

Lusher Charter Newsletter #6 – Mid-May 2008

Awards and Honors

Lusher High School Awards

Lusher's awards ceremony for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students was held on Thursday, May 15th at 1 pm. What follows is a list of award recipients in Math, Science, Foreign Languages, and the Arts. A list of award recipients in English, Social Studies, and any other areas not shown below will be published in a future Newsletter. Senior awards will be announced at Lusher's first High School Graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 18th, at 3 pm in the Kendall Cram Lecture Hall, Lavin-Bernick Center, Tulane University campus and will be listed in the post-graduation issue of the Newsletter.

Awarded by the Math Faculty

Algebra I

Danielle Doty – Most Improved

Gabrielle Ayestas – Most Outstanding

Geometry

Filips Goncaruks – Most Improved

Anneshia Booker – Most Improved

Hollis Jones – Most Outstanding

Brandon Addison – Most Outstanding

Algebra II

Seth Brown – Most Outstanding

Pierce Wisdom – Most Outstanding

Pre-Calculus

Jalisa Roberts – Most Improved

Dalton Bender – Most Outstanding

Calculus

Jason Wong – Most Outstanding

Special Award

Stephen Walker – Student of Absolute Value

Awarded by the Science Faculty:

Malaika Hankins – Physics

Jason Jeffries – Physics

Adam Holman – Chemistry

Meredith Massey – Biology

Jason Wong - AP Physics

Samaneh Khoshini - AP Biology

Robert Logan - Urban Farming

Juliet Meeks - Sustainable Design

Awarded by the Foreign Language Faculty

Spanish I

Mary Kate Planchet – Highest Average

James Butler – Most Improved

Spanish II

Jason Wong – Highest Average

Jeanette deVeer – Highest Average

Miles Ager – Most Improved

Spanish III

Leo Olivares (Outside experience)

Michaela Compagno (Classroom experience)

Spanish IV

Yasmin Mzayek – Highest Average

Spanish IV-AP

Gabriel Pinto – Highest Average

Italian I

Rachel Holton – Highest Average

Adam Holman – Most Improved

French I

Leila Wisdom – Highest Average

Gilbert McGregor – Highest Average

Kristin Morrell – Most Improved

French II

Christian Brusseau – Highest Average

Alex Ates – Most Improved

French III

Hannah DeFelice – Highest Average

Jemila Dunham – Most Improved

French IV

Emma LeBlanc – Highest Average

Mar Berlow – Most Improved

Awarded by the Visual Arts Faculty:

Hollis Jones – “From the Heart” Award for passion, consistency and responsibility

Savannah Ganucheau – “From the Heart” Award for passion, consistency and responsibility

Samaneh Khoshini – “From the Heart” Award for passion, consistency and responsibility

Chance Hirsch – “From the Heart” Award for passion, consistency and responsibility

Atianna Cordova – “From the Heart” Award for passion, consistency and responsibility

Elliott Balch – “Out of the Box” Award for innovative and creative solutions

Awarded by the Dance Faculty:

Anna Iosipiv – Lusher Pride Dancer 2008

Shondricka Claiborne – Most Improved Dancer

Chanice Holmes – Most Improved Dancer

Sierra Livious – The Boundless Dancer

Awarded by the Media Arts Faculty:

Elliott Balch – Outstanding Student Award

Miles Ager – Most Improved Student Award

Awarded by the Music Faculty***Certificate of Artistry Band***

Adam Holman – Most Improved

Stuart Harrison – Most Improved

Pierce Wisdom – Most Improved

Ben Allen – Best Performer

Jemila Dunham – Spirit of Lusher, Best Overall

Certificate of Artistry Strings

Hannah Rioux – Most Improved

Branden Stepter – Best Performer

Raymond Lambert – Spirit of Lusher, Best Overall

High School Chorus

Savannah Ganacheau – Spirit of Lusher, Best Overall

Awarded by the Creative Writing Faculty***Level I***

Mbililia Meekers – Most Outstanding

Sean Bensinger – Most Improved

Level II

Emma LeBlanc – Most Outstanding

Kayla Rodney – Most Improved

Elective

Dalton Bender – Most Outstanding

Jalisa Roberts – Most Outstanding

Bezos Scholars Program

Robert Logan, Lusher 11th grade student, has been selected for the Bezos Scholars Program at the Aspen Institute. The Bezos Scholars Program brings together 12 of the country's top high school juniors to meet one another and engage in seminars and informal meeting with the international leaders, acclaimed thinkers, and creative artists who participate in the annual Aspen Ideas Festival. (The Aspen Institute, founded in 1950, is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering enlightened leadership and open-minded dialogue. Through seminars, policy programs, conferences and leadership development initiatives, the Institute and its international partners seek to promote nonpartisan inquiry and an appreciation for timeless values.) By virtue of Robert's selection as a Bezos Scholar, Lusher is invited to send one teach to the program as well.

