

THE FLAME

January 2026 Volume 42/Issue 5

VOL.
42

You can also stay connected
with us through Facebook
and Instagram
FB: Shekinah Christian
School
Instagram:
@officialshekinahchristian

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)

The “new fallen” snow covers the fields, trees and rooftops as winter continues its slow yet seemingly non-stop hike. The freshness of the snow reminds us that new things are coming and soon it will be spring! Here at Shekinah, we can't wait to see what this semester brings! (Also... 59 days until spring, but who's counting?)



Administrative Angle

Dear Shekinah Families,



Dr. Luttrull
Head of School

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”
Ephesians 4:15 & 16

We hope everyone had a blessed and restful winter break! It has been wonderful to welcome our students back into the classrooms as they set new goals and begin the year by turning their hearts and focus toward Jesus.

As we continue our schoolwide theme, Into His Image, both elementary and secondary students will be focusing on Ephesians 4:11-24, our Bible memory passage for the second semester. We encourage families to read this Scripture together and discuss what spiritual growth looks like—what it means to be Christlike and how we are called to build up the body of Christ through love and truth. In mentoring, our secondary students will dive deeper into what it truly means to be transformed Into His Image.

As we begin the second semester, our prayer and goal is for our students to grow in Christ and learn to genuinely care for one another. As Ephesians 4:16 reminds us, “When each part is working properly, it makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.” Each student’s contribution and service are vital to our school community becoming healthy and strong.

We want our students to reflect on this important question: Do their words and actions reflect Christ in a way that encourages others to grow spiritually? By learning to speak the truth in love and to truly care for one another, our school community will continue to grow in love, unity, and maturity in Christ.

Finally, we would like to share that we will be beginning monthly stakeholder meetings and warmly invite parents to join us as we pray for our students, teachers and staff, and our school community. An email has already been sent with a link to our first meeting on January 23, with additional meetings planned for February, March, and April. We also welcome your feedback and partnership as we work together to equip our students through discipleship and education, all for the purpose of glorifying Christ. Your prayers, encouragement, and support are a vital part of what God is doing in our school.

In Christ,
Dr. Luttrull, Head of School
Mrs. Clark, Principal

Behind the scenes

Board Updates

by Lindsey Cooley 12th

Shekinah is owned and operated as a ministry of Shiloh Mennonite Church. The Shiloh Leadership team appoints and/or approves six members of the board of operations to serve. The senior pastor (or his designee) attends board meetings and serves as a liaison between the church and the school. Each member serves three years in a single term and has the opportunity to serve two consecutive terms.

This past year, two of our board members completed their terms. Steve Cooley and Jonathan Purdy have been dedicated board members who have served the school. They both strove for continual improvement in the education system, and desired spiritual growth for the student body of Shekinah. With two members leaving, two more men have graciously taken on this role. Matt Showalter and Jason Miller have been longtime supporters of Shekinah as they both have their kids attending. They will be great additions to the board as we head into this next year.

Welcome our new board members!



Jason Miller is not new to Shekinah. He previously served on the school board from 2015-2020. He has been happily married to his “amazing” wife, Lorene for what will be 25 years this fall. Jason and Lorene are parents of Shekinah students Ryker (2nd) and Camden (11th). Jason is a firefighter/paramedic and is currently finishing his Bachelor of Science degree in fire administration. Jason and Lorene and family attend Marysville Grace Church.

Board Members

Chairman: Jeremy Miller

V. Chairman :Heidi De Telder

Secretary: Jordan Beachy

Pastoral Liaison: Zach Miller

Donna Masula

Jason Miller

Matt Showalter



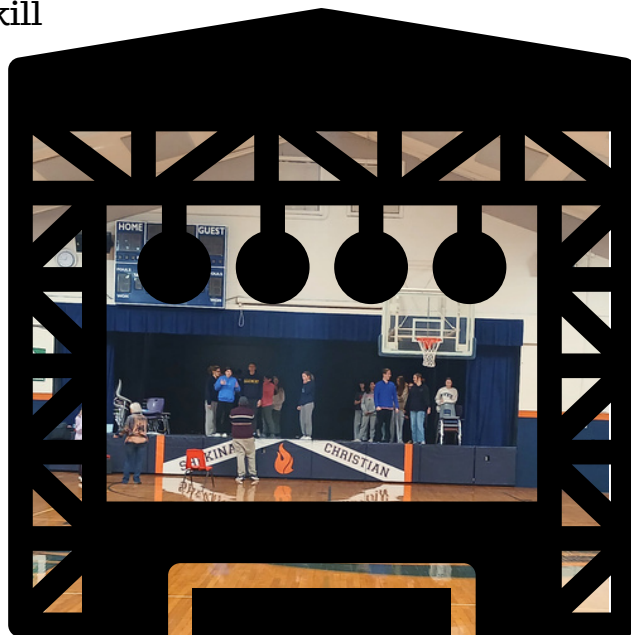
Matt Showalter grew up as a missionary kid in the Middle East. He graduated from Shekinah in 1993. He attended RBC and received his Bachelor's Degree in Culture, Religion and Missions. He went on to receive a Master's Degree in Theological Studies from Asbury Seminary. In 1997, he married Colleen, and they have five children. Three of their children graduated from Shekinah, and the two youngest, Nava (12th) and Kenna (8th) currently attend Shekinah.

