

# Campus Highlights

## from North Dallas Adventist Academy

### Students Choose to Skip Class Christmas Party

If you ask most kids what they like about Christmas, you'll likely hear about presents and parties. But not always.

During this past Christmas season, when so many kids were thinking of what they would get, the NDAA 7th/8th grade class was thinking of what they could give.

The students and their class sponsors, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Arizaga, decided to skip the usual class Christmas party and went instead to DFW airport. The student participated in the "Meet



*Troops arrive at DFW airport*

and Greet the Troops" and shared a bit of Christmas cheer to the battle-weary troops as they arrived in Dallas.

Giving out cards of thanks and encouragement, made by both elementary and junior high students, the 7th and 8th graders gladdened the hearts of the service men and women.

"There were high-fives, handshakes, applause and lots of smiles for these soldiers on leave from Iraq and Afghanistan," said Mr. Kennedy.

The students also became acquainted with other groups welcoming the troops; many who come to welcome the soldiers regularly.

This will be a Christmas to remember!

### Fall Week of Prayer "Stands Out"

The Fall Week of Prayer was conducted by Pastor Keith Gray, brother to our very own Mr. Stephan Gray. Pastor Gray spoke October 5 - 10 at Chapel during the week, Sabbath services at Richardson Adventist Church, and closed the week with Sabbath Vespers at NDAA on Sabbath afternoon.

The theme was "Stand Out!" and was chosen by the NDAA Student Association. It dared students to stand up for what they believe, share their faith, and not conform to the "pattern of this world."

Parents were invited to sit in on the chapel services, and quite a few parents did just that.

Several expressed that they enjoyed the week just as much as the students did.

"The messages were powerful. Pastor Gray is a wonderful speaker with a blessed and inspired imagination," said one parent, Althea Espinoza.

At the week's conclusion, many students expressed a desire for Bible studies. A group of students also began a prayer group that meets during lunch time.



*Pastor Keith Gray,  
Week of Prayer Speaker*

## Student Work Program Underway

The first year of the student work program has been a success! The program, supervised by Mr. Stephan Gray, gives students a chance to earn money towards tuition and for themselves.

Beginning November 2009, six students were hired at minimum wage to handle the school's custodial care. They clean both buildings each day after school and work to keep the campus looking good.

The participating students like the "money in their pockets" and their parents are appreciative of the amount earned that goes towards tuition. Additionally, these students are learning about work, discipline and budgeting.

Looking ahead, Mr. Gray would like to expand the program and offer even more students on-campus work opportunities. To learn more about the program, or to share your ideas, please contact Mr. Gray.

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## Phone Calls Raise \$5k for Library

Upper grade students raised \$5,087 in pledges for our library during the Fall Phone-a-Thon. For five evenings, student volunteers called current donors and members of constituent and supporting churches in the area, asking for support of a library expansion on campus.

Over the course of the week, students made 750 contacts by phone, with 20 new donors pledging support to NDAA. Additionally, hundreds of pledge card reminders and information about the library fund raiser were mailed out.

"The students did a great job," said Leona Harder, Phone-a-Thon coordinator. "It's fun to see them making a difference for their school, and having a good time, too."

The students and volunteers were grateful to those who donated dinner each evening, including Mrs. Wolfe, and our friends at Pizza Hut.



## Students Raise \$2,300 for Worthy Student Fund

The Home & School apple fund raiser and chili cook-off raised \$2,300 for the Worthy Student Fund.

For two weeks students sold a variety of apples to parents, family, friends and church members. As an incentive, various prizes were awarded based upon the amount of apples sold. A pizza party was awarded to the class who sold the most apples.

The apple fund raiser concluded with a chili cook-off and vespers program on Friday, October 30, 2009. Parents and staff made pots of chili to be sold. Classes also set up booths to raise money by selling drinks, food and other goodies. Chili judges included Pastor Cesar Grassiotto, School Board Chair Orton Varona, and John Petchkurow, an elder at Richardson SDA Church.



"With so many wonderful choices of chili, it was a tough decision," commented chili judge, Pastor Cesar.

After tasting and scoring each cup of chili, the votes were tallied and the award presented to Petronella Hunt, NDAA Treasurer. She graciously donated her prize money to the 5th/6th grade class for Outdoor School coming in April.

After the chili cook-off, people enjoyed a rousing song service and an inspirational message from Stephan Gray, NDAA Vice-Principal. The evening ended with warm apple cider.

This fund raiser would not have been possible without the help of parents, staff, friends and church members, and the great efforts of our students, of course. Also, a very special thank-you goes out to our neighborhood Wendy's (at 75 & Spring Valley) for donating the cups and utensils to the school to serve the chili in. Great job, everyone!

