

TIS in the LOOP



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

Dear TIS Families,

As we end this school year, I cannot thank you enough for the warm welcome you have extended to me and my family. I have accumulated many treasured memories, which have enriched my life. We have extraordinary students here at TIS, PK-12, due to the fact that they are supported by extraordinary families and teachers. As we look forward to the next school year, I hope you will explore some new adventures this summer, volunteer to help someone or some important initiative, and come back refreshed and full of new ideas for our school.

On May 17, the President of ISACS (Independent Schools Association of the Central States), Mr. Keith Shahan, visited our school. It was a pleasure having him on campus, as he spent the day with our administrators and the Board of Trustees. We are in good standing with ISACS, and I look forward to future collaborations with Keith and other ISACS schools. We have been fortunate this past school year to send several of our teachers to ISACS workshops for professional development and to meet with other ISACS teachers.



In closing, I would also like to extend an invitation for you to come in to my office and visit. Many of you took the opportunity to meet with me individually last summer and during the school year. My office door is always open and I welcome and invite you to come in and chat. I learn from all of you, and consider our partnership one of the highest callings; to help the students succeed, both in school and in life pursuits.

Please be safe this summer, and I look forward to serving you again next fall.

Take care,

DR. MARY DICKERSON, HEAD OF SCHOOL

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LOWER SCHOOL UPDATE

Great Teaching Does Not Happen By Chance; It is the Product of Careful Planning.

To facilitate the variety of paths the students take toward their individual learning, the environment of the Lower School is prepared with the expert knowledge of early childhood and elementary education our teachers bring to the classroom. The Lower School is a special community of teachers and learners where children feel safe, challenged and joyful.

In the Lower School, the classroom environment encourages a love of literature, the value of writing and provides a wealth of reading and writing experiences.

From the earliest grades, the program is responsive to the range of interests, strengths and needs presented by elementary school aged students. Skills required to be successful readers such as letter identification, sound symbol relationships, and the use of rhyme, sight words and word patterns are learned in the context of daily reading and writing tasks.

As students progress through the grades, the goal is that they become enthusiastic, active and engaged readers. Listening to stories gives students the opportunity to engage in comprehension activities and to discuss and build vocabulary. Lower School students learn to think critically through asking questions and making relevant connections.

Instruction in the correct formation of upper and lower case letters begins in early childhood. Young students form letters with wooden pieces and practice and trace the alphabet and numerals with markers, chalk, sponges and small pencils.

Writing lessons teach specific skills for students to use when creating poems, stories and books. Even at the youngest ages the students enjoy reading many times over to themselves and to each other the stories they have written.

Throughout the Lower School years the program focuses on the development of vocabulary and comprehension skills, and the enjoyment of language. Using the resources of the Lower School Library in addition to classroom libraries, selections consist of a variety of fiction and nonfiction, poetry, short stories, and biographies. In writing, the students continue the study of grammar and mechanics begun in the early elementary grades.

Your continued strong partnership assists our students. Reading for sheer pleasure during the summer is encouraged. It is a delightful way to spend time on a warm summer day and it will help support your child's success in reading when they return to school in the fall. From Second through Fifth Grades, classic titles have been assigned that we know you will enjoy discussing with your children.

The Lower School's enormous strengths are a wonderful inspiration as we see the students receive the benefits of an outstanding education. My deepest gratitude to everyone who participates in teaching and learning at TIS with the spirit of the emblem in mind – a hand reaching for the stars.

MRS. KAREN FALK, HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL

“Look at People in the Eyeballs.....”

-TIS Pre-K Student

On Friday, May 6th, Upper School students meandered into yet another run-of-the-mill school meeting. However, the scene was different. There were fifty-four lower school students sitting “criss-cross-applesauce” on the stage.

SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) officers began by explaining that this was a senior presentation. SADD purchased “de-stress” balls for the seniors to take to college with them, to give them a positive tool to use when they were feeling overwhelmed. Also, they thanked the seniors for their friendship and mentorship and expressed their wish for our seniors to make good choices during their graduation celebrations and beyond.



