

TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL *Magazine*



Create

spotlighting the arts at TFS

SPRING 2015

Chief Justice Thompson

International Celebration

The Leadership Project

Gift Recognition

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

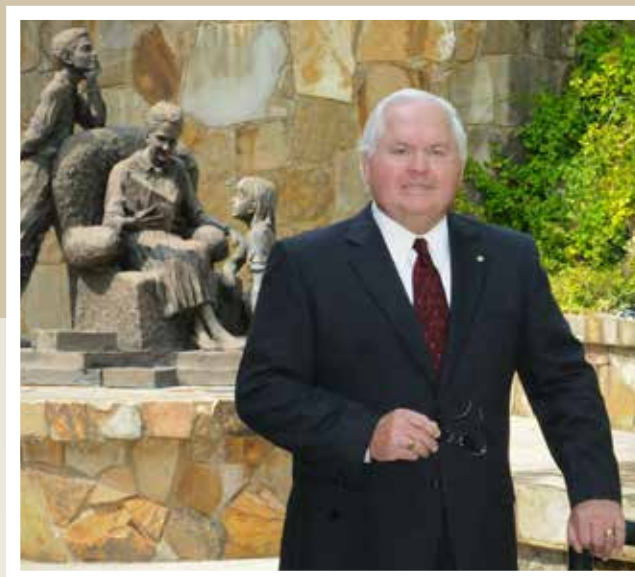
Larry A. Peevy

Make A Life

We were most fortunate to have Hugh P. Thompson, Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, address students, faculty and staff and guests recently. Hugh is a long time friend, and I felt he was the perfect choice to give those in attendance a civics lesson on the workings of the court system in Georgia as well as inspirational insights on the meanings of leadership and character.

I was especially moved by a quote Hugh attributed to Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." This quote is absolutely on point in terms of what we are trying to do at TFS, because it speaks to the unique duality of our school mission: elevating intellect and developing character. I would equate "making a living by what we get" to intellect. A student with intellect can achieve high test scores, be admitted to a prestigious university, and prepare for a career that will bring monetary success. But without character, intellect is hollow and without meaning.

It is only when we combine character with intellect that we are able to "make a life by what we give." There are many aspects of character: service, leadership, values and integrity to name a few. All of these character traits imply actions which impact other people in a positive way. The teaching of character has become an integral part of our curriculum, whether in the classroom, in the dormitory, or on the athletic field.



Character education is demonstrated by a middle school leadership program that has won statewide awards and recognition while at the same time teaching students practical lessons about diverse leadership styles. It is put into action when the varsity girls' basketball team raises money for the Lupus Foundation. It is life-saving when the TFS Interact Club sponsors an on-campus blood drive in support of the American Red Cross. It is inspiring when one student, junior Alexis Brooks from Canton, Georgia, earns a record-setting 107 merits during the first semester of the school year, all for helping other people.

Why is character so important? We want our students to be good decision makers. We want our students to lead purposeful lives and make a difference in their communities. We want our students to learn values that can be passed down generationally. In short, we want each of our students to achieve his or her greatest potential.

Hugh Thompson is a wonderful example of someone whose life, lived at the highest standards, has perfectly blended intellect with character. Hugh is a brilliant judge, a devoted friend, and a most honorable man who continues to "make a life" by what he gives to others. I can think of no one more worthy of admiration and respect, truly a role model extraordinaire for our students.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Peevy
President and Head of School

tfs magazine . contents

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photo by E. Lane Gresham

In this special Spring bonus edition of the TFS magazine we turn the spotlight onto the thriving music, drama and arts programs at Tallulah Falls School. Pictured above is seventh grader Khadijat Kokumo of Marietta shown creating artwork with colored pencils in Cat Hermes' middle school art class.

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ON THE COVER: Sixth grader Baylor Carnes of Demorest explores his artistic side while participating in the middle school art program.

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Exploring the ARTS at Tallulah Falls School

Art • Music • Drama

the ART of discovery

photo by E. Lane Gresham



photo by E. Lane Gresham



Tina Cheek with an inquisitive group of art students

“As an art teacher of 27 years, I continually reflect upon what I do as one of the best professions there is,” says Tina Cheek, upper school art instructor at Tallulah Falls School. According to Cheek, art serves the purpose of expression, the sharing of information, or simply causing a person to think and react. “Whether prehistoric cave art or the stroke of a brush on canvas in a modern-day classroom, art serves a purpose.”

Cheek adds, “Art at TFS includes 2-D and 3-D experience to include drawing, painting, mixed media, sculpture, and pottery. Art class is definitely a ‘hands-on, students centered’ classroom where students are constantly engaged in the creation of objects of art. We learn, we teach, we experience, we take risks, we celebrate, we reflect and we grow. My hope is that each student can experience art on a personal level.”

TFS is very fortunate to have three excellent art teachers. Tina Cheek, an alumna of TFS, has been back at TFS teaching art at the high school level for nine years. Cat Hermes, middle school art teacher, has been at the school for eight years. In addition, TFS drama teacher Georgann Lanich teaches one high school art course in addition to her drama classes.

“For students, art can be the catalyst for the discovery of their inner passions and feelings or simply be an outlet for them to express themselves beyond mere words. My goal is to have students enjoy making art, whether they are a serious art student with aspirations to pursue a career or they simply wish to enjoy art as an elective class.”

- Tina Cheek, upper school art teacher



“I try to give students the opportunity to problem solve and work with mediums or materials they would never think of working with (like shoes). I want them to think out of the box, to experiment and to take risks, even fail, because that helps them understand the steps it takes from a more engaged perspective. If students enjoy the process of creating art and truly are engaged, chances are they will pursue art further and ask deeper and more meaningful questions.”

- Cat Hermes, middle school art teacher



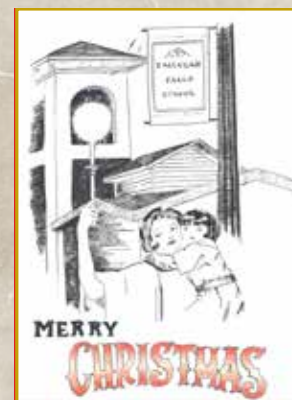
Hermes' students make masks each year, like this lion mask made from Starbucks cup holders (left). Students also create fascinating objects from shoes, such as the flip-flop alligator below.



Artwork produced by Cheek's students adorn the hallways of the upper school building.



photo by E. Lane Gresham



Christmas artwork contest

TFS is justifiably proud of its art students. Each year the official school Christmas card features the artwork of one middle school student and one upper school student. The upper school winner this year was Linden Pederson of Clarkesville whose card appears at far left. Sophia Kahwach of Atlanta was the middle school winner. Her card appears on the right.

TFS MUSIC Program

'Bringing light to the mountains and to our souls'



Glenda Franklin leads the middle school choral ensemble at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.



