

The Flame

Shekinah Christian School ~ Plain City, Ohio
May 2024 Volume 40/Issue 9

Congratulations! Class of 2024!



Photo Credit :Mandi Lynn Photography

Shekinah's 45th annual graduation ceremony took place on May 24, 2024, at Shiloh Mennonite Church. The 12 members of the Class of 2024 bring the total number of graduates to 442.

Commencement speaker, Jeremy Miller, President of Rosedale Bible College and Shekinah school board member, spoke about the cultural trends impacting our world today. He challenged the graduates to make a difference for the Kingdom of God. Valedictorian, Jadon Miller, and Salutatorian, Alinea Slabaugh, each gave speeches recounting memories and giving challenges. Directed by Mr. Bechtol, the worship team led in worship, and the high school choir sang "Celebrate" (Hampton) and "The Lord Bless You" (Lutkin).

The 2023 recipient of the Student of the Year Award, Ian Purdy, presented the award to the 2024 Student of the Year, Alinea Slabaugh. Caleb George then presented a class gift of funds to replace the referee stand for volleyball.

(Read more about the graduates on pp. 8-9.)

May Chapels: *God's Timing - Not Ours*

by Riann Payne '24



May 1, 2024 — Speaker: Mr. Arnold Shetler

Mr. Shetler opened chapel with a surprise. He invited the second grade students to the front to recite our Bible memory passage, John 14:1-10, from memory. They did an amazing job! In his last chapel talk of the year, Mr. Shetler shared the story of the 1993 varsity basketball guys' team loss at the buzzer in the championship game at NACA in Dayton, TN. Shekinah was up by 15 at the beginning of the fourth quarter. Then with a two-point lead with four seconds left, SVCA player, John Stonestreet, made a three-point shot at the buzzer to win the championship. Two years later in a conversation with Mr. Shetler, John Stonestreet said that a couple of weeks after that championship game, he felt God speaking to him about what happened, and that God wanted John to completely commit his life to God. Today John is an effective president of the Chuck Colson Center for Christian Worldview. He is the voice of the radio program, "Breakpoint." Sometimes after a devastating loss, we ask hard questions. We don't always know the big picture. God used our loss for a win for His Kingdom. Jesus told his disciples, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you....Let not your heart be troubled. Neither let it be afraid (John 14:27). When difficult things happen, we can trust Him.

May 8, 2024 — Salt & Light

Salt and Light, a multi-talented student led worship band from Rosedale Bible College came to Shekinah's chapel to lead us in one of the last worship services of their tour. Most of the songs they sang were Scripture set to music.



May 15, 2024

Speaker: Jonathan Purdy

For our last chapel of the year, the Spanish III class with their teacher Mrs. Hacker, opened with a song they'd been learning about God's love and peace being a blessing in our lives. Then the worship team made up mostly of seniors, led us in worship.



Jonathan spoke from Ezekiel 37:10, a passage about the valley of dry bones. We are dead in our transgressions and sins and can do nothing to make ourselves alive. Jesus was a friend to Lazarus, Mary and Martha. When Lazarus died, Jesus, who said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," did not go immediately to heal Lazarus. Our timing is not God's timing." The point of this trial was for the glory of God. Jesus empathized with His friends. "Jesus wept." He comforted them and was moved with compassion. Jonathan challenged us to not just feel for other people but to do something about it.

Sixth Grade Trip to the Columbus Zoo

by Allison Beachy '24



On Thursday, May 16, the sixth graders went to the Columbus Zoo. One of the perks of being a student teacher's aide is to be able to go along on field trips. Caleb George also went to help as an aide. The polar bear exhibit, the bird house, and Africa were some highlights. The carousel has always been fun and nostalgic for me so that was really fun to be able to experience with the kids.



