

THE SYCAMORE TREE



All photography is courtesy of our amazing photography students: Keren L., Daniel O., Daniel K., Hannah K., Madalyn F. and Stephen W.

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As Thanksgiving approaches, our mouths water with the taste of pumpkin pie and our legs leap with the joy of an impending holiday. However, we seldom slow down to think about the blessings we have been given. Although Thanksgiving was designed for this purpose, the true identity of Thanksgiving tends to fade as our excitement waxes with the incoming festivities of the holidays.

The first true American Thanksgiving was not centered around pumpkin pie or a work/school break. Rather, it occurred in 1621 when an estimated 143 people gathered in celebration of a successful harvest. It was a three-day affair, complete with feasts and celebrations. Everyone – from the Pilgrims to the Native Americans – gathered in harmony and gratefulness for what they had. Years later, Thanksgiving was established as a national holiday in remembrance of their historic gratitude.

Despite the common tradition of feasting, Thanksgiving was not established for a few days of celebration and food. Its name was designed for its purpose: giving thanks. As we turn the corner on another holiday, remember to give thanks for everything in life: the autumn leaves, the scent of fall spices, friends, and family to name a few. Once a year, we should honor what the first Thanksgiving honored: the beautiful lives and blessings God has bestowed upon us. This year, cease the festivities for a short moment to be thankful for God's world.

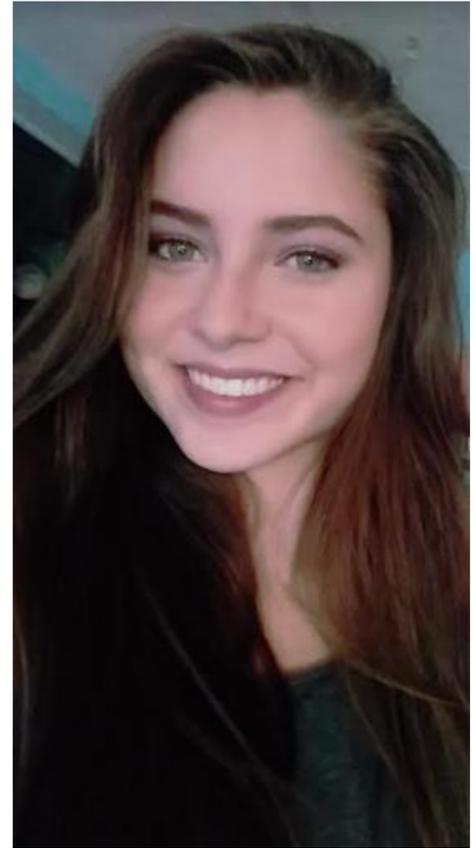


Thanksgiving break will start on November 22, 2019 and will end on December 1, 2019. Happy Turkey Day to all Sycamore families!

SYCAMORE ACADEMY'S DIGITAL NEWSLETTER



From left to right: Maddie, Wes, Kristian, Susan



GRADUATE OF GREATNESS

CLOSING ONE CHAPTER, BEGINNING ANOTHER

BY NICOLE DEOSO

During a New Year's celebration, there was an event worth celebrating in the Bowers' household. "What might that be?" you ask. That would be the birth of Kristian Bowers in the year 2002. She was born in Martin Memorial Hospital in Straut, Florida, and now resides in Clancy, Montana. Had her sister not beat her by a few minutes, Kristian would have been the first-born. Kristian's favorite holiday is Thanksgiving, and she is looking forward to celebrating it with her family. As a family tradition on Thanksgiving Day, the whole family watches the Thanksgiving Day Parade on TV. With hectic schedules, the family anticipates a day to spend together.

Kristian plays competitive high school volleyball, which constricts the amount of time she has for studying and attending class, especially when the season is in full swing. Though not to worry, she does not let that get the best of her, as she studies when she has any free time. Keeping her school and outside life balanced, she not only studies and plays volleyball, but she also loves to bake, shop, play around with makeup, watch videos, drive, and spend time with her friends. Doing things outside of school helps her to relax and unwind when life becomes overwhelming.

Since she is a senior, she has some advice for fellow high school peers. The first recommendation is to never procrastinate, even if the work seems easy. It will catch up to you, and you will be stressed and overwhelmed; it is better to do things now rather than later. Her second piece of advice is to ask the teachers for help. It is always better to be certain rather than regret not asking. Don't be intimidated by your classmates because they might want to ask the same question.

Kristian has many memories from her childhood, but she is ready to take on a new adventure. After tackling high school, Kristian is preparing for a whole new world. She is planning on attending Fort Hays University as an online student, pursuing medical imaging, so she can become an ultrasound technician.

