

Patriot Review

Amelia Academy's Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2018

In This Issue

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Check in with AA's littlest Patriots to see what they've been up to this school year.

PATRIOT PROFILES

Meet new Patriots and catch up with old friends

AVA ARTS FESTIVAL

AA plays host to the fall AVA Arts Fest, giving students a taste of the British Isles.

THE CLASS OF 2018 SPEAKS

This year's senior class undertakes the new 'right of passage', senior chapel talks.

Save the Date!
Saturday, April 21
Post-Prom party!

STE{A}Ming away at AA

"To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science." –Albert Einstein

STEM is a hot topic in the education world today. Standing for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, it is our nation's way of addressing the need to improve the way our students learn these important subjects. Art is added, transforming STEM into STEAM. At Amelia Academy, we are steaming away by taking the curriculum off of the blackboard and into the student's hands.

Here are a few ways that we are STEAMing away at Amelia Academy:

- Creating art using a variety of mediums including pen and ink and watercolor art
- Discovering the properties of triangles through dry linguini noodles activities
- Calculating velocity and distance of cars coming off a wooden ramp
- Conducting an egg drop experiment to learn about gravity and force
- Model exponential growth and decay with M&M's
- Dissecting a cow's heart to learn more about the circulatory system
- Examining computer processing unit and exploring the internal components
- Using suckers to recreate deriving the chain rule in Calculus
- Learning rhythm patterns, composing rhythm patterns, and performing them on percussion instruments
- Building jewelry boxes, and stools, and modeling clay into pots and sculptures
- Measuring craters after dropping balls into 50 lbs of flour
- Project based learning (PBL) to explore geometric formulas in a waterpark map
- Scavenger hunt on campus for geometric shapes
- Studying genetics by extracting DNA out of a strawberry
- Working with water and model cars to simulate the force in one and two dimensions
- Reinforcing the angle relationships formed by parallel lines via a virtual field trip
- Room remodel project to study surface area and volume
- Examining water to deduce the abilities of different types of water to clean



Sixth graders conduct a crater experiment in Mrs. Womack's Physical Science class.

What's Happening in... Pre-K

Amelia Academy's youngest students bring a spontaneous energy to every day and every subject.

Pre-Kindergarten classes, for children ages three and four, have grown in size and enthusiasm over the past few years and for good reason. Our littlest Patriots are eager to learn everything and excel.

This February, a learning unit on Dr. Seuss was a special feature. Guest speakers read to the children, and fun craft projects galore were completed. February was also Dental Health Month, during which the children learned all about the importance of good dental hygiene, the anatomy of a tooth and the right way to brush from a real live dentist.

Throughout the year, Pre-K students learn about the alphabet and letters, word recognition, earth science and numbers. They learn about animals, plants, seasons, climate change and weather. Some begin reading and basic math.

All learn about money, coins, counting and exchanging coins for purchases. This year, children learned to count out the proper number and value of coins to buy trinkets from the Treasure Chest. And, they practiced the concept of estimating numbers by determining the number of buttons in a jar.

Throughout the year, Pre-K students learn about each holiday—from Veterans Day to Thanksgiving, Christmas to Easter, Valentine's Day and everything in between. Videos, picture books, arts and crafts help solidify each event as the year progresses and culminates with promotion to kindergarten.

Throughout it all, AA's Pre-K Patriots spread their enthusiasm and make the school year happier for everyone.



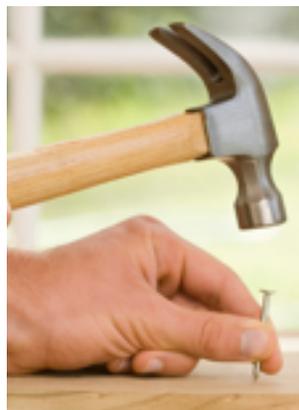
Pre-Kindergarten student Ellie Mann, daughter of Clinton and Marcie (McMillian '01) Mann, is a second generation Patriot.

Industrial Arts Expands

Amelia Academy is on a quest to address all of its students' interests and academic needs. We've set a course to expand our curriculum in a variety of ways—hiring top-notch instructors to teach a wide variety of courses for college prep, strengthening our Bible courses and broadening special interest subjects like our long-term Industrial Arts program.

The program has expanded this year to include additional skillsets beyond woodworking. Modules on welding, plumbing, electrical and small engine repair will be featured. Different instructors will cover topics, and all instructors have volunteered their time to the program. The classes are open to students in our Upper School. Some modules will take multiple weeks, others may be covered in one week. Students will get a basic

understanding of what it takes to pursue these careers and learn these skills. They will also get some basic hands-on skills.



The Academy's goal for the expanded Industrial Arts program is to turn out well-rounded, educated students who understand how things work. This meshes well and enhances our overall goal to teach the "whole" student, while providing excellent college prep in STEM and language arts in a solid Christian environment.

