

A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Keystone Parents,

The Upper School student pencil drawings of water jars look like they are shimmering in the afternoon light of the cafeteria. Around the corner, the third grade's Van Gogh inspired flower vases lend a whimsical feeling to the smaller dining hall. It is nice seeing the student art displayed around campus. It is also impressive.

There are a number of installations throughout the buildings now, which was not the case in July. Rather rapidly, blank walls and empty cases are filling with student work from every grade. In addition to the breadth and diversity of the projects, the quality is noteworthy. My eyes are drawn to the details, like the jester hat on Siona Monocha's clay clown and the red and yellow jumpsuit on Max Vilagi's piece (all of the second grade's work – ceramic clown sculptures – is displayed on top of the cabinets in the Parlor outside my office). A group of wire sculptures done by the eighth graders occupies the top of the display case in the main entrance. They are intriguing, and I especially like Natalie Boucards' "The Gymnast," with its twisting silver ribbon that seems to be swirling through the air. On the shelves below, the ninth grade ceramics pieces look good enough to eat. Daniel Salas' tomato sandwich, in particular, looks like the real thing, although there is a lavender-colored vegetable that looks a little too wormlike for my appetite.

Just yesterday, Admission Director Zina Wormley hosted a coffee for preschool directors in San Antonio. As they toured the campus, they noted the variety of displays and the presence of creativity throughout our program, from the aforementioned art to the fourth grade Native American dwelling models (some of which look like they belong in the Witte) to the second grade water-cycle displays (which include posters, dioramas, board games, and even illustrated books). One of the preschool directors noted that she "knew of Keystone's academic reputation, but was amazed to see the level and quality of art and creativity incorporated into the program."

The above sentiments reflect my own. Keystone's reputation of academic excellence is well justified and celebrated, but there is equal value, energy, and quality throughout the educational experience, including the arts. In addition to the impressive studio work displayed around campus, it is hard to miss the quality of the performing arts. As I perused a photograph captured by senior Marisa Luckie (a wonderful piece in which two of her classmates are blowing glitter into the camera lens), a number of third and fourth graders in the aftercare program were practicing their recorders together, while two young middle school students strummed guitars in the corner, all ably displaying impressive skills as well as reflecting joy in their performance. Later that evening, high school students gathered to rehearse for their upcoming performance of "Twelfth Night," which opens October 21, and which promises to continue to the tradition of superb theater at Keystone.

Please take a look around campus next time you get a chance, and I think you too will appreciate, enjoy, and be impressed by the creativity and artistry abundantly displayed.

All my best,
Brian



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Happy October! I always love this month, when it's cooled off a bit, and the holiday rush has not yet started. The school year is well underway, and (hopefully) everyone has settled into the routine.

The PTO has been busy this fall. After all the start-of-school activities, we have settled into our routine of recruiting volunteers for school functions, collecting box tops, providing monthly Teacher Appreciation lunches, tabulating requests for the Wish List program, and planning for upcoming events. We've been working with faculty and staff on organizing teams for Odyssey of the Mind and arranging guest speakers.

We had our first general PTO meeting on September 30. Mr. Yager gave us a briefing on the state of the school, and addressed some of the issues identified in the surveys conducted last year. The division heads talked about extracurricular activities available for each grade level, and Ms. Rabke and Mr. Moore spoke about updates to the webpage and RenWeb program.

There is a lot of Keystone activity coming up this month and next: admissions Open House, a Meet-the-Author coffee, Grandparent's Day, guest speakers, sports events, theater productions- the list goes on. Please check Angela Rabke's emails and the website for details on everything that's happening.

Thank you very much to everyone who has volunteered and helped out with PTO activities already. If you put your name on the list and we haven't called on you yet, rest assured, we will! The school year is off to a great start, and we want to keep it going that way. The Annual Fund drive reminds us that Keystone really depends on the support of all of us to be the wonderful place it is for our kids. Your participation in the PTO is also part of what makes Keystone special.

Best wishes,
Erika Honoré

KEYSTONE COMMUNITY SAFETY

The City of San Antonio has now installed the signage required to enforce the City's ordinance prohibiting hand-held cell phone usage by drivers in an active school zone. Between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. or between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on school days, you are subject to being issued a traffic ticket if you are using a hand-held cell phone while driving between our school zone signs. Keystone fully supports this effort to protect our community members.

