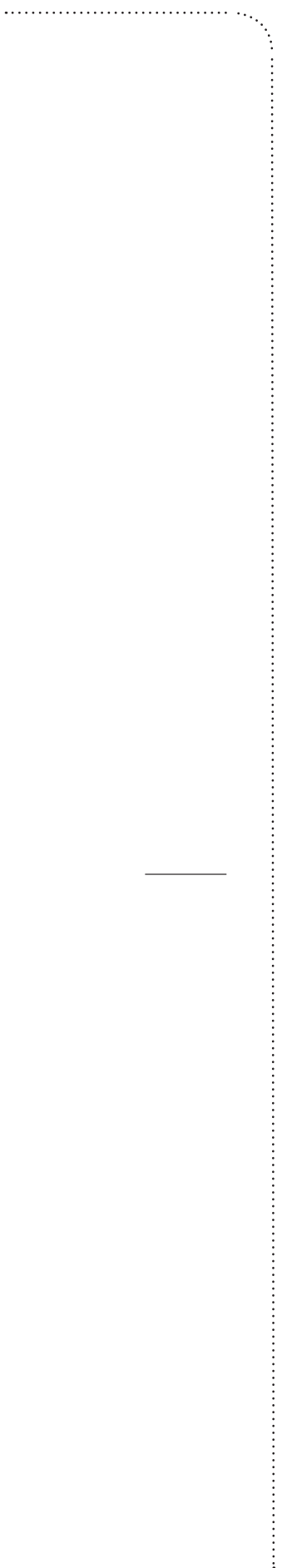


# prepnotes

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS OF JACKSON PREPARATORY SCHOOL



*Susan Lindsay*



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## italian studies

**C**iaotutti! The Italian Exchange Program at Prep is going strong with some important changes. The program was designed to give Prep students firsthand knowledge of another country and culture through an exchange. In September, students from our partner school, Cobiانchi Technical Institute in Verbania, Italy, arrived in Jackson to be partnered with Prep students and families. In March, those same Prep students traveled to Italy and stayed in the homes of their Italian partners. The exchange itself offers Prep students a great way to see themselves as global citizens by broadening their awareness of the world and by giving them a greater appreciation of their home as they become ambassadors for Jackson and for the Prep community. Each Italian student leaves Prep not only with a sense of what it means to be an American high school student, but more importantly, a true comprehension of southern hospitality and generosity. This year, 23 Prep seniors and two Prep teachers played host to 24 Italian students and two Italian teachers. Though it was a busy time, friendships were forged and learning began.

Change occurred this year, not only in the program's name, but in the program's benefits to our students. The name altered from the Italian Exchange Program to Italian Studies and Exchange Program because Prep seniors who are participating in the 2008-09 program have been given the opportunity to receive a half-credit for taking Italian Studies as a course. Prep has always had great participation in the Italian Exchange program, and many of our participants and alumni have said that the exchange program was a terrific learning experience, but until this year, our students didn't receive any academic credit for participation. Now, in addition to students traveling to Italy over spring break, interested students participate in a daily class to bolster their knowledge of Italy and its culture. Students learn about Italy through the study of Italy's culture, history, art, architecture, cuisine, politics, literature, and of course, through its language. Students recently presented projects on Renaissance artists whose works will be on display in some of the museums and galleries that the students will tour in March in Italy. Later this semester, architect Chuck Barlow will be speaking about Italian art and architecture. Also coming up is an evening of Italian cooking, followed by the viewing of the classic Italian film, *La Dolce Vita*. To cap off the year, each participating student will select a topic related to Italy to research, photograph, study, write about, and present upon their return from Italy. Learning is extended outside of the classroom, and gives the trip meaning beyond the obvious joys that traveling brings.

The benefits of these changes to the Italian Studies and Exchange Program can only promote the program's original intentions and the overall goals of making Prep students aware of their places as citizens of the world, and of reminding them of their responsibilities to the global community.



*Prep hosted these Italian students and teachers through the Italian Studies and Exchange Program*

## admission news

**O**ur last *Saturday* admission "test day" is coming up on December 6, 2008. **This will be the last date of testing scheduled soon enough to meet the early registration deadline of February 1, 2009.** We will offer the admission test to rising sixth through eighth graders at 9:30 a.m. and again at 1:00 p.m. Please reserve a place as this date will likely fill up.