Patriot Profiles

Alumni: Clay Scott '13



Clay Scott '13 took the trip of a lifetime this past summer. And he came back to his alma mater to talk about his travels across the major highways and lesser-known byways of our nation. He inspired students

to meet every challenge head-on and grab everything life has to offer.

Prior to graduating from Virginia Tech with a degree in Finance, he actively planned the trip for nearly two years. It was a 42-day road trip with seven friends on a retrofitted school bus. He and his dad, along with help from friends in the community, converted the bus into an RV with a full kitchen and bath with shower.

Scott told Academy students to take advantage of every opportunity AA offers its students. "Say 'yes' to everything at Amelia Academy," he said. He told them to get outside their comfort zone, push and challenge themselves to try new things. He added that AA has really great options open to kids who care. He encouraged everyone to try something new and let the Academy help shape their future by being active in clubs, community service and taking courses that put them on a path to pursue their dreams.

His message was inspiring: Unplug from day to day stuff. Plan. Accept challenges. Compromise. Live life. See things. Create memories. Dream. Travel new roads.

After the trip of a lifetime, Clay has settled into life in Falls Church, Virginia, working as a Project Engineer for HITT Contracting.

Student: Daniel Easter '18



Every day during 6th period, AA Senior Daniel Easter, takes an Independent Study course that prepares him for a future at Longwood University

where he plans to pursue a degree in Elementary Education with a focus on autism. While working with an autistic child as a YMCA camp counselor last summer, he knew this was his future career.

Daniel also helps Lower School teachers and tutors when needed. He works one-on-one with an especially gifted youngster to keep him challenged and engaged.

Just before the holidays, Daniel asked the 2nd grade class to tell him about the best part of Christmas. Almost every child answered "Jesus" or "God". He was so impressed with the selfless response that it inspired him to seek out Jason Morris, AA's Bible scholar.

Now, Daniel and Mr. Morris are working together on ways to help support and strengthen the current Bible-based curriculum for Lower School students. Through Daniel's generosity, he purchased colorful storybook Bibles for the pre-K through 2nd grade. He was able to find complete age-appropriate Bibles that translated well for grades 3, 4, and 5. The Lower School will be able to add these and bolster our Biblical resources.

AA plans to continue and strengthen Bible-based studies for the lower grades next year—a lovely legacy Daniel leaves behind as he pursues his own future.

Staff: Ronald Williams



This fall, Ronald Williams joined us at Amelia Academy as a custodian. Mr. Williams is a veteran of the Fuqua School, and we consider ourselves lucky to have him.

What a difference he has made in the lives of everyone here. Some of our teachers have worked with him for decades in other positions and speak of him and his work in the most glowing terms. Even casual visitors to our school have mentioned how good our school looks these days.

Our hallways sparkle almost as brightly as Mr. Williams' famous smile! He takes immense pride in his work, so much so that our students have noticed and spontaneously thank him for his efforts.

Williams is a multi-talented man. He does some catering and runs a lawn care business on the side. He keeps himself busy and his days filled.

For his part, Mr. Williams really enjoys the school atmosphere and all the students here. He has a ready grin and a kind word for everyone. We are so glad he is part of our family.

AA plays host to AVA Arts Fest

Amelia Academy was the host school for the Association of Virginia Academies' annual Arts Festival at the end of 2017.



Students from member schools participated in one of four artistic venues, focused on the theme "The British Isles." This event included workshops on drama, music, dance and art. Lunchtime festivities included a rousing performance by AA's own Pipe & Drum Corps.

Mr. McCleod, who teaches AA's Pipe & Drum Corps, gave a lecture about the history of bagpipes. Special guest leaders for interactive outbreak sessions included:

- Dr. Rhonda Scarrow's drama

workshop with the Longwood University Theatre students

was based on "MacBeth." AA English teacher Mrs. Martha Womack assisted in the workshop.

- Mrs. Jamie Llewellyn, AA's own music teacher, taught a music segment featuring a cappella versions of "The Long and Winding Road" as well as a medley of "Ticket to Ride," "Penny Lane," and "Drive My Car."
- Mrs. Andrea McCarney and Ms. Krista Cope of the Heart of Ireland School of Dance put together a dance workshop on Irish step dancing that was both informative and great fun for all who participated.
- Mrs. Melissa Gunter Coleman '86 led the art group in creating their own personal coat of arms. Finished works were in the style of a classic British coat of arms and put on display.

After lunch, everyone joined the symposium to view the artwork and watch the performances by drama, music, and dance participants.