The installation of these cell phone restriction signs is an opportunity to review safe practices during our drop-off and pick-up times. Everyone should drop off their student(s) by pulling along the north curb of East Craig and having the student(s) exit a door onto the curb or by parking in the La Fonda lot and walking their student(s) onto campus. Dropping off in any other manner exposes your student(s) to unnecessary risk.

The pick-up process is complicated by the variation of class dismissal times and by the small amount of street area with

which we can safely assist connecting children with parents or others. The process goes smoothly when everyone arrives at the appropriate time. If your student is not ready when you arrive, please proceed to the La Fonda lot to wait or go around the block for another attempt. Parking on East Craig during this critical period causes the pick-up line to extend onto McCullough. Vehicles stopped on McCullough are in serious danger of being rear-ended. Please continue to the La Fonda lot or go around the block if the rear of the pick-up line is approaching McCullough.

If you have students in Lower School and either Middle or Upper School, the Lower School students are allowed to be in After Care without charge until 4 p.m.

Any suggestions of additional safe practices for these critical times of the day will be considered.

Jim Lindsey
Business Manager

KEYSTONE ADMISSIONS UPDATES

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTORS COFFEE, OCTOBER 14

This fall Keystone will host our first **Directors' Coffee** for area preschool leaders on October 14th. We have invited area school directors to tour campus, learn more about Keystone's Lower School Program, and meet Christine D'Alessandro, Brian Yager, and Zina Wormley. If you have a child in preschool, or are in contact with early childhood centers, please feel free to extend the invitation to this exciting new event.

ADMISSION OPEN HOUSE

Keystone School's **Admissions Open House** is coming up on Sunday, November 7, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. This is an important day for interested families to visit the campus and decide if Keystone is the right match for them.

The best advertising for Keystone is through word of mouth by our parents, students, alums, and friends who think the school serves its students well. Please take a moment to think of families that might be interested.

Zina Wormley
Director of Admissions

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Keystone PTO is excited to offer a new and exciting program for lower and middle school students called Odyssey of the Mind (www.odysseyofthemind.com): "OM" for short. OM is a creative problem-solving competition for student teams from kindergarten through college. Every

year, OM creates five competitive long problems that are solved over weeks and months. The problems range from the very technical, building of a structure, to artistic or performance based problems. All problems require an eight minute experiment/skit/presentation of the solution. There is always a need for acting, props, and scripts. Two of the problems always require technical work as well in either building a structure or some sort of moving vehicle. You don't have to act if you don't want to and you don't have to build either. This is a team problem-solving competition and requires everyone to learn to work with one another. There are no right answers and there are no wrong answers to the problems, there are only unique and original answers created by the student teams who are responsible for all work and ideas. Seven teams have signed up for the OM challenge! Questions? Please contact Courtney McKendrick at cmkendrick001@satx.rr.com.

PARENT CONNECTIONS

In the first three months of the school year, many grades school-wide have had coffee and lunchtime parent meetings as a way for parents to get to know each other, as well as sharing thoughts about how the school year is going thus far. It has been a positive experience and if your grade has yet to engage in this type of get-together, we strongly encourage you to give it a try. We are optimistic that you too will enjoy the camaraderie of getting to know the parents of your child's classmates.

PTO VOLUNTEER COFFEE



The PTO had a successful morning coffee social on Friday, Sept 10. While there were not many on hand when it started at 7:00 a.m., before it was over at 9:00, many parents had stopped by and all appreciated the early morning time that allowed a drop in on the way to work. Coffee was provided and the PTO also had donuts, muffins, fruit and other goodies to share. Although many parents came to check out what PTO opportunities were available for the year, the best part was casual conversations, renewing acquaintances, and meeting parents we didn't know. Be on the lookout for other morning socials as the year goes on. Thank you Sue Agrawal for organizing this successful event!

COBRA CHEERS TO . . .

Josh Halff, an 8th grader, was awarded the President's Volunteer Service Award last month. He received a lapel pin, a congratulatory letter from President Barak Obama, and a personalized certificate. The criteria for his Gold Level award was 100 or more hours of volunteer service in a one year period. Josh earned this award primarily by volunteering his time as a camp counselor at a Food Bank camp for less privileged children.



Parents, has your child received special recognition outside of Keystone in music, theatre, art, sports, community service, scouts, etc.? We have created this new section of KeyNotes to share these extraordinary accomplishments with our Keystone community. If you would like to share a special acknowledgement that your child has received, please forward the information to pattyswartz@earthlink.net (a picture is welcome as well). Keystone kids are amazing in so many different ways; let's let them know how proud we are of them by sharing their talents!

