Sophomores led out in the singing on Monday, April 4, during our morning devotions and Molly Thompson had the opening prayer. William Tee had the scripture reading regarding the parable of the Good Samaritan from Luke 10: 25-37. We had the privilege of hearing from the freshman Personal Religion class as they delivered the message that morning. Jason Grellman introduced Chelcie Coleman who spoke about the time that she and her family served in Guinea, West Africa. She showed pictures of where they lived and some of the people there. It seems as though in that part of the world, no one stops when there is an automobile accident. They simply do not want to be involved. Shortly after beginning their excursion to the market one Sunday on some really bad roads, an accident took place some distance ahead of them. When they arrived at the point of the accident, true to their understanding, no one was there attending to the needs of those injured. One person had a broken collarbone and another had an arm pinched under the van which had rolled over.

After a much negotiation and maneuvering, the individuals were received into the hospital and treated for their injuries. The question is would those people have been open to listen to the gospel if the Coleman had simply driven on without paying any attention to the situation? Anna Rorabeck challenged each of us by asking what we would do if we were to be enveloped in a similar situation. Samantha Kissingar had the closing prayer.

On Tuesday the students had a skit demonstrating what it is like to be an unforgiving servant. For our scripture reading, Kundani Makimu read from Matthew 18: 21-35 where is recorded the parable of the unmerciful servant. As is recorded in the passage, even though the king was very merciful to the servant and was willing to forgive him the 10,000 talents that the servant owed, the servant was not willing to forgive a fellow servant who owed him a hundred denarii. It is believed that one talent was worth about 1200 ounces of gold which would be over $1,680,000 US Dollars. However the servant owed 10,000 of those talents or in the neighborhood of $16,800,000,000 US Dollars. It is believed that a hundred denarii was about $2,000 US dollars. The skit was nicely role played by Daniel Szucs who was the unmerciful servant. He came to the king who forgave him the price of $1,000 and then Daniel turned around and severely punished (beat a fellow servant) who owed him only a book. The role of the second servant was played by Robert Benjamin. Sarah Baxter, Bethany Goodwin and Seong Seo Back found the “beaten up” servant and treated him for his injuries and reported the incident to the king. When the king discovered what the unmerciful servant had done, the first servant was returned to the king and thrown in prison without any mercy.

On Wednesday, the 6th of April, a video was produced and shown demonstrating a man who went on a business trip and left his workers in charge of the restaurant in his absence. He would have given all a raise upon his return except that not all of them were faithful to their responsibilities during his absence. The video took a great deal of time to put together and many of the students were able to learn as a result of their work. The scripture reading for the day was taken from Matthew 25:14-40 and was team read by Molly Dowell and Sarah Bacino. Joel emphasized that if we use our talents well, then God will use us for His glory. The important thing is to do the very best with what we have. Alex Gaikwad had both the opening and closing prayer for the day.

We had a very interesting skit for our Thursday morning devotions. Julia Westfall was the main character and she went to two girls, Kayli Mattson and Kimberly Park, inviting them to a party that was about to take place at her house. The girls wanted to know what games they were going to play and when they suggested games that they thought were immature, they walked off in disgust indicating that there was no way they wanted to attend that party. Julia just went about her task of inviting guests to the party. The next two, Aaron Keiser and Brenden Mutz, agreed to go to the party and were delighted to have the opportunity. When the party was in full swing, the original two girls returned and found out the fun that was taking place there and were promptly told that they had their opportunity and when they refused, then they were no longer welcome. The story was a modern version of the parable of the Great Banquet that Jesus told in scripture – as recorded in Luke 14: 15-24. Special thanks goes to each of the participants including William Tee for that presentation.

