

The Flame

Shekinah Christian School ~ Plain City, Ohio
October 2024 Volume 41/Issue 2



Shekinah students and staff followed the themes of each day October 12-18 as they chose their outfits in the first spirit week of the year, the last week of First Quarter. Students started off the week in their comfy pajamas!

On Tuesday, students had the opportunity to “twin” with one of their friends.

Wednesday was “Spirit Day with a Twist.” Two students, one from (K-5th) and one from (6th-12th), were chosen to win a \$10 prize for having the most school “spirit.” The winners were Chelby Oxley (2nd) and Ruby Gossard (12th).

Thursday was “Decades Day.” Students chose their favorite decade, from 2010 or before, for a throwback outfit.

“Rhyme with no Reason” was Friday’s theme. Students chose a friend and dressed up as something that rhymed; they didn’t have to have a reason.

Spirit Week

October 14-18

~by Emma McDowell (12th)

SEEING GOD IN THE ROUTINE

by Mia Pierce (12th)

September 25— Zach Miller



"How do we see God in the mundaneness of life?" Associate Pastor from Shiloh, Zach Miller, spoke to the 6th-12th grade students in chapel last week. He highlighted four ways we Christians can see God in the monotony of life.

The first way is community. The apostle, Paul talks a lot of the importance of the body of Christ. Through community we can see God's beauty and glory and power. The second way is through Scripture and worship. We have the *privilege* to open our Bibles and read about who our God is. Plus, we have the highest affection; being able to worship together in chapel. The third way to see God is through the natural

beauty of creation. What we can call our "thin spot" is where we become very aware of God's presence in God's creation. He can also use our interests, like art or writing, to reveal His glory.

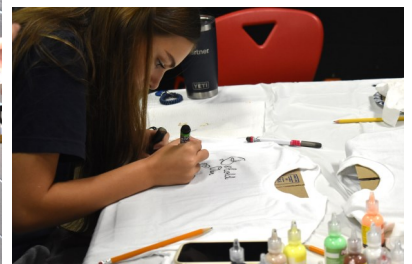
Finally, we can see God through prayer and silence. Silence can be intimidating, but when we stop doing and simply be, then we can experience God's rest and stillness. We as humans will never be able to fully experience God, but we are always able to see Him more and seek to know more. So think creatively of how you can see His beauty every day.



A CHANGE OF PACE

October 2 — Mentoring Chapel

On Wednesday, October 2nd, students experienced a change of pace when— instead of the traditional chapel— students spent the chapel period with their mentoring groups. They got to use this time to fellowship with their peers and share conversation and food.



(See more about mentoring groups on pages 4-5)

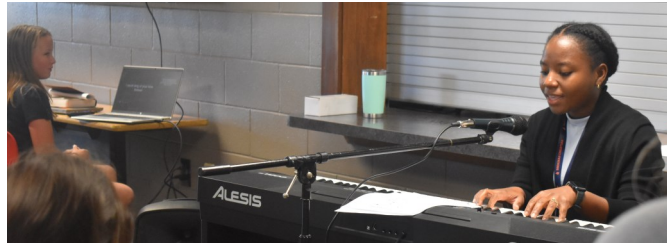
GOD'S HANDIWORK & PROVIDENCE

by Elijah Yutzy (12th)

October 9 — Mr. Charles



On October 9th, Mr. Charles shared about the wonder of our God. Referencing Psalms 40:5, Mr. Charles stated that God is a God of many wondrous deeds, and that nothing can compare to Him. Another reference Mr. Charles used was Psalms 139:13-14 to highlight how we as human beings are intricately and masterfully made. Mr. Charles also used examples such as snowflakes, as well as the human body to display how God's incredible handiwork is evident throughout the whole of his creation. In the K-5 chapel time, Mr. Charles spoke again on the same topic after a worship time led by Mrs. Hacker and her worship team.



October 16 — Dr. Luttrull



In a chapel address to the entire student body, Josiah Luttrull focused on the sovereignty of God. Dr. Luttrull began with the context of I Kings 17 when the Israelites were in a period of judgment after a string of wicked kings, and the country had no rain for three years.