KEYSTONE SPIRIT STORE IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

Merchandise including apparel (youth and adult), decals, hats, and other school spirit items are now available for purchase from our Keystone Spirit Store. The store is open on the second Friday of each month during lunch and at our home athletic events. Please contact Angela Rabke arabke@keystoneschool.org or Patty Swartz pattyswartz@earthlink.net with any questions or suggestions.

PTO SPONSORED TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Thanks to our wonderful PTO volunteers, on October 26th our Keystone faculty will be treated to a delicious luncheon accompanied by a selection of tempting desserts. This is just one small way we can express our appreciation for all they do for our students each and every day.

GET WELL AND WELCOME WISHES

PTO extends our sincerest get well wishes to Ms. Jackie Sparks. We do hope you are feeling stronger with each new day. Please know your Keystone family misses you!

We also want to extend a warm Cobra welcome to Ms. Corrina Perez. Your expertise and experience will certainly be a valuable addition to our Keystone Theatre Program.



2010-2011 ANNUAL FUND OFF TO A GREAT START!

Those signs on the front fence say it all -- it's Annual Fund time! The Annual Fund supports all things Keystone -- classroom supplies, professional development, technology improvements, extracurricular activities, campus maintenance, student enrichment, etc. Many thanks to those who have already made a donation. We are on our way to reaching this year's goal of \$155,000!

While the dollar goals are important, participation levels are key as Annual Fund is a barometer of the enthusiasm and support within our Keystone Community, clearly pointing to the prospects for continued excellence and growth of Keystone School. Outside donors consider participation levels when deciding where to give so our Grade Level Chairs are hard at work encouraging 100% Annual Fund participation.

There are many great incentives being offered by grade for participation. To be counted for the participation incentives, contributions or pledges (to be fulfilled by May 31st) must be made by the official close of Annual Fund on November 19. You can donate online using your credit card or drop a check in the tuition box with "Annual Fund" noted on memo line. Thank you for your support of Keystone School, and don't hesitate to contact your grade level chair, Annual Fund Chairs George and Rachel Pedraza, Mary Burch (mburch@keystoneschool.org) or Shelly Hensley (shensley@keystoneschool.org) with any questions about Annual Fund.



FUND DAY 2011



Mark your calendars! Weather permitting, FunD Day will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2011, on the grounds of Keystone School. FunD Day has become a beloved Keystone tradition that brings together students, parents, teachers, administrators, grandparents, alumni, and friends in an atmosphere that is relaxed and pure fun. (And, yes, along the way, we raise money to support Keystone School!)

Bounce houses and inflatable slides, balloon pop, gorgeous face painting, kiddie games, crazy hair, wacky photo booth, cake walk, and pie throw – this is just a sampling of the fun that awaits the kids on FunD Day. Add to that an incredible prize “shopping” booth, delicious food and desserts, and a top-notch silent auction, and you have something for everyone right here on our campus.

We have already assembled quite a team of volunteers! Thanks to those of you who have offered to take on leadership roles or serve on committees. We still have some openings though, and would love to hear from you if you are interested in being part of this incredibly worthwhile and fun undertaking. Please contact Shelly Hensley at shensley@keystoneschool.org.

TRADITIONAL HALLOWEEN SCHOOL-WIDE AT KEYSTONE

Halloween is a special time at Keystone! Our students' creativity is on full-display with amazing costumes and amusing activities. Students *will* have academics, but the day is also full of fun activities for students of all ages!

The schedule is:

9:00 – 9:30: Lower School Trick or Treating-(Lower School students have a parade around the campus, and are given candy by the older students)

1:00 – 2:00: Upper School Contest and activities including the costume parade and dance contest (Middle School watches)

2:00 – 3:30: Middle School Costume parade and contests including a costume parade, relay games, and performances



CURRENTLY ON DISPLAY — 8TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE ART

As Mr. Yager's letter indicates, there is some wonderful art on display around campus. This edition of "Currently on Display" focuses on our older students.