All-State Instrumentalists

TFS currently has two students who have been recognized as All-State performers: flutist Betsy Bartholf and violinist Tianqi Zhang. In January Tianqi Zhang (at left) and Bartholf participated in the GISA All-Select Performances at Mt. Paran Christian School in Kennesaw. Bartholf also performed in the GMEA District 14 Honor Band in February, while Zhang performed in the All-State orchestra.



TFS choral students among Georgia's best



Four TFS students participated in Georgia All-State Chorus held in Athens on March 5-7. Middle school students Madeline McClurg, Clarke Bailey, and Jade Mitchell (pictured at far left with Mrs. Franklin) were joined by ninth grader Dylan Truong. The event is organized and carried out by the Georgia Music Educators Association.

Each student auditions on a statewide basis and is selected on merit when judged by professionals against all other applicants across the state. Selection to All-State is recognition of excellence in musical knowledge, technique, and interpretation. Approximately 10,000 students across the state compete for the 1,550 singer positions.

Four sixth grade students at Tallulah Falls School performed in the 2015 Statewide Sixth Grade Honor Chorus held February 6-7 at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. Bottom photo, from left: Allie Kate Campbell, Camden Hughes, Maggie Jackson, and Chathan Clouatre. The honor chorus is sponsored by the choral division of the Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA).



Tri-M recognizes "Modern Music Masters"

Tri-M, the international music honor society for middle and high school students, recently inducted a new class of members into the organization. Tri-M is a program of the National Association for Music Education with over 5,500 chartered chapters.

The name "Tri-M" is in reference to "Modern Music Masters." The organization is designed to recognize students for their academic and musical achievements and reward them for their accomplishments and service activities. Tri-M encourages appreciation and awareness of music and promotes wider opportunities for sharing joy through music.



Front row, from left: Esther Adeyemi, Michelle Namkung, Sunny Kim, Howie Gulle (secretary). Second row, from left: Angela Mensah (vice-president), Helen Lee, Mio Sugawara, Emma Peacock, Riko Miyazaki, Josh Brown, Kelly Kim, Quilan Jacobs (photo journalist). Back row, from left: Joseph Lancaster (president), Betsy Bartholf, Josh Speed, Jason Lin, Grace Chung, Ashley Kemp, Madisen Gowan, and Emma Fordham. Not pictured: Sylvia Liu, Stella Park, Danny Luo, and Tianqi Zhang.

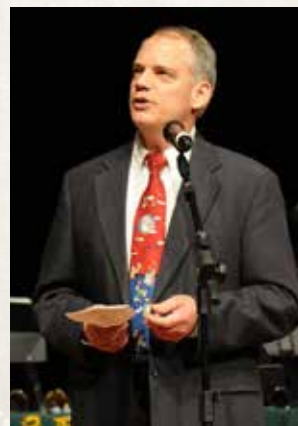


"When people ask me why I spend so much time doing things for my students, I think back to the wonderful gift of music that was given to me. I was fortunate to have kind, patient teachers who had a passion for their subject area. Music has always been worth the work it takes to be excellent. What better way to give back, than to share the joy of music?"

- Glenda Franklin, middle school music teacher

"My goal as a teacher is that my students will experience and develop music as a growing edification, a passion and a skill to be enjoyed the rest of their lives."

-Curt Frederick
upper school music teacher



Ringers bring holiday joy

The TFS Ringers are an elite handbell choir that not only entertains at special events on the TFS campus, but the group also entertains at churches, festivals, and for special groups. The Ringers have performed at the Georgia governor's mansion during Christmas festivities, and are shown at right with President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy at a Christmas performance for the Dunwoody Woman's Club. First row, from left: Kelly Choi, Reagan Bates, Georgia Durand, Penni Zhu, Carrie Zhao. Back row, from left: Benjamin Shabat, Jerry Hou, Jason Lin, Ryan Long, Curt Frederick, President Peevy. Submitted photo.





DRAMA

takes center stage



At Tallulah Falls School, drama has taken center stage, so to speak. The TFS theater program was started in 2011 as an after school activity, according to upper school drama instructor Georgann Lanich. "Since then, we have grown into four regular classes and five productions per year. Our students learn self-confidence, creative problem solving, and decision-making skills that are put to real time use in productions," said Lanich.

And it's not just the upper school students getting in on the action. The middle school has a thriving drama program as well, led by TFS alumna and Spanish and drama instructor Stephanie Witham.

"Theater has as an objective to break paradigms," said Witham. "This is what we work on in drama class. We are allowed to scream, laugh, cry or just be silly. The classroom becomes an area of expression in which we are not afraid to be ourselves or become a character in a story. It is an area where we stop thinking about what others think."

Over the last two years the program has tackled some very challenging productions. Plays presented by the upper school include "Almost, Maine," "Robin Hood: The Courtship of Allan A'Dale," "Give My Regards to Broadway," and "The Juice of Wild Strawberries." The middle school group has performed titles including "All I Want for Christmas," "Alice @ Wonderland," and "A Kandy Kane Christmas."

Lanich and Witham both stress the comprehensive nature of the program by noting that not only do students learn about the performance side of theater and drama, but they also learn about teamwork, cooperation, building and decorating sets and techniques of lighting and sound.

Learning drama helps students succeed in many other areas of life



"I am very proud of each one of my students. They have accomplished so much and have grown not just as actors but personally as well."

- Stephanie Witham
middle school drama teacher

"Our students learn self-confidence, creative problem solving, and decision-making skills that are put to real time use in productions. Moving forward, our goal is to increase student experience in the performing arts and showcase talent while providing school and community entertainment events."

- Georgann Lanich
upper school drama teacher



Check the Tallulah Falls School calendar for dates and times of TFS drama productions. The public is always invited to attend.



THESPIAN SOCIETY first year inductees

Front row, from left: Ryan Hughes, Madisen Gowan, Emily Nguyen, Will Sanders, Esther Adeyemi, Addie Aycock, Taylor Hames, and Amy Betz. Back row, from left: Quilan Jacobs, Shyam Shukla, Cody Reynolds, Isabelle Almoyan, Kyle Leineweber, Emma Fordham, Nathaniel Caudell, and Vanessa Lewis. Not pictured: Sam Griswold, Joseph Lancaster, and Jayson Newson.



Tallulah Falls School recently became an officially recognized troupe of the International Thespian Society. The ITS membership is the first for TFS and provides an opportunity for drama and theater students to network with other students from around the state and country. The membership also provides TFS theater students with the opportunity to earn scholarships through the organization. The TFS chapter

is directed by upper school drama teacher Georgann Lanich.

The International Thespian Society promotes excellence in theater education and has troupes across the country in both public and private schools. A student may be inducted into a local Thespian troupe after working the equivalent of 100 hours in school, community, and/or professional theater both on and behind the stage.

Experiencing Art



story and photography by E. Lane Gresham

Students integrate their knowledge of art during Atlanta museum trip

A late fall field trip offered Tallulah Falls School eighth graders an art experience to remember when more than 50 students along with teacher chaperones traveled to the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. Students went prepared to not only enjoy the day but arrived ready to work on an assignment related to a specific work of art.