However, there was more to the presentation: each Lower School student had also made something special for each senior. Mrs. Morgan’s, Ms. Craig’s, Mrs. McIntosh’s, and Mrs. Shofner’s students had each made a “Congratulations and Be Safe” card for their senior. The artwork included words of wisdom such as, “Look at people in the eye-balls when you talk to them” – Pre-K student, and “Bark Less, Wag More!” – Splash. In addition, Mrs. Shofner was the 1st grade teacher for seven of our graduating seniors. Back when they were just learning how to create a sentence, these seniors wrote about what they wanted to be when they grew up. Mrs. Shofner saved these essays, artwork, and even pictures from so long ago and presented them back to the seniors. What an awesome gift!

Our SADD group’s hope is that not only our seniors, but all our students realize that every one of them and the choices they make truly impact our entire community --- even down to our precious little Pre-K kiddos.

The mission of SADD is to both educate and mentor our students in positive choices. We need the support of everyone in our community to bring these goals to fruition: students, faculty, and parents. Next year, SADD hopes to not only

plan more SADDurday Night Life events for our students, but also raise money to bring in educational speakers, and presentations that will impact our student body in positive and healthy ways. Please support SADD, and thank you all for your involvement in the TIS community!

Field Day, Fun for All!

Students thoroughly enjoyed the fun, friendly activities during field day. Special thanks to Sherene Hutchinson, and Mandy Burmeister for organizing the event as well as the many parents that helped make this well loved activity a tremendous success!



MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Summing Up a Year of Great Accomplishments

The 2010-2011 year ended with a flurry of activities and accomplishments. May began with seventh grade student, Matt Fox, taking the helm as Head of Middle School for the day. Matt organized a dress down day, led a student and teacher raffle, provided refreshments for every student, attended an administrative meeting, supervised a fire drill, and arranged a dodge ball tournament. It was a very busy but fun day. Also in May, students attended fieldtrips, produced a talent show, showcased their spring academic work, participated in band or choir concerts, and still had time for the final dodge ball tournament.

At the end of the school year we take time to honor the many accomplishments of our students and while this space isn't large enough to mention everyone, I can share an impressive set of numbers:

- 21 students achieved High Honors (straight A's) fourth quarter.
- 58 students achieved Honors (all A's & B's) fourth quarter.
- 8 students received the Lamp of Knowledge, achieving honor roll all three years of Middle School. Congratulations to Cydnee Bacci, Megha Gangadhar, Blanca Garcia, Nadine Jaffal, Sarea Recalde-Phillips, Sean Smith and Bryonna Stacey. Natalie Noakes achieved High Honors all three years of Middle School.
- 22 students qualified for the Duke Talent Identification Program.
- 3 students received ACT/SAT scores high enough to receive state recognition: Thomas Kieu, Jenny Kroeker, and Sarah Mayer.
- 14 students participated in the Central Plains League Art Challenge. Our students were Art League Champions.
- 20 students participated in the Central Plains League Math Challenge. Our students were Math League Champions.
- 25 students participated in the Central Plains League Science Challenge.
- 18 students were members of the Scholar Bowl team. The 8th grade team was Scholar Bowl League Champions.
- 8 students participated in the Math Counts competition.
- 16 entries in the Scholastic Art Awards
- 9 Scholastic Art awards: Evan Olson (Gold Key), Talisa Hernandez (2 Gold Keys), Emme Goodin (Gold Key, Silver Key), Nicole St. Clair (Gold Key), Ariel Fletcher (Honorable Mention), D.J. Pence (Honorable Mention), Ayden Bolin (Honorable Mention).
- 21 7th grade students participated in the CPMSL Music Competition. The band received a 1 rating.
- 16 students represented their peers on Student Council
- 127 students participated in at least one CPMSL sport.
- 24 students participated in 3 or more sports this year.
- 47 students received KSHSAA Scholastic Achievement Recognition for achieving honor roll and participating in a fall sport.
- 43 students participated in our fall or spring drama production.



The 2010-2011 Citizenship Award Recipients are:

6th grade: Megan Perez, Garnett Tate, Faith Northcutt, and Justin Gordon.