The Showalters have served in a church-planting role in the Middle East and in youth ministry. Matt taught high school Bible for five years before accepting an invitation to join the faculty at Rosedale Bible College. He also served on the pastoral team at Agape Community Fellowship in Hilliard. This year, Matt is continuing as academic dean at Rosedale and then will begin a new role as president of Rosedale International. Matt and Colleen are members of Shiloh Mennonite Church.

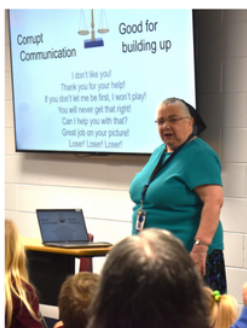
Musical Update

by Ms. Driskill

We are three months away from production weekend! Our students have been working hard memorizing lines, choreography and musical parts for “Frozen Jr.”! Mrs. Bechtol and I have enjoyed seeing the actors light up as they become Olaf, Hans, Elsa, Anna and many other loveable characters. We’re learning to “let it go,” deal with the “fixer uppers,” and find that some lines and cues are worth melting for!



January Chapels



K-4 Chapels

Chapel Notes from Mrs. Raines

I spoke in chapel on January 14. We started by pretending that we were getting ready for school. I asked the kids part of the reason why we spend so much time getting ready in the morning.

We need to spend time getting ready for our day and there is nothing wrong with making sure we look okay on the outside! The problem is when people have an unbalanced importance on how they look on the outside and don't care about how their inside-their heart-looks. While others see the outside, there is only one who sees the heart-God!

In John 2:25 the Bible tells us that Jesus did not need for anyone to tell him about someone because he could already see what was in man's heart. Sometimes we can try so hard to make our outside look the best because there is a lot going on on the inside that we may not want people to know about. After Adam and Eve sinned. They hid from God, and God asked a very odd question. "Where are you?" Since God knows everything, why do you think that he asked them "where are you?" I pointed out that perhaps one reason was that He was looking for confession. He knew what they did. He knew where they were. He knew that they were trying to hide and cover themselves. He wanted to hear it from them. When there is something in our hearts that is separating us from God, we want to try to hide from God. Instead, we should go straight to God and confess because He already sees what is there in our heart, and He wants that confession and continued relationship.

Of the utmost importance, is asking God into our hearts if He isn't already there. We should spend time getting our "inside" our heart ready each day, just as much as we spend on our "outside" appearance. I handed out black scratch off hearts with rainbow design underneath.

I asked them to think about something that is in their heart that they know is not right. Then,

based on Psalms 139:23-24 we were going to ask God to cleanse our hearts. As we prayed, each student scratched the black off their heart to reveal the bright colors underneath.

Miss Martha Maust spoke in K-4 chapel on January 21. Her main scripture was Ephesians 4:29. Her message was entitled "Corrupt Communication."

Miss Maust shared that when she was a child and heard this verse, she thought she was innocent of this because she only thought of corrupt communication as cursing or saying bad words. She was never allowed to say bad words in her household and that's all the thought she gave to it. However, as she grew in age and knowledge, she began to understand that words that are not edifying or are harsh to others are corrupt communication also.

In her PowerPoint, she defined corrupt communication as "foul language, abusive, unwholesome, or evil talk." Alternately, the word edify means, "building up, good/helpful, encouraging."

Students gave examples of the different types. Miss Maust shared an old adage with the group: "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." She pointed out this is a false statement. She offered this instead: "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can break my heart."

She shared some scriptures in regards to our words: Prov. 18:21 was one example.

This powerful statement impacted the group: "Unsay" is not a word. You cannot "unsay" words. It's impossible.

Lastly, she talked about something that a lot of kids struggle with: lying. Lying is corrupt communication. The children closed by praying that God would help them edify, stop habits of lying, and be new in 2026.

Classroom Corners

by Graci Higgins 12th

3rd Grade Poems

Each third grader got to write a poem using the prompt:
“What has God done for you that you’re thankful for?”

“God gave me a wonderful brother. I am so glad, I want no other.
But he is not like you and me.

For he is autistic but I am happy with glee. We love my brother very
much. And thank God, he is not out of touch.”

“Come with me on an amazing day at the hospital! When my sister was
born, I was so excited! She was born right after my aunt’s wedding. She
had to be born early because she has Down’s Syndrome. Down’s
Syndrome means she’s different. What’s different about her is that she
has bigger eyes than us. Her tongue is longer than ours. It takes her
longer to figure stuff out like climbing steps, eating and walking. My
sister has 47 strings or chromosomes. We love her because she is
special to us. Down’s Syndrome is very special. She is just different and
she’ll always be this way as long as she lives. But that’s ok. She’s very
special and she’ll always be. She has a loving family. She has a mom,
dad, a sister and a brother. She also has a grandma, grandpa, aunts,
uncles, and cousins. They all take care of her! She had four surgeries.
One of them was heart surgery. She is doing quite well right now.
I still remember that exciting day!

