Extended Insights...

Flying Above the Radar

By Carrie Shoumatoff

Prior to enrolling at the Oakley School, many of our students have long relied on their excellent verbal and manipulative skills to avoid productivity and investment. Whether it is good grades, exceptional efforts on the sports field, polite interactions with adults or their stated goals to attend college, these strengths offered the opportunity for our students to present positively while in reality they have struggled. They have had difficulty developing healthy relationships with peers, their communication and honesty with their parents has suffered, they may have stumbled with substance abuse, and/or depression and anxiety. On the outside they looked fine, but a closer examination reveals a more complete picture.

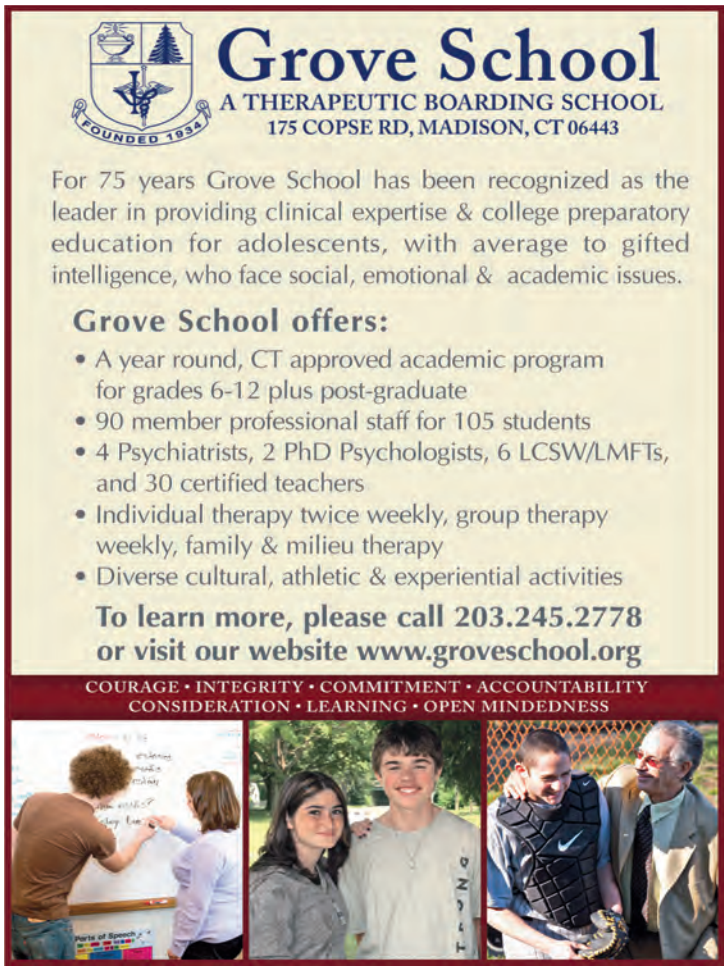
One of the common themes of incoming Oakley students is their incredible ability to appear high functioning while things are falling apart around them. Our kids are masters at presenting as "all is well" while masking their struggles. As highly verbal, manipulative and avoidant, our kids demonstrate tremendous skills in regard to their need to appear confident and mature. They are for lack of a better term, "brilliant avoiders."

