



**TULSA**  
ADVENTIST ACADEMY

# TAA STUDENT TALON

## “Preparing Students for Heaven and Earth”

By Allie Gerstner

Every high school student at Tulsa Adventist Academy has the opportunity to do community service through the school. Recently the tenth graders, Citlally P., Esther H., and Conner S., helped out at the Tulsa Community Service Center in Tulsa. The sophomores cleaned a room where people received their COVID-19 vaccine, which also serves as a dining area. Citlally said that the other volunteers were sorting food while the high schoolers cleaned. She not only volunteers for community service but also helps out and serves the school.

Citlally and Esther sometimes help Ms. Vicki take care of the preschoolers while Ms. Vera is teaching Spanish to high school. Occasionally Citlally and Esther help some students who struggle with homework assignments.

Community service is when someone serves their community by giving their time to help people in a particular area. It does not even have to be volunteering. Volunteering is a great way to make a positive impact on society and we should strive to do it daily. Community service can be as simple as helping out a classmate with an assignment. What does community service mean to you? How can you make an impact on someone’s life today? TAA is preparing students for heaven and earth. The school wants students to help others just as Jesus helped us by saving us.



### JAN-FEB 2022 CALENDAR

Jan. 26-29

*SWAU Hoops  
Classic*

Feb. 7-11

*Winter Break*

Feb. 21

*Presidents’  
Day/*

*no school*

Feb. 26

*Talent Show*

*we cannot  
accomplish  
all that we  
need to do  
without  
working  
together.*

## “Basketball Team Goes Canvassing”

By Travis Ham



Coby B. is a ninth grader and this is his first year as a student at TAA. He is enjoying playing basketball at TAA and shared the following. The basketball team consists of Noah Z., Conner S., Levi H., Mun-Kim, Keaton B., Travis H., Gantz F., Kai Pi, and Ryan D. They practice basketball on Mondays from 3:00 to 5:00 and on Fridays from 12:30 to 2:00. They practice skills such as

shooting form, dribbling, running, in-game scenarios, and more. They are currently raising money for new equipment and to go to Hoops Classic, a tournament at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas. The team has done and are planning fundraisers such as canvassing *Steps to Christ* books. With Pastor Samson Sembeba as the coach, you are guaranteed to grow both physically and mentally. There’s never a dull moment playing basketball at TAA.

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## Studying the Tulsa Race Massacre

By Allie Gerstner



Tulsa Adventist Academy high school students have been learning about the Tulsa Race Massacre in their English classes. The Tulsa Race Massacre occurred on May 31, 1921, when a group of white citizens attacked black citizens and destroyed the homes and businesses in the Greenwood District of Tulsa. The high schoolers went on a field trip to learn more about the massacre. They went to the Greenwood Rising Museum and the Greenwood Cultural Center. High school students also visited John Hope Franklin Reconciliation Park and hosted Carlos Moreno, author of *The Victory of*

*Greenwood*, to learn more about the horrible event. The new museum incorporates history and technology. It has interactive features so that the public can have open-ended conversations about the tragedy.

Kai Pi, a freshman said, “I learned that the Tulsa Race Massacre was planned and also learned about the Ku Klux Klan.” Kai Pi commented that Greenwood Rising was a way to “memorialize what happened...nowadays people don’t really know that the Tulsa Race Massacre even happened, or that it was before World War II.” Kai Pi stated that he liked learning about the event and that he now knows much more about the massacre.

## "The Christmas Lamb"

By Eric Williams

The holiday program this year was about the true meaning of Christmas. It was about a little girl named Christy and it was almost Christmas time. The kids at school were exchanging gifts. But Christy had no gift to give, so she had to give her only toy, Mutton, away. The girl she gave the gift to hated it and that made Christy sad. She ran to her room and fell asleep. Christy had a dream about Noel and the gift of Christmas. When she woke up, she told everyone else about the true meaning of Christmas. Her teacher also told the students how Christy gave all she had. Everyone learned that Christmas is about giving not getting.