National Spanish Examinations

From the Press Release sent out by National Spanish Examinations, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP):

Congratulations to several world language students from Lusher Charter High School who attained national recognition for excellent performance on the 2008 National Spanish Examinations. Students from Lusher Charter High School earned a total of two silver and two honorable mentions. "Attaining any placement or honorable mention for any student on the National Spanish Examinations is very prestigious," said Kevin Cessna, National Director of the Exams, "because the exams are the largest of their kind in the United States with well over 106,000 students participating in 2008."

Leo Olivares earned a silver certificate in Spanish III, Jeanette deVeer earned a silver certificate in Spanish II, and Rebekah Smith and Andrés Adams earned honorable mentions.

Students from Lusher Charter School have a history of high achievement on these exams and were taught by Spanish teachers, Marco Meneghini and Katharine Archer. The National Spanish Examinations are administered each year in grades 9 through 12, and are sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.

Students of the Week

The Lusher High School Student Council has recognized Adam Holman and Leaughan Salaam as Students of the Week.

Our Athletic Field is Funded!

Drew and Brittany Brees, through the Brees Dream Foundation and Operation Kids, as the result of a significant donation from the National Automobile Dealers' Charitable Foundation, have provided the funding for the rebuilding of our Athletic Field. At a ceremony on Thursday, May 15th, at which our strings orchestra and jazz band played for our guests, Drew Brees and representatives of the National Automobile Dealers' Association (NADA) officially funded this project. Construction will start this summer.

Arts News

Visual Arts Exhibition

Lusher High School's Certificate of Artistry Visual Arts Exhibition had its opening on Friday evening, May 9th. The exhibition, which extends over three floors, will continue through May 20th. The work of 47 Level I and Level II artists is on exhibit, including the work of seven graduating seniors. Exhibiting artists are:

LEVEL I ARTISTS

Awad Alnawaiseh
Elliott Balch
Mae Berlow
Chloe Brown
Dante Cannatella
Atianna Cordova
Ross Cronin
Savanna Ganuchau
Kali Griffith
Hollis Jones
Max Katner
Rebekah Korn

Taylor Major
Rene Mercadel
Lorien Molinario
Gabriella Montalvo
Michael O'Keefe (graduating senior)
Destry Patterson
Kenneth Rayes
Michael Sauvageot
Lauren Spencer
Joshua Taylor
Daniel Valencia
Brindall Vance
Genevieve Vicini

LEVEL 2 ARTISTS

Ariel Allen
Alexander Baird
Christian Brown
Grace DiGeorge
Isabelle Hatfield
Stephanie Hilzim
Chance Hirsch
Indie Hoffmann
Kara Kennedy
Samaneh Khoshini
Kellen Kroll

Kevin Lytle (graduating senior)
Daniel McDonald (graduating senior)
Juliet Meeks (graduating senior)
Henry Neill (graduating senior)
Mary Frances Quinn
Leaghan Salaam
Mimi Sherwood (graduating senior)
Maria Tahir
Sidney Walker
Alexandra Wallace (graduating senior)
Claire Wilkinson

New Student Group Forming – SALSA

Over 50 Lusher High School students have signed up as peer mentors for SALSA (Students Advocating Life without Substance Abuse--Wild Sobriety), a program for students who choose not to use alcohol, tobacco or other drugs. Renée Soulis, from FCD Educational Services (Freedom from Chemical Dependency) spoke to our high school students at an assembly on Thursday, April 24, 2008. Lusher teacher Amy Wanner has volunteered to serve as faculty sponsor.

SALSA members are trained in making presentations and visit local elementary and middle schools throughout the school year, presenting themselves as examples of productive and healthy drug-free students. There are two primary messages SALSA members offer younger students:

1. You can be happy, productive and alcohol/drug free throughout high school.
2. Don't let anyone talk you into doing something you don't want to do.

