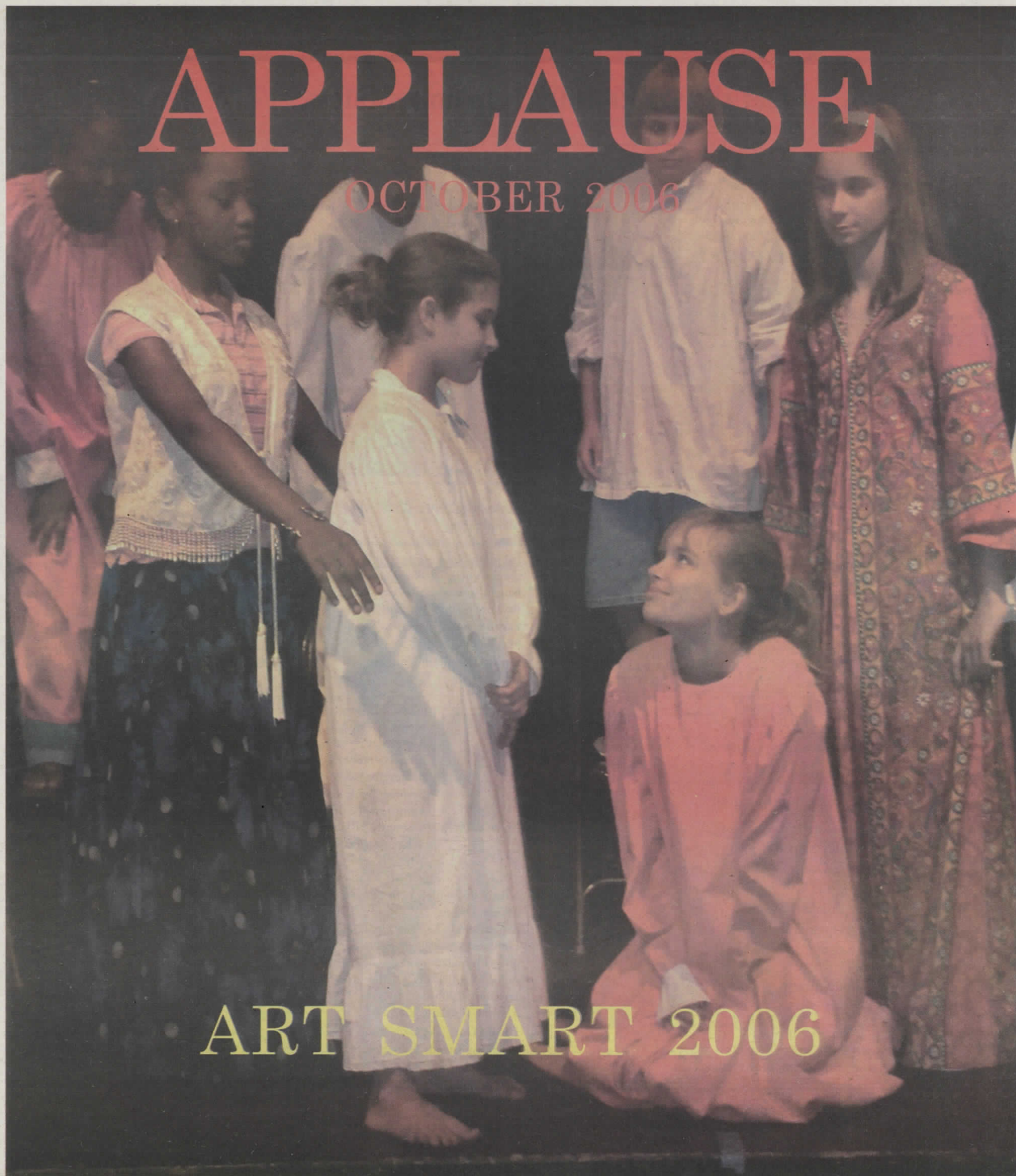


# APPLAUSE

OCTOBER 2006



ART SMART 2006



## Meet the 2006-2007 Applause Staff

Amber Brooke Caparas, 11th grade

Major: Theatre

Aspiration: to find the Truth, know the Truth, live the Truth, and share the Truth!

Interests/Hobbies: acting/modeling, singing/songwriting, guitar, martial arts, track and field, mission work, film, writing, school, music, web design, sports (Go Patriots! Go Red Sox!).



Victoria Doose, 11th grade

Major: Creative Writing

Favorite movie: Princess Mononoke

Favorite book: *Call of the Wild* by Jack London

Favorite band: the Beatles

Expertise: Avoiding the outdoors, writing poetry

Interests: Doing what I do best (see above), as well as playing RPGs and just relaxing.

Cool quote: "Minds are like parachutes: both work best when open."



\* \* \*



Liz Gildea, 11th grade

Major: Creative Writing

Town of residence: Mt. Pleasant

Plans after graduation: Go to college in Boston, study journalism, write and travel, get a Masters in education, teach middle or high school language arts, avoid having children.

Passions: linguistics, education, music, justice

Starstruck by: David Bowie, Julie Andrews

Deepest regret: Every time I've said "no" out of mere shyness.

\* \* \*

Lucy Hunter, 11th Grade

Major: Creative Writing

Interests/Hobbies: hiking, shark fishing

Achievements: Winner of the 2004 Outstanding News Writing Award from the New England Scholastic Press Association

Favorite book: *City* by Alessandro Barrico

Favorite music: classic rock/ live music

Dream date: John Hersey



Blake Engel, 11th grade

Major: Creative Writing

Dream job: Anything that would involve cinema.

