

THE KODIAK NEWSLETTER

THE KILDONAN SCHOOL

APRIL/MAY 2010

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

I just returned from San Francisco, where it was exciting to watch the development of social networks and support groups for students with LD coupled with the explosive growth of new technologies. Programs like ooVoo and Skype allow students from across the globe to interact with one another for free, while at the same time, assistive technologies continue to develop and become more ubiquitous. Without a doubt, this is an exciting time to watch how technology is shaping both popular culture and educational strategies. We look forward to seeing you at Founders Day, when we will be able to share with you how empowering assistive technology has become for our community. And for those of you who would enjoy a laugh at my expense, please join us on the golf course on Friday, May 14, for our Annual Golf Tournament.



Skylar, Ben and Baby Reese Powers

INTEL'S BEN FOSS TO SPEAK AT GRADUATION



Ben Foss

We are thrilled to announce this year's graduation speaker: Ben Foss. Ben Foss is Director of Access Technology in the Health

Corporation. Working in the Digital Health Group at Intel, he leads a team of industrial design-

ers, mechanical engineers and software architects that focuses on improving communication and access to information for everyone, including those who are dyslexic like him. In 2003, he founded *Headstrong*, a California public benefit non-profit corporation, with the mission of forming a dyslexic community and encouraging LD people to join the disability rights movement. The non-profit's first film, *Headstrong*:

Inside the Hidden World of Dyslexia and Attention Deficit Disorder, was recently broadcast across the U.S. on public television stations. Previously, Ben served on the White House National Economic Council during the Clinton administration. We are honored to welcome him and his wife to campus at the end of May for the Graduates' Dinner and Graduation. Visit our website for more fun facts about Ben!

SPRINGING INTO MAY: GOLF TOURNEY & FOUNDERS DAY



Thanks to the early arrival of spring, Kildonan's campus is literally blooming this month, creating a beautiful landscape to welcome

families and friends for our exciting events in the upcoming weeks. On Friday, May 14, we are pleased to be holding our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament at the Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club. If you haven't

done so already, be sure to send in your registration form (and start working on your swing)! Proceeds from the event are going towards our Assistive Technology program, which, coincidentally, is one of the main focuses of our annual Founders Day celebration on Saturday, May 15. Prepare to be "wowed" by our second-to-none Assistive Tech Program. Students and faculty are eagerly anticipating your visit, so be sure to make your arrangements before it's too late!

2009-2010 ANNUAL FUND

A big thank you to everyone who has donated to this year's annual fund. If you haven't yet, don't worry, you have until August 31 to make your contribution!

MOGULS AND MEMORIES: FEBRUARY KILLINGTON TRIP

This year's Killington trip was packed to the brim with activities and fun. Students arrived at the mountain on Sunday, February 22, and following closely behind them was over two feet of fresh snow! By the end of each of the four days, the students were exhausted from all the power skiing and riding, and they were happy to relax every night in the warm, cozy lodge. Each evening, after a nice dinner in the restaurant, students had many activities to choose from to end their day. The most popular activity this year was the pool tournament that lasted three nights; first and second place winners (Alex N. and Louis M.) received gift certificates to a nearby ski/snowboard shop. Among other things, students participated in Movie Night, Game Night, and Spa Night. Watching the Olympics was also one of the top nighttime activities (not to mention a big motivator as everyone hit the slopes the next day!).



August, Crysta, Elyse, and Brycen



Louis, Tomek, and Alexis



Emil, Alex, Louis, and Liz

MULTIMEDIA MUSIC VIDEOS



Ms. W., Eric, Ms. J., Jamal, Nick, and Emil

Students in Mr. Costa's Advanced Multimedia class had a challenging final project. They were all presented with the same song (soundtrack-style, no lyrics), and they had to choose three words that described the feelings that song evoked in

them. From there, they needed to create a video that would evoke those same feelings from their audience. Each of the seven students in the class worked feverishly to capture the necessary camera shots and perfect their video cuts. While all of that took hard work and dedication, they were used to that process at this point in the term; it was their teacher's method of grading that was the real kicker! Mr. Costa invited four faculty judges (Dr. Lane, Mr. Wickwire, Ms. Jones, and Ms. Rosecrans) to view the videos and asked them to list the three words they took from each video. A portion of each student's final project grade was determined by how close they came to making the judges feel what they wanted. The students waited in eager anticipation as judges watched the videos and presented their results. The students and teachers had a lot of fun during the period, and it is safe to say the teachers were thoroughly impressed by the students' abilities in the class. Want to see the videos for yourself? Be sure to ask one of the students to show them to you on Founders Day.