The question that was posed as this parable opens was “How many times should I forgive my brother?” It is recorded in that passage of scripture (Matt 18: 21-35) that we should forgive 70 times 7. Jacqueline Weiss noted in her talk that her little sister had done a number of different things to her and as a result she had gotten in trouble over it. Yet, she would be unwilling for her little sister to be taken from her because she loves her so much. She went on to say that if we refuse to forgive our friends when they talk behind our back, God will treat us just like the king treated the wicked servant. Our morning devotions closed with prayer by Robert Benjamin.
and Cavan Miller. The program featured two anchor women, Jessica Yoong, and Sarah Baxter along with weather reporter Brenna Johnson. They referred to a video clip that had previously been taped where one of the anchor women, Jessica, had been attacked while on assignment in the Middle East. This, too, was a play on the parable of the Good Samaritan as recorded in Luke 10. The emphasis this time was on “Who is my Neighbor?” They asked each of us to turn to our right and to our left and note that in a very real sense the person that we are seated beside is our neighbor. Each of the students were asked to write on a card the talent that they felt they were most gifted with. It could be time, money, health, strength, intelligence, influence, kindness or a whole host of additional things. On the other side of the card they were asked to write the person who we might be able to demonstrate our talent to. The students were asked to submit the cards to three nicely wrapped boxes and then those who are members of Mrs. Pellegrini’s Personal Religion class would pray over the cards. So, thank you, thank you, thank you to Mrs. Pellegrini and her class for the morning devotions during the 1st full week of April.

Early in the week, the members of the Concert Band returned from their excursion to Chicagoland. On the way down, they first gave a concert at the Door Prairie SDA School and then went on their way to Chicago where they were able to fit in three separate concerts including one for a nursing home, another for the church service at the Joilet church, and a third for the Fil-Am Church near the Hinsdale Adventist Academy. For entertainment on Thursday evening they were engaged in activity and pizza at the Enchanted Castle and bowling on Friday afternoon. This was the last Concert Band tour of Mr. Boward’s career and students performed in an outstanding manner. Often as the students were setting up to perform or as they were waiting to eat, comments were made about their maturity. We are so pleased and so blessed to be able to work daily with such a fine group of students. Thank you to each of the parents, guardians, and grandparents who have sent us these very fine students to work with as together we prepare them for God’s eternity.

On Tuesday, the 12th of April, we had an extended Advisor Devotions period where students were given the new class schedule for 2011-2012. There are a number of different classes that have been included in the schedule this year. Many of these classes will have the unique characteristic of applying toward a different department. Most of them are centered in English, but are so structured that they could apply to social studies, religion or even technology in one case. This gives students the flexibility of enrolling in course work that will provide a solid basis as well as latitude for fulfilling specific graduation requirements. Schedules need to be completed, signed by the parents, and submitted to the advisors by Thursday, the 19th of April. This is a very important step in the process of registration for the new school year. For all who are seniors (Class of 2012), they are required to have their 60-day letter signed and returned to the academy office before their schedule is entered into computer.

We are so thankful that Mr. Robert Overstreet, newly appointed principal of Andrews Academy, was able to visit our campus on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week. He had our devotions on Thursday morning and we will be able to tell more of his topic after the fact. Please pray that he and his wife will have a smooth transition as they leave their home in Florida and open a new chapter in their lives here in Southwest Michigan. Please take the opportunity to welcome them to our community as you see them coming and going.

“The darkest hour isn’t before dawn; it is just before you are overdrawn” – Anonymous

Wednesday, the 13th of April was set aside for class devotions and meetings. This was a very important meeting for the juniors as they were in the process of electing officers for the new school year. This will be the second set of elections for some of the students as we have just finished electing the Student Association officers for 2011-2012.

The orchestra tour is to leave at 7:30 am on Thursday, April 14, for their trip to Cincinnati, Ohio. They are to perform at Clifton School, Centerville Church, and the Clifton SDA Church. As a part of the tour they have tickets for a concert performance at the Cincinnati Symphony Hall. We wish them the very best as they visit and perform during this last tour during Mr. Boward’s career. They are to return to the academy parking lot between 5:00 pm and 6:00 pm on Sunday, April 17.

For those who are members of the National Honor Society, the time has come for the new school year elections. This will be the third set of elections we have had in the planning for next year.

The last of the tours for this year is Backpacking Tour which takes place starting on Friday, the 22nd of April and runs through to the following Friday. They will be hiking and backpacking in the Smoky Mountains in Tennessee near Gatlinburg.

During our assembly program for the 19th of April all of the seniors will be presenting their portfolios to other academy students who are freshman, sophomores and juniors. This is a very excellent program and has the capability of securing employment for them once they have finished their academy experience.

This is just a reminder that all applications for the new school year are due in the academy office prior to entering their new class schedules. These applications are due before April 21. Thank you for your continued support of our program.