7th grade: Erin Dean, Jenny Kroeker, Ayden Bolin, Sarah Mayer, and Robby Steere.

8th grade: Cydnee Bacci, Luke Banta, Sam Wiley, Christiane Fox, Bryonna Stacey, and Anthony Little.

There are three honors awarded to 8th grade students which are chosen by their peers:

The Quiet Hero (a student who goes above and beyond to help others in a humble fashion). The recipients are: Cydnee Bacci, Sean Smith, and Megha Gangadhar.

The Independent Light (a student who consistently leads with heart, mind and integrity) The recipients are: Luke Banta and Bryonna Stacey

The Chrysalis (for distinguished maturity and growth through the Middle School years) The Chrysalis recipient is: Talisa Hernandez

Congratulations to all of our students for their high academic achievement and for their extracurricular participation.

On behalf of the faculty and staff in the Middle School, I would like to thank the Class of 2015 for donating a bench and several bean bag chairs to the Middle School. It will make our building all the more homey, a place they will be comfortable visiting next year. Thank you!

As we celebrate this long list of accomplishments, I am reminded that it would not be possible without the support of our wonderful families. Parents have donated many hours of their precious time and resources to create a caring and encouraging environment. I would like to sincerely thank the Middle School community for the support you have demonstrated during my three years as Head of Middle School. It has been my honor to serve as part of the administrative team and I look forward to continuing my service to TIS in the classroom.

MRS. KAREN KOCH, HEAD OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL



7th Grade Showcase of Learning

Seventh grade students invited their families, Middle School staff, and TIS administrators to their Showcase of Learning on Friday, May 13.

The students took the lead in preparing for this event by working outside of class time designing the invitations and program, planning and organizing the logistics of the

The Story of the Titanic

The sixth grade students presented the play “When the Good Ship Went Down” in the TIS Auditorium on May 16th as a culminating event for an interdisciplinary study on the story of the Titanic. Each year our students are fascinated with all the aspects of the Titanic, from the building of the ship, to the passengers and crew on board, to the events of that fateful night and the lessons learned that contributed to major turning points in history.

Following the play, family and friends enjoyed refreshments in the Middle School Commons while perusing student created Passenger Journals.



event, as well as purchasing and making all the refreshments, including homemade cookies.

For the Showcase, students prepared a visual display of their projects and writings from second semester. In their oral presentations they shared and reflected on what they had learned. Throughout the Showcase, the students demonstrated not only what they have learned this year, but how they have grown this year.





Grant Provides an Experience to Remember about Destructive Nationalism

The 7th grade class travelled to Oklahoma City on May 16 to visit the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum. This trip was funded by an awarded grant Mr. William Bergkamp, our 7th grade history teacher, wrote. The 7th grade team was most excited to receive the grant. Mr. Bergkamp's lesson ties the 7th graders' studies of "destructive nationalism" in other countries to the tragedy in Oklahoma City. During the visit, students heard first person accounts of that day, received an overview from a park ranger, and toured the memorial and the museum. The picture above is the 7th grade class sharing thoughts of being changed forever by the horrific event at the memorial's reflecting pool.

One Tab at a Time

Middle School students collected pull tabs from aluminum cans to benefit the Ronald McDonald House throughout the year. Led by Megan Perez, Christian Vergnes, Quade Truby, and Travis Biehler our students collected 36 pounds of pull tabs - that is over 46,000 pull tabs - a perfect example of how little things can make a big difference!



What Does True Beauty Mean to You?

We spend much time in 7th grade English reading novels containing some tough material. From the Holocaust in Europe to the Apartheid in South Africa, we are immersed in how the world hated people for how they looked and for the lives they led. What if we all looked the same? What if we were all what the world thinks beautiful should look like? Could we eliminate hate? Mrs. Jackson asked her students to tell her what they thought true beauty was. The responses blew her away. She wishes she could share them all with you! Please enjoy these two essays written by Travis Biehler and Emme Goodin as they tell you what true beauty looks like to them.