Patriot Scholars

The Academy's BETA club held their fall induction ceremony on October 6. The mission statement of BETA is "to promote the ideals of academic achievement, character, service and leadership". The following students were inducted: (Senior club) Gregory Harris, Elijah Edens, Gilian Coleman, and Zumar Smith and (Junior Club) Kyle Anderson, Cedric Bruce, Amanda Carwile, Quinton Dagner, Cameron Morris, Layne Ratliff, Sarah Reynolds, Olivia Sharp, and Joshua Smith. In early November, some BETA students traveled to Williamsburg for a leadership summit, meeting with other chapters around Virginia and North Carolina to focus on honing their leadership skills. AA's Junior BETA participated in a Rapid Response challenge, receiving a Mastery Score of their team cooperative skills. They were among only four out of thirteen teams to receive this high score and are looking forward to attending both state and national conventions this spring.

On December 5, AA held an induction ceremony for new members of the National Honor and National Junior Honor Societies

(NHS & NJHS). NHS inductees were Gillian Coleman, Zumar Smith, Hannah King, and Ashli Suter. NJHS inductees were Emma

Humphrey, Joshua Smith, Barit McMillian, Layne Ratliff, and Cameron Morris. NHS is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.



Gillian Coleman, daughter of David and Melissa (Gunter '86) Coleman, signs the NHS Chapter book.

The Class of 2018 speaks...

AA began Chapel Talks in 2008. The speech is a requirement for graduation and an important part of the curriculum at Amelia Academy. Seniors choose their own topics and the message they want to convey. Chapel Talks are a time for the entire student body to come together and learn something



Every year, AA seniors spend several weeks writing and practicing their “Chapel Talks” that will be presented each Wednesday in a general assembly between mid-fall and Spring Break. Students begin preparing for this important ritual in English 12 soon after classes start in August. By the time they stand on stage in front of the podium, they are well prepared to deliver their speech before friends, teachers, administrators and invited guests.

Sometimes the topics are surprising. Years ago, one senior talked about surfing. One of this year’s seniors spoke about the importance of learning to be quiet—which provides an opportunity to listen to, learn from and watch the actions of others. And listening instead of talking can have the added benefit of creating an aura of mystery about the person who successfully listens, learns and watches.

Some seniors use humor to get across their talking points; others are more serious. However, all have something important to share.

There are a few hard and fast rules. Every Chapel Talk must have a thesis and three supporting arguments. The speech must deliver an important message.

Many seniors talk about friendship and the importance of family. Some discuss challenging moments in life that have impacted them greatly. Others talk about making choices and, sometimes, choices that have led to regrets.

“I am glad that our school gives every senior a forum in which to leave a legacy for our AA family.”

–Jennifer Faeth, English 12 Teacher

What begins in August with brainstorming topics, culminates in a public speech that is part of the senior’s final grade for English 12. By the end of year, everyone feels they know and understand the graduating class better because they have been lucky enough to listen to and learn from each unique and personal Chapel Talk.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s Out of the Darkness Amelia Schools Campus walk will take place on April 14, 2018. The purpose of a campus walk is to bring awareness of mental illness and to prevent suicide in the schools. The walk will begin with opening ceremonies on the campus of Amelia Academy. Participants will walk through the Amelia County High and Middle Schools’ bus loops. The walk will end with closing ceremonies at Amelia Academy.

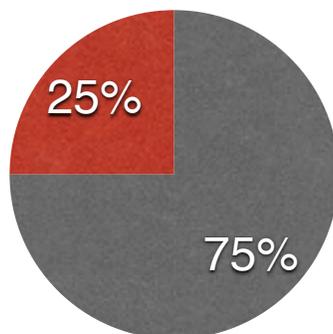
Anyone interested in volunteering or walking in this event is encouraged to contact Karen Berry at 804-229-4739, or libtchr2016@gmail.com. Registration of teams and individuals can be done by visiting www.afsp.org/ameliaschools

Annual Fund Update

The purpose of the Annual Fund is to bridge the gap between tuition and the real cost of the Academy's operation. The 2017-2018 Annual Fund runs from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018.

Amelia Academy has inspired so many unique experiences for our students. Every year, gifts to the Annual Fund ensure we are fulfilling the Academy's mission and these unique experiences. The Annual Fund provides approximately 25% of the annual operating budget, making it an essential and critical component in drawing and retaining high-quality teachers, filling classrooms with talented students and enhancing facilities to benefit learning.

● Tuition ● Annual Fund



Alumni, there's still time to meet Matt Harvie's '02 challenge! He will match the first \$1000 in donations given to this year's annual fund from new donors!

Thank you to those who have already given. We have raised over \$23,000!

Gifts of all sizes are important and appreciated!
Give now!

Online: www.ameliaacademy.com
Mail: PO Box 106, Amelia, VA 23002

Help bridge the gap between tuition and the real cost of the Academy's operation. All gifts are tax-deductible. Gifts of all sizes are important and appreciated.

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