



KEYNOTES

A PTO PUBLICATION

*Building Community
Through Communication*

March 18, 2009

Volume 3, Issue 4

*This newsletter
is dedicated
to the memory
of
Dr. John Prince*



Inside this issue:

Headlines	2
FunD Day Details	3
Queen of Everything	3
What's Happening	4

A Message From Our President by Mark Steinhelper

We have much to look forward to as our children begin the final quarter of the school year. This issue is replete with recaps of recent highlights and previews of forthcoming activities. The final PTO meeting of the year will take place on Wednesday, April 29th. For those new to our community, this meeting is devoted to a humorous summary of the year provided by KNN (the Keystone News Network). We will also complete the balloting for Parent Council positions for the 2009-2010 school year. I encourage all parents and guardians to consider serving, and also nominate those you believe will effectively lead this organization in supporting our beloved faculty, staff, and students.

Sailing by Hugh McIntosh

Thanks to each of you with a student in your family who re-enrolled. Thanks, in particular, to the vast majority of you who did re-enroll on, or before, or just after the February 20 deadline.

It appears that we will have a robust Kindergarten next year with 28 students in it. With general re-enrollment and Kinder admissions done in style, we are now in that time when students new to Keystone will decide to join our community and plan to show up here in August 2009. When the situation is a little clearer, we will let you know how it all looks. We anticipate hearing from a large group of new students soon and working with others as they find us over the late spring and summer.

Admissions are exciting. When we see the right "match" emerge from the process, we are joyous. We are joyous because we can foresee that "bright and motivated" child thriving and developing fully at Keystone School.

The National Association of Independent Schools meeting in Chicago recently had as its theme: "Sailing the Winds of Change." I am very pleased and gratified that our Keystone community is both as unified and as strong as it is today, given the economic headwinds. Thanks to the support and trust of people in this community, this school is in "fighting trim" and ready for what comes. May Keystone experience only fair winds and following seas.

Fiesta Family FunD Day

Mark your calendars for an afternoon of fun, friends, food, games, prizes, silent auction, and so much more! We'll have games for the little ones and big kids alike, from face painting to balloon darts, and, of course, the ever-popular cakewalk and dunk tank!

Several new attractions are in the works for this year as well. Bring the whole family and plan to have dinner – we'll have pizza, burgers, sausage, and no shortage of sweets. Plus, the winners of our big **Spurs raffle** will be announced during FunD Day. You won't want to miss it! *(Turn to page 3 for more details)*

Saturday, April 18th
On the grounds of St. Anthony's High School
3:00-6:00 pm



From the Upper School by Suzanne Elizondo

Upper School has experienced something of a whirlwind (probably left over from *Wizard of Oz*) since beginning the spring semester. Our theater program has presented Shakespeare's comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Only two evening performances were originally scheduled, but capacity crowds for both nights inspired the talented cast, crew, and director Tony Ciaravino had to add another hilarious evening which also filled to capacity, and some people wanting to see it were still unable to reserve seats! The arts were also ably represented in Austin at the Poetry Out-Loud competition where Amy Robinson placed in the top 5. This was only the second year Keystone has participated. Way to go! Sports provide ongoing excitement in high school. Our AD Jon Luna has more details about the seasons and the exciting Varsity/Faculty game February 27, complete with a guest player, in his column. Science too has dominated this past nine weeks—first with the selection of Neela Thangada as a semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search—and then with the Junior Academy of Science and science fair, which culminates in the Regional Science and Engineering Fair at St. Mary's University March 9-11. (Please visit the Keystone website for the long list of Science Fair awards.) College acceptances are beginning to come in, but most will arrive at the end of March or April 1. Now is the waiting period with lots of crossed fingers. Juniors and their parents have begun to make their appointments to visit with me and Ms. Cihal, their college counselors, as they think about their futures. Re-enrollment has just closed and it looks as though the freshman class will again be full to over-flowing next year. We have had lots of visitors who are vying for spots in our high school. We will have some space in the junior class, if you know of someone who **should** come to Keystone and just needs a little encouragement; please feel free to give them that word. We would be happy to tour them and provide information about high school here. This note would not be complete without mentioning that many high school students and faculty said a sad goodbye to Dr. John Prince. Juniors and Seniors and many, many, many alumni were inspired to love science through his classes and mentorship in Science Fair. Students in the younger grades remember his encouragement as he "judged" their projects in grades 3-5 as well.

From the Lower School by Christine Booth

The Lower School continues to move through our school year with many exciting and wonderful experiences. For this issue, I would like to feature Gabe Gonzales' efforts, and the wonderfully orchestrated Keystone music program he has developed. Some Lower School parents recently gathered for a very thorough and interesting presentation by Gabe during the March Lower School Coffee, and we were delighted to receive a special treat with a performance by Mr. Gonzales. Gabe's many talents and his previous professional and personal experiences thoroughly benefit our program; his gifts as an Opera singer were obvious and enjoyable on March 4th in the music room.

The music program services students in grades K-7. Children have regularly scheduled music classes which develop an appreciation for music history, performance, and theory. These courses of music are based upon exploration, participation, and experimentation. Students are provided opportunities for performance that include class instruction with various instruments, including xylophones, recorders, guitars, percussion instruments, as well as voice.

The music program at Keystone school has newly expanded its current music curriculum with the addition of the following:

- Additional chorus period for grade K-2
- *Recorder Karate* for 3rd and 4th Grade (Modified)
- An Interactive Smart Board
- Interactive Smart Board Ready Textbooks;
Silver Burdett *Making Music Electronic Big Books* (K-6)
- Sibelius Interactive Smart Board Ready Music Software for
Music exploration and composition: Shapes, Jungle, City
- Bass, and Alto Tubanos and hand cymbals

Although Mr. Gonzales is busy interacting with all Keystone students on many different levels, he welcomes visitors and is available to answer questions or discuss anything relating to music and/or musical development in children.