True Beauty by Emme Goodin

True beauty is both on the inside and on the outside. True Beauty comes from within. If you have a beautiful heart and soul you will, no matter what, be beautiful on the outside. The way a person with true beauty holds him or her self's emotions or thoughts is also a part of true beauty. If a person is disrespectful, selfish, or stuck-up, that person is truly ugly. You don't have to be smart or smashing to be truly beautiful, you just have to be yourself.

If you could go into a truly beautiful person's heart, it would be like going to Disney World for the first time. It would be radiantly shining and bursting only with good thoughts and no fears. It would be as big as the world or how Mt. Everest looks to an ant. Everywhere you turn would be another fabulous chamber filled with sugar and spice and everything nice. It would be full of happy memories, laughter and everybody playing along. This person would leave nobody behind even if it's the meanest, ugliest person in the world. Of course they wouldn't see that

person as ugly or mean, they would only see the silver lining.

On the outside you would still be able to see the all of the jumpy thoughts and joyful memories glowing and coming to the surface. You would be able to tell that this person is fearless and absolutely unscathed by the rest of the world all tangled in spider webs. Just by watching you would see kindness and radiance. After just a few minutes you would realize that this person is what you want to be exactly like.

True Beauty by Travis Biehler

True beauty is mainly on the inside, but partially on the outside as well. True beauty on the inside has to do with personality, and how you get along with someone and how they get along with you. It is also about whether they have a good heart and help others. The people who care the most about you are usually the ones that are truly beautiful. You can't see true beauty on the inside but you can definitely tell when its there.

Beauty on the outside isn't as important, but most people still would prefer a person that is just as beautiful on the outside as the inside. People sometimes judge others on how they look. If we think someone is ugly we usually don't hang out with or talk to that person. If we think someone is beautiful we try to hang out with or talk to that person as much as possible. A lot of people judge by outer beauty instead of inner beauty.

I think that true beauty is a combination of both inner and outer beauty. I picture a truly beautiful person as someone who is beautiful on the inside and just as beautiful on the outside, someone who is friendly and caring and someone who would respect you as much as you respect them. That's how I picture true beauty.



UPPER SCHOOL UPDATE



30th Year, Maintaining Excellence

The 2010-2011 school year ended in a flourish, with ceremonies, banquets, and graduation capping off an incredible end to the 30th Anniversary of TIS.

In late April, we celebrated an entire year of outstanding academic achievement and personal character in our Academic Awards Ceremony. Though we saw a few repeat winners, it was amazing to see so many high-achieving students, who attained “excellence,” spread out across our student body.

Early in May, we brought together the “old” with the “new” through our New Family/Alumni Picnic on Saturday, May 14. This is an event that can and should grow as the years go by, but even in its earliest stage, having an opportunity for Pre-Kindergarten students and parents to see in person what the finished version of a TIS education looks like is impressive.

The icing on the cake for my May, however, was the Senior Banquet just a few days prior to Graduation. At the Senior Banquet, graduating seniors, along with their immediate family, invite a member of our community who has had a significant impact on them, either educationally, personally, or, as in most cases, a combination of the two. After sharing a wonderful meal, each senior said a few words about their special guest. Apart from the sweet, heart-felt emotion of their words, I was blown away by how poised our seniors were speaking in front of a few hundred people. Though at times the Senior Banquet felt like a large family reunion—so many of the Class of 2011 have been together so long that seldom were last names used or needed—the humor, wit, and articulation of our seniors was, to me, evidence for just how powerful a TIS education really is. The night was simply marvelous. However, I still think my suggestion of making sure we have a box of tissues on each table was very prudent (my eyes seem to be getting just a little leaky as I get older).

Finally, seeing our seniors Graduate, turn their tassels, throw their caps, and dance toward the exit after receiving their diplomas was a perfect coup de grace to mark the end of the 30th year at The Independent School!

For the next few months in the Upper School office we will continue to be hard at work to see what improvements we might make so that next year can be even greater. However, we are ready to take a break from the hustle and bustle of a normal school year. Still, we hope you’ll drop in from time to time to tell us how your summer is going. Until then, enjoy your summer!



MR. BRENT SPICER, HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL

5 State Journalism Winners

12 State Qualifiers for the Kansas Scholastic Press Association Journalism from The Independent School went to Lawrence to compete among 600 State Qualifiers from Kansas.