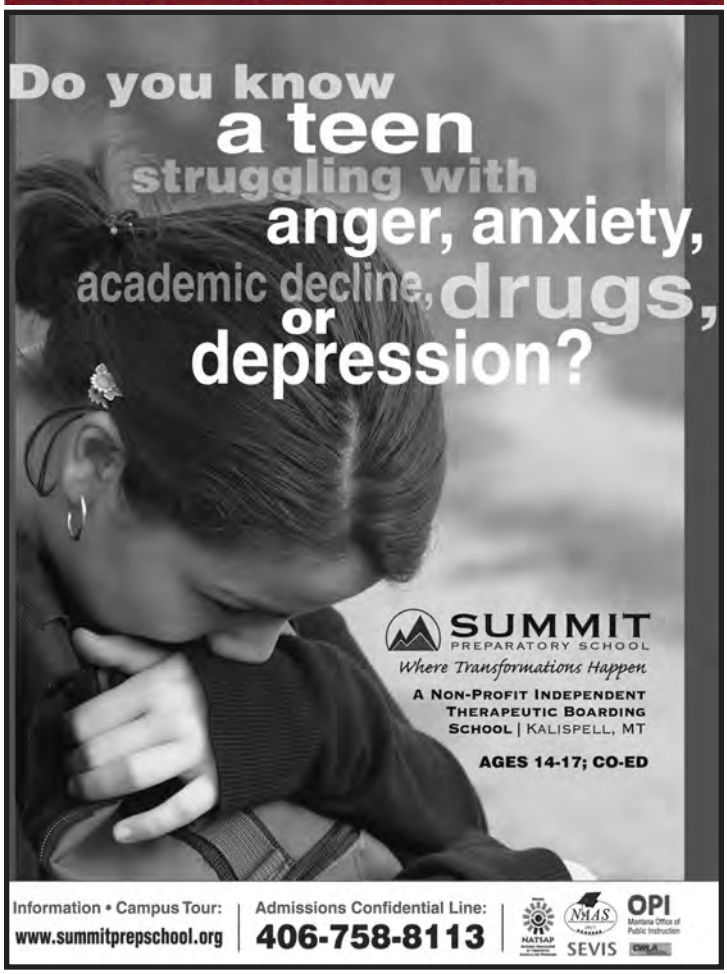
In order to impact the lives of these unique, bright and capable students, the role of the Oakley School faculty and staff is to create an environment where avoidance is not tolerated or allowed. Relying on the old coping strategy of presenting the external façade that "all is well" becomes quite hard to do in a setting as integrated and connected as the Oakley School.

Our students are exposed to real life challenges that don't exist in most small programs. They are engaging in AP and Honors level course work, playing on sports teams together, working collaboratively on community service projects, engaging in a multitude of group therapy modalities, and they are learning to live with one another. Oakley Students are expected to learn to navigate a whole host of adult and peer relationships within small group settings. In another smaller program these students would quickly learn the nuances of interaction within their program and begin to predict it. We keep our students on their toes and ask them to grow and learn through their experiences.

Daily staff meetings to discuss students who are showing positive or negative patterns, no matter how noteworthy or seemingly insignificant, provide a student's treatment team the information they need to keep our students responsible for living a life of balance. This level of accountability is not always comfortable, but it is the experience that students need in order to make change in their lives. At the Oakley School we bring dedicated professionals together under the same roof operating from the same plan. It is that level of consistency and connectivity that forces our students to develop new ways of approaching challenges and expectations in their lives.

To learn more about the Oakley School Social Model, please contact Carrie Shoumatoff or Katherine Nieroth in the Admissions office at 435-783-5001, or admissions@oakley-school.com.





Seen N Heard...

New Administrative Positions Added At CALO: Ken Huey, PhD, Founder of Change Academy at Lake of the Ozarks (CALO), announced CALO has created a new administrative position and added two additional people to the leadership team. Abby Mayer has moved into the new role of Registrar and works with transcripts, credits, treatment team summaries and IEPs for CALO. Krista Allison has moved into the role of Academic Director and Chris Allison is taking over the position as Program Director. 866-459-1364

Little Keswick School Breaks New Ground: Terry Columbus, Director of Little Keswick School, announced the ground breaking and construction of a new dormitory, the Monroe Dormitory. This project involves a major extension and renovation to the existing Cottage Dorm, which will double the space. Little Keswick School also plans on renovating several other areas of the campus as well. 434-295-0457

Santiam Crossing School In The News: The mother of a Santiam Crossing School alumni student has started a fund to help a troubled teen in her community. 208-265-8355

Completion Of A $1 Million Campaign: Judy Emerson, Director of Communications for Rosecrance stated that Rosecrance celebrated the completion of a campaign to serve veterans and others who suffer from co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. 815-387-5605

Britepath - An Integrative Gap Year Program: Bradley Midgett, Co-Founder of Britepath announced the Britepath program is a response to the call that young people can benefit from being given space and encouragement to pursue their natural, creative and intuitive inclinations while also covering traditional learning. Britepath offers a Gap Year that works with college-aged young adults who are struggling to find their place in the world. 208-336-6023