Junior & Senior Sonnets

White Lillies

On my knees, I pray to God for the one
He who in my heart is the missing piece
My forever, but God, your will be done.
Trusting your plan, let my desires cease.
My God how may I know your time is here
For him to come step into the next line
Of my story, script of your plan. Make clear
Your will. Come on a cloud, give me a sign.
White lilies so lovely I think they'll do
Tell him to bring flowers rings in my head
If he's with white lilies the love is true.
But those pure white flowers are for the dead.
Perhaps white lilies are not a mistake,
Perhaps you will just come around too late.

by Mia Pierce '25

A Hunter's Thoughts

Though I hold the value of life quite near
And nature seems my very life to claim
I chose to hunt without remorse or fear
Because before God I have no real blame

As my refrigerator, it does fill
It brings my stomach great amounts of joy
And to achieve this a deer I must kill
Here one comes now in a great field of soy

I line up my sights with its round shaped heart
And end its life with one quick arrow true
As the arrow sliced his heart clean apart
I feel emotions which cause me to rue

However I resolve with one fine thing
Tonight I shall to my home a deer bring
by Caleb George '24

Writer's Block by Peyton Purdy '25

I open the laptop and start to work
Staring at a blank worksheet my mind blank
I try to write a good poem with a quirk
Realizing there was nothing my hopes sank
I look about the room for inspiration
Perhaps school is a good theme for this paper
Too basic I must find the motivation

I wonder what mom is making for supper
No I must stay absolutely focused
Maybe I should write about a large map
If I did that I would end up concussed
I would be better off taking a nap
Then it showed itself like an illusion
I will write about all my confusion



NIGHT OF FINE ARTS

MAY 9, 2024

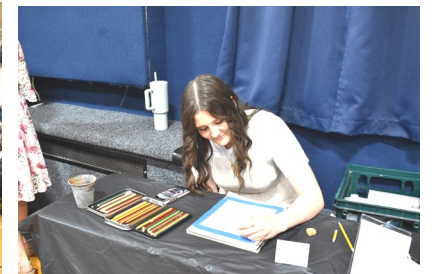


by Roxie Gossard '24

The young artists and musicians of Shekinah were able to showcase their abilities at the Night of Fine Arts. At the beginning of the evening, a string quartet performed in the school lobby featuring Mr. Daniel Jones, Jadon Miller, and Abigail De Telder. Elementary students did several songs as well as a rhythm with cups. The third and fourth graders also played recorders. The junior high choir sang several songs, and the junior high band performed. The high school choir was the last to perform: "Good News," "Let's Us Talents and Tongues Employ," "Poor Man Lazarus," and "Celebrate."

Art classes also displayed their work from the past school year. Several of the elementary pieces were inspired by the "Lion King Musical Jr." Senior art students had the opportunity to set up tables displaying their previous artwork from their years of art classes. Junior high and high school art students demonstrated their current projects and were able to answer questions about their work and previous pieces.

Food was generously donated by Yutzy's Farm Markey, Local Roots in Powell and the Gossard Family! Thank you to Mrs. Groh and Mr. Bechtol for planning the event. Also thank you for coming to support Fine Arts.



Mr. Arnold Shetler's Thoughts on Celebrating 42 Years



May 17, 2024



When Arnold Shetler first arrived at Shekinah in the fall of 1982, he planned to stay a year or two and then go to seminary or grad school. God had other plans, and the years turned into decades. Now Mr. Shetler is moving on to another place to serve. An open house to recognize the years at Shekinah (1983-2024) was attended by alumni, parents, friends, current students and people representing all four of the decades. Mr. Shetler says, "I'm grateful for the privilege I've had to be a part of the Shekinah vision for Christian education by helping to disciple students in their spiritual formation. Thank you to everyone who planned this open house and to everyone who came. Shekinah will always have a special place in my heart. I think often of the founders of this school—the vision, the passion, and sacrifices that made this school possible. My prayer is as the song by Steve Green goes, "May all who come behind us find us faithful."

Kindergarten Graduation, May 22, 2024



Awards Day activities began this year with graduation for the kindergarteners. Mrs. Yutzy led the class in the song, "If I Were a Butterfly" and talked about her class.

After the presentation of certificates and kindergarten awards, the newly promoted kindergarteners turned their tassels and then left the gym in a clap-out.

