

# Tulsa Adventist Academy

Vol. 1, Issue 5



## TAA HELPS STUDENTS REACH!

Are your days busy? At TAA, teachers strive to set time aside for God, and also to teach students to be spiritual leaders. Our students have benefitted from team-building events, field trips to the Tulsa State Fair, rollerskating as a reward for sitting through ITBS and COGAT testing, and more. Our student Association officers attended Southwestern Adventist University's Leadership Camp in September, where they picked up lots of leadership skills and made friends with students from other academies. So, with all this busy-ness, where does God fit in? TAA has daily worship and Bible classes, but time with our Father is of utmost importance.

October 30-November 3 is our first semester Week of Prayer and will feature parents of students as speakers. You are welcome to attend each day at 8:00 a.m. in the First SDA church sanctuary. Your encouragement is important to our students! Your encouragement is important to our teachers and staff, also. Oswald Chambers wrote that "Jesus said there is only one way to develop and grow spiritually, and that is through focusing and concentrating on God. In essence, Jesus was saying, 'Do not worry about being of use to others; simply believe on Me.' In other words, pay attention to the Source, and out of you "will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38).

I hope you will join our students, teachers, and staff at least once during Week of Prayer, and that you will gain a blessing from worshipping with us.



Shaun Lazarus, Principal

# TAA IN ACTION!

## A SOLEMN REMINDER

TAA marked the anniversary of the 9/11 bombing by including all students in its observance, most of whom were not born when this horrific event occurred. Mrs. Vargas reports that the 7th and 8th grade classes spent the day “remembering” the events that took place and honoring those who died. The class watched a video of the live news footage as it unfolded on that tragic day 16 years ago. Most of the students had never seen the footage, and were shocked over and over again at the horror of what had happened. After watching the footage, they spent time reading articles that were written on the 10 year anniversary of 9/11. These articles were written by loved ones of people who had died that day. The students reflected on how each of the people in these articles did something unique to remember their loved one.



Later in the morning, the entire student body met in the gymnasium, formed a circle and held hands during prayer for the victims’ families. The students were very respectful and thoughtful throughout this day of remembrance.

## TAA OFFERS DUAL ENROLLMENT OPTION

Several TAA seniors are working on dual enrollment classes at Tulsa Community College. The collaboration is for Freshman Composition I, College Algebra, and Introduction to Psychology. If your junior or senior wants to take one of these classes, they must meet the following requirements by December 15, 2017:

- 3.0 high school GPA;
  - an ACT composite score of 19 or SAT ERW and Math of 1140 (take test no later than October 31, 2017);
  - acceptable citizenship and attendance record; and
  - home school students need to provide a transcript.
- Contact Principal Shaun Lazarus to learn more about dual enrollment options.

## TAA STUDENT LEADERS ATTEND SWAU LEADERSHIP CAMP



One way TAA tries to imbue its students with spirituality is by sending its student leaders to SWAU Leadership Camp at Wewoka Woods Adventist Center each September. This year’s participants were Student Association officers and seniors Silas Harmon, Jordyn Harrison, Tayler Jones, Michaela Lazarus, and Sarah Moon; and junior, Samuel Massera.

Senior class sponsor Ann Sauder, along with Student Association sponsor Larry Seery, accompanied them. SWAU’s goal is to “train and prepare Southwestern Union academy student association groups for leadership.” This goal aligns with TAA’s endeavors to help students lead in the classroom and in their churches, letting God polish their talents as they learn to trust Him!

Michaela Lazarus said that she learned to develop leadership skills with God’s guidance and to develop relationships with those she’s leading. She also wants to make sure that God is included in all of her decisions, and remember that everyone’s opinion matters. Silas Harmon learned how to be a better leader and manage his time better. Tayler Jones was pleased with the lesson to help the SA with teamwork so that all of the Student Association officers can work to their fullest capacity at TAA.



## TAA WANTS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU!

*Deborah Zigo,  
Director of  
Communication*

### NOTES

Teachers send notes home with students; please ask your student daily if s/he brought home a note! Notes, "Remind" and "OneCall" are TAA's OFFICIAL methods of communication.

### REMIND

**RECOMMENDED:** Sign up with "Remind" for TAA alerts and messages about school closing, alerts and reminders. These texts are often grade specific and enhance your student's learning experience.

### FACEBOOK

**OPTIONAL:** Our Facebook page contains all of TAA's school activities and is a place for families to share how their students are thriving.

### ONECALL

**REQUIRED:** OneCall is used for global school events and emergencies and is sent to your cell phone. You are automatically signed up when you give TAA your telephone number at registration.

