



3/1/2015

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Dear T-D Families,

Almost all students on the Headmaster's List, as well as their family and friends, were on hand to applaud T-D's young scholars at the Honor Society Convocation.

T-D's featured speaker at the Honor Society Convocation set the tone. Halima Chourki, born in Djibouti, spoke about her earlier years, her parents, and her future aspiration. It only took seconds to recognize that this lady was a class act. As a would-be-writer and a most effective speaker, I kept thinking about how her life had changed and how proud I was to have her and her family doing good things for T-D. As one of my teachers said – "it is so easy to see her soul." Keep pushing the pen and T-D will keep pushing Rayaana at the same time. What a marriage!

The presentations began with T-D's author-in-residence Andrew Chapin saluting Molly Cummings for her fine work and achievement. Andrew would return to the podium to commend three other middle school scholars. All the platitudes fit the occasion.

Dr. Allen, last year's featured speaker, spoke about Izzy Rhodes and her prowess in his science classes. Dr. Allen knows how to command an audience's attention even in a casual setting.

Jake Stillman heard a plethora of words each one more laudatory than the other. Mr. Van Lesberghe, Jake's world religions teacher, made Jake, the Man, sit still as he described him with the most flattering words. After Mr. Van Lesberghe's lionizing, Jake was given a miniature Oscar. It should be the first in a series for Jake wants to be an actor. Will there be another one? God only knows!

Other T-D teachers heaped words of praise, told stories, and tales out of school. Almira Bubesi, Steven Schlitten, Ginny Light, and "Mr. Wendall" elevated everyone's spirits.

One of the most effective speakers had to have been Don Johnson. As Dylan Pizzo's teacher for 22 different courses spanning over 2,000 classroom hours, T-D's Euclid narrated a piece that would make any parent's chest too big for the rib cage, only Johnson wasn't exaggerating. The text he prepared took everyone on the 7th floor to a higher place. His presence, his voice, his clarity, and the esteem with which he held Dylan Pizzo was riveting. Sometimes a dad, sometimes a parent, sometimes a preacher, sometimes a Harley head, sometimes an arm wrestler, sometimes just a regular guy, Johnson's words should be printed somewhere.

T-D's final young scholar to be recognized was Stephanie Rzyk, a junior and T-D lifer. All I had to do as headmaster was

pass the microphone over to her and she made it clear that she was our number one student.

The program concluded with two families uttering words of praise too – all directed to T-D's teaching "team". The Ceppis and the Rzykys put everything in the proper light. As headmaster, I couldn't help but think how fortunate the student and the parent body is to have Dr. Kernell, Dr. Allen, Don Johnson, Mrs. Bubesi, etc., etc., etc.

While other schools have a gym, Olympic size pool, cheerleaders, or lots of news print, no school has what T-D has, nor can any school be T-D.

With the world as our classroom and with so many classy and unpretentious parents, ambitious students and a faculty always ready to serve; those from around the corner and around the world can truly call this place home.

The 7th floor of the Radisson Hotel was better than any roof top garden for me. At T-D, the sky isn't the limit!

Sincerely,

Douglas E. Fleming, Jr.

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Headmaster