

THE FLAME

December 2025 Volume 42/Issue 4

VOL.
42

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And we all, who with unveiled
faces contemplate the Lord's
glory, are being transformed
into his image with ever-
increasing glory, which comes
from the Lord, who is the
Spirit.

(2 Corinthians 3:18)



Merry Christmas!

The Christmas season is here! The halls are decked with holiday decor, and Mr. Hershberger has lighted his Christmas tree. December has been filled with community music celebrations, Christmas programs, basketball games, and lots of snow! Read more about the annual Shekinah Christmas program on page six, As the first semester wraps up, students are completing final tests and projects. The Jr High and High School will enjoy a Christmas Party on December 19th, planned by the Senior class! This Christmas season, don't forget to reflect on the reason behind this season. Remember the Prince of Peace, born in a stable. and sent to give the greatest gift in history - His life. Merry Christmas!

~ Lindsey Cooley 12th



9th Grade Poetry

We hope you enjoy these poetry selections from Mrs. Schrader's 9th Grade English class!

Christmas by Paityn Schlabach

*The Christmas tree stands there
shining bright
Oh, so tall for everyone's delight
The snow is falling from the sky
The ground is sparkling like a firework
on the fourth of July
The birds are chirping and starting to
tweet
The smell is wafting from the kitchen
of fresh Christmas sweets
The presents are sitting under the
tree
And all the kids are giggling with glee
The Christmas music is playing
And everyone's swaying
Christmas is my favorite time of year
Because that is when I know my
family is near*

Personification: by Isaiah DeTelder

*As the leaf holds on the tree,
the wind begins to shake it lose,
and the leaf is forced to flee.
Then on its journey must sit down and rest,
Until off its feet is taken once again.*

What is Purple? By Izzy Hill

*Purple is the color of royalty
nice and pretty with certainty
purple is the color of grapes
washed and ready to taste
purple is the color of my pencil
writing things down as I level
purple is the color of English
my favorite class as I finish
purple is the color of flowers
so pretty to smell I could go for hours
purple is the color of a pillow
nice and soft near the window
purple is the color of my Bible
where I can go when I am in denial
purple is the color of my binder
holding the things I need as a reminder
purple is the color of my mom
who is in Heaven along with my God
purple is the color of hope
even when things are down on a slippery
slope*

Tornado by Stella Kosik

*He sweeps down with his long arms.
Then he takes things and starts alarms.
He spins round and round.
Then hit the ground,
Picks up homes and towns.*



What is Black? By Anna Gingerich

*Black is the colour of the beak of a swan
And black is the colour of the sky before dawn
Black is the colour of the ground so fertile
And black is the colour of the shell of a turtle
Black is the colour of a ladybug's spot
And black is the colour of an old tea pot
Black is the colour of a zebra's stripes
And black is the colour of old metal pipes
Black is the colour of earth freshly turned
And black is the colour of the muffins I burned
Black is the colour of a wrought iron gate
And black is also the dark colour of hate
Black is the colour of the dead of night
And black is the colour of an eye after a fight
Black is the colour of clouds that bring rain
And black is the colour of sins evil stain
Black is the colour of death that steals people away
Black is the colour of the fears in my head
Black is also the cold feeling of dread
And black is the colour of the monsters under my bed*

Orange by Silas Butler

*Orange is the color of Pumpkin Pie
Also the feeling of jumping real high.
Orange is the color of Autumn leaves
And the feeling of a very nice breeze.
Orange is the color of a Tiger Lily
And when I get stressed, that's Anxiety.
When I think of Orange I think of a Fox
And something not good is Chicken Pox.
But when I think of Orange I think of the calm
Having a kitten I can hold in my palm.
When I think of Orange I can think of carrots
Now I can hear the sound of a parrot.
Something else Orange is the Afternoon Sky
I just wish the feeling wouldn't die.
The feeling of Orange is also Thanksgiving
But you know what else is? Trick or Treating.
When I think of Orange I think of Orange Juice
And the webbed feet of a Great White Goose.
If you look for the color it will be found
Because the color Orange is all around.*

The Beach by Emma Kramer

*The seagulls fly in the sky above
Gliding as gracefully as a dove
A calm breeze gently blows
Leaving sand between my toes
The water playfully laps at the shore
Oh I wish I could be near the ocean more
But the sun glows as it sets on the beach
And very soon its rays will be out of reach
I will have to go then
But anxiously await the hour when,
The sun comes up and the waves begin
And I can go to the beach again*



Red White and Blue by Kaylen Burns

*The sun shone on this hot summer day
The kids began to laugh and play
The bees buzzed
We blew dandelion fuzz
And everyone was happy
The smell of the grill
The fireworks over the hill
Boom, bang, bamn
And when the sun set
before we all slept
We watched as the colors flew
And that is the day of the red white and blue.*



Sports Spotlight



by Jaden Denney 12th

With basketball season officially underway, the high school teams have started their seasons off on a good note. The boys varsity team is so far undefeated with a record of 5-0. The girls varsity team is also crushing it, with a current record of 4-2 after coming up short with close losses against Fisher Catholic and Columbus School for Girls. The junior high teams seasons are also underway. The junior

high boys have a very young team this year, with only a few returning players. The future is bright for the team and this will be a great learning season for a lot of the players! With only six girls on the team, the junior high girls' team has been putting in hard work. This season will be a good test to see how the players power through the challenge of having a small roster.