God put the power of rain in the word of the prophet, Elijah. Then in this severe drought and famine, God placed Elijah next to a source of water, a brook, Cherith, east of the Jordan. God provided for Elijah by sending ravens to feed him.

When that brook dried up, God sent Elijah to a widow in Zarephath who was gathering sticks to build a fire, in preparation to use up her last flour and oil to make one last meal to eat with her son before they died of starvation. Elijah told her that if she would make some food for him before she made some for herself and her son that she would not run out of her supply of flour and oil.

God used this woman, who in obedience gave out of her poverty, to provide for Elijah. God then provided for the

widow. In the same way, God provides for us for our good. Even if we die, He doesn't cease to be the good God that He is.

Dr. Luttrull ended with the definition of love. "Love is desiring someone's best interest and acting toward that best interest." We live in a

"God is a loving Father, and He gives us what we need every day. God is still in control in the middle of trouble, turmoil, and loss of life."

world that is chaotic and where people don't love each other with that kind of love. Negative things happen. "God is a loving Father, and every day He gives us what we need. God is in control in the middle of trouble and turmoil and loss of life."



WHAT ARE MENTORING GROUPS?

by Alex Bauermeister (12th)



Every day except for chapel Wednesdays, all secondary students meet in the morning for 15 minutes in staff-led groups mixed with all ages. They discuss this year's theme, "Behold Our God." Once a month the secondary students meet with their mentoring groups for 45 minutes in the morning instead of chapel, so they can enjoy breakfast together while they discuss the theme and disciple each other.



Student discussions include diving into and examining our infinite God and how He is unchanging and loving. They ponder God's incomprehensibility, covering passages like Psalm 145:1-9 and Romans 11:33-34. They talk about our triune God, studying passages such as Deuteronomy 6:4, John 1, and Colossians 1. The groups discuss how the Bible makes it clear that although there is no specific mention of the actual word "trinity," God is three-in-one as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



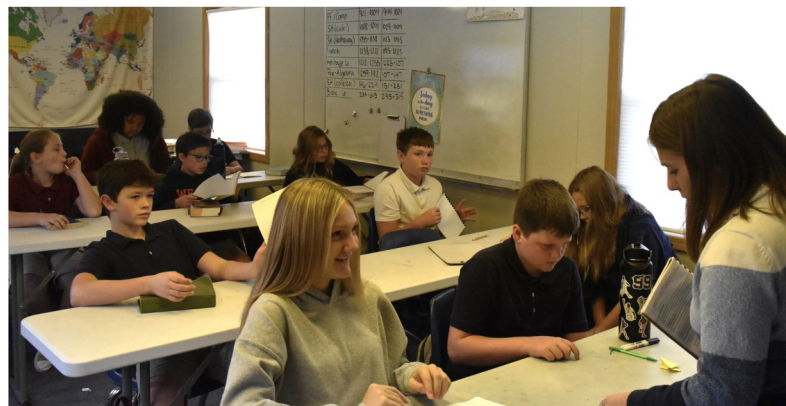
As they continue to meet every morning to disciple each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, many students have expressed their appreciation for the ability to meet with other Christians to discuss and grow in their relationship with God.



DIGGING DEEPER IN MENTORING GROUPS

by Joe Henson (12th)

The mentoring groups read scripture with each other and work on memorizing this year's memory verses (Isaiah 25—1st Semester) and (Psalm 145:1-21—2nd Semester) in order to receive the Bible memory award at the end of the year. The mentoring groups have been a recent and beneficial change for Shekinah. Instead of weekly Discussion Groups, students have a daily focus on discipleship and on the theme of the year, "Behold our God."



Mentoring groups do activities with each other to grow in their relationships with Christ. Once a month they meet in a longer time period. Some groups have a mini party to make the normal pattern every morning. The addition of mentoring groups on non-chapel days gives every student an opportunity to read the Word, and pray together.

Our theme verse for the year is

Isaiah 25:9:

"It will be said on that day,
"Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

High School Students at Home Away from Home

by Jacob Newman (12th) & Aaron Humphries (12th)

Mathias Valenzuela Calderon is a newly enrolled student at Shekinah! He turned 15 years old recently and is in the ninth grade. Mathias comes from South America in Guayaquil, Ecuador. He heard about Shekinah and the new experiences it would give him and seized the opportunity to enroll. As well as seeking the better environment Shekinah provided, Mathias joined his cousins Noelia, Eliana, and Benji, who are currently enrolled at Shekinah with him! He lives with his great aunt, Ximena and her husband, Scott. Mathias appreciates the readily helpful students as well as the close community at Shekinah. Upon arrival at Shekinah, Mathias noticed a different kind of humor here than where he lived in Ecuador.

