

Patriot Review

Amelia Academy's Alumni Newsletter

Winter 2019

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THE SWEET LIFE

See who's learning and baking in the AA cafe and why

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Out of the Darkness Amelia Schools Campus Walk will take place on April 6, 2019. The purpose of a campus walk is to bring awareness of mental illness and to prevent suicide in the schools.

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

Patriots Bash for Cash

AA's Patriot Nation has long been known for its dedication to education, parent involvement and willingness to think "outside the box". At the end of 2018, a committee of board members and parents challenged themselves to create a new fundraiser for the Academy that could extend the reach of AA's fundraising efforts and become an annual event.

The first annual Patriots Bash for Cash fundraiser was held on November 10. Mike Carwile, AA parent and Board member, chaired the event. Other members included Mark and Stephanie Borum, Jesse Roberts, Sherry Reynolds and Teresa Carwile.

Over 300 tickets were sold in advance, and attendees arrived eager to show their support of the Academy.

The night kicked off with heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks. There was an opportunity throughout the evening to bid on silent auction items and then participate in a live auction. The evening ended with a reverse raffle drawing for \$5,000.

The event was developed by committee members who had attended auctions and participated in reverse raffles held for other organizations.

"I would like to thank my committee, our corporate sponsors, and all of the supporters that made it great. I would also like to call out a special thank you to Mark and Stephanie Borum for all of their support. They went above and beyond," said Carwile.



Attendees enjoy the live auction portion of the Bash for Cash

The Patriot Bash for Cash was a success on all levels. Attendees had a great time, and the event earned more than its set goal. All funds raised will go toward AA's General Fund and contribute to technology and security improvements.

Plans are already in the works for another Bash in 2019. Mark your calendars now for November 9, 2019, the Second Annual Patriots Bash for Cash.

What's Happening in... Music

Amelia Academy's students make music across all grades



Lower school students perform during this year's Christmas program

The Music Program at the Lower School continues to grow each year. Faculty member Jaime Llewellyn teaches students about various instruments, especially percussion. Throughout the year, she teaches fundamentals of music and ensures her students have a good understanding of rhythm, melody, ear training and musical notation. All 4th and 5th grade classes actively learn to play the recorder.

Mrs. Llewellyn is also teaching a Piano class at AA this year, as an upper school elective. Three students are learning the "Alfred's Adult Piano" curriculum, and the students are making excellent progress. Each student performed a solo in the Christmas Program and teamed up to play a 6-hand version of "Jingle Bells."

Last Fall, the music students also performed at many school functions including the 9-11 and Veteran's Day programs. With each year and each program, Mrs. Llewellyn and her students get a bit more adventurous and inspired. She's excited about the future growth of the music curriculum at AA.

Next year, Mrs. Llewellyn hopes to offer a Piano 2 class to her students, develop a choral ensemble group and find more ways to encourage the Patriot Nation to express themselves through music.



The fifth grade class during the production of "Counting Down to Christmas"

AA embraces digital database

As part of the Academy's proactive pursuit of enhanced technology resources, a new research database is available to AA students and teachers.

Thanks to an anonymous grant, teachers and students have access to the EBSCO multi-disciplinary database this academic year. EBSCO allows users to search on full text and provides abstracts from a wide selection of magazines, newspapers and periodicals. The subject matter covered in the database is far-reaching and includes art, religion, politics, business, education, entertainment, health/medicine, sports, fashion and travel.

EBSCO is considered to be an ideal tool for students to increase their understanding of current events and dig into research projects. It is also optimal for teachers who need to access materials to support curriculum.



Patriot Profiles

Alumni: Matt Goodman '97



Matt Goodman has always known how to have a good time. But this summer, he challenged himself and his whole family to hike the Grand Canyon trail in Zion National

Park. And they did it--Matt, his wife Katie, sons McKay (13) and Cole (10) and daughter Sydney (11)!