December Chapels

by Lindsey Cooley 12th & Graci Higgins 12th

On Wednesday, December 3, Jonathan Purdy came and talked to the high schoolers. He invited two students up, telling one student to mix up a drink for the other. The first student used a variation of Mountain Dew, pepper, a granola bar, and a few other unpleasant ingredients. The other student then took a drink of this disgusting drink. He used this demonstration to show how what you put in your heart, soul, and mind will affect all of you. The passage that Jonathan talked about was Galatians 5:19-21. His main topic was about how so often we allow our faith to be based on knowledge alone, and yet lack true belief in our hearts. He encouraged the student body to pursue Christ not just in knowledge, but in true belief in their hearts.



Jonathan Purdy

On Wednesday, December 10, Manu Sweigart-Salas, a missionary in Costa Rica, gave a message to secondary students. Manu asked a few students to read passages. His main point that he talked about was how God can use anyone for his plan. He encouraged the students to trust God and obey his plan. He also gave an example of Dory from finding Nemo and how even though she had memory problems, she was still used to help find Nemo and complete the mission. In summary, God can use anyone.



Manu Sweigart-Salas

While Manu and his wife, Liz are in the US on furlough, their two sons are attending Shekinah part-time. **Liz Sweigart-Salas '11** had plans to become a nurse but went on the Spanish trip with her class at Shekinah and everything changed. She went back to Costa Rica for two years and met her husband Manu. She never became a nurse, but impressed on the kids that God's plan is better than ours and we should trust his process.

On Wednesday, December 17, the whole school gathered for a worship chapel. The student worship team led the student body in songs such as "Joy To The World," "Go Tell It On The Mountain" and "O Come All Ye Faithful." It was a special time to reflect on the gift that is Jesus' Birth.



A Joyful Noel!

by Kate Driskill



To kick off the holiday season, Shekinah's arts and humanities classes shared their gifts with the community!

Mrs. Hacker directed the elementary grades. It was a fun time filled with gingerbread houses, Christmas trees and big smiles!



Middle school choir, directed by Ms. Driskill, sang a medley of Christmas carols along with other holiday songs about hope.

The high school choir directed by Mrs. Bechtol sang about the Grinch and brought in a joyful "noel"!



Board member, Jeremy Miller took a moment for the offering while Dr. Luttrull, Lindsey Cooley, Elaina Kosik, Nava Showalter, Haylee Beachy and Noelia Wanty led everyone in worship.

The middle and high school bands serenaded the audience with fun songs and the chamber choir ended the evening with "Silent Night." They were also directed by Mrs. Bechtol!



Mrs. Schrader's drama class performed "The Upside-Down Kingdom" (written and directed by Mrs. Schrader). At the end of the event, everyone joined for refreshments and got the chance to walk around school and see students' holiday artwork on display from Mrs. Groh. It was a wonderful event! Thank you to all who came and put everything together!

Rosedale Christmas Celebration 2025

by Graci Higgins 12th

On Sunday, December 7th, Shekinah's concert choir and chamber choir had the opportunity to participate in the Rosedale Christmas Celebration. During this time, there were performances by the Rosedale Choir, Madison Choral Singers. The congregation sang hymns along with the choirs. Both of Shekinah's choirs sang "Sing Noel" together, and the chamber choir sang "Carol of the Bells." Everyone was invited on stage to end the performance by singing sections from Handel's *Messiah*. Following the performances, everyone was invited for refreshments and fellowship in the student center.



Home of Alumnus Reduced to Ashes



Esther Swartzentruber ('07) lost her home in a devastating house fire in New Holland, PA, on November 22nd. While she escaped unharmed, she lost nearly all of her belongings, except for important documents kept in a metal filing cabinet.

Esther graduated from OSU in 2013 with a Bachelor's degree in English. She taught high school English for five years in Indiana and Pennsylvania, before transitioning to administration, where she coordinated high school learning support for five years and also worked as Dean of Ed.

She currently works as an executive assistant for Keylink, an American manufacturer of aluminum railing systems for residential decks and commercial properties.

Esther had lived on Bergman Road since 2019. Without renters' insurance, she needs to rebuild her life. Friends and family have established a fund to support Esther. You can help with this by donating on [GiveSendGo](#). Thank you for your prayers.



Attention Alumni!

We'd love to hear from you. Please send updates about your lives to Ishetler@shekinahchristian.org. Tell us about births, weddings, new jobs, promotions, ministry opportunities, or anything else you'd like to share. We look forward to your responses!

Mark Your Calendars.....

December

19–12:30 Dismissal

20—Christmas Break Begins

January

6—Classes resume

19—No School - MLK Day



December Challenge:

**In the song “12 Days of Christmas”,
how many gifts does the singer
receive?**

(Text 606-568-6156 with the answer)

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