2024 SOFTBALL SEASON SUMMARY

by Riann Payne '24

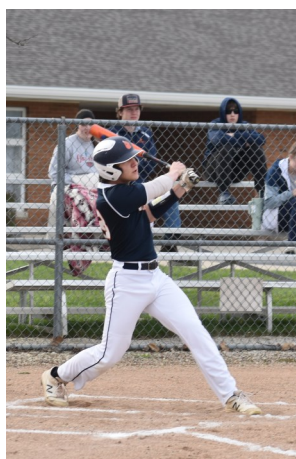


"Nothing soft about softball!" ~ Coach Jen Hudnutt

We started this year off with a lot of new players who were eager to learn the game. We were so proud of all the growth in the team's spirits and ambition throughout the year. We made a lot of amazing memories as a team including: jam sessions in the van on the way to and from games, fielding practice, cheering our team on in games, and watching Abigail De Telder get back up from being trucked at second base. Our team struggled most of the season; however, near the end of the season a new eagerness to win and high spirits came back. I look forward to seeing how the team does next year.

2024 BASEBALL SEASON SUMMARY

by Riley Helmuth '24



Shekinah varsity boys won their first tournament game against Danville but lost in the second round against Fairfield Christian. The baseball team's record was 11-9.

On Awards Night, Coach Jonathan Purdy asked three questions:

- 1) Did we improve? Immensely!
- 2) Did we leave hungry wanting more? Yes!
- 3) Did we represent Christ well? 100%

Thanks to Coaches, Jonathan Purdy, Paul Kilzer and Josh Oxley for their leadership and to Jerry Yoder and Mark Helmuth for taking care of the field.



"Together everyone achieves more" ~ Coach Jonathan Purdy

Celebrating Senior Athletes—May 3rd & 6th

by Gabi Nelson '24



Softball coaches were Jennifer Hudnutt and Natalie Harris.



On May 3rd and May 6th, softball and baseball teams recognized their senior athletes. The two senior guys and five senior girls on the teams were acknowledged for all the work they put in this season. Baseball coaches were Jonathan Purdy, Paul Kilzer and Josh Oxley.



SPRING SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT—May 20



Alex Bauermeister:
First Team All
MOCAL



Camden Miller:
All MOCAL
Honorable Mention



Josie Harris:
Home Run Ball
Coaches' Award
First Team
All MOCAL



Brayden DiCarro:
First Team
All MOCAL



Jayce Yoder:
Coaches' Award



Lydia Masula:
Most Improved
Award



Austin Helmuth:
Most Improved
Award,
All MOCAL
Honorable Mention



Alice Giddens:
Home Run Ball
MVP
All MOCAL
Runner-up
Player of the Year



Mia Pierce:
Flame Award



Max Kilzer:
Flame Award
MVP
First Team All
MOCAL



Grace Ferguson:
Home Run Ball
All MOCAL
Honorable Mention



Brook Purdy:
Home Run Ball
All MOCAL
Honorable
Mention

Congratulations Class of 2024!

by Alinea Slabaugh '24



Allison Beachy



Caleb George



Roxie Gossard

Derrick & Mandy Beachy

School Publications

Student Teacher's Aide

Art/Choir/Spring Musical

Worship Team

Volleyball/Basketball

Favorite Verse: Psalms 31:25

**Kenan & Shanthini
George**

Honor's Diploma

Choir/Worship Team

Student Teacher's Aide

Basketball/Baseball

Favorite Verse: Joshua 1:9

Andy & Bethanie Gossard

School Publications

Art

Basketball

Favorite Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6



Dean Harris



Josie Harris



Riley Helmuth

Mick & Natalie Harris

Art

Spring Musical

Worship Team

Baseball

Favorite Quote:

"The more people I meet, the
more I love my dog."

Mick & Natalie Harris

Art

Worship Team

Basketball

Softball

Favorite Verse:

John 3:16-17

Arlyn & Carmen Helmuth

Senior Class President

Honor's Diploma

School Publications/Art

Basketball

Favorite Verse:

Psalms 46:10

Congratulations Class of 2024!

by Jadon Miller '24



Taylor Helmuth

Mark & Angela Helmuth

Senior Class Secretary
Basketball/Volleyball
School Publications
Choir/Art
Student Teacher's Aide
Favorite Verse:
Psalms 139:13-14



