

TIS in the LOOP



A Spirit of Community / A Standard of Excellence / The Opportunity to Thrive

Dear TIS Families,

Spring will soon be here and with that comes our Spring Break at TIS. Here's wishing you safe travels and quality time with your family and friends. My husband and I will be traveling to San Antonio, Texas, with my six year old grandson, Cody, to visit family and enjoy the sights, food, and music of San Antonio. When we all return on March 29, we will continue

on our very busy journey until school ends in May.

Here are a few recent articles and pictures for your enjoyment, which reflect all of the opportunities and programs our students are involved with, on a daily basis. I am looking forward to a productive, smooth ending to this school year and getting to know more of you on a one-on-one basis.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Dickerson



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Don't forget your tickets for April 2nd!



BOARD BRIEF

A Community of Giving



My sincere thanks goes to all our donors who support The Independent School as we celebrate our 30th Anniversary. Whether it is reading in your child's classroom, driving for a field trip or serving on one of our many committees...your enthusiastic support of our school allows our staff and faculty to reach far beyond what tuition dollars allow us to provide.

Tuition dollars only account for a little more than 80% of the total cost to educate your child; therefore, we look for other ways to augment this funding. Many diverse giving opportunities exist

for you to support the mission of The Independent School. One of the most important steps you can take is to give to our Community Campaign.

The beauty of the Community Campaign is that it allows every dedicated TIS supporter to become involved. Participation is the key to our success! Every gift is appreciated and counts toward our \$200,000 goal. The letter you received in the mail outlined the target areas for support. We encourage you to support your passion be it academics, athletics or fine arts. Be a part of this essential fundraising opportunity by giving to the Community Campaign. What a gift we can give to our children if 100% participation is achieved!

Please join us for a new and exciting event. The Table Is Set is a series of culinary gatherings held by fellow TIS supporters. A festive array of food and drink awaits, as you mingle with friends who are as committed to TIS as you are. Tickets are \$50 per person with the proceeds going to support the Community Campaign. I can't think of a better or more enjoyable way to support our school.

While we concentrate on the present, we never lose sight of our future needs. Planned giving is another way of supporting the school, and is an essential part of the school's long-term financial future. Planned giving provides a unique opportunity to leave a significant contribution in accord with the school's mission, as well as within the realm of your financial objectives. Other meaningful ways to leave a legacy include endowments and giving through estates. Please consider these giving choices as you support TIS. The future is bright for The Independent School. Please continue to support us through your gifts of time, treasure and talents. There are so many ways to become involved with our school, but all these are directed to one purpose—the present and future success of TIS.

Many Ways, One Purpose--TIS Success,

Lynn Loveland
Board, Development Chair

LOWER SCHOOL UPDATE

Success!



You may have noticed Lower School students using the word “success” more that ever before. They have been participating in a school-wide conversation about the meaning of success. A clear example of success was certainly The Fourth Grade Second Annual State Fair on Friday, March 11th in the Lower School gym. Students dressed in character to represent their states, exhibited research projects and sang a rousing tribute to the fifty states. The morning was filled with wonderful learning activities students will long remember.



Lower School children have participated in numerous activities to encourage a love of reading. On March 18th, First Graders will be hosting a deliciously delightful Books and Breakfast morning for their parents in the Lower School Library. The exciting progress made by readers and writers in First Grade will be on display.

We hope you can find time to join us at the Lower School Book Fair which begins on March 29th. It is an enjoyable and relaxed way to peruse thoughtfully selected books and choose great titles for summer reading.



Graders are learning about ocean zones, coral reefs, tide pools and sea creatures. Everyone is excited about visiting their hallway which will be transformed into the ocean. Once you enter the Second Grade Ocean, you know you're not in Kansas anymore!

See you after the break!
Mrs. Karen Falk

Children in JK are thinking of their animal friends and planning for the Big Dog Cookie Sale to benefit the Wichita Humane Society. Our young students are demonstrating how much they care about and appreciate living things great and small through this community service project. After Spring Break, look under the bell for the youngest members of the Lower School. They will be marketing, counting money, and working with the public as they sell fabulous monster-sized cookies.

The surf's up in Second Grade! Second Graders are learning about ocean zones, coral reefs, tide pools and sea creatures. Everyone is excited about visiting their hallway which will be transformed into the ocean. Once you enter the Second Grade Ocean, you know you're not in Kansas anymore!

