



Devotions this past week were under the direction of **Mr. Leslie White**, Business Education and Computer Instructor. On Monday he showed a fascinating video clip of an incident in Africa where a pack of lions were crouching and attacked a small water buffalo near a river. The animal was dragged into the water and was kept under water in an effort to drown it and then the lions managed to drag it up onto the bank whereupon a very large number of water buffalo returned to the location and began to chase the lions away. In time the lions were gone and the small water buffalo, amazingly, got up and walked away. **Mr. White** drew an appropriate spiritual lesson from the video that was shown that day.

On Tuesday we held Academy Day, and then on Wednesday **Mateja Plantak** read from a book. On Thursday, **Dr. B.J. Zdvandasara** spoke of Solusi University and the current food crisis that the people living there are undergoing. Then on Friday as the week concluded, **Mr. White** gave an inspirational message regarding the fact that we are the light of the world. We are little "moons" which are a reflection of the Source of Light—Jesus who is the source of light, the "Sun".

On Friday there was a short announcement made that now as we enter into the spring season, there will be added temptation to wear shorts to school. The school has allowed students to wear blue jeans, but we do not allow shorts on campus. Thank you for your added assistance in making this clear to those students residing in your home.

One additional announcement that was made pertained to the closed campus. With the nicer weather, some are finding it "necessary" to visit Taco Bell, MacDonalds or Subway off campus. Our insurance does not cover trips off campus trips of this nature. It is absolutely vital that all activity be restricted to the Andrews Academy campus once the car has arrived here. Once again, thank you for your help in advising your son/daughter to not drive or ride off the Andrews Academy campus during school hours without the stated permission of the parent.

For the first time in a number of years, **Karen Ford**, who is a senior at Andrews Academy, has advanced to the DAR Michigan state finals along with 9 other state finalists. The ten students will attend the festivities of The Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen award ceremony in Lansing, Michigan, on *March 31, 2009*. **Karen** wrote a paper entitled, "Can America Long Endure ." We applaud her for her fine work and wish her the very best as she makes a presentation at the state level.

Several (39) of the sophomores completed the first semester with a 3.00 GPA or higher. That represents 55% of the class that were on the honor roll. The following students met that criteria: **Levi Barnum; Rachel Brantley; Min Jeong Choi; Ben Cress; Michael Demski; Drake Dowell; Ingrid Dumitrescu; Kaitlin Gaikwad; Andrew**

Gibbs; Jeremy Gray; Bonnie Greene; Jessica Helm; Givan Hinds; Philip Jardine; Minji Jung; Kyong Mo Kim; Olivia Knott; Eun Young Lee; Ji Yeon Lee, Julie Logan; Knut Lovhoiden; Laura Miller; Adam Mondak; Joses Ngugi; Emilie Pichot; Rebekah Ray; David Regal; Annika Seibold; Elisabeth Sherman; Sol Shim; Isabel Stafford; Brittany Tanke; Michael Thompson; Ray Ulrich; Michael VanderWaal; Cody Wales; Joseph Walker; Simone Weithers; Joyce Yoon. Congratulations to each member of the sophomore class for a job well done. Keep up the good work!

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week the junior class has been involved in the Michigan Merit Exams (MME) during the morning. All testing has taken place in the religion classrooms. No class bells rung. They reported to the testing center at 7:45 am each morning, *March 10-12*, and were there until at least 11:05 daily. On Tuesday they were there until about 12:30 pm which allowed them to attend the regular 1:30 and 2:25 class periods. On Wednesday and Thursday the students were to attend the rest of their classes beginning with the 11:10 class in the morning.

February 26-28 was a time set aside for the promotion of Andrews University and recruitment of students using basketball as the medium of choice. During that time, there were several Andrews Academy students who participated in the event. Those participating as Ambassadors for Christ were **Clifford Allen**, Captain; **Kyle Emile, Mark Joslin, Brock Vance, Zachary Mottley, Cody Wales, Drake Dowell, Ryan Price, Jamaal Henley, Kyler Bates, Oliver Smith, and Aram Kerr.** **Dr. Karen Allen** reports that the guys did great and showed great sportsmanship while winning four of the five games that they played.

At the same time the Junior Cardinal Girls included **Kali Jardine**, Captain; and **Erica Rishaug**, Captain; **Claudia Allen, Kara Baker, Lauren Olson, Erica Evans, Richelle Ulery, Rose Vargas, and Paola Caceres.** The report is that they won two of the four games played. Those playing on the Junior Cardinal Boys team were **Ben Weakley**, Captain; **Christian Tchamba, Willie Lewis, Joshua Faehner, Berkeley Comete, Richard Davisson, Johnathan DeAugust, Eric Dees, and Phil Jardine.** The report was that they lost none of their games until the championship game and then placed second in Division A play.

