

# LIGHT notes



TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL

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Vol. VII No. 1

Update from "The Light in the Mountains"

FALL • 2015

## Experts stress cybersafety to TFS students

**T**allulah Falls School students received some expert advice in cybersafety direct from local experts in law enforcement and the judicial system. TFS middle school and upper school students attended separate sessions dealing with the realities and consequences of growing up in a world with easy access to the internet and personal electronic devices.

The cybersafety session featured Mountain Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge B. Chan Caudell, Mountain Circuit District Attorney Brian M. Rickman, and Special Agent Brooke Lindsey with the Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit (CEACCU) of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Mountain Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge B. Chan Caudell captured the students's attention quickly. "The reason we're here today, is to hopefully enlighten you about the potential dangers of social media," he said, cellphone in hand. "You cannot be too careful with these things (cellphones)." Caudell stressed that while cellphones and other wireless devices are extremely helpful in most cases, they open the door to potential issues such as cyberbullying, sexual predators, and other dangers.

The TFS students next heard from Brian M. Rickman, District Attorney for the Mountain Judicial District. Rickman implored the students to "think of your safety and your future" before posting content that could possibly compromise either one.

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Mountain Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge B. Chan Caudell speaks to middle schoolers about cybersafety. Photo by E. Lane Gresham

## New academic honor roll guidelines announced

The TFS academic honor rolls have been restructured for the 2015-16 academic year. Students now have the opportunity to earn recognition on one of three honor rolls which will be announced at the end of each semester.

Inclusion on the basic Honor Roll is for students that earn a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 - 3.49. The next level is the Trustees Honor roll, composed of students earning a 3.5 - 3.99 GPA. These students will be recognized with their names in the local newspapers and displayed in the hallways.

Students earning a 4.0 GPA or above will earn inclusion on the prestigious Presidential Scholars honor roll. Presidential Scholars must have no major infractions and no more than 25 demerits for the entire year. Presidential Scholars will be recognized in the local newspapers, on boards in the hallways of the school, and receive a certificate and meal at an off-campus site. If a student achieves Presidential Scholar recognition for both semesters they will receive a special shirt and be recognized on Awards Night.

## Campus Progress



**Scheduled completion date: August 2016**

## Construction and renovations continue across campus

It has been a summer of non-stop activity on the Tallulah Falls School campus. While students and faculty enjoyed a well-earned summer break, construction workers labored across campus on a variety of projects designed to improve academics, athletics, and administrative functions at the school.

The most visible project is the beautiful multi-purpose building on the TFS middle school campus. Currently steel beams are being hoisted into place on the front entrance, and rockwork is nearing completion on the main portion of the building. The interior of the \$4.5 million dollar project is also taking shape as classroom and locker room walls are in place. With every passing month the anticipation grows as the opening date of August 2016 draws nearer.

The TFS middle and upper school facilities received a major upgrade with the addition of two Mac computer labs. These state-of-the-art computers will be used in graphic design, video production, yearbook, and art applications. Look for more detail on the new TFS Mac labs in the Fall TFS magazine.

The Gertrude Long Harris Theater received a major addition with the remodeling of the light and sound booth in the upper rear of the theater. A new stairway at the back of the theater provides sound and light technicians with

direct access to the booth. Previously, technicians had to exit the theater and climb a dangerous ladder to gain access to boards controlling the theater lighting. The expansion has allowed sound equipment previously located behind the last row of theater seats to be relocated to the new booth, providing an opportunity for one person to control both the sound and the lighting. An expansive storage loft was also constructed backstage.



September photo of the middle school gymnasium interior

## iMacs enhance creativity



One of the most exciting changes is the addition of two new Mac labs. Sophomore Grace Brewer is shown utilizing one of the school's new iMac computers during yearbook journalism class.



The Willet administration building also received some much needed remodeling over the summer. Admissions and advancement offices received new carpet and paint, and the first floor kitchen was remodeled, adding a private restroom for admissions guests. On the upper floor a conference room was constructed adjacent to the President's office, and new restrooms were added next to the conference/meeting area. New carpet was also installed throughout much of the Willet building upper floor.

The President's home, which has received over 5,000 visitors in the past five years, also received some much needed renovations. Improvements include new paint, restaining of wood floors, and installing modern french door units.

Lastly, renovations of both locker rooms in the Circle building should be completed by later this Fall. The mens locker room was completed last year, and renovations to the ladies locker room is ongoing.

## Gymnasium construction • Willet renovations • Circle building renovations • President's home renovations • Locker room renovations

The newly renovated sound booth in the Circle building received some much needed modifications. The stairway was added and sound equipment was moved from the rear floor of the theater into the booth.



