



Parents Good News

- Hallie England (McAlester) has been named an Institutional Nominee to the Academic Scholars Program of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) by Oklahoma State University. The scholarship is for up to five years with a full tuition waiver, plus \$2,800 per year for a total package of \$28,550. The University of Tulsa has offered her a renewable University Academic Scholarship of \$6,000 per year;
- Daniel Brigance (Poteau) has been offered an OSRHE scholarship in the amount of \$5,500 per year;
- Preseta Paul (Oklahoma City) and Keenan Smart (Moore) have qualified for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Scholarship.
- Emily Kish (Weatherford) has been awarded a \$6,000 Albright College Music Talent Award. Emily auditioned for the music department vocal award during a visit to Albright earlier this semester;
- Jordan Johnston (Oklahoma City) has been admitted to Georgia Tech.

REMINDER

Please notify Gary Salwierak or Donna Roberts as soon as you receive word of a college acceptance and/or scholarship offer. There should be lots of *Good News* coming in during the next eight weeks.

Students Help OETA

OSSM students helped bring in quite a bit in pledges last Sunday afternoon working the phone banks at OETA, Oklahoma's public television channel. The personnel at OETA were, as in past years, very appreciative of the way OSSM students conducted themselves, and of their skill at mastering the computer system the station now uses to take pledges.

Thank you to Hallie England (McAlester, '05) for being the spokesperson for her fellow students, answering a few questions from the commentator, and to all the other students who represented OSSM: seniors Caleb Li (Edmond), Preston Cofield (Oklahoma City), Sarah Kassis (Oklahoma City), Jacob Mayden (Oklahoma City), Roshni Patel (Oklahoma City), Emily Kish (Weatherford), Sarah Radke (Edmond), Blaine Riggs (Watonga), and Sarah Anoke (Tulsa); and juniors Jonathan Francis (Pocola), Lucy Liu (Edmond), Brent Luke (Shawnee), Patrick VerSteege (Cheyenne), Ashley Raffensperger (South Coffeyville), Raquel Phillips (Wagoner), Jared Vanderford (Burns Flat), Jordan Yozzo (Tulsa), Brett Taylor (Tishomingo), BranDee Weese (Choctaw), Adam Hemphill (Forgan), Camilla Rollins (Cashion), and Christopher Smith (Claremore).

PAOSSM

(www.paossm.org)

The next PAOSSM meeting is Sunday, March 20, at 6:00 p.m. Our guest speaker is College Counselor Gary Salwierak. For senior parents Mr. Salwierak will discuss:

- ~ Accept - Defer - Deny . . . the April college admission letters;
- ~ May 1st commitment date;
- ~ financial aid award letters.

For the juniors he will talk about summer activities and what you should be doing now toward the college application process.

Also at our March meeting we will be taking nominations for next year's officer team. The positions to be filled are: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary. All parents/guardians of current juniors are eligible. Elections will be held at the April meeting.

The work of the parents association is crucial in supporting students in this challenging academic environment. Please consider running for one of these offices. Our tradition of allowing couples to share an officer position makes it easier to serve. If you are interested in running, please let us know by email or nominate yourself at the March meeting.

Thanks, *Ed Eckenstein*

Senior Parents

If you ordered senior portraits from Karen Moore Studios, they are ready for pick up. Ms. Moore will be here on campus on Wednesday, March 23, during lunchtime, to deliver the portraits. If you live in the metro area and would like to pick your portraits up over spring break, Ms. Moore can be reached at 405/340-7445. If you send a check back to school with your student, please remember to add the 7.75% sales tax. You can call or email Ms. Moore if you need to know your balance (kmoore@coxinet.net).

Happy Birthday to:

Ashley Raffensperger	March 15
Daniel Graham	March 15
Dr. Chris Hamel	March 17
Mrs. Donna Roberts	March 18
Mrs. Johanna Lee	March 23
Mrs. Liz Schwertdfeger	March 24

Thank you to . . .