Last movie I watched: *Tender Mercies*, starring Robert Duvall

Random fact you'll have no real interest in: The biggest thing in the universe is an amoeba-like blob 200 million light-years in width

\* \* \*

\* \* \*

Ashley Sagan, 10th grade

Major: Strings

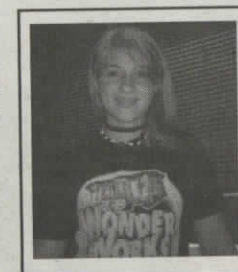
Dream jobs: veterinarian or photographer.

Interests/Hobbies: writing, photography, skateboarding, youth group (Fuel), jet skiing, concerts, playing guitar, football games hanging out with the "base kids"

Favorite book: *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahnuik

Favorite song: "Baby You Wouldn't Last a Minute in the Creek" by Chiodos

Dream Date: Josh Hartnett



\* \* \*



David Whitley, 12th Grade

Major: Creative Writing

Aspiration: to take over the world

Interests/Hobbies: writing, video games, creating Flash animation

Achievements: works published regionally

Favorite Book: *A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole

Favorite Type of Music: I prefer rock, but I like just about anything.

Currently Listening: "What is Love?" by Haddaway

What Your Friends Most Love About You: my sense of humor

\* \* \*

Kristin de Herder, 12th Grade

Major: Theatre

Aspiration: to become a working actress

Hobbies: cooking, shopping, sewing, theater, watching movies, hanging out with friends

Achievements: varsity letter for swimming, varsity letter for theater, Best Ensemble 2005

Favorite Movie: *Crash*

Dream Guy: Jake Gyllenhaal

What my friends love about me: I am easy to talk to, a true friend, and someone you can depend on.



*Applause*  
the official newspaper of  
School of the Arts

Lucy Hunter, Editor

Amber Caparas, Managing Editor

Ashley Sagan, Photo Editor

Victoria Doose, Business Manager

Liz Gildea, writer

Blake Engel, writer

David Whitley, writer

Kristen de Herder, writer

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Welcome to the 2006-2007 volume of Applause ... and a special greeting to our Art Smart 2006 guests. Hope you enjoy this introduction to our school.



## Behind-the-Scenes with Ms. Sue Bennett

By Lucy Hunter

**LH:** How long have you been a nurse at SOA?

**SB:** Six years. I have also worked in hospitals, private boarding schools and health clinics. I love working in schools because I can spend more time with each patient.

**LH:** What do you like most about your job?

**SB:** I love kids, especially teenagers. I love being here for kids whether they have an injury or just need a hug. Being a nurse allows me to wear several hats; sometimes I can be like "Mom" to students!

**LH:** What would you like to tell the student body?

**SB:** I am always available for the students to talk about whatever they need help with. There are some issues that students do not feel comfortable talking to their parents about, and in those cases I can be of help. I am bound to confidentiality. Making sure that students are healthy and safe is the most important part of my job.

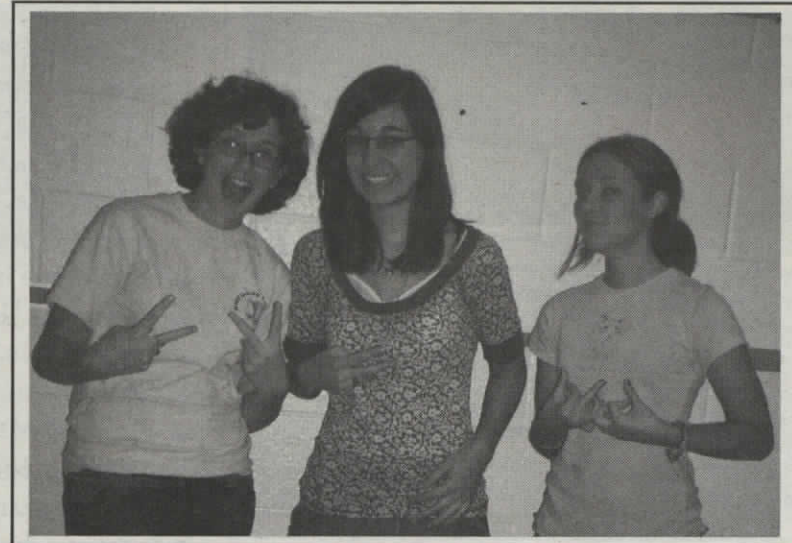


Ms. Bennett assists a student with an ear problem.

## Congratulations, girls!

Three students honored

Seniors Rebecca Nicholson, Lenna Walker and Julia Wilson have been named National Merit Commended students for 2007 by the National Merit Scholarship Program.



Lenna Walker, Rebecca Nicholson and Julia Wilson

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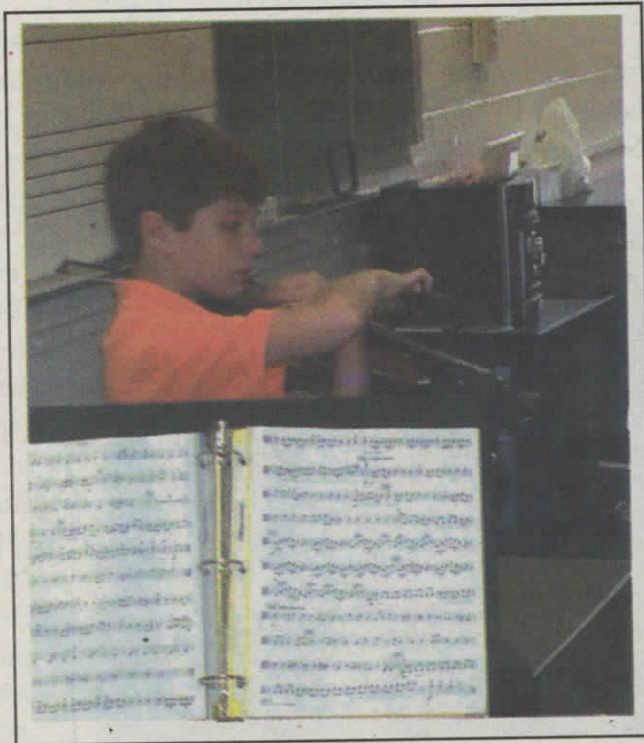
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## Ms. Fitzgerald Has Ambitious Goals For Strings Majors

By Ashley Sagan



Sixth grader William Short practices the viola.