TAA has an online calendar on its website and a printed calendar in the main office. Please call our office during school hours to leave a message for a teacher or if you have a question about school events. Personal texts to teachers should be reserved for emergencies only.

# MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC!

Ms. Ann Sauder is TAA's new music director. She graduated from Southwestern Adventist University in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in music and an emphasis in symphonic percussion (main instrument, timpani). Ms. Sauder played four instruments by her freshman year of academy, and "loved every moment that I spent with them, so I knew that music was definitely in my future." Her parents played a large role in her decision to become a music teacher. Her personal goal as a teacher is to make sure all students feel comfortable and confident when they perform, no matter their age.

Prior to her arrival, she heard "a lot of great things about the students and the program, and I plan continue and build on the foundation that is

already here." She is researching and working on building our instrumental program, and hoping to introduce instruments in the lower grades as early as next semester.

"I believe that a well-rounded music program can be more appealing to students and parents alike, as God has made us all unique, and neither singing nor playing instruments is every person's calling." Ms. Sauder says she is "a typical/not-so-typical right brained person. My hobbies mostly include creativity (in addition to music, amateur painting and writing are some of my past times), although my thinking and conversation is more left-brain driven." We are thankful God led Ms. Sauder to TAA this year!



# TAA CELEBRATES SABBATH



The school year's first TAA Sabbath was held at the First SDA Church in Tulsa on October 7. Mr. Lazarus showed a presentation of TAA's activities so far, including team building and leadership. Ann Sauder, TAA Music Director, interspersed the service with four music performances: pre-K and Kindergarten singing and signing "Jesus Loves Me"; grades 1-4 sang "He Is Jehovah"; grades 5-8 sang "Down by the River"; and grades 9-12 sang a fast-paced, exciting rendition of "Let My People Go."

The TAA Chamber String Ensemble (Anna Rose Jones, first violin; Sophia Fisher, second violin; Lauren Schellenberg, violin; and Kyle Mather, viola and cello) played the final musical selection with the beautiful "God Save Francis the Emperor" composed by Franz Josef Haydn. Oklahoma Conference Education Superintendent Tim Kripps blessed the audience with encouraging words for TAA's present and future.



## HOME & SCHOOL



Home and School Leader Jennifer Cross and volunteers Jason Vargas, Jake Schellenberg, Mr. & Mrs. Rocha, and many others helped set up new playground equipment recently. The work bee was successful, with many students and families helping. Ms. Cross says that the "Playground equipment has aged out, was unsafe and the surface needed to be changed to recycled rubber," to comply with Oklahoma standards. High school students will be painting the tires for the sand area.

Other improvements are age-appropriate areas of equipment for pre-K through 6th grade; and a sand area overlapping with the 6-12th grade area. Pre-K now has a Fisher-Price structure; resurfacing, and a dedicated swing set; picnic tables; resurfacing around the climbing structure; new seats and chains on the old swing set and soon, new surface mats. Ms. Cross

has plans to add some trees for shade, and may have some other landscaping features added during the year, such as bird feeders, flowers, and other plants that attract nature such as butterflies.



# OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER Calendar!

SEPT. 28- OCT. 25: SHOE DRIVE!

Oct. 18: PTC 1 -5 p.m.  
(Half day school/fall break.)

Oct. 19: PTC (NO SCHOOL/fall break)

Oct. 20: NO PTC/NO SCHOOL/fall break

Oct. 30-Nov. 3: Week of Prayer (families invited)

Nov. 8-11: Acrofest in Takoma Park, MD

## TAA GALLERY



## HOME AND SCHOOL

TAA IS SPONSORING A SHOE DRIVE FOR A MICRO-ECONOMIC PROJECT. THE SCHOOL GETS PAID FOR COLLECTING SHOES AND THE SHOES GO TO THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES WHERE CITIZENS RE-SELL THE SHOES. THE DRIVE WILL LAST FROM SEPT. 28- OCT. 25, AND ANY GENTLY USED SHOES ARE NEEDED: DRESSY, CASUAL, ATHLETIC, ETC. ASK EVERYONE, INCLUDING YOUR CO-WORKERS, NEIGHBORS, FAMILY AND OTHERS, IF THEY CAN DONATE SHOES FOR THIS WORTHY CAUSE!

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**TAA'S MISSION IS TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR HEAVEN AND EARTH!**



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*TAA is fully accredited by the Oklahoma Private School Accreditation Commission and the State of Oklahoma Department of Education.*