

THE KODIAK NEWSLETTER

THE KILDONAN SCHOOL

JUNE 2010

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK



Reese, Ben, and Skylar Powers

Wow, what an incredible end to this school year. We had one of our most successful Founders Days ever, and that same weekend we raised nearly \$20,000 for our growing Assistive Technology program at the Annual Golf Tournament. For those of you who were fortunate enough to attend graduation, I think you will agree that it was an uplifting and moving ceremony, and both the student (Kristina Hobbs) and commencement speaker (Ben Foss) were electric. I am glad that we ended what I have witnessed to be the most successful year during my tenure at the school with such positive momentum, and it is exciting to enter summer with so much enthusiasm. I wish everyone a safe, relaxing, and productive summer vacation, and I look forward to seeing you next fall.

CONGRATULATIONS, KILDONAN CLASS OF 2010!



Congratulations!

It was a beautiful spring morning on Friday, May 28: a perfect day for a graduation. Sixteen

Kildonan seniors lined up in their green gowns and mortarboards, ready to accept their high school diplomas and, with newfound independence, move on to new ventures. As he welcomed the crowd and addressed the seniors, Headmaster Ben Powers remarked on the remarkable union of the class of 2010: their easiness with and respect for one another, and he advised that they never take that support network for granted. The commencement speaker, Ben Foss, thoroughly impressed and inspired the group with stories of his own dyslexia and his message about how to discover its advan-

tages and persevere through difficult times. Before the awarding of diplomas, students were recognized with awards, and senior speaker Kristina Hobbs (elected by the senior class and faculty members) gave an upbeat and nostalgic speech about Kildonan's impact on her life. Academic Dean Bob Lane concluded the ceremony by giving the graduates some advice but reminding them that their true guides will always be themselves. We are proud of and will miss the graduates, and we wish them the best in all of the adventures to come.

COLLEGE INFO FOR INCOMING SENIORS

On Founders Day, Theresa Collins and Jessica Hoyt met with parents of juniors to discuss the college process. An important matter that was discussed was the swiftness of the college timeline. If all deadlines are met, next year's seniors will have all their applications completed and submitted to colleges by December 1, 2010. That gives our students the

advantage of being the first batch of applications processed at many schools; often, students hear back from at least one school before the winter holidays!

While it can be a trying time for both parents and students, Kildonan wants to make the process run as smoothly as possible. In order to do that, we encourage parents to research and visit

schools over the summer and start the process with a list of schools before the October 1st deadline. If you need help narrowing down your choices, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Lane or Jessica Hoyt, but your Kildonan College Resource Guide has lists of schools that provide a good place to start your research. Good luck, and have fun!

CONTINUING SUCCESS AT THE 2010 GOLF TOURNAMENT

Even though the forecast for Friday, May 14 was bleak (for the week leading up to the event, meteorologists predicted rain, rain, rain, and lots of it!), we kept our fingers crossed, and what seemed impossible came true; after a steady drizzle all morning, golfers emerged from the clubhouse after registration to find SUN! 48 golfers came out to the Millbrook Golf & Tennis Club for the scramble tourney, and it's safe to say all 48 of them had a great time. The focus of the fund raising for this year's tournament was to support Kildonan's quickly-expanding Assistive Technology Program, and thanks to the overwhelming response of Kildonan families, alumni, and friends, we did just that. The final numbers are in, and this year's event raised over \$19,000: more than

twice the amount raised during the first year of the tournament. We were also thrilled to welcome more parents, board members, and alumni than last year, and the number of sponsors and donors also increased significantly. Special thanks to Tournament Chair and Trustee Patricia McLaughlin and Event Sponsors The Lang-Assael Family and Ed and Pat McLaughlin.



Mark your calendars now, because we have already set the date for next year's event: Friday, May 13, 2011.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2010 TOURNAMENT SUPPORTERS!



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Mason E. Snyder
Howard Sontag
Sunday in the Country Food Drive
Trotta's Liquors

NEW TRADITIONS: 8TH GRADE MOVING UP CEREMONY



For the first time in Kildonan history, the Middle School Program celebrated a Moving Up Ceremony to recognize the school's Eighth Graders as they prepare to move on to high school next year. The ceremony, which took place under the tent, began with remarks from Mr. Borden and Ms. Wistar. Next, the seven middle



school student council members were recognized. Each student's tutor said a few words about his or her tutee and presented him or her with a book. A Community Service Award was presented to Eighth Grader Jack L.. In a creative show of appreciation for the diversity of the students (and a fun, personal touch), Mr. Borden



and Ms. Wistar then presented each student with an "animal totem": a symbol representing the various unique traits of each individual honoree. The ceremony concluded with Dr. Lane's official welcome to the high school program. Congratulations, Eighth Graders, and good luck next year in high school!

SPRING FUN! CELEBRATIONS, AWARDS, AND MEMORIES

The spring term is filled with many emotions for Kildonan students, but through it all, there's always a happy buzz on campus. The warm weather brings more outdoor activities, and the end of the school year brings exams and final projects. Happiness, nervousness, excitement, and nostalgia fill the air during the last few weeks of school. Whether it be a class field trip, senior prank, dorm activity, school barbecue, student-faculty game, dance, or an awards ceremony, the students constantly amazed us with their energy, drive, and spirit.



