

Headmaster's Message January 2015



Headmaster Fleming

15 IN '14

It just wasn't the First Family Luncheon held at the Larchmont Yacht Club that perked me up.

It just wasn't all those young aspiring T-D students performing before an SRO crowd that perked me up.

It wasn't just having two guardian angels, Leona Kern and Marion Borko, in our midst that perked me up.

It just wasn't hearing that Scott Su '10, after doing a four-year stint at UCLA, was now studying in America's most prestigious institution, MIT, that perked me up.

It just wasn't realizing that Lindsey Holroyd '12 is a year away from her Barnard College diploma that perked me up.

It just wasn't hearing from Jackie Acker that her son, Jordan '13, will be enrolling in Haverford in the fall and that really perked me up. Haverford is one of America's most elite liberal arts colleges and Haverford respects the minds of students with 800 verbal, 800 math, and 800 writing scores. No wonder Jordan was National Merit. After a gap year Jordan may be old enough to enjoy a "coke" at the local pub.

It just wasn't hearing that T-D senior Trent Shillingford '15 made the first cut at Harvard that perked me up. Some of Harvard's rejects are America's most successful businessmen.

It just wasn't hearing that Dylan Pizzo '15, also a T-D senior, is in the running at Yale. I guess his 800 SAT math score and 790 physics score cracked the door open. Just imagine T-D, Harvard, Yale, and MIT all in one year. Now that's a real perk! It just wasn't the good news heard from America's foremost colleges and universities that perked me up. Miguel Conkright '14 was just accepted to Swansea University in South Wales. It looks like Austin and the University of Texas will get the hook and the horns will blow loudly in South Wales.

It just wasn't receiving a Loyalty Fund check from Marielena Mullings that perked me up. It was hearing about Sage '11 doing well at John Jay in the City and Perry '12 from Penn State doing a stint at Columbia University in pre-med. Perry has to be T-D's foremost Lion alumnus. Columbia, Penn State, and T-D have roaring Lions as their logos. As soon as Perry becomes Dr. Mullings he will have fulfilled Dr. Allen's prophecy.

It just wasn't graduating in three and one-half years from Fordham as a business major that perked me up. It was Peter Soares '11 looking more like Mario Gabelli whose success in business is all too well known. Peter looked great dressing as he did. Pat, his mom, picked his tie out.

It wasn't all the mail that T-D senior Jacob Stillman '15 received that perked me up. Five acceptance letters and still counting as Jacob takes center stage. In the house are yes letters from the College of Charleston, Muhlenberg, Goucher, Indiana University, and Case Western Reserve. At least three more acceptances are due before Jacob goes front and center.

It just wasn't her post card that perked me up. Hearing from my Nigerian princess last seen here in the early 90ies was great holiday cheer. More interesting is that Nyuma, a Howard University alumna, is heading to Guatemala to continue her nursing career. As a T-D student Nyuma was an aspiring ambassador with Guatemala in her sights. She couldn't go then, but she is heading there now. The T-D bridge with Evelyn Rogers School only gets stronger. It started 30 years ago.

It just wasn't receiving mail from T-D senior Kyle Huang '15 that perked me up. It was the beautiful note written in beautiful English by this handsome hunk from Taiwan that brought great joy. This quiet giant from Taiwan is affectionately called the "chief". Kyle, who lives with a most caring uncle, bikes to T-D each day and all too often misses the morning bell. Maybe he could put the watch he gave me to better use. Thank you Kyle and for the New Year you get 15 free late passes.....maybe. It just wasn't all those highlights that perked me up at year's end. It was the last one by Kyle Huang '15 that really did it. I, like 30 others who serve T-D, only need a thank you to perk up.

You don't have to go to Kansas City to meet a chief. Just come through T-D's center portal and ask for that tall and good looking kid from Taiwan. He's T-D's chief ambassador.

Tonight I am toasting Dr. Allen.

Happy New Year!

Douglas Fleming
Headmaster