The Eighth and Ninth Grade work is on exhibition outside Mr. Yager's office in the main foyer. The Eighth Grade work is wire sculpture titled "The Figure in Action." Students created a sculptural figure in action using 16, 18, and 24 gauge wire. One of the challenges of the project was to create a relationship between figure and base that enhanced the feeling of movement. The Ninth Grade work is slab ceramic sculpture titled "Trompe'loeil Food." Students were inspired by the children's book Sam's Sandwich to create food items and plates using a ceramic slab construction processes.

Art I, comprised of students in Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth Grades, is on display in the Main Dining Hall. The work is titled "Reflected and Refracted Light Drawings." Students worked with tone and value to create form as part of a visual elements unit. This group of drawings works with the study of light and form. These works will be on exhibit until October 15th. Coming October 18th is "Color Drawings: Jasper Johns." The students worked with color as the last visual element in their study of visual elements. This color drawing exercise works with typography and color to create a sense of personal history, time, and spatial relationships.

Art II, III, comprised of students in Eleventh and Twelfth Grades is also on display in the Dining Hall. The work is Figure Drawing "Self Portraits" and "Figure studies from a model." Students in Art II, III finished a figure study unit using charcoal into wet gesso to create self portraits. Students also did studies drawn from life using as inspiration the "Shelter Drawings" by sculptor Henry Moore created during WWII. Drawings are rendered in oil pastel resist with ink and watercolor.

Mrs. Webster
Art Teacher



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL

Dear Keystone Parents:

Thank you, Lower School parents, for participating in the recent Lower School events - the Open House and Parent-Teacher conferences. I hope both events gave you a better sense of our programs, curriculum, and individual student progress, as well as helping you become better acquainted with our wonderful teachers. There is always room for improvement, so please let me know if you have any thoughts or suggestions.

We have had two interesting Monthly Coffees so far this year. Charron Holleron graciously presented the concepts and ideas in the book, "A Whole New Mind," by Daniel Pink. She did a marvelous job of facilitating a discussion around concepts that addressed our cognitive experiences and how we use those experiences to interact and learn. The second coffee was led by Gabriel Gonzales who gave a comprehensive outline of his 3rd and 4th grade recorder program in music. Both presentations were heartfelt, well-received and appreciated by those who attended.

Kindergarten students are completing their "pinch pot pumpkins" during their time in art. This project is an introduction to clay and glazing. First graders have started a new unit focusing on "shapes" in people and animals. They are studying work by Keith Hearing and other master painters. Studying art of the Aborigines, the second grade is making animals while incorporating their study of shapes. Third grade is finishing up their collage unit and observing works by Van Gogh. These beautiful pieces are hanging in the lunchroom, so please have a look at them, as well as other work hanging throughout West Hall, the next time you are on campus. Their new unit will focus on radial symmetry. The fourth graders are working on scale and proportion of people, using standard units of measurement, and making Super Hero drawings. Thank you, Mr. Parker, for creating meaningful curriculum that is also fun!

Best Wishes,

Christine M. D'Alessandro
Head of Lower School

LOWER SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Keystone provides many interesting on-campus extracurricular activities for our Lower School students. Current options include Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Aragon Spanish, Math Club, Chess, Odyssey of the Mind. In the spring, French, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese will also be available. Please contact Kassi Micak for more information at kmlcak@keystoneschool.org.

LOWER SCHOOL LIBRARY NEWS

Kindergarteners brought their bears to the library on Thursday September 30th. Children and bears were treated to a bear story on the story stairs and the bears stayed in the library for a sleepover. The next morning, each bear was found reading a book, a book about a bear of course!

The Bridge Books is a new section in the library. Why choose a bridge book? Reading can be related to crossing a bridge over a river, the Reading River. Sometimes the journey can be a bit rough if the book is too hard or too long. Bridge books help children cross over the river of reading, all the while understanding and enjoying the journey. Bridge titles include Mercy Watson, Judy Moody, Magic Tree House, Ricky Ricotta, Geronimo Stilton and Boxcar Children.

Jean Reidy, author of Too Pickley and Too Purlpey! will be visiting Keystone on Friday November 12. In anticipation of her visit, lower school students will help create a special bulletin board display near the library.

The book fair is right around the corner. Sneak Peak starts at noon on Friday November 12th. The fair will run until the following Friday, November 19th.