EXCITING NEW INITIATIVES IN THE MS PROGRAM



*COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM:
Mr. Borden presents a donation to
Sharon Health Care Center*

This spring, the Middle School added two new, exciting activities to its busy schedule. The first, which became part of our weekly Tuesday afternoon Community Service program, involved get-

ting our hands dirty as we mixed together potting soil and water to create soil cubes for planting seedlings, an early step in planting a community vegetable garden. The bounty from this sizable garden, planned and organized by Dan and Mary Gates, will be donated to people in the local community unable to afford the cost of healthful green vegetables. Helping in any way we could, one afternoon we spread peanut butter along the perimeter fence to discourage deer from eating the plants. Next fall we hope to return to help harvest

the garden. The second new activity we initiated was a penpal correspondence with middle schoolers at the Carroll School in Massachusetts, which also serves dyslexic students. We managed to exchange two rounds of letters before the year came to a close. Many of our students included photos, short stories, song lists, and poems as they established connections with their penpals, and some will even stay in touch with their new friends during the summer. We certainly hope to continue this correspondence next year.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF KILDONAN TUTORS

The Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators establishes and maintains ethical and professional standards for educators and practitioners of the Orton-Gillingham approach. As an Academy accredited training site, The Kildonan School is qualified to train and mentor tutors and "fast-track" or preapprove their membership applications when we feel they have met the Academy's high standards at the Associate or Certified level. It is an intensive process that involves course work, extensive reading, completion of a teaching practicum, and submission of student lesson plans and profiles. The Language Training Department and Kildonan's

Teacher Training Institute would like to acknowledge the following Orton-Gillingham tutors who made significant progress toward their Academy applications this year: Sandy Charlap was accepted at the Associate level and Maryann Chatfield at the Certified level; Lisamarie Collaco, Patricia Whelan, and Kathleen Loftus have had their applications accepted by KTTI, pending final approval by the Academy; Joy Klvana and Joanne Taber have had their lesson plans and profiles approved and will apply as soon as they have completed their readings and observations. They should be congratulated for their hard work and dedication!

FOND FAREWELL

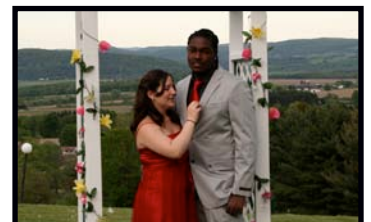


**The Kildonan
Community bids
farewell and thank
you to longtime
riding instructor
Pamela Bullymont.**

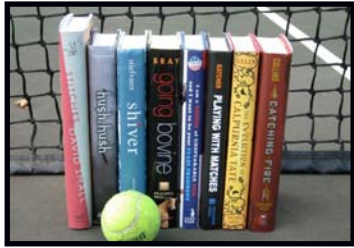
**We wish her the
best of luck in her
retirement to South
Carolina!**

"CASINO NIGHT" PROM THEME A HUGE HIT!

Check out these photos from the Student Council-sponsored prom in May:



WHERE EVER YOU GO, TAKE A BOOK *(by Ms. Collins)*



By now, Kildonan parents should have received information about the Summer Reading Program. The Summer Reading Program is designed in part to encourage the development of a lifelong reading habit, but it is also an important safeguard against “summer slump,” a loss of reading skills that can affect children during the summer months when they are away from school. Over time, those losses can accumulate, an effect that is crucial to avoid among our children who have already had to work so hard to develop their reading skills.

How can you support and encourage your child through this process? The most important way is to schedule daily reading time and ask children to read for a specified period of time; I recommend twenty or thirty minutes. Many children enjoy going to the library or browsing in book stores to select titles. Many libraries and online sites offer summer reading programs that allow children to log in books they complete, and they often offer prizes or other reinforcements. Help your child build a reading community so that s/he is not alone in the process. Listen to audiobooks in the car on long trips, sit down with a book while your child is reading, or take turns reading aloud from the summer reading book (though adolescents may be a little leery). Encourage adolescents

to read to younger siblings, neighbors, or friends. Practice reading a book below their reading level will help to develop fluency. Consult online book reviews to see what other students are reading this summer. Ms. Hoyt, Ms. Col-laco, and I review our young adult reads on our book blog, kkchick-swithpicks.blogspot.com. Stop by there to see what we’ve been reading. If your child loves or hates a book, encourage him/her to write a book review and send it to me (tcollins@kildonan.org); I’ll post it online to share with other students.

Kids love gadgets so consider investing in a cool tool, like the Mark My Time Digital Bookmark (available at Amazon or Franklin Resources), a bookmark with a built-in timer. The New York Times PageMark Dictionary (also available from Amazon or Franklin Resources) is a bookmark with a built-in dictionary that allows the user to save words s/he wants to remember for further study; it also provides word games and other content from The New York Times Learning Network. The more tech-savvy might enjoy logging their reading in the ReadMore app available for the iPhone and iPod Touch. A more costly, but ultimately invaluable, investment to consider is an eReader. Devices such as the Sony

Reader, the Barnes and Noble Nook, and Amazon’s Kindle can not only take the “book” out of books (for the less-than-willing reader) but also provide valuable text support. Users can adjust features such as the size of the text or the background color and use tools like a dictionary, thesaurus, or screen reader; you can store an entire library in the palm of your hand. Even if you don’t want to invest in one of these devices, which range from about \$149 to \$249, it is fairly simple to download their software onto your existing computer. Digital text is increasingly available at online bookstores. I don’t own a Nook yet, but my husband does, so I downloaded Barnes and Noble’s free eReader software onto my computer and my iPod so that I could share his digital books. Now I always have something to read, even when I’m standing in line in the grocery store.

Have fun and be safe this summer, but whatever you do, be sure to encourage summer reading; you’ll be glad you did.

