Students came back from a long weekend thanks to the Martin Luther King Memorial holiday on Monday. During our time away from school some of us watched different programs featuring Dr. King and the way he stood for principle. As we pause, it does make one consider E. G. White’s words, “The greatest want of the world is the want of men...men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole.” Education, P. 57. As we continue to hone our characters, may we strive to stand for principle as did Dr. King and may the Lord give us the wisdom to know how to teach our children and youth to stand for truth.

Tuesday, January 18, we were blessed with song service by senior musicians. Then we had the opportunity to hear Jakob Gibbs, who presented a devotional thought last year. Jakob is in his final semester of study at the university, majoring in theology and art. After opening with prayer, he noted that we are frequently in a contest to determine who can outdo the other. He gave an example of a paintball fight, a game that can teach us a great deal about humanity. How is it that we can be the best of friends as we ride to the field where we will be participating in the game and then during the action of the game we can become quite hostile toward an individual or a group of individuals who are targeting us. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. It does make you wonder what Jesus would do if He were asked to participate in a game such as paintball. Would He participate in any of our games where there is a winner and a loser? Does He always intend that we win and is it our decision when we do lose?

Ezekiel 18:32 says, “I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live.”

Mr. Gibbs said that there are some things that he has no pleasure in, such as poison ivy. He said that he avoids that like the plague. Jesus went to great lengths to avoid death. He pleaded with the Heavenly Father in the Garden of Gethsemane So, clearly no one gets tagged out of eternal life. If we are not there it is by our own choosing. Jesus loves us very much and he desires that we not lose out on eternal life. We may even be fighting Jesus just as Saul was in Christ’s day and He will still try to find us and rescue us. Romans 5:10 assures us that we will be saved through the life that he lived on earth. Finally Luke 15:7 tells us of the joy that exists in heaven over one sinner that repents.

Tuesday at 10:15 is the weekly assembly period. This was a make-up assembly from last fall when Dr. David Nowack was unable to meet the appointed time. When he came this time, he first read to us a verse from Ephesians 2:5, “It is by grace you have been saved.” That began the process of a what Dr. Nowack referred to as a random walk through the mind of David Nowack. He then gave us two concepts that he referred to often during the next several minutes. (1) He wanted us to be optimistic and (2) to be curious. Some were reluctant to be optimistic, but he pointed out that we have plenty of food, warm homes, and warm clothes, even though it is cold outside. He then placed on the screen a website which gives the latest statistics of the world (www.worldometers.info). At this site, you can find the up-to-date world population, statistics on world government and economics, society and the media, and other interesting information pertaining to things such as food, water, health, energy and the environment.

Dr. Nowack went on to say that the atmosphere is made up mainly of nitrogen (78%), followed by oxygen (18%), water vapor (3-4%) and then CO2. He gave an illustration that used a football field of 100 yards in length. He said that 78 of those yards would be nitrogen; followed by 18 yards of oxygen and 3 to 4 yards of water vapor. Then he went on to say that carbon dioxide and other rare gases currently make up 1.5 inches of the total length and in the lifetime of a modern human being it might possible expand to 1.75 inches. As a planet we may be getting warmer, but if we are, it is not because of carbon dioxide. He said that gas makes up such a small percentage of our atmospheric envelope that it should have no significant effect on our perceived climate change. In his remarks, he did state that the earth has actually cooled some since 1998.

On another topic, he noted that the only carbon cobalt chemical bond that does exist is a part of the vitamin B-12 chemical structure. He also mentioned a number of other similar structures with the only difference being the one above mentioned bond that is changed. These are all important to life as we know it. He said that for that to just have occurred by evolution is mathematically impossible. For Seventh-day Adventist Christians he is concerned about our apathy or lack of drive to inform others that there is a supreme being that created us and has since redeemed us. We do need to be aware that our faith is being attacked by so called science, but that does not mean that we need to waiver. In fact, it should make us stronger because of important scriptural texts that indicate things like this will happen in the last days. At the conclusion of his lecture, he gave two illustrations which involved liquid nitrogen. He took a rubber ball that clearly bounced and threw it against the wall. The ball had plenty of bounce to it. He then placed the ball into another similar structure with the only difference being the one he used was liquid nitrogen. He then placed the ball into the liquid nitrogen so that it would freeze solid. After a few minutes he took it out of the liquid nitrogen and threw it against the same wall where upon it hit the wall with a loud bang and shattered into numerous pieces.

On Wednesday, January 19, we were so pleased to have Mr. Ron Knott come to give a presentation. He shared three stories from his personal life that momentarily made him bitterly disappointed and very angry but shaped him for the rest of his life. He told the first half of each story and then repeated each of the incidents by telling the “rest of
the story”. In the first story he began by saying “I want this; I deserve it, I own it.” To that remark his teacher said “Would you want that instead of this?” He told of how he had lived for a lead role in a drama and how when the auditioning took place it was given to another individual. When the teacher had to inform him that he would need to perform another role, he was angry and bitterly disappointed until the program was over and everyone was exclaiming and writing about his part in the play to the exclusion of the lead role.

