

The Colorado Springs School  
21 Broadmoor Avenue  
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## NEWS

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### THE COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE 44<sup>th</sup> COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AND A SUCCESSFUL 2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR

**Colorado Springs, Colo.** – The Colorado Springs School (CSS) announced thirty-six graduates on the terrace steps of the historic Trianon on Friday morning. The 44<sup>th</sup> Commencement Exercises represented a glorious day for the Class of 2009, their outstanding accomplishments and the dedication and devotion of the faculty and parents who supported their journey. The Class of 2009



and their guests were welcomed to the ceremony by Head of School, Kevin Reel. They enjoyed an inspirational musical tribute from the Children's School students to "I Hope You Dance." Former Upper School English Teacher, Anne Taylor, delivered a memorable Commencement Address in a whimsical Dr. Seuss like poem with a few slant lines and twisted couplets she led the audience through literary works, characters and themes that the class had studied over the last four years. In Ms. Taylor's closing stanzas, she encouraged these students to continue writing their own stories...



"For how you will honor the stories of others,  
Allow each to flourish, each sister's, each brother's.

How will you care for this setting, our earth?  
And how, besides money, will you define worth?

There's really no limit to what you can do...  
Go write your own story, the one right for YOU!

So be on your way, and until our next meeting,  
Take good care of your story, and NEVER STOP READING!"  
*(For the Commencement Address in its entirety, visit [www.css.org](http://www.css.org))*

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Those who have most profoundly influenced the lives of the graduates were then invited to come forward for the presentation of the roses. A yellow rose was offered to each graduate in a quiet moment, where hugs were exchanged and high-fives were traded between family members, mentors and friends. Six of the graduates were then awarded the Longevity Award for having attended CSS since Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten. These “lifers” included: **Ethan Gilbert, Laura Johnson, Nicholas Johnson, Colton Keluche, Kailea Madrigal and Peter Tynan**. Their Kindergarten teachers affectionately read from their early progress reports and reminisced that the Class of 2009 was the class of twins, as half of the twelve children in the Kindergarten class that year were a twin.

“At the urging of a friend, we checked out The Colorado Springs School before the kids were even born. We actually put applications in for Baby A and Baby B,” shared Dr. Charles and Carole Johnson, parents of twin graduates, **Laura and Nicholas Johnson**. “Eighteen years later we are just as pleased with our decision to send the kids to CSS. This is the best education we could have given them.”



Last week, several members of the student body received awards in clubs, for athletics, music, and academics; many students received honors for showing particular prowess in the various disciplines; still more won awards in art and writing; and many of our seniors have been granted scholarship awards to help them move into their futures at college. At graduation each year two very special awards are given that surpass all others in the breadth of their scope – The Faculty Cup and the Margaret White Campbell Award.

The Faculty Cup is an award given by the faculty to the student who embodies most the values of the Upper School. This student must be the epitome of the renaissance teenager -- skilled in academics, keenly aware of the value of service to the school and community, a fiercely loyal and dedicated steward of CSS both on and off campus. This student is chosen as best representing who and what we collectively feel is the spirit and essence of this amazing place. Linda Harris, Head of the Upper School bestowed the The Faculty Cup to **Levi Schmeiler**, who will take his entrepreneurial spirit and leadership skills to the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

The Margaret White Campbell Award, named for the school’s founder was introduced by Betsy Long Jones, ’65, “It is unusual to find the almost magical combination of natural academic ability, mature sense of responsibility, athletic skills, public service and natural leadership wrapped up in a single individual.

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He was elected President of Forum (Student Government) in his junior year, and ran unopposed this year as a senior. He was President of El Pomar Youth in Community Service, and a member of Investment Club, Spirit Club, and the CSS Choir. All four years in the Upper School he played three varsity sports: soccer, lacrosse, and basketball. He was captain of both the soccer team and the basketball team, and it was in part due to his enthusiastic and optimistic leadership in basketball that CSS was able to rise to the top, capturing the State Title this year, for the first time in our history. His extraordinary list of honors and awards on the court were announced last week as he won the Athlete Scholar of the Year.



Indeed, if any single student were to go forward from this celebration and represent our school to the world, we would choose this combination of grace, leadership, and talent. The Margaret White Campbell Award, the highest honor the school bestows on a student, goes to **Ethan Gilbert.** Gilbert will head to Claremont McKenna College in California where he will study International Economics.

Seventh grader, **Greta Sloan** was acknowledged with the Highest Academic Achievement of the Middle School and sophomore, **Kaitlyn Baucom** and junior, **Monica Finger** tied for the highest g.p.a. in the Upper School.

Beyond student accolades, graduation is also a time to honor the dedicated faculty and staff of The Colorado Springs School. Middle School History teacher, **Mr. Michael Kelly** was applauded for his eleven years of outstanding service both in and out of the classroom, as he received The Sarah Hoiles Foundation Award. The E.E. Ford Award was given to **Mrs. Dawn Rainbowstar** for her extraordinary commitment to experiential education during her five years teaching second grade at CSS. Additionally, Mrs. Rainbowstar dedicates herself to the teaching profession by leading workshops in reading and writing. And finally, the eighteen year veteran Upper School Science Teacher, **Mr. Sam Johnson** received a standing ovation from the audience and the graduates as he was announced as the Mary Lynn Flemke Leadership in Education Award. He was commended for his efforts to propel the Upper School's signature Experience Centered Seminars to new levels.



In likely the school's most memorable farewell speech ever, Kenyon College-bound **Will Seaton** called to the aid of puppets and accents to deliver a non-conventional and wildly creative message of encouragement to his classmates. He paired wit and whimsy with cleverness and confidence in a performance which inspired everyone to laughter and reminded us never to take ourselves too seriously.

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To learn more about The Colorado Springs School, visit [www.css.org](http://www.css.org) or call 719-475-9747.

*The above photos are credited to J. Miller Adam, CSS Photography Teacher and Kelly Walker, Studio Imago.*

## **About the Colorado Springs School (CSS)**

CSS offers an experiential educational curriculum for Pre-Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Through superior academics and mentoring, The Colorado Springs School prepares students to think independently and to meet the needs of a dynamic world with leadership, ingenuity, problem-solving skills, and personal integrity.

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