

Jubilation in June



Headmaster Fleming

June 9, 2015

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Dear T-D Families,

Any time Thornton-Donovan's wee folk are on stage the production cannot go wrong and, of course, Friday night was all right with me. Close to 100 T-D students flooded the stage and T-D put on one of its coolest performances ever.

T-D's little kids stole the show and T-D's oldest youngest kid, Alan Goodman, unwrapped a gift for all of us. The audience, with many parents standing in the aisle, didn't allow some mild discomfort to take away from a heartwarming Scandi performance. Actually the show was performance art.

It was only fitting that Alan Goodman spotlighted T-D's little kids. After all, T-D was born as a nursery and pre-K school well over a century ago. And the beat goes on

Rarely does an intermission offer more than a soft drink or soft conversation. T-D's intermission led to

its annual fashion show with Annemarie as the enthusiastic emcee and Almira Bubesi as a Danish Dior fashionista head. Each of

T-D's models dressed a la mode – Scandi style. Each model created his or her own outfit. Actually there was only one “his” as Lloyd Williams played the role of Olaf with great style and grace.

My favorite outfit was on Jordan Campbell. She looked more royal and regal than ever. My second favorite was Ciera DeVivo, the snow queen, who looked stunning and whose personal presence made her so charismatic. All of T-D's models lit up the stage.

Close to 100 T-D kids took over the stage and each was better for it. When it comes to an Arts House Café all T-D students become winners and teachers become winning coaches. Friday night wasn't just another opening and another show. Actually it led right into T-D's Alumni Arts House on Sunday.

THREE FOR ONE

It was a “Joseph A Bank” Sunday as Arrowwood, the Lusiadas Portuguese Restaurant and the White House all were in play. Three for the price of one is a good bet. My meal at the Arrowwood Hotel in Rye Brook was quite special with the food tasting as good as the weather was nice. Their breakfast was one to savor and all four of us did. The Aitchisons were in from New Hampshire and my wife and I joined them for early morning energy.

The Aitchisons' son, Billy, was a T-D student several years ago. Prior to living in Concord, N.H. the family resided in Mamaroneck.

My afternoon meal was to have been enjoyed at the Lusiadas in Mount Vernon. It's a Portuguese restaurant and if you catch it right, it works. Over 80 folks were there to celebrate Ilva Mueller's birthday. Jose Braga's mom just hit 80 and has a lot more high test in her tank. Arrowwood took such good care of me that I couldn't partake or sample the exotic dishes.

The third leg of my trifecta was at the White House as George Brokow '04, his dad John, an honorary T-D alumnus, and Andrew Crawford '06 entertained everyone in a room just full enough of admirers to be cozy. The three guitarists played a number of tunes about America before the Civil War. Songs about pioneers, coal miners, farmers, and cowboys were all in the mix.

In the midst were T-D parents, a few current students, family members and a number of alumni from close by and far away. The Crawfords, Andrew's parents, live in North Carolina and they traveled to T-D to be a part of the experience. Seeing Michael Schwartz '10 and Jennifer Schwartz '05 along with Zubair Khan '10 was quite a kick.

The whole day was like the Triple Crown and the pay off better than at the Belmont. T-D's three *American Pharaohs* belong in the winners circle and someone Sunday night should have given Goodman a Tony.

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Fleming, Jr.

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N.B. If anyone has a Radio Flyer Wagon T-D can borrow, please call ASAP.