: Katherine Monohan, Lauren Neuman, Charlie Watson; Second Row: Audrey Mauer, Clara Nicol. (Melanie Mauer Photography)



On Green-Gray Day after Little Kentucky Derby, first graders are ready for relays. Front Row: Eliza Quinn, Caroline Bennett. Middle Row: Tate Ashmun, Alex Chalothorn, Amanuel Arms, Bishop Arvin. Top Row: Wesley Buck, Alexander Young, Lochlan Reeder, Norah Haddix.

Enthusiastic sixth grade dissectors use scalpels to open a pig heart and locate chambers, valves, and blood vessels. Wills Milward, George Freeman, and Margaret Crothers excise pieces for microscopic examination.



Pin Prints



Seventh grader McGuire Neuman commands the ball against the Northern Kentucky Warriors with eighth grade back-up from Clark Kwun, Cameron Stark, and Ramon Thomas.

At "Camp Calkins," with flashlight nearby, third graders Ellie Hiler and Finley Quinn enjoy reading in their tent.



At the 11th annual Sixth Grade Storytelling Festival, Willow Abedi paints a picture in the minds of her audience members with her 800-word, memorized presentation.



In Acorns class, where many friendships begin, Ellie des Cognets prepares to gather her buddies for a rendition of "Wheels on the Bus." (Melanie Mauer Photography)



Looking dapper for the middle school dance are sixth graders Ben Pund, Jake Nahra, and Hayden Adams.



Bottle Caps to Benches: Fifth graders lead the charge to collect nearly one ton of bottle caps, earning a bench and picnic table for TLS and learning valuable lessons in recycling, raising awareness, and giving back to the school.



"Gung hay fat choy"/"Wishing you great happiness and prosperity": Sixth graders Gigi Cornett, Penelope Kwun, Spencer Harston, and George Freeman follow eighth grader Connor Gradek in vibrant celebration of the Chinese New Year.



At the Henry Clay Invitational, fourth grader Caroline Beiting and sixth grader Justine Lofwall break from the starting line with determination.

Second grader Lauren Cate Gabbard gives a presentation on her recent trip to Washington, D.C.





After detailed study of the Oregon Trail, third graders take their audience on the Trail through Writers Guild books. Colin Hinds shares adventures with Catherine Vannatter, Shawn Hinds, Sara Merideth, Tom Merideth, and Caitlin Hinds, eighth grade.