Ms. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Johnson are the directors for this year's Strings students. This is the second year that the high school will have the full orchestra meet during the school day.

"Before that it was just a string orchestra which was very nice and wonderful, but this just opens up so many more possibilities for literature," said Ms. Fitzgerald, who said she has precise goals that she would like to achieve.

"This year I would like to make it to June without hurting any teenagers," she said jokingly, "but seriously I would like to see us put on a nice Master Works concert in April."

The Master Works concert is one of the major events that the high school performs each year. Another major event is senior thesis, where seniors play their concerto with the full orchestra.



Senior Daniel Davis on the violin.

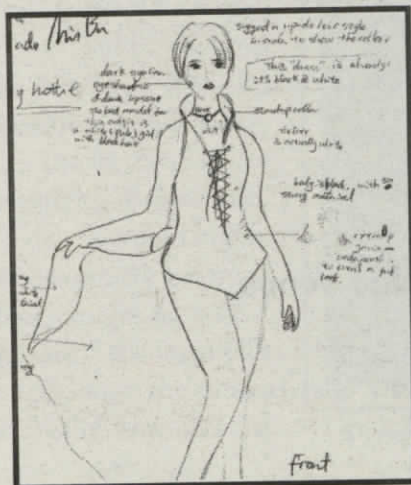
## And The Winners Are...

### Students Submit Costume Ideas for *Applause* Halloween Contest

First Place Winner  
Right: "The Other Angel" by Brittany Gillette, 7th grade Vocal major.



Second Place Winner  
Below: "Ghosty Hottie" by Min Bu, 11th grade Visual Arts major.



Third Place Winner Above: "Skeleclown" by Angelica Halvarsson, 7th grade Visual Arts major



Honorable Mention Above: "A Wornout Barbie" by Sarah White, 8th grade Visual Arts major.

Honorable Mention Left: "Shower Power" by Kaye Dunleavy, 6th grade Vocal major.



## National Honor Society Update

By Victoria Doose

Greetings from the National Honor Society!

We in the Society are ready and eager to serve SOA this year. As of October 3, we are offering peer tutoring after school every Tuesday and Thursday in Ms. Cobun's room (room B1). Students wishing to receive help need to bring parent and teacher permission.

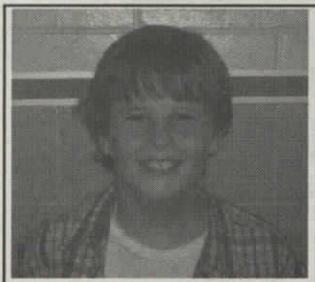
We've also commenced our morning breakfast sales, with slight alterations in the menu, in the Fine Arts building from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Remember us when you forget to eat before leaving for school, and support our scholarship fund with your purchases.

The community service aspect of the Society is also off and running. Already in September we held a beach sweep on Folly, and just last weekend, volunteers from the Society participated in the three-day Friends of the Library BookFest for Charleston County Public Libraries. NHS also participated in Race for the Cure. Thanks to all who helped.

Continue to check the *Applause* for our monthly updates!



Sydney Cox



Andrew Kirk

### Students In Grade 6 Have Good First Impressions

By Kristin De Herder

When the new sixth graders arrived on the first day of school, they noticed that SOA was, well, different from their old schools. Andrew Kirk found that the dress code was much different from the uniforms of his old school, Blessed Sacrament School, and enjoyed playing football at recess. Sydney Cox found that having an art major (hers is dance) was what made SOA unique from her old school, C.E. Williams School; she likes being able to show how she feels through body language in her dance class. Both Andrew's and Sydney's most memorable moments were meeting their new friends at SOA.

## Spotlight: Foreign Exchange Students

By Lucy Hunter

*SOA hosts three foreign exchange students this year.*

**Victoire Carton**



Victoire Carton, a ninth grade dance major, said she has come to School of the Arts "to learn English and to dance.

"This is my first year of dance classes. I like being able to watch the teacher and then do the same thing," she said.

Victoire and her family are from Lille, France, but have been traveling in a Catamaran sailboat for two years. They are living on Sullivan's Island for the year, where their boat is docked.

"We are going around the whole world," she said. "We have been to Spain, Africa, the Caribbean and South America."

Next on the Carton family's itinerary is Cuba and Panama. They also plan to drive to California in a recreational vehicle.

**Aline Moreno**

Aline Moreno is an eleventh grade Visual Arts major from Santa Catarina, Brazil who lives with a host family on Sullivan's Island.

She said she enjoys SOA because "the people are very happy. The school is about art instead of sports, not like most other high schools.

Aline said she misses Brazil. "Every day [in Brazil] I go out to parties or the movies with my friends."

Traveling to New York and seeing snow are her goals for this year. "In Brazil there are only a few places with snow. Like Charleston, it does not get very cold."

"The people here are very different," she said, "but they are very nice."

**Isabela Semedo**



"Making friends, learning about American culture and traveling" are Isabela Semedo's goals for her year at SOA, she said. She is a dance major who said her favorite school subject is English.

Isabela lives with a host family in Hanahan. "Outside of school I practice soccer. . . I will play on a local recreational team in West Ashley. I love going downtown."

