

Alumni News

for Alumni, Parents and Friends of Welsh Hills School



Alumni Andrew Irvin Brings Rock Music to Kenyon College

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Andrew Irvin '08, Kenyon junior, makes Kenyon a destination for indie bands.

The Narrator, Daedalus, The City on Film...; these may sound like the names of postmodern movies, but they're actually a few of the more than forty indie bands that have performed at Kenyon's Horn Gallery in the last year, thanks to the efforts of rock impresario and rising junior Andrew Irvin. "When I arrived here, we had about five bands a semester coming to play at Kenyon," says Irvin. "I knew we could do better."

As a Granville, Ohio, resident, Irvin spent his high school years exploring the central Ohio rock scene, both by playing guitar in bands of his own and by attending shows at Columbus venues. At every opportunity, he meets band members, researches their recording labels, and establishes contact with their booking agents.

His professionalism in dealing with bands and booking agents has already brought him a job offer from Saddle Creek, an independent record label based in Omaha, Nebraska. Last summer he held an internship in sales and retail at Flame Shovel, a Chicago label. . . .Because he likes "the recording end of things," Irvin thinks he might like to run a label one day.

The preceding article is an excerpt from the November, 2007 Kenyon College Alumni Bulletin which featured an article titled "Rockin the Horn", by Amy Blumenthal.

Andrew graduated from Welsh Hills in 2000. His mother Alice taught at the school and his brother Ted also attended.

Kristen and Emily Astorian Pursue Their Talents

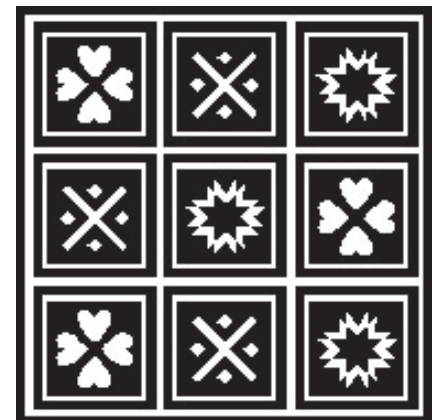


This November, Kristen Astorian performed on her fiddle with a Blue Grass band at Denison University's Burke Hall. She is a junior at Granville High School and hopes to attend Boston University (study cello as a minor).

She is in indoor track and a bluegrass band and indicates that music is her life now. She's currently studying the fiddle (not to be confused with the violin) with both Emily Hickman and Andy Carlson. Her main instrument is the cello, with her teacher/mentor being the Columbus symphony's principle cellist Mary Fetherston.



Emily Astorian, Kristen's twin sister, entered her beautiful quilt in the Heart of Ohio Quilt Show at Bryn Du this October.





2007 Graduate, Oliver Raker Gives Moving Speech

Oliver Raker was the WHS eighth grade graduate last June. Following are excerpts from his graduation address.

Hola, mi nombre es Oliver Raker. He estado atendiendo a la escuela Welsh Hills por cinco años y soy triste sobre salir de esta escuela por muchas razones. Algunas de estas razones son que esta escuela me had enseñado muchas cosas y he hecho a muchos amigos en mis años aquí. Al mismo tiempo, soy también muy feliz que comenzaré una nueva vida en escuela secundaria el año próximo.

Hello, my name is Oliver Raker. I have been attending the Welsh Hills School for five years now and I am sad about leaving this school for many reasons. A few of these reasons are that this school has taught me many things and I have made many friends in my years here. At the same time, I am also very happy that I will be starting a new life in high school next year.

For my community service experience I went on a mission trip with the Centenary United Methodist Church to Jackson, Ohio. We went out every day and helped under privileged people around the city cleaning the exterior of their homes or doing yard work. We even built a concrete ramp for a disabled older woman. (For my personal achievement project) I read the 6th Harry Potter book in Spanish. The book is titled Harry Potter y el Medio Príncipe. I chose this project because I would like to pursue Spanish through college.

My favorite things of all time at this school would have to be Nature's Classroom and the class trips. Last year we went to Gatlinburg, TN. I enjoyed getting to live on the side of a mountain for a week. This year we went to Williamsburg. This was the most fun trip because I like to study history.

I would like to thank Sharon Cross, who helped me grow mentally and emotionally over the last three years; Justin Dedman, who helped me to see my potential if I decided to continue studying Spanish; Heather Dhume, who helped me grow my musical talents; and my parents and grandparents, who made all of these great opportunities possible.



Oliver Raker in June 2007 giving his Graduation speech and posing with teacher, Sharon Cross



Alumni Updates

Carrie Reeb Lonzo and her sister Jenni Reeb Biehn both recently welcomed second children into their families. Carrie, her husband Clay and daughter Cassidy welcomed sister, Ophelia. Jenni, husband Steve, and son Jeremiah welcomed new baby brother Asher.

Dan Cairns, now living in Columbus, graduated from Granville HS and then OSU in 2001 (summa cum laude with a BS in physics). "I am essentially a mathematician for an insurance company in Columbus, and working toward accreditation with the Casualty Actuarial Society. I graduated from WHS in 1993 and I have very fond memories of the school. Jackie O'Keefe was one of the very best and most important teachers I ever had."

Please visit the alumni page at www.welsh-hills.org - The list is growing!

We love to get notes and articles that tell us about how Welsh Hills (and the people here) impacted your life and what you have taken with you. We know classmates like to hear about friends and what they're doing. Log on to www.welsh-hills.org and look at our alumni section where you can share information and catch up with what others are doing. We would like to re-connect all of you as well.

We want to keep in touch!