WINTER TERM ACADEMIC EFFORT



Academic Effort Recipients

Congratulations to the recipients of the Winter Term Academic Effort Award: Rochelle C., Daniel C., Taylor D., Molly D., Elyse D., Evan D., Kristina H., August H., Susan J., Emil K., Alec L., Timothy O., Filipa S., Sarah V., and Alec W.! The Academic Effort Award recognizes exemplary dedication to learning, a commendable work ethic, and an independent and active desire to succeed. Students must be nominated by their LT tutor and at least two of their subject matter teachers. This term, Kristina H. and Sarah V. were nominated by all four subject matter teachers!

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME *by Mr. Martin*



Eighth Grade Literature in Troy, NY

Montagues vs. Capulets. Sunnis vs. Shiites. "From ancient grudge break to new mutiny ..."

On Friday, March 19th, Mr. Martin's eighth grade literature class traveled to Russell Sage College in Troy,

NY, to see Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The production, staged by the New York State Theatre Institute, was set in modern day Fallujah, Iraq instead of 16th century Verona, Italy. The plot and themes were the same, but Prince Escalus was now captain of the Iraqi army, and the stage set was made up of mosques and palace courtyards tarnished by bullet holes. After studying *Romeo and Juliet* during the winter term, the eighth graders were anxious to see a live production of the play. This particular interpretation provided a memorable experience!

CONGRATULATIONS, SENIOR CLASS!



Congratulations to the Class of 2010!

Below is a (quite lengthy!) list of colleges and universities where Kildonan seniors have been accepted.

Adelphi University, Alfred State College, American International College, Beacon College, CW Post, Curry College, Davis and Elkins College, Dean College, Delhi College, Denver University, Eastern Connecticut State College, Edinboro College, Fisher College, Hartwick College, High Point University, Johnson and Wales University, LaSalle College, Landmark College, Lesley College, Lynn University, Mitchell College, Mount Ida College, Mount St. Mary, New England College, Northland Pioneer College, Pace University, St. Rose College, St. Thomas Aquinas, Sage College, Savannah College of Art and Design, Suffolk College, Texas State Technical College, University of Redlands, Walla Walla Community College, West Virginia, Wesleyan, Westminster University, Wheelock College, and Woodbury College.

SMOOTH(IE) SAILING IN THE DINING HALL



On Thursday, March 18, Chef Lisa and the dining hall crew hosted a special event called NOISE (Nutritious, Outrageous, Intense, Smoothie, Excitement). Students and faculty were able to make their own smoothies by choosing from fresh, healthy ingredients. Brock & Co. also came equipped with free cups and tee-shirts for the students. What did the students and faculty think about it? A unanimous decision: they want more NOISE! Thanks to the kitchen crew! We can't wait until you host it again next year.

ATHLETE AWARD



The March Athlete-of-the-Month Award this time around was different from all of the others so far. Why? It went to an Elementary student!

Normally only upper schoolers qualify for the award, but 6th Grader Hailey McGrath's efforts on the ski slope were so impressive, she clearly stood out! Hailey was on the Varsity Ski team all season, and regularly placed in the top three spots in her races. She won the Women's Slalom Championship and was one of the top three ranked girl's skiers in the league! Congratulations, Hailey!

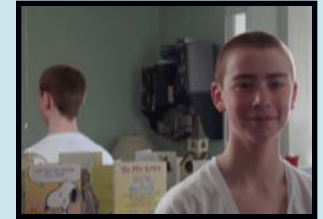
RESEARCHERS FROM RIT TO MEET KILDONAN STUDENTS



Researchers from the Rochester Institute of Technology will be on campus the week of April 26th to test certain Kildonan students who qualified to take part in their international study. The researchers are looking at

different strategies that dyslexic and non-dyslexic children use to read. The goal of the research is to advance our understanding of how children with dyslexia and other phonological learning differences approach reading. They are hoping that their research will make a valuable contribution to the methods that are used to teach LD students. The study is funded by the National Science Foundation and is part of the Visual Language and Visual Learning center at Gallaudet University. We are excited to be a part of this current and meaningful research.

LOCKS OF LOVE FROM FRESHMAN EVAN D.



If you've seen Evan D. around campus recently, you'll notice something very different about him: his hair is gone! Evan's haircut wasn't simply a way to cool off in the warm weather; he donated all 15 inches of it to Locks of Love! This was Evan's third time donating to the non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to "financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss." Evan, we are very proud of your selfless act, and we like the new 'do!

