

# Tulsa Adventist Academy

Vol. 1, Issue 4  
August 2017



We start the 2017-2018 school year with The Blessed Hope: Nathan Green's painting showing Jesus coming in the clouds to receive His children! The colorful painting shown with Pastor Jun and his son was given to Tulsa Adventist Academy and unveiled at the May 2017 Graduation ceremony for the graduating seniors. It has been hung in the main hallway of TAA for all to view and enjoy.

While there are a few new changes (uniforms!) this year, there are also some other important updates. TAA chapel is now on Wednesday mornings from 8am - 8:45am and we invite all parents and those interested to join us for a time of praise.

Our theme for this school year is REACH! We are wanting each student to experience Jesus and to share His life story to those around Tulsa. Through the lips and deeds of our students, the message of hope will be shared. I humbly ask each parent, family member and church family to join us supporting us in proclaiming Jesus and Him crucified to all around us.

Our high school students have already spent time together team building at Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, working together and working on the grounds of the camp. Our seventh and eighth graders have attended their own team building exercises in a ropes course. These activities are meant to strengthen trust and relationships, inside and outside of our school walls.

I believe that we together are going to have a fun-filled and successful 2017-2018 academic year.

Shaun Lazarus, Principal





# NEW YEAR, NEW TEACHERS, NEW STUDENTS!

Tulsa Adventist Academy has seven new teachers this year: two full time and five part time. We also have new head registrars/secretaries: Mrs. Jennifer Whittington, and Mrs. Angela Moon. Mrs. Abby Duffy is our new treasurer and Dr. Lance Bailey is coaching our basketball team.

You'll still see many of your beloved volunteers and other part-time staff, too: Mrs. Lana McGeehee, Mr. Seth Marquette, Mrs. Jennifer Cross, Mrs. Deborah Zigo and many more familiar faces. Welcome back to school, everyone.

MR. ARROYO-WATSON,  
9-12 SCIENCE



MRS. FISHER,  
9-12 ENGLISH/9-10 PUBLIC  
SPEAKING



MRS. HOFFMAN, 1-2 GRADES



MRS. MARTINEZ, 9-10 HEALTH



PASTOR RUIZ, 10-11 SPANISH I



MRS. RUSZENAS,  
11-12 ART/HOME ECONOMICS



MS. SAUDER,  
K-12 MUSIC/11-12 GOVERNMENT





## TAA WANTS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU!

*Deborah Zigo,  
Director of  
Communication*

### NOTES

Teachers send notes home with students; please ask your student daily if s/he brought home a note! Notes, "Remind" and "OneCall" are TAA's OFFICIAL methods of communication.

### REMIND

**RECOMMENDED:** Sign up with "Remind" for TAA alerts and messages about school closing, alerts and reminders. These texts are often grade specific and enhance your student's learning experience.

### FACEBOOK

**OPTIONAL:** Our Facebook page contains all of TAA's school activities and is a place for families to share how their students are thriving.

### ONECALL

**REQUIRED:** OneCall is used for global school events and emergencies and is sent to your cell phone. You are automatically signed up when you give TAA your telephone number at registration.

TAA has an online calendar on its website and a printed calendar in the main office. Please call our office during school hours to leave a message for a teacher or if you have a question about school events. Personal texts to teachers should be reserved for emergencies only.

## Welcome Picnic & Teacher Dedication

Marvin and Lana McGehee welcomed TAA students and families to their park-like back yard on August 20. Teachers, staff, students and their families enjoyed a potluck lunch, water games and the cool creek for several hours. It was a great way to meet new teachers and students, and cool down on a very hot day.



On August 24, Oklahoma Conference president James Shires and Oklahoma Conference Education Superintendent

Tim Kripps joined Southwestern Union Conference Education Vice President Mike Furr to dedicate our teachers and school for the coming school year. Students led the theme song, "I Will Go," a song written by Adventist band Contagious Faith. Mr. Lazarus recognized all of the school board members, all of the Tulsa-area pastors, and last but not least, TAA's teachers, with roses.