Mrs. Vilagi
Lower School Library Coordinator

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

A new PTO committee has been formed this year to assist Mrs. Vilagi in the Lower School Library. Volunteers are needed to shelve books and to work at our fall and spring Book Fairs. For those with experience in data entry and a willingness to take the time for Mrs. Vilagi to provide required training, volunteers are also for cataloging new books. To volunteer for shelving books or working a designated time slot at one of our Book Fairs, please contact our Library Committee Chair, Natalia Weatherbie at natwbie@mac.com. If you would like to volunteer for the data entry project please contact Mrs. Vilagi at jvilagi@keystoneschool.org.

BOOK FAIR COMING SOON

Mark your calendars! The book fair will be November 15th through the 19th in the Keystone Library. More information, including times and activities, will be coming home soon.





A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School remains a very active and busy place! Our new Fifth Graders walk the campus with more confidence and have transitioned very well. As the first nine weeks end, the faculty has seen students settle into systems of organization, which even at the most basic level are a step in the right direction. Our sports teams are winding down their fantastic seasons. We have all been so proud of our teams' success!

Everyone is looking forward to the Halloween festivities. The competition in the gym from 2:00 – 3:30 is going to be the highlight of the month for the kids! They have all picked their themes and hopefully have begun work on costumes and class organization. November 8 will begin our first community service drive followed by a dance for the 6th – 8th graders on November 12. December will start with the Middle School's participation in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree project where students donate money and shop for winter gifts for San Antonio children their age in need. I have never seen a more heartwarming scene as our students carefully and thoughtfully shopping for other children. After early release on December 17 we will have a Winter Fun Day with an activity that will be voted upon by the students.

It's quite something that our students can balance all of their academic expectations as well as extracurriculars. I am continually impressed by them!

Michelle Rothwell
Head of Middle of School

A MESSAGE FROM OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

This year in student council we are planning to do many interesting things, but first we have to start with the fall activities. These activities include such things as the Middle School (Sixth - Eighth Grades) dance on November 12. We are also working on the Halloween festivities and some include a dance contest, mummy wrap contest, three-legged race, and a short film contest.

On November 8, the Middle School will be doing their first community service project. At the end of the first semester, the whole Middle School will have a winter fun day; the activities will be decided on a later date.

The Seventh and Eighth grade student council members led a successful town hall on October 1. We were able to discuss the Halloween activities as well as the dance.

We hope the rest of the year will be just as successful!

Until next time!

Your favorite Eighth grade Student Crew members,
Trisha Mulamreddy (*President*), Christina Rios (*Vice President*), and Michael Christoffersen (*Secretary*)

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Current options for Middle School students seeking extracurricular activities include:

- Student Council (5th-8th) - Michelle Rothwell
- Peer Assistance & Leadership - Alison Raymer and Michelle Rothwell
- Menagerie Newsletter (5th and 6th) - Regina Luckie
- Robotics Club (5th-8th) - Sue Agrawal (sueagrawal@satx.rr.com)
- Odyssey of the Mind - C. McKendrick Green (cmckendrick001@satx.rr.com)
- Service Club (5th and 6th) – Sarah Krog
- Sports (Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, Soccer, Golf and Cross Country) - Coach Ridewood-Hawk
- CSI Group (5th and 6th) - Theresa Powers
- Spanish Club (8th) - Marcela Greenfield
- French Club (8th) - Dr. David Caraway
- Model UN (7th and 8th) - Dr. David Caraway
- Chess (5th-8th) - Don Marcott
- Theater (5th-8th) - Tony Ciaravino and Corrina Perez (during Ms. Spark’s medical leave)
- Science Fair (6th-8th) - Jason Nydegger and Kathleen Darr
- Math Counts (8th) - Dr. John Frederick (jhfsan@yahoo.com)

PLAY ON!

Middle School Break Supervisors Lynda Ciment and Jose Armijo recently attended the Playworks Play On 2010 Conference at Columbia University in New York City, where they attended sessions about the latest tools, techniques, and strategies for positive play. Ms. Ciment and Mr. Armijo, with the support of Head of Middle School Theresa Powers, look forward to implementing some new strategies with our Middle School students at break, such as using rock/paper/scissors to resolve minor disputes, and beginning to incorporate “cheering lines,” which when coupled with new games, allow students to constantly rotate in and out of games. Eventually we will paint some lines on the blacktop when we see which games are most popular. We will continue to have soccer on selected days, but look forward to incorporating new games that align with Keystone’s philosophy of inclusion. Ms. Ciment reported that she loved hearing keynote speaker Toni Yancey speak about her program and book “Instant Recess,” which incorporates regular ten-minute exercise breaks to improve productivity, and Mr. Armijo found the information and knowledge gained from the conference “priceless.”