Confidence Through Adventure At Elements: Elements Wilderness Program is excited to announce new Adventure-Based programming that incorporates both Rock Climbing and Rappelling. Elements will be aligned with American Mountain Guide Association (AMGA's) standards and training to facilitate our adventure-based experiences. 801-505-8481

Announcing Phoenix Educational Foundation: Cat Jennings announced a new foundation meant to help committed but underfunded families get the help they need. Phoenix Educational Foundation is a 501-(c)(3), not for profit foundation whose mission is to create access for families who need to place their children in private therapeutic environments and are unable to afford the full financial commitment. 828-772-7200

Parent Choices Hosts John Winton of Breakwater Expeditions: In an interview titled "Using Nature To Rebuild Families," host Lon Woodbury and co-host Larry Stednitz discussed the power of nature's healing qualities with John Winton. "When you get down to the brass roots of it, nature is earth and sky and land untouched by humans...something we really cherish," John said. 208-263-0277

Shortridge Academy Celebrates National Day on Writing: Shortridge Academy celebrated the National Day on Writing with a slew of writing activities during a special topic/student assembly block in November. Students participated in a Six-Word Memoir Contest, a Create-the-Caption contest (student Elena H drew the cartoon), a Haiku contest, a Write-Your-Life-from-A-Z Contest, and on-going Scrabble Slam and Boggle games. 877-903-8968

Continued: **Seen N Heard/ 12**

Habilitat Helps Hawaii Schools Raise Money: Habilitat, a nationally recognized substance abuse program, partnered with a local Christmas tree distributor to sell trees to raise funds for local schools in Hawaii. 808-235-3691

Pinnacle Schools Welcome Dr. Shaw: Dr. Aaron Shaw recently joined The Pinnacle Schools as a member of the clinical team at the Elk River Treatment Program. Dr. Shaw received a PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy at Brigham Young University after earning a Master's in Mental Health and Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of South Florida. He has several years of experience as a therapist working with children and families in outpatient and inpatient capacities. He comes to The Pinnacle Schools from private practice as owner and therapist at Therapy for Teens. 866-906-8336

Parent Choices Hosts Dr. Russell Hyken and Steve Walters of InnerChange: In an interview with Steve Walters, Social Media Director for InnerChange and Dr. Russell Hyken, EC, host Lon Woodbury discussed the benefits of social media for educators and parents. With over 200 million blogs/bloggers in the world, with 50 percent of those on social media, Lon and his guests discussed not only the benefits but also some of the challenges involved. Dr. Hyken: 314-691-7640, Steve Walters: 801-376-7225

Stavros Is New Partner At CALO: CALO announced Lia Capital, headed by Alex Stavros, is the new investment and operating partner of CALO. Alex has an MBA from Stanford that will provide us with tremendous in-house talent relative to business growth and financial stability. He also has the right heart and life experience to be part of our mission. Alex has moved to the lake and will work at CALO with oversight in many areas. Alex, Landon Kirk, Nicole Fuglsang, Rob Gent, and Ken Huey will be the guiding force behind growth and innovation at CALO. 866-459-1364

New Faces At Monarch School: Marney Sullivan, Admissions Director of Monarch School introduced the addition of several new staff members to the school. Chris Laviola, PsyD has recently joined Monarch School as their new Clinical Director. Chris received his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Pepperdine University in 2009 and has worked with adolescents in a variety of settings. Monarch School would like to welcome Mark Cheslic, the new Woodshop teacher and Ben Edstrom, who teaches drumming, and offers individual lessons in addition to facilitating a weekly group performance for the school. 406-847-5095

The Pinnacle Schools Help Sponsor Sober Spring Break 2012: The Pinnacle Schools has partnered with several other national companies to offer the "Clean Break Spring Break 2012" for high school and college students, ages 17-22, who choose to be drug and alcohol free on their spring breaks. 866-906-8336