## "What to Expect in Community Service"

By Isaiah Abbeduto



Esther is a tenth grader here at TAA and I interviewed her about community services and her thoughts about it. I asked her what to expect working in community services and she said that you can expect picking up trash, caring for little kids and helping in anyway possible. I also asked her what she would do if she was in charge of running community services. She said she would put up some posters and signs, and create a little website for people to see and read. I asked her if community services is a good thing to be involved in and she said, yes because it makes you feel good that you are doing something good for the environment, and that she knows it is the right thing to do. You don't get paid for doing community service but you can do it if you want to do it and don't be afraid to step up and say, "I want to do this."

## “Getting to Know You”

By Daniel Blecha



Levi H. is new to TAA and he is in fifth grade. He moved here from the Houston, Texas area. So far, his favorite part of fifth grade is P.E. His teacher is Mr. Minty who also teaches sixth grade. His favorite part of TAA is probably the friends and freedoms that he wouldn't normally have. Levi likes history because he gets to learn new things but he doesn't like reading. Some other things he likes about Oklahoma is TAA and the change in the weather. He likes to play games on his Nintendo switch and one of his favorites is rocket league, a game where you play soccer or hockey with giant crazy cars. One of the things he likes about rocket league is the things you can do and collect.

## TAA Soaring Eagles Pep Rally!

By Cassidy Shaw



Most schools have an assembly but TAA had a pep rally (a gathering of people before a sports event or trip) for the acrobatic team before they went to Southwestern Adventist University on their trip to Acro Knight 2021. Here's a recap of our pep rally on November 11. First, Student Association hosted our pep rally in the gym and had the basketball team play a game against the teachers and staff. They also had the acrobatics team do three moves. For the basketball part they had the boys team do a five-minute game against teachers and staff. Then the acrobatics team performed some of the basics, for example three-highs (standing on someone's shoulders and having another person on your shoulders). Everyone was shouting so loud and encouraging both the basketball teams and the acrobatics team, so it really helped show TAA's school spirit.

## “Acro-Girl”

By Travis Ham



Cassidy S. is in eighth grade and has done Acro for almost four years. Acro is a mix of tumbling and gymnastics where performers create formations and tricks. They practice moves such as tricopters, triagras, 3-2-1s, two-highs, moscows, and many other moves. As far as shows go, they have Acrofest, which is a massive Acro show hosted by an Adventist University that happens every year. They recently went to an Acro Knights workshop for the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at Southwestern

Adventist University and although it wasn't Acro Fest, because Acrofest was cancelled, they performed beautifully and had a great time. They also have a home show, which is a performance at TAA at the end of the year. If you like having fun and pushing yourself physically, definitely consider Acro!

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## “Eden’s AcroKnight Experience”

By Mun Kim



PC: Jennifer Dohlman

On Thursday November 11, the students in Soaring Eagles acrobatics at TAA went on a trip to Texas. Eden A-W went and is in the seventh grade; she is 12 years old. She does a lot of positions but now she is base. Peterson’s acrobatic team did a four high which surprised everyone at the Acrofest. After that the Peterson’s team and the SWAT team tried to do the five-high but failed. She says everyone should try acrobatics and see if they are pretty good at it. Her favorite thing to do when she was bored at the Acrofest was doing personal skills like balance board. The Soaring Eagles performed a group performance and practiced their separate group performances. At the end of the day

Eden had a very fun experience at the AcroKnight-fest with her friends and is waiting for next year’s Acrofest.

## “Jesus is My Favorite Teacher”

By Isaac Bauder

Eden A-W's favorite food is popcorn with nutritional yeast. She likes ice cream cake and all desserts without nuts. One of the colors Eden likes is light red or neon red. Eden likes art on Wednesdays and science every other day in school. She says that her favorite teacher is Jesus. Eden doesn't know what career she wants but she says it should be enjoyable. Eden doesn't play an instrument but she used to play the piano and the violin and the ukulele and the guitar. She likes super natural fiction and all graphic novels. Eden wants to learn to get better at everything.

