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ALAMDEN COUNTRY SCHOOL SENT INSPIRED YOUTH ONTO HIGH SCHOOL AFTER EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION

JUNE 10, 2010 — Almaden Country School, preschool thru eight grade independent school in San Jose, graduated 40 8th graders on Thurs. June 10.

These highly motivated students participated in a very intimate graduation ceremony in which their teachers shared favorite memories and highlighted the special qualities about each young person, and in turn the students composed and offered personalized tributes to every teacher at the school.

“The ACS graduation ceremony was extraordinary,” said Melissa Edmunson, eighth grader advisor. “Amazingly, each child and every teacher who ever taught that child was individually recognized in heartfelt, originally crafted tributes.”

The ceremony recognized class valedictorian, Gavin Drucker, and academic distinction students Bryan Herr, Erika Kawaguchi, Saad Khan, AJ McDonald, Gabriella Sant’Anna, Jordi Sim, Jacob Siporen, Tyler Sisley, Alexandra Tomassian and Haley Weiner.

“Our graduates leave ACS confident, poised and prepared for high school, and the Class of 2010 is headed for years of success and fulfillment at some excellent schools,” said Ole Jorgenson, head of school. “They’re an accomplished group, but what matters more is the empathy, commitment and passion they’re taking with them.”

In the spirit of these ideals, Almaden Country School also gave a “Founder’s Award” to a child who most wholly represents the ideals of kindness, service and joy, as laid down by ACS founder, Mrs. Nan Hunter. This year Case Bontrager received the award.

After a summer of relaxing and exploring these 40 graduates will attend a variety of area high schools including Archbishop Mitty High School, Bellarmine College Preparatory,

Leland High School, Notre Dame High School, Presentation High School, Saint Francis High School, St. Lawrence Academy and Valley Christian High School.

“As I watch these youngsters move on to high school, I feel proud and relieved: proud because these kids have learned, and I've helped them along with that, and relieved, not because the year is over, but because we're sending out another batch of ‘good’ kids, who are likely to make a beneficial mark on society,” said Edmunson. “The world needs more ACS kids, and I'm relieved we're still producing them.”

Almaden Country School is a nonsectarian south San Jose independent school that offers programs for students from 4 years of age through 8th grade. In 2009, ACS was named “Best of Best” by Bay Area Parent magazine. This highly regarded school, which has more than 400 students, believes that each child has unique capabilities and talents. In its 27th year of discovering the gifts in every child, ACS offers Personal Learning Plans for each student; a Character & Competence program for developing strong, ethical leaders; small class sizes; a broad and challenging curriculum; and passionate teachers who share a genuine love of children.

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