SCIENCE FAIR UPDATE

Keystone Science Fair is now well under way. How do I know? Well, my 8th periods many times now consist of students discussing their projects. From hair, to bird calls, to batteries, to sludge, to attic cooling, to nano-coatings, to mosquito eggs, we have discussed it all. Personally I never get tired of hearing their ideas; even the overly zealous ones. This is the time when the students become creative and spur the creativity in all of us. Students have submitted their preliminary research plans and proposals and are now starting their background research papers. Generally, students will be starting their bench research in November or January in preparation for the fairs they can participate in during February, March, April, and May. If you have a student who may consider doing a science fair project in the future we invite them to arrange a time to visit the labs while the science fair research is in progress. Please email jnydegger@keystoneschool.org if you would like to schedule such a visit.

Jason R. Nydegger
Physics, Chem I, AP Chem Teacher, Science Fair Co-Sponsor

EIGHTH, NINTH, AND TWELFTH GRADES EXPLORE THE WILD

Our trips to national parks provide the wonderful opportunity to learn science in the field, to develop leadership skills, to view awesome natural beauty, to see wildlife in their habitat, and to foster new and renewed friendships. The enthusiasm that our students express during discussion of geology or biology topics, debating environmental issues, performing the chores of preparing meals and cleaning after the meal, hiking to view unique sights, watching a marmot or bighorn sheep return the curiosity, and talking (seemingly without end for several days) to their friends refreshes all of the sponsors.



On the boulder at Goblins' Gate.

The Eighth Grade adventure to Yellowstone

included visiting a Wolf and Bear Rescue facility, wading in the Nez Perce River, seeing the unmatched color explosion of Grand Prismatic Hot Spring and Excelsior Geyser, watching Old Faithful honor its name with an 140-foot fountain of boiling water, smelling the odiferous omissions from mud pots, eating lunch while appreciating why the spot is called Artist's Point, descending to the base of the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River, exploring the interactive geologic exhibit on Yellowstone, ogling elk and bison from the safety of the bus, and



Grand Prismatic Hot Spring

hiking to the 10,243 foot summit of Mount Washburn. Mr. Howk entertained everyone with historic tales of the park and enthusiastic explanations on the geothermal wonders. The students rewarded the sponsors with delicious meals prepared on propane stoves. The ½ inch of sleet that fell upon us as we broke camp added a unique touch of excitement.

The Twelfth Grade bused through the rugged and colorful arroyos of Southwest Texas to Big Bend National Park. The highlights included racing down the sand dune in Boquillas Canyon, admiring the sunset from the Window of the Chisos Basin, teasing

Mrs. Krajcer with sightings of tarantulas, marveling at the many species of cactus, and gazing at star-filled skies.

Our freshmen traveled to the shores of Lake Crescent at the northern tip of Olympic National Park to study the park's unique ecosystem and to study how the Elwha River Valley will be affected when two hydroelectric dams are removed beginning next year. Highlights included a ferry ride across Puget Sound, canoeing, sightings of river otter, Marymere Falls, hiking through old-growth forests, spirited games of Mafia moderated by Mr. Yager, and gathering scientific data in and along Barnes Creek and the Elwha River. It may not have been a highlight, but there may have been some kissing of banana slugs.

My personal highlights were the constant supply of good food and the gentle snoring of exhausted students each night.

Jim Lindsey
Outdoor Education Coordinator

PLAY-OFF PUSH

With just a handful of regular season games left for varsity volleyball and soccer, the play-offs are just around the corner.

Coach Calderon's volleyball team is looking to close the regular season with a strong finish as one of the top two or three teams in the district. On Tuesday October 19th, the second season begins with the Bi-district play-offs. We don't know at this time where Keystone will be seeded, but if everything holds true to form, the "Lady Cobras" have a good opportunity to advance far in the state tournament.

The varsity soccer team, unlike the volleyball team, began with a rocky start. But Coach Luna's team has begun to show signs of turning things around. The soccer team can string three or four wins together and put themselves in a positive position for the play-offs. The next two weeks are very crucial in the build up to the state tournament.

Keep an eye out for the play-off announcements of games, locations, and times.

Let's Go Cobras!!