Once the group arrived at the museum, TFS art teacher Cat Hermes said students were required to first locate the artwork, present researched remarks and have a photograph taken with the artwork. The assignment was part of a cube project, Hermes said, with all subjects integrated into the rubric. Students were asked to measure the cube, research the assigned topic, prepare the research and complete the presentation after returning to school.

According to Hermes, students need to understand the value of art and its place in history. "Look around you... history has shown in times of war, art and history are destroyed by societies...with little regard," she said. "There's something to preserving part of history...to mark the value of time."

The completed projects, Hermes said will communicate a message. "All art is communication," she said. "Students earned prizes at three levels for the completed cubes," she said. "I want them to experience being paid for their art," she said.

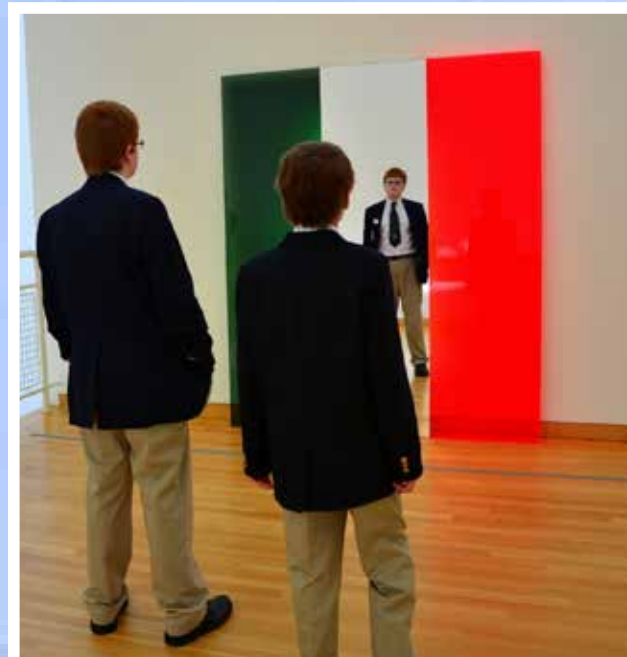
Student feedback from the trip was overwhelmingly positive and varied. Olivia "Liv" Clancy of Clarkesville had never visited an art museum prior to the field trip. "When I saw this, I was completely mesmerized by all of this talent out there," Clancy said.

Clara Madigan of Clarkesville had visited the High Museum in fifth grade. Although Madigan's favorite medium is drawing, she was moved by the sculptures. "It was fun to explore the different art paths," she said.



"Look around you... history has shown in times of war, art and history are destroyed by societies...with little regard. There's something to preserving part of history...to mark the value of time."

*-middle school art instructor
Cat Hermes*



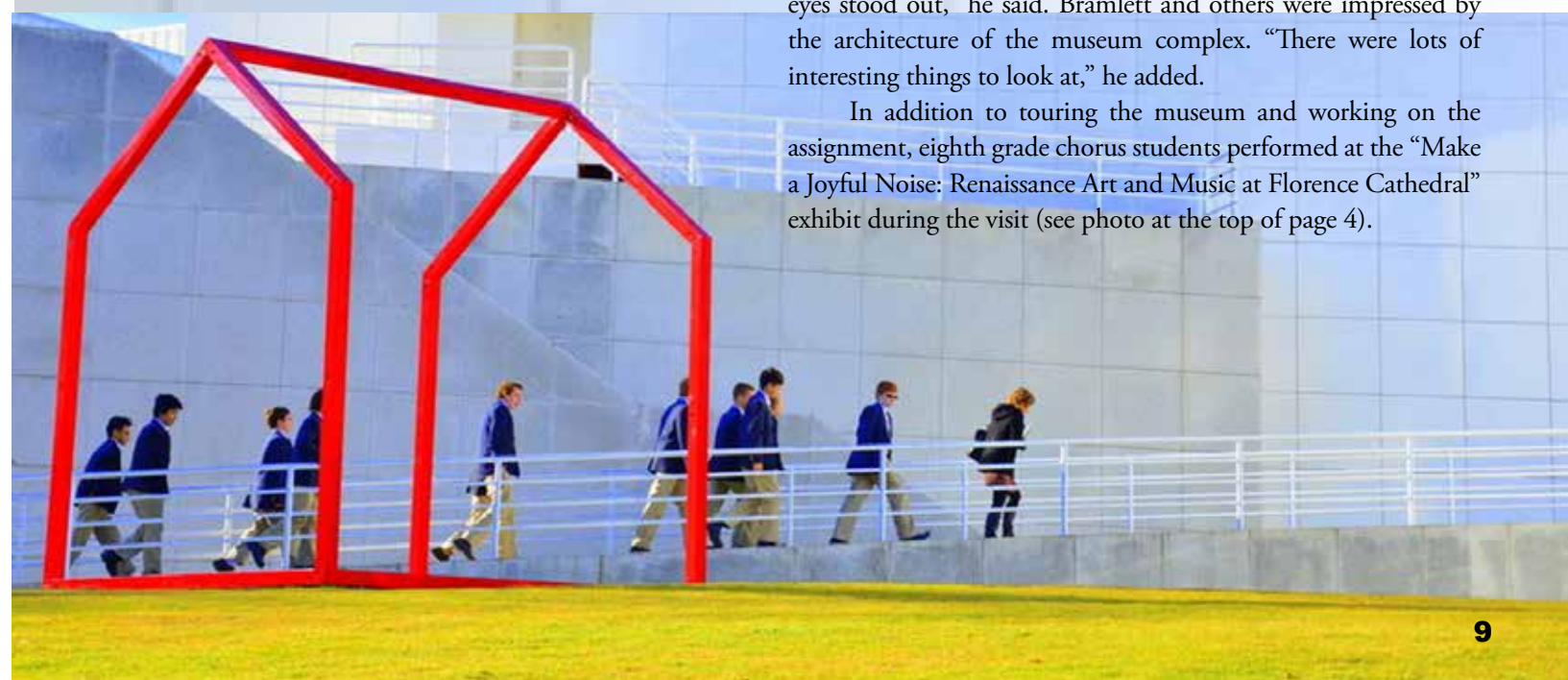
Kendall McShane of Clarkesville said he enjoyed the experience. "I thought it was fun," McShane said. "It was interesting to see all those pieces that cost so much."

Joey Dekoskie of Clarkesville liked the audio tour, which allowed students to walk through exhibits while listening to information about the background of the various artists and exhibits. "It [listening] helped me to understand," Dekoskie said.

Logan Bramlett of Cornelia had a lot to say about his assigned painting, *The Blue Mandarin Coat*, by Joseph de Camp, a portraitist.

"If you were looking to have your portrait done, you'd probably go looking for Joseph De Camp," Bramlett said. He was intrigued by the way the eyes of the female model were painted. "The eyes told a lot. If the eyes are the window to the soul...the eyes stood out," he said. Bramlett and others were impressed by the architecture of the museum complex. "There were lots of interesting things to look at," he added.