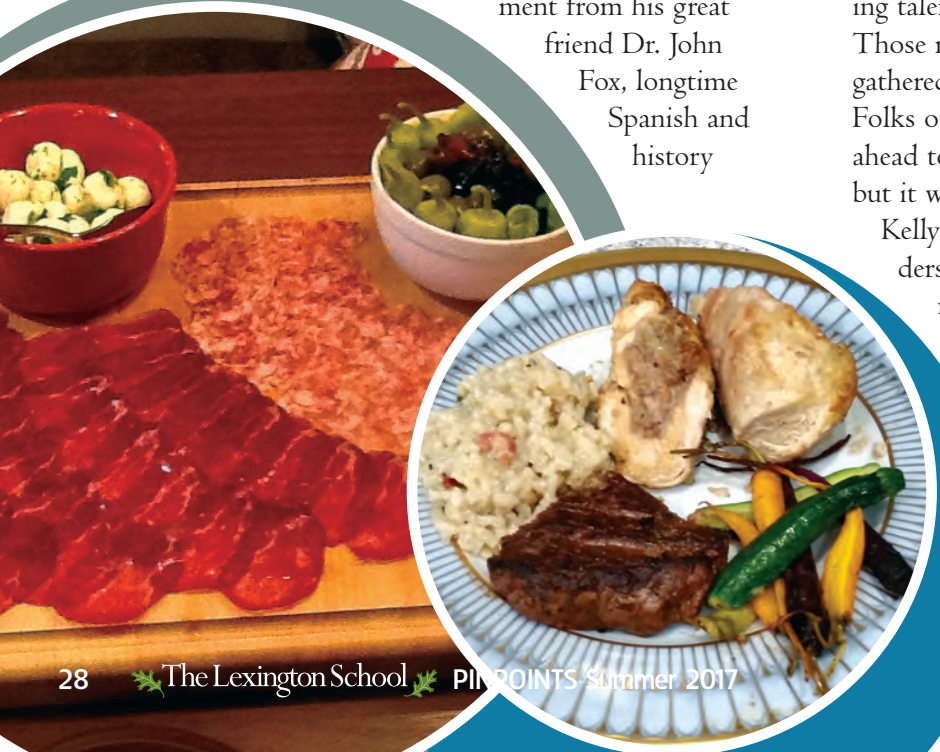
Parlanti Par Excellence

KNOWN AROUND TLS athletic fields and TLS families' kitchens as both Coach and/or Chef, Tom Parlanti wears his baseball hat and his chef's hat with equal ease. Since 1985, he's been a fixture in the gym, on the soccer field, at the Little Kentucky Derby … and, though only a few might still not know it, often in front of the stove. In some circles, Tom's culinary reputation eclipses his knowledge of tennis scores or high hurdle stats. Tom has a loyal, enthusiastic, and hungry following at Celebration, where over the years his auction items of sumptuously edible and incredible dinners have been responsible for *yielding $99,000 to The Lexington School.*

It all began during Tom's second year at TLS, with encouragement from his great friend Dr. John Fox, longtime Spanish and history teacher, Chairman of the Foreign Language Department, and interim Upper School Head. From his home in Worcester, Massachusetts, John says, "Tom Parlanti is a passionate 'foodie.' He loves to cook. We came up with the idea to have a faculty-driven party as a continuation of the fun we experienced at our wonderful start-and-end-of-year and holiday gatherings. The faculty began to gather informally with potluck dinners, where Tom always provided a tasty main course, but this quickly evolved into his famous make-your-own pizza parties. The rest, as they say, is history!"

The Celebration Chef idea came of age during the Dr. David Lowry, Headmaster, years, with Chef Tom, sous chef David, and other TLS faculty members combining talents to provide the first Parlanti Dinner Winners. Those memorable evenings took on a life of their own, gathered steam, and became hot annual Celebration items. Folks organized their consortia and planned months ahead to secure the highest bid. It wasn't always easy … but it was always worth it.

Kelly and **Rob Brewer '85** have been winning bidders more times than anyone else. He emphatically maintains, "Tom Parlanti is a truly, truly gifted chef, and his dinner is a top-shelf experience. His is one of the most underpriced of ***all*** Celebration items." The Brewers headed



Top Sous chef **Chris Johnson '89**, Chef Tom Parlanti, and sommelier Chuck Baldecchi ensure Parlanti Dinner Winners have a "top-shelf experience."
Left Chef Parlanti's fried calamari and peroncini rings, home-cured soppressata and bresaola; and Pollo Parlanti, stuffed with homemade Italian sausage, fillet medallion, vegetable medley (fresh carrots, squash, and beets), risotto, and homemade bread.



Above Tom's celebrated Italian Crème Cake.
Left Tom Parlanti and Chris Johnson head up the kitchen crew. Frank Hardesty looks on as **Michael Parlanti '08** gives the crew a hand.

up their neighborhood group – Holly and Craig Bandoroff, **Elizabeth '79** and **George Freeman '75**, Linn and **Jeff Jefferson '75**, and Deidre and **John Talbott '73** – to parlay Parlanti talent into an annual event. In thinking back to some of those festive feasts, Craig Bandoroff says, "Holly and I've been fortunate to partake in several of Tom's wonderful dinners. My only complaint was we had to 'endure' all his gourmet food until we got to the best part, which was that incredible cake at the end."

"That incredible cake" is famous, too, in the Donna and Bill Shively household, as Donna agrees, "Our favorite thing is Tom's homemade Italian Crème Cake. We always hope our guests will leave some leftovers. We definitely think his food is fabulous." She points out, "It's more than just food. It's been great having team members Tom, Chuck Baldecchi, and Chris Johnson as part of the



evening, and getting to know TLS faculty better. We've especially enjoyed the unique wines Mr. Baldecchi brings that we've never tried before."