## Basketball Teams Win Trophies and Witness on the Court

NDAA's basketball teams continued to heat up the court and dominate this year! The high school girl's basketball team was undefeated in their district, placed 4th in the Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship League (TCAF) State Finals, and placed 4th in the Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU) Basketball Tournament.

Our high school boy's basketball team solidified their reputation as the "team to beat." Finishing 2nd in their district, they also won the SWAU Tourney Championship for the second straight year! And, for the second straight year, they honored the Sabbath and forfeited the final game of the TCAF State playoffs,

the game that determines the State champions, which is played on Saturday.

Because of this principled stand and the character of both boy's and girl's teams, there is talk of moving the final tournament from Sabbath to another day. Some of the referees who have officiated at the games sent a letter to league officials asking that the day be changed so that our teams could play. Even parents and alumni from other schools have expressed their desire to see our students compete in the final game, impressed not only by their playing skills but also by the character and demeanor of our players.

What a powerful witness for the Sabbath and our loving Creator who made it holy!

### Sports Talk with Mr. A

*Home & School: What is your vision for NDAA's athletic program?*

Mr. Arizaga: I'd like to expand the program to include junior high and elementary basketball teams, a softball team, and a track and field team. The kids are ready and talented, but a lack of practice facilities and equipment are a huge challenge.



*Rick Arizaga*

several states. The TCAF consists of private/parochial schools, organized by district into leagues. Some of the TCAF schools that we play are Grace Christian Academy, Lakewood Presbyterian School, Highpoint Preparatory Academy and Wylie Preparatory Academy. The league also includes some schools from El Paso and Houston.

*H&S: Can you talk about what facility needs we have, and how this affects our sports program?*

Mr. A: Well, with no soccer field, no track, and decreasing access to the St. Luke's gym, our practice and game preparation becomes more difficult and frustrating for both our players and coaches. It's possible that instead of expanding we may have to scale back the programs we currently have because of this. The teams we play definitely have these types of facilities and it gets harder to stay competitive when we don't.

*H&S: What schools do we play against and what league are we in?*

Mr. A: We play in both the TCAF, Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship league, and also the SWAU group consisting of other Adventist schools in

*H&S: I understand the boy's team forfeited the TCAF championship game for the second year because it was to be played on Sabbath (see article, above). It seems extraordinary that the league may change the game day so that our team can compete.*

Mr. A: It all has to do with our athletes and their character. I get so many comments about our kids from refs, state officials, even from parents and alumni from the schools we compete against. Our kids have a great reputation because of the way they conduct themselves before, during and after each game. Kids from other teams, teams that we compete hard against, will come over, sit and talk to our players, simply enjoying their company. More than any win or championship, this is what is truly important; this is what it is really all about -- developing a Christ-like character that will be a witness to everyone we come into contact with.

# QUICK TAKES

## Early Registration Continues

It's not too soon to think about the 2010-2011 school year. Students can reserve their seat at NDAA with just a \$100 deposit. Spots are already filling! Contact the NDAA office (972-234-6322) for details.

## Box Tops Raised \$700

Hooray! The BoxTops4Education that were collected in the fall generated a \$700 donation to NDAA from General Mills. Great job everyone! Please continue to collect Box Tops, and turn them in at the school office or at your church. Collecting BoxTops doesn't cost you a penny and really adds up for our school. Moms and Dads could even take a box or zip-top bag to work to collect from friends and coworkers. Some students even have grandparents collecting in other states! For more ideas about collecting Box Tops, contact the Home & School Association at 469-384-0404.

## Spring Showcase

Plan now to attend the Second Annual Spring Showcase on Thursday, April 15 at 6pm. Each class will display highlights from the year and show off the work of our budding student artists.

## Easter Musical

The upper grades (7-12) will present "East to West" on Thursday evening, April 15, at 7pm. The music and drama will focus on the life-changing forgiveness Jesus offered long ago, and still offers to us today.

## Donor Spotlight: Matching Gifts

Someone might double your donation to NDAA. One simple question could turn \$100 into \$200! Many companies will match an employee's (or a retiree's) donation to a charity, like NDAA. That's free money for our school! Check with your Human Resources department and ask if your employer will match a percentage – or even all – of your contributions!

## Uniform Resale

Students will give the shirts off their back to raise money for a gymnasium. And other students will buy those shirts (and pants, and skirts) to help. All this will take place at the Spring Uniform Resale. Students will donate their outgrown uniforms to the Home & School Association, who will then resell the items to other families at the school. All money raised will go to the gymnasium fund.

## Did You Know? Vege Food Store

Did you know that when you buy vegetarian food items through the NDAA Vege Food Store, you are helping the school? A percentage of every purchase gets donated back to the school. So grab those Big Franks and Prosage Links and Dinner Roasts! For more information about what products are offered in the store or to place a special order, contact Leona at 469-384-0404 or Leesa at 214-868-1390.

*This newsletter is published for friends of NDAA by the Home & School Association.*

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