In addition to touring the museum and working on the assignment, eighth grade chorus students performed at the "Make a Joyful Noise: Renaissance Art and Music at Florence Cathedral" exhibit during the visit (see photo at the top of page 4).





Chief Justice Hugh Thompson provides insight on civics and leadership during TFS visit

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia visited the Tallulah Falls School campus on February 19. Chief Justice Hugh P. Thompson, longtime personal friend of President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, addressed an audience of 500 students, faculty, staff and guests offering insights on several topics of interest.

Thompson engaged the TFS study body, first by spinning a tale of a long-ago fishing trip with Peevy before moving into the focus of his message - civics, the judicial system and leadership. Polling the audience about the U.S. Constitution, the basis of the judicial system, Thompson heard quickly from TFS sixth grader Peyton Gunn of Alto. Gunn recited the preamble to the U.S. Constitution with just a few prompts from the visibly impressed chief justice.

In explaining the judiciary system, Thompson differentiated the types of courts including municipal, magistrate, probate, juvenile, state, superior, appellate, and supreme. He expanded on the types of cases heard by each court, again asking the audience if they knew the names of the local judges presiding over the various courts. He said it is important to realize the human aspect of the judicial system.

He proclaimed the state of the Georgia's judiciary as "sound and strong" and stated the Supreme Court of Georgia was recently rated No. 1 in terms of case productivity. Thompson also offered insights into effective leadership. "Great leadership is about being a servant," Thompson added. He also challenged students with a quote from Sir Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."

At the conclusion of his talk, Thompson answered questions from a dozen students. Inquiries ranged from his most interesting cases to what types of goals does he have for the Supreme Court of Georgia to how his personal beliefs impact his case decisions. At the end of the presentation, he advised students to "work hard and have fun," and to have no regrets.

Thompson, a native Georgian and resident of Milledgeville, was appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia in 1994. Prior to becoming a justice on the court, Thompson was appointed in 1979 as a superior court judge in the eight-county Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit. He received his legal education from Mercer University, earning his Juris Doctorate Degree in 1969.

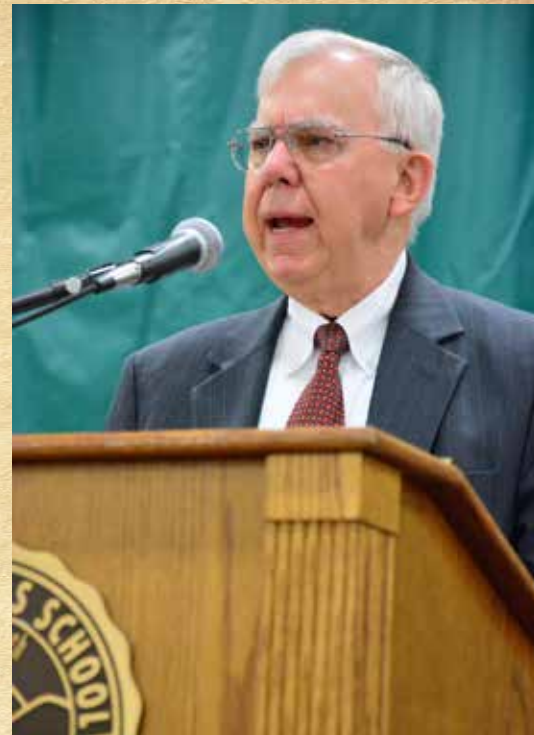


photo by E. Lane Gresham

"Great leadership is about being a servant," said Chief Justice Thompson.

He encouraged the audience to demonstrate strong leadership by building relationships, building consensus, developing the skills of others, guiding, and by love and not domination.

Presidential hopeful speaks to TFS faculty at GISA conference

Tallulah Falls School faculty had the pleasure of attending the Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) Annual Conference on November 3 at Mt. Pisgah School in John's Creek. In addition to participating in a number of informative classes and workshops, attendees had the opportunity to hear Dr. Ben Carson present the keynote address. Dr. Carson is a renowned neurosurgeon, author, and national political commentator, whose name has been mentioned prominently as a possible candidate in the 2016 presidential election. President Peevy is shown at left posing with Dr. Carson during the conference.



Neal honored for 25 years in independent education

President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy presents a certificate from the Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) to TFS Athletic Director Scott Neal in recognition of 25 years of distinguished service in independent education. Neal is currently in his 16th year at Tallulah Falls School after teaching for 12 years at Albuquerque Academy in New Mexico.

Neal's impressive credentials includes teaching physical education from grades 6-12, coordinating strength and conditioning programs, and coaching football, basketball, cross country and track and field. He was also part of a team that started a sixth grade interdisciplinary program and played a prominent role in developing the Hoops for Heart initiative which is now a national program with the American Heart Association.



LEADERSHIP Project

Last year's enormously creative Leadership Project at the TFS middle school has earned a "GMSA Team of the Year" award for the team responsible for its development and implementation. Linda Hopping, awards chair and member of the GMSA Board of Directors, delivered the good news in a recent letter.

The project was inspired by Georgia history teacher Killeen Jensen. It began as a result of Jensen instructing her eighth grade students to write respected leaders, asking them for their ideas and personal opinions about the characteristics and qualities of a great leader.

Jensen says her students were thrilled when leaders from business, education, sports, and the political sphere responded to the letters. Several actually followed up with a personal visit to discuss leadership. One of these was Michael Shapiro, the director of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta.

Due to its overwhelming success and the inspiration it provided Jensen's eighth graders, a special team was developed. Their goal was to provide guidance and empowerment to students in order to brainstorm the best way to share what they had learned about leadership with their younger peers in the school. The project team consisted of Elizabeth Kyle, school counselor; Bob Loder, science teacher; David Chester, Middle School Academic Dean; and Jensen.

Not only was the project wildly successful, but also it created additional opportunities for learning. Later in the year the eighth graders were invited by Gov. Nathan Deal's office for a visit to the Capitol in Atlanta. On the same day students received a behind-the-scenes tour of the state house and senate by Rep. Terry Rogers, they also visited the Supreme Court of Georgia and met with current Chief Justice Hugh Thompson and participated in a mock trial led by Justice Carol Hunstein.



Elizabeth Kyle, Killeen Jensen, Bob Loder, and David Chester. The TFS team was recognized at the GMSA general session held on February 23 in Columbus and received their official award at the awards luncheon the following day.

Middle school project garners a GMSA Team of the Year Award

"The best part of the project was to see the 8th grade students take total ownership and work together in creating Leadership Day as a way to share their new skills with the 6th and 7th graders."