Kristian's favorite verse is Deuteronomy 31:6. "My verse means that I am never really alone. I can face any struggle or obstacle in life because He is right there by my side. His promise to never forsake me just gives me comfort and reassurance that I can be brave no matter what."

"Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you." -Deuteronomy 31:6)

-THE DIGITAL NEWSPAPER-

TRENDING NOW!

SHEMILY M-L ORTIZ

Fall has officially arrived and for some of us not soon enough! The change of seasons always brings new trends with it. From fashion to fun gadgets, the fall trends have begun! This year's fashion trend starts with the eyes. The current eye make-up trend is "Bedazzling the Eyes". Although this trend is not new, it has gone up 550% each year! In addition, using metallic colors around your eyes as eyeliner is also a fall of 2019 hot trend.

With the winter weather arriving with a bang, the consumption of soup is not only desirable to many, but also trending. Video searches on how to make a variety of soups have gone up 4,000% this month for clear liquid soups and 5,000% for tomato base soups. Most folks favor thick, flavorful, sumptuous tomato base soups over clear liquid soups in these cold winter months.

Our next hot trend this year is trench coats. Trench coats were very popular in the 80's. This year they have become a very big fashion trend. However, your personality should be reflective of the one you choose. For example, are you a faux fur personality or pretty-in-pink personality? Perhaps you prefer your trench coat in leather, fleece, plaid, or wool. Likewise, you may feel a stylish black trench coat is enough for you. Whichever trench coat you choose, make sure it represents you well.

The next fall fashion trend is a no brainer - boots! For some of us, boots are one of the fun fashion items we get to enjoy wearing during the winter. I certainly love my boots and look for any excuse to wear them, as I have many boots in a variety of styles and colors. At the end of the day, the ones that keep me the warmest during the winter weather blast are the ones I will wear. Snow boots are on high demand right now. The hottest snow boots trending this year are the Columbia Ice Maiden 2 Insulated Snow Boots because they are stylish, comfortable, and waterproof. They are so high in demand that they became the #1 best seller on Amazon.

The current trend in technology is a translating earbud called "Pilot" by Waverly Labs. These ear buds allow you to communicate without barriers using a mobile app. It toggles between languages. Once you and the person you want to converse with have downloaded the app to your cell phones, you speak into your earpiece. It will translate your conversation to the person you are speaking to via their phone. When they respond in their language, it will translate their conversation back to you in your language, using your earbuds. The earpieces act as microphones, picking up conversation to translate. The next time you decide to leave the country, you might want to take your translating earbuds with you.

The next items trending now are in the toys' department. They are the Air Hogs Zero Gravity Laser Racer and the Toothless Interactive Baby Dragon Hatchimal. The Zero Gravity Laser Racer is a toy car that can be driven on your walls and your ceiling using a laser. Yes, on your walls! * The best part is that you can recharge your vehicle using a USB cord and your computer. Toys trending this year are usually related to current movies. Another toy trending now is The Hatching Toothless Interactive Baby Dragon Hatchimal from the movie series "How to Train Your Dragon". You may think this is a simple toy, but at close to \$49.00 it's obviously in high demand.

Last but not least, one type of beverage trending in fall of 2019 are pumpkin spice drinks. Forbes Magazine calls fall pumpkin spice drinks "a trend that just won't go away." There are many tasty varieties of fall pumpkin drinks. Some are mouthwatering, tantalizing, delectable deliciousness. Starbucks has their version of a fall pumpkin drink called Pumpkin Spice Latte. The internet is full of these different pumpkin drink recipes. I invite you to try Sycamore Academy's recipe for a pumpkin pie smoothie. It may not be on the Forbes 2019 "Trending Now" list, but it may become your next favorite fall pumpkin drink.

* I'm sure your parents won't mind the skid marks on the walls or ceiling. I don't think they will even notice. Trust me! If they do, tell your people to contact my people.

Meet the Authors and Editor!

Angelina Castillo is a freshman at Sycamore Academy, and she loves playing the violin and piano in her free time.

Keren Linares is a sophomore at Sycamore Academy, and her favorite class is Biology. She loves science, but her dream is to become a firefighter!

Shemily M-L Ortiz is a junior at Sycamore Academy. Traversing tropical islands is a pastime that Shemily frequently engages in. However, knitting and other crafty hobbies are enjoyable to her as well!

Hannah Klingbeil is a freshman at Sycamore Academy. Training horses and playing the flute are some of Hannah's hobbies.

Nicole Deoso is a sophomore at Sycamore Academy. Volleyball and basketball are some sports that she enjoys doing in her spare time.

Sarah Radke is a senior who adores her Culinary Arts class at Sycamore Academy.