She said "Charleston is a beautiful city, my city at home is not as beautiful. [In Brazil] I like to stay home with my family. I love everybody there."

*The November issue of Applause will feature profiles on Seniors David Whitley and Katie Isaacson, SOA's National Merit Semi-finalists.*

## R. Bryan Whitley, AIA, Architect

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Charleston, SC, 29412  
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## Art Smart, In Its Eleventh Year, Performs *Once On This Island*

By Liz Gildea

As long as SOA has been around, so has Art Smart. Since its debut in 1995, the program has become our most prominent school tradition as well as our biggest community outreach project. Every year more than 1500 rising sixth graders from around the county, as well as their parents and teachers, flock to SOA to watch the 7<sup>th</sup> graders put their artistic skills into action through a performance that incorporates all eight majors.

Art Smart, now in its eleventh year, began as a creative and collaborative way for students to enlighten 5<sup>th</sup> graders about issues that arise in middle school. The 1996 show, for example, dealt with drug abuse, and in 2004 the students modernized classic fairy tales to include life skills learned in adolescence such as conflict resolution and dealing with peer pressure.

But the program is taking a different approach for Art Smart 2006. Whereas in the past the majors have developed separate segments that revolve around a common theme, this year they will be putting on a downsized version of Broadway's *Once On This Island*. It's the first time a musical will be performed for Art Smart. Roles are open to 7<sup>th</sup> graders of all majors.

The play will not only represent the evolution of an SOA tradition – it will also give its participants an opportunity to cultivate skills applicable in any performing arts career. Leadership, cooperation, stage presence, public speaking and crowd management are just a few of the areas in which Art Smart provides valuable experience.

For the young attendees, Art Smart serves as a free field trip and a cultural arts event (a first for many) as well as a glimpse into the fine-arts training offered at SOA. In addition to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade performance, their visit includes a tour of the campus and an informational session. Every elementary school in the Charleston County School District receives an invitation; and though they don't all send groups to Art Smart, the week of performances and tours generates approximately 500 applications for 6<sup>th</sup> grade admission and 250 for 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



Students rehearse for Art Smart

## “Where Are They Now?": Jessica Atkinson

By Lucy Hunter

*Jessica Atkinson, a graduate of the Class of 2006, was one of five students in the nation to win a Portfolio Gold Award for her writing in the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition. She received a \$10,000 dollar scholarship and is currently attending Oglethorpe University.*

**LH:** How did SOA prepare you for the Scholastic competition?

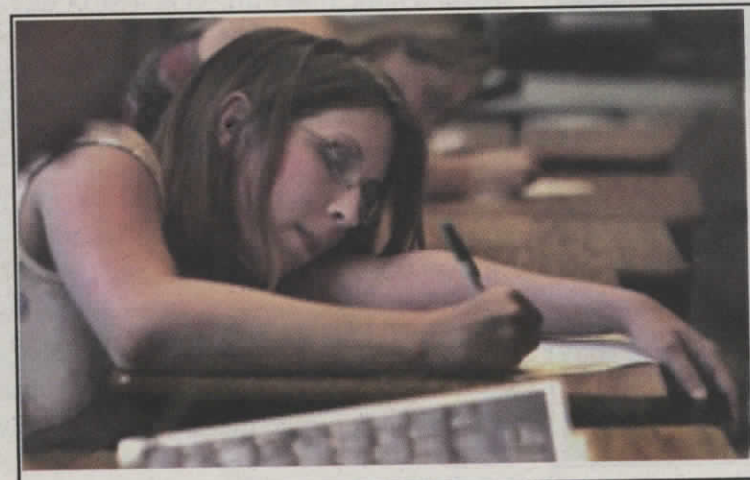
**JA:** SOA's creative writing department is definitely what prepared me most. I was able to learn all different forms and styles of writing, beginning in sixth grade. I was able to experiment with everything. Plus, the entire class entered the Scholastic Art and Writing contest annually beginning in seventh grade, so I was able to enter different genres of writing and occasionally win for poetry or short story. I was better able to understand what Scholastic was looking for: a strong and unique writing voice. SOA's creative writing department has been incredibly invaluable to me. I would never take back a day I spent in my major.

**LH:** How has winning the Scholastic award opened doors for you?

**JA:** The Scholastic contest has helped me move onto a totally different platform; I am able to break into the publishing world with greater ease. The contest gives a pre-recognition of my writing ability, and because of that I do not have to go to great and long lengths in order to prove myself.

**LH:** You received media attention after winning the competition. Describe your experiences.

**JA:** The *New York Times* article caused a wonderful reaction. Many people read the article and felt the desire to contact me to congratulate Ms. Miles and myself. I had many kind people write letters to me, sharing inspiring words and congratulations. I was very touched. I also had one of my favorite writers, Chuck Palahnuik, call to give his regards and say that he wanted to



This photo of Jessica Atkinson taking her AP English final exam appeared in the *New York Times* in May 2006.

contribute to my education. [Advertising legend] Mary Wells Lawrence said that she would support me for my entire educational pursuit as long as I continued writing. The feedback was amazing and I never expected it. It just goes to show what hard work can do. I will be featured in an article in *Teen Vogue* this February.

**LH:** What advice would you give to current SOA students?

**JA:** Take full advantage of the the many wonderful opportunities that SOA gives to each major. Graduating from SOA and beginning to move on has enabled me to look back on my experienc and really, truly understand how amazing SOA was. I would not have had it any other way. Work hard! It will only make you excel in what you love most!



## SOA Welcomes New Teachers

By Blake Engel and Ashley Sagan

### Brenda Alvanos



Brenda Alvanos is in her first year with the math department at School of the Arts. Ms. Alvanos has had three daughters attend the school, each majoring in dance. She, too, has been a dancer for more than twenty years.