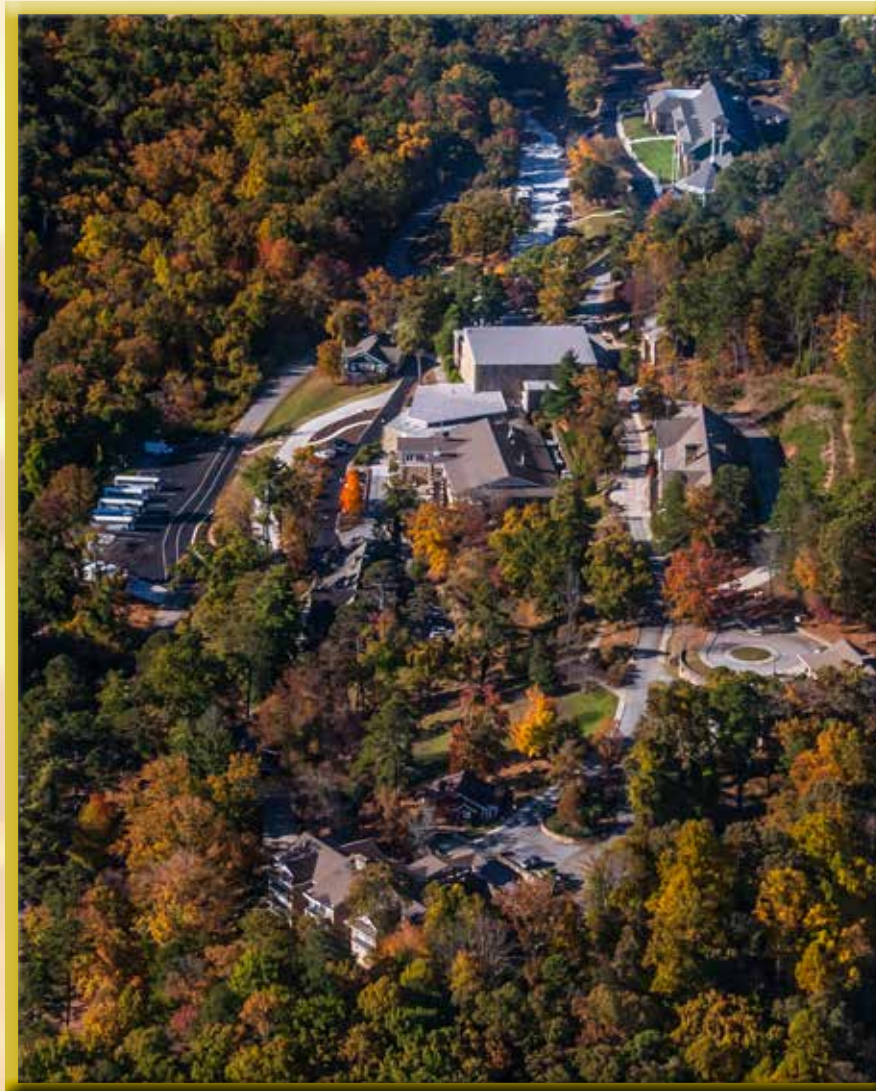
- David Chester, Middle School Academic Dean

"You learned a lot about being a leader by all of the responsibilities that were put on you to actually make Leadership Day happen."

- Bryson Heaton, TFS student

Heavenly View

As we all know, Tallulah Falls School has undergone a dramatic transformation over the last few years as an impressive list of construction projects, renovations and campus improvements have taken place. With this in mind, we decided to have a new series of aerial photographs taken and the views from above surprised even those who have been here for years. For the grandest view of all, turn the page and enjoy an inspiring view of Tallulah Falls School and the surrounding Blue Ridge mountains. We hope you will enjoy these images captured by Marie Nease of Wing Dreamer Photography.



Left: the upper school athletic facilities - the tennis complex, soccer field and baseball field.

Below: the stately upper school academic complex dominates the central campus..

Opposite page top: central campus showing the administration building, Circle Building, dorms and student center.

Opposite bottom: This image shows beautiful Tallulah Falls Lake just north of the campus.

Below: the middle school building is visible at top left. The dirt clearing to the right of the building shows site preparation for the new gymnasium. On the lower left is the cross country course and driving range for golf; at center right is the Dinah C. Peevy Equestrian Center.







TFS employee is a part-time superhero with a full-time mission

Professional IT guy by day, superhero by night and weekend. That's the typical routine for Tallulah Falls School employee Josh Brady with his outside-the-workday mission to enhance the lives of young people through the group Heroes in Force.

Heroes in Force is a group of costumed superheroes who make special appearances and visits to children and youth. Brady leads the group, channeling Batman, his alter-ego persona. The hero lineup also includes Superman, Wonder Woman, Spider Man, Elsa from Disney's "Frozen" movie, and Captain America. Iron Man and Pepper Potts are joining the force in 2015.

"We go out and talk to kids, teens, and even adults about how they can be heroes by helping others and doing the right thing," Brady says. "The biggest thing that motivates us is seeing all the smiles when we show up because their dreams are coming to life." The group has walked in parades and visited children with medical issues both at home and at area hospitals.

According to Brady the group's mission is "to equip and empower children, teens, and adults to be the hero in their home, community, work, and life." When asked why he wanted to start the group, he replied, "We were tired of the trend of saying the world is getting worse... let's quit saying it, let's do something about it."

When the group talks to children and youth they deliver what Brady describes as "Hero Training," encapsulating the message of helping others and doing the right thing, including an anti-bullying message.

Feedback has been positive, Brady says. Child-centered organizations, such as Prevent Child Abuse Habersham, are now inviting Heroes in Force to partner on special appearances and events. "Different organizations dealing with kids, they want us to come by and see their kids," Brady says.

This type of community work is offered free of charge, Brady says, but donations to offset expenses are appreciated. The group does charge for private appearances such as birthday parties and commercial appearances.

Brady says a turning point for the group was the December 2014 Habersham County Christmas Parade, held on a rainy Saturday. "When we saw kids get that excited, it kind of renewed our mindset. We were out here serving the community and they really like that."



Photo credit: Robert Kennell/Three Eighty C Photography & Digital Design



Josh Brady, the man behind the mask.

Heroes in Force encapsulates the message of helping others and doing the right thing.

Long-term goals include expanding the hero training with schools and churches. According to Brady, some 5,000 kids received the training over the past year. He is even working on restoring a 1987 Pontiac Trans Am convertible to become the "hero mobile."

Next on the calendar are appearances at the Prevent Child Abuse Habersham Pinwheels for Prevention Day, March 28, and the Mountain Laurel Festival parade, May 16. "And throughout the summer, we'll be going to all the different libraries for their reading programs," Brady says.

For more information, visit heroesinforce.com.

Alumni Association hosts first annual Basketball Alumni Night



2014 Basketball Homecoming



About 40 former TFS basketball players, cheerleaders and coaches made their way back to campus for the varsity basketball matchup on December 6 against George Walton. The occasion was the inaugural Alumni Night event which was hosted by the TFS Alumni Association. Special alumni guests and their families were treated to a



pre-game meal of chili and s'mores. Between the varsity girls and boys' contests, attendees gathered on the basketball court where they were recognized. In addition to a number of recent graduates, there were sizable contingents from the 1970s and even a handful reaching back to the 1950s.