EDREV IN SANFRAN with KILDONAN STUDENTS *by Mr. Powers*

This past Friday and Saturday, two Kildonan seniors, Dan C. and Caitlin L., and I attended conferences and workshops in San Francisco for an event called EdRev, hosted by the Parents Education network (PEN). Dan and Caitlin are the two students who made regular use of the Intel Reader, an exciting new device designed to capture and read aloud text. Friday's focus was student-centered, when members of SAFE Voices and Project Eye-to-Eye (including Diana King's niece, Phia) worked with students from several LD schools on strategies to gain more independence and build communities of LD students. On Saturday, we were part of a group of nearly 2000 at the EdRev conference. As part of the PEN grassroots organization, the EdRev conference consists of students, parents, and educators



who are looking to effect change in how we educate students with LD. Speakers included Jonathan Mooney and Dr. Ned Hallowell.

What was empowering about the conference was getting all of the students together, many of whom have faced similar struggles and challenges. At Kildonan, Dan and Caitlin are 2 out of 100 kids with LD, and at EdRev, they were 2 out of 1000.

Groups like PEN, SAFE Voices, and Project Eye-to-Eye, and conferences like EdRev help create a community geared specifically to



meet the needs of our students, many of whom had little or no network of LD support before they arrived at schools like Kildonan. It was exciting to see Dan and Caitlin work on projects, like an art installation piece, and be able to build even a small network of new friends who can understand and support one another. We are currently discussing ways to include more Kildonan students in conferences like this in the future.

SPRING BREAK TRAVELS



Kildonan Faculty Member Andy Layton visited New Orleans over spring break, but his trip had nothing to do with Mardi Gras! Mr. Layton met up with a Habitat for Humanity group and spent three days building houses, many of those for people who lost their homes to Hurricane Katrina. This was Mr. Layton's second time volunteering his time to the cause.

DAY OF SILENCE

Over 70% of Kildonan's High School population took part in the annual National Day of Silence organized by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network. The Day of Silence is a pledge taken by students who participate. They also carry cards that explain the reason for their silence: that they are fighting back against the verbal harassment some individuals who identify as LGBT face. It was Kildonan's first time participating in this student-led movement that is in its 14th year. It was a meaningful and wholly successful experience for the entire Kildonan community.

BOY, TIME SURE FLIES!



Mr. Morris' woodshop class just finished up some impressive clocks that are currently on display in the Schoolhouse. Be sure to check them out next



time you're on campus!

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH
Students and Faculty are celebrating National Poetry Month by reading poems aloud at morning meeting and studying poetry in their literature classes. Thanks to Ms. Kennedy for leading the poetry-reading efforts!

New Trails and Campsites on Campus

If you've been on campus lately, you've likely noticed the timber harvesting going on southwest of the athletic fields. While the logging itself is complete, the reclamation process is currently underway. Kildonan is participating in this Forest Management project for many reasons, including improving forest health by promoting the growth of newer, smaller trees, protecting water quality, enhancing wildlife habitats, and creating greater biodiversity. The more exciting reason is that the reclamation process includes creating two new mountain biking trails (which are connected to the current trails) and two campsites, both of which will be enjoyed by Kildonan and Dunnabeck students for years to come!

A VENTRILO-VISITOR ON AN ELEMENTARY AFTERNOON



Sylvia and Chris Fletcher wowed the Elementary School on April 14th with Sylvia's virtuoso ventriloquism. As she entertained us with the antics of a fireless, but smoking dragon, a latino opossum, and a glamorous American Idol (almost won), she also explained how she learned to throw her voice without



moving her lips from a book (and hours of practice)! She told us how her characters came alive and evolved over the years and inspired us to create our own characters out of tennis ball heads. Our thanks to the O'Heaney's who brought the Fetters to Kildonan and to Sylvia and Chris for a wonderful afternoon.

UPCOMING ATHLETICS

VARSITY LACROSSE

Weds.	4/28	@ Millbrook HS	3:00
Mon.	5/3	@ Millbrook JV	4:00
Weds.	5/12	@ Masters	3:45
Sat.	5/15	HOME (Woodhall)	2:00
Weds.	5/19	@ Hotchkiss III	3:00

VARSITY TENNIS

Mon.	4/26	@ Berkshire III	
Weds.	4/28	@ Canterbury	3:45
Weds.	5/5	HOME (Dutchess Day)	3:30
Weds.	5/12	@ Dutchess Day	3:30
Sat.	5/12	HOME (Oakwood)	1:30

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 1	SAT Part I (Juniors)
May 3	SAT Part 2 (Juniors)
May 7	High School Prom
May 10	Upper School Field Trips/Testing
May 14	Golf Tournament
May 15	Founders Day
May 17	Upper School Field Trips/Testing
May 21	Elementary Horse Show
May 25-26	Upper School Exams
May 27	Graduates' Dinner
May 28	Graduation

*See you at the _____
Golf Tournament & Founders Day!*

EMPOWERING STUDENTS
WITH DYSLEXIA SINCE 1969

THE KILDONAN SCHOOL
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