His favorite food is burgers. We are excited and grateful to accept Mathias as a new student here at Shekinah!

Shauna Nyland is a new 11th grade student this year. Shauna comes from the far North in Yukon, Canada, where she was home schooled as well as attended public school. At 16 years old, she is the youngest of her family. After her older sisters had moved to other areas of Canada and had gone off to college, Shauna decided to apply at Shekinah as a place to find more community. Fun fact:

Shauna's mom, Maria (Gingerich) Nyland is a

Shekinah alumnus who graduated in 1989! Shauna lives with her aunt and uncle and values the kind and welcoming community Shekinah has provided so far. She enjoys learning with Shekinah's curriculum. One difference she noticed from her previous school was the number of events held at Shekinah, whether school or student organized.

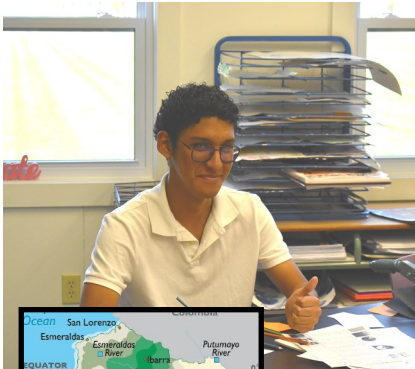
Some of her favorite foods include rice pudding and pasta. We are glad to accept Shauna as a new student here at Shekinah, and look forward to her continued enrollment!

Jiaen Lin, who goes by Jenna, was gracious enough to let us sit down and interview her. She is a new 16 year-old student who joined the tenth grade class this year.

Jenna came to the US from southern China. She arrived in time for the wedding of her sister, Jiayi, who married Jonathan Layton. Jenna lives with her sister and brother-in-law. She wanted to come to Shekinah because it is a Christian school, and it's also a small school that is close to where her sister Jiayi lives.

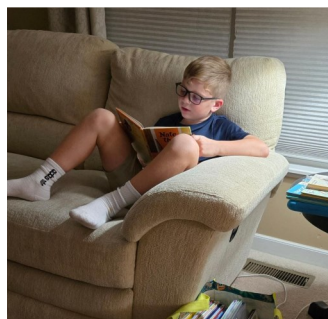
Jenna mentioned that she loved spirit week! When she was asked if there were any negatives about Shekinah, Jenna said that there was nothing negative.

Some of her favorite foods are pizza and mac' and cheese. Her response when she was asked if there is anything she finds weird about America, or whether she experienced any culture shock, was that being here is "pretty nice." Welcome to the Shekinah family, Jenna!



We Are Readers Contest 2024

Singin' in the Rain



Teachers and students are competing this month to determine who can read the most. In K-5, teachers and students are keeping track of minutes that they read outside of class. If the average minutes students read are more than the teachers' minutes, those who participated will win an ice cream party complete with toppings and bragging rights for the next year.

The 6th-12th grade reading challenge is based on pages read instead of minutes read. Books must be at a student's reading level. Reading a chapter in the Bible counts as one page.

The contest ends on October 31. Traditionally, we have followed this contest with a Book Character Day in November. Details will be coming soon.



On October 9th at the beginning of chapel, Mrs. Bechtol revealed the musical which will be performed this spring. Tryouts are happening for "Singin' in the Rain"

win WIN Shekinah Flames



OHSAA Tournament 2024

Sectional/District Central (VII)

Shekinah's varsity volleyball Flames advanced in post-season play with their wins over Danville (Seed 10) on 10/14 and against Millersport (Seed 8) on 10/16.