Obituaries



Bill Graves 1962-2015

Former student Bill Graves - successful businessman

Former TFS student Bill Graves was killed in an airplane crash on February 4. Graves attended TFS for four years, from 1975 to 1979 (7th - 10th grades). Graves was 52 years old.

Graves was a graduate of the University of Georgia. He was married to Susan Strodman and the couple had six children.

Graves was a very successful businessman. He embarked on a career with Domino's Pizza in the

1980s as a driver, and by 1985 he had purchased a store of his own. Graves did not stop there, but continued acquiring stores until he opened his 100th in November 2014. 2015 marked Graves' 30th year as a franchisee of Domino's.

Graves' passions included running and flying. He is survived by his wife, Susan Graves, and five children ranging in age from 22 to 5. Memorial donations may be made to the Domino's Partners Foundation.

O'Neilda Wells - Honorary Trustee

Tallulah Falls School lost one of its most loyal supporters with the death of Mrs. O'Neilda McConnaughey Wells on January 12. Wells was a longtime member of the East Point Woman's Club and served terms as club president and treasurer. She also served as president of the 5th District of the General Federation of Women's Clubs - Georgia. Mrs. Wells was voted the Outstanding Club Woman of the year in 1982. She served faithfully on the Board of Trustees of Tallulah Falls School, serving as Chairman of the Board

from 1993 to 1998. At the time of her death, she was an Honorary Trustee of the school.

Mrs. Wells was born in 1923 in Atlanta. She was married to Charles Edward Wells of Mount Vernon, Georgia for more than 50 years before his death in 1996. O'Neilda and Charles had two sons. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Forest Park for more than 40 years. The family has requested that memorial contributions be made to Tallulah Falls School or the First Baptist Church of Forest Park.



O'Neilda Wells 1923 - 2015



photo by E. Lane Gresham

President's Commendation honors bowl over previous records

A record-breaking number of students gathered for fun and food on January 12 as recipients of the TFS President's Commendation award gathered at the bowling alley at the Old Clarkesville Mill.

The majority of 213 individuals who made the list after the first semester of the 2014-15 school year – both middle and high school students – came out for dinner followed by some seriously competitive bowling matches,

billiards, and plenty of good food. A delicious dinner was catered by local favorite Alpha Dog.

According to Dean of Students Jimmy Franklin, it was the largest crowd yet to participate in the twice-annual reward for scholastic achievement.

In order to be selected a student must meet a challenging set of requirements including maintaining a 3.5 GPA or better with zero demerits and no missed homework for the semester.

UGA early acceptances demonstrate strength of TFS academics



Five Tallulah Falls School seniors have been admitted to the University of Georgia through the university's Early Action program. This initiative gives highly qualified high school seniors an early definitive word on their acceptance status. Admissions into the state's flagship university has grown increasingly competitive over the past decade and early acceptance into UGA has become a highly prized accomplishment.

According to TFS guidance counselor Bobby Hammond, the five Early Action acceptances constitute a tremendous vote of confidence in Tallulah Falls School. Nancy McDuff, Associate Vice President for Admissions and Enrollment Management at UGA added, "The students admitted through Early Action to the University of Georgia came from the largest and most academically qualified pool of applicants to ever apply to UGA." High praise indeed. From left: Linden Pederson, Jake Carmack, Esther Adeyemi, Emma Fordham (top right), Addie Aycock.



National Honor Society chapter continues growth



New inductees: (first row, from left): Michael Weidner, Collin Mickels, Ethan Johnson, Angela Mensab, Kurstin Robertson, Ben Shabat, Emma Peacock, Anne Edwards. Back row, from left: Draper Smith, Jordan Teng, Caleb Walden, Da Young Lee, Michael Ea, Joshua Speed, Brittany Stein, Joseph Lancaster, Josiah Keene.

Seventeen Tallulah Falls School students recited the National Honor Society oath of membership as they were inducted into the TFS chapter of this prestigious academic organization. The 17 new members joined 22 returning members to form one of the largest NHS memberships in the school's history. The induction ceremony took place on November 21 in the Gertrude Long Harris Theater before a combined audience of TFS upper school

students, faculty, staff, and parents. The TFS chapter of the NHS is sponsored by faculty members Terri Bogan and Kelli Bly.

The National Honor Society is the nation's premier organization recognizing outstanding high school students who demonstrate excellence in four areas: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These four areas are referred to as the four pillars of the National Honor Society.

TFS students page at 153rd Georgia General Assembly



Seventh grader Samuel Dunlap of Clarkesville bangs the gavel while standing in the well of the state senate. Dunlap paged for District 49 State Senator Butch Miller. Photo courtesy of Jamie Dunlap.

Understanding the inner workings of state government is quite a challenge, and there is no substitute for witnessing the legislative process in person. The 153rd Georgia General Assembly convened in January 2015 and several TFS students had the opportunity to spend a day serving as a legislative page for their local elected officials.



Freshmen Anna Davis (left) and Perry Gresham of Clarkesville paged for State Rep. Rogers on February 18. Photo by E. Lane Gresham.

Freshmen Kayley Pugh of Clarkesville served as a legislative page for District 24 State Rep. Dan Gasaway on February 24. Photo courtesy of the Georgia House of Representatives.



Seventh grader Kate Blackburn of Demorest served as a legislative page for District 10 State Rep. Terry Rogers. Blackburn is pictured here with Speaker of the House David Ralston. Photo courtesy of the Georgia House of Representatives.

Freshman Meredith Church of Clarkesville, served as a legislative page for District 24 State Rep. Dan Gasaway on February 24. Photo courtesy of the Georgia House of Representatives.



FLYING HIGH



TFS junior is recipient of prestigious Billy Mitchell Award

Tallulah Falls junior Sam Ausburn, a Cadet 2nd Lt. in the Civil Air Patrol (CAP), recently received the Billy Mitchell Award. The award honors the late aviation pioneer, advocate and staunch supporter of an independent air force for the United States. The award ceremony was held on January 27 at R.G. LeTourneau Field in Toccoa. Col. Jay Hughes, National Commander of Chaplains, officiated the ceremony while Capt. Palafox and 2nd Lt. Kelly Ausburn “pinned” Cadet 2nd Lt. Ausburn. Cadet 2nd Lt. Ausburn is the son of Brian and Kelly Ausburn of Clarkesville.

The Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force and has three primary missions: Aerospace Education of the American people, Emergency Services, and the Cadet Program. The Cadet Program provides opportuni-

ties for the learning, maturing, accepting, and nurturing of leadership to over 26,000 young Americans from 12 to 20 years of age.

Ausburn has been in the Civil Air Patrol for four years, and currently serves as the cadet commander. “With the Billy Mitchell Award, I was able to advance in rank to an E2 in the Army National Guard. I plan to stay in a long time.” His Army National Guard classification is “69w,” which is a health care specialist (combat medic).