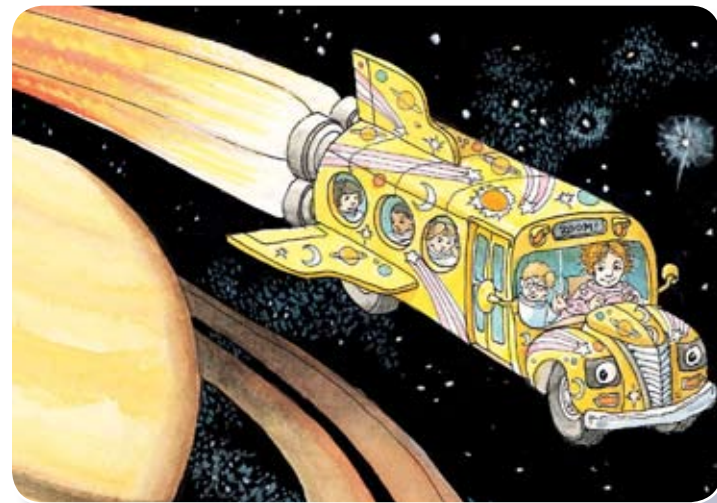
A Lifesaving Skill

In physical education, the fourth and fifth graders at the Lower School are completing a four week swimming unit at the Wichita Swim Club. It is a great privilege to have an olympic size swimming pool on campus, and the students enjoy jumping in the pool before the summertime weather.



The unit is a great opportunity for the students to work with the staff of the Swim Club in order to learn swimming skills at three different levels. In a permission form the students must indicate

their swimming level. They are then placed into groups in which they will learn additional skills. Many of the skills learned include Free Stroke, Back Stroke, Breast Stroke, Fly, while turns and diving/starts are covered in the advanced groups. The trek to the Swim Club takes the place of their Physical Education classes as they are in the water twice a week, for an hour each time. It is a favorite unit for many 4th and 5th graders!



teaching science as she was! During the many workshops, Mrs. Harter learned many new ways to help bring that excitement to her students. The workshops she attended focused mainly on Junior Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Mrs. Harter learned how to incorporate space exploration into every subject, how to help children learn to think critically, how to use technology to explore space, and how to solve problems. It was very inspiring and maybe one day we will find Mrs. Harter and her amazing class up in space (Just like Mrs. Frizzle and the Magic School Bus)!

Mrs. Erin Harter Blasts Into Space!

During the first week of February, Mrs. Harter, one of our second grade teachers, had the opportunity to leave a blizzard in Kansas and travel to warm and sunny Houston, Texas for a conference. Unfortunately, Houston was also having some bad weather, their worst ice storm. Luckily for her, the Space Exploration Educators Conference (SEEC) was held inside the wonderful Houston Space Center. Mrs. Harter was able to meet with teachers from all over the United States and from many other countries. These teachers were just as excited and passionate about

MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Healthy Habits for Life

Students will soon establish their walking goals and don a pedometer for most of the school day. The goal is for students to become more aware and evaluate their average, daily activity levels. While the pedometers remain at school, students will predict their overall daily mileage and compare their data with national recommendations. The 8th grade health students will meet with Mr. Youssef, our chef, to evaluate the nutritional value of our lunch program and make recommendations for future kid-friendly, healthy meals.

A most grateful thank you to Mrs. Susan Hernandez, a dedicated parent, for writing the grant that gave us the opportunity to supply each member of the Middle School Community a pedometer to track their steps.

Working Towards Healthier Lifestyles! Venture out and enjoy the spring weather!

Mrs. Karen Koch
Head of the Middoe School

First Semester Citizenship Recipients

Each semester Middle School faculty members nominate students for our Citizenship Award. This is quite an honor and our faculty take their nomination roles very seriously. Students are nominated using two criteria: respect and responsibility. The student must show respect for members of The Independent School and the larger Wichita communities, respect both public and private property and demonstrate tolerance and respect for the beliefs and opinions of others. The student must also demonstrate a willingness to assume responsibilities in the school and community, work to build school pride through active participation in those projects which publicize, honor and/or beautify the school, display good sportsmanship as a participant and/or spectator and is friendly toward new students and visitors. Congratulations to the following students who received the Citizenship Award first semester: 6th grade students Megan Perez and Garnett Tate, 7th grade students Erin

Dean, Jenny Kroeker, and Ayden Bolin, and 8th grade students Cydnee Bacci, Luke Banta and Sam Wiley. These students were recognized at our all school pep rally in February.