John Kelly, incoming TLS board member, admits he's a self-confessed Tom Parlanti groupie: "I am and I'm proud of it!" John and wife, Karen, hit the 2017 daily double (trifecta, including 2015) of Parlanti plays, securing the top spot, yet being part, as well, of the underbidding syndicate, which also came away from the Celebration tent as winners that night. Not wanting anyone to go home hungry, Tom is known to extend his expertise to the group who just missed out when the auctioneer's gavel came down. Multiple dinners equal multiple winners, and occasionally those dinners for 8 expand to tables of 16 or so. In learning the highly impressive $99,000 Tom Total, John declares, "Half of me isn't surprised, because I know how spectacular Tom's dinners are, but the other half of me is pretty doggone impressed."

As Rob Brewer accentuates, "I'm so glad this next generation of TLSers recognizes the extraordinary talent Tom has."

Any cook knows lots goes into the behind-the-scene prep. Chef Parlanti explains, "I prepare for a week [keeping the full schedule of his day job the entire time], making stock from scratch, baking cakes, fine-tuning the menu, shopping, and ordering. I create the menu myself. We serve the traditional five-course Italian dinner: made-from-scratch *antipasto* appetizers; *primo*, pasta or soup, depending on the season; *secondo*, the main protein, combined with *contorno*, the vegetable; Caesar salad; and *dolce*, the three desserts – Italian Crème Cake, gelato (pistachio and salted-butter-caramel), and blood-orange sorbet."

As with all TLS endeavors, it takes a team, and Chef Parlanti is quick to note his favorite sommelier, Chuck Baldecchi, adds his own recipe for success. "Chuck takes my menu, then handpicks and orders the wines he knows will enhance and enliven the flavors." **Chris Johnson '89**, middle school science teacher and sous chef extraordinaire, uses his science forte in the tableside art of creating the perfect salad dressing and serving with great fanfare. Never-met-a-stranger Mario Russo, husband of second grade teacher Vickie Russo and close Parlanti pal, adds his robust Italian culinary enthusiasm as a server and resident humorist. And for many years, former science teacher Frank Hardesty enjoyed his role at the "front of the house," ensuring guests had all they needed, and telling a TLS story or two along the way.

Catering to every Parlanti Dinner Winner, Chef Tom has nourished the TLS community for over three decades. There is no price tag for that.

A tip of the toque to Tom, TLS's own Celebrity Chef.



Welcome to Camp Costa Rica

"Oh, man! It was all just so great. That beautiful country. I was one of the older students on this trip, and it was fun making new TLS friends I hadn't known that well before because they're a class or two younger. I loved camping outdoors and spending time together with them without technology." **Megan Goldthorpe '14**, home from her third TLS Voyages trip (twice to Costa Rica, once on the Southwest Sequel) with **Chris Johnson '89**, is ready to head back again any time now.

Mr. Johnson, middle school science teacher, knows the outdoor classroom teaches lessons that enrich lives forever, and he makes it his fervent mission to share his deep love of nature with every one of his students. He explains, "I wanted to add an outdoor option to the TLS Voyages to Europe, which have been popular for years. Becky [his wife and middle school social studies teacher] and I began the Costa Rica trip for seventh and eighth graders in 2013, and we go every other year, alternating with the Southwest Sequel." The trip always has "repeats," like Megan, as half the students sign up for multiple trips. The caveat, that it's only for TLS high school alums, has many travelers wishing high school could extend another few years.

All trips are ten days, the magic number in Mr. Johnson's seasoned opinion. This summer, 14 students participated. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and their children, Maren, rising eighth grader, and Wade, rising fifth grader, Joe Conley, middle school Spanish teacher, joined the group for his second trip. Carrie Puckett, Spanish teacher, was the fourth chaperone, gaining field experience for the Spanish department and having a great time as well.

They stay in the town of Dominical, choosing that spot "because it's a little raw, but not too raw," says Mr. Johnson with a smile. "No hotel chains, no buildings over two stories tall, dirt streets, but enough infrastructure to be safe. It's a good balance." He points out, "There are no museums. It's more about going on our adventure, putting ourselves out there in the world, inspiring them to do this on their own." He encourages independence at every step, reassuring students they can indeed "pull this off." He gives them leadership positions, responsibility in meal planning and cooking, sometimes mapping out the afternoon's itinerary, and leading the group, always under his watchful, encouraging, and nurturing guidance.