Jadon Miller

Keith & Rhoda Miller

Valedictorian
Honor's Diploma
Senior Class Treasurer
Basketball
School Publications
Worship Team Leader/ Choir
Favorite Verse:
Ecclesiastes 12:13



Gabrielle Nelson

**Kristianne Nelson &
Daniel Nelson**

Golf/Volleyball/
Basketball/Softball
School Publications 2 yrs.
Art
Favorite Verse:
Matthew: 18:6



Riann Payne

Steven and Jennifer Payne

Softball
School Publications
Worship Team
Student Teacher's Aide
Favorite Verse:
James 4:2



Brooklyn Purdy

Tom & Ashley Purdy

Basketball/Softball
Student Teacher's Aide
Favorite Verse:
Isaiah 43:2



Alinea Slabaugh

David & Collette Slabaugh

Salutatorian
Volleyball/Basketball
Senior Class Vice President
School Publications
Choir/Art
Student Teacher's Aide
Favorite Verse:
Isaiah 43:2



JUNIOR SENIOR BANQUET

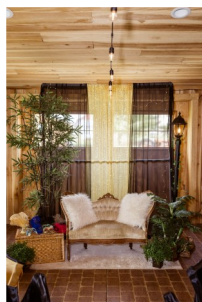
by Taylor Helmuth '24

The junior class assisted by class advisor, Mrs. Schrader, did a wonderful job of making this night very special. When the seniors arrived to be taken to The MAiZE at Little Darby Creek, they were greeted by Jessica Yoder, who took the beautiful pictures, and Randy Headings, who provided the RV for transportation. On the way to the venue, the seniors enjoyed a charcuterie board full of delicious snacks!

APRIL 26, 2024



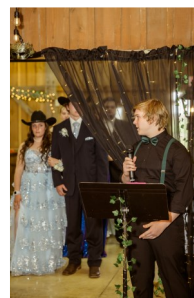
Photo Credit Jessica Photography



The venue was beautifully decorated! The theme was a "Masquerade Ball" accented by the colors black, dark green, and gold.



As they arrived, each senior was announced by Isaac S. After a welcome, a delicious meal catered by Stutzman's Catering was served. The juniors gave prophecies of the seniors and the seniors gave passed down gifts as well as new gifts to the juniors.



The well-planned event continued with the fabulous parents of each senior reminiscing and blessing their child/children. Lastly, Mr. Shetler closed the night in prayer. At the end of the evening, despite the slight drizzle, each senior had the opportunity to release a Chinese lantern into the beautiful night sky.



Fourth Quarter Honor Roll

A Honor Roll

Alex B., Eleya B., Haylee B., Reagan B.
Reddington B., Sophia B., Tanner B., Trevor B.
Hailey C., Maci C., Gaetano C., Joshua C.
Kinzley C. Lindsey C., Abigail D., Isaiah D.
Raphael D., Noah D., Rachel E., Grace F.
Caleb G., Anna G., Benjamin G., David G.
Roxie G., Ruby G., Josie H., Austin H.
Chloe H., Riley H., Graci H., Hope H.
Eleanor H., Mary H., Olivia H. Max K.
Elaina K., Cade L., Liam L., Lydia M.
Andrew M., Avery M., Carter M., David M.
Jadon M., Josiah M., Gabi N., Jacob N.
Chelby O., Jacoby O., Mia P., Peyton P.
Quintin P., Owen R., Brody S., Kade S.
AnaSophia S., Kenna S., Nava S., Alinea S., Lydia S.
Tabitha S., Finley S., Noelia W., Jayce Y., Hannah Y.

Merit Honor Roll

Adam B., Allison B., Maddux C., Zachary D., Jaden D.
Brayden D., Cecilia E., Rebecca E., Malina F.
Rebecca G., Dean H., Ethan H., Taylor H.,
Brantley H., Carter H., Aaron H., Judah K., Stella K.
Emma M., Camden M., Elise M., Judah M.
Michael M., Shiloh M., Aiden N., Dominick N.
Emmerson S., Isaac S., Harper S., Hannah S.
Samuel S., Selah S., Rayah T., Sianna T.
Benjamin W., Eliana W., Cassidy W., A.J. Y., Elijah Y.