League Academic Day

Also in February, 7th and 8th grade students participated in the Central Plain Middle School League Academic Day. Students from our league gathered at Cheney for the day to compete in art, math, and science challenges. The artists displayed works completed at school, as well as collaborated on a large chalk drawing while at the competition. The Middle School art students led the league and brought home the Championship plaque. The artwork is displayed in the case by the Middle School office. Students who participated in the art challenge were: Ayden Bolin, Jenny Boyer, Sydney Clark, Megha Gangadhar, Emme Goodin, Talisa Hernandez, Jenny Kroeker, David Lusk, Megan Maska, Alexis Mijares, Evan Olson, Rachel Packebush, Nicole St. Clair, and Alex Varenhorst.

Science students worked in groups of three or four students and were presented a challenge such as building the strongest structure, the highest tower, the slowest roller coaster, or the fastest balloon car. The challenges are kept secret until just before the competition begins so all students have to complete the problem solving, designing, building and testing in the two hour competition time period. Mrs. Koch was the host of Slow Coaster. She was impressed by the variety of problem solving strategies used to create a coaster that would keep



a marble moving through the system, yet do so at a slow pace. Our science quiz bowl team placed 3rd with Luke Banta, Cade Dotson, Natalie Noakes and Casey Shaw competing. Jenny Kroeker, Tina Schrage, and Bryonna Stacey placed 2nd in Archimedes Principle. Travis Biehler, Brenden Jantzen, and Thomas Kieu placed 3rd in the Rolling Cups Challenge. Other competitors were Armaan Amirani, Jenny Boyer, Michael Doyel, Matt Fox, Arthur Gordon, Talisa Hernandez, Elizabeth Jarvis, Sarah Mayer, Alexis Majares, Braeden Mueller, Justin Newman, Evan Olson, Rachel Packebush, Marcette Perales, and Jack Stark.

Eighth grade math competitors brought home the League Championship and our 7th grade students placed 2nd. 1st place medals were earned by Megha Gangadhar (Geometry), Thomas Kieus (Graphs and Charts), Cade Dotson (Medley Team), Bryonna Stacey (Medley Team), Megha Gangadhar, Anna Farmer and Bryant Robertson (8th grade team), Michael Doyel, Elziabeth Jarvis,

and Armaan Amirani (Algebra Team), and Brenden Jantzen, Justin Newman and Casey Shaw (7th grade team). Megha Gangadhar and Bryant Robertson tied for 1st in the Equations division. 2nd place winners included Casey Shaw (Word Problems), Marcette Perales (Ratio and Proportions). Rounding out the team were Travis Biehler, Matt Fox, Natalie Noakes, Evan Olson, Rachel Packebush, Sarea Recalde-Phillips, and Tina Schrage.

Scholars' Bowl 8th Grade League Champs!

Independent hosted the CPL-Middle School League Scholars' Bowl competition on the evening of February 17th. The eighth grade team showed a truly remarkable concentration, focus, and determination to succeed, and posted an impressive 7-0 record and 605 points for the night, outpacing runner-up Chaparral, who also played very well and finished 6-1, 505 points. Competing at league were: Cydnee Bacci, Luke Banta, Braden Bongers, Megha Gangadhar, Talisa Hernandez, Braeden Mueller, Natalie Noakes, Evan Olson, Sarea Recalde-Phillips,



Tina Schrage, Bryonna Stacey, and Jack Stark. Thank you to all the parents and students who volunteered their time and efforts toward the success of the evening. We couldn't have done it without you!

UPPER SCHOOL UPDATE

March Madness!

Those of us who are fans of college basketball are all-too-familiar with the palpable excitement that comes from flipping the calendar from February to March. “March Madness” is upon us as we look forward to the NCAA men’s and women’s basketball championship tournaments (I feel compelled to include a sad shout out to the many disappointed WSU fans among us—Maybe next year). At this point in the school year, we at TIS are experiencing through our own form of “March Madness” as we begin the fast slide toward AP tests, final exams, the end of the spring semester, and our seniors’ well-earned graduation. I tell myself every year to hang on and try not to get lost in the unavoidable chaos, but there’s simply no way to avoid it. Still, I hope you’ll make what efforts you can to slow down and savor the experiences from this school year while continuing to look forward to those yet to come.

One recent experience I am especially proud of is having had the chance to welcome Richard Ryan back to TIS. Over 30 of our parents and guardians had a chance to hear him speak about how critical it is for us, as a community, to work together to prevent our students from experimenting and using alcohol and other drugs, or at least delay it until after the age of 25 when the brain is fully developed. Mr. Ryan met with our Senior class as a group to help prepare them for the challenges of transitioning to college. He also met with our entire Junior class in small group sessions over three days to educate them on what effects their immediate choices can have in their present lives, and what these choices can lead to down the road. Faculty, staff, administration and even some 10th grade students sat in on Mr. Ryan’s sessions to widen the dialogue about this important and terrifying subject.