A graduate of Clemson, the College of Charleston, and the Citadel, she has earned a BS in Mathematics and an MAT in Teaching Mathematics.

Ms. Alvanos has taught at more than six other schools, including Ashley Hall, Trident Academy and James Island Middle School.

She is an active member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, where she volunteers as a Sunday school teacher. An avid sports fan, she tries "to attend as many events as possible."

\* \* \*

### Cynthia Branscome

Cynthia Branscome is teaching physical education this year. A graduate of Guilford College and East Carolina College, Ms. Branscome has been teaching for more than ten years at schools such as Porter Gaud and Charleston Day.

She was previously employed as an assistant at a law firm, as a claims adjuster, and worked in retail management before becoming a teacher.

In her spare time, Ms. Branscome plays tennis, spends time with her dogs, and works in her garden. Proud to join SOA, she calls us lucky, saying she "would jump at the chance to have 100 minutes in a day in an art class."

She loves being creative and thinks SOA is "a wonderful environment for students to grow and learn."

\* \* \*

### April Cobun



If you're considering attending the upcoming dance and need to spice up your dance moves, check out April Cobun on the dance floor. She has been dancing since the age of four. To keep in shape she walks several miles a day and has walked the Columbus, Ohio Marathon.

Ms. Cobun attended Ohio State University, where she received a BA in English and an M. Ed. She spends her Saturdays in the fall cheering for the

Ohio State Buckeyes.

Ms. Cobun has taught at the Olentangy Liberty Middle School and Olentangy High School. She has also worked as a nanny and an ABA therapist.

Ms. Cobun said of SOA, "I love the students' and faculty's enthusiasm."

### Emmie Hammet



Another addition to the School of the Arts this year is Ms. Emmie Hammet, who will be teaching composition in the middle school. Ms. Hammet said that so far her impression of SOA is a positive one. She said, "the students are the top priority here, more so than any other school in which I've worked."

She has previously taught at Cario Middle, Fort Johnson Middle, and Murray-Lasaine Elementary.

She enjoys spending her time outside of school cooking, reading, and walking with her husband, Barry. She attended Winthrop, the Citadel, and the College of Charleston, where she earned her M. Ed.

\* \* \*

### Kirk Lindgren

Kirk Lindgren brings an interesting background to SOA. He has taught a year at Stall High School, backpacked around Europe twice, lived in the Caribbean for a year, and driven 14,000 miles around the continental United States. He has lived in a tent in the woods near Aspen, Colorado for three months.

Before joining SOA's science department, Mr. Lindgren waited tables, bartended, and sold diamonds on St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands.

He received a B.A. in Physics and an M.T. in Science Education from the University of Virginia.

Mr. Lindgren said "I would have never been accepted at SOA, I have zero artistic ability." But that doesn't change his high opinion of the school. "It rocks my world!" he said.

\* \* \*

### Megan Link



Megan Link is a recent addition to the SOA theater department. Ms.

Link will be filling the position left by Mr. Wood. A Wisconsin native, she attended the University of Wisconsin, where she earned her MFA, and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, where she received her BA and an Art Theatre certificate. Theatre, she said, "is all I know." She recently won a national award for a play she directed, titled *A Piece of My Heart*.

Ms. Link has been previously employed as an actor, a director, an education director, and a salesperson. As a teacher, she has worked at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the First Stage Theatre Academy, and the Milwaukee Shakespeare Company.

She said she is happy at SOA because "it seems like everyone works towards a common goal."





## Filling the Halls with Melody: A Look Into SOA's Vocal Program

By Victoria Doose

Walking through the halls of the Fine Arts Building on the Charleston County School of the Arts campus, the first thing a visitor might hear is the powerful, loud music produced by the band. If they listen harder, however - if they venture closer to the classroom doors as they round the corner and walk the long central hallway - they may hear the gentler, more mellow harmonization of piano and human voice that comes from the vocal classes.



High school vocalists perform at Carnegie Hall during last school year

to stay at SOA for high school, they learn about music theory and more technical abilities like sight-singing.

SOA's vocal program is quite a distinguished one, and has gained a reputation for talent, skill, and success over the years. "We've been invited to international conventions in Europe but unfortunately were not able to attend," says Braden Joyce-Schleimer, a junior vocalist who has attended SOA since sixth grade. "Last year, we were invited to sing with the New England Philharmonic Orchestra in Carnegie Hall in New York City, and, of course, we went. All of this was invitational, not a competition - as in, someone heard us sing and invited us. That makes for some pretty awesome bragging rights."

In addition to such invitationals, vocalists compete for participation in a variety of distinguished groups like the All-County, All-State, Regional, and National choirs. Many SOA students succeed in getting into these groups - and they place highly in their ranks, too. The younger ones take part in different state festivals and clinics, competing most notably in Festival.

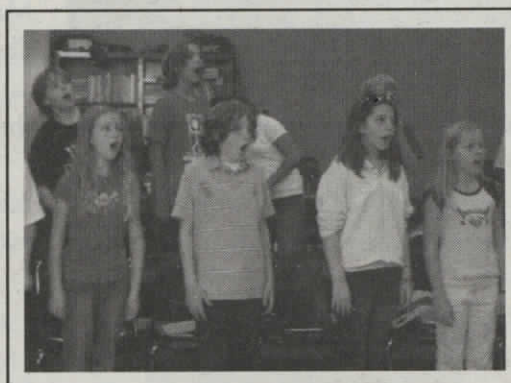
Middle school vocal is simply divided by grade levels, but high school is split into five different groups: Freshmen Ensemble, Chorale, Troubadours (Men's Ensemble), Lyric Choir (Women's Ensemble), and Madrigal/Show Choir. Chorale includes all high schoolers from tenth to twelfth grade, but students must audition to get into the Madrigal/Show Choir. The restrictions of the three different Ensembles are apparent from their names.