Students who join SALSA will earn community service hours for the 2008-2009 school year. There will be a one-day training session this fall.

Summer News

Certificate of Artistry in Dance Students

10th grade student Courtney Ross will attend the Summer Pre-Professional Program for the Lines Ballet Company of San Francisco. 9th grade student Raven Ross will attend Dance Theatre of Harlem's Summer Intensive Program. Both students are members of The Dance Company at Lusher.

LEDA Scholars Program at Princeton

11th grade student Marcus Pierre has been selected by the LEDA Scholars Program (Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America) to attend its Aspects of Leadership Summer Institute on the campus of Princeton University.

Summer Arts Intensive

Lusher's Summer Arts Intensive will run June 2 through 27, 2008 for rising 4th through 12th grade students. Classes will be offered in dance, music, creative writing, visual arts, mixed media & film, music, and musical theatre workshop. Applications are being accepted now. Lusher students will be given first priority, but students from the community will also be registering so get your registration form in early to save your spot. The cost for Lusher students is \$550, and the program runs from 9 until 3 each day.

Sports News

Track & Field

Lusher High School's Track Team competed in April in the district track meet, and the following team members qualified for the regional meet at Tad Gormley Stadium on April 29th.

Boys

Andrés Adams qualified for regionals in the 1600 meter run and the 3200 meter run.

Jeremy Mano qualified in the 200 meter dash and the 100 meter dash.

Brandon Scott qualified in the 200 meter dash

Alex Sorapuru qualified in the 800 meter dash and the 400 meter dash

The 4x100 meter relay team members (Michael Shargois, Jeremy Mano, Brandon Scott, & Brandon Addison) qualified for the regional meet.

The 4x200 meter relay team members (Brandon Scott, Brandon Addison, Jeremy Mano, & Alex Sorapuru) qualified for the regional meet.

Girls

Maura Eagan (6th grader) qualified in the 800 meter run, 1600 meter run, & 3200 meter run.

Ariana Mitchell qualified in the 100 meter dash & 200 meter dash.

Sierra Livious qualified in the 400 meter run; in the field events, she qualified in the discus throw, and holds the 1st place spot in the girls' shot put. Subsequently, Sierra placed 5th in the state 2A meet for shot put.

The 4X100 meter, 4x400 meter relay teams also qualified for the regionals. The team members are Kelsey Murry, Ariana Mitchell, & Sierra Livious, (along with two middle school girls, 7th grader Blayre Brown, & 8th grader Jasmine Clark).

Tennis

The Lusher Girls' Metro Tennis Team members won all of their matches in the first round of the Metro tennis tournament and proceeded to the second round. Members of the team are: Angela Massey, Laine Korn, Ali Tanenbaum, Anna Adams, Shakthi Unnithan, Anna Koeferl, Heaven Douglas, Skye Dashner, Molly Greenberg, and Jada Clark. The tennis team is coached by Gian Balsamo.

Fencing

The Beginners' Fencing Class concluded its semester with a traditional "dry" tournament on May 15th. Fencing director Jonathan Cohen reports that all participants fenced very well. Lusher student Sam McHugh, received a 3rd place medal, and Gidion Vinici finished fifth.

A new beginners' class will start during the first week of June and will continue through the summer months. Intermediate and advanced classes and open fencing will follow the beginners. Special discounts are available for all Lusher students, faculty and staff.

For more information, please contact Jonathan Cohen at dgtiger1@aol.com or 504-430-0053

Summer Basketball Camp

Registration continues for Lusher Lions Summer Basketball Camp for incoming 1st to 9th graders, both boys and girls. Dates and times are:

Regular Camp, ages 6-12, June 2 - 6; 9 am to noon.

Regular Camp, ages 10-14, June 9 - 13; 9 am to noon

Shooting and Offensive Skills Camp, ages 10-14, June 2 – 6; 1 pm to 3 pm

Shooting and Offensive Skills Camp, ages 10-14 June 9 – 13; 1 pm to 3 pm

Shooting camps, which are limited to 10-14 year olds, have limited enrollment of 24 . Regular camps have limited enrollment of 50. The fee for Regular Camp is \$100; the fee for Shooting and Offensive Skills Camp is \$125.

Brochures and registration forms are available in the main office of each campus. The camp is run by Coach Hunter Higgins, Lusher High's head basketball coach (and former Jesuit High assistant basketball coach). Contact Coach Higgins at 218-9319 or hunter_higgins@lusherschool.org