The fact that the kids were all age 10+ and that his oldest son would only be home for another five years, catalyzed the family's desire for a fun, adventurous vacation.

Matt and Katie read up on all the potential risks, and the family trained for several months for the hike which covered 17 miles and sometimes over 5,000 feet in elevation! Despite worries about altitude, dehydration and scorpions, they set out before 6AM on a Wednesday down the 6.8-mile South Kaibab Trail, spending the night at Phantom Ranch, which Matt describes as "an incredible experience". The next morning they began their ascent before 6AM, making it to the top of the nearly 10-mile Bright Angel Trail.

They knew that all the planning in the world couldn't prevent a freak accident, but they all rose up as one and had an amazing time on this trek of a lifetime. The whole family came away energized and feeling that if they could hike the Grand Canyon, then they could do just about anything!

Student: Tyler Gough '19



Tyler Gough is graduating this year from AA—he's a Patriot through and through. He's been with us since pre-K! Tyler knew he wanted to pursue a hands-on trade after academia, so he's also been

taking Precision Machining courses off-site for the past two years at John Tyler Community College. The classes are held Monday through Thursday from 8am-10am. Tyler returns home to the Academy after lunch each day to take his core classes. Another AA senior, Wilbert Allen, is also taking courses in the program this year. The Precision Machining Program has a great reputation. It was developed to address industry-specific needs based on the advice of technology experts to fill holes in the workforce. Employers literally could not source the employees they needed. These precision machining graduates fill those gaps. Employers and businesses known for excellence (such as Rolls Royce) routinely visit the classes to scope out the talent and pass out business cards.

Tyler really likes the versatility of the program. He takes two classes at JTCC now. One class ("C&C") teaches him how to make parts using a computer. The other class teaches him the fine art of making parts manually.

Tyler is an over-achiever—he will be getting two graduation certificates this Spring—his high school diploma from AA and a Career Studies Certificate in Basic Precision Machining Technology from JTCC!

This fall, he will return to JTCC for one semester and take the necessary courses to earn his Associates Degree. Many precision machining graduates go on to get additional degrees in computer science and other technologies.

Amelia Academy couldn't be prouder of Tyler--we know he has a bright future ahead of him!

Staff: Jaime Llewellyn



The sweet sound of music has been filling the Academy more than usual the past few years. Mrs. Jaime Llewellyn teaches music to Lower School students and added a Beginning Piano class this

academic year in the Upper School. Her programs are creative and involve the students in song, dance and performance arts. This is her third year teaching at the Academy, and she looks forward to the continued growth of the music program. Her enthusiasm for teaching is contagious. She earned a degree in music education from Meredith College in Raleigh and then moved to Orlando to work at Walt Disney World in various capacities, for Epcot Center, the Animal Kingdom and MGM/Hollywood Studios—often teaching and coaching character actors. She returned to her roots—both geographically and academically—to teach chorus at multiple NC high schools and started a private studio from her home before coming to Virginia. She loved teaching private students and continues to teach piano and voice from her home in Amelia three days each week.

Mrs. Llewellyn is also an active scrapbooking enthusiast. She teaches monthly scrapbooking classes from her home, as well. As a long-term Independent Consultant for papercrafting company, Close To My Heart, she's earned multiple incentive trips, allowing her to travel all over the world. Drop by to meet Mrs. Llewellyn. She's sure to share her love of art and music with you.

Jr. Beta Club creates Leaders

AA's Jr. Beta Club travels to leadership summit in Williamsburg

The Junior Beta Club won a prestigious award as an Outstanding Leadership School at the end of 2018 at the Beta Club leadership summit. The conference involves teams from Virginia and North Carolina. Held in November at the Great Wolf Lodge in Williamsburg, participants compete as teams focusing on leadership skills. And, they attend interactive sessions led by leadership speakers.

The summit focuses on building those principles on which the Beta mission statement is based: academic achievement, character, leadership, and service.