Jon Luna
Athletic Director

KEYSTONE BASKETBALL IS AROUND THE CORNER

As our amazing soccer and volleyball student/athletes wind down their 2010-2011 season, the Middle and Upper School girls and boys basketball teams are already conditioning in preparation for their upcoming season. Come out to cheer on our Cobras as they look forward to an exciting season ahead!



A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL

It should come as no surprise that more goes on with high school teenagers than classes, as important as those are to Keystone students. One of the best features of our Upper School is that students who discover an interest can usually find a teacher who will encourage that interest by sponsoring it. Below you will find a list of clubs, organizations, and informal interest groups along with the adults who serve as their sponsors:

Clubs and Organizations:

Student Council	Bill Spedding
Theater Club	Tony Ciaravino
Junior Statesman	Ray Boryczka
National Honor Society	Ray Boryczka
French Club	Sheila Mira
Spanish Club	Cesiah Boryczka
Yearbook	Dwayne Green
Literary Magazine	Karen Krajcer
K-Serv	Alison Raymer, Theresa Powers
Community Service	Alison Raymer
Science Fair	Jason Nydegger, Steve Hanes
Soccer	Jon Luna
Volleyball	Roxann Calderon
Boys' Basketball	Matt Schultze, Ralf Petiton
Girls' Basketball	Roxann Calderon
Softball	Jim Lindsey
Golf	Kassi Micak
Tennis	Dawn Lavelle
Off-Season Physical Training	Coaches

Informal Interest Groups:

Dance	Cesiah Boryczka
Chess	Steve Hanes
Astronomy	Don Howk
Music	Dwayne Green

All of these are busy groups, hosting events and involving themselves in community service outside Keystone. They provide opportunities for students to achieve personal satisfaction, develop organizational and leadership skills, socialize with each other, meet peers from other schools, and eventually demonstrate to colleges and universities that they will contribute to campus life in a variety of ways.

Mrs. Suzanne Elizondo
Head of Upper School

PARENT SEMINAR – NOVEMBER 10TH

Keystone is pleased to offer a very special parent seminar on Wednesday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m. featuring Jeff Wolfsberg. Mr. Wolfsberg is a nationally-recognized drug education specialist who works specifically with independent schools and colleges, and has appeared on the Today Show, Good Morning America, NPR, and Fox News. He works with schools to develop and sustain effective prevention strategies that reduce the harms associated with underage drinking and teen drug use, and has a clear understanding of the independent school

environment. Jeff will work with our Upper School students and administration from November 8th through the 11th, and with our parents on the evening of the 10th. We are excited about the upcoming seminar, and about Mr. Wolfsberg's time at Keystone! If you have questions or would like more information about the visit, contact Alison Raymer at araymer@keystoneschool.org or 735-4022 x 323.

To learn more about our speaker, please visit <http://www.jeffwolfsberg.com>

COLLEGE COUNSELING UPDATES

The following upcoming events should be of interest to our Upper School Students:

◆ **11th Annual Private Schools of San Antonio College Fair**, *Thursday, October 28th, 6:30 – 8:30p.m., St. Mary's University, Bill Greehey Arena*

Representatives from 150 colleges and universities from around the country will be in attendance. This is a great chance to learn about schools, meet reps face-to-face, and ask any specific questions you may have. (Open to all Upper School students and their families.)

◆ **Financial Aid Night**, *Wednesday, November 3rd, 6:30 – 8:00p.m.*

Sean Smith, Directory of Financial Aid at Trinity University, will present an in-depth session followed by a Q & A regarding everything you ever wanted to know about financing a college education. This event is open to all parents, but is designated to address the specific needs and concerns of Upper School students and parents.

◆ **College Planning Night for Juniors and their Parents**, *Wednesday, December 1st, 6:30 p.m., Keystone School Theater*

This event will begin with dinner in the lunchroom in Founders Hall before proceeding to the Theater. This is Keystone's big annual informational session for juniors and their parents, in which we will outline the college search and application process and provide a roadmap for the coming year.

◆ **Practice SAT/ACT Session for Sophomores and Juniors**, *Saturday, January 29th, exact time tbd*

Every year, Keystone offers a risk-free, stress-free opportunity for students to take a condensed version of both the ACT and the SAT under simulated testing conditions and receive scoring feedback from the folks at Princeton

Mark Your Calendar!



Review. Most colleges require standardized test scores for admission – either the ACT or the SAT. Many students find that they perform better on one over the other due to the differences inherent in the two testing formats. This practice test is a NO-COST way to find out which test might be the better choice for an individual student.