AWARDS DAY

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Shining Star

Awards:

Ember Beachy—K
Maci Campbell—1st
Josiah Miller—2nd
Dominick Nofziger—3rd
Shiloh Miller—4th
Ellie Schwieterman—5th
Elise Miller—6th
Benjamin Wanty—7th
Eliana Wanty—8th
Eleya Beachy—9th
Maggie Lyon—10th
Max Kilzer—11th

Arnold Shetler

Character Award:

Roxie Gossard—12th

Athletic Awards:

Archie Griffin

Sportsmanship

Roxie Gossard

Max Kilzer

Courageous Student

Caleb George

Scholar/Athlete

Riley Helmuth

NFHS Award of Excellence

Taylor Helmuth

Music Awards:

Moriah Hostetler—K
Maci Campbell—1st
Carter Miller—2nd
Cade Luttrull—3rd
Rayah Thobe—4th
Brody Schlabach—5th
Kenna Showalter—6th
Kaylen Burns—JH Band
Anna Gingerich—JH Choir
Elaina Kosik—HS Band
Haylee Beachy—HS Choir
David Gingerich—Helping Hands
Caleb George—Musicianship
Alinea Slabaugh—Musical

Art Awards:

Maci Campbell—1st
Samuel Smith—2nd
Shiloh Miller—3rd-4th
Elise Miller—5th-6th
Judah Miller—7th-8th
Lydia Masula—Art I
Grace Ferguson—Art II
Gabi Nelson—Art III
Art IV—Allison Beachy, Roxie
Gossard, Dean Harris, Josie
Harris, Riley Helmuth, Taylor
Helmuth, Alinea Slabaugh
Luke Lyon—Most Improved

Alumni News and Notes

Births:

Joseph and **Brittany (Miller) Lozier '05** Charlotte
Josephine born April 24, 2024; first child,
first daughter.

Austin '09 and Courtney (McGrew) **Miller**; Clara
Monroe born May 3, 2024; third child, second
daughter.

Aaron '08 and Katarina (Miller) **Miller**; Jude Ivan
born May 10, 2024; first child, first daughter.

John and **Michaela (Hershberger) Loveday '13**; Nora
Vivian born May 22, 2024; first child, first
daughter.

Mark your calendars.....

Enjoy Your Summer!

June

3-7—Youth Basketball Camp 10:00 am-3:30 pm

24-28—Volleyball Camp

4th-6th— 3-4:30

7th-9th—4:30-6:30

11-12—HS Boys Findlay Basketball Camp

August

12—Staff Orientation/Training

13-16—Teacher In-Service Day

15—K-6th Meet the Teacher Night 6 pm

7th-12th School Orientation 7 pm

19—First Day of School 8:15 am -3:15 pm

19—First Day of Kindergarten 8:15 am-11:30 pm

21-23—Fall Spiritual Retreat/JH & HS

The Student Activity Booster Club would like to thank our Sponsors for their generous support!

GOLD

Always at Your Side

Country Closet Thrift Store

IT Made REAL, Jessica Photography

Miller Cabinet Company, Miller's Furniture

P.C. Animal Hospital, P.C. Village Market,

R & T Yoder Electric

West Jeff. Plumbing & Heating

Yutzy's Farm Market

SILVER

ER Autocare, Integrity Door Sales

Lyon & Sons Body Shop

Purdy Farms; Rocky Mountain Coffee Co.

Rosedale Bible College, Smiles to Love

BRONZE

Yutzy Pastures

April Challenge Winner

The challenge for April was for Shekinah students and staff to respond to the question, *What was your favorite part about Enrichment Week this year?* The name of each person who responded was placed in a drawing for a 2024 yearbook. Thank you to all who responded. Congratulations to Quintin Purdy who won the drawing!

Responses to the challenge included:

1. Sculpey
2. Woodburning
3. Sourdough
4. Colombian Culture & Cuisine

* Editor : Linda Shetler * Student Editors: School Publications Class

Phone 614-873-3130 * Fax 614-873-3699 * E-mail schooloffice@shekinahchristian.org * web site www.shekinahchristian.org

Shekinah Christian School
10040 Lafayette-P.C. Road
Plain City, OH 43064