Top From the swing, **Allie Holoubek '16** takes in a bird's eye view of Costa Rica. *Above* Rafting the waters with their guide are, left to right, **Tori McLaughlin '15**, **Maren Johnson '18**, **Connor Duzyk '14**, **Elizabeth Nielsen '16**, and **Allie Holoubek '16**. Lunch is on the bank of the Rio Savegre River.

Mr. Johnson adds: "We're in Central America, and it feels like it. We interact with the locals, playing pick-up soccer games at the town field. When the kids are out

surfing, they can see the Pacific in one direction and the jungle-covered mountains to the shore in the other; the mountains literally meet the shore." His well-known surfing skill has inspired hundreds of accomplished TLS surfers, Kentucky students who'd never have touched a surfboard without his influence. [*As current TLSers know, that can be said of mountain climbing as well, though that's another trip; see page 13.*] Zip-line canopy tours, jungle canyoneering, whitewater rafting, and a horseback expedition to a "massive" jungle waterfall all add to the Costa Rica journey. "Plus," Mr. Johnson notes, "we jump in about every swimming hole we can find."

Emphasizing how much these trips mean to her, Megan says, "Before the eighth grade SW trip, I was afraid of camping. Now I love camping and climbing and surfing. I'm completely at home in the outdoors." Megan says of another huge part of the trip, "I love the whole Johnson family. Maren and Wade are like little siblings to me." TLS friendships and life lessons know no geographic boundary.







From top Cooling off in one of the many waterfalls during a jungle canyoneering day trip; On horseback, **Ruby Kate Gray '14** and **Megan Goldthorpe '14** give a nod to their Kentucky roots; and TLS surfers with their instructors at Playa Dominicalito.

TLS Alumni Networking Site

NAMING COMPETITION

The Lexington School
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The Lexington School TLS is holding a naming contest for a new professional networking site. This site will connect alumni and families for jobs, internships, and mentoring opportunities.

The winning submission will receive a gift card and TLS gear!

Deadline For Submission: Saturday, September 9th

Submit Entries To: development@thelexingtonschool.org

Write a comment...

CAMP CURIOSITY 2017

IT WAS A RECORD YEAR for Camp Curiosity, with 489 students, almost 200 in the last week alone, enjoying six weeks of outdoor and indoor creativity, imagination, and just plain summertime fun. For three-year-olds through eighth graders, both longtime TLSers and those new to our community, Camp C offered a wide variety of engaging activities for all ages and all interests.

Pointing out the unparalleled success, Virginia Daugherty, TLS assistant director of admission and fourth-year Camp Curiosity associate director, said, "We're incredibly fortunate to have so many alumni return who are interested in working or volunteering their time to help with camp. It takes teamwork to run the best summer camp, and our great alum counselors – **Shaun Anderson '14**, **Kyle Draper '12**, **Jack Farrell '13**, **Rosie Halpin '12**, **Kincaid Keating '16**, **Ciera Proctor '11**, and **Emma Stone '12** – were an integral and impressive part of the team. They comprised over half our staff. We also couldn't have done without our junior counselors, Madison Bashorun (7th grade), Leah Hale (6th grade), and Claire Robbins (5th grade)." She added, "We had lots of alumni volunteers too; **Evan Brock '17**, **August Brooks '16**, **Halle Cline '14**, **Emma Samuel '17**, and **Ellie Webb '14**, to name just a few."











Clockwise, from above Will Stuart, incoming Kindergartner, son of **Sandy Stuart '97**, All-Sports camp; Ada King beekeeping in the Little House Adventures camp; Oliver Coates in the Professors camp; Luke Barton, Acorns, in the Woodland Creations camp; Daisy Bell, daughter of **Gatewood Bell '97** in the Move and Groove camp; and Isabel Hundley, incoming Kindergartner runs a mixer in the Master Chef camp.



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From *The Archives*



When **Lee Kiefer '08** returned to The Lexington School on June 2, 2017, to give the commencement address, she caught up with some of her former teachers and reminisced about high points of her years here, from Montessori through eighth grade. She saw the picture of her class's SW trip and said, "Wow, that photo is such a throwback – old adventures to remember and new adventures to come!" Small steps at The Lexington School lead to the wide world. To show TLS traditions are strong, see page 13 for the Class of 2017 ... on and under and around the "Entering Grand Canyon National Park" sign.