All in all, as Ms. Slenk puts it, "the vocal program offers a wonderful opportunity to sing with a group of students who are dedicated to creating art to the best of their ability." And indeed, vocalists work hard to earn their successes. Their voices may not penetrate cinderblock walls all that well, but if a visitor were to open a door sometime and listen in on their practice, their work would be confirmed by their voices as they filled the halls with melody.

From the day they enter SOA, vocalists practice and perform songs from various time periods and in different styles and genres. Vocal isn't all about singing, though. Throughout their school careers, students are trained in proper singing techniques and the mechanics of their art.

"There's much more to music than simply singing notes, including things like expression, dynamics, how to sing in a healthy way, diction, tone and blend," says Ms. Slenk, one of the SOA vocal directors. "We also teach a lot of theory in order to better enable our students to read or write music."

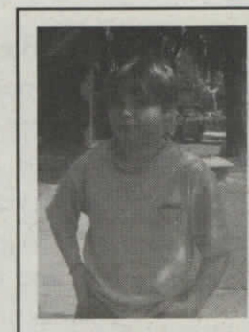
The studying of more complex vocal skills is saved for later years. Sixth graders begin by learning basic music recognition and understanding, as well as performance skills, and they hone their singing talents all through middle school. If they choose



Middle schoolers practice their major

## Fresh Perspective: A Profile on 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Vocalist Will Isaacson

By Victoria Doose



Will Isaacson

**Expertise:** Singing  
**Currently learning:** Recognition of different types of notes (sharps and flats), mea-

asures, and beats. Tunes and lyrics are learned when specific pieces of music are assigned.

**Class consists of:** taking notes on the instructor's lesson, warming up, and singing assigned songs.

**Previous Training:** Participated in the Chorus at Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary School in fourth and fifth grade.

**Favorite thing about vocal:** Singing, of course, and working on worksheets with friends.

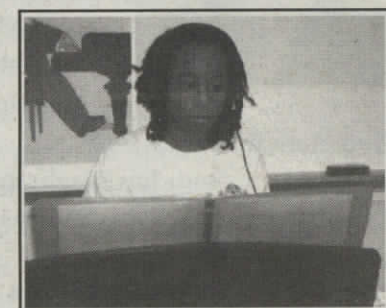
**Thoughts on SOA:** "SOA is really awesome. It's one of the best schools I've been to, probably the best."

**Parting words:** "Vocal in general is really, really fun. So, I encourage other new students coming to SOA to try out for vocal."

## Piano Majors To Perform

By Ashley Sagan

This year the high school jazz pianists are putting on a Billy Joel/Elton John tribute concert on December 6. As for the middle school jazz pianists, they are having a jazz café where the students will play in a reception style setting. For Art Smart this year a selected few pianists will be playing a piece called *Human Heart*.



Chelsea Middlebrook practices piano.

Jonathan and Evelyn Rose Silverman  
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## Band Majors Practice Instruments, Put On Fundraising Concert

By Blake Engel



Mr. Singleton

For the first nine weeks of school, middle school band majors will spend their time getting back into the routine of playing their instruments. With the help of their band teacher, Mr. Singleton, students will continue to hone their technique by practicing

compositions from their text books.

Among other pieces, in particular they have been practicing Antonin's Dvorak's "Slavonic Dance #8" and Ted Ricketts's "Beyond the Horizon".

The middle school band program is divided by grades.

The high school band has a more complex structure. It is divided into five sections: Wind ensemble, orchestra, symphonic band, jazz ensemble, and concert band.

High schoolers get plenty of practice, thanks to their band teacher, Mr. Kerr. "A lot of folks know music," he said. "But they don't know *about* music." They work through many

pieces, usually about three to four at a time.

Most recently, they have been practicing such pieces as "Of Sailors and Whales" by Francis McBeth and "Piece of Mind" by Dana Wilson.

Another important part of the high school music program is AP Music Theory, taught by Mr. Kerr and open to students of all majors. As an AP course it is a major academic challenge, but it will not only greatly improve

one's abilities with an instrument, but also one's understanding of the music itself.

The biggest event (and the sole fund raiser) in the band's calendar is Jump, Jive, and Wail, a huge party and dance put on by the band itself.

Jump, Jive, and Wail is an annual event to which all are welcome. SOA students and non-students alike have been helping the event's attendance rate rise steadily each year, reaching as much as a thousand people last year. On October 21<sup>st</sup>, from 7:30 to 11:00 P.M., plenty of food was provided as the SOA Jazz Band set the mood for a bit of fun and swing dancing.

Other events in the high school calendar include a performance by the jazz band for a convention of blue ribbon schools, held at the con-

vention center on December 1<sup>st</sup>; a holiday concert on December 12<sup>th</sup>; auditions for state band in January; two concerts in March; and a performance at the Grand National Adjudicator's Invitational Festival in Chattanooga, TN on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Beginning in November, select students from the high school band can have the opportunity to participate in as many as seven trips during this school year.

The sixth graders performed a dinner concert on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. for parents and invited guests. The piece they played was "March of the Kangaroos".