Does Ausburn aspire to be a pilot? To that he answers “Absolutely,” and adds, “I have been working toward that goal for about a year-and-a-half.” But with the high cost of flying today, Ausburn is forced to proceed toward his goal slowly.

The General Billy Mitchell Award is the first milestone of the Cadet Program. Each cadet must pass a comprehensive 100-question examination covering leadership theory and aerospace topics. As of December 2014, only 64,853 awards have been earned since the Mitchell award’s inception over fifty years ago. Cadets are eligible for advanced credit in AFROTC, various CAP scholarships, and CAP special activity opportunities.



photos courtesy Kelly Ausburn



photos credit: Juliane Wilson

Students participate in Peace March honoring legacy of MLK, Jr.

Students from Tallulah Falls School participated in the 29th annual Peace Walk to honor the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. More than 15 students, two chaperones and at least one English teacher were among the 100-plus people who walked from the gazebo in downtown Clarkesville to Clarkesville Baptist Church on Sunday, January 18. Among them were TFS seniors Esther Adeyemi and Christina Iluma (shown at left).

The enthusiastic group made its way through the downtown singing and making connections with friends and neighbors. At the church, fellowship ensued with food, more singing and discussion groups.

“It was a poignant scene which made me proud to live in this community,” said TFS English teacher Jennifer Dunlap. “Everyone present shared the same goal of demonstrating unity and friendship.”

At right, from left: Khadijat Kokumo, Taniel Knowles, Ajani Knowles, Aaryan Bhagwat, Allie Audet (dormitory counselor), Kyle Leineweber, Alexis Brooks, Christy Carpenter (dormitory counselor), Carlise Link, Esther Adeyemi, Lydia Tselalu, Christina Iluma, Angela Mensah, Jayson Newson, Josh Brown and Emmanuel Cureton.



Cataloochee ski day celebrates Winter fun



Middle school students Sebastian Herrera, Ashley Crosby, and Laurel Smith enjoy a hearty chili lunch during the middle school trip to Cataloochee.



“I made it!” Eighth grader Katie Long (right) of Cornelia celebrates a successful run as the middle school enjoyed their annual day of skiing and snowboarding at Cataloochee Ski Resort in Maggie Valley, NC. For many of the middle schoolers it was their first time to ski or snowboard. The conditions were ideal and, as usual, the TFS dining hall staff provided a fantastic chili-and-fixins’ lunch. The TFS upper school students had their day on the slopes just over a week afterwards as they visited Cataloochee on January 29.



photos by E. Lane Gresham

Celebrating with



International Week celebration features fireworks and performances

our international students



Tallulah Falls School's tradition of honoring its diverse student population expanded this year to include a colorful fireworks display marking the Lunar New Year. The display was the culmination of the fifth annual International Week, held February 16-20.

TFS is home to more than 60 international students hailing from 16 different countries. Currently enrolled students hail from countries including the Bahamas, China, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Republic of Georgia, Russia, South Korea, the United Arab Emirates, Taiwan, Spain, Brazil and Vietnam.

In addition to country-specific cuisine served throughout the week, the school hosted a Thursday night fireworks show preceded by presentations on Lunar New Year customs from China, Vietnam, Taiwan and South Korea. On Friday, international students hosted separate assemblies for middle students (who were joined by special guests from The Little School in Clarkesville) and upper school students. International performers danced, sang traditional songs, played native musical instruments, wore colorful native costumes, and shared interesting cultural highlights with members of their school community.

Celebrating the Lunar New Year

The 2015 Lunar New Year began on February 19 and ended March 5. It is day one, month one of the Chinese lunar calendar and its date in January or February varies from year to year. It is a very special time of celebration in many southeast Asian countries. The Chinese lunar calendar is associated with the Chinese zodiac, which has 12 animal signs: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. Each animal represents a year in the 12-year cycle, beginning on the Chinese New Year. 2015 is officially the year of the goat.



Junior Riko Miyazaki performs a traditional Japanese dance



Freshman Christina Ou was part of a group of Chinese performers who presented a traditional dance.



Above: senior Madeleine Tauber and sophomore Ferdinand Von Waitz give a fascinating presentation on German words and culture.



Sophomore Henrietta Nortey of Lithonia performs a traditional African dance for a group of appreciative middle school students.



Traditional Chinese dragon costumes were donated to the school by TFS parent Joshua Moore.

photo by E. Lane Gresham



Students bundle up against the cold as they celebrate the arrival of the Lunar New Year with an exciting display of fireworks.



photo by E. Lane Gresham

SPORTS



It's a Whole New Ballgame



Basketball kicked off the 2014-15 season with several notable changes. Perhaps the most visible change starts at the top as TFS mathematics teacher Jim Van Hooser (pictured above right) assumes the reigns of the varsity boys team. Van Hooser is in his second year of teaching at TFS and possesses an accomplished coaching resume that spans several decades.

“Coach Van” as he is affectionately called has overseen a number of changes that will definitely help the program as it moves forward. One of the biggest changes is one that the public will likely not see as the varsity boys locker room was completely upgraded before the season.

A new kickoff event, “Midnight Madness” was held on Halloween night, October 31 in front of a raucous student body providing a fun high-energy event. The event included shooting contests and the cheerleaders, dressed as zombies, danced to Michael Jackson’s *Thriller*.

Several other special events were unveiled during the season. A basketball alumni night was held on December 6 (page 17) and middle school night was held January 10. Middle school night allowed middle school basketball players and cheerleaders an opportunity to step into the spotlight and be recognized for their involvement.

Staff Appreciation Night was held on January 20 between games versus Towns County. Each varsity basketball player, manager or cheerleader was allowed to walk to midcourt with staff member who had made a positive contribution to their time at TFS.

TFS coaches continue to work with Athletic Director Scott Neal to create special events to show appreciation for various members of the TFS community. Each event is designed to recognize the special contribution made to the program by various members of the TFS family. Thanks to the efforts of everyone involved, the future is indeed bright for basketball and all other sports at Tallulah Falls School.

2014-15 varsity highlights

Varsity Girls - Coach Tom Tilley



Kirsten BROWN

The Lady Indians Basketball season was very successful, achieving seven team and individual records. Five returning lettermen from last year’s 2-20 season mixed with a number of talented freshmen and newcomers to form the backbone of this entertaining and hard-working team.

During the year, the team reached several benchmarks that haven’t occurred in 20 years: We earned seven wins, enjoyed a mid-season three-game winning streak and advanced to the second round in the regional playoffs. For the first time in TFS history, we fielded a girl’s JV team, offering an opportunity for growth and experience to future student athletes; and in addition to Isabelle Almoyan’s outstanding year, freshman center Kirsten Brown broke the single season rebound record with 164 (7.1 per game).