Students from The Independent School returned to Wichita with 5 STATE WINS! The following students were honored in the listed categories:

1st Student Life Photography: Sam Carter (See the photo on page 14 of the Athletic Update.)
2nd Newspaper Sports: Nicole Fox
2nd Year Book Copy Writing: Rachel DeMyers
Honorable Mention Newspaper Sports: Matt Kaufman
Honorable Mention Editorial Cartoon: Ryan Malone

Highlighting Forensics

It has been a busy season for the TIS forensics team with 14 students starting competition early in February. From prose readings to informative speeches, and duets to improvisation, these students have seen their efforts pay off with students having earned 57 individual medals throughout the season. In an activity where students of all experience levels compete in the same division, this is quite an accomplishment for a squad of ten first and second year students. February was a busy month, and the students' final task before going on spring break in March was to host the TIS invitational on March 15th. With the help of many volunteer judges, our team was able to host a tournament for approximately 160 entries from 12 schools. This tournament was a huge success with many students and coaches commenting on the professionalism and competence of our students as well as the quality of judging. **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE THIS TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS!**

After returning from break, it was a race to the end of the season with various invitational tournaments as well as league and national qualifying competitions. On Tuesday, March 29th, 13 students boarded a bus at 6:00 in the morning to make the long trek to Medicine Lodge for the CPL tournament. Among some fierce competition, the team came away with nine medals and three League Champions. Colleen Zirkle placed first in Informative Speaking and Poetry Interpretation and Danielle Allen placed first in Humorous Solo Acting. The following students placed in the top six in one or more events: Rachel DeMyers, Will Gunder-son, Alan Liu, Sam McCoy, Emily Ramseyer, and Josh Werner. On April 15th and 16th, Sam McCoy was our lone representative to the NFL national qualifying tournament at Campus High School in Haysville. He had a fabulous showing in Original Oration (persua-sive speaking), advancing to the semi-final round and placing 9th out of a field of approximately 30 of the areas top competitors in that event. While this did not qualify him for the National tournament in Dallas, he did a fabulous job as a sophomore and gained valuable experience for future competitions.

As with most school activities, the forensics season culminated with the KSHSAA State tournament. This year, the team qualified 12 events to the State Cham-pionships and festival, but due to conflicts with State



and National competitions of other groups, only five students were able to represent TIS at Wichita East on Saturday May 7th. Viktor LaFave earned a II rating at the State Festival with his Humorous Solo, "The Trials of Robin Hood." Dan Gebhart, Alan Liu, Sam McCoy, and Colleen Zirkle combined for six total entries in the State Championships tournament where between 35 and 40 students competed in each event. All four students competed well placing in the top half of each event, and by placing in the top 12 after preliminary rounds, Sam and Colleen advanced to semifinals and then on to finals earning State medals. Individual results are listed below.

Dan Gebhart – 14th with his Humorous Solo, "Action News: Now with 10% More Action"
Alan Liu – 16th in Extemporaneous Speaking, an event which requires students to prepare a speech on a current events topic in 30 minutes
Sam McCoy – 6th in Informative Speaking and 19th in Oration with his speeches on lying and taking risks.
Colleen Zirkle – 2nd with her Informative speech on memory, and State Champion in Poetry with her selection of poetry from the book "What Learning Leaves"

These students represented TIS well, rounding out a great season for the third year in the rejuvenation of the Panther forensics team!

Complete results of the season are located on the forensics homework page.
http://www.theindependentschool.com/Academics/US_Homework/Lyndie_Glidewell_Forensics.asp

FINE ARTS UPDATE



Good News = 6 Jester Awards!