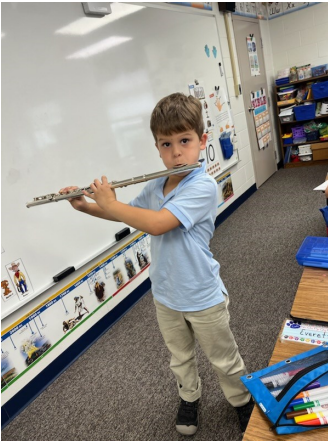
Shekinah (Seed 2) is scheduled to play Madison Christian (Seed 4) on October 21 6:00 pm at Shekinah. Go Flames!



K-2nd Grade Happenings

by Max Kilzer (12th)

Kindergarten–



Within the past month, the kindergarten class has been learning word families, and they made books about basic numbers. They also made clay boats resembling that of baby Moses and then tested the boats to see if they would float. Many of them floated quite well and showed the creativity of the kindergarten class! Another fun learning

activity they did was graphing using skittles. One day, Fireman Jason visited and taught about fire safety! Kindergarten is having a blast learning at school! They get to have phys. ed., art and music this year. This is the first year that the kindergarten class comes to school every day instead of three days a week.



First Grade–



This class has been having a blast and is staying busy with all sorts of fun learning activities! Last week they made paper crafts about Christopher Columbus including paper fish and icebergs. They also have had fun finding subtraction facts, playing “whale-cracker

subtraction,” and “racing word” on the white boards with penguins and icebergs! Next week they are having a penguin party with jello icebergs, games, and other fun activities. First grade seems to be having a great time learning!



Second Grade–

This class is both striving to learn and having a great time doing it! From doing math drills and competitions, to playing “balloon toss” in their free time, They are learning to play keyboards in their music class. They also are mastering their Bible memory!

3rd-5th Grade News

Isaac Showalter (12th)

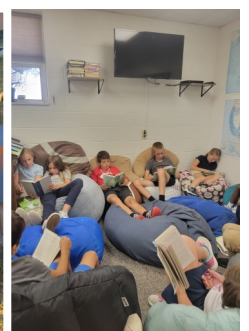
Third Grade-

The third grade class here at Shekinah is off to an amazing start! Mrs. Catherine Conte stated that her class has completely filled out their fantastic behavior chart. (See the picture below.) They recently also had a special lunch together out on the hill in the school's backyard. The class has also been learning about the weather recently, comparing the weather in Columbus to the weather in London. There is reason to believe that some memories will be made this year.



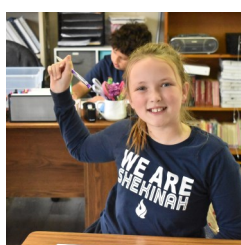
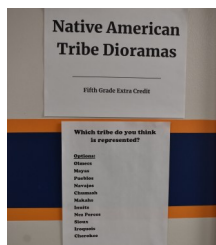
Fourth Grade-

At the beginning of the year Miss Audrey set the goal of requiring each student to read 100 pages a month from chapter books. Bean bag chairs piled up in the back of the room are comfortable reading spots. The students are learning about different genres of literature and most importantly learning to love reading.



Fifth Grade-

The fifth grade class has been trying some interesting projects lately. This month the fifth graders built Native American Tribe dioramas which they displayed in the hallway. They have also been visiting the kindergarten class to read to them.



Our annual fall CCP informational meeting took place at Shekinah on October 15 in Room 109A. Of the seven colleges who were invited to participate, five reps. were present. Jenny Ratcliff from OCU and Crystal Goehring from MVNU were here in person. Joining us virtually were Ann Lawson from Malone, Emma Heath from

Cedarville U, and Michelle Miller-Owen from CSCC. These representatives presented helpful information and answered questions.

This school year, 13 Shekinah students are taking courses through College Credit Plus, a cost-free way for students to earn high school and college credits at

the same time. Considering the cost of a college education, this is a great opportunity for students to save money and time by earning college credits.

Students who are interested in CCP for the 2025-2026 school year should let Mrs. Shetler know and find out what the next steps are.

What is CLEP?



The College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) offers 34 exams that cover introductory level college course material. With a passing score on one CLEP exam, a student could earn three or more college credits at 2,900 U.S. colleges and universities.

Unlike CCP with which students can earn high school and college credits, by passing a CLEP test, a student earns college credits only. Over 2000 test centers nationwide administer the tests. Take a CLEP exam before December 15, 2024, and get 50% off when you sign up for a second exam before December 15, 2024. Exams cost only \$95 plus the test center's administration fee, compared to hundreds of dollars per course credit at a college.