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## Twelfth Grade ~ Fun or Fiction?

By Cassidy Shaw



Lots of kids think that once you get to 12th grade that you can't have fun so here's what one told me. Michael J. (pictured on the right) is a senior at TAA (he skipped his junior year). Seniors do have to think about school and what to do after they graduate; for example, Michael said that the TAA curriculum is a good starting point for what you do afterward and helps prepare you for heaven and earth. Michael also is very

involved in school with all his leadership positions like being president of National Honor Society TAA Chapter, and treasurer of TAA's Student Association.

Seniors also think about what to do when they graduate. Some people just skip college but Michael wants to study physics. Some people enjoy playing instruments and Michael plays drums at his church, and he's even started the fundamentals of bass. He also likes to listen to music and relax when he's not worrying about school. Seniors also still get to have fun, coming up with nicknames that they all laugh about together. If you ever are around them during lunch they are always laughing and having a blast while eating. Michael and a couple of his friends told me some examples such as Mick, MJ, Michele, and Job. So, seniors do have fun but also they have to think about school and their future.

*We need your insight! Please click on [niche.com](https://niche.com) and share your thoughts about TAA in less than 60 seconds! Your response helps other Tulsa-area folks know about Christian education at Tulsa Adventist Academy.*

## “Simeon’s Favorite Things”

By Thang Siam



Simeon A. is a 10-year old 5<sup>th</sup> grader at TAA. This year, he wants to learn about nature and bugs. His favorite thing here is that the staff is really nice to him. Simeon really enjoys pep rally’s because he finds the lights and the disco ball is really cool. Simeon plays dodgeball, soccer, and a basketball. His favorite subject is handwriting because he enjoys writing. Moving onto his life outside of school, he has one older sister and is the youngest in his family. His parents are from Nigeria and he was born in America. His favorite food is cheeseburgers but he says he doesn’t know why. His favorite TV show to watch is Ninjago and Benten. If you ever see him anywhere, make sure you say hi to him.

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## “Junior Time”

By Betsy Melendez

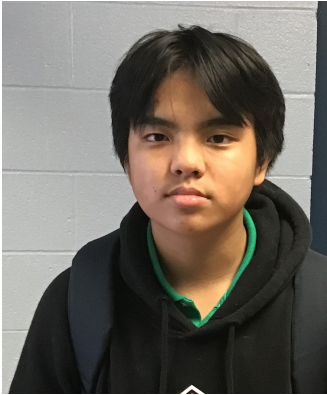


Ryan D. is an 11th grader who attends Tulsa Adventist Academy. Here's some facts about Ryan that you may not know. People give him nicknames like “my little pony, troll doll, and mop head.” Ryan likes to listen to any type of music but it has to be good, and his favorite song is “Won’t Turn Back” by needtobreathe. Ryan used to play ukulele because he got bored. For summer Ryan would mow his neighbors’ yards, and his free time would be riding his scooter, riding his bike, and playing basketball. Ryan says that when he graduates, he’ll probably go to college and maybe be a welder because they make good money. His favorite holidays are Thanksgiving and Fourth of July, and I will tell you why, because on Thanksgiving he likes to eat food, and for the

July 4, it is because of the fireworks and spending time with his family. Ryan also likes action books, something that can catch his interest.

## “From Malaysia to Tulsa”

By Mun Kim



Thang is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at TAA. He was born in Malaysia and he likes to listen to music every time he's bored. He really doesn't have a favorite sport but the one he likes the most is volleyball. It's his second year in TAA; his first year in TAA was when he was in Pre-K. His favorite thing at TAA is lunch time, because it's the only time he can eat his food and talk to his friends. Thang likes to watch anime when he's alone. Here are some of his favorite anime: One Piece, Haikyuu and JoJo's Bizarre Adventure. Thang is a very cool kid in middle school. If you ever come across him, his presence will always scare you!

