

## Almaden Country School celebrates 24th graduating class

Filled with hope for the future, the Almaden Country School community gathered to celebrate the graduation of 40 talented young people as they transitioned from middle school to high school.

Led by Jean Delwiche, interim head of schools, the gathering of family, friends and teachers was welcomed and thanked for their support of the graduating class.

Dr. David Griffith, father of a graduate, and longtime volunteer and band instructor at the school, was the guest speaker. He discussed the strength of the ACS community and the joy of being part of the ACS family for so many years.

Valedictorian Keir McMaster, who will attend Bellarmine College Preparatory, talked about the fond memories of his years at Almaden Country School, including class trips to Science Camp and Washington, D.C., the dedication of the teachers at ACS and his respect for the talents of his classmates. He encouraged his classmates to seize the day and use the solid foundation they received at ACS for success in high school.

In recognition of the support and encouragement given them, each graduate took the opportunity to thank those who had helped them at Almaden Country School. Each teacher and staff member, who had worked with the class of 2008 from preschool through eighth grade, was recognized by a graduate for his or her dedication and care. Many past teachers returned for this ceremony and there were few dry eyes in the house as students shared their sincere thanks.

Nan Hunter, who founded Almaden Country School 26 years ago, made the final presentation of the afternoon by selecting one student to receive the Founder's Award. This award is given to the student that best represents the ideals of service, respect and support upon which ACS was founded. Grace Hoffman, who will attend Presentation High School in the fall, was the honored recipient.

Jennifer Uible, Upper School principal, commented that, "Friendship and community are words that people would use to describe this class of 2008. They are caring and generous students who have participated in all that ACS has to offer. We wish them all the best and know they will have success in the future."

Members of this graduating class will attend area high schools including Bellarmine, Presentation, Archbishop Mitty, Leland, Notre Dame, Oakwood, Willow Glen and Pioneer.



*The 40 members of Almaden Country School's class of 2008, take time for a photo on graduation day, the 24th class the school has graduated. Students will be attending local high schools including Bellarmine, Presentation, Archbishop Mitty, Leland, Notre Dame, Oakwood, Willow Glen and Pioneer.*