PSAT Scheduled for October 29

Twenty-three 9th-11th grade Shekinah students are registered to take the PSAT on Tuesday, October 29. The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. Approximately 1.6 million high school students enter the program each year.

High school students have the opportunity to take the (PSAT/NMSQT®) each year in October. At Shekinah, 9th-10th grade students may take the test for practice, but only qualifying juniors are entered into this national competition. In past decades 10 Shekinah students have qualified as Commended Students or Semi-Finalists. One student, Kent Gingerich '20, qualified as a Finalist. Results of this year's competition will be announced in the fall of 2025 for the seniors graduating in 2026.

Graduates Who Qualified

- 1987— Anthony Weber
- 1988— Anita Lyndaker-Studer
- 1989— Maria Gingerich Nyland
- 1990— Sheryl Gingerich Hooley
- 2002— Wendell Gingerich
- 2008— Linette Shetler
- 2009— Kara Yutzy Callahan
- 2013— Victoria Yoder
- 2016— Emilie Miller Yoder
- 2020— Kent Gingerich
- 2026—??

Student of the Month



Maggie L. —Secondary Student of the Month

Junior, Maggie L. was nominated by classmates as the October Student of the Month in grades 6-12.

Maggie was nominated because “she is awesome, sweet, nice, and is always helping others and making them fit in.”

Congratulations on being nominated as the Secondary Student of the Month, Maggie!

STUDENT VALUES

Responsibility, Kindness, Excellence, Respect, Persistence, Integrity, Team Player, Empathy, and Commitment

The School Publications Class wants to recognize these values each month. Students can drop their nominations into the blue bucket in the cafeteria. Besides naming a person, students need to write why they are nominating that person.

Alumni News and Notes

Births:

Chris and **Savannah (Bartholomew) McGahhay ‘13;**
Remington (Remy) Carl born September 15, 2024;
first child, first son.
Matthew ‘01 and Katrina (Beachy) Sensenig ‘01;
Leah Grace born September 25, 2024;
sixth child, fourth daughter.
Alex ‘12 and Becca (Hurless) Cooley; Olivia Fern born
August 23, 2024; second child, second daughter.



Shiloh M. —Elementary Student of the Month

A fifth grade student, Shiloh M., was nominated by classmates as the October Student of the Month in grades K-5.

Other students say “She is outgoing and kind to all. She is helpful and fun and someone who is good to be around”.

Congratulations, Shiloh! Keep up the great work!

Attention Alumni !!

We want to hear from you. Send updates about your lives to lshetler@shekinahchristian.org. Tell us about births, marriages, promotions, new jobs, ministry opportunities, and anything else you’d like to share.

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, we would love to send it to you through email. We would like to save funds on postage and printing.

Help us to keep our database up-to-date by letting us know if you have a change of address or email address. Thank you for staying in touch!

Mark your calendars.....

October

18—Dismissal 12:30 End of 1st Quarter

24-25—NO SCHOOL Fall Break

29—PSAT (9th-11th)

November

13—Pre-ACT (8th-10th)

15—Dismissal 12:30 ACSI Teacher Inservice

20—Progress Reports

25-29—No School: Thanksgiving Break

September Challenge Winner

The letter “J” was the answer to the September challenge. Thank you to everyone who answered correctly and congratulations to Hannah Yutzy (9th) who won the drawing for a 2024 yearbook.



October Challenge

The units digit is eight times the tens digit of a two-digit number. The original number minus the number formed when the digits are reversed is -63 . What is the original number? Call or text your answer to 614-873-3143 to be placed in a drawing for a \$10 gift card to The Red Hen..

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

GOLD

Country Closet Thrift Store; Everence

IT made REAL, Jessica Photography

Miller Cabinet Company, Miller's Furniture

P.C. Animal Hospital

R & T Yoder Electric

P.C. Village Market, Visiting Angels

Yutzy's Farm Market

SILVER

Integrity Door Sales

Lyon & Sons Body Shop

Purdy Farms; Rocky Mountain Coffee Co.

Rosedale Bible College

West Jeff. Plumbing & Heating

BRONZE

ER Autocare

* 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