Some parents brought up the issue of how difficult it is in such a small community for our teens to build and maintain friendships while also keeping away from the illegal and unhealthy activities that involve some of these same friends. The answer is simple, but tough—we do it by communicating as adults and having a shared commitment to keep our children safe. To that end, I encourage us all to communicate frequently and openly with one another so that we know where our kids are and what they are doing. Also, when we have concerns, we must work together to have frank, honest discussions with other parents so that we each know where the other stands. As I advise students and faculty, and myself, try never to do difficult things alone.

Along those lines, I am very proud that a group of student leaders in the 11th grade has recently taken the initiative to band together and help one another by forming a TIS chapter of S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive



Decisions). This organization is open to students in all grades who are interested in “peer-to-peer education, prevention, and activism organization dedicated to preventing destructive decisions, particularly underage drinking, other drug use, risky and impaired driving, teen violence, and teen suicide” (Quoted from the SADD website <http://www.sadd.org/mission.htm>). We look forward to seeing this group grow in numbers and strength of purpose under the leadership of our Counselor, Ms. Alyssa Donnelly, and our Dean of Students, Ms. Jenifer Pence.

Another timely issue we are beginning to tackle this Spring is course selection for the next school year. You should have received an email from me about our general process and timeline for choosing courses, but please feel free to contact any of us at TIS if you have questions along the way. The more we communicate with one another, the better we’ll be able to help our students maintain a challenging, yet balanced, curriculum, which they can successfully maintain while also satisfying their athletic and co-curricular interests.

Lastly, over the past two months, all of you should have received a phone call from someone on the Administrative Team seeking input for how we can make The Independent School the best it can be. I want to thank those of you who shared specific suggestions and concerns. I encourage all of you to pick up the phone (or keyboard) to let us know what you think we need to correct and/or what you think we should never change. We are committed to maintaining an open-door and open-phone/email atmosphere. For the more competitive of you out there (it’s the March Madness slipping in again), I dare you to contact me!

Have a great Spring Break!

Sincerely,

Mr. Brent Spicer
Head of Upper School

Scholars' Bowl: A Team to be Recognized

by Coach Huggins



Looking back on this year's Scholars' Bowl team, I can honestly say it is the finest group I have ever had the privilege to coach. Although it was disappointing to these young men to work so hard and to lose the championship by such a vanishingly slim margin (the smallest, in fact, that it is theoretically possible), I would rather say of these young men that they are men of character than that they were state champions. No one who meets them in the future will know whether they were champions; everyone who matters to them will know their character.

By all measures, this was the finest team since the State Championship team in 2006. They won 3rd Place in both the East Tournament and the Tournament of Champions at Bishop Carroll, two of the toughest tournaments in the city. At Bishop, they lost only to Maize and to Wichita East, and the very next week they came back to defeat both of these rivals, claiming the championship at Kapaun's Invitational. This would be the same Wichita East team that just won the 6A State Championship.

Did you read that? Our team defeated, not the 3A State Champions, but the 6A State Champions, a feat that I am not sure is equaled in the history of the school.

The team brought back the Central Plains League Championship for the fourth time in five years. They won invitationals in Chaparral and in Hesston. This team never failed to place in any tournament in which they competed, and they asked me to practice! They devised strategies. They pushed themselves through this difficult year when I (dealing with a toddler and a newborn) could not push them. By the time we got to selecting a team for regionals, I could have fielded two teams, and I never faced a harder decision than who to pick to staff that regional team. But, I can guarantee you all the ones I didn't pick will be back next year.

So these young men (and a couple of young women) are more than conquerors this year. They are leaders who fight for the honor of their school, and in so doing, equal the best the state has to offer. We'll see you next year!

Comparative Perceptions: An Educational Historical Workshop

This past summer I, Mr. Huggins, was given the opportunity to attend a workshop at the Harry Truman Museum in Independence that compared and contrasted the lives of George Washington and Harry S. Truman. It was a valuable learning experience that gave me new insight into the lives of these two men. Perhaps most importantly, it humanized them for me, making them something more than the icons we see of Washington, standing in the bow of the boat crossing the Delaware, or even the more accurate picture of Truman waving the "Dewey Defeats Truman" copy of the *Chicago Tribune*.

One of the things that impressed me the most was the character of these men. Although they were flawed individuals, both seemed instinctively to shy away from dishonest dealings. This integrity shone forth in their lives, and made even their personal enemies treat them with respect. But more than that, I note that both men maintained a strong marriage in the center of their lives. They never failed to treat their wives with courtesy and love.

