

Focus on the Grad

by Sonia Merchant

Here's the second installment in our series designed to answer the question "How do your school's graduates do in high school?" Lilly Olney (LCS '07) dropped by the office one day after a long day at Hillsboro High. She was cheerful, thoughtful and honest.

And, I must say, very humble considering her great beauty and brains.



Q Lilly, thank you so much for doing this. So, how has it been adjusting to high school socially and academically?

A In the beginning it was a little difficult because I had to get used to how each teacher teaches. My grades are really good. It was just getting comfortable with new people, I guess, and that would be the same thing everywhere. I didn't like school at all at first. But, by November I got really comfortable. Now I like going to see my friends and everything.

Q I've heard that you have received amazing grades and enrolled in advanced classes like IB, AP and honors classes.

A They don't offer IB until 11th grade. (Oops) I really like my AP class. The rest are honors.

Q So, you can really handle the academics (Reader: I admit this was a leading question—I was trying to get her to talk about the incredible grades I knew she was getting)

A I think everyone who was in our class can handle it. (I already said humble, right?)

Q Alright, well, tell me things you really liked about Linden Corner.

A I liked everything about Linden Corner really, and I miss it. I miss it a lot. The teachers were really good. They really taught you how to look deeper into things, how to analyze them better. That was good.

Q What would you say to people who wonder how their children will do after coming out of Linden Corner?

A Not to worry, I guess. Academically they'll be up to it and even if they don't know little things they can catch up quickly. A woman, a teacher at Hillsboro (Suzanne Frensley, who is a LCS fourth grade parent), went to our English teacher and asked how the Linden Corner kids were doing. My English teacher spoke highly of us. And so she (Suzanne) decided to put her kids here. I guess that says something.

Q What do you miss the most about Linden Corner School?

A There was just something about it. I don't know how to explain it well. My class was so tight as a unit. It was like a family. The teachers made us think really hard and deeply.

Q What's your favorite thing about Hillsboro?

A It takes time getting used to, but I like having so many people there. It's like the real world. So much is going on, just like the real world.

Q There was something you once said to me about being grateful your parents let you have a long childhood. Would you please talk a little about that?

A It was nice to be sheltered so much. I got to have a real childhood. I think a lot of people at my high school didn't get