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## “Mr. Seery's Math Matters”

By Kim Kim



Mr. Seery teaches math at Tulsa Adventist Academy. He has a wife and three sons. In the past 11 years, Mr. Seery has taught at the Keene, Texas public high school and Parkview Adventist Academy. I asked him why he loves teaching and he said that every day is different, and each one provides a new joke, and he also loves interaction with kids. Even though he's a math teacher, he had trouble with math in high school.

Not only does he teach math, Mr. Seery is also an acrobat, and he leads songs for TAA chapel every Tuesday. He told me his favorite hobby was woodworking, which is pretty interesting since he is a teacher who teaches both math and acrobatics, so I would not expect his favorite hobby to be woodworking. As a result, I think that being a math teacher, or teaching in any other capacity, would be quite interesting and fun. I would love to teach on a day-to-day basis, just like Mr. Seery.

"Love is the only  
force capable of  
transforming an  
enemy into friend."

MARTIN LUTHER  
KING JR.



## “42 Years Of Teaching Experience”

By Gantz Fomby



Mrs. Vicki Toews studied accounting in college but after encouragement from her sister and friends, she decided to teach. She began her teaching career in Vinita, Oklahoma and is grateful for a 42-year teaching career. She has taught at TAA for seven years. She currently teaches Pre-K through first grade and believes God made it possible for her to teach at the school. Mrs. Toews taught for 29 years in public schools. She likes teaching in public and private schools, but prefers Christian schools because she is able to pray at school. She finds teaching challenging but she tries to understand her students and utilizes various teaching styles to aid with effective learning. She particularly enjoys teaching students to read. She is looking forward to several TAA activities this year such as, field trips, the Christmas Program, the Music Fest, and the year-end activities.

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## Ms. Elena Vera

By Gantz Fomby



Ms. Vera is a part-time Spanish teacher and Ms. Vicki's teacher's aide at Tulsa Adventist Academy. She is married and has two grown sons. She began teaching in her native country of Mexico where she taught for one year. Ms. Vera states that her passion for teaching led her to make it a career. She has taught at TAA for three and one-half years. Ms. Vera has experienced teaching History and finds it complicated and difficult to memorize. Although she completes lesson plans during the weekends, she thinks not having enough time to cover the material is the most difficult part of teaching. She enjoys gardening during her leisure and plans to be a school volunteer and tutor when she retires.

## “Connecting with God at TAA”

By Thang Siam



Juan C. is a student here at TAA and is in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Juan came here to learn and have a better connection with God. His favorite subject is English because he doesn't struggle as much compared to other classes and finds it easier than other classes. Juan's favorite sport is soccer because his dad taught him how to play when he was a little boy. Juan does acrobatics and is on the acrobatics team to stay active and have a healthy life. His favorite thing about this school are that teachers because they are kind. The most memorable moment he has had here was when he was in the locker room and the bench fell on him. He says he enjoys soccer because he likes playing offense.

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## “A New Student”

By Gloria Cid-Guevara



Aubrielle B. is a 4th grader that is new to our school this year. Aubrielle was born April 28, 2011 in California and has two older brothers, a step-brother and two step-sisters. Aubrielle says that her favorite color used to be black but that she currently doesn't have a favorite color and that she loves all sports but the one she likes most is probably kick ball. She also says that she doesn't have a favorite animal and when I asked her who her friends are here at TAA she said that she just kind of hangs out with everyone.

Now let's get into the school related things! Aubrielle says that this school is very different to her old school in many ways, one way is because this school is Pre K-12 but her old school didn't have as many students and it was only an elementary school. She also said that the work they do here is different because they do a lot more handwriting each day and they get less recess. She said that she does acrobatics and that at her old school she used to play basketball.