To be sure, they were very different men as well. I learned to appreciate Washington's keen business sense, which made him one of the wealthiest men in America, a trait that obviously served the impoverished Continental Army well. Though Truman does not seem to have had the same business acumen, he certainly displayed the mind of a leader; one who would make honorable decisions even if they were not popular. These qualities are all too rare in the leaders of a democracy, where power and popularity must go hand in hand.

To preserve one's ethics in the face of temptations to power and popularity is a lesson it is imperative to bring to our students, who deal with popularity in a way that is often much more immediate and threatening than we face in the adult world, where public decorum and professional courtesy sometimes shield us from the worst effects of unpopularity. But it is a vital lesson if we are to teach children to become true adults.

FINE ARTS UPDATE



EVERYONES INVITED TO
COME JOIN THE PARTY!



GET YOUR TICKET ORDER IN TODAY!

TASTY TAPAS * WINE PULL

DANCING * SIGNATURE DRINK

DESSERT TABLE * CASH BAR

\$35 SINGLE
\$60 COUPLE

Is Artapalooza just for the artsy? **NO!** It is a party for all TIS Parents, Grandparents, Faculty, and Friends! It is an opportunity to mix and mingle, eat and drink, view great artworks created by our students, bid on some amazing auction items, listen to great music, and dance the night away. Don't miss out on this TIS Community event, Saturday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 for a single/ \$60 for a couple. Order forms are available in each division office or on the website. Please RSVP before Spring Break! If you have any questions, please contact one of our steering committee members: Kim Grossardt, Karen Malone, Jane Shaw, Ria Farmer, Lesli Toubassi, Jill Mitchell, or Emily Ottaway.

Scholastic Key Awards

For the Kansas Regional Scholastic Art competition, 1800 pieces of work were submitted and around 352 pieces made it into the show at the Wichita Center for the Arts. TIS submitted sixteen entries from twelve Middle School students. Nine of these entries merited awards.

Gold Key (1st in state)

8th Evan Olson
8th Talisa Hernandez (2 gold keys)
7th Emme Goodin
7th Nicole St. Clair

Silver Key (2nd in state)

7th Emme Goodin

Honorable Mention (3rd in state)

8th Ariel Fletcher
8th D.J. Pence
7th Ayden Bolin

In the Upper School, seniors, Urvashi Patel received a Silver Key for her glass piece titled Directional Pattern in a Square and Bethany Emerson received an Honorable Mention for her ceramic Lizard and Snake on a Trail earthenware. Urvashi was offered a \$6,500 scholarship and Bethany a \$6,000 scholarship from Friends University. Congratulations to Bethany and Urvashi as well as all of the award winners and students who participated!

All entries receiving an award were on exhibit at The Center for the Arts from January 25th to March 6th. The exhibit contained amazing pieces, not only from our students, but from the many talented young people from all over Kansas.



Kudos to Music Department & Middle School Musical

Congratulations to the TIS Music Department for hosting an amazing Central Plains League Music Festival on Tuesday, March 8. The day was beautifully organized with students singing and performing instrumental solos throughout the US building. Choirs and bands of all different sizes performed on our stage.

The TIS Mixed Chorus received three I ratings. TIS Band received one I and two II ratings. Our flute trio received a I rating, as did our sax trio, and our clarinet quartet received a II rating. The following vocal soloists all received I ratings, Amy Yeskie, Christine Roberts, and Cassie Heflin. Michael Doyle, Marcette Perales, and Evan Olson received I ratings for their instrumental solos.

We also cannot forget the delightful performance of *Once on This Island* directed by Mr. Rivers. The students presented stellar performance all three days. Our dedicated cast included Anna Farmer, Emma Gunderson, Justin Gordon, Tom Clark, Ayden Bolin, Cydnee Bacci, Faith Northcutt, Adrian Wiggans, Jenny Kroeker, Jack Unruh, Lindsey Loveland, Antonio Bales, Bayley Johnson, Andrew Marsden, and Rose Palmer. Without the help of the technical crew, no performance can be successful. The untiring work of Mrs. Jackson, Ms. Eaton, Megan Perez, Ben Adams, Brenden Jantzen, Abbey Kolbeck, Yasmin Nur, Isabella Ortega, Rachel Watson, the US Stagecraft Class, DJ Pence, Bryonna Stacey, Evan Olson, and Sarea Recalde-Phillips was greatly appreciated. We also thank Mrs. Raney and Mr. Wisner for their musical accompaniment and the tremendous the support we received from parents.

On Stage Soon!

Our Town – Performance April 8 & 9 at 7:30 p.m and April 10 at 2:00 p.m.