. . . students who helped Ms. Donnolo in the Admissions Department this week by hosting visiting students and their parents: Lucy Liu (Edmond, '06), Brent Luke (Shawnee, '06), Becky McMillan (Tulsa, '06), Ryan Fowler (Glenpool, '06), Christian Clanton (Guthrie, '06), Ruth Droscher (Norman, '05), Katie Barthel (Shawnee, '05), Sarah Radke (Edmond, '05), Justin Colvard (Hartshorne, '05), Preston Cofield (Oklahoma City, '05), Patrick Deakins (Wynnewood, '05), Zadora Hightower (Ada, '06) and David Eyster (Ponca City, '05);

. . . and to seniors Sarah Radke (Edmond), Patrick Deakins (Wynnewood), and Sarah Anoke (Tulsa) for attending the OSSM Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday. They each took a turn describing the OSSM experience and fielded questions from the Trustees; Oklahoma City seniors Nick Eckenstein, Jordon Johnston, Preseta Paul, and Stillwater senior Fozoh Saliki did the same for the OSSM Foundation Board meeting on Wednesday.

Math Students Move Further Ahead

The OSSM team continues to pull away from the field in the Oklahoma Mathematics League. In the last test (exam #4) Jason Chen (Edmond, '05), Michael Liang (Tulsa, '05), Mary Anne Peters (Purcell, '05), Keenan Smart (Moore, '05), and Dafang Zhang (Tulsa, '05) had perfect scores.

Joining the list of those students with high scores, cumulatively, were Kjell Sawyer (Blanchard, '05), Brian Lee (Muskogee, '05), and Amber Loftis (Bartlesville, '06).

Ceremony Joyful

The annual OSSM Teacher Appreciation Ceremony has become a highlight in the spring semester for OSSM seniors, and this year was no exception. Fifty-five teachers from across the state (David Eysters's teacher came all the way from Mesa, Arizona!) attended to be recognized by their former students for their teaching excellence.

As always, your Parents Association made the day more enjoyable by providing a reception for students and their guests after the ceremony. Thank you to Ruth and Ed Eckenstein, Carleen and Jerry Burger, Debbie and David Graham, Fahmida Khan, Carol Kish, Agnes and George Malatinszky, for setting up the reception and hosting our honored guests. AmeriServe catered the cookies and punch.

Also a special thanks to Jennifer Nguyen (Oklahoma City, '06) who electrified the audience with a brilliant piano performance, and to Nancy Burger (Oklahoma City, '05) for introducing Superintendent Sandy Garrett, and Chris Crowe (Ardmore, '05) for introducing emcee Tyler Suiters.

Counselor's Corner

Seniors who will be pursuing careers in healthcare professions are eligible to apply for a Tylenol Scholarship. Details are available via www.tylenol.com. Deadline for electronic application is April 30, 2005.

Russians Raise the Roof

Last Friday afternoon the OSSM community was treated to a rousing and spirited performance by Kristall Balalayka, a group of musicians from Russia. Their repertoire included traditional Russian folk music and national songs, along with modern popular songs from their homeland. They also performed their own renditions of American popular music blended with Russian musical styles. In colorful costumes they demonstrated folk dancing, and amazed the audience by playing complicated pieces on the balalayka, a three stringed instrument on which two of the strings are the same. If the ovation students gave this group is any indication, they appear to be one of the all time favorites to visit and perform at OSSM. Ilya Sluch (Stillwater, '06) made the performance more enjoyable by acting as translator for the performers.

Kristall Balalayka is on an American tour to raise money for renovation of an orphanage in their city. They will perform at Stage Center (phone: 405/270-4801) in Oklahoma City next Wednesday night, March 16. Tickets are \$15.00 or \$25.00, the price of which includes a reception following the performance, with Russian wine and vodka tasting, and an art auction (artwork of the children in the orphanage, and some professional Russian art).

Many thanks to the PAOSSM and the OSSM Foundation for bringing these wonderful performers to OSSM.

Mamma Mia "Reviews"

"I would like to thank the parents for buying the tickets. It was an amazing show, and I loved it. The only drawback is that now I can't get the songs out of my head!"

- Emily Kish (Weatherford, '05)

"It was an unforgettable experience. Nice to have Broadway here in Oklahoma."

- Caleb Li (Edmond, '05)

"It was amazing! I had so much fun because Camilla, Kierston, and I knew all of the songs! It did Abba so much justice!"

- Ashley Raffensperger (South Coffeyville, '06)

"The entire student body has been singing ABBA's songs since the play. Everywhere I go - student lounge, dorm, classrooms, the Great Hall - you name it! Someone was even playing it last night during check-in on their lab top. If that doesn't make it apparent that everyone enjoyed it, I don't know what does!"

- Mary Anne Peters (Purcell, '05)