Spanish 2



The Spanish 2 class has been learning about the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. They learned about different modes of transportation, businesses, infrastructure, etc. They recently started learning about the different foods in each culture. They split up into groups, and each group got to pick a country and make their national dish. They had to research the dishes of their choice, find the ingredients that these dishes consisted of, and how to cook them. They then had the opportunity to cook these dishes during their Spanish class and try them. Some of the dishes they chose were nachos, enchiladas, churros, and chivitos.

“My group made a chivito. It is a burger with bacon, ham, eggs, lettuce, tomato, and onion. It was better than I expected.”

- Brody Price (12th)

Biology

Both biology classes have been studying the biosphere. They constructed a biome using two-liter bottles, with a goldfish, water, and rope at the bottom, supplying the water for the plants above. They decided to use either open or closed biomes to compare whether one ecosystem is better than the other. Each day, they monitor the biome condition, which consists of water quality (water levels, clarity, etc.), plant observations (leaf color, spots, signs of disease, etc.), organism observations (activity, health, numbers, etc.), and model observations (mold growth, water condensation, etc.), and once a week they measure the plants’ growth.





Second Quarter Honor Roll Grades 2-12



A Honor Roll

Eleya B., Haylee B., Reddington B., Sophia B., Maci C., Gaetano C., Jaxon C., Paighton C. Lindsey C, Benjamin C., Elise C., Kenneth D., Abigail D., Isaiah D., Azariah D., Benaiah D. Rachel E., Blayden F., Malina F., Anna G., Benjamin G., David G., Ava H., Austin H., Chloe H. Hope H., Olivia H., Evelina H., Elaina K., Judah K., Jude L., Cade L., Liam L., Lydia M., Aubrey M. Avery M., Bryce M., Carter M., Elise M., Josiah M., Judah M., Ryker M., Leah N., Dominick N. Jacoby O., Kenzie P., Quintin P., Owen R., Brody S., AnaSophia S., Kenna S., Nava S., Hannah S. Lydia S., Samuel S., Selah S., Finley S., Maci T., Mathias V., Eliana W., Noelia W., Alexavier W. Chase Y., Jayce Y., Nancy Y., William Y., Hannah Y.

A/B Honor Roll

Vashti A., Edward B., Adam B., Ember B., Quinn B., Reagan B., Tanner B., Ava B., Aria B. William B., Silas B., Gino C., Joshua C., Tatum C., Jakob C., Kade C., Hadassa D., Raphael D. Zachary D., Jaden D., Noah D., Cecilia E., Rebecca E., Chloe G., Drew H., Eli H., Ila H. Zane H., Grayson H., Ethan H., Titus H., Ellie H., Lilly H., Moriah H., Mary H., Maverick H. Ariel I., Sarafina K., Quinn K., Bristol K., Emlyn M., Avery M., Andrew M., David M., Michael M. Shiloh M., Hope M., Logan N., Aiden N., Shauna N., Chelby O., Preston P., Brody P., Theodore R. Hunttyr-Elaine R., Emmersyn S., Kade S., Luciana S., Tabitha S., Morgan S., Harper S., Beau S. Gwendolyn S., Mira S., Siana T., Kailyn T., Laina T., Ben W., Natalie W., A.J. Y.



Attention Alumni!

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

Ishetler@shekinahchristian.org



Alumni News and Notes Births

Trent '14 and Kelsey (Hershberger) Miller '15; Jay Brian born August 18, 2025; first child, first son.

Danae (McGaffey) and **Graham Coblentz '20;** Aribelle Danae, born November 12, 2025; first child, first daughter.

Matthew and **Malia (Schrader) Mullen '19;** Winona Rose, born December 20, 2025; second child, second daughter.

Jerry and **Mikala (Miller) Troyer '12;** Montgomery Jay, born January 9, 2026; first child, first son.

Marriages

Mitchell Schlabach '15 married Ashley Selby, September 20, 2025.

Travis Helmuth '07 married Katie Burns, January 3, 2026.

January

19—No School - MLK Day

February

6—No School - PT Conferences

7- Senior Night Girls' Basketball

13- Senior Night Boys' Basketball

16-No School President's Day



January Challenge:

**The more you take, the more you
leave behind. What am I?**

(Text 606-568-6156 with the answer)

THE STUDENT ACTIVITY BOOSTER CLUB

would like to thank our Sponsors
for their generous support!

GOLD

Always at Your Side, Country Closet

IT made REAL, Jessica Photography

Miller Cabinet Co., Millwest Amish Furniture

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

Phil Hill-Red 1 Realty, R & T Yoder Electric

Ronetti's Pizza, TL Builders

WJ Plumbing & Heating, Yoder's Septic Service LLC

Yutzy's Farm Market

SILVER

Cooley Custom Cabinet

Lyon & Sons Body Shop, Purdy Farms

Rosedale Bible College, Smiles to Love

BRONZE

Yutzy Pastures

* Editor: Katie Driskill * Student Editors: Lindsey Cooley, Jaden Denney, Graci Higgins * Alumni Editor: Linda Shetler
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