The final US drama production of the year is Thornton Wilder's classic play, *Our Town*. This beautiful piece about what is important in life will be performed in the round with the audience seated on the stage. The cast includes familiar faces like Colleen Zirkle, Derek Parks, Chris Grossardt, Christine Roberts, Ryan Malone, Brett Hawkins, and Kate Cohlma. Making their Upper School Drama drama debuts will be Emily Vayda, Matt Medrano, Jordan McEntaffer, and Prentice Byrd in feature roles. Seating will be limited, so getting tickets early is recommended. For more information contact Emily Ottaway at Emily.Ottaway@TheIndependentSchool.com.

Lower School Variety Show!

This year, the 4th and 5th grades will present "A Salute to Richard and Oscar" a celebration of two giants of Musical Theatre: Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein III. This creative team helped revolutionize Broadway and the American theatre.

The show will feature musical selections from some of the most iconic shows in history, including *The Sound of Music*, *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, and *Oklahoma*. Soloists and small ensembles will be featured, with full costuming and lighting effects, as well as several large production numbers featuring the entire company.

Tickets will be available both in advance and at the door. The performances will be on Friday, April 29th at 7:00 p.m., and on Saturday, April 30th at 2:30 p.m. The shows will run in the Upper School Auditorium. Running time will be approximately two hours.

Students to Perform in Summer Productions

Congratulations to the following TIS students who were cast in summer productions at the Music Theatre of Wichita. Their first show of the summer is *The Music Man* and will show off the skills of Tyler Treat, Chase Farah, and Edward Strum. Emma Gunderson and Faith Northcutt will perform in *Finian's Rainbow*, and Faith will also be in the final production, *The Little Mermaid*. Tyler Treat was also selected to perform in the Music Theatre of

Wichita Teen Choir.

Thespians and thespian friends attended the Episcopal Social Services Oscar Party dressed as celebrities.

Can you guess who is who?



ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Student Athletes

Each semester KSHSAA recognizes Middle and Upper school students who perform on teams as well as hold high academic standards. For Upper School KSHSAA lists the average grade point average by team:

Football: 3.17

Boys Soccer: 3.50

Cross Country: 3.68

Girls Tennis: 3.65

Volleyball: 3.63

Dance: 3.81

Cheer: 3.34

KSHSAA lists Middle School students by name and recognizes them with academic high honors or honors. The following students played fall sports while making honor roll:

Cross Country High Honors: Kennedy Kolbeck, Natalie Noakes, and Sean Smith. Honors: Talisa Hernandez, Alec Lonson, and Tina Schrage.

Football Honors: Carson Boorigie, Walker Chandler, Matt Fox, Archer Gordon, Brenden Jantzen, Justin Newman, Evan Olson, Preston Roberts, Bryant Robertson, Casey Shaw, Robby Steere, and Jack Unruh.

PepSquad Honors: Jenny Boyer, Lily Davis, Emme Goodin, Hannah Hutchinson, Mary McCoy, Cathy McCurley, and Tyler Treat.

Tennis High Honors: Drue Bhula, Mary-Carol Davis, Lindsey Loveland, Faith Northcutt, Olivia Riedmiller, and Rachel Watson. Honors: Blanca Garcia, Emma Gunderson, Anna Riedmiller, and Meghan Tokala

Volleyball High Honors: Cydnee Bacci, Megha Gangadhar, and Sarea Recalde-Phillips. Honors: Jenny Boyer, Alise Coccetella, Elizabeth Jarvis, Sarah Mayer, Mary McCoy, Kate McGaughey, Rachel Packebush, Marcette Perales, Bryonna Stacey, Adrien Valmont, and Hailey Wilcox.



The Winter season has concluded, and here are some of the highlights:

Upper School

The Boys' Swim team had a great season finishing in the top 10 in the state, they finished 9th out of 29 teams. Andrew Parker finished second team all-state.

The wrestling team improved as the season progressed. Eddie Dean finished second at the CPL Meet.

The boys' basketball team had a good year with the Freshmen finishing 14-3, the Junior Varsity 12-8, and the Varsity winning 4 of their last 5 games.

The Dance and Cheer teams did a great job of supporting our athletes both in the fall and winter seasons.

Congratulations to Brett Soucie! Brett recently signed to play football at Southwestern College in Winfield, KS. Coach Wallis says, "From the day I stepped on the campus of TIS Brett has been a pleasure to coach. He has a great work ethic and is a play making receiver. Southwestern College is getting a wide receiver who will be able to help them immediately."

Middle School

The 7th grade boys' basketball team finished the season with an undefeated record of 12-0. They were CPMSL regular season champions, and tournament champions. The 8th grade girls' basketball team finished the season with a record of 10-2 and were CPMSL regular season tri-champions.