## “Dirt Biker”

By Angel Perez

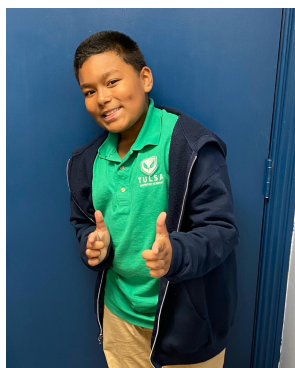


Noah Z. is a ninth-grader and his birthday is January 22. Noah came to TAA when he was five years old, and his favorite thing about TAA is its spiritual aspects. His favorite color is navy blue and army green. His favorite food is sandwiches, and his favorite fruit is oranges. Noah wants to be an oral surgeon when he grows up. At his church, Adventist Fellowship, he is sometimes part of the praise team. Noah is also on the basketball team here at TAA, and his hobbies are dirt biking, using drones, and playing his guitar. He started riding his dirt bike when he was six, and he started playing guitar when he was eight (his favorite chord on the guitar is A minor). I think that Noah is a smart person, plays very well on the guitar, and he is very cool.

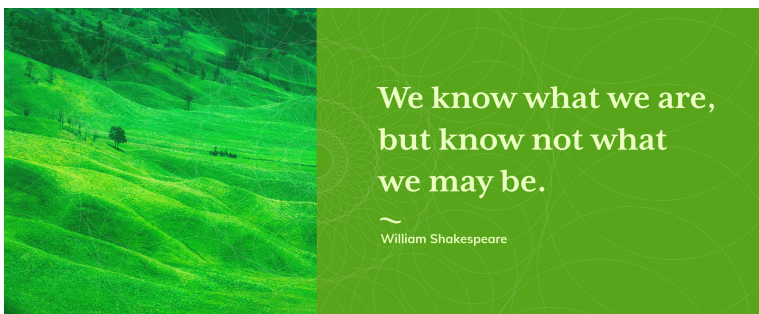
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## “Learning About God”

By Daniel Blecha



Roman is a new student at TAA this year. He is in fifth grade and he enjoys piano music and learning about God. His favorite teacher is his home room teacher, Mr Minty. Mr. Minty is the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> homeroom teacher as well as the PE teacher. Roman’s favorite subject is reading. He likes to play on PlayStation and Nintendo switch; he mainly likes to play Mario cart. What he thinks TAA needs to improve is that it needs more students.



## “Music and More”

By Daniel Blecha



Travis is Levi H.'s brother and Travis is in eighth grade. He is a new student this year and is the TAA National Honor Society pastor. Travis's favorite food is pizza. Travis's favorite color is red and he likes black cherry ice cream. Travis's favorite subject in school is physical education. Travis has no favorite teacher. Travis plays the piano and the French horn; he recently performed with Mrs. Hawkins at the piano recital. Travis's favorite type of books are fantasy, adventure, and science fiction. Travis wants to learn to type faster this year.

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## “Christmas is Here!”

By Eden Arroyo-Watson

Christmas is here! Tulsa Adventist Academy had a Christmas program titled “Little Christmas Lamb” in the First SDA Church of Tulsa. Students practiced hour after hour up until December 9, the day of the program. Some Christmas magic happened that night as the record of fastest time going through the program was broken the night of the play. Solos, choirs, and trios combined to make a nice evening of musical entertainment. Ms. Peggy Fisher as well as many others worked very hard to help get together the program. Based on many people in the crowd that came to the play it went great! Ms. Vicki's class sang with such enthusiasm you could hear it from a mile away. The big group finale was louder than ever! With everyone combined it came loud and clear to every ear. With all the effort put into the program we're glad it came out great.



The *TAA Student Talon* is written by students in grades seven and eight in their journalism class taught by Mrs. Fisher.