The Academy At Sisters Focuses On Building Entrepreneurial Skills: As part of the Learning Center at the Academy at Sisters, students meet with local business owners to discuss the secrets to their success. Business leaders meeting with the students range from executives and managers from successful companies such as Nike, Google, Microsoft, IBM, NBC, and Apple to local small business owners such as a coffee shop, organic farm, and a video production studio. 541-550-8930

Flying Above the Radar: One of the common themes of incoming Oakley students is their incredible ability to appear high functioning while things are falling apart around them. Prior to enrolling at the Oakley School, many of our students have long relied on their excellent verbal and manipulative skills to avoid productivity and investment. In order to impact the lives of these

unique, bright and capable students, the role of the Oakley School faculty and staff is to create an environment where avoidance is not tolerated or allowed. 435-783-5001

PARENT CHOICES HOSTS LISA SINSHEIMER OF JOHN DEWEY ACADEMY: Titled, "Are We Turning Our Kids Into Mental Patients?" Lon Woodbury recently hosted Lisa Sinsheimer, MD, in a discussion about over-medicating children. "In the past half century," explained Sinsheimer, "the use of psychotropic medications has grown dramatically, with the biggest rise in usage over the past 15 years." 917-597-7814

OERTHER JOINS INNERCHANGE: Mark Oerther, a veteran in healthcare program development and marketing has joined the InnerChange group of programs as a Clinical Outreach Manager. Mark's varied experience includes direct care and supervisory roles in outdoor therapeutic settings, therapeutic program management and admission responsibilities, as well as business development positions. He will be based in the Asheville, North Carolina area and will work closely with referral sources and programs primarily in the eastern United States. 801-380-4367

WISDOM RANCH EXPANDS FACILITIES: After 10 years of Yurt living, Wisdom Ranch School, who is currently celebrating their 10 year anniversary, has decided to mix things up a bit and have broken ground on "The Lodge", a 5000 square foot log home that will serve as the students' primary living facility. 208-527-4753

GLEN WILLOW ACADEMY OPENS: As folks in the industry may know, some all-stars in the middle school girls therapeutic boarding school world have been working hard to open up a new program in Western North Carolina. Glen Willow Academy (GWA) is now open. Bryan Tomes, previously Academic Director at New Leaf Academy NC, is current Head of School at GWA and the Program Director is Rebecca "Becca" Jefferies, who has over 7 years' experience managing residential programs for middle school girls. The Clinical team consists of Amy L. Robichaud, MS, LPC (Hidden Lake, Swift River) and Robert Jacoby, MS. LPC, NCC. Rob also runs the equine therapy program at GWA. Including direct care staff, the team has over 30 years' experience with middle school girls programming, and much more within the broader context of therapeutic, residential programming. 828-772-7556

> The aim of education should be to convert the mind into a living fountain, and not a reservoir. That which is filled by merely pumping in, will be emptied by pumping out. ~ John M Mason

SOBER COLLEGE FEATURED ON COLLEGE WEEK LIVE: Sober College 's Corrine Barner, Academic Director,and Rick Macrory, Program Director, presented a keynote speech on The Challenges of Drugs and Alcohol on College Campuses: How to stay on track and maintain focus on College Week Live in November. 818-274-0304

PARENT CHOICES HOSTS JERRY MINTZ OF ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION RESOURCE ORGANIZATION (AERO): In an interview titled, "What Is Democratic Education?" Lon Woodbury discussed the basis of Democratic Education with AERO Founder, Jerry Mintz. "The basis of Democratic Education is a childs natural curiosity and urge to learn," Jerry explained. "A child has a voice in their own education, which often means a vote in how the school is run." 516-621-2195

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Lon Woodbury, **Publisher -** IECA, MA, CEP, is an educational consultant who has worked in schools and programs for emotional growth, character education, and consulting for parents of struggling teens since 1984. Prior to that, he taught in public schools and was involved in public policy while working for the US Senate and the Executive Office of the President. Lon received his BS and MA degrees from the University of Idaho. His practice includes a referral service for parents and professionals, and the publication of this Newsletter and the ***Parent Empowerment Handbook***,™ a resource of ***Places for Struggling Teens***.™

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