*Look for Ashley Sagan's review of Jump, Jive and Wail in the next Applause*



Students warm up before band practice



Mr. Kerr

## Student Work: Visual Arts



Kayla Watts, 9th Grade



Ying Fang, 12th Grade

## Chris Nguyen, Visual Arts Major, Aspires To Be Graffiti Artist

By Amber Caparas



Chris was born in Texas and lived his younger life in New Orleans before moving to South Carolina. He really likes graffiti and dreams of one day being given permission to graffiti the back of SOA's white building where the dance studio and snack machines are. He appreciates graffiti because "it is anonymous, a lot of people can see it, and you can say or draw whatever you want." Chris loves drawing with pen and ink and would like to do more paintings, especially of Vietnam and Cold War scenes. Chris's plan after SOA is to attend a graphic arts school in Rhode Island. His dream life after college is "to travel all over the world and just live the life of an artist."

"I believe that people shouldn't just sit around," he said. "I think we should all try to change the world."



## Theater Major Prepares Versatile Actors

By Kristen De Herder

The theatre department at SOA offers a unique and effective program in which students are given the opportunity to explore and improve their talent as actors and playwrights.

Mr. Younts, who teaches theatre for grades 7, 8, 10, and 11, enjoys "being able to do a lot of different things in our curriculum, resulting in the student's ability to create good theatre." He says that theater graduates leave with the ability to "apply the skills that they learned in theatre to other aspects of life." The goal of the department, he adds, is "to produce good theatre artists, both actors and playwrights," making SOA's theatre department one of the best in the state.



Middle schoolers practice dialogue.

### Did you know....

- SOA's Theater Major students have placed consistently in the top ten percent of state, regional, and national arts competitions for acting and playwriting.
- The theatre department alone produces over 50 performances throughout a school year.
- High school theatre majors are given the opportunity to earn a school letter each year.

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## 6th Graders Busy In Major

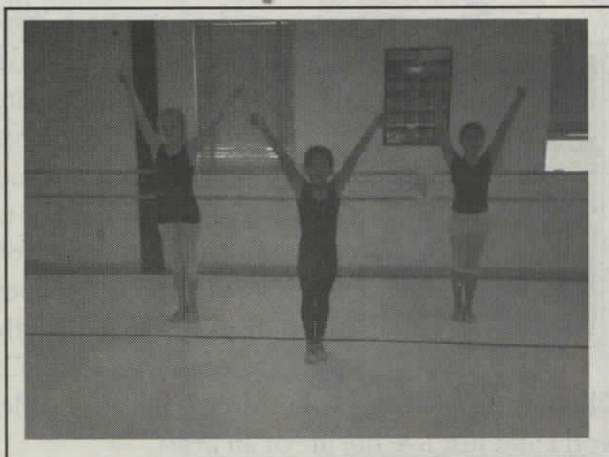
By Amber Caparas

"Being a dance major at the School of the Arts is really fun," said 6<sup>th</sup> grader Chelsea Brown.

Middle School dance majors are working on dances from Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker," and "You Can't Stop the Beat" from *Hairspray*.

"You Can't Stop the Beat" is a Jazz and Broadway styled dance. "It's fun because it's so energetic," Brown said.

"I would highly recommend being a dance major at SOA," she said. "You learn a lot of technique; the dances are really fun, and the class is really active!"



Dance majors pose after completing a move.

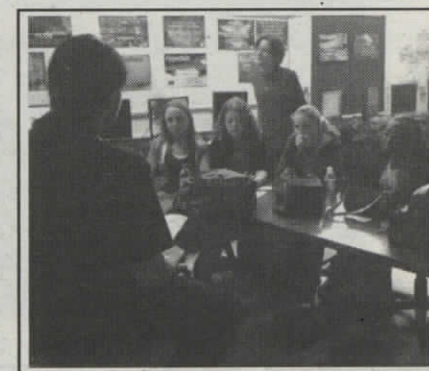
## Creative Writers Learn Variety of Literary Tools and Styles

By David Whitley

The Creative Writing program has been keeping up with its full fall curriculum. The middle school students have been working with the Visual Artists on a puppet show project, and are learning to use anthropomorphism as a literary device. An example of anthropomorphism is animals walking upright and acting just as humans, such as in *The Wind in the Willows*.

The seventh graders have been hard at work on Art Smart. Entries have been handed in for the North Carolina/South Carolina poetry contest. The eighth graders are studying the Tennessee Williams play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

In high school, the Screenwriting class is in the middle of writing the first 20 pages of their screenplays, the topics of which are as varied as the students. The Place and Gender/Finding Your Voice class will be concentrating on the students finding their individual voices in writing, and the importance that the setting and the gender of the main character have on the story. The seniors are writing the third ten pages of their Senior Thesis, which is either a novel or poetry collection.



Seniors hear a student reading

## Student Work: Creative Writing

### Veranda

I rest on my back, my knees bent and feet bare.  
Rocking back and forth on the splintering old swing,  
I allow the breeze to comb my hair.  
The creaking of the rusted chains creates a gentle harmony.  
My vision goes soft as I listen.

With one eye open I peer through the white spindled rails,  
watch the grass and wait for the weeds to grow.  
The slap of a screen door jerks me awake.  
I focus my gaze on a dainty wicker chair,  
where my mother sits, small and frail.  
I stare as smoke billows from her nose.  
When the stream of silver breaks, she grins.

I let my hand fall limp at my side.  
The image of her fragile body flashes in my mind as my eyes shut.  
The love I feel for her and the veranda she is silhouetted against, course through me.  
I let this sensation take over my body; I rock and inhale the salty air  
as a single tear runs jagged along my jaw.