Mr. Kripps reinforced the importance of Christian education and counseled parents to trust the teachers and staff, referring to Ellen G. White's words reminding parents to approach teachers directly if any problems arise, rather than taking sides without talking to a teacher. He recalled Mrs. White's wisdom that teachers strive to meet the physical, mental and spiritual needs of students, dovetailing Pastor Shires' thoughts on educating our students for here and eternity. "Education and redemption are one in the same," he noted.



# TAA ECLIPSED

"The path of totality" may sound like a way to destruction or a Zen-like mantra, but in fact it was a unique opportunity to see God's handiwork. The total eclipse across North America happened 99 years ago, so the total eclipse on August 21 was truly a magical moment. Although the moon always revolves around the Earth, and the Earth still revolves around the sun, "The total solar eclipse presents a unique opportunity to [learn] about our Sun, Moon, Earth and Solar System; to contemplate our place in the universe; and to link the eclipse experience with the natural and cultural history of interpretive sites."

*Truly, "the heavens declare the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims His handiwork"  
(Psalm 19:1).*

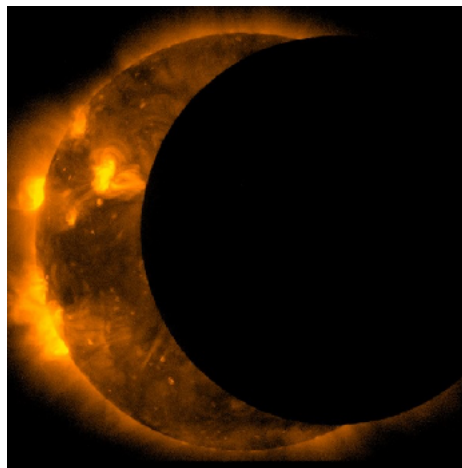


Image from Astronomy Magazine.





## SEPTEMBER Calendar!

Aug. 30-Sept. 1:  
HS team building  
at WWAC

Sept. 14-16:  
SWAU Leadership  
Camp

Sept. 21: Cherokee  
Village Field Trip  
(3-6)

Sept. 7: Helmer  
Challenge (7-8)

Sept. 20: "Our  
Town" play (HS)

Sept. 22:  
Children's Museum  
(Pre-K-2)

### Christian Education Matters

To start the school on a positive note, TAA had the privilege of an encore presentation titled "Marketing as Ministry" by Teresa Kelchner of Christian Education Matters, LLC. This event was open to students' families, local school board members and other Adventist schools in the area to encourage everyone to join the teachers and staff of TAA in our mission to REACH.



Ms. Kelchner's expertise is in helping Christian schools thrive through spirituality, marketing, quality, sustainability, partnership (staff + families + churches), and more.

"Adventist education is about servant leadership," she told the attendees. She shared that "God says it matters" based on Paul's teachings in Ephesians.

Ms. Kelchner's focus was on growth vs. fixed mindsets, stewardship, spirituality and other biblical principles of educating our children. She asked about TAA, "What does God

want?" "Where are we going on purpose?" "Who's driving the bus?" And "What differentiates you?"

This opportunity brought various Oklahoma Adventist school principals together, along with parents, teachers and staff to discuss the school's goals how to reach them. There are many opportunities to invest your passion, talents and commitment to Adventist education.

If you are interested in helping your student and TAA grow, thrive, and REACH, please contact Mr. Shaun Lazarus.



## HOME AND SCHOOL

**TAA is dedicated to helping others and our first community service effort is to collect shoes! During September, bring your gently used shoes (high heels, sneakers, sandals, boots, etc.) and place them in our "shoebox." They will help make a difference in someone's life!**

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**TAA'S MISSION IS TO PREPARE  
STUDENTS FOR HEAVEN AND  
EARTH!**

*TAA is fully accredited by the Oklahoma Private School Accreditation Commission and the State of Oklahoma Department of Education.*