◆ **On-Campus College Visits**, *Parlor in Founders Hall, ongoing throughout the year, heavy in the fall*

Did you know that Keystone School is privileged to host admissions representatives from approximately 50 colleges and universities from around the country – and world – every year? Admissions counselors come from far and wide for the chance to meet our outstanding students and tell them about the opportunities available at their respective schools. For the schedule of upcoming college visits, go to <https://connection.naviance.com/fc/signin.php?page=guest> and login with the password “keystone.” Click the “Colleges” tab and then click “View all upcoming college visits.” College visits are open to all juniors and seniors. Freshmen and sophomores may attend those that do not conflict with their classes.

Shelly Hensley
College Counseling Coordinator

UPPER SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council is very excited to present something entirely new to Keystone this year: Spirit War. Spirit War is a year-round competition that will pit each of the four Upper School grades against each other. The competition will be centered around a series of monthly events. Points will be allotted to each grade based on how they place in each monthly event. The events this year will be: a charity drive for the victims of the Pakistan floods, our annual Halloween competition, a guessing game focused on the contents of a jar, largest attendance at a home basketball game, a laser tag competition, a dance off, a scavenger hunt, a trivia competition, and last but not least, our annual Field Day competition.

The goal of this competition is to help make Keystone more than just a place students come to study and thrive academically. Student Council wants to inject some desperately needed school spirit into the Keystone student body. Hopefully, Spirit War will be a good first step in that direction.

Mikail Khan
Upper School Student Council President

SPANISH CLUB NEWS

The Spanish Club is active in community service. On October 23 the students will go to Habitat for Humanity with the National Honor Society and help build/ finish building a home. During the first two weeks of November (1-12), we will seek clothing donations of clean and gently used clothing. We will take the items to Haven for Hope/SAMMinistries before Thanksgiving. Parents are welcome to send donations with their children.

The Spanish Club is also involved in cultural awareness activities. We will decorate the fireplace outside the Spanish classroom to simulate a celebration in Spain and/or Latin America for the following: for “Dia de los muertos” celebration, it will be decorated from October 18 to November 2, and for “Navidad” celebration it will be decorated again from December 1 to the 17. Our parents are welcome to come to visit.

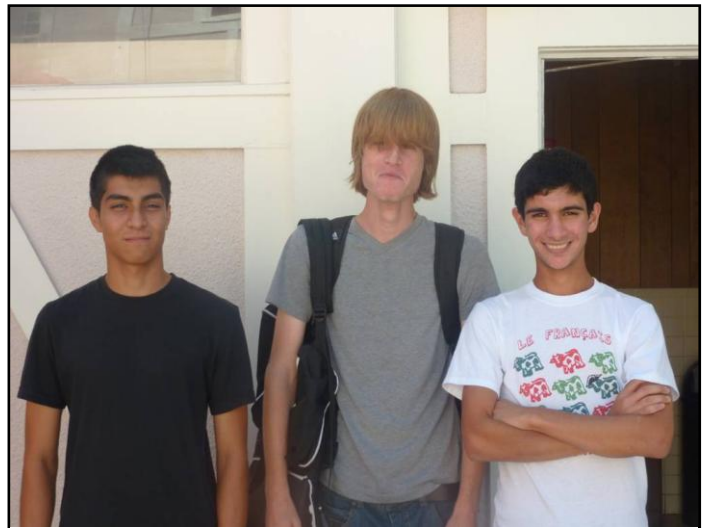
Cesiah Boryczka
Spanish Club Sponsor

SENIOR SPIRIT NIGHT

October 14th was a special evening for our soccer and volleyball senior athletes as they were recognized for their outstanding commitment and contributions to their teams. The gym was filled with excitement and Keystone pride. The evening was capped off in a most appropriate way by the Junior Varsity and Varsity Volleyball Teams upsetting Austin Concordia. Congratulations!



Volleyball Senior Athletes from left to right: Katherine Boyle, Caitlin Gaona, Lauren Godines, Allison Chisenhall



Soccer Senior Athletes from left to right: Kande Montante, Nick Renneker, Donni Mazaheri-Mirzaei

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2011-2012**

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**BOX TOPS FOR
EDUCATION**



The "Box Tops for Education" program is a great way to earn money for our school. There is a collection box in the school cafeteria. Thanks for supporting our school!