# A growing community



photo by E. Lane Gresham

## New faculty and staff bring wealth of expertise, enthusiasm, experience to Tallulah Falls School

Tallulah Falls School continues to attract the best and brightest, and this applies to more than its outstanding student body. Sixteen new members of the faculty and staff have been hired for the 2015-16 academic year. In the photograph above the group pauses during a break in pre-planning activities in early August. The group includes newcomers in academics, boarding, security and information technology.

President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy is particularly proud of this group of newcomers. "This group of experts will complement an already outstanding faculty. They each bring special qualities to the TFS community," Peevy said. "We are here to educate students so they can go out and become strong leaders. We want to do everything we can to help our students become as successful as they can be."

Shown front row, from left, are Whitney Denham, culinary arts teacher; Clint Carpenter, campus security; Carrie Elrod, middle school drama teacher; Kent Woerner, upper school math teacher [long-term substitute]; Chantal Gourlay, upper school ESL and Spanish teacher; Jay Moss, dorm counselor; Arri Hotalen, dorm counselor; Bryan Freeman, IT director; Annette Cochran, upper school science and technology teacher; Beth Huebner, upper school science teacher; Larry Peevy, president and head of school; Carol Madden, learning center coordinator; Zach Roland, middle school science and Spanish teacher; back row, from left, Brittany Whittemore, dorm counselor; June Xu, upper school Chinese and ESL teacher; Katie McDaniel, dorm counselor. Not shown: Casey Baroon, information technology.

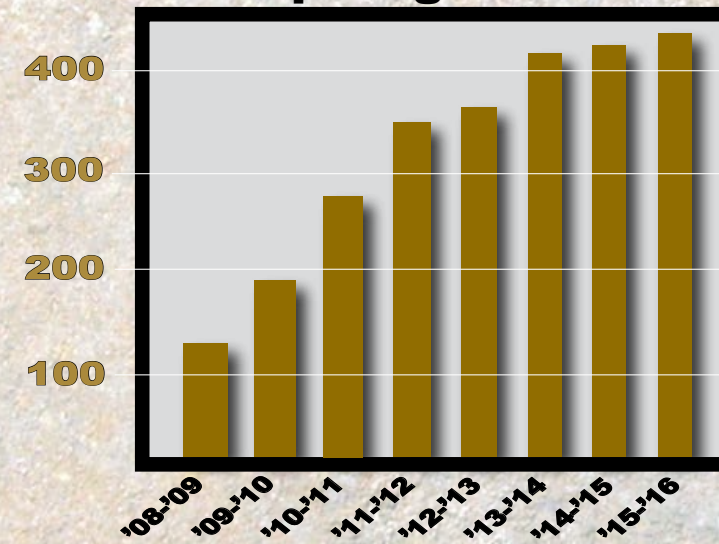
Welcome to the TFS community. We know that our students will continue to receive the best education possible with the help of this newest group of professionals.

## We'd like to share a **NUMBER** of things...

The 2015-16 school year is off to a tremendous start. Enrollment for the new school year has established another record, yet classroom sizes remain small, diversity of our student population is excellent, and our students remain active and fully engaged in the campus culture.

- 430** 2015 opening day enrollment
- 15** average class size
- 18** countries represented in the student body
- 98** % of students participating in athletics, fine arts or equestrian

Total Opening Enrollment



Utilizing a carefully planned enrollment management program, the Tallulah Falls School student body has steadily increased by over 300 students (over 200%) over the past seven years.



Sam BOND



Will SANDERS

### Class of 2015 omission

In our Summer 2015 TFS magazine two members of our distinguished Class of 2015 were inadvertently omitted from the montage of seniors - Sam Bond of Reynolds GA, and Will Sanders of Hartwell, GA. We deeply regret this error. Good luck to both of these young men who have already embarked on their college careers.

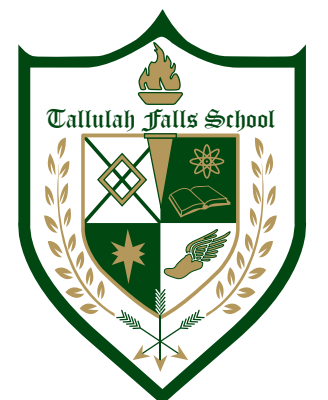




photo by E. Lane Gresham

*“Delete’ doesn’t mean anything in this world. If you send a text message or you receive a text message that perhaps wasn’t appropriate or you send a photograph or receive a photograph that perhaps wasn’t appropriate, you can press ‘Delete,’ but it’s still there.”*

*Brian M Rickman  
District Attorney  
Mountain Judicial Circuit*



*Special Agent Brooke Lindsey speaks with several TFS upper school students following her presentation on cybersafety.*

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Rickman earned the students’ unbroken attention as he spoke about the difficulty of deleting inappropriate material. Rickman stressed the common misconception that deleting content, whether a photograph, email, or text message, permanently erases the data.