RENEE MIRANDA

INSTILLING GOD'S LOVE

BY KEREN LINARES



Renee Miranda is just one of the wonderful, dedicated teachers of the Sycamore Academy staff. Her cheerful, loving demeanor and her ardent desire to instill God's love in her pupils is demonstrated every time one watches her instruct her students. The life of this loved member of our Sycamore Academy family has revolved around the "Peach State". Renee Miranda was born in Americus, Georgia, and raised up in the nearby city of Cuthbert, Georgia. Even as a young child she aspired to one day become a literature teacher and thus follow the footsteps of her mother and aunts in the teaching profession. Nevertheless, God had other plans for her life.

After carefully considering and revising her objectives, Renee felt that God was not calling her to teach literature in a traditional school setting, so she enrolled in Berry College, which is situated in Mount Berry, Georgia. There she obtained a psychology major and then went on to the University of Tennessee and Chattanooga to acquire her master's degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology. Subsequently, she began teaching introductory classes of psychology and human development at the Georgia Highlands College. Later she became a human resource manager before she finally settled into family life and became a teacher for Sycamore Academy.

Presently Renee Miranda lives with her family in Plainville, Georgia, where she homeschools her son Jackson and teaches Integrated Physics and Chemistry, Biology, U.S. History, and Bible for Sycamore Academy. She personally chose to teach high schoolers because she enjoys having complex relationships and conversations. As she says, "I like to have real answers - a real conversation." Her favorite part about teaching her students each day is to have quality

conversations with them and thus impart God's brilliant truth. For Renee, a 'typical day' consists of taking her older daughter Isabella to her Culinary Arts class each weekday morning before returning home to answer her students' emails. Before proceeding to teach her classes at Sycamore, Renee homeschools her son and then takes a break. After completing her daily teaching for her online students, she once again resumes homeschooling Jackson for another hour before she finally 'knocks it off' for the day. She loves dealing with distinct and varied personalities, and her experience as a teacher has taught her very important lessons. The first lesson being that God makes people amazingly diverse, and the second but most important lesson: to relax!

Ms. Renee, as her students call her, is a great teacher, and some of us call her a special, cherished friend. Her favorite pastimes include scrapbooking, traveling, and researching her genealogy. Her favorite color is hot pink for clothing, but she likes cobalt blue for decorations. In her teaching career, her main goals consist of sharing God's truth with her students, instilling in them great values, and letting them all know they are loved.

Ms. Renee has three key pieces of advice for youth. Trust that joy, peace, safety, and grace only lie in Christ. Understand your personality and your spiritual gifts by taking tests and reading books. Do not compare yourself to others because God has given you different abilities and resources; embrace what God has made you to be. Because she has embraced God's love and continues to instill it in others, Renee Miranda is one of our favorite teachers!

The Spiritual Corner



²⁸ Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. ²⁹ He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. ³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: ³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Isaiah 40: 28-31, KJV

CRAFTSY COOKING



Are you in the mood for a scrumptious slice of pumpkin pie but not in the mood for baking? Well then, this pumpkin pie smoothie is just for you! Yes, it's just like pumpkin pie but in a glass. You can get the taste and enjoyment without having to switch your oven on. Yay! This smoothie is velvety smooth, ice-cold, and refreshing. It combines the best fall flavors in just one glass!

This scrumptious pumpkin pie smoothie has just six ingredients and only takes a few minutes to make. Try whipping up this cup of fall flavor in your blender. Enjoy this treat!

Pumpkin Pie Smoothie

1/2 cup pumpkin puree
1 cup milk
1/3 cup sweetened condensed milk
1 tbsp. vanilla yogurt
1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
1 cup frozen ice or milk cubes

Blend all ingredients together in a blender. Top with whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon or pumpkin pie spice.

Vegan Pumpkin Pie Smoothie

1 frozen banana
1.5 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
1.5 cups low fat or light coconut milk
3 tbsp. maple syrup
1/2 tsp. vanilla
3/4 cup pumpkin

Add all the ingredients to the blender starting with the coconut milk. Blend until very smooth and creamy. Pour into glasses and decorate with a sprinkle of cinnamon or nutmeg.

EDITOR'S REMARKS

The crispness of the air, the aroma of warm spices, and the golden hues of the leaves are here – telltale signs that Thanksgiving is rapidly approaching. As another holiday sneaks up on us, it is important to remember to be thankful for what is happening now. And right now, Sycamore Academy is thankful for our amazing teachers, including Mrs. Renee Miranda, who forever paves the path to success side-by-side with her students. Right now, we are thankful for the dedication of our high school seniors, like Kristian Bowers, who will change the world via the sweetness of her disposition and the intelligence of her mind. Right now, we are thankful for the amazing families that make Sycamore Academy such a wonderful place! While the holiday season is just beginning, remember that the color of the leaves or the temperature of the air does not change the extraordinary devotion of everyone at Sycamore Academy!

Sarah