The US drama department's production of musical, *Good News!* is awarded six Jester Awards from Music Theatre of Wichita! Awards were given for the following:

- Outstanding Ensemble
- Outstanding Choreography by Joshua Larson
- Outstanding Production Number: "The Varsity Drag"
- Outstanding Costumes by Emily Ottaway
- Outstanding Graphic Design by Rachel Manning & Debra Cole
- Outstanding Lobby Display by Mackenzie Cole & TIS Camera Crew

Choir and Band State and Festival Ratings

Upper School vocalists compete at the state level in Gypsou, Kansas. Christine Roberts and Amy Yeskie both received I ratings. Cassie Heflin, Brian Wise, and Nicole Fox all received II ratings. The TIS Ladies Ensemble consisting of Mackenzie Cole, Jessica Fisher, Christine Roberts, Amy Yeskie, Cassie Heflin, and Nicole Fox received a II rating on their performance. Way to Go TIS singers!

The Upper School Band Received a 2-2-1 rating from the judges at CPL Music Festival. The Clarinet Quartet of Megha Ganghadar, Talisa Hernandez, Abby Morris, and Daniel Moon received a 2. The Flute Trio of Casey Beer, Marcette Perales, and Hayley Worth received a 1. The Saxophone Trio of Emily Grainger, Emily Hernandez, and Evan Olson received a 1. Also receiving 1's for solo performances were Evan Olson, Marcette Perales, and Michael Doyel.

The Middle School Band received a 1-1-1 rating from the judges at the CPMSL Music Festival. Soloist Casey Shaw received a 1 for his flute solo performance.

John Phillips Sousa Award

Senior, Michael Rice was awarded the John Phillips Sousa Award at the final band concert on May 9. Mr. Clements commented on Michael's dedication to the band program, his perfect attendance for all pep band activities, and his continuing focus on improving his musical skills. The award has been distributed by band directors to the best high school band students across the nation since 1955. The award recognizes superior musicianship, dependability, loyalty, and cooperation. Congratulations Michael!



Star Awards

On Friday, May 13, the TIS drama community donned all their finery and turned out for the 2011 Drama Celebration and Star Awards. This has been an amazing year in the US drama department and here are the highlights from the Star Awards.



Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Member
Jordan Speed for *Good News!*
Rachel Manning for *Good News!*

Outstanding Performance by a Newcomer- Actress
Anya Pierson for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Outstanding Performance by a Newcomer- Actor
Quinn Kastner for *Emma*

Outstanding Stage Manager
Mackenzie Cole and Derek Parks for *Emma*

Outstanding Actress in a Cameo Role
Christine Roberts for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Outstanding Actor in a Cameo Role
Danny Gebhart for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Outstanding Poster Design
Ryan Malone for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Outstanding Actress in a Supporting Role
Nicole Fox for *Good News!*

Outstanding Actor in a Supporting Role
Corban Aspegren for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Outstanding Technical Achievement
Running Crew (Christine Roberts, Brendan Jester, Anya Pierson, Brian Wise, Misha Yakubovich) for *Emma*

Outstanding Actor in a Leading Role
Chris Grossardt for *Our Town*

Outstanding Actress in a Leading Role
Colleen Zirkle for *Our Town*

Special awards from Mrs. Ottaway were given to: Will Hartenstein and Scott McCurley for their Special Technical Achievement; Outstanding Drama Student- Michael Kay; Overall Drama Achievement- Christine Roberts

Summer Fine Art Activities

Don't forget to sign up for one or our fabulous summer fine arts offerings! Also, please attend a Music Theatre of Wichita show. Five of our students will be performing: Tyler Treat, Chase Farah, and Edward Strum will perform in *The Music Man* (June 8- 12), Emma Gunderson and Faith Northcutt will be in *Finian's Rainbow* (June 22-26), and Faith Northcutt will also perform in *The Little Mermaid* (Aug. 5-7 & 10-14). Tickets can be purchased through the Music Theatre of Wichita at 265-3107.

ATHLETIC UPDATE

UPPER SCHOOL SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

We had a great spring season- one of the best ever!

BOYS' TENNIS- CPL, Regional, and State Champions. Jake Norman Singles State Champion Sam McCoy/ Jacob Maddox Doubles State Champions.

GIRLS' SOCCER- Regional Runner-Up and recorded the most wins in a season.

GIRLS' SWIMMING- State Runner-Up 1A-5A Champions.