“Delete’ doesn’t mean anything in this world,” Rickman said. “If you send a text message or you receive a text message that perhaps wasn’t appropriate or you send a photograph or receive a photograph that perhaps wasn’t appropriate, you can press ‘Delete,’ but it’s still there.”

“Choices have consequences and remember that you have to think before you act,” Rickman added.

Rickman explained that several programs are designed to recapture deleted data from computers and wireless devices such as cellphones, tablets, or laptops. Many of these programs, such as *Forensic Toolkit*, are used by law enforcement professionals. However, criminals can use the same programs to steal personal information from devices for their own gain or even for the purpose of blackmail.

Rickman was followed by Special Agent Brooke Lindsey with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit (CEACCU). The CEACCU assists state and local law enforcement agencies in developing effective responses to cyber enticement, child pornography, and sex trafficking. These responses include forensics, investigation, training, technical assistance, victim services, prevention, and community education.

According to Lindsey, about 10-20 percent of teens have been the target of cyberbullying. This typically peaks in the middle school grades (6-8). Another problem is sexting, which refers to the transmission of sexually explicit messages or photographs of themselves or others to their peers. Lindsey stated that most often sexting involves minors 17 years of age or younger through the use of cellphones, webcams, or digital cameras.

“Once you guys send it, you no longer control who gets it,” Lindsey said. “As much as you guys trust that person, there’s no way for you to know where that picture may end up.”

Special Agent Lindsey also reminded students of the dangers involved in sharing even common information publicly. Sometimes sharing seemingly harmless information such as birthdays, addresses or where you go to school can compromise the user’s safety or the safety of their loved ones, Lindsey said.

Students should be aware that anything placed on the web or sent over a cell phone, no matter the privacy setting, could become public. Images and information shared on the web often impact future decisions made by colleges or potential employers, she added.

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*From left: TFS Middle School Academic Dean David Chester, TFS Upper School Dean Kim Popham, GBI Special Agent Brooke Lindsey, Mountain Judicial Circuit Superior Court Judge B. Chan Caudell, Mountain Judicial Circuit District Attorney Brian Rickman, and TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.*



TFS President and Head of School Larry Peevy said he would like to equip his students with the proper tools and information to “do what is right,” while taking into consideration the consequences their decisions can have on their lives now and in the future.

“What we’re trying to do, as part of our program at TFS, is make them aware of the world around them, make them aware of the consequences of their actions,” he said. “What I really want them to think out, frankly, is before they put anything on their Facebook or a social media [site], to think about the consequences of who’s seeing it and what full-

reaching effect it could have.”

Peevy added, “It’s really important for these children and all ages to understand the consequences of what they share with other people on open media like that.”

“What we want to get across to them with this special group of people here is that these are folks that end up either prosecuting, arresting or in some way, identifying people that are doing things the wrong way. Now, it doesn’t mean you’ll do something the wrong way, but there are bad people out there that can take advantage of things that you give them over your Facebook or [another] social media site.”

*excerpts used with permission of The Northeast Georgian*

## WCHM 96.7

### ‘TFS Minute’ hits the airwaves

Tallulah Falls School is utilizing the airwaves in its latest efforts to tell the story of the school and its highly successful students. Listeners to WCHM (96.7 FM) radio in Clarkesville are treated to ‘The TFS Minute’ every weekday morning around 7:45 a.m. and every weekday afternoon around 3:10 p.m.

President and Head of School Larry Peevy (shown in the WCHM studio) recorded the first three weeks of the TFS Minute personally. Peevy’s topics have included Tallulah Falls School’s unique history, record enrollment, student success, affordability, and college preparation. Recently, Athletic Director Scott Neal joined Peevy at the station to tape a five-part series on the innovative GREAT character program which has been implemented in the school’s athletics, academics, and boarding program. Other staff, faculty and students will contribute to the series over the coming months.

In order that we may share these messages to the widest possible audience, look for audio files of the ‘TFS Minute’ to be posted to the website [www.tallulahfalls.org](http://www.tallulahfalls.org) in the very near future.



