



Focus on the Grad

by Sonia Merchant

The question that inevitably comes up with prospective parents and others is, "How do your grads do in high school?" So, we decided to go straight to the sources and create a series of interviews called "Focus on the Grad."

The first interview, with the very charming good sport, Alex Cinelli, took place after I picked him up at Ensworth High School, where he's a freshman.

"Linden Corner School helped prepare me extraordinarily in almost all the subjects."

Q So, Alex, tell me. How's it going, socially and academically?

A It was a lot harder socially (Reader, you can imagine that this was NOT the answer I wanted to hear. But, do read on.) It seemed like the kids were a lot different.

Q How?

A They acted different. I might describe them as being less mature, but, then again, they might say that about me. I would just describe them as being different.

Q Okay. Did you feel prepared academically?

A Completely prepared. The homework load is not as bad as people say. A lot of time you'll have a little or no homework. The history class is not nearly as comprehensive and not as in-depth. None of it is really too extremely difficult. Some of the material is new, but it's not too hard to learn. I seem to find the science class a lot easier than the other kids.

Q In what way?

A For broader thinking skills. Atomic structure, electrons, things I can't see but have to come up with in my head, are a lot easier for me than for the other kids.

Q So would you say what you learned at Linden Corner really helped you?

A Not so much what I learned there, but, how I was taught to think. Linden Corner School helped prepare me extraordinarily in almost all the subjects. (Reader, you must know I was already imagining these lines in bold for the Leaflet.)

Q Now getting back to the social adjustment, can you explain it a little bit more to me? (My husband will attest to the fact that I just can't let things go.)

A It was kind of hard to fit in at first, but that might just be a "me" thing. Anytime I start something new it takes me a little while to adjust.

Q Did this initial social adjustment make you regret having been at Linden Corner?

A Not in the least bit, because Linden Corner was so great. Looking at it from a high school standpoint, it was a really great experience.

Q So, what would you tell a family who was considering enrolling their child in the school is the best thing about Linden Corner?

A Two recesses a day are always good. There's lots of companionship built up which never really gets old, lots of art. I was happy there, that's for sure.

Q Thanks so much for your time, Alex.

A No problem.

Alex's favorite thing about Ensworth: The "really great teachers" and the harkness tables.