- By Aubrey Moore  
8th grade



## ART SMART WORD FIND

## Words to find:

Artsmart Band Ballet Canvas Creativewriting Dance Drama  
Keys Monologue Paintbrush Piano Soprano Stanza Strings  
Tempo Theatre Trombone Visualarts Violin Vocal

T G L K G K I O T D K E N O B M O R T I  
S T F E R X D I G J A E C K L L K U H S  
T T R A M S T R A Z G N U Z Q N L V T T  
R Z L F I V L G U S I E C G T D L L F R  
A Z J O N A I P A O V U L E O C O O F I  
L M Y I A T H V E R T A E H T L N L Q N  
A J H H S G N V Y O C F B K F A O H M G  
U V J U S A W A M P S H M U R M X N I S  
S E U O C U N I L O I V R P A Z S G O Q  
I L M L U X R D S M K T O P J W P G D M  
V G T P A H I B K I R S R R W V R I A D  
Q U V R L C G K T Y Y Z M M B T V Z Q B  
V V Y A N M O B N N Q O Y U E P N R X N  
F R P W F B O V X G I L R M V A B X R M  
O J M I P G D O X S O A P K T J I D L V  
I D D A H R G I U K C O P S E F Z N Y W  
D Y U S A N O G I S S B A N D Y P D V G  
T I M M V L L Q I U E X X A Z U S C N O  
U Q A G N I T I R W E V I T A E R C X I  
O B A L L E T Y K E B H R G E R D A Q O

## How To...

By David Whitley

*This month's lesson: Avoiding pickpockets in Rome.*

## Phase 1: Appearance

Do not shave. Have more than a five o'clock shadow if possible. Use cooking oil to make your hair greasy and unpleasant-smelling.

Dress dirty, and I mean too dirty for them to want to touch. Get some brown pants with holes in them that are several sizes too large, and wear a rope for a belt. Wear a dirty shirt from Wal-Mart with an oil-stained coat over everything. This, as well as the above step, has made you a wholly unappealing target, as it looks like you possess virtually no money.

## Phase 2: Pickpocket Avoidance

Keep your money inside your shoe, in your socks if possible. Any time you have to pay for a good or service, pay in the lowest denomination bills possible, and count aloud as you do so.

Gypsies will often approach you with signs in crudely written English. When they ask you if you speak English, always reply, "I am dreadfully sorry, but I am afraid that I find myself quite unable to adequately converse within the boundaries of the English language." Their heads may explode from the irony and sarcasm, leaving you free to go about your business. Either that or they will throw a gypsy curse at you, which you should catch in a pickle jar and sell on eBay. I'm not sure what the going rate for curses is, but I'm willing to bet it's fairly high.

## Horoscopes

By Blake Engel

**Libra (September 23-October 22):** I'll give you a topic to discuss: String theory is not a viable means by which to rationalize the universe and all existence as we know it.

**Scorpius (October 23 - November 21):** If you're wandering in the Nevada desert, trying to rediscover yourself and imagine new perspectives of reality, then you should probably look into getting a job or something.

**Sagittarius (November 22-December 21):** If you spend more than two hours a day on the computer, go outside. There won't always be a bright beautiful world out there to maim and desecrate in the name of condominiums and shopping centers!

**Capricorn (December 22-January 19):** Mix one part Mountain Dew with two parts Pop-Rocks. If your jaw is missing within 60 seconds, then you've created a successful chemical reaction. Congratulations.

**Aquarius (January 20-February 18):** Ms. Cleo and John Edwards have no secrets or answers for you. Find them for yourself. They probably won't be in a mall or at your friend's house. Try a forest or wooded area instead. Tibet works too.

**Pisces (February 19-March 20):** Pursue a career in magic and one day your skills will rival those of Harry Houdini! Or not, I don't really know. Good luck with that anyhow.

**Aries (March 21-April 19):** It's better to be a has-been than a never-was.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20):** If snakes have inhabited your plane, car, train, or any other form of transportation, please exit the vehicle calmly, and then start running around and shouting lines you heard from Samuel L. Jackson movies.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21):** Soon, the bricks will fall into place in some sort of chaotic serenity. Some actor said this, a good actor. Thus, it is true.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22):** Forget all you've learned, find all you've lost, and begin again sometime soon. But don't forget crucial life lessons, like how to breath and swallow food. Those things are very important.

**Leo (July 23-August 22):** If you have a girlfriend, pick for her some yellow flowers. If you have a boyfriend, let him watch that football game. If you've got neither, then don't bother catering to anyone but yourself.

**Virgo (August 23-September 22):** Keep your eyes on the Moon. Make sure it doesn't go anywhere.

## Fashion Trend: Locket

By Kristen DeHerder



Senior Cassandra Fennell models her locket

Since the beginning of the year I have noticed a growing trend on the SOA campus: lockets. Whether they are heart shaped or oval, on a long or short chain, lockets seem to be popping up everywhere.

For centuries lockets have been used to carry poisons, good luck charms, keepsakes, ashes, hair, and pictures. Queen Victoria, who wore lockets and charms on her bracelets, first popularized this trend. Thanks to fashion designers like Chanel, lockets have slowly trickled down into today's mainstream fashion.



## Question of the Month



"Last year at the beginning of the year when I got to meet all my friends."  
-William Horry, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade



"Days when Mr. Wood would turn into the Purple Dragon."  
-Larissa Clarke, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade



"When the sophomores put shaving cream all over Mrs. Johnson's hotel bathroom on our Orlando trip."  
-Jillian Suter, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade



"When we picked up the carpet and millions of roaches crawled all over the room."  
-Hugo Hanham-Gross, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

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### What is your most memorable moment from your arts major?

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"The day the whole class danced in circles to awaken DeAnna out of writer's block."  
-Collins Rice, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade



"The time that Brett Simms threw-up on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor of a New-York City hotel on a vocal trip."  
-Howard Brown, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade



"When Matthew acted like Shakespeare and put on a hat and robe."  
-Ashley Prantice, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade



"When the first class here graduated, it was really meaningful to me. They called themselves 'the pioneers.'"  
-Ms. Rene Miles, Creative Writing Teacher