Mr. Knott told of the time when student association elections took place. It was the duty of the newly elected SA president to appoint the editor of the yearbook for the following year. Because of the various regulations, it was a given that Ron Knott would be appointed to the position of the yearbook. However, because of politics and since Ron had supported the opponent to the SA president during the election process prior to voting, he did not get the yearbook editorship. That made Ron very angry and bitterly disappointed. Instead of that position he became the senior class president. In that position, he was able to inaugurate some new ideas. This made him joyful and was of much more fun to him than being the editor of the yearbook would have been.

Finally, Mr. Knott told us of the time that he was ready to do his student teaching. He had desperately hoped to perform that task at South Lancaster Academy, where he had lived all of these years. But to his utter disappointment, he was sent to the high school to do that task. In spite of his anger, he admitted to learning much from a situation that he thought would not be at all valuable. In Ephesians 3:20-21, Paul tells us “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus . . . ” Mr. Knott acknowledged that Christ made a significant difference in his life and in his experience and he will do the same for each of you. It was these experiences and similar situations in his life that became the foundation and building blocks for a number of the books he has edited and published including the book “College Foundation and Building Blocks”. Mr. Knott has edited and published including the book “College Foundation and Building Blocks” for a number of the books he has written. Mr. Knott has written other books as well. He has written a book on the importance of education and dependance on God. Christ Jesus . . . ” Mr. Knott acknowledged that Christ made is at work with in us to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus . . . ” Mr. Knott acknowledged that Christ made a significant difference in his life and in his experience and he will do the same for each of you. It was these experiences and similar situations in his life that became the foundation and building blocks for a number of the books he has edited and published including the book “College Foundation and Building Blocks”. Mr. Knott has edited and published including the book “College Foundation and Building Blocks” for a number of the books he has written. Mr. Knott has written other books as well. He has written a book on the importance of education and dependance on God. He told of the time that he was ready to do his student teaching. He had desperately hoped to perform that task at South Lancaster Academy, where he had lived all of these years. But to his utter disappointment, he was sent to the high school to do that task. In spite of his anger, he admitted to learning much from a situation that he thought would not be at all valuable. In Ephesians 3:20-21, Paul tells us “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work in us to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus . . . ” Mr. Knott acknowledged that Christ made a significant difference in his life and in his experience and he will do the same for each of you. It was these experiences and similar situations in his life that became the foundation and building blocks for a number of the books he has edited and published including the book “College Faith.” Thank you so much, Mr. Knott, for sharing these personal experiences with us. We are the better for having that as a portion of our education and dependance on God.

Thursday Livvy Knott, Rachell Lynne Brantley and Christiana Atkins told of their experience in Honduras for 10 days which took them out of the last week of school at the academy. They were a part of a team that went with Pastor Glenn Russell to an orphanage run by Reach International. The name of the place is “The Home for Kids.” These people are very, very poor. They sleep on the street which is the reason why the orphanage exists. There are about 40-50 kids that call that place their home. During this time, they showed slides of how things looked and a bit of what they encountered during their brief stay at that location. There was a flag camp experience in which they participated. They had the usual five different classes for an experience like that including science, crafts, games, and religion. Christiana mentioned that before arriving there, she did not think that she liked to be around children. This opportunity completely changed her view. Livvy had the opportunity to go out of the kitchen and work in the field with the rest of the crew. As she swung the machete, making no apparent progress in moving down the grass, it became discouraging. In reporting her apparent failure to Pastor Russell, he said you are doing a fine job. What you are doing is encouraging the other boys to work in the field. Rachel mentioned how they went to the grocery store, purchased food and then went down the street and passed it out to the hungry people who had nothing to eat.

“Wanting to work is so rare a want that it should be encouraged.” – Abe Lincoln

★ A big thank you to Pastor Esther Knott for arranging the well thought-out morning devotional thoughts of this past week, January 18-21.

★ NHS Selection Committee is to consider applicants for membership. That can become a very emotionally sensitive issue because of the extensive criteria that needs to be met by a candidate. Please recognize that if you are not chosen as a member, that does not negate your importance. You are just as important, just as vital as any other student at Andrews Academy. God may have more important work for you. In relation to this issue, please read the stories of Mr. Ron Knott and what he has been able to accomplish in spite of not being recognized as he initially thought he should be.

★ Mr. Fred Upton, congressman to the National House of Representatives will preside at a special assembly program on Friday, January 28, from 10:15 to 11:05 am. All are looking forward to this experience.

★ Classes – Permission forms required for all activities:

- Freshman – Howard Ice Rink in St. Joseph from 2:00 - 4:00 pm, Sunday, Jan 30. Cost is $5/$8 if skates are rented.
- Sophomores – They are to have class vespers this Friday, January 28, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. See Vanna Giddings, Class President, for details.
- Juniors – Mr. Steve Atkins home for vespers/snow activities on Friday, January 28, from 4:00 -8:00 pm;
- Seniors – Howard Ice Rink in St. Joseph. Vespers to follow at the VanDenburgh home on Friday, the 28th of January. Load bus from AA at 1:30pm.

★ Senior Citizen’s Dinner takes place on Sunday, January 30, at 1:00 pm. The Bells will perform, Rachell Lynne Brantley will play the violin and Sofia Tsatalbasidis will sing at that occasion.

★ Save the date – Tuesday, February 1, when the Senior vs School Basketball game takes place starting at 7:00 pm in the academy gymnasium. The girls will play their game first followed by the fellows.