Student participants included Kyle Anderson, Jaxon Baldwin, Macy Barnard, Amanda Carwile, Emma Humphrey, Curtis Ison, Barit McMillian and Layne Ratliff. Faculty sponsor, Mrs. Angela Anderson, accompanied the team on the overnight excursion.

"This is a club that prepares our students for life and hones skills that enable them to successfully pursue careers after their academic studies," Mrs. Anderson said.

AA students vied for an award in the "Rapid Response" competition, which they won. In this encounter, teams of 5-8 students collaborate in timed sessions using critical thinking, task-based problem solving and performance-based skillsets to solve an assigned challenge.

They must engage with one another quickly and creatively to produce and present an effective solution.



Jr. Beta Club members outside of Great Wolf Lodge

Competitions are judged on creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking. Academy students attended the statewide convention last year in Hampton Roads and plan to compete at the state level again this year. When not prepping or competing onsite during this conference, students enjoyed Great Wolf Lodge's indoor water park—a fun way to solidify friendships and rejuvenate for each encounter.

AA Library goes Digital

The library at AA is a place that students visit often. Lower School students eagerly look forward to Library visits and Upper School students seek it out as a place to do research, independent study and work online. For years, its book collection was categorized in a standard card file system.

Since December 2017, we've been working to catalog our entire collection online. Greg Herman is the brain trust behind this endeavor. He is the grandfather of Thomas Woolson, a young Patriot currently in Kindergarten. Mr. Herman, a retired Senior Program Analyst/Computer Programmer, created the electronic card catalog using Microsoft Access.

Before retiring in 2008, Mr. Herman told himself he would never write another line of code. However, when he understood what AA needed, he stepped up and wrote the program and began the tedious process of entering each and every book in



Mr. Herman showing the third grade class the digital database

the library into the database by hand. Currently, he has recorded over 5,000 titles, which represent approximately one-half of the library's total collection.

The database is accessed through the computers in the library. Its versatility makes it easy for students to research books by author, genre, title, etc. The goal is to put the program on the school's server so that it can be accessed anywhere on campus.

Greg's wife, Marie, has also been helping with this project. She labels new books, repairs books and color-codes the children's books by age and reading level.

Mr. Herman's database also captures when and who accesses the books. In the future, AA will be able to create reports detailing which books are just sitting on shelves, collecting dust. This will allow the library to cull their

collection to make room for new resources.

THANK YOU, Mr. Herman! We appreciate all your hard work on our behalf.

The Sweet Life

Culinary Arts class is added to this year's electives

AA encourages students to follow their dreams. So when one of our Patriots has a specific career in mind, we try to give them every advantage to pursue it and succeed.

Kelly Flippin, class of '19, wants to become a Pastry Chef, and AA wants her to be prepared for success in her chosen career. Mrs. Berry, AA's librarian, who has a degree in home economics, developed a Culinary Arts curriculum in Pastry and Baking to help Kelly succeed. The class is small—just two students, Kelly and Mitchell Carey, both seniors.

The year-long curriculum is wide-reaching and covers all aspects of baking. It began with a unit on cookies and included drop, rolled, bar and fortune cookies. Then came a unit on quick breads followed by gingerbread house construction. They have even covered basic candy making techniques like fudge, brittles and truffles.

In January, students began a unit on custards and soufflés. There will be additional units on yeast breads; mousses and puddings; pies and tarts; cakes, cupcakes and tortes; advanced cake decoration; coffee cakes and strudels; muffins and doughnuts. Students will even be exposed to limited ingredient baking to address special dietary needs and have already baked some gluten-free cupcakes.

The course is comprised of typical lectures, video demonstrations, hands-on cooking labs, field trips, tests and homework. The cooking labs are favorites and occur two days each week in the AA kitchen. Field trips to local bakeries in Amelia, Chesterfield and Richmond are also popular and expose the students to a variety of real-work opportunities and environments open to them in this field.

"I think my students were surprised that there would be quizzes, homework and note-taking requirements, just like with core subjects," Mrs. Berry commented.