The wrestling team has had a good year and has had several first place finishes in the tournaments. Carson Boorigie is undefeated on the season at this time.

Middle School Cheerleading 2010-2011

by Coach, Danielle Jackson

Hard work, fitness, long practices, and competitions are just a few words that describe an athlete. The TIS Middle School cheerleaders have proven themselves athletes this year. Our season is longer than any other sports teams' season. We started the 2010-2011 season in June with cheerleading camp at Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. We had intense practices for a week learning cheers, dances, stunts and teamwork. At the end of the week, we entered the competition along with high school teams, where we placed 2nd in the cheer category and came out on top as camp champions in the dance routine. School started and so did our daily practices, which lasted throughout the football and basketball seasons. We cheered for games and performed half-time shows. In November, we attended Battle of the Squads, an opportunity to show off our skills in a competitive routine filled with stunts and tumbling. We received a top rating for our entire routine, the only middle school to do so! We carried cheerleading past the basketball season and took another competitive routine to the Wichita Cheer Challenge. Again, we received the best scores in the middle school division. With our season now over we are looking forward to cheerleading camp again in June. The hard work and perseverance of this team are the building blocks for a bright future for TIS Panther cheerleading!



My Cheer Experience

by Ashton Zinda
7th Grade Cheerleader

Cheerleading, it is the choice that gave me confidence. The first thing I remember was Mrs. Jackson, my coach, telling me I was a flyer; I would be on the top of the stunts! I started by learning a half, the first and most basic stunt. At first, I was wobbly and unsure. By the first football game, I had it down and all of the cheers ready to perform. At that game, all of our stunts were perfect and I made a new best friend, who is still my friend today! After

the football season passed we practiced for our first competition, Battle of the Squads. Our routine was flawless and we did great. Soon after came basketball season, where our half-time shows were always exciting. All of our practices and hard work lead up to the Wichita Cheer Challenge where we preformed and my friends and I made some special memories. Cheer has started to take away my shyness and has made me more flexible. It has several stereotypes and many people say that is it not a sport because we are just cheering. Cheerleading is much harder than you think; I learned that as we put together our competitive routine. I will always love cheerleading and continue to do it. Cheer has been a life changing experience!



2011 CHESS FINDS SUCCESS AGAIN

On March 12th, the TIS Chess team competed at the Kansas State Tournament in Wichita with thirty-six students participating. The K-3 and K-5 teams are State Runner-Up Champions! The Middle School and Upper School played very well. The High School division is still being reviewed due to a scoring error.

In the K-3 division, third grader, John Lasater was the only player in the top twenty placing 11th. We had two place in the top twenty in K-5, Zach Hole was 11th and William Brown came in 14th. Our top player for the Middle School was Brayden Barnes with a 26th place finish, and Brendan Jester for the Upper School placed 13th under the top twenty.



All the divisions had a very successful season. The Lower School teams brought home a trophy in every tournament they played. The Middle School had a brand new player and two six graders who had to make the leap up a division and improved their games tremendously. The Upper School had four who qualified for state and will have those same four lettering in Chess. They are all underclassmen and will be eligible to return next year for TIS CHESS!



A big congratulations to the Coaches, Cathy Jensen and Sammy Hole. Also, a big thank you to all the parents and friends who supported the team this year. TIS CHESS ROCKS!

CLASS NOTES



Jackie Lincoln (Class of 2007) is in her last semester at KU where she is studying journalism. Jackie plans to graduate in May with a Bachelor's of Science in Journalism. Her hope is to pursue a career in media marketing and public relations.

Although Jackie spent her first year at San Diego State, she has been at KU the last two years. Last spring, Jackie studied abroad on *Semester at Sea* where she lived on a ship as it sailed around the world. She visited Hawaii, Japan, China, Vietnam, India, Hong Kong, Mauritius, South Africa, Brazil, and Ghana. Jackie says the experience was amazing! She spent days running around Tokyo, hiking the Great Wall of China, (you can't miss her red hair!) visting Disney Land in Hong Kong, biking around Vietnam, touring the Taj Mahal, venturing on a South African safari, and exploring Rio de Janiero - just to name a few.

