

The Spring Ball at Tashkent International School

Background

The annual Spring Ball has become a much-anticipated tradition at Tashkent International School. Typically held in April, the event is sponsored by the TIS Parent Teacher Organization and is the largest fund raiser for the TIS scholarship program.

The PTO raises funds at the Spring Ball in three general ways:

- **Silent Auction Gift Baskets & Gift Certificates**
- **Live Auction Donations**
- **Corporate Sponsorships**

In 2013 and 2014, the Spring Ball raised \$25,000 each year for the scholarship program. In 2015, a record \$30,000 was generated. For the April 2016 event, the PTO aims to match last year's record achievement.

The Scholarship Program

One-hundred percent of the money raised at the Spring Ball goes to benefit the TIS Scholarship Program for local Uzbek students. All event expenses are either donated (printing materials from TIS, the ballroom from International Hotel) or covered through ticket sales.

Since 1999, TIS has provided full and partial tuition scholarships to academically gifted Uzbek high school students from low-income families. These outstanding students are frequently accepted to top universities around the world, often receiving full scholarships from the colleges they attend.

This year TIS has seven scholarship students - two in grade 10, three in grade 11 and two in grade 12.

Over the years, the money raised at the Spring Ball has helped the program in one of two ways. Some years, the money is used to directly offset the tuition for one scholarship student. In other years, the money is used to cover the additional expenses incurred by these students during their time at TIS. Some of these expenses have included:

- **University application fees;**
- **Fees for university exams (SAT, ACT, TOEFL, IELTS)**
- **One way airline ticket to the student's university;**
- **Covering the parent portion of school-sponsored athletic and academic overseas trips (TIS pays up to 50 percent; parents cover the remaining amount);**
- **Other school-related expenses at TIS that scholarship families typically could not afford.**

In March each year, the scholarship selection process begins. On average, TIS receives 100 applications from Uzbek students entering grade 10. Once the initial applications are sorted by the TIS Scholarship Committee, students are required to pass through two different exams. Those who meet the standards of the testing process are then invited to TIS for an interview.

In the end, two to four new students are accepted each year.

The Success

TIS is proud of its Scholarship Program and the students it supports. This program helps change the

lives of academically-gifted Uzbek students who otherwise would not be able to afford an international education.

These students typically score at the top of their graduating class, end their TIS career with a bilingual diploma from the International Baccalaureate, and often are accepted into top universities worldwide with generous scholarship packages.

In the last two years TIS scholarship students were accepted to the following universities:

- **Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts**
- **Grinnell College, Iowa (two students)**
- **New York University - Abu Dhabi**
- **Wartburg College, Iowa**
- **Whitman College, Washington**