"And, they didn't expect to have to clean the kitchen! However, maintaining a kitchen to commercial standards is critical if they want to pursue this career, so

it's an important part of the learning process."

Mrs. Berry said she had to do her homework as well to prepare for this senior-level HS course. Grading pastry is difficult, but she found rubrics online to use as a guideline and refreshed her own knowledge base and skillset re: the foods and terms that the class prepares.

"I really enjoy teaching these skills. It's allowing me to increase my knowledge as a lifelong learner and I'm eager to expand the curriculum to make it a standard elective. I think we'll try to schedule the classes at the end of the day next year and offer it to as many as four students," Mrs. Berry said.

The students and teachers at AA all benefit from this pursuit of a sweet life. The student body has universally volunteered to taste-test the food. Most of the time, however, AA's faculty acts as official taste-testers. No matter who tastes the sweet treats, everyone enjoys them.



Mitchell Carey and Kelly Flippin making chocolate truffles

Amelia Academy has a new Playground

Amelia Academy dedicated their new playground, Patriots at Play, on October 26. The playground dedication was led by Academy moms and faculty members Jesse Roberts and Jennifer Hayghe. They gave a joint speech on the history of the project. Jason Morris, a member of the AA faculty, led the Lower School in prayer to end the dedication.

Almost two years ago, Roberts and Hayghe formed a committee to raise funds to purchase new equipment. They identified a need for a colorful, fun, SAFE place for all kids to exercise daily.

The committee researched equipment and costs and selected two basic designs. "The more expensive set was our ideal, even though it seemed out of reach. But we were reminded to 'set our sights high,' and lo and behold!

The more expensive set went on sale. And we were blessed," said Roberts. In six short months, they managed to raise over \$20,000, enough to seal the deal. "The impressive thing about this beyond the



sheer magnitude of the amount is that so many people donated to the effort.

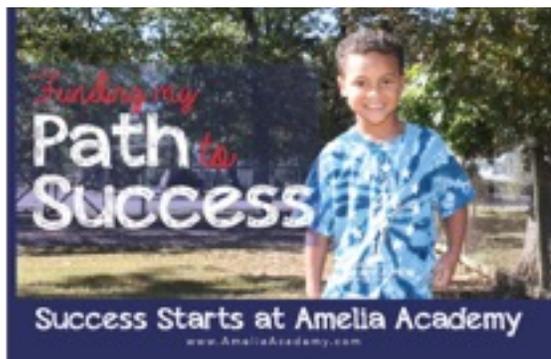
Parents, alumni, friends, local businesses and the children themselves all came together to contribute to this effort," said Hayghe. The entrance to the playground is the colorful Patriots at Play archway, adorned with hand painted ceramic tiles purchased by donors. The play structure arrived in July 2017 and "looked like a giant Lego set," said Roberts, who was the project leader for the construction. "All those myriad pieces actually did fit together and we got it all assembled for our kids to enjoy by the first day of school last year."

The archway has been a work in progress. "Every time we thought we were set, we ran into a setback. Even the weather conspired against us with all the constant rain," said Hayghe.

In the end, on another rainy day in October, it finally came together with the help of many people, a lot of ingenuity and a lot of dedication.

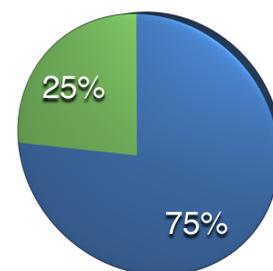
Annual Fund Update

The purpose of the Annual Fund is to bridge the gap between tuition and the real cost of the Academy's operation. The 2019-2019 Annual Fund runs from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.



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. Help bridge the gap between tuition and the real cost of the Academy's operation. All gifts are tax-deductible. Thank you to those who have already given. We have raised over \$63,000!

- Tuition
- Annual Fund



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

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Save the Date!
Saturday, April 6
Post-Prom party!

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