Currently, Jackie is working as the Marketing and Communications intern at the United States Tennis Association Missouri Valley office in Overland Park, KS. The internship allows her to incorporate knowledge from her tennis experiences and continue learning in a professional environment. Here is the address to an article that Jackie wrote for the USTA Missouri Valley: http://www.missourivalley.usta.com/black_history_month_profile_linda_golson/



Marshall Frey (Class of 2008) is studying at Kansas State in the Construction Science Department. This department has provided Marshall with a wide number of opportunities and experiences during the past three years, both academically and professionally. Last summer, Marshall had the privilege to move to San Diego, California to work with one of the largest federal contractors in the United States, Hensel Phelps. This was his third internship since graduating, as he has worked at King Construction in Hesston the two previous summers.

Academically, Marshall felt very prepared for more coursework at K-State, and says that he has had little difficulty adjusting to college life. Marshall states, "I attribute that largely to the faculty and staff at The Independent School. In case any of the TIS students ask, "When are we every going to use this?" please tell them that I have used everything I learned in high school while still in college! (Even though I never thought I would.)"

Marshall has become heavily involved in extracurricular activities and student groups on campus, which has also provided him with some great opportunities to travel and network. He has traveled to Chicago, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Oakland, and New Orleans with the various student groups and competitions he has been involved with. While his baseball days are behind him, he still finds time to compete in various academic competitions, including the American Concrete Institute International Concrete Construction Competition, in which his team placed first and was featured in Concrete International Magazine (Marshall is standing 2nd to the tallest pictured). At the end of the month Marshall will be traveling to Oakland for the second time to compete in the Architectural Engineering Institute International Design Build Competition, in which his team was named a finalist.

ALUMNI- SAVE THE DATE!!

Please join us for our Alumni/Senior Luncheon in the TIS commons on May 14th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We would love to see you! Please RSVP to Danielle.Dankey@TheIndependentSchool.com

Also, if you have not joined our The Independent School Alumni Association on Facebook, please look us up today! We are posting all kinds of great information, events and invites.

We want to hear from you! Tell us if you are graduating, have a new business, setting a wedding date, or starting a family- We want to know!! Contact Abby.Koch@TheIndependentSchool.com or Michelle.Bolin@TheIndependentSchool.com with your update, and contact information. Stay in touch, and stop by when you are in town!

Announcements



Stuff the Barn! Donations?

We still have room in the barn! The Independent School Parent Group invites you to participate in our all-school fundraiser by donating gently used items for the Renew-Reuse-Repurpose Sale to be held April 14, 15, 16, 2011 with a TIS Chuckwagon Supper and preview night April 13th.

Donations will be accepted the week after Spring Break, March 29- April 1st in the Lower and Middle School commons.

For convenience, we are offering to pick up large items on April 2nd. Please Contact Cindy Jantzen via email or phone at kcjantzen@cox.net or 640-4457. Donation receipts are available!

There are many opportunities to help at the sale on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (April 14th, 15th, and 16th). Shift signups can be accessed by clicking on the following link and following the instructions: <http://www.volunteerspot.com/login/entry/1172345632559972079>

TABLE IS SET

MANY EVENTS, ONE PURPOSE

The **TABLE IS SET** Committee would like to remind you of one more evening event!

Cinco De Mayo!

hosted by Paul & Lisa Jackson

Thursday, May 5
from 6:30-10 p.m.
1725 N. Gatewood St.

Tickets are \$50 each per event.
First come, first served so RSVP soon!

There are only a few spots remaining so RSVP soon! Please RSVP by contacting Jill Mitchell at 213-6071 or jill.mitchell@cox.net

To pay for your tickets please send a check to the school or drop off in one of the division offices.

Thank you for supporting our Community Campaign! It directly impacts the education of our children!



Who Will Buy Our Beautiful Flowers!!

We are taking orders for our 2nd Annual Flower Sale! Beautiful annuals and some vegetables are on the order form. You can purchase a flower flat of six 6-packs or eighteen individual plants for \$15.00 or a half-flat of three 6-packs or nine individual plants for \$8.00 and vegetables for \$1.00 each plant.

- Order forms must be returned to any school division office no later than Friday, April 1, 2011.
- Payment is due with your order form. Please make checks payable to: TIS Parent Group.
- To donate flats to the school for planting on campus, fill out the donation portion of the form and specify how many flats you would like to purchase. TIS students will plant the donated flowers on Monday April 25, 2011.

Orders will be distributed at The Lower School gymnasium on Saturday, April 23, 2011, between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. At that time, additional flats will be available for purchase for \$15.00 or single 6-packs for \$2.50 each, and vegetables for \$1.00 each but quantities will be limited. Any flowers not picked up by 5:00 p.m. will be donated to the school for planting on Monday, April 25, 2011.

If you have additional questions please contact Liz Beugelsdyk at 729-1626.

Find the order form here: <http://www.theindependentschool.com/cms-assets/documents/18192-864958.flowersale2011.pdf>