Congratulations goes to each member of the various teams who represented themselves as Christian young people during the event. The report also stated that **Kali Jardine, Clifford Allen** and **Willie Lewis** each received the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award as a member of their respective teams.

March 22 is the long awaited launch date for the new academy web site. Building a professional looking web site is no easy project. The project was begun quite some time ago with some of the faculty members who had a vision for clarity and perfection. If it had not been for their eager beginnings, we probably would still be waiting for a new home. Thanks goes to **Sarah Spangler Lee**, an alumnus of Andrews Academy and graphic designer. The work of completing the web site was commissioned to her in the fall of 2008 and is fast approaching a successful completion. The launch is to coincide with the accreditation visiting team's work on the academy campus. We are very thankful to **David VanDenburgh, Alvin Glassford, Virginia Nachreiner, and Sarah Lee** for the hours and hours of creativity, thought, and design that went into the production of this major project. This is something that will, if maintained, serve the academy well and provide a vehicle for increasing the enrollment in the future.

For the first time in the past thirty-five or forty years, Andrews Academy has provided a venue for a second blood drive during the school year. At 6:00 am the truck rolled up to the academy doors and unloaded the necessary equipment to provide for a successful day at the academy. By 8:00 am all of the necessary things were in place and the first donors were making preparation to be a part of the blood drive. This drive has been open to the public, although it has been largely utilized by Andrews Academy students, faculty and staff. Those students who are at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and are otherwise healthy are considered as prospective donors.

In going through the senior portfolios, there are many that stand out as significant and meaningful. Most of the seniors have done an outstanding job in presenting themselves as graduates of Andrews Academy. One of the seniors recorded the following autobiography:

"When I used to look at my future, I always wanted to live an easy, slow life. I wanted to be doctor to be wealthy and to live life easily. I wanted the typical dream life and I knew I could have it if I wanted and if I worked my hardest. However, I realized that I should not live like that, because I was a Christian. Throughout Christian experiences in Andrews Academy, I decided to change my dream future and to be God's servant: Being a missionary.

I have always enjoyed math and science. From elementary school until now, because I enjoyed math and science, I wanted to have a medical career. Especially, dentists was fascinated to me. I have seen many dentists enjoying life with private vacations and wealth. I just wanted to be like them. I did not care about God's plan on me. However, with Christian experiences in Andrews Academy, I changed my mind and decided to become a missionary. Of course, I will pursue my dental career first to prepare to be a missionary, and then after I am ready to help others I will be a missionary during rest of my life."

This helps us to better understand the value of Christian education. It represents a change that can and does take place in individual lives during the time they spend at the academy. Not all students will transition as did the one

listed above, but the seed has been planted and we need to leave it in the hand of God to allow it to mature and develop. Remember, we do not have to harvest the crop—we only have to plant the seed. May each of us be faithful in providing the nourishment needed for the seed to grow.

☞ The senior retreat this year is scheduled for Five Pines, on Friday, March 13. While there, the seniors will be recording their tributes to parents, placing orders for flowers, and preparing for a number of other details that are so important to graduation weekend.

☞ The vespers for *March 13* is under the direction of the Student Association. The program is scheduled to begin at 7:00 pm in the Richard T. Orrison Chapel and will probably conclude around 8:00 pm. All parents and guardians are requested to make plans for their children as the building will be closed after 9:30 pm for the weekend.

☞ The mid-term grades for the second semester are due to the office by 4:00 pm on *March 12*. Once the teacher has submitted the grades, they then need to be electronically prepared for printing and sent home to the parent. As is always the case, these grades only indicate a trend in the progress of the student rather than a final grade. The only grades ever preserved for permanent record comes at the conclusion of the semester.

☞ Parent/Teacher Conferences are a natural climax to the midterm grades that will be sent home. On *March 30 and 31*, the parent/teacher conferences will take place so as to provide the opportunity to meet with the teachers of your son or daughter. Please call the academy office at 471-3138 between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm to schedule an appointment to meet with the teachers.

☞ The SAT which is administered by the Andrews University Counseling and Testing service will be given on Sunday, the *15th of March*. If any student has interest in this test, they need to contact 471-3470 at the university.

☞ The second and final review deadline for senior portfolios is *Wednesday, March 31*. If any senior has yet to submit the portfolio, it must be done by that date. Failure to do so will place your events of graduation weekend in extreme jeopardy. Thank you for advising your son/daughter regarding this very important deadline.