Youth Service Day- 9th graders sort and package rice at the San Antonio Food Bank



Keystone Valentine's Day

Fiesta Family FunD Day (continued from page 1)

FunD Day is a parent-driven event, and there are countless ways you can help!

- Volunteer to serve a shift at a booth on FunD Day or serve on the planning committee in the coming weeks.
- Donate a special item to our silent auction or recruit fellow parents to help you put together a silent auction theme basket (auction items due April 3rd).
- Come to FunD Day, purchase tickets for food and games, and bid on our wonderful silent auction items.
- Stop by the silent auction preview on the front porch of Founder's Hall during the week leading up to FunD Day.
- Bake a cake for the cake walk.
- Don't forget to sell those Spurs raffle tickets – only \$10 apiece this year! (The top-selling class gets tickets to a Spurs game on April 15th!)

If you would like to help, please contact Shelly Hensley at hensley4@mac.com or touch base directly with committee members indicated below. Many thanks to those of you who have already done so much!

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| ➤ Julie Seal/Lisa Ewell | Games | ➤ Julie Baker | Silent Auction |
| ➤ Kathy Pavlovsky | Food | ➤ Roxanna Soza | Spurs Raffle |
| ➤ Jill Dunn | Ticket sales | ➤ Mary Burch | Sponsorships |
| ➤ Suzette White | Booth volunteers | | |

Mary Obregon: Queen of Everything

What doesn't this lady do?? She keeps our campus clean by working late into the night, she and Ms. Glenda plan activities for Lower School students in aftercare, she brightens the campus by planting flowers and decorating for the various seasons, and she oversees refreshments for all activities. We are sure she does more, we just don't know about it, because Mary is always in the background serving others. Her latest undertaking has been in helping the Lower

School students in her care make jewelry to sell for Keystone's spring fundraiser, Fiesta Family FunD Day. She has also helped them create a beautiful quilt that will be donated to the Silent Auction. The students raised over \$100 during their jewelry sale and recently presented it to Mary Burch, Keystone's Director of Development. Upon receiving the generous gift, Ms. Burch said, "There is no greater supporter of Keystone School than Mary Obregon. She is constantly thinking of ways to make the school better for the students, faculty/staff, parents and alums. We are very blessed to have her."



What's Happening Around the Campus

Keystone School
119 E. Craig Pl.
San Antonio, TX 78212
(210) 735-4022

Keystone PTO Parent Council, 2008-09

Lower School

Ann Bay (Secretary)
Mark Carolin
Roxanna Gonzalez-Soza
Lee Hutson
Shelly Hensley (Treasurer)
Marilou Tan

Middle School

Sue Agrawal
Jennifer Chan-Lam
Mark Steinhelper (President)

Upper School

Lisa Cooper
Erika Honore
Cheryl Pahwa
Amy Zesch (Vice-President)

Ex Officio

Hugh McIntosh
Mary Burch

Sixteen Mathletes® represented Keystone at the regional MATHCOUNTS® competition 7 February 2009. Individual competitors at this year's regional competition were Gregory Steinhelper, who advances to state as an individual competitor, Ashley Hawkins, Derek Lam, and Kevin Lee. Unofficial competitors were Chris Chang, Megan Daknis, Samantha Harris, Aime Joo, Arlene Lee, Supriya Mazumdar, Amanda Rothbauer, and Katie Uhler. Keystone's MATHCOUNTS® coach is Debbie Preston, pre-algebra and AP Calculus BC teacher.



FIRST PLACE TEAM at regional MATHCOUNTS® competition: Wesley Rodriguez, Sai Yeluru, Eric Duan, and Travis Howk. The team advances to state competition in late March.

CHESS CLUB- Tournament Results 2/21/09 Guadalupe Community Center



Keystone took 2nd place in the primary section (3rd grade and below): Justin Parsons and Fred Bosshardt tied for second with one other player, Paul Conroy had 3 wins, Alexander Johnson had 2 wins and 1 draw

Elementary section (5th grade and below):

Jared Zhao had 2 wins and 1 draw, John Wilkins had 2 wins



Left: The French Club sang to the lower school on Mardi Gras

Right: Alane Rivera, civil engineer and author of *Rocks, Jeans, and Busy Machines*, was a math club guest speaker



ONE POTATO, TWO POTATO, THREE POTATO, FOUR...



Each year the fourth grade hosts a baked potato sale to raise money for a charity. This community service project has been a fourth grade tradition for over ten years. Each student brings 10-12 baked potatoes from home and works a shift during the lunch periods to sell potatoes to the Keystone community. Thanks to the support of the entire school, their earnings were over \$800.00 this year! They are looking forward to researching and choosing a charity to receive their earnings.

KEYSTONE'S ROBOTICS CLUB (led by parent, Sue Agrawal)

is learning all about building and programming Lego Mindstorms NXT robots. There is a citywide competition to see which school's robot can earn the most points by successfully completing various tasks. The theme of the competition this year is the robot Olympics and the robot's tasks include ring toss, basketball, weightlifting, hockey, and a tug of war. These actually require the robot to move some washers onto a peg, put ping pong balls in a cup, push a hockey puck into a goal, and pull down on a string. The team is made of nine 6th graders and they are having fun making attachments and programming the robot to complete the tasks. The competition will be March 21st at UTSA's convocation center. Come and Cheer for the Cobras!

Save the Date

General PTO Meeting
Wednesday, April 29th
Featuring: Keystone News Network

WANTED: Textbooks for Recycling
May 2009
Drop off in Common Room