Varsity Boys - Coach Jim Van Hooser

After a respectable 5-5 start and a trip to an invitational tournament in Marianna, Florida, we began region play in January. We had several thrilling victories and hard-fought losses along the way and struggled due to injuries. One of our best efforts came against region opponent George Walton Academy. Down by 12 in the fourth quarter we won the game on a 3-point buzzer-beater by sophomore Michael Van Hooser.

We were led in scoring by sophomore Josey Keene who is on track to have a great career. We finished the season with the most wins since 2006. We also had a chance to do some great things off the court, like visiting the Augusta Burn Center where senior Eli Keene was treated as a child. We concluded our home season with a very special senior night where eight boys basketball players and managers were recognized for their contributions to basketball at TFS.



Josey KEENE

Supporting the fight against lupus



Coach Tom Tilley’s Lady Indians basketball team recently raised more than \$950 for the Lupus Foundation. TFS faculty, staff, and students were allowed to “dress down” and wear purple, the symbolic color of lupus awareness, in exchange for a \$1 donation. Donations were accepted at the “Play for Purple” night on January 9 against Commerce.

One of Tilley’s players has the condition, which is a

chronic, inflammatory disorder of the immune system. In the U. S. there are roughly 2 million people who have lupus, which is more than cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, and multiple sclerosis combined. Women are nine times more likely to develop lupus than men. Approximately 1 out of 200 African-American women develop lupus, and 1 out of 600 caucasian women. “Job well done” to the TFS Lady Indians.

GIVING BACK

INDIAN SPIRIT



TFS mascot sports new look

The TFS mascot is sporting a new look. Caleb Walden, who assumed the role of cheer-master at home basketball games last year, received a wardrobe upgrade thanks to President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy. Walden’s job is to help the cheerleaders keep Indians students and fans pumped up as they support their teams, and the authentic Native American costume definitely adds to the game day atmosphere in the TFS gymnasium at home games.



TFS athletics features redesigned logo

TFS athletics has a new look. A newly designed logo with the school's signature "TF" composed of a tomahawk and spear will replace the old logos and designs previously featured on uniforms and in school publications. The redesign was done completely in-house with the collaboration of the communications office and the athletic department. Players and coaches will soon be wearing uniforms and clothing showing off the latest look in Indian Pride.



1,117 Senior sets numerous records in final campaign

Records continue to fall in the TFS athletic program. Isabelle Almoyan, a senior from Clarkesville and four-year starter on the varsity girls basketball team, recently became the team's all-time leading scorer with 1,117 points. Almoyan also holds the single game record for steals (10) and the single season record for steals (61). She was named to the Region 8A second team. Congratulations to Isabelle Almoyan for her record-breaking accomplishments during a distinguished career at TFS.



Swimming standouts compete at state meet



Front row, from left: Rachel Nichols, Julia Nichols. Back row, from left: Savva Ivakin, Aaryan Bhagwat, John Luke Gallagher, Eric Benson. photo credit: Zack Myers and The Northeast Georgian.

Nichols surges to top 20 state finish in preliminaries of 100-butterfly

Gallagher, Ivakin set personal records

Tallulah Falls School swimmers turned in a strong performance at the GHSA State Championship Swim Meet as they competed against 125 teams representing public and private schools in the 1A - 5A classifications on February 6 and 7. The state meet was held at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center in Atlanta. The state qualifying swimmers from TFS placed on 50 of the 125 competing teams. Swimmers must achieve a qualifying time to be eligible to compete at the state swim meet. Swimmers can compete in a maximum of two individual events and two relays, with the top 20 moving on to the finals held on the second day of the meet.

TFS senior Rachel Nichols raced to a top twenty finish in the preliminaries of the 100-yard butterfly event, earning the opportunity to compete in the B final. She competed on Sat-

urday finishing 12th overall in the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 58.95 seconds, a new personal best and school record. Nichols also competed in the 100-yard backstroke.

Junior John Luke Gallagher set two personal records: in the 100-butterfly with a time of 56.65 seconds; and in the 100-backstroke with a time of 58.85 seconds. Sophomore Savva Ivakin swam season best times in the 50-free (22.47 seconds), missing the finals by less than one-quarter of a second. He also swam a season best time in the 100-freestyle (50.76 seconds). Sophomore Julia Nichols made her debut at the state meet in the 50-yard freestyle, matching her best speed with a time of 26.07 seconds.

The TFS boys relay team set a new school record finishing with a time of 1:38.95. The team improved their seeding by 15 places.

Middle school boys earn trip to Tri-State finals

The TFS middle school boys basketball squad adopted the motto "It's a New Day" for their 2014-15 campaign. New coach Lowell Hamilton knew that a Tri-State championship would be a challenge as many of his young team were simply hoping to "survive" while learning to play as a team.

According to Hamilton, after winning their first contest the boys began to see their potential as a team and added the word 'believe' to their motto. Hamilton said, "Over the course of the season they began to compete with a purpose, which in turn only added to their confidence. This mentality set the course for a championship run."

Though the team made it all the way into the championship game against a strong Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School squad, they were unable to secure the victory and finished second in the final conference standings.

Even with the disappointing loss, Hamilton was



extremely proud of his players for several reasons, stating, "After the game there wasn't a dry eye in the house, indicating how much they cared," Hamilton said. "The entire team embraced repeating the words 'It's a new day, believe!' at the top of their voices. That in itself made it a season of significance."

Middle school girls lose heartbreaker in Tri-State finals

It all came down to one final shot, and for coach Randy Morris' team it proved to be a disappointing conclusion to an otherwise stellar season as they fell to Tamassee Salem in the finals of the Tri-State tournament. But the loss was tempered in a season of unanticipated success.

After losing all five starters from the Tri-State girls championship team from last year, this year's team adopted a promising slogan, "different team, same dream."

The young Lady Indians were very strong in conference play and were undefeated in the conference until the last game of the regular season where they fell to Tamassee-Salem by one point. Morris' team was able to fight their way back into the championship game.

"Our ladies fought a courageous battle, but lost the championship game on a shot with less than a second on the clock, losing once again by a single point," said Morris.

Even in defeat the team showed great character and poise, Morris said. "I couldn't be prouder of this group of young ladies. On the bus ride home the main topic of conversation was about next year."

"Our season record was 10-6, and our 8th grade players will leave middle school with a 32-11 record."



Tallulah Falls School donors

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There are many ways to support Tallulah Falls School. For more information contact Stuart Miller, Director of Development at stuart.miller@tallulahfalls.org

We wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who believes in our school mission enough to support it with financial gifts. In many ways, Tallulah Falls School owes its success to your remarkable generosity and encouragement. Your gifts to the Annual Fund, capital projects, Georgia GOAL, and other important endeavors provide TFS students with an exceptional education. We are grateful to the community of alumni, parents, grandparents and other friends whose names appear on these pages.

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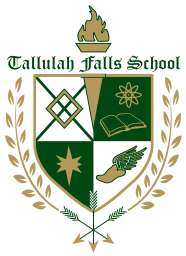
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