

Victories

A Valedictorian Looks Back

Only four years ago Kieran Gupta appeared in this column graduating from 8th Grade with honors.

The Northridge, California native is now a freshman at Johns Hopkins University taking a heavy course load including: Electrical and Computer Engineering; Probability and Statistics; Discrete Math

and Business Law. This academic achiever was the Valedictorian of his high school class and continues to demonstrate the talent, intelligence and diligence that will carry him through any course of study. Kieran offers sound advice to other kids and teens with TS.

“A lot of kids think that Tourette’s is a disability that holds you down. But it’s actually just a challenge. And overcoming that challenge makes you a better and stronger person. TS is a part of you, not a defining characteristic. If you let TS control you, then you let it win. To conquer TS, live your life and pursue your goals.” Kieran stated.



Adventure Land with a New Author

Asher Edelson was diagnosed with TS when he was 7. He’s coped with difficult symptoms, but nothing stops this extraordinarily persistent young man.

At 13 he has achieved what many of his elders only dream of – he’s published his first novel. *Adventure Land: The Strike of Lightening* is a classic science fiction

adventure epic featuring a heroic seven-foot-tall talking grizzly bear, dinosaurs, magic, sword fighting, battle scenes, romance and comedy. The tale follows four teenagers from Earth who find themselves trapped in the midst of a war on a distant planet. Asher proudly signed copies of his book at the South Tampa Barnes and Noble on November 18. The book is also available at Amazon.

Asher attends Middle School in South Tampa where he lives with his parents, younger sister Lillian, three cats and an iguana. He copes with unrelenting motor and vocal tics, but has not allowed TS to slow his writing down.