*Prep Preview* Daytime Visit will be offered again on Wednesday, January 14. We had our largest crowd EVER for a daytime visit in October, so this is still growing in popularity as *the best way* to see our school. Please make a reservation with Beth Broocks to attend this event with your prospective student and help us spread the word to friends who may be considering Jackson Prep!

Please submit to the admission office any additional names of your local relatives, neighbors, church friends or business associates whose children attend public school and may not be receiving information about Prep.

If you would like to assist with a *Fireside Chat* for parents of prospective students in area homes, please let Lesley Morton know. We need current parents to host these events, which are usually held on a Thursday night during mid-winter after the holidays. These present wonderful opportunities for prospects to get information on our school in smaller gatherings.

Contact Lesley Morton for any admission information at [lmorton@jacksonprep.net](mailto:lmorton@jacksonprep.net) or (601) 932-8106, ext. 1.

## alumni upcoming events

### COLLEGE ALUMNI/FACULTY LUNCH

Wednesday, December 17 - 11:15 a.m.  
Jackson Prep Dining Commons

### ALUMNI CHRISTMAS PARTY

Tuesday, December 23 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Home of Holly and Brooks Buchanan

For more information or to RSVP, contact Lucia Jones at [ljones@jacksonprep.net](mailto:ljones@jacksonprep.net).

## pat news

*by Anne Toy Gathings PAT President*

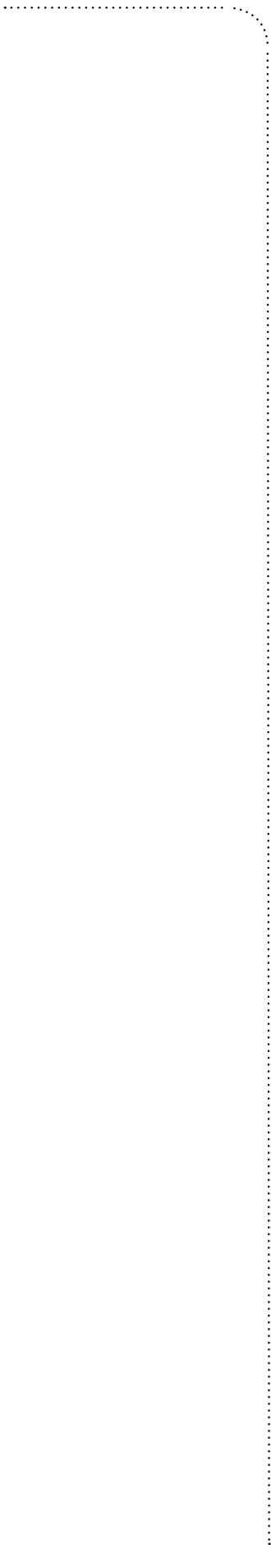
**T**he PAT has been busy assisting with *Prep Preview*, an event for prospective students. Thank you to Ann Coggin, Night Chairman, and Libby Kendall, Day Chairman, for organizing volunteers for these events. They were very well attended. The last open house will be held January 14, 9:30-11:00 a.m. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please contact Libby Kendall.

Our last PAT meeting was held October 30. Dianne Holbert, Choral Music Director, briefed the group on preparations for the musical, *Wizard of Oz*. If you were able to attend the performance, I'm sure you will agree that it was outstanding! I would like to thank Debye Haick for her support in organizing volunteers for this event. Also, at the meeting, Laura Bishop, Director of Technology, stressed the importance of restricting information our children can access on their cell phones. Feel free to view the minutes of these meetings on the parent page of the Prep website.

I do hope that you will join us for the next PAT meeting scheduled for January 15 at noon in the HMC. We look forward to hearing from Luke Nealey, Head of Senior High, in addition to others. You will also hear more exciting details about the PAT fundraiser on February 7. All parents will receive an invitation in January to this event. In the meantime, look on the Prep website and click the PAT fundraiser tab for more information.

Thank you ALL for your support of the PAT. May you and your family have a blessed holiday season!

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