BOYS' GOLF- CPL and Regional Runner-Up, Sam Dunne Regional Champion

BASEBALL- Regional Champions

TRACK- Boys Regional Runner-Up Girls CPL Runner-Up and 3rd in State.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORT HIGHLIGHTS

BOYS' TENNIS- The team has had victories over Collegiate and Parsons. There were many outstanding wins by doubles teams and single players.

TRACK- The 7th grade boys finished 1st at Bluestem and 3rd at the TIS Track meets. The 7th grade girls finished 6th at the TIS meet and 5th @ Bluestem. The 8th grade boys finished 4th @ Bluestem and 5th @ TIS, while the girls 8th grade finished 6th @ TIS and 5th @ Bluestem. Several personal records were made.

Recent Graduates to Participate in College Sports

KELSEY EKLUND has been competitive academically and athletically. After making a difficult decision, she will be attending Trinity University, in Texas on an academic/athletic scholarship. Kelsey has helped lead the swim team to two Runner-Up State Team Championships, has been the 2nd place State Champion in the 200 freestyle for the past two years and was selected for the 1st team at All State. She is a National Merit Scholar and was offered several scholarships. At Trinity, Kelsey will be studying bio-chemistry and minoring in Spanish. She hopes to continue her studies to become a medical doctor.



ALLIE GRIFFIN is a competitive swimmer, but will pick up a pair of oars at Kansas University and join their rowing team. Allie plans to major in physical therapy and if that doesn't work out, maybe elementary education. Independent was fortunate that Allie joined the class of 2011 last year as a junior. She is an uplifting person always wearing a great smile. Allie helped lead the Girls' Swimming Relays to first and second place finishes at State and aided in the 2nd place State team finish for the past two years.

IMANI FENNER is headed south where she will be running with the University of Texas at Arlington. In 2010 and 2011, Imani was the State Champion in the 100m and the 200m. It is impressive since last year was her first year to run on a track team. Imani is quite an athlete. Since coming to Independent in her junior year, she has not only ran track, but played volleyball, and basketball. Imani will be majoring in psychology then hoping to continue her education to become a lawyer.

TINA LIU will be running with Brown University in Rhode Island. This is Tina's second year to claim the 3A State title in the Triple Jump. It is interesting that Brown was not on her list of colleges to visit until she received a call from their coach and visited the school. After spending some time with their track team, she felt it would be a good fit for her. Tina is not certain what she will end up doing, however, she will be starting at Brown on track that will lead to a hopeful career in the medical field.



CORBAN ASPEGREN will be playing tennis at Azusa Pacific University in California while studying cinematography. Corban has proven he is a serious tennis player and has participated on the Independent tennis team since Middle School. Corban has had a great season contributing to the team's great success. He was the CPL Singles Champion, and took 3rd at Regionals and at State.

BRETT SOUCIE will be playing football at Southwestern College here in Kansas. While off the field, Brett will be majoring in business marketing. Due to his receiving yards, Brett was the number one receiver in the State his junior year. Brett signed an academic/athletic scholarship in March.

Note: The picture above of Imani was taken by Sam Carter.

Sam's photo took first at the Kansas Scholastic Press Association Journalism competition in the category of Student Life Photography.

CLASS NOTES



Alumni Mingle with New Families

On May 14, Independent held its first New Family/ Alumni picnic. While the weather forced the picnic inside the Lower School gym, spirits were lifted by great conversations between new families visiting with faculty, administration and alumni.

RYAN RAMSEYER (CLASS OF 2008) and Mrs. Ottaway welcome the Medrano family's daughter Dani to the Upper School. Ryan graduated from Oklahoma State University this spring with a degree in Agricultural Economics and Accounting. He will be attending Ohio State University in the fall to begin a Master's Degree in Financing.



CLASS OF 2010 ALUMNI CASEY DAVIS AND RADHA NAGIREDDY meet with the Sumrall family and share their memories of the Lower and Middle School. Casey is studying at the Colorado School of Mines and Radha is at Vanderbilt.

Congratulations to our recent graduating Class of 2011 and welcome to The Independent School Alumni Association! Keep in touch! Contact Abby Koch (Abby.Koch@TheIndependentSchool.com) or Michelle Bolin (Michelle.Bolin@TheIndependentSchool.com) to share your news!