**Eagle Scout project benefits TFS students**



Jesse GULLE

Sophomore Jesse Gulle of Sautee-Nacoochee recently completed his Eagle Scout project and his classmates at Tallulah Falls School were the direct beneficiaries. Gulle, a member of Boy Scouts Troop 48 of Cleveland, directed the construction of a 10-foot pull-up bar alongside the school's Amick athletic field.

Requirements for an Eagle Scout project cite that it must be built utilizing donated supplies only and that it must take at least 100 man-hours to complete. The wood for the project was donated by the local Lowe's store and Tallulah Falls School purchased the hardware. The project, which Gulle had been planning for one year, took approximately 120 man-hours to complete.

Gulle's Eagle Scout project was the subject of an article in the *White County News* in August. Boy Scouts who helped on the project included Stephen Bowman, Mac Gray, Jacob Ivey, and Riley Wills. Adults assisting were Jeff Gulle, Sandy Gulle, and Matt Bowman.



submitted

**Rotary Student of the Month**



photo by Amanda Rogers

Kaitlyn Crosby, a senior from Clayton, was selected as the Tallulah Falls School recipient of the Rotary Club of Clayton Student of the Month for September. Crosby attended a Rotary luncheon in Clayton where she was recognized for her achievement. The Clayton Rotary honors one student each month from Tallulah Falls School, Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, and Rabun County High School. Crosby is pictured with Rotary Club of Clayton President, Jim Antosiak.

**Remembering 9/11**



TFS Assistant Director of Plant Operations Todd Besier, a First Lt. in the Georgia Army National Guard, and Sam Ausburn, a TFS senior and a Private in the Georgia Army National Guard, take part in a September 11 ceremony in downtown Clarkesville in honor of public safety personnel. Ausburn will attend training after graduation to become certified as a combat medic. He currently serves as a volunteer firefighter for Clarkesville station No. 3.

**TFS donation benefits local law enforcement agency**

Tallulah Falls School strives to be a supportive member of the community. Recently President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy presented a check for \$680 to Tallulah Falls Police Chief Bill Goatcher. The funds will be used by the city to replace emergency lights and add new lights to the town's patrol car.

"Any time a fire alarm goes off, or there's a fire, or a security alert, they are right here," said Peevy. "We appreciate that so much. They're our first responders in everything."



photo courtesy of Kimberly Brown, *The Northeast Georgian*



**Indians of the Month AUGUST**



John NICHOLS  
ms cross country

*"Not only is John a tremendous team leader, but he was the top performer at the annual middle school quadrathlon, a challenging kayaking, swimming, biking, and running event. John leads by example and in a positive and encouraging manner."*

Coach Scott Neal



Ashley CROSBY  
ms volleyball

*"For August, Ashley had 14 aces, 16 kills, 1 block, and 1 dig. She is the team's best hitter and is currently hitting 0.385 for the season. She is also the best passer on the team. She is not only a talented volleyball player, but is also a team captain. Ashley is kind-hearted and humble."*

Coach Ashley Fannon



Kaitlyn CROSBY  
varsity volleyball

*For August, Kaitlyn's stats included 46 aces (leads Class A, 8th for all classifications in Georgia, 23rd nationally); 140 kills (leads class A, 11th for all classifications in GA); .278 hitting % (leads Class A, 18th for all classifications in GA). Kaitlyn has also contributed 149 digs. "Kaitlyn has been a great leader for the program on and off the court."*

Coach Allen Campbell



Denzel GREEN WRIGHT  
varsity soccer

*"Denzel returns for his fourth year of soccer and leads the team in effort and intensity. Denzel is part of a stalwart defense. Of last year's nine wins, seven were shutouts. In the first two matches of 2015, both opponents have been shut out. He is leading and dominating the field on the defensive end."*

Coach Jonathan Roberts

**Look for complete Fall season sports coverage in the upcoming TFS magazine**

Tallulah Falls School athletic teams are experiencing outstanding Fall seasons. Volleyball, soccer and cross country teams are each having stellar campaigns. Look for more on each team's season in the Fall edition of the TFS magazine coming in November.



**TFS players excel at national camp**



Navarette, Van Hooser, and Keene

submitted

A trip to Orlando, Florida was more than just a day at the beach for three Tallulah Falls School varsity boys basketball juniors. Michael Van Hooser of Demorest was joined by Clarkesville natives Sanson Navarette and Josey Keene at the Five Star Basketball Camp. The camp is one of the most respected summer camps for potential college prospects. The TFS players competed against other players from across the country and international players from as far away as China and Canada.

All three TFS players made the ten member All-Star Team out of over 70 players in